



THIS IS THE WAY it was in the winter of 1911-1912 at the Claybank School on Lighthouse Hill in the township of Lowell. Teacher of the one-room school that year was Miss Erna Lindemann, Juneau, standing in the rear at the far left. Pupils next to her are Esther Stofflet, Meta Schultz, Evelyn Indermuehle, Ruby Stofflet, Geneva Wolf, Kathryn Wolf, Walter Stofflet, Arthur Sabatke, Erhard Indermuehle. In front are Albert Schultz, Frieda Keller, Olga Sabatke, Alexa Indermuehle, Gertrude Schoenwetter, Clara Baker, Viola Schoenwetter, Pearl Jahn. Among others in the school not present when this picture was taken were Fred Schultz, Paul Sabatke, Gerhard Fehling, Elsie Mecklenberg, Julia Keller, Hattie Will and Carl Fehling.

The School on Lighthouse Hill

"I REMEMBER"

It's a rare thing indeed when a group of adults are privileged to share a reunion with their teacher of 60 years ago. Yet this was the recent good fortune of a Juneau teacher and her former pupils.

Miss Erna Lindemann of Juneau is the teacher and she was honored by 8 of her former pupils gathered at the home of Mrs. Geneva Wolf Gibson in Reeseville for a noonday dinner. They represented the school enrollment of 22 who were Miss Lindemann's pupils during the 1911-1912 school year at the Claybank School on Lighthouse Hill in the township of Lowell.

The guest of honor was

Still sits the school house by the road,

With rabbits' round it running
And around it still the Maple guards

All animal life that's sunning.
With door agape and broken panes

It stands deserted on the plot;
Sills, carved with Vot and Dot.
With not a picture on the wall
One hardly felt enchanted.

There was a problem to be faced;
For funds to meet needs, box
socials were invested,
And how well I remember three
score years ago.

The winter was truly cold;
With three feet of snow and 20
below,
Wading thru it, taxed young and
old.

It froze my hands and nipped

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presented with a corsage and seated at a table which had as its centerpiece a large flowering purple gloxinia. She called for order with a tap on a desk bell and announced she would take roll call with the words "I remember". Answering "present" were Mrs. Geneva Wolf Gibson, Mrs. Katherine Wolf Neis, Mrs. Ruby Stofflet Goebel, Miss Gladys Stofflet, all of Lowell; Mrs. Clara Baker Rupnow, Mrs. Olga Sabatke Rupnow, Miss Viola Schoenwetter and Mrs. Gertrude Schoenwetter Bender, all of Beaver Dam; & three guests, Mrs. Guy Wilson, Reeseville; Mrs. Veronica Wolf Bird of Beaver Dam and Mrs. Eleonore Neis, Lowell.

Cards and greetings were read from several former pupils who were unable to come to the reunion. Deceased members of the school of that year were remembered: Fred Schultz, Paul Sabatke, Gerhard Fehling, Elsie Mecklenburg, Walter Stofflet, Erhard Indermuehle and Albert Schultz.

Total ages of all at the dinner was over 800 years, Miss Lindemann remarked as she recalled the afternoon's events. The time passed quickly as the ladies recalled days in the one-room school at the top of a windy hill. A photograph taken one wintery day shows that not everyone was able to make it to school when snow and ice blocked path and road.

Highlight of the afternoon was Miss Lindemann's reciting of a poem she had composed for the occasion, paraphrasing John Greenleaf Whittier's "In School Days".

But stimulated circulation.
By the time I had puffed up
Light House Hill
I was still only half way to my
destination.
After a half mile hike, what a
welcome sight,
Was that ice cold school on the
hill!
For \$40 a month to clean and
to teach;
Yes! And please deduct the
board and room.
I faced the 22 children enrolled,
With utter consternation.
They posed no present day prob-
lem then,
For they came to absorb educat-
ion.
All grades but one were there to
be taught
In that youthful population.
Questions that were not asked
in class
Were writ on paper planes and
put in circulation.
At close of school I read one
such note.
The author asked, "Just what is
love?"
The answer below the planes
wing-Quote
"It's an itching sensation around
the heart
You can't scratch with a glove!"
Generation gaps and ecology
Were unknown subjects then
Now, bussing, hot lunches, and
counselling,
Are problems that confound all
men.
May the remaining years of our
lives be blessed
With true Faith and good Health
to the end.
Until that Great Experience calls
us to rest
From our labors, to join our de-
parted loved ones and friends.

by Erna Lindemann

(With apologies to John Green-
leaf Whittier.)