



Grant School.

Back row: Alvin Schneiter, Leslie Wolfe, Ruth Roemer, Verna Genger, Morris Roemer, Eugene Polzin, Martin Reinemann - Teacher **Front row:** Orville Frank, Harold Genger, Wilmer Frank, John Leischer

Memories of the Grant School

by Ruth Funk

This one-room school was nothing fancy compared to the schools of today. We had no indoor plumbing. There was a water cooler on a shelf and each student had his own glass for drinking. There was a granite wash dish for washing our hands.

We didn't have a piano, but we had music every morning and learned to sing in a two-part harmony and even won at the district music contests in the area. But later on when the state radio station began,

we had a radio and we would listen to the program on the network which broadcast programs and story time.

We didn't have any playground equipment—just two basketball hoops which we didn't use because there wasn't a level basketball court, just gravel. However, we played our share of baseball. We would play against some of the schools in the area like Phillipsburg, Cole School near Iron Ridge, and Pleasant

Grant School #9

Ruth Funk

The school building was located on County Trunk Highway NP in Section 12 on the corner of the original Otto Genger farm. It was a one-room school with an entry way, coal and wood storage room, and a classroom. A cast iron coal and wood burning stove with a round tin jacket surrounding it was in the corner at the back of the room. It had an ornate metal ceiling and blackboards in the front of the room. There were two outdoor lavatories, one for the boys and one for the girls. A well was outside the front door with a cast iron hand pump.

The teacher acted as teacher, janitor, and fire starter. Sometimes one of the students was hired to come in to start the fire in the stove so it would be warm enough by the time the rest of the children arrived. On very cold days, we would sit around the stove to keep warm and also to dry out our shoes. Our wet coats were also hung over the metal jacket surrounding the stove to dry out.

In the early 1900's, there was an average of 15 students. The older boys came to school later in the day, after they were not needed to help with the farm work at home. Some students went to German Lutheran School in Huilsburg part of the year and then finished out the year at Grant School.

In the early 1920's, the teacher, Miss Riley, boarded at the home of the clerk of the school board, Huldah Roemer. Arthur Troeller, janitor, was the treasurer, and

Frank Behnke was a board member for many years until the school closed.

Huldah Roemer taught in the 1920's and had some of her own brothers and sisters as students. Anna Keup taught from 1931 to 1932 and boarded at Arthur Troeller's home. Laura Carey taught from 1933 to 1934 and was the first teacher to drive a car to school. She boarded at Otto Genger's during the bad weather in the winter. Martin Reinemann taught from 1930 to 1937. Maxine Zimmer from Neosho taught from 1938 to 1941. Mrs. Horace Kendall, the first married teacher, served from 1942 to 1943. Mrs. Clement Nodolf, the wife of the grade school principal in Hartford, taught the last years that the school was open.

The school was consolidated with the Hartford Common School District in 1945 and the students were transported to Hartford. The building was rented as a residence to several different families for a few years. Harvey and Delores Behnke purchased it on April 9, 1949, and lived there until 1976. It has been remodeled several times and owned by several different families since then.



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