

**S. S. No. 5, WEST ZORRA
Codys' Corners**



1848

1966

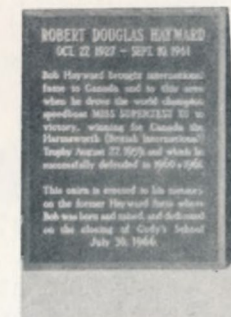
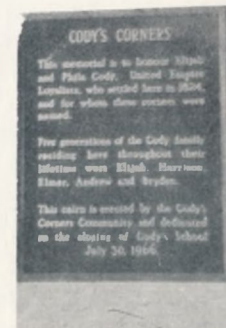
REUNION

Saturday, July 30th ++ Sunday, July 31st, 1966

Saturday - 10: a.m. - Registration
12:30 p.m. - Picnic Dinner
2:00 p.m. - Programme
3:30 p.m. - Dedication and
unveiling of Cairn

Sunday Open Air Church Service

Guest Minister - Rev. E. Gilmour Smith
of Peterborough



Commemorative Cairn Plaques

HISTORY of S.S. No. 5, WEST ZORRA

Codys' Corners' School

+++++

The focal point of elementary education and community activities in S.S. No. 5, West Zorra was Codys' Corners' School.

The school and neighbourhood got its name from the pioneers "The Cody Family", who had developed most of the land around these corners. The family name has been and is still associated with events, circumstances as well as prosperity in West Zorra and Embro from the date of the early settlement even to this day.

The first school was a log building situated on the north-east corner of the farm owned by the late Elijah Cody. It was about forty rods from the corner. Mr. Adam McDonald, a teacher from the 8th line taught in this school in 1848 - 49.

When the school became too small for the number attending, a frame school was built on the south-west corner, after a number of years it was used as a dwelling, later as a driving shed and finally remodelled and now on the farm of Mrs. Alvin MacKay.

In 1870 the ratepayers purchased land on the north-west corner where the present school stands. It was a brick building with a gallery at the back of the classroom. This gallery was used as an auxiliary teaching area and was frequently used by the older pupils to supervise and coach the younger children in their studies.

During the winter of 1899, a devastating fire swept through the school and only the strong brick walls were left. But with the dauntless spirit of the pioneers and the strong will along with hard work, this school was rebuilt and ready for occupancy in less than three weeks. A wonderful achievement by these hardy pioneers.



1890



1899

The original well at this school was dug by hand and replaced in 1914 by a new one. Neither of these proved satisfactory. In 1932 a new well was drilled and is still in use today.

The Superintendent or Inspector of the school in those days was Rev. Donald McKenzie of Knox Presbyterian Church, Embro.

In 1914, for the sum of \$30., one eighth of an acre of land was purchased from the late Dexter Day, when agriculture had become part of the school curriculum and this ground was used for the school garden, planted and cared for by the pupils.

The box stove was the original heating system kept full of wood by the pupils. In 1912, at the cost of \$130., the box stove was replaced by a modern school heating system, a Waterbury-Watterman furnace. It was later replaced by a stoker furnace and in 1963 it was renovated to the present oil burner. Hydro was installed in 1928, a great improvement in the school.

In 1919, two maple trees were planted on the school grounds in memory of two former pupils, Osborne McKenzie and Rowland (Rolly) Featherstone who gave their lives in World War 1.

This school was used as a meeting place by the Methodists and Baptists. These services were held each Sunday. Father Beardsall, a Baptist minister deserves mention. A man of strong personality devoted to his chosen work. He commuted from his home south of Ingersoll every week by a horse drawn vehicle. He carried on this work in the community for twenty years, his only reward was of doing his duty, seeing the Lord's blessing upon his work. Sunday School was carried on through the summer months until the early thirties.

A pupil was asked by the new teacher "Is there a parents club at this school?" In reply the pupil said "I don't know, I never saw one, but there's a strap in the teacher's drawer." This was in 1922 and next year a Home School Association was formed and affiliated with the Federation of Home & Schools of



1906



1910

Ontario in 1924. This was a vital organization that enabled and enlightened the community to be aware of the needs and trend of the times.

Through their efforts, hot lunches were made available for the pupils, a piano, movie projector, library books and a number of useful articles for use in the school.

The talents of the community were seen in the holding of Christmas concerts, community entertainment, as well as a number of well staged plays by the young people. One play worthy of mention was "The Path Accross the Hills", which was staged nine times.

One of the highlights of this organization was the holding of a community banquet following a real lively contest. There was an attendance of over 125 who crowded into the school for this memorable evening.

The boys of the community were honoured and presented with gifts on their return from the army following World War 2.

Following many years of useful work this Home and School Association disbanded. A Euchre Club was organized. They met weekly through the winter months and were quite active for a few years and they too closed.

In 1944, the old system of three trustees elected from the school section was replaced by five trustees elected from the township, who acted for the new school area. With the erection of the new school, known as Highland Park School situated on the 4th line north of Embro, grades 7 & 8 have been transported by bus to this new school. With the overcrowding at Cody's school, grades 5 & 6 pupils have also been taken by bus to Walkers S.S. No. 1 and Baynes S.S. No. 2, West Zorra.

Taxes for school purposes in 1877 were 1.72 mills and increased in 1917 to 2.65 mills. In 1965, the mill rate had reached an all high of 12.5 mills.



1925



1936

There has also been a great change in teacher's salaries. In 1904, the teacher received \$425. and in 1965 they advanced to \$3350.

At the end of June this year all the schools in West Zorra will be closed and replaced by the larger school area.

As we celebrate this reunion, July 30 & 31, 1966 the doors of Codys' Corners' little red school will close with a bit of sadness, especially by the older folk and many fond memories of happy days spent here will be locked in the hearts of the former pupils of S.S. No. 5!

STUDENTS WHO ENTERED THE MINISTRY

Aeneas McKenzie
E. Gilmour Smith

Oswald J. Smith
John W. German

FIRST WORLD WAR

Rowland Featherstone
Cyrus Day

Osborne McKenzie

SECOND WORLD WAR

Bruce Day
Fred Barnett
Allan Garner
Carle Benjamin
George Gard
Ronald Parker
Edward Warner

Victor Haliburton
Ralph Parker
Norman Martin
Joe Fogarty
Angus German
John Parker
Maurice Benjamin

James Thompson
Fred Garner
Stuart Calvert
Donald Gard
John Murton
Reid Smith



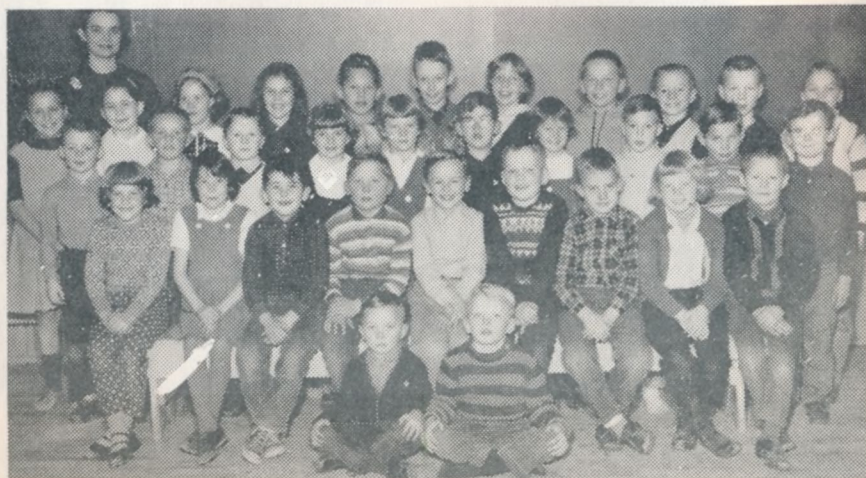
1944



1949

TEACHERS WHO HAVE TAUGHT HERE

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1848 Adam McDonald | 1909 Wm. Fleming |
| 1850 Mr. Buckland | 1910 Helen Patterson |
| 1852 Miss Clark | 1913 Ruth Munro |
| 1854 Miss Rose | 1914 Alma Munro |
| 1856 John Higgins | 1916 Hilda Blott |
| 1858 Mr. McDonald | Margaret Beattie |
| 1860 Miss Dugert | 1917 Vera Dawes |
| 1861 Mr. Bucknell | 1919 Miss M. Hossack |
| 1863 Mr. Wilson | 1920 Miss Murray |
| 1865 Miss Kate Ross | 1922 Jack McWilliam |
| 1869 Miss McDonald | 1927 Anna Findlay |
| 1870 Miss Thorn | 1938 Gwenyth McTavish |
| 1873 John Davidson | 1939 Lorne Schaefer |
| 1874 H. C. Ross | 1940 Reid Smith |
| 1879 J. A. Cairns | 1941 Isobel Scott |
| 1885 Miss Phila Cody | 1948 Bernice Craig |
| 1886 H. C. Ross | 1951 Mrs. J. Kennedy |
| 1895 Wm. Sutherland | 1957 Mrs. Mary Walters |
| 1896 Jas. Fraser | 1958 Mrs. Donna Treleaven |
| 1898 Wm. Blair | 1959 Mrs. P. Dunbar |
| 1900 Miss L. Nethercott | 1960 Miss Jane Roughley |
| 1905 Miss M. Winters | 1962 Miss Marilyn |
| 1907 Fred Day | McRoberts |
| | 1966 Miss Caroline Packer |



1964





Rhythm Band

