

Country Schools

This document was prepared by Mildred Gieske Huehl, now residing in Chelsea.

Word processed by Bonnie Mitchell, June 30, 2005

Dresselhouse – a brick building east of Esch Road – now a residence. It had a wood/coal burning stove. A board member built the fire on Monday morning and the teacher was expected to keep it burning and banked for the night so by adding more fuel in the morning it would soon warm the room. There was no well – water was brought from the Bross farm. In the 1945 – 46 school year there were 21 pupils in grades Kindergarten through the eighth grade. In 1952 it consolidated with Pleasant Lake. (I, Mildred Gieske Huehl spent my first year of teaching here. I was just 19 years old having completed 2 years at Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) receiving a State Limited Certificate).

Girbach – a wood structure at Pleasant Lake and Parker Roads. Again the same type of stove and a board member building a fire on Monday morning. No well – water brought from Simon Girbach farm. In the 1946-47 school year there were 10 pupils in 7 different grades. This, too, is now a residence.

Pleasant Lake - a red brick building at Pleasant Lake & Lima Center Roads. Again no well, water from Freys behind schoolhouse. In the school year 1950-51 it had grades Kindergarten through sixth. In 1951-52 there were 33 pupils in grades K-6. Because of the number of pupils and need for so many desks, half day sessions were begun. Part came at 8:30am to 12 noon and others from 12:30 to 4:00pm. In 1952-53 consolidation brought Dresselhouse, Kuebler, St. Thomas, Silver Lake and Pleasant Lake together as a district. In 1953 pupils attended school in the new building on Pleasant Lake Road just west of the old school which was later torn down.

In all schools the students by grade were called up front to recite their lessons while the rest worked at their desks. Studies were reading, arithmetic, English, geography, science, health, and penmanship. A Christmas Program was put on for the parents and a picnic at the end of the school year. The teacher often played games at recess & noontime with the children – inside on bad weather days.

Mildred Huehl