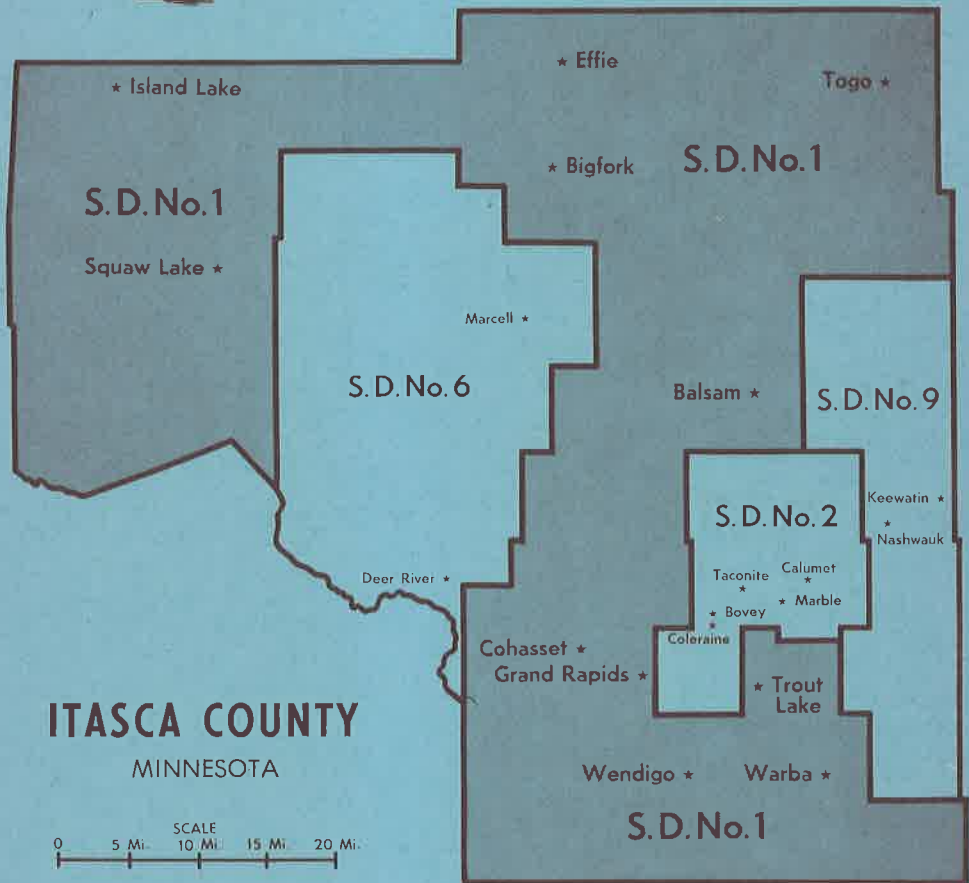


# School District No. 1



A Story of How A Modern School System Has Been Developed In A District As Large As A State.



GEORGE and ALLEN ROSSMAN  
GRAND RAPIDS HERALD-REVIEW

## FOREWORD

As another year draws to a close, we send this booklet as a Holiday greeting from Up In This Neck of the Woods.

Itasca county is widely known for its lakes and its forests, its iron mines and the Blandin paper mill. People travel hundreds and thousands of miles to enjoy the fishing and hunting, or the warm summer days and cool nights of a vacation in the North Country.

There is another aspect of this area which is well-known in certain circles but which is not known by most people who visit and which is taken-for-granted by many newer citizens of the area.

School District Number One of Itasca county has been known among educators as one of the outstanding educational systems of the state and nation. To be sure, the buildings and other facilities are modest by comparison to those in communities of large resources. But School District Number One is a shining example of what people of a large area of comparatively low valuation can do to provide for the education of their children.

George and Allen Rossman

The Herald-Review  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota  
December, 1957

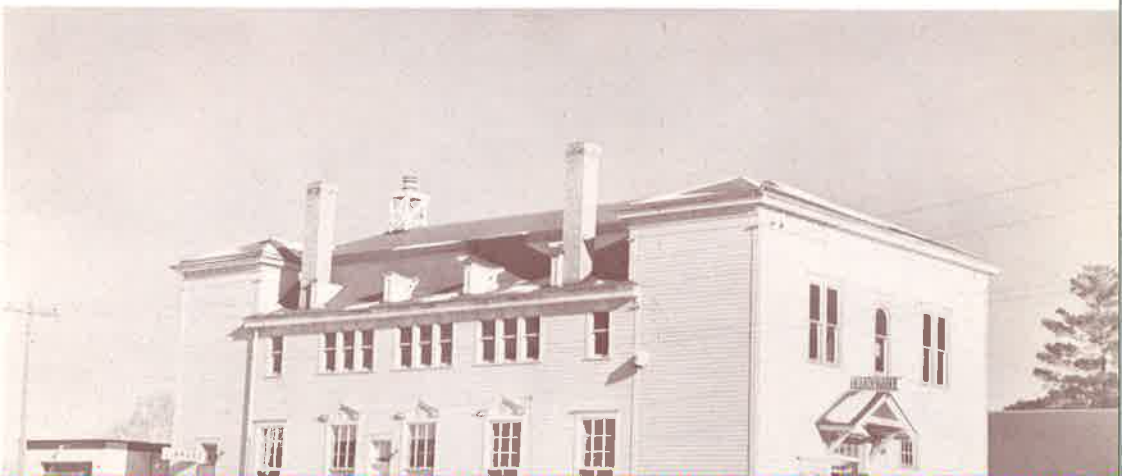
# *School District No. 1*

The story of School District Number One began in 1887 in a log cabin north of where the Pokegama hotel now stands in Grand Rapids. The first class consisted of two white girls and three Chippewa Indian boys.

The first teacher was Miss Martha Maddy. She was succeeded the following year by her sister Margaret (later Mrs. B. C. Finnegan) who found 23 children enrolled. Largest of these was Peter Drumbeater, son of the local Indian chief, who served as interpreter for the other Chippewa children.

In the fall of the second year, class was moved into the first building constructed for a school in Itasca county. It was a two-story frame structure with four rooms built on the present site of the Central school.

This building, now the Cohasset village hall, was the first school built in School District Number one. It was erected in 1888 on the grounds where the Central school now stands in Grand Rapids. In 1894 it was moved to Cohasset where it served as a school for many years.



## Schools Developed Rapidly

Grand Rapids grew rapidly with coming of the railroad from Duluth. The village was incorporated in 1891. School enrollment grew rapidly. In 1894 the present Central school was constructed at a cost of \$30,000. Upon completion, the clerk of the Duluth board of education came to Grand Rapids to inspect the new school. He said that there was no other school in the state equal to it. The Central school is still in use as a grade school.

Growing population has placed Grand Rapids schools under almost constant pressure for expansion. A high school was built in 1901 and added to in 1913. After the present senior high school was constructed in 1922, the old high school became the junior high school.

An east wing was added to the senior high school in 1937, and an annex to the southeast was placed in use in 1951. Administrative offices were moved from the senior

The Central school in Grand Rapids was built in 1894, and was the first permanent school in the district. Constructed at a cost of less than \$30,000, the building is still in use as an elementary school.







The old Junior High was the third school constructed in Grand Rapids. The original section was built in 1901, with an addition in 1913. The state fire marshall has restricted use of the building to a part of the ground floor, and plans are being made to replace the building.

In the background is the Grand Rapids Senior High school. In the foreground is the district administration building which contains the offices of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, district supervisors and the business accountant, together with office assistants, record storage and board-conference room.





The gymnasium is a separate building adjacent to the high school. When not in use, the bleachers nest against the walls, giving floor space so that there is ample room for large physical education classes. A stage at one end permits some use of the building as an auditorium.

This is the west wing of the new Junior High school placed in use this year. It has a capacity of 1,000 students and was built at a cost of approximately \$1,200,000 including equipment. It is considered a model of efficiency and economy in both construction and operation.





high school into a separate building in 1954. A modern gymnasium with seating capacity of 2000 was built at the same time.

### **New Junior High Completed in 1957**

By 1955 nearly 700 pupils were crowded into the old junior high school which was designed to handle about half that number of students. A new \$1,200,000 junior high school was completed in the summer of 1957, with a capacity of 1,000 students.

School officials hoped to remodel the old junior high for use by industrial, art and music classes. However, the state fire marshall has refused to approve such use. Plans are now being developed for construction of a new building for these purposes. Unless this building is constructed with ample capacity, there will also be need for further additions to the senior high school as the post-war babies reach high school age.

The Old Forest Lake school has served the community as a grade school for more than 50 years. Substantial expenditures would have to be made on the building now if it were to be used for long, and present plans are to close the school when a new school is built in the southwest part of the village.





The Riverview school is situated in the southeastern part of Grand Rapids. With 468 pupils, it has the largest enrollment of any elementary school in the district. Originally built in 1938, a large addition was constructed in 1946. The building is again crowded.

### Five Elementary Schools

Elementary schools have also been expanded rapidly in Grand Rapids. In 1906 the Old Forest Lake school was constructed in the northwest part of the village, and for many years two grade schools and the use of some space in the junior high school met the needs of the area. In 1938 the Riverview school was built south of the Mississippi River. As this section of town grew rapidly, an addition was made to Riverview in 1946.

Following World War II, an elementary school was constructed on the northeastern fringe of the community. This was named the Edna I. Murphy school in honor of an unusually able and well-liked supervisor of elementary schools for more than 30 years. Built in 1953 as a 6-room building, another 6 classrooms were added in 1957 to accommodate the growing school population in that neighborhood. A

The Edna I. Murphy school is located in the northeastern part of Grand Rapids. The school is named after Miss Murphy who was a highly respected rural supervisor in the district for more than 30 years. The school was constructed in 1953, with an addition in 1957.





12-room New Forest Lake school was also built in 1952 to relieve congestion in the schools.

Elementary schools in Grand Rapids are again crowded. Plans are nearing completion and a bond issue has been approved for construction of a new school in the southwest part of the village. School officials hope that with the completion of the southwest school, the Old Forest Lake school can be retired. It is inefficient and in need of extensive repairs.

Enrollments in the schools of Grand Rapids in the fall of 1957 are as follows:

School	Grades	Teachers	Enrollment
Central .....	*-6	9	230
Forest Lake .....	*-5	14	394
Old Forest Lake .....	5-6	6	148
Murphy .....	*-6	14	392
Riverview .....	*-6	15	468
Total Grand Rapids elementary enrollment . . .			1632
Junior High .....	7-9	37	822
Senior High .....	10-12	36	729
Total Grand Rapids enrollment .....			3183

\* Indicates kindergarten classes. A remedial class is also conducted in the Central school.

The New Forest Lake school, built in 1952, has nearly three times the capacity of the old school. The lower level is used as a stockroom for the entire school district. The school is located in the northwestern part of Grand Rapids.



## Rural School System Is Unique

Important as the schools are in Grand Rapids, the unique features of School District Number One are not to be found in Grand Rapids. Good schools are expected in communities of 8,000 population. New schools are found in most progressive communities in Minnesota.

The uniqueness of School District Number One lies in its system of rural schools. School District Number One stretches 70 miles north and south, and 60 miles east and west. In addition to Grand Rapids, it includes suburban areas, small towns, farming areas, and great expanses of sparsely populated forest areas.

School District Number One was established in 1887 upon petition of citizens of Grand Rapids approved by the Itasca County board of commissioners. Later in the same year, the county board took an action which has had a tremendous effect upon the development of education in an area of 1¼ million acres, larger than the state of Rhode Island. The board resolved "that all portions of Itasca county not included in District One be and the same is hereby attached to said District One for school purposes."

The Shallow Pond school was one of the first school buildings in the northwestern part of the district. Built of logs, the roof and front section were added when the building was remodeled as a home after it had completed its original use as a school.





Classes were discontinued in 1952 at the Max school when the large consolidated school was opened at Squaw Lake. The Max school, built in 1919, is typical of the better two-room schools constructed in that period. They were well built compared to most early schools but still had hand pumps, outside toilets and wood-burning heaters.

Logging was the principal industry in Itasca county in the 1890's and early in the 20th century. As the pine was cut and sent down-river, some of the loggers settled down to live on the land. People from other areas came to open farms in an area where land could be homesteaded or bought for little or nothing.

### **More Than 175 Small Schools**

Education of children was an ambition of hardy, frontier people. People living in an area would request a school. The board of education would grant the request, and school equipment would be furnished. A log cabin school would be constructed within walking distance of homes with children. Teachers, often a settler or his wife, would be hired.

Records reveal that one time or another more than 175 schools have been operated under the jurisdiction of School District Number One.





The Island Lake school is located in the extreme northwest corner of School District Number One. It was built in 1953 and has completely modern facilities including a kitchen and lunch room.

Grades one through five are represented in the classroom at the Island Lake school. The three pupils in the front row are receiving instruction from Mrs. Lydia Jackson.



unusual effort and farsighted leadership by the people who have directed the affairs of School District Number One.

Professor E. T. Carroll was the first superintendent of schools and served until 1903, when W. B. Steward came to Grand Rapids from Bemidji. He was succeeded in 1904 by E. A. Freeman, an outstanding educator. Under his leadership and with the encouragement of officials of the state department of education, the rural schools of the district were placed under the direction of the superintendents of the village schools in 1915. Prior to that time the rural schools had been supervised largely by the county superintendent of schools.

When Superintendent Freeman went to Minneapolis in 1920, the board of education sought and found an outstanding successor. C. C. Baker, who had conducted teacher short courses at Grand Rapids for several summers and was superintendent at Albert Lea, accepted the challenging responsibilities.

Gymnasiums at outlying schools are used during recreation periods for square dancing and other forms of exercise. In the picture is a group of Effie students under the direction of principal Selvin Sampson, who teaches physical education.



strated what could be accomplished by the consolidation of schools.

### Consolidation Has Been Completed

From 1933 until 1944, School District Number One continued to make progress under the leadership of A. P. Pogreba, a supervisor of rural schools prior to his appointment as superintendent.

M. L. Malmquist has directed the administration of the schools for the last 13 years during which a \$5,000,000 program of building and consolidation has taken place.

Today, the process of school consolidation has been virtually completed. There is only one one-teacher school left in the district, and that is a modern facility at Island Lake in the extreme northwestern corner of the county.

Operation of the outlying schools of the district is coordinated by rural supervisor Melvin Kruger. In the picture he is shown conferring with Sulo Herrala, seated, who is principal of the Bigfork schools, and with Robert Crippa, center, who is a special instructor in art in the rural schools of the district.







The Togo school serves a large area in the northeast part of the district, 65 miles from Grand Rapids. Enrollment is nearly a hundred in four classes covering eight grades. High school students, formerly transported to Alango in St. Louis county, now go by bus to Bigfork.

Instrumental music is now taught in the rural schools as well as in Grand Rapids. Harlowe Bentley travels hundreds of miles each week giving such instruction. In the picture he is shown with a group of young musicians at the Togo school.



Enrollments in the outlying schools of School District Number One in the fall of 1957 are as follows:

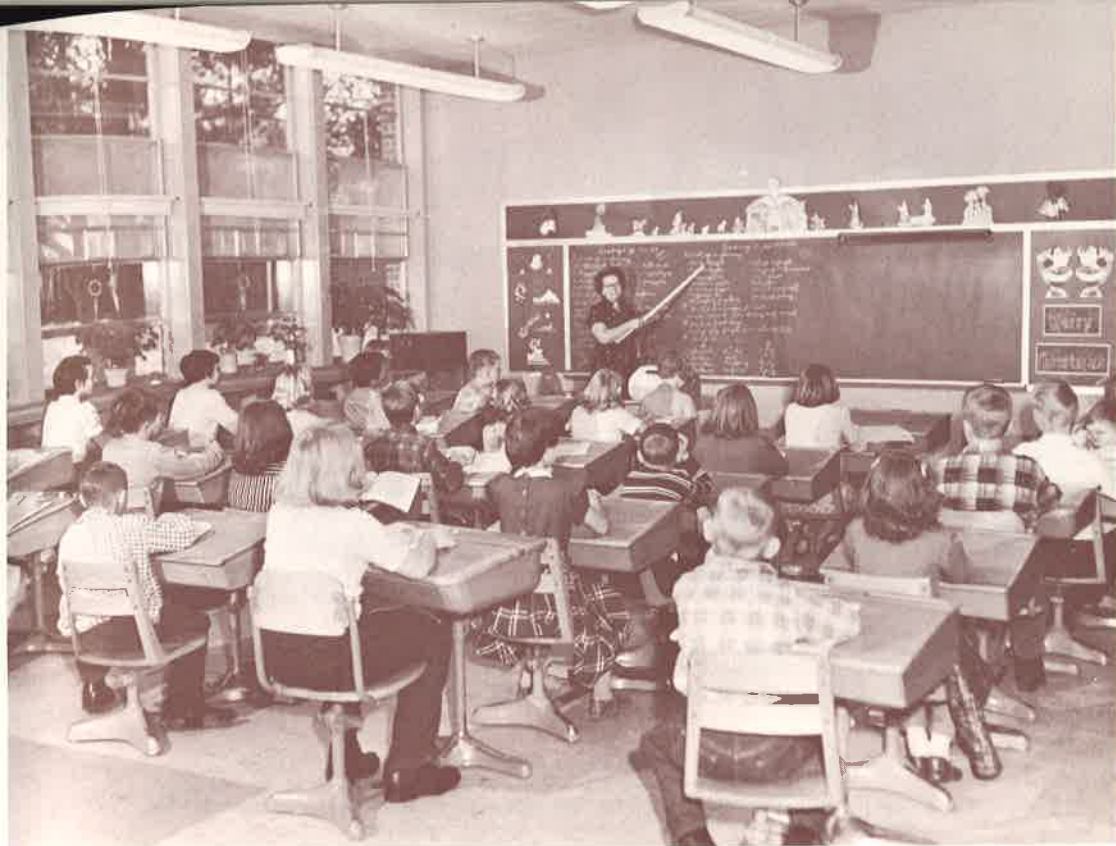
School	Grades	Teachers	Enrollment
Balsam .....	1-6	2	64
Bigfork .....	1-12	18	416
Cohasset .....	1-6	13	307
Effie .....	1-8	4	112
Island Lake .....	1-5	1	22
Squaw Lake .....	1-8	9	161
Togo .....	1-8	4	93
Trout Lake .....	1-6	4	92
Warba .....	1-8	8	175
Wendigo .....	1-6	4	105

Total enrollment in outlying schools ..... 1547

Included in these figures is the Bigfork high school which serves the northern part of the district. This high school is

Two boys lower the flag at the close of the school day at the Balsam school. The school was built in 1953 and is located in the east-central part of School District Number One.





This is a modern classroom at the Balsam school. Two teachers instruct the 64 pupils enrolled in six grades of work. Those who complete elementary work at the Balsam school attend high school in Grand Rapids.

fully accredited with a diversified curriculum and full extra-curricular activities including athletics and music.

### **Educational Achievement Is High**

The quality of instruction in the rural schools is considered to be high. Achievement tests given to all pupils indicate an average achievement of more than six months above the national average. The average achievement in the rural schools is about the same as in Grand Rapids.

The rural schools of the district are under close supervision. Melvin Kruger has been a rural supervisor for nearly 20 years, and visits each school at least once every two weeks. In addition special instructors conduct regular classes in vocal music, instrumental music and art. A school nurse also visits all schools in the district. Hot lunch programs, sponsored by local organizations, are organized in every rural school.





The Trout Lake school, built in 1916, is the oldest rural school in the district. Four teachers handle six grades of classwork.

is done by a repair crew with a shop in Grand Rapids. Louis Whirley, foreman of the repair crew, has been engaged in this kind of work in the district for 33 years.

Supplies for all the schools of the district are handled through a stockroom located in the ground level of the New Forest Lake school in Grand Rapids. Walter Secker has been in charge of the stockroom for several years.

Matters relating to transportation, maintenance and public use of buildings, and to operation of the stockroom are a responsibility of assistant superintendent Arthur Muench. Modern accounting methods are applied to the business of the district by business accountant Harry Berg.

### **Citizens Have Sought Good Schools**

There was a time when children from the country schools were not as well prepared for high school as those who live in town. Today, the qualities of instruction and opportunities are substantially the same. Teachers in outlying schools are employed under the same salary schedule and with the same training requirements as teachers in Grand Rapids.



Buses are as essential to a modern rural school system as buildings. Here are a few buses lined up at the senior high school ready to take pupils home in the afternoon. Most students are picked up on highways near their homes after 7:30 in the morning, and nearly all of them are dropped off by 5:00 in the afternoon.

Classes in art are included in all schools in the district. In the picture are several of the 5th grade pupils at the Warba school doing handicraft work under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Pickering. Art work is coordinated by a supervisor who assists teachers in planning and instruction.





The Warba school has separate rooms for grades 1-8. The present school was built in 1937. Pupils are transported to the Warba school from a wide area in the southeastern part of the district.

Many factors have contributed to the outstanding development of schools in the district.

The desire of people to provide a good education for children is, of course, fundamental. Taxpayers of the district have paid heavily for school operation and for building of modern schools. They have been assisted in this by a system of state aids which provides approximately half of the two million dollar budget for operation of schools and transportation of pupils. The local tax rate for schools in 1957 is 158 mills.

### **School Boards Have Been Effective**

But desire for good schools would not have achieved unusual results unless the voters had selected effective school boards. The affairs of the district have been under the control of a three-man school board. These men have devoted months of time each year to school matters with comparatively little compensation.

Among those who have served on the board of education during the last forty years are: George Arscott, H. J. Snyder, George B. Aiton, Hugo Zaiser, S. G. Benzing, Mrs. Alma Skocdopole, Allen J. Doran, H. C. Mohaupt, D. A. Grussendorf, R. G. Hazzard, Lyman Huntley, Garvyn Fordham, Robert Dingmann, J. Albert Anderson, D. D. Kanne and Arthur Silvis.





Two sections each of grades one through six are conducted in the Cohasset school. Most of the present building was added in 1956 and the older portions were completely modernized at the same time. Enrollments at Cohasset have grown rapidly, especially since iron mining developments south of the village.

Vocal music is taught in the rural schools by Mrs. Hazel Brink, seated at the piano in this picture taken in the auditorium at the Cohasset school. The auditorium has a good stage and seating capacity for the more than 300 pupils enrolled.



Two board members have had a particularly large influence on development of the district. George B. Aiton, first state inspector of high schools who served in that capacity for 20 years, moved to Grand Rapids in 1914 and served on the school board for a decade. Lyman Huntley, present chairman of the board, has taken a great interest in development of the district during the last 15 years and is now a member of the State Board of Education.

### Good Teachers Attracted to District

Strong superintendents have attracted good teachers. Turnover in the district has been comparatively small. Levels of teacher preparation have been good. The devotion of teachers to the work has been unusually high, often in the face of great difficulties.

Gerald Schunk is principal of the Cohasset school and also conducts classes in remedial reading in the school library. A central library system is operated for all schools in the district under the direction of Miss Colette Hamm.



More than 200 teachers are employed in School District Number One. Following is a roster of teachers for 1957-58 which shows the number of years each has taught in the district. It will be noted that great use is being made of married women as teachers. This is necessary because of the acute nationwide shortage of teachers, particularly in the elementary schools. School administrators also feel that married women are generally as good or better teachers as those who have just graduated from school. Practically all of the teachers have taken advanced work beyond the requirements for state certification.

## Roster of Teachers, December 1957 Grand Rapids Schools

### SENIOR HIGH

Carl N. Mickelson, 21  
Principal  
Richard H. Aune, 5  
Merlyn Bauder, 2  
Norman Benson, 1  
Betsy Berg (Mrs.), 3  
Esther Buechner (Mrs.), 22  
John Curran, 10  
Maude DeBoer, 16  
Gerhard Erickson, 12  
Elizabeth Fleming (Mrs.), 31  
Gilbert Golla, 24  
Edward Gregerson, 16  
Eleanore Gregerson (Mrs.), 9  
Leroy Grussendorf, 5  
Elsie Hollands (Mrs.), 11  
Chester Johnson, 29  
Joseph Kraker, 5  
Ronald Krammic, 5  
Wilbert LaBeau, 12  
Pierre Mattei, 6  
Kenneth Mike, 18  
Joyce Moll (Mrs.), 5  
Don Moren, 17  
Myron Nielsen, 4  
Warren Reich, 5  
John P. Roebuck, 2  
Mary Rossman, 20  
Myron Roswald, 4  
Clara Schad, 11  
Catherine Smith, 1  
Shirley Snyder, 5  
Nora Stevens, 5  
Ellen Sundstrom, 36  
Donald A. Swanson, 2  
Evelyn Williams, 3

### DIRECTORS OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Kenneth H. Doig, 10  
Melvin C. Kruger, 24

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTORS AND SUPERVISORS

Cherry Ann Asmus, 2  
Mary Lou Baudoin, 4  
Hazel Brink (Mrs.), 12  
Robert Crippa, 4  
Truman Shoaff Jr., 1  
Harlowe Bentley, 2

### DISTRICT LIBRARIANS SENIOR HIGH

M. Collette Hamm, 12

### JUNIOR HIGH

Harry Wenner, 1  
Principal  
Adolph Anderson, 15  
Mabel Baird (Mrs.), 6  
Sally Curran (Mrs.), 1  
Alice Doell (Mrs.), 5  
Robert Elkington, 5  
Arthur J. Ensberg, 7  
Louise Gilstad, 35  
James P. Hall, 9  
Eldon Hegstrom, 3  
John A. W. Holtum, 2  
Margaret Hoolihan (Mrs.), 20  
Roger D. Isaacson, 4  
Donald E. Joslin, 1  
Clifford G. Kauppi, 15  
Robert L. King, 3  
James Lang, 1  
Evelyn Lecy, 2  
Lois Lee, 4  
Lucy Loebrick (Mrs.), 16  
Sydney Maiden, 3  
Ann McKeown, 25  
Regina McMahon (Mrs.), 16  
David Monroe, 6  
Ivan Mostoller (Mrs.), 4  
Gordon Olund, 4  
Reuben J. Patnaude Jr., 7  
Julia Peterson (Mrs.), 2  
Raymond Peterson, 3  
Mabel Sandin (Mrs.), 30  
Earl Swarthout, 5  
Glen Swenson, 4  
Flora Turbutt, 27  
Ada Tyndall (Mrs.), 32  
E. Varani, 14  
C. G. Vogard, 18  
Willard S. Walters, 9

### EDNA I. MURPHY

Katherine Walter, 30  
Principal  
Ruth Doig (Mrs.), 9  
Florence Isaacson (Mrs.), 4  
Rita Joy Krammic (Mrs.), 1  
Ella Lauber (Mrs.), 11  
Virginia Heimark (Mrs.), 2  
Hulda Olson, 4  
Mary E. Moren (Mrs.), 17  
Evelyn Morken (Mrs.), 15  
Hazel A. Mostoller, 20  
Stanley M. Pleshe, 5  
Winifred Stone (Mrs.), 9  
Ethel Toivonen (Mrs.), 21

### NEW FOREST LAKE

Ruth V. Golla, 35  
Principal  
Laurette Ackert (Mrs.), 6  
Marian A. Anderson, 17  
Dagmar Bostrom, 17  
Irene Brooks (Mrs.), 10  
Elaine Aune (Mrs.), 2  
Freda N. Ecker (Mrs.), 3  
Gladys Halverson (Mrs.), 31  
Helen Henry, 5  
Charlotte McCabe (Mrs.), 11  
Gladys M. Nelson (Mrs.), 3  
L. W. Vaerst (Mrs.), 5  
Marjorie Wright (Mrs.), 3  
Nanna Yoakum (Mrs.), 9

### OLD FOREST LAKE

Cora Anderson (Mrs.), 14  
Principal  
Gertrude Aakre (Mrs.), 5  
Charles A. Jaksha, 2  
Ophia Perkins (Mrs.), 10  
Emma A. Scheer (Mrs.), 5  
Angeline Walters (Mrs.), 1

### RIVERVIEW

Hazel E. Covart, 33  
Principal  
Ruth Aiton (Mrs.), 19  
Esther Bolstorff (Mrs.), 7  
Rilla Bray (Mrs.), 14  
Arda Carno (Mrs.), 10  
Dorothy Hannu (Mrs.), 7  
Ina Kuoksa (Mrs.), 10  
Florence Kroll (Mrs.), 5  
Beatrice Mandich (Mrs.), 7  
Margaret Mickelson (Mrs.), 21  
Shirley Nicholas (Mrs.), 2  
Blanche Oaks (Mrs.), 21  
Doris Sisler (Mrs.), 9  
Katherine Sommer (Mrs.), 10  
Betty Spindler (Mrs.), 2

### CENTRAL SCHOOL

Nadine E. Martin, 17  
Principal  
Carrie Bogie (Mrs.), 13  
Florence B. Craig, 32  
Elsie Heikkila (Mrs.), 14  
Evelyn M. LaBeau (Mrs.), 12  
Louise R. Mueller (Mrs.), 19  
Myrtle E. Myrin, 33



## Roster of Teachers, December 1957 Outlying Schools

### BALSAM

Jennie Peratalo (Mrs.), 22  
Principal  
Minerva Waisanen (Mrs.), 19

### EFFIE

Selvin E. Sampson, 6  
Principal  
Helen Carrigan (Mrs.), 20  
Lillian B. Rahier (Mrs.), 15  
Mary Knotts (Mrs.), 11

### BIGFORK

Sulo J. Herrala, 9  
Principal  
Donald Holtz, 1  
Jean DeVries (Mrs.), 8  
Alvin D. Fredrickson, 3  
Marjorie Giraud (Mrs.), 10  
Dennis W. Krueger, 3  
Franklin Bartlett, 1  
Mario J. Lucia, 5  
Helen Mattson (Mrs.), 13  
James McGarry, 3  
Marguerite Ober, 3  
Vernon Rahier, 24  
Angela Carlson (Mrs.), 12  
Margaret Johnson (Mrs.), 14  
Dora Sather (Mrs.), 16  
Hellen Scheer (Mrs.), 10  
Helen Schlader (Mrs.), 12  
Alice VanCamp (Mrs.), 18

### COHASSET

Gerald W. Schrunck, 16  
Principal  
Mildred Britton (Mrs.), 2  
Merle Harthan (Mrs.), 5  
Ellen Korpi (Mrs.), 17  
Pearl Ridgeway (Mrs.), 6  
Irene Ryan (Mrs.), 4  
Madeline Schuller, 17  
Ingeborg Secker (Mrs.), 7  
Julitta Shea (Mrs.), 14  
Marian Bemis (Mrs.), 2  
Mildred Harthan (Mrs.), 2  
Doris Woodall (Mrs.), 10  
Helen Young (Mrs.), 7

### ISLAND LAKE

Lydia Jackson (Mrs.), 10

### TOGO

Lois Zagrabelny (Mrs.), 15  
Principal  
Mabel Engdahl (Mrs.), 3  
Ruth Libke (Mrs.), 11  
Edith Persson (Mrs.), 16

### SQUAW LAKE

Lawrence Rice, 3  
Principal  
Esther Gunderson (Mrs.), 8  
Ellen Leino (Mrs.), 26  
Jennie Oja (Mrs.), 23

Evelyn Rancore (Mrs.), 14  
Irla Saku (Mrs.), 13  
Esther Schlattman, 32  
Ema Weisert (Mrs.), 16  
Vienna Wistey (Mrs.), 19

### TROUT LAKE

Elma E. Heikkila (Mrs.), 4  
Principal  
Hilda Kangas (Mrs.), 4  
Olga Larson (Mrs.), 10  
Edna Tupper (Mrs.), 7

### WARBA

Oscar Peterson, 1  
Principal  
Florence Beach (Mrs.), 13  
Ruth Gould (Mrs.), 20  
Mable Norman (Mrs.), 15  
Margaret Pickering (Mrs.), 16  
David J. Rhoades, 11  
Ida Sarja (Mrs.), 10  
Sarah Warner, 18

### WENDIGO

Wilbert Hogrefe, 6  
Principal  
Clara Edwards (Mrs.), 18  
Edna Erickson (Mrs.), 12  
Elsie Hector (Mrs.), 10

M. L. Malmquist, superintendent of schools, visits with C. C. Baker. Mr. Baker was superintendent of the district from 1920 until 1933 and initiated many of the moves toward consolidation of nearly a hundred rural schools into fewer and larger units.





While great progress has been made in School District Number One, serious problems will require decisions by a capable school board. Present members of the three-man board are treasurer Dean Kanne, chairman L. L. Huntley and clerk Arthur Silvis. New state laws will require election of a six-member board of education in the fall of 1958.

The proportion of youths completing high school in District One has been among the best in the state. The number of students going on to higher education has been large, and the quality of preparation for advanced work has been considered excellent. Most of those who have ended their formal education in the schools of the district, have found themselves well prepared for useful and satisfying lives.

The problems of providing adequate education change with each generation. Great challenges to judgment lie ahead. But a district which has grown from a single log school with five pupils to a modern system with nearly 5,000 pupils has a heritage which will encourage citizens to find the right answers to America's greatest responsibility — the education of young people to become effective citizens in the world's greatest democracy.

### Acknowledgements

In the spaces of a small booklet, it is impossible to give proper recognition to the thousands of people who have contributed to the development of this school district.

Several volumes of history might well be devoted to School District Number One. An interesting history of the district in manuscript form was written in 1948 by Mrs. Lucy Loebbrick, a teacher in the Grand Rapids schools.

C. C. Baker, former superintendent of schools, accompanied the writer and photographer on a trip to the rural schools in the northern part of the district. Still vigorous at the age of 83, Mr. Baker has a clear memory of the schools as they existed when he came to Grand Rapids 37 years ago. He visited schools in eight hours that he could not have covered then in as many days. Mr. Baker has been active in many phases of school work, and is now serving as supervisor of elementary schools in the Deer River district.

Superintendent M. L. Malmquist and rural supervisor Melvin Kruger furnished much information. Teachers and other school personnel have been cooperative in the taking of pictures.

It should be noted that in a certain sense School District Number One no longer exists. The Minnesota legislature in the 1957 session established a more uniform system of school laws and provided for the numbering of school districts on a statewide basis. The district centering at Grand Rapids is now designated as Independent School District Number 318.