COOPERSTOWN

Cooperstown township was not originally a part of Manitowoc County as set up by legislative act in 1848. It was not until February 9, 1850, that the State Legislature enacted legislation that Cooperstown be detached from Brown County and annexed to the county of Manitowoc. The school districts in Cooperstown were organized in the order of their numbering from 1856 to 1858.

COOPERSTOWN NO. 1 — COOPERSTOWN

Dolores Soukup

Cooperstown district No. 1 has always been known as the Cooperstown school because it is located near the village of Cooperstown. The present location of the school is a quarter mile west of Cookie’s corner. A man by the name of Cooper registered the land in this area so the township and the village were named in his honor. It is said that Moses Allie, a pioneer settler, purchased much of the land around Cooperstown when he settled here.

Cooperstown No. 1 school district was organized about 1850 and included areas now parts of adjacent districts. The first record of a school meeting was for 1857. It was held in the Clifford King home. The purpose was to determine the site of the first school, to elect officers, and to raise money to erect the school and pay other necessary expenses for the year.

The first log school was erected in 1857-8 and was located a quarter mile west of the present site. The site selected was then the center of the original district. The land on which the school was built then belonged to John Remark, now Robinson’s corner. The log building was about 18 x 24, had pine flooring, and cost about $75, for that was the amount raised at the first school meeting. The crude benches and desks were large enough to seat five pupils each and were placed so that there was an aisle down the middle of the room. Prosper Allie was paid $8 to make and to deliver these benches to the school. The heating plant consisted of a round wood stove. Each family sending children to school in 1862, for instance, had to contribute a half cord of wood or pay more taxes. The tax at that time was $1.50 on every 40 acres. No record is given of the disposition of the old log school.

The second schoolhouse was built in 1878 at a cost of about $620 and was located on the first site. It was a frame building 24 x 36 x 11 feet and was patterned after school structures of that early period. Improvements were made to the new structure in the 1880’s by purchasing double desks, installing two blackboards, and adding a bookcase. Maps were also purchased about 1890. The total cost of the above additions and improvements was $175.00. About 1890, a well was dug, a new pump purchased, and a new tin cup to hang on the pump was acquired. A teacher’s desk was purchased the same year for $6.50 and in 1894 a bell was added. About the same time the district residents decided to beautify the school yard by planting trees. After serving the district for 29 years, the school was torn down and the site abandoned. The schoolhouse and equipment brought a total of $54.35 when sold.

The third and present schoolhouse was built in 1907 at a cost of about $2,500. The one acre site for this school was purchased from Moses Allie. The new school is 26 x 48 feet with a schoolroom 25 x 40 feet in size. It has a full basement with a basement furnace heating and ventilating system. The main floor consists of an entry, a cloakroom, a library, and a classroom. Five windows along the east and west walls cause cross-lighting. It was not until 1915 that the new school was plastered. At present the walls and ceiling are covered with tin. Today Cooperstown school is a semi-modern building with electric service, a few single desks, but still retaining many of the old double desks, drinking fountain, recitation table and chairs, and plenty of bulletin boards. The schoolyard contains several good pieces of playground equipment. The old outdoor toilets are located to the rear of the schoolyard.

Strange as it may seem, the enrollment in this school was never very large until the 1960’s, even though the school census reports show that about 100 children of school age lived in the district. In 1870, when winter and summer terms of school
were held, the total enrollment for the two terms was 70. After the single term was held, the yearly attendance dropped down to between 30 and 50 pupils. In the 1900's, when the Catholic school was closed, the enrollment rose to 96 pupils! This figure was maintained until the parochial school attendance again affected the size of this school. Today the average daily attendance for the year is about 10, although the year's enrollment has gone down to as low as 8 for several years. By 1948 there were 9 pupils attending although the census shows that about 50 children of school age reside in the district.

The first settlers were of various nationalities, so no foreign language was taught in the district school. Among the pioneer residents, the following families were prominent: Allie, Drews, Bartelme, King, Just, Wanish, Richdorf, Elmer, Goessel, Cookie, Schlegelmilch, Steinbrecker, Nachtwey, Bradley, Concell, Pilger, and Zeddies. Many of them were pioneer farmers but others were merchants, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, and businessmen in the village. Carl Steinbrecker and Rose Elmer were two early graduates who became teachers. W. W. and Alfred Just became dentists, while Lawrence and Michael Richdorf became doctors. Recent graduates have become prominent in education, agricultural, and business fields.

The first school officers elected in 1857 were Clerk August Hoppe, Treasurer August Gauger, and Director John Arnow. Clifford King, David Goessel, and Prosper Allie were other early leaders of school affairs. The county records also list John Wanish, Richard Drews, Christ Ording, and Fred Zeddies as officers before 1906. The first board members received $4 for the three year term. This was increased so that by 1874 board members were getting $5 yearly. Today the clerk is allowed $25 per year and the other two board members $20 yearly.

The first teacher for Cooperstown No. 1 was Louis Hintz who received $22 a month for a three month term. In 1858, the voters decided on a six month term, but that had to be reduced to three months because of insufficient funds. The first teachers were paid their salaries in half cash and half tax certificates. From 1865 to 1873 an extra month of school was voted each year until a total of a six month school term was reached. The list of teachers prior to 1906 is incomplete. Those on record are Eliza Nichols 1861, Mary Sullivan 1872, Dora Kelley 1873-4, Mary Walsh 1875, Nellie O'Connor 1876-7, Jennie Koelzer 1878, C. E. Karnofsky 1879, Otto Drews 1894-5, Katie Finnegam 1896-8, Thos. E. Reddin 1904, and Bridget O'Shea 1905. Others who taught this school before 1906 were Carl Steinbrecker, Lizzie McGinley, and Maggie Kane.

County records show that texts common to the county, such as Sanders readers and spellers, McGuffey's readers, and Ray's arithmetic, were used in the Cooperstown school. The pioneer school had no grades such as we have now for then the divisions were called "forms"—there being a primary, an intermediate, and an upper form. These "forms" replaced the A, B, C classes of old. The adults of the district used the school to attend spelling bees, basket socials, and seasonal programs.

Cooperstown was the halfway stopping place on the old Green Bay trail between Manitowoc and Green Bay. The trail was at first an Indian trail, but later on became a military road. Indian relics have been common to this area. The present Cookie hotel became a famous stopping place for the early travelers. Devil's river, a branch of the West Twin river, skirts the southern boundary of the district. Rock Falls on this river is a scenic spot as is the Maribel Caves, a short distance south. Today the four sections which make up Cooperstown district No. 1 is a community of farms and a quiet rural village serving as a trading, religious and educational center.

**DISTRICT 2 COOPERSTOWN — GREENSTREET**

Molly N. Krish
nearby school became known as the Greenstreet School. That name it retains today.

District No. 2 Cooperstown was organized around 1856, as records show that the first school meeting was held in the new school on February 2nd, 1857. A map of the newly created district, drawn by John Sager, the town superintendent of schools of Cooperstown, shows that originally it contained Sections 25-26-27-34-35-36 and the southern halves of Sections 22-23-24. The southern halves of Section 22-23-24 were added to Cooperstown 5 when it organized; the SE¼ of Section 36 and the E½ of SW¼ of Section 36 were added to Kossworth Jt. 1; the E½ of Section 25 was added to Gibson Jt. 6; and SE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 34 was added to Franklin Jt. 9 as years went by.

The first schoolhouse, a log building, was erected in 1856 by John Chloupek of Francis Creek for the sum of three hundred dollars. It was located just one-half mile north of the present school site on an acre of land purchased from Frank Schwimberg.

The site cost $2.00. The equipment must have been meager for in 1857 the district spent sixty-seven cents for a broom, a pail, and a pitcher. The following years, the records show that blackboards, chalk, door lock, and a register were the main items of equipment expense. Broken window panes were replaced frequently the records show.

No fuel was needed for many years as the school was in session from the first of June to the last of August. It was in 1870 that the voters decided that school should be taught for a longer period than just during the summer months. The school board had the right to close the school whenever the roads became impassable. The first building was sold at public auction to Frank Holly for thirteen dollars. He probably moved it to his farm nearby for a farm building.

The second school, a brick building, was built in 1881 on the same site as the first school. It was 34 feet long and 24 feet wide with windows on each of the long sides. Charles Habek built the school for $720, but each farmer had to bring a load of stones for the foundation and a load of bricks from Manitowoc.

The second school had long, wooden, homemade seats sufficient for seating seven or eight pupils on one bench. Sometimes the seats were so crowded that the pupil sitting on the end was frequently pushed off on the floor. Records show that Joseph Krejcarek made those seats for the school in 1883 for the sum of $42.50 including material and labor. Five cords of wood, split and piled, were purchased each year. The building and site served the district until 1910 when a new site and building replaced the old ones. The land and school were sold to Otto Taicher. The ruins of the second school stood until 1944 when Herman Wagner, who bought the property from Taicher, removed the bricks and leveled the land. No traces of the first and second schools now exist.

By 1910 the second school needed many repairs and as it was not located in the center of the district, a special meeting was held at the school for the purpose of deciding whether to build a new school or repair the old one. By a vote of 36 to 16 it was decided to build a new school in the center of the district. One acre, the SW corner of the SW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 26, was purchased from August Kempfert. A frame building 34 x 36 feet was built by Math. Mieziva for the sum of $2,475. This is the school being used at present. It has a basement, a library, a small kitchen, electric lights, and most of the necessary teaching equipment found in rural schools.

There are no records showing how many pupils attended the first school, but in 1899 there was an enrollment of 75 with a daily average attendance of 65. The present enrollment is 16. The parochial schools at Maribel and Kellnersville enroll many of the district children.

The subjects taught in the first schools were reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. Attendance was irregular, with the result that many ten year old children read from a primer and often never reached a much higher grade. Albert Harous, a Boheman immigrant, taught in the old brick school. All of his teachings were in the Bohemian language.

Some of the earliest settlers were Wenzel Maresch, the first business man in Greenstreet; Jos. Zelenka, who sold his place to Jos. Shuber; a Mr. Braun, a clockmaker; Thos. Juranek, a prominent church member; a Mr. Kuchera, who had a tavern, a store, and a dance hall on the present school site; Mrs. Kuchera, who raised tobacco, made and sold cigars to help support a family of 21 children; Frank Zeman, who bought the Kuchera place; and Frank Albrecht.

During the early times the corner where the present school stands was a meeting place for the people of the surrounding communities. Fairs and markets were held
each month. The old settlers recall the good times that they had at the dances in the hall. A crab apple tree on the present school site still stands to remind us of this extinct settlement.

The first school officers were Clerk Frank Schwimbersky, Treasurer Frank Wanish, and Director Wencil Koutsky. Jos. Zelenka served as clerk from 1875 to 1895. The school records were well kept and written in Bohemian. Others who served on the school boards in the early days were: W. Rabenhorst, Frank Zeman, Frank Holly, Charles Habeck and Adolph Talicher.

Early teachers were: Thos. Juranek, J. Floyd, L. Hink, Charles Krause, John Schmitt, John Chloupek, who later became County Judge, Wilhelm Kellner, Josie O’Connor, Mary Burke, Eugene Mason, Maggie Kane, Rose Elmer, Christian Schade, Hannah Lorrigan, Ella Jaeckel, Will O’Connor and Wm. Coony. Those since 1906 are listed in the county school annual. Jos. Hurka of Kellnersville was the last teacher in the old brick building and the first in the present one. Former pupils of Mr. Hurka recall how they marched from the old building to the new one. In the evening a program to celebrate the occasion was held at Shuber’s Hall in Greenstreet.

About the time of the Civil War, the town records show that the school was used as a town hall for Cooperstown. In 1852 a Catholic church was built and dedicated to St. Wenceslaus. This old landmark, was torn down in 1947. The cemetery adjoining is kept up by the Kellnersville parish. Traces of the first Green Bay road can still be seen in the northeastern part of the district in the woods owned by Jos. Albrecht. For a long time mail was brought from Manitowoc to the post office at Greenstreet. People from the surrounding area had to walk there for their mail. The post office was discontinued about 1905 after the Chicago and Northwestern built a railroad through Maribel and a post office was set up there.

COOPERSTOWN 3 — HICKORY GROVE

Olivia Kaderabek

Cooperstown District No. 3 was given the name Hickory Grove school in 1918 because the school site had many fine hickory trees surrounding it. The school is now located a few rods east of the SW corner of the SW\(\frac{1}{4}\) of section 8 in Cooperstown. Prior to the official naming of the school, the district was sometimes known to Manitowoc county residents as the Lark school since it is only a short distance southeast of that old hamlet. To the Cooperstown residents this is often referred to as the Frellich school because of the many Frellich families living in the district.

The qualified voters of this district met for the first time in September 25, 1856, at one o’clock P. M. in a log house situated near the St. John’s Evangelical Church, located a half mile south of the present school site, or located on the SE corner of the NE\(\frac{1}{4}\) of section 18. At this first meeting the voters elected Director John Touhey, Treasurer Heinrich Schneider, and Clerk John R. Weber. The first board meeting was held on January 11, 1857. On May 21, 1857, the officers executed a warranty deed between Dillman Werthenback and his wife Elizabeth and School District No. 3, Cooperstown for a school site recorded as “part of the SE corner of the SE\(\frac{1}{4}\) of section 18, Cooperstown”. John Raetz, the county register of deeds of Manitowoc county, recorded this deed on December 12th, 1859. This site was used until 1879.

No information about the first schoolhouse is available. Evidently it was a log building as was common of schools of that early date. At an annual meeting held on December 30, 1872, it was agreed to “lay” a tax of one dollar per eighty acres for the upkeep of the school. It was also agreed at that meeting that six months of school be maintained—three in summer and three in winter. The winter term commenced the first of November, 1872, and the summer term the first of May, 1873. At each annual meeting the voters decided who was to furnish wood. In one year Thos. Hogan was
paid ten dollars to deliver good and sound wood, to be cut so as to burn "comfortably" in the stove. Fred Schneider purchased two benches for the school in 1874 for $2.12. On November 25, 1876, two desks were purchased for $2.50.

At a special meeting held September 30, 1878, the voters voted to erect a new building. On October 5, 1878, Charles Shutts was paid twenty-five dollars for the site of the new school which was to be built near the center of the district. The site was the one used at the present time. Building plans were made by Thos. Hogan, Herman Trapp, and August Wilke. Contractor Albert Krieser was authorized to build a structure 20 x 30 x 12 feet. It had six windows—three on each long side, and one panel door with a German lock. The walls were of hewn cedar and black ash logs, seven to eight inches thick. The shingled structure was plastered between the logs with lime and sand. Painted shutters were on the windows. A plastered chimney three feet wide at the top was used. A stone wall three feet high served as the foundation of the structure. Planed mopboards were used all around the interior. Contractor Krieser completed the building on January 1, 1879, and received $153 for his services. The record indicates that he also received the lumber, logs, glass, and sash of the old log school. Two wooden blackboards were used in the new structure. Frank Kennedy, Sr., made fire every school day, while Rudolf Busse was paid two dollars yearly for cleaning the building. In 1880, William Sidal agreed to whitewash and clean the school for $2.25. No well was provided before 1900, because in 1896 John Maas, Sr., was paid five dollars for the use of his well.

The third schoolhouse for this district was built in 1920. It is a modern brickveneered building housing a large classroom, two cloakrooms, a library alcove, and two small rooms used for a teacher's room and for a storage space. A full basement includes indoor lavatories, furnace and ventilating systems, and a good-sized play room. The school has electric service and has the latest and most modern equipment and is one of the best kept schools of the county.

No record of the number of pupils enrolled in the first school is available. The town clerks' reports to the county superintendent from 1870 on show that the attendance of children of school age averaged about eighty per year during the 1800's. The highest enrollment of 105 occurred in 1870. Since 1900 there has been a steady decline in attendance, reaching the low of twelve in 1939. The decrease has occurred because of smaller families, larger farms, and other rural factors.

The many pupils, who have gone to this district school since its organization, have made good in their chosen fields. The settlers were a mixture of Irish, Germans, and Bohemians as the names will indicate. In recent years the Schneider, Reddy, Keenan, Maas, Frelich, Herold, Kane, and Kapinos families have produced many outstanding county teachers.

The names of the first school officers are recorded on the warranty deed made in 1857 which now is in the hands of the present clerk. The record books in the county superintendent of schools office shows that Dan Noonan served as clerk from 1872 to 1879. Albert Krieser served in 1895-6, while Frank Frelich was first elected in 1896 and served for ten years.

The names of the teachers who taught in this district before 1872 are unknown. The average salary per month in the 1800's was thirty dollars a month. While the school term was divided into winter and summer sessions, male teachers for the winter and female teachers for the summer was the rule. Teachers of whom there are records from 1872 to 1906 were: Wm. A. Wilson 1872; Hugh Kane 1873; Mich. Mulloy 1874 and 1876; Katie Donahue 1875; Hanah Garry 1877-78; Celia Fitzmaurice 1879; Emma Eggert 1895; Wm. Engel 1896-97; Anna Bradley 1898; and Mamie Keehan 1904-9. The school clerks records show that in addition to the above named teachers, the following also taught in the district: A. J. Bleser, Patrick Mulloy, T. J. Walsh, Charles Healy, Sara Kennedy, Lawrence Murphy, Maggie Mullins, and William Earles. The texts used during the last century were Sanders' spellers, readers, geography, and grammar; Thompson's arithmetic; Ray's arithmetic; Swinton's spellers and readers; and Mitchell's geography.

The schoolhouse has always served as a community center for the district residents. School fairs, Christmas programs, debates about Woman Suffrage, and meetings to consider community subjects have been common. Meetings to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of cheese factories and condenseries were held in recent years. A cheese factory operated by Jos. Herold and a blacksmith shop owned by John Maas, Sr., were located near the school. The former is still in operation. The school has received its mail from the postoffices of Rosecrans, Cooperstown, Stark, Lark, Kellersville, and finally from Maribel. The first four named postoffices are no longer in existence.
Cooperstown joint district number 4 has always been known as the Rosecrans district because the village of Rosecrans is within the area. It was officially designated by that name in 1918. The village of Rosecrans is said to have gotten its name from the fact that Cranse or Kranz had a business place at that place. Mrs. Cranse, whose name was Rose, was popular and the leader in the business establishment. The people of the community referred to the place as Rose Cranse's which was later changed to Rosecrans when the post-office was established.

Cooperstown No. 4 set up as a school district soon after the township was organized in 1856. It was not until 1880 that school money was given the district according to town records. Since the district organization, land from section 20 was added to district 3 in 1919, an area in section 33 was attached to Franklin Jt. 9 in 1931; and in June, 1949, a small parcel of land was added to Cooperstown 4 from Franklin which then made this Cooperstown Jt. District No. 4. Today the district stretches two-thirds of the way across the township with the schoolhouse not centrally located.

The first log schoolhouse with only three windows was built about 1859 on a site about 1/4 mile north of the present schoolyard. It is reported that the location was in the midst of dense forest with paths from the various homes leading to it. The school had a few rows of crude benches, a "black" board, a cast iron box stove with the smoke pipes extending through the roof, and the usual water bucket, dipper, and broom. In 1876, the entire expense of a five month school term was $143. The old log school was abandoned after it had served its purpose, and very likely was eventually used for firewood.

In December 1877, Clerk John Yench was paid $2 to post notices of a special meeting to decide the question of building a new school. The vote was favorable and so the voters decided to buy a half acre of land for a school site from Joseph Libal for $10. The location is the present one and is described as the S.W. corner of the NW¼ of section 28, Cooperstown. Before the building operations could be begun, the site had to be cleared of trees and stumps. Joseph Libal was paid $8 for this work. John and Volrath Trapp built the frame schoolhouse for $144. The new equipment and other new building items brought the total cost to about $169. New homemade benches and schoolroom furniture were made. A large cast iron stove cared for the heating. The school was ventilated by opening the windows along the three sides of the room. Pine boards painted black were still used for blackboards. The beginning of a library was evidenced for a library cupboard was a part of the meager equipment. The interior walls were covered with wide boards, usually painted a pale green. The floors were of wide pine boards which later became full of cracks, slivers, and humps of knots.

Evidently, the frame building built in 1878 became too crowded as the district became more settled for at the annual meeting in July 1900, it was voted to build an eight foot addition on to the west or front end of the school at a cost of $207. The schoolhouse could then accommodate about 45 scholars. Because there was no well on the schoolgrounds, water was gotten from John Marshek across the road for $2. In 1901 Mr. Kranen was hired to drill a well for $25.50. At the annual school meeting each year, the voters decided who was to furnish the wood, a school officer was elected, the opening date of school decided, the length of the school term set, and possible teachers to hire at a salary suitable to the voters were discussed.

The enrollment increased steadily so that by 1905 there were 74 pupils attending. A new state law passed by the Legislature required schools with more than 65 pupils enrolled to provide an additional room if state aid was to be paid. Accordingly, in March 1907, Clerk Eman Shusta posted notices for a special school meeting on April 1, 1907, to decide on the question of building a new building with two rooms,
and to authorize the schoolboard to borrow not to exceed $2800 at an interest rate of not to exceed 5%. Other resolutions regarding the repayment of the loan were also passed. The meeting was in charge of Chairman Frank Spevacek, clerk Eman Shusta, and tellers Joseph Opichka and Frank Anders. The vote to build was 33 to 1 in favor. Another special meeting was held at a later date to decide the type of structure, its size, and other matters pertaining to building operations.

At the second special meeting the voters, 16 in number, voted 12 to 4 in favor of a frame building. The structure was to be 38 x 42 x 12 feet, outside dimensions, with the basement walls to be 7 feet high and 2 feet thick and made of field stones. The building walls were to be double boarded, papered, and tinned on the outside. The roof was to be squared and covered with tin and was to have a bell tower. Building operations began in July 1907, and the school was completed by September at an approximate cost of $2575. Before building began, an additional half acre was purchased from Anton Marshek for $55 to add to the original site. Various district residents contracted to do work to construct the new school. Jos. Hodik contracted to dig the basement for $18.50; Frank Anders contracted to haul sand and gravel for $23; Frank Zeman agreed to build the basement walls for $150; and Dick Krumdick did the carpenter work. C. Schwantes was paid $15 for the new school plan.

The old frame school used up to 1907 was sold at public auction in June, 1907, to Albert Shimon for $70. The money for the new two-room school was borrowed from Eman Shusta, Frank Opichka, and from the state. The new school has two large classrooms separated by sliding doors, a good-sized library, two cloakrooms, and a large entry with one part leading to the basement and the other to the cloakrooms. The window lighting conforms to the code. The walls are covered with tin. At first the two rooms were heated by two large heater stoves, but these were replaced by a basement furnace in 1926 and again in 1943. The school lacks some modern conveniences expected in modern rural schools. Outdoor toilets and no electric services are two major handicaps.

The school enrollment trends are shown by the fact that larger and ever larger school buildings were in order as years passed. The decline in enrollment came shortly after the two-room school was erected. From a high of 79 pupils in 1907 to 49 in 1911 caused the district to revert to a one-room school again in 1913. Today the average attendance is between 15 and 20.


Early school clerks were M. Healy 1872; John Yench or Yenotz 1873-1886, and Jos. Fidler 1894-1906. Others who served on the boards before 1906 were Albert Zeman, Albert Petska, Frank Wanish, Sr., Emil Shusta, Wm. Bruss, Wencil Chvala, and Joseph Cigler. After 1906 Jos. Shusta served on the board for years.

As the teacher records are well kept from 1869 on in the clerks' record books, it is possible to list all of them from that date up to 1906 when the county annuals began to be issued. The very first teacher was said to have been a Mr. Uranik. A Bohemian teacher, Albert Harous, is known to have spent a week at each Bohemian family in the district to teach the children how to read and write their native language about in the 1860's. The known teachers were Annie Watt 1869-72; Wm. H. Nelson 1872; Wm. Earles 1872-6; Otto Listen 1876-8; L. Morrissey 1878-80; Bridget Lynch 1880-1; Mary Hewitt 1881-3; Jos. Pospisiel 1883-5; Jos. Morrissey 1885-6; Tim Burke 1886-9; Victoria Pelishek 1889-91; Mamie Lee 1891-96; Susan Ludowise 1896-8; Lizzie Taughier 1898-9; Edward Elmer 1899-1903; John Walsh 1903-4; C. E. Westgate 1904-5; Chas. J. Mulcahy and Chas. J. Moldenhauer 1905-07. Anna Ruby and Mary Goggins were the first principal and primary teacher in the two-room school. A later teacher, Thomas Frawley became county superintendent of Kewaunee county, Tim Burke became an attorney, a sheriff of Brown county, and later a state senator.

Rosecrans village was a thriving business place before the railroad came to Maribel. John Yench owned a store and saloon; John Engelbrecht owned a small business place; Albert Petska operated a store, tavern, and dance hall; and Tom Petska was the village smithy. The Rosecrans postoffice was in existence until the coming of the rural free delivery. The district has large gravel deposits and sand and gravel are shipped to distant places by the Maribel Sand and Gravel Co. The Copperstown swamps are along the western boundary of the district. Cranberry bogs and Wigwam village are situated in the southwestern part of this community.
COOPERSTOWN NO. 5 — MARIBEL
Viola O. Daetz

Cooperstown district No. 5 was officially designated the Maribel School in 1919, although it had for years been known by that name. The school is now located a short distance east of the village of Maribel.

Cooperstown No. 5 was organized for school purposes about the year 1858 according to the Cooperstown assessment roll of 1858. At that time the district consisted of sections 13, 14, 15, and parts of sections 22, 23, 24. Since that time various changes have occurred.

The oldest records available for the district date back to 1880. The first school, an old log building, was located on the farm now owned by Otto Schley which is located one mile north of Maribel. Evidently there are no ruins of that old site remaining. No record of the size of the first school nor of the equipment used is available. The first log school was sold for $5.25 and has since been torn down and no trace of it remains.

On May 1, 1887, the voters of the district voted to build a new brick school. It was decided to buy one-fourth acre of land for a school site for $20 from Carl Knuth. The farm is now owned by Norman Knuth and is located a mile east and a mile north of Maribel. The contract for building was given to Claus Ording, a well-known carpenter of that time, for the sum of $700. The structure was brick veneered, 22 x 34 x 12 feet in size. The school had four windows on each of the long sides with eight panes to a window. The floor was of oak lumber and the ceiling of hemlock. This building is still standing on the Knuth farm and is being used as a machine shed.

In the year 1911, the voters at the annual meeting decided to vote for a new school house. One half acre of land was purchased from Jacob Wotruba for $575. The site chosen for the new school is the present one. Because of the continued increase in enrollment, it was decided to build a two-room frame structure in case two rooms were eventually needed. Anton Krall, John Dewane, and Gust Schley were elected to act on the building committee. The voters levied a tax of $1000 to begin building operations. An additional $2,000 was borrowed to complete payment of the building which was ready for school work in the summer of 1912. The structure has a full basement with furnace and fuel room, a large playroom, and basement lavatory rooms. The lavatories were installed about 1940. The first floor has a large entry, cloakrooms, two large classrooms, and a library-work room. Modern equipment to meet the standards of a second class state graded school had been installed.

In 1916 the increased enrollment forced the district to establish a second-class state graded school. The first teachers under the graded system were Prin. Lillian Chizek and primary teacher Helen Reedy. The first graduates were Marcella Siebenborn, Anna Kellner, and Joseph Berger. After two years as a second class graded school, it again became a one room school until the fall of 1921 when it again became a two room state graded school. As years passed by, the enrollment decreased to such an extent that in the spring of 1946 a special meeting was called to decide whether a one or two room school should be maintained the next year. The vote was in favor of returning to a one-room school after the 1945-1946 school year. That policy was followed only for one term for at the annual meeting of July, 1947, a two room school was again voted.

The school enrollment follows the settlement and the growth of the community and of the village of Maribel. The decrease in attendance during the recent years is traceable to the rise of the parochial school systems at Cooperstown, Maribel, and Kellnersville. Although there were 111 children of school age in the district in 1945, only about 20 attended the public school. The enrollment from 1870 to 1900 averaged between 22 and 29 pupils. With the growth of Maribel after the railroad was established, the attendance increased steadily until by 1915 over 60 pupils were enrolled.

Ada Ording, Estella Shimonek, Larry Kubly, Joseph Skwor, Adolph Skwor, Frank Charney, Henry Knuth, Henry Shimonek, and Anna Keenan were pupils in the log
schoolhouse about 1880. Other students at about 1896 were Robert Olp, Jos. Wotruba, Wm. Bruss, Arthur Knuth, Mabel Reedy, Otto Schley, Sophie Bruss, and Charles Skwor. The latter named pupil became a physician and is now located at Mishicot.

Henry Aldrich, Herman Radey, and John Ording were early board members. The latter served as clerk for many terms. All served while the first log schoolhouse was in use. Board members serving from 1887 to 1906 were Julius Schley, Robert Olp, Wm. Buth, Carl Knuth, and Robert Zahn.

The complete roster of teachers from the time of the district organization is unavailable. The names of those on record in the superintendent’s office are: 1873 Viroqua Sheldon; 1874 Mary Ross; 1875-8 Dora Kelly; 1878 Louise Avery; 1879 Dora Kelly; 1887 Hattie McIntosh; 1894 Hattie Hendrickson; 1895 Susan Kane; 1896-7 Mary Zeddies; 1898 Alma Halberg; 1904-5 Sara Kennedy. Others who taught in this school before 1906 were Frances Gray, Ida Eberhardt, and Erwin Cary (now Dr. E. C. Cary, Reedsville). Winter and summer terms were held up to 1877. A salary of $30 per month was tops for a teacher before 1900.

A copy of the daily program of classes in 1896 follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Opening Ex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:20</td>
<td>3rd Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40</td>
<td>4th Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:50</td>
<td>A Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Primer Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Second Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20</td>
<td>First Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>A Arithmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>B Arithmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25</td>
<td>C Arithmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:35</td>
<td>D Arithmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>E &amp; F Arithmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Opening Ex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>B History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:25</td>
<td>Primary Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50</td>
<td>Fourth Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Third Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:10</td>
<td>First Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>Second Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>A Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>B Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:10</td>
<td>A Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20</td>
<td>B Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Primary Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:40</td>
<td>A Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:50</td>
<td>B Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:55</td>
<td>C Spelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Early texts used were Sanders readers, Sanders and Swinton spellers, Ray’s arithmetic, Phineas and Guffey grammars, Swinton’s history, and Mitchell’s geography.

Records show that it was not until about 1907 that the Maribel post office was established. Prior to that time mail was gotten from the post offices at Rosecrans, Coopersown, and Kellnersville. As there was no rural free delivery in the 1800’s, the mail was called for at the above named post offices.

COOPERSTOWN NO. 6 — TWIN RIVER

Beatrice Fenlon

Cooperstown district number 6 is now known as the Twin River school because it is located a quarter mile north of that river. Township residents often refer to it as the Radue school because the school is located on the Wm. Radue farm.

Cooperstown No. 6 was organized as a school district eight years after Cooperstown became a part of Manitowoc county. On November 3, 1856, the district purchased 12½ square rods of land for a school site in the N.W. corner of the N.W.¼ of the N.W.¼ of section 10, Cooperstown, from Michael Drees and Elizabeth Heiser for the sum of $2. It is still the school site at the present time. The district is now made up of all or most of sections 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 in Cooperstown.

The first schoolhouse was constructed of logs and was located a few feet northeast of the present building. The remains of the stone foundation of this old structure are still in evidence. The school house faced south while the new building faces the north. A single door on the south end of the log building opened into a classroom with three small windows on each long side. There was no entry nor cloakroom so the outer wraps and lunch pails were stored in the schoolroom. A box stove in the middle of the room toasted the pupils seated near it but had little or no effect on those who were forced to be seated on the outer circle of its radiance. The schoolroom fur-
niture consisted at first of crude homemade desks and benches, "black" boards and a teacher's desk. A tin dipper used by all to get water from an open bucket was placed conveniently in the room. At each annual meeting, the voters decided who was to furnish the fuel for the year. The successful bidder had to deliver this fuel according to definite specifications, at a specified time, and usually specified as to how it was to be piled or delivered at the school. A small woodshed housed the kindling and firewood.

The schoolyard, purchased in 1851 was added to in 1910 when Fred Mathias donated a strip of land along the west side of the original schoolgrounds. He gave this strip to the district because at that time a new road was built west of the school. The donated strip of land was between the road and the old schoolyard, so Mr. Mathias gave it to the district as an addition to the site. From time to time the schoolyard was fenced according to the school records. Since these records were for years written in German and Bohemian, it was difficult to translate all of the transactions recorded.

The old log schoolhouse was repaired from time to time. The logs were covered with siding, the roof re-shingled, the floor replaced, and the broken window panes replaced as the need arose. The building painted a gray color became older and more dilapidated. Finally in 1915, it was abandoned and sold to Matt Sladkey for $43.25. The old woodshed was sold to Frank Kozlovsky for $5. In 1916, the stone walls of the old school were removed and the remaining corner stones covered with dirt.

On February 20, 1915, a special school meeting was called to decide the question of building a new school. The vote was favorable for a frame building 36 x 34 feet, with the schoolroom itself 22 x 28 feet, at a cost of $2,750. The building was to have a stone basement. At first the voters decided that the district residents would do the building and the hauling of the building material and that they were to be paid 20 cents an hour. This decision was later rescinded and the contract was let to architect Leo J. Lee and contractor Ferdinand Schultz.

The fine frame schoolhouse has an entrance which blends into the general architecture of the building. Double doors open into a hall from which a door at the northeast corner opens to stairs leading to the basement. From the hall, steps lead up to double doors opening into a cloakroom across the front of the building. This room is lighted by two windows at each corner. From this cloakroom a doorway takes one into a small washroom in the northwest corner of the entrance addition. Two doors, one at each end of the long cloakroom, open into a class room which at first was furnished with double patented desks. These have been replaced with single, bench-type seats and desks. A large enclosed library cupboard along the north wall houses the many library and text books. The room is well lighted by many windows on the south and west sides. The front of the schoolroom is to the north. Electric lights were installed in 1946. The school is equipped with the best of learning and teaching needs. It is modern except for indoor lavatories and running water. The basement houses a large fuel, play, and furnace room.

There is no evidence that summer and winter terms were ever held in this district. The annual enrollment was always below that of other county schools. In 1880, for instance, only 30 pupils out of a school census of 136 children were listed as attending. The highest enrollment occurred in the 1890's when about 60 pupils were in attendance. During the past 20 years, the yearly enrollment has averaged between 15 and 20. The German parochial school at Maribel has some effect on the attendance in Cooperstown No. 6.

The pioneer settlers of this district were farmers. Certain family names appear several times in the list of names of residents serving on the school board. The county records show that these taxpayers served the district as clerk of the schoolboard before 1906: John Chavert 1872-74, Herman Radue 1874-96, Matt Sladkey 1896-1940. Others serving, as recorded in the county records, were August Gauger and John Kvitik.

The first teacher's name on record is Ella Burns who received a salary of $240 for the term. Names of other teachers as recorded in the county office were: Leopold Kellner 1872, Thos. Burke 1873, Mary Ross 1874-5, Jessie Ross 1876, E. N. Sartell 1877, Allan Ransom 1878, Bert Johnson 1879, Robert Shambeau 1894, Susan Kane 1895, John Elmer 1896-7, Martin Kvitik 1898, Irene M. Hall 1904, and Mabel Richards 1905. The records show also that short terms were common as was the average salary for teachers. Those factors may be the reason why yearly changes of teachers resulted.

Cooperstown No. 6 has no places of scenic or historical interest. Devils river, a branch of the West Twin River, winds through the district, providing fishing grounds for the residents. Rich deposits of gravel are being used by road builders and contractors. Today this farming community has provided a modern school house for its community, but the low enrollment and the high cost of operating a one room school are problems to be faced.