EATON

The township of Eaton at first included the western half of the present Liberty township. It was not until 1869 that the present boundaries were finally established. While the western half of Liberty was still a part of Eaton, school districts were organized and numbered in proper sequence. The present school districts of Eaton have missing district numbers because the original Eaton territory included the following district organizations: Eaton 1, Eaton 2 (now Liberty Jt. 2), Eaton 3 (now Liberty 2), Eaton 4 (now Liberty Jt. 4), Eaton 5 (now Eaton 3), Eaton 6 (now Eaton Jt. 1), Eaton Jt. 7 (now Rockland Jt. 2), and Eaton Jt. 8. Some of the districts were re-numbered as years passed. The present Eaton 4 was not organized until 1894.

EATON NO. 1 — NILES SCHOOL

Marion Miley

Eaton School District No. 1 was organized about 1854. At that time, according to the Eaton Assessment Roll, the district was made up of the S3/4 of Section 10, all of Sections 11, 12, 14, 15, and all of Section 13 except the SE1/4. During the succeeding years the Rolls show constant changing of boundary lines while the other districts were being organized. Today the district is made up of the W1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 3; the SE1/4 of Section 4; the NW1/4 of Section 9; all of Sections 10, 11, 14, and 15; and parts of Sections 12, 13, and 16.

Eaton District No. 1 is known as the Niles School. It has always been known by that name. It was given that name because the land on which the school was built was purchased from Delia Niles. Some of the other settlers of that time, according to the Assessment Roll, were T. Noonan, P. Dowd, F. M. Boucher, P. Burke, J. M. Curtiss, N. K. Johnson, the Tylers, Tosten Knutson, Nels Swenson, A. Severson, John Murdock, John Eastwood, and C. Schwabbe.

Information concerning the first school is limited due to the fact that no records are available. The first school in Eaton was taught in 1854 by Miss Therese Mott in her mother's home, which was about one-fourth mile east of the present school building. The Herald-Times of 1931 printed an interview with Knute Gulhaug, who was an old resident of this district. In this interview Mr. Gulhaug stated that the first school building was erected sometime between 1855 and 1860. It was located about eighty rods west of the present site on a piece of land which was a part of the Tyler farm now owned by Mrs. P. W. Donovan. He stated that the school house was built of rough, unshorn logs, and was a small, almost square building built on the north side of the present highway. There is no record of what was done with the building after it was abandoned.

The second school, the present building, was erected in 1871 for about $600. It is said that Herman W. Tyler helped build this school and taught the first term in it. Teacher records in the County Superintendent's office verify the fact that Mr. Tyler taught the school in the winter of 1872-73. According to Mr. Gulhaug the school was built by Mack Tyler and Ed. Balwing. The school was constructed of pine lumber cut from four pine trees taken from the Johnson woods. The present site can best be described: North 450 feet of the west 207 feet of the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of section 15. It now contains 2.11 acres. The school room furniture and equipment were of the types common to the schools of that period. Since the erection of this school many changes have been made. When the present Highway 151 was constructed, land was taken from the northern side of the school yard. To compensate for this, the State purchased and added land to its southern boundary. New equipment and conveniences were installed as the years passed. In 1895 new blackboards were added; a school bell purchased in 1903; a ventilation system installed in 1907; movable desks were added in 1911; and electric lights were installed in 1939.

56
The Niles School has always been a one-room rural school. The enrollment during the later 1800's was said to be large. It is reported that Martin Johnson, Wells Tyler, Frank Tyler, Charles Huntley, and the two Niles girls were among the first pupils. During the 1900's, the highest enrollment was 39 pupils in 1916. The lowest enrollment of eight pupils occurred in 1944.

Eaton District No. 1 is a farming community, but during the early history of the district some business places were established. In 1865, N. K. Johnson built a sawmill. Later on he erected a store, a cheese factory, and a saloon in a little settlement called Slab City which was located a short distance northwest of the present school site. The place was called Slab City because of the slabs of wood that were piled along side of the road. Slab City also included Good Templar Hall, a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, and several dwelling houses. All of these are no longer in existence.

Many pupils have wended their way to and from school since the first log school was erected. Among the graduates who have won recognition are Jacob Wilbersheid, a former teacher and now a prominent Racine Lawyer; Ben Krueger, a Manitowoc business man; Merritt Johnson, a former county teacher; Elwood Haberman, a minister; and the Knutsons, who have a family of teachers. In addition to these the Swensons, Kruegers, Tyler, and Schwalbes have made names for themselves in farming and in business.

Since there are no early records, the names of people serving on the school board are difficult to obtain. The records in the County Superintendent's office show that J. M. Tyler served as clerk from 1872 to 1874 and again from 1876 to 1898. R. Thordsen was clerk from 1874 to 1876. In 1904 Grant Tyler became clerk.

When the school was first built, summer and winter terms prevailed. In later years, night school was held for a few terms. Names of some teachers from 1872 to 1915 were: Herman Tyler, Wm. Tifts, Mary Knapp, Mark Waldo, Katie E. Dempsey, H. L. Markham who later became a prominent Manitowoc lawyer, G. A. Nagel, Catherine and Anthony Taugh, Dora Clausen, Mae Brady, Margaret Willgen, Helen Reinholt, Ella Qualley, Celia, Inez, and Frances McCarthy. District records kept since 1894 show that teachers received about $400 during the 1890's.

Places of interest in the district include the Presbyterian Church established in 1858. At first the services were held in the school house. The church was active till about 1865 when interest lagged. In 1895, the church was revived and the present structure was erected. Today the church is known as the Niles Community Presbyterian Church and has services every Sunday, but has no resident pastor. Another old time building was the Niles post office erected in 1856. A part of this structure is still standing on the Donovan farm. It was the first post office in the town of Eaton at which the stage from Manitowoc to Kiel stopped. With the institution of the rural free delivery, the office was discontinued. In connection with the post office was the Tyler grocery store. Records reveal the fact that court trials were held in the post office building.

EATON JT. 1—GEORGE WASHINGTON
Norman Wernecke

The name George Washington school was given to the Eaton joint 1 school in honor of our first American president. Residents in this and nearby communities refer to it as the St. Nazianz public school.

The Eaton assessment roll for 1857 shows that a school district No. 6 was already in existence. This Eaton school district No. 6 was an area of land extending across sections 22, 23, 24, and the north halves of sections 25, 26, and 27. It embraced the area owned by the Roman Catholic Religious Association at that time. By 1864, according to the assessment roll of that year, this area became Eaton district No. 5. About 1870, several pieces of land in Liberty were attached to the district and then it became Eaton joint district No. 1, joint with Liberty. When Eaton school district No. 4
was organized in 1894, much of the western part of Eaton Jt. 1 was detached to become a part of the newly created district.

Since the St. Nazianz community was settled by a religious organization, it is only natural to conclude that the first school was conducted by those connected with the organization. Written records for this district can not be found. A diamond jubilee historical pamphlet issued in 1929 gives pertinent school facts about this community. The readers of that pamphlet are made aware of the fact that the public and parochial educational systems were pretty much in the hands of the religious leaders of this village.

St. Nazianz was settled in 1854 by Father Ambrose Oschwald and his band of followers who came from Germany. The first parochial school, a two-story log building, was erected about 1856. The Holy Ghost Convent (the Pink Convent) was built in 1858 and still stands. A district school was said to have been built about 1862 to 1865. In this public school English and German were taught. (Only German had been taught in the parochial schools). The district school, as a rule, was taught by Sisters. They taught Catechism and Bible History in addition to reading, spelling, arithmetic, history, and geography.

There are no records to verify this, but it is thought that the first public school was located on Lot 3, Block 1, village of St. Nazianz, the present location of the John Miller hardware store. It is officially known that that lot was sold to Eaton Jt. 1 school district by the Roman Catholic Religious Association on December 21, 1898 for $25. Anton-Kaltenbrun, an old resident, recalls attending the public school in what is now the Miller hardware store in the 1870's. He stated that even at the time that he attended that the school was not new. Evidently, then, the public school erected about 1862-5 was the Miller building of today. The religious association must have set aside the site for school purposes until it was sold in 1893.

Former pupils remember the school before it was remodeled into a store as being a frame building about 24 x 36 feet with no cloakroom. An entrance door led directly into a schoolroom lit by windows on the long sides. Home-made seats and desks, one row on each side of the room, as well as the usual boxstove, teacher's desk, wood-box, and pail and dipper made up the schoolroom furniture and equipment. Blackboards were truly "black" boards. Town elections were said to have been held in this building. Anton Kaltenbrun remembers one of the teachers going next door each school day to get a cigar to smoke during school hours.

On April 12, 1894, the schoolboard composed of clerk Jos. Gutman, director John F. Koeck, and treasurer Franz Noworatsky sold Lot 3 in Block 1 to Peter Endries for $160. He in turn sold it to John Miller, Sr. at a later date. The sale price must have included the building for on August 23, 1893, the Roman Catholic Religious Association sold to school district joint 1, Eaton, the present site of 1.01 acres. The deed describes this property as: Commencing 59 rods, 10 links west of the S.E. corner of the SE1/4 of the SE1/4, thence E. 9 rods, N. 13 rods, W. 15 rods, and S.E. 15 rods, 4 links to the beginning. The price paid was $301.

The present schoolhouse was built in 1893 on the site purchased for $300. It is a one-story building about 26 x 33 feet with a full-sized basement and cost $1,800. A small entrance shed faces the south. A door from this shed leads directly into a small hall from which doors lead to the basement and to the two cloakrooms—one on each side of the front of the building. The cloakrooms are connected to the main classroom by open-arched doorways. Between these two open arches, a well built, enclosed library and cupboard houses the hundreds of library and text books. Double desks are still in use except for the primary children. The classroom is supplied liberally with blackboards between the windows and along the north wall. A teacher's platform extends across the front of the classroom. Modern recitation chairs, a piano, radio, and sandtable, and a teacher's desk make up the balance of the classroom furniture. Four windows on each long side cause cross-lighting. The basement is poorly lighted and houses a combination fuel, furnace, and playroom. Electric service was installed in the school in the 1930's. The playground has some playground equipment to the front of the yard and large outdoor toilets located to the rear.

Contrary to expectations in a community settled by a religious order, the enrollment in the public school, as shown by the town clerk's reports to the county superintendents, was about as great as for any of the larger schools of the county until the early 1900's. In 1870, the records show that a total of 147 pupils out of 218 on the school census attended. Since there was evidently a divided term at that time, the figure of 147 pupils may have been the sum total of the two terms. Then, too, in 1870, both public and parochial children attended the one school. The average enrollment during the latter 1800's was between 65 and 100 pupils. It was not until about 1910
that only 15 to 25 pupils attended yearly out of an average census of 150 to 200. Parochial school attendance after 1900 had cut deeply into the public school enrollment. Today about 20 pupils out of a school census of about 125 children attend the public school. That attendance figure includes children who attend this school from the suspended school district Eaton Jt. 8. In reality only about 8 or 10 district children attend this public school.

The only records of school officers for Eaton Jt. 1 prior to 1906 are those on file in the county office. These records list these names of residents serving the community on the schoolboard: Chas. Boettcher 1870-3; John Roemer 1874-80's, and Jos. Gutman 1894-1906 as clerks; and John F. Koeck, F. X. Eberle, Franz Noworatsky, and Jos. Mallmann as other board members. Those serving after 1906 are listed in the county school annuals.

Before 1870, the public school was often taught by a member of the religious order. County records show that the term of school ranged from 5 months in the 1870's to 10 months in 1894. The wages paid teachers were usually much higher than the average. In 1878, for instance, Theo. Wolf was paid a salary of $60 monthly when the rest of the districts in Eaton were paying $40 and less per month. Teachers usually stayed for several terms because the salary was attractive. The county records list these teachers for St. Nazianz prior to 1906: C. D. Bon 1872, Victoria Sonner 1873, Theo. Wolf 1874-80's, Jerome Craite 1894-5, E. Crowe 1896-7, Wm. Birkle 1898-1900 and again 1905-08, and Emily Rauch 1902-04. Records also reveal the fact that Theo. Wolf, the teacher in the 1870's, was town clerk of Eaton from 1877 to 1887.

The St. Nazianz public school served as an examination center for eighth graders writing for a diploma during the early 1900's. It now has one of the largest collection of library books of the county rural schools, an indication that the school census has always been very large, for the amount of money allotted for library books for a school is determined by the number of school age children residing in the district. These books are being used by both the public and parochial school pupils. Because of its limited enrollment during the years of town and county contests, this school had few prize winners, although the pupils always took an active part. Today Eaton Jt. 1 faces the possibility of becoming a center school for the communities using St. Nazianz as a business, religious, and social center, or of having its public educational system going the way of Eaton 4 and Eaton Jt. 8.

EATON NO. 2 — ELDER GROVE
Norma L. Koene

Eaton school district No. 2 was officially designated the Elder Grove school because of the many box elders growing on the school yard. It is often referred to as the Steinhall school because the school is located a mile northwest of that village. It is also known as the Hog Island school because it is located near the so-called Hog Island area of land to the north of the school.

The Eaton assessment rolls do not list Eaton school district No. 2 until 1864. Before that date it was largely an unsettled area with the farmers around the outer border sending their pupils to neighboring schools. There are no written records prior to 1871, but with the help of elder district residents a few of the early school facts were gathered.

It is reported that the first school in this community was a German parochial school located at Steinhall. It was built by early settlers for the children who were supposed to attend the parochial school at St. Nazianz. The children of the Protestant families were allowed to attend. There were no school board members since it was not a public school. The teacher's salary was said to have been 75 cents per pupil per month. Anyone with a good German education was qualified to teach. Math Ruplinger was said to have been one of the early teachers.

About 1864, the settlers living in the Hog Island area decided to build a public school. The site selected was about 800 feet north of the present school yard. The log
structure was erected by community cooperation. The equipment was meager and crude, with benches long enough to seat six pupils. Writing and arithmetic problems were done on slates. About 25 pupils were enrolled during the first years of the district school. After about 20 years of service the old log building was sold to Johann Brocker for $13. He used it for a dwelling for many years.

At the annual meeting on August 29, 1881, the voters authorized a new schoolhouse but no definite plans were made. At a special meeting on January 14, 1882, it was decided to build a brick structure 32 x 24 x 11 feet, to be completed in 1883. The voters agreed that every man in the district was to deliver 1000 bricks to the school site for $2.25. Henrich Schnell, Frank Staufer, and Jacob Hansen were chosen to act as the building committee. At the annual meeting in 1882, the people voted to build the new school 15 to 20 rods south of the old school site. At another special meeting on September 30, 1882, it was voted to purchase one-half acre from August Anhalt in section 31 for $33. The contract for labor and lumber for the school was let to H. T. Tomsen and Eisenraut for $835. The completed building cost $976.46. The well was drilled by Ernest Beck for $27.78.

The brick school built in 1883 is still in use today. A small attached entry is used as a cloakroom and fuel storage space. A single door leads into a classroom lit by three windows on each long side. Single adjustable desks have replaced the double desks purchased after the new school was erected. The walls are wainscoted up to the windows. A floor furnace in the northeast corner of the schoolroom heats and ventilates the room. Records show that a Wernecke heating system was installed in 1907 after a special meeting was called to authorize this expenditure. The old box stove was sold to Anton Schnell for fifty cents. A library cupboard was built in the southeast corner of the room in 1915. Blackboard space is provided across the front of the room. Between the windows the old-fashioned "black" boards are used. Cupboards along the side walls are used to store the dinner pails and teaching equipment. Electric lights were installed in the spring of 1948. A ladder which leads to the attic is lowered to the floor when it is to be used. About 1930, the walls and ceiling were covered with beaver board.

The small schoolyard was fenced on the north and west sides in 1909. Posts were set every one-half rod and fenced with six barless wires. Posts and gas pipe were placed on the side toward the road for hitching racks. The fence along the road was removed in 1912. Today the yard is fenced with a 3 board fence. The yard contains a woodshed at the northeast corner, toilets at each of the rear corners, and a merry-go-round at the southeast corner.

During the 1800's, the school year was divided into summer and winter terms. The summer term began about June 1st, while the winter term began between October 13 and November 1st. One hour of German was taught daily. In 1880, for instance, the voters decided to have 8 months of English school and one month of German school. Eight month terms were common during the 1890's. For some reason the voters usually specified that a male teacher be employed. The enrollment in this school never was as large as in other county schools because the number of farmers was limited due to the large swamp areas. The largest number enrolled was about 60, while the present enrollment averages about 15 yearly out of a school census of about 35.

Early assessment rolls for Eaton show that J. Brochtert, M. Lau, John Schmidt, B. Borman, C. Theisen, F. Westphalen, and Henry Schnell were pioneer settlers or landowners in this district. Henry and Adam Schnell are listed as school clerks in the 1870's and 1880's. Other residents who served on the schoolboard before 1906 were H. J. Hansen, L. Bosma, Henry Fabes, and John Schnell.

The list of teachers who taught this school prior to 1906 is incomplete. Men teachers seemed to have been employed whenever they were available. Teachers, whose names are recorded as having taught in Eaton No. 2, are Aug. Elmgreen 1872 and 1875, Mich. Harlow 1873, Addie Niles 1874, T. H. Ward 1876, Katie Fardy 1877, James Grogan 1878-9, Wm. Dunbar 1880, Theo. Oseau, and Simon Wehrwein 1888, Hermann Wessel 1889, Rose Wintermeyer 1895, Wm. Birkle 1896, Albert Wagenknecht 1897-1904, Torval Tollefson 1905, and Rudolph Paulson 1906.

During the first 40 years of this school's existence, the voters at the annual meetings determined who was to furnish the fuel. In 1880, for instance, 8 cords of wood had to be delivered by August Anhalt for the sum of $4 at a specified time, in specified lengths, and be neatly piled in the woodshed. The matter of cleaning the school was let also at each meeting. In 1897, Mr. Westphalen agreed to scrub the school two times for fifty cents each time.

A place of historical interest is Hog Island, an area of land of about 700 acres completely surrounded by swamps. John Nagle in his book "Nagle's Philosophy" had
this to say about Hog Island: “Hog Island is a name applied to a rock-ribbed hill enclosed by a cedar swamp in the western part of Eaton, Wisconsin. It is noted principally for hogs, dogs, rocks, thatched roofs, and a class of people. The Island was formerly the abode of Yankees.” Hog Island got its name from an early settler named Haak who owned a considerable portion of this island when it was first settled. Today Hog Island is still surrounded by swamps but it is no longer noted for what Mr. Nagle stated it was. Since Eaton No. 2 is isolated from the rest of the township, it may be forced to look to other school districts for the solution of its future school problems.

EATON 3—CALUMET
Queen DeRosier

Eaton district No. 3 school was named the Calumet school in 1918 because it was located adjacent to the old Calumet road, now known as Highway 151. The school at one time was known as the Hopper school because of the connections that the Hopper families had with the affairs of the school. In more recent years, it was often referred to as the Stahl or the Rauch school.

This area was organized for school purposes about 1852 and was then Eaton school district No. 5. At that time Eaton township took in the western half of the present Liberty township. Eaton district No. 5 then included all of the western half of the present Eaton township except sections 4-5-6. In 1859 this district was re-numbered and became Eaton school district No. 3. When Eaton school district No. 2 was organized in 1864, Eaton 3 lost that area. In 1894 when Eaton No. 4 was organized, another area in sections 21 and 28 was detached. Today Eaton No. 3 consists of an irregular area containing parts or all of sections 7, 8, 9, 17, and 18, all in the west-central section of Eaton township.

There are no old district record books. None of the older settlers remembers much about the first school. The town clerk’s record books show that in 1866, district No. 3 raised 75 cents on every 80 acres which brought in $131.93 in school taxes. In addition the district received $9.24 county taxes, and $8.96 state taxes. The first school building was said to have been a small log structure situated a little to the east of the present site. No information as to its size, equipment, and eventual disposition is available.

Only two school buildings were erected since the district was organized. The present school built in 1882 at a cost of $272 is located in section 17 next to Highway 151. It is a little frame building about 16 x 24 feet, one of the smallest rural school buildings in our county. Up until 1916 it was “the little red schoolhouse on the Calumet Road”. Since its erection some changes have been made to the structure by adding an entry-cloakroom and an open porch, but the school in general has remained pretty much as it was built in 1882. The schoolroom is lighted by two windows on each of the long sides and in the entry. The walls of the room are boarded up to the ceiling. The heating and ventilation plant consists of an approved heater. Electric lights were installed in the fall of 1947. The schoolyard is spacious, for in 1918 additional land was purchased. A merry-go-round was purchased in 1927 for $148. The cement porch and sidewalks to the outbuildings were constructed in 1929. To care for the many library books in school, a large bookcase was built in 1932 in the southeast corner of the schoolroom. The outbuildings consist of a woodshed and two well-built toilets. Although one of the least modern of the county schools, the little school is dear to the hearts of its former pupils.

The Calumet school has never had a large enrollment. A check of the attendance by five year periods from 1870 to 1905 discloses the fact that the largest enrollment occurred in 1885 when 41 pupils attended. The number of pupils of school age (4-20 years) was never very large either. The 1895 town clerk’s report to the Superintendent
of Schools shows that year to have the highest number of school age pupils—61 boys and girls. During the school term of 1943 there were only 4 pupils enrolled, but since that time the attendance has again averaged 10 as it had for several years before 1943. The 1946 school census listed only 22 pupils of school age residing in the district!

The early settlers of the present district were a mixture of several nationalities. Those listed on the early tax rolls were Peter and John Murphy, Martin Heywood, James Dunn, Geo. Monroe, R. J. Robinson, Wm. Hahn, R. Craig, Thos. Morgan, Jos. Rauch, B. Maquire, and John Hopper. Although this has always been a small school, its graduates are well-known throughout the county and state. Herman Rauch is Vice-president of Gueder, Peschke and Frye Sheet Metal Products of Milwaukee, Lorretta Murphy and Margaret Groh became nurses, Harry Murphy, a doctor; Jos. A. Rauch, the Catholic priest at Francis Creek; and Wm. A. Rauch, a physician at Manitowoc. Those who became teachers were William, Arthur, and Harry Murphy, William and Emily Rauch, Ethel Sy, Rita Groh, Rita Murphy, and Evelyn Streckert. Other graduates have become successful farmers, mechanics, mail clerks, and businessmen.

Pat Reddin was elected clerk of the school district in 1868. He was succeeded by B. Maquire in 1871. John and Thos. Hopper were clerks from 1874 to about 1890. Matt Rauch served as treasurer from 1881 until his death in 1897. Other district residents who served on the board prior to 1906 were Simon Strauss, John Stahl, Jos. Rauch, James Murphy, and Cyril Stahl.

The records in the county office show that this district had winter and summer sessions of school, but the length of such sessions were shorter than for other county schools. In the winter of 1873, for instance, only a 3 month winter term and a 2 month summer term were held. The term length and the wages paid to teachers were usually below that of other Eaton schools, due no doubt to the size of the school. The following teachers taught at Eaton No. 3 up to 1906: Susie A. Wright 1872 W; C. Bedelia Comer 1873 and 1874 S; James Burke 1873 W; H. M. Tyler 1874-5; Erasmus Sartell 1876-77; P. W. Donahue 1878; Martin McMahon 1879; Wm. Heckmann 1894-5; Mamie Garry 1896-98; Della Lawrence 1904; and Hilda Halvorsen. Others who taught this school before 1906 were Pat Shea, Thos. Hopper, a Mr. Morrissey, Lizzie Schwalbe, and Fred Gensch.

The Calumet school has been the scene of many happy evenings spent in spelling matches, card parties, basket and pie socials, and the yearly Christmas programs. During the early pioneer days, Matt Rauch was postmaster of a small postoffice in his home. The specific name for this postal station is unknown, but it is known that the mail for this community was dropped off here on its route between Manitowoc and Fond du Lac. At the turn of the century there was a cheese factory at the Schwalbe corner. The Streckerts also operated a sawmill for years in this area. Today Eaton No. 3 is a quiet farming community settled by the descendants of the first settlers.

**EATON 4 — SUNNYSIDE**

_Suspended_

Eaton school district number 4 was designated the Sunnyside district because the schoolhouse was located on the sunny side of a hill sloping to the east. It is often referred to as the Lax school as it was located a short distance from the Lax Chapel. Eaton residents often referred to it as the Heinzen school.

Eaton No. 4 district was organized in 1894 in order that a school within walking distance might be provided the children in this area. This district belonged originally to the St. Nazianz and the Elder Grove districts. Today it is an oblong area composed of sections 21-22-23 and the north halves of sections 27 and 28. Much of the western part of the district is made up of swamps and gravel hills unfit for farming. The eastern half of the community is composed of rolling farm lands, but the whole district is assessed at only about $180,000.
The first and only schoolhouse was built in 1895 on a school site purchased from Anton Burkhardt for $35. The schoolyard was located on the north-west corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 27. The frame school, about 22 x 28, cost the district $592 complete. It was built by John Knier who did the carpenter work; Peter Heinzen and Ludwig Kaltenbrun did the mason work. Each district resident spent a few days assisting in the building for the treasurer’s record book shows that 19 residents were paid sums ranging from $2 to $7.50 for labor. The sum of $500 was borrowed from the state at 5% interest, and $270 was borrowed from Math Haungs at 6% interest. Seats and blackboards were purchased from the Manitowoc Seating Co. for $49.50. More double desks and seats were purchased from the same company in 1897 for $15.60. The new school was painted by Jos. Boeckle for $21.35 with Christel and Miller furnishing oil and paint for $38.64. It was not until 1901 that Math. Wollersheim went to build a board fence costing $17.46. A woodshed was erected in 1904 with Math. Wollersheim doing the labor for $25.40 and the lumber furnished by O. Aslackson of Valders for $36.89. The old stove was replaced by a stove-type heating and ventilating system in 1909 for $38.

The frame schoolhouse had open steps leading up to a small storm shed attached to the front of the building. This shed was used to store the day’s supply of fuel, the pupil’s outer wraps, and the dinner pupils during moderate weather. The interior of the shed was lighted by two small windows facing the road. A door from the shed opened into a schoolroom with three windows on each long side. The room was barely furnished with double desks, a library cupboard, a teachers’ desk, and a heating plant in the northwest corner of the room. This school remained in continuous operation until the year 1940 when it was suspended because the average daily attendance had dropped to three pupils. The public school children were then transported to the Geo. Washington school at St. Nazianz, but by 1944 there were no pupils in the district who were enrolled in a public school. The school census listed fewer than 20 children of school age residing in the district. Those attending school were enrolled in the parochial school at St. Nazianz. For the past four years the district has had no school tax since it did not educate any children in a public school.

At a special meeting held in the spring of 1946, the voters authorized the school board to sell the school buildings at public auction. Accordingly, an auction was arranged for June 8, 1946, at which the school building was sold to Gerhard Endries, a World War II veteran, for $1,000. He moved the school to St. Nazianz and remodeled it into a restaurant and living quarters on a site just south of the canning factory. The school equipment and outbuildings were sold piecemeal for about $200. The site was sold to Henry Baer and has now become a part of his farm.

According to assessment records on file in the county treasurer’s office, pioneer residents of this district about 1858 were John McMunn, John Doig Cronin, Geo. Sukowaty, Jos. Stahl, Anton Fessler, Alois Schweitzer, A. Kautzer, and Christian Adelmann. The treasurer’s book is neatly and well-kept, recording the expenditures of the district since its organization. This record book gives the names of the schoolboard members from the time of the district organization. The district residents serving on the board up to 1906 when the county school annuals were first issued were: Ludwig Kaltenbrun, Mich. Meyer, and Math. Wollersheim as clerks; Art Burkhardt and Math. Heinzen as treasurers; and Math. Wollersheim and Jos. Sukowaty as directors. It was not until 1907 that payment was made for attendance at a schoolboard convention. That payment was made for the treasurer’s attendance, as that officer was required to attend at that time.

The first term of school held in the winter of 1895-6 was in charge of Fred Schwalbe. He taught a six month term for $30 per month. After 1897, eight month terms were common until shortly before a state law passed in 1937 forced all districts to maintain at least a nine month term to be eligible for state and county aid. Teachers in addition to Fred Schwalbe who taught this school in 1895 and 1896 were Sadie Dunbar 1897-1901, Adele Lawrence 1901, Emily Kauff 1902, Susie Richards 1903, Katie Laughlin 1904, Theresa Gries 1905, Anna McCarthy 1906-07. Other teachers after that year until the school suspended in 1940 have their names recorded in the county annuals. The last teacher in the school was Ruth Rolland of Cato who taught the nine month term for $85 per month.

The sunnyside school has always been handicapped by a very small enrollment. The teachers and pupils took an active part in the town contests, but never sponsored the old-fashioned spelling bees and debates so common to other county districts. The community is now much more accessible since the construction of a county trunk highway through the district which connects St. Nazianz with highway 32. Lax Chapel in this district is the scene of religious pilgrimages on August 15th each year. With the passage of new school legislation, the time will soon come when the district will be attached to operating school districts and pass out of the Manitowoc county rural school system.
EATON JT. 8 — FIVE CORNERS

Suspended

Joint 8, Eaton was officially designated the Five Corners school in 1919, although it was usually known by that name. The school is located at the juncture of five roads which make five corners. The school was located on the N.W. corner or on the S.E. corner of section 27, Eaton.

The Eaton assessment roll of 1857 shows that this district was set up by that time. It then consisted of sections 34, 35, 36, and the south half of sections 25, 26, 27. The district was then just Eaton No. 8. It was not until 1888 that the records show that it became Eaton Jt. 8 with Schleswig. At that time a small area of land in section 2 Schleswig was attached to Eaton No. 8. The boundary lines have changed considerably since the district was first organized.

Just what year the first schoolhouse was built is unknown as the district record books date back to 1862. School must have been in operation by that time because the first notation in the old record book state: "At an adjourned meeting held by the electors of said district, October 4, 1862, the following resolutions were adopted: Ole Olson was elected chairman and D. O'Shea clerk. It is voted by a unanimous vote that 25 cents be assessed upon every 80 acres of land in said district. Voted by unanimous vote that three months school be taught in this district, said school to commence April 1, 1863." Signed D. O'Shea, Clerk.

The record for that year did not show expenditures for building or equipment. Evidently, then, a school had been built prior to 1862.

The first log school history is indefinite. The location of it is unknown but, very likely, was across the road to the east from the 1946 site. The records do show that occasional sums of $7 and $15 were spent for fixing the schoolhouse. From 1879 to 1884 the school must have been remodeled for we find expenditures for hauling lumber, flooring, timber, lathing, stones, nails, hinges, latches, shutters, lumber, carpenter work, and mason labor amounting to about $130. Evidently the school had a new stone foundation, new flooring, and siding put on at that time. The fact that the expenditures were spread over a five year period seems to indicate that the old building was remodeled. If that was the case, the old school still stands and is used as a residence across the road to the east. It is about 18 x 24 feet in size. Nothing is known as to the equipment and furniture of that early school. The records show that yearly purchases of "flerwood", "woot", "kintling woot", pails, registers, broom, dipper, and window glass were common.

The second schoolhouse was erected in 1899. The district record shows that the new school site was purchased for $84.80. The carpenter contractor was M. Meyer who built the structure at an approximate cost of $600. The building committee was paid $15 for its work. The sum of $20 was paid for leveling the grounds. New double desks were also purchased for $59.10 which replaced homemade benches made in 1875 by Charles Beidel for $12. The new school was about 24 x 30 feet with one large classroom and an entry-cloakroom. It was heated by a stove since there was no basement. Cupboards were used to store the library and textbooks. The usual teaching and learning equipment of an average school were available. A well was dug on the school premises in 1898-9 at a total cost of about $25. New outdoor toilets were built in 1906 for $39.23.

At the annual school meeting held on July 8, 1946, the voters of the district voted to sell the school, equipment, and land at public auction on Saturday, July 13, 1946. The district had not maintained school sessions since 1939 in the building. At the auction Norman Eichmann, the St. Nazianz baker, bid $1,225 for the schoolhouse. Michael Klein bought the woodshed for $65. Lawrence Schweitzer bought the grounds for $80. The school equipment was sold piecemeal or in lots for about $200. Mr. Eichmann
moved the building to St. Nazianz and remodeled it into a bakery shop. It is located across the road to the south of the Opera House.

The enrollment records of the town clerk to the county superintendent show that 39 pupils attended in 1870. The highest enrollment occurred in 1880 when 47 pupils attended. This school never had a large enrollment. The average up to 1906 was about 30 each year. The greater number of the district children attended the parochial school at St. Nazianz. In 1939, it was voted to close the school and transport the public school pupils to nearby operating districts. In 1946, when the building was sold, the district was still transporting fewer than 10 pupils to public schools.

Early settlers of the district in 1859 were: Felix Pfefferle, John Salverson, Knud Olson, D. O'Shea, Ole Olson, John Nielsen, and Knud Tostenson. Others who are mentioned in the district records were John and Ole Tollefson, Wm. Schnell, Gerhardt Gellings, Xavier Geiser, Jos. Holzer, James Cook, M. Ruplinger, and Jos. Brunmeier.

The earliest school officers on record were D. O'Shea, P. O'Shea, John Tollefson, Christ Winkel, Clarence Reisterer, and Math. Ruplinger. Most of the records of the district are unsigned and some yearly records missing. That fact makes it impossible to list the names of the school officers for all of the years since records were kept. The superintendents' records list these men as having served from 1872 to 1906: Xavier Geiser, Frank Gerhard, James Cook, Chas. Schnell, and W. H. Karstaedt. John Reisterer, who died in 1946, held office for a record of 45 years.

Mary Cronin is listed as the first teacher in 1862. She taught for 3 months at $16 per month. The records often do not state the name of the teacher, but just state: "Paid the teacher $_____." Evidently, the teacher's board was paid by the district for we find notations like this in the expenditures: "Paid Mrs. O'Shea for boarding the teacher $16." Such an expense was recorded as late as 1890 when P. O'Shea was paid $18.75 for teacher's board. Although summer and winter sessions were never held, it is recorded that a German teacher was hired in 1893 at a total salary of $30. The teachers' names obtainable from records were: Mary Galloghy 1863; Chas. Conway 1864-5; Abbie Heiskins 1866-7; P. O'Shea 1870-3; Mary Cody 1874-6; Theo. Ward 1877; Frank Cleary 1878; Julia Sullivan 1879-80; Nora Morris 1881. Katie Fardy 1882; Maggie Cody 1883; Louis Jerman 1884; Phebe Rickaby 1885-6; Maggie Crowe 1887; Katie Hayes 1888-9; Katie Clark 1890; Maggie Garey 1892-3; Katie Clark 1894; Katie Cain 1895-7; Eugene McCarthy 1898; Estella Niles 1899-1902; Agnes Conway 1903-05. Irish teachers were much preferred!

The old school records of 1860 to 1880 have many interesting entries. It reveals the fact that among the tax receipts were "tax certificates". Fees for someone were paid yearly. These fees were usually in the amount of $5 per year. For years this fee was paid to James Cook, but for what purpose is unknown. By the latter 1890's, we find that someone was paid $2 yearly to take the school census. Quite often a district resident was paid a small sum for clearing up some "trubl" in school or in carrying out school affairs. In 1897, the sum of $2 was spent for "picnic refreshments". Every year expenditures for cleaning the school and water closets were listed. Only for the year 1872 to 1875 are the records written in German—a good indication that a mixture of nationalities lived in the district. Today the community is predominantly German.

The sale of all of the school property has taken away a central meeting place for social or business purposes. Annual school meetings are now held in the neighboring cheese factory or in private homes. No doubt the time will soon come when the district will be disbanded and the area attached to operating school districts.