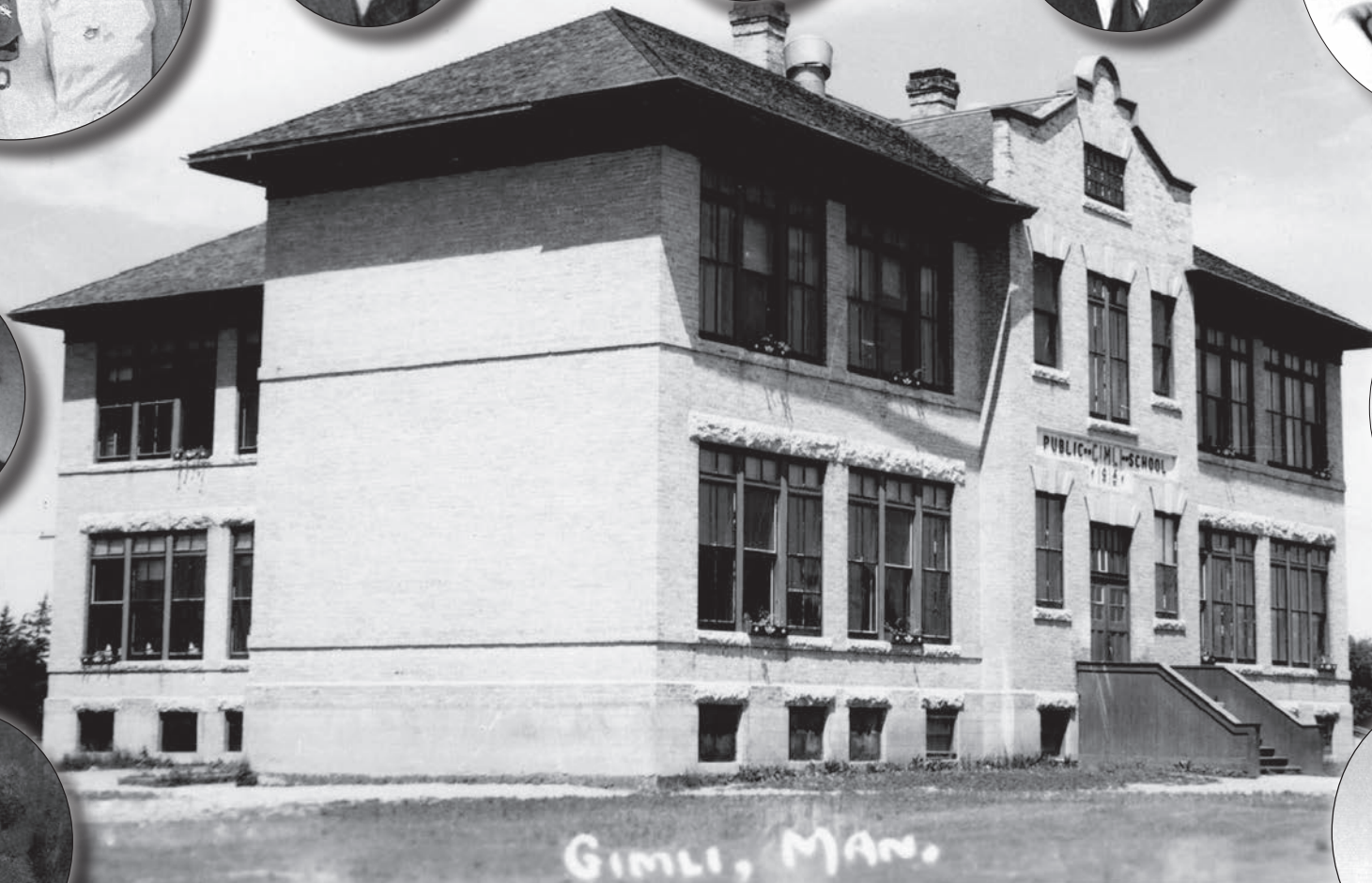


The Gimli Public School Building 1915-2015

~ A Commemorative History ~



By Edward M. Ledohowski
for The Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee
June 2015

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INTRODUCTION

This publication was compiled as a historical remembrance of the Gimli Public School (1915) and published by the Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee in conjunction with the June 26-28, 2015 Gimli Public School 100th Anniversary Reunion.

From the day it first opened its doors in 1915, the Gimli Public School was a major presence in the community of Gimli. It was immediately a dominant physical landmark but soon also developed into a major educational and cultural presence within the community and region. For almost 60 years, from 1915 to its sudden closure in 1974, within its walls there was a world unto itself. This world made indelible impressions on all who entered, and inspired many to academic excellence. Its graduates were often described as being “brilliant”, and many went on to make major contributions to the province and country and internationally.

Unlike most other former schoolhouses, its life story did not end with the closure. For student safety reasons, when a key stone fell onto the front steps, it languished for years as a simple storage facility before a proposal to demolish it. This time, former students and a sympathetic town council rallied to save it from the wrecking ball in 1992 . “The Gimli Nine” and their associates then went on to raise funds, and over the next five years lovingly rehabilitate and renew the structure - a project many initially thought to be improbable if not impossible to achieve. Through determination and a great deal of sweat equity on the part of the heritage committee and supporters, the old schoolhouse was successfully saved, rehabilitated and re-purposed. The proud landmark now functions as the Gimli Municipal Building, with additional offices occupied by various other civic and government agencies. The successful 1996 preservation of Gimli Public School (1915) spawned a growing pride and interest in the community’s unique heritage, leading to the conservation of many other “old Gimli” town buildings and cottages.

Gimli Public School (1915) is clearly a special building, and no doubt holds a special place in many people’s heart. What follows is only a brief glimpse into that unique ‘world’ that was Gimli Public School (1915) - a world that holds very fond memories for the vast majority of its former students. Everyone remembers their school days, and especially so if you were fortunate enough to have attended Gimli Public School (1915).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication was made possible by the valuable and generous assistance of many agencies and individuals, which the author would like to acknowledge and thank, particularly the following:

The Gimli Public School Centennial Committee: May Peiluck (Chair), Lorna Tergesen, Wally Johannson, Marion Kololyk, Michael and Shirley Michaluk, Robert Arnason, Tim Arnason, Kathe Olafson, Beverley Einarson, Peter Magnusson, Lillian Wloseck, Dolores Skolny, Lynnette Sisterson, Connie Shimnowski, Glen Stevens, and Claire Gillis;

The Gimli Municipal Council: Mayor Randy Woroniuk, Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck, and Councillors Richard Petrowski, Danny Luprypa and Thora Palson;

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And the following individuals for various forms of assistance and advice, Lorna Tergesen, David McInnes, Lindsay Ledohowski, Michael Schacht, the family of the late Jeremy Johnson for use of his painting, and Claire Gillis for her outstanding proofreading skills.

Finally, a special thank you to all the individuals who generously permitted copies to be made of their personal photographs, including those images copied by the late Terry Tergesen and now housed at the New Iceland Heritage Museum in Gimli, including: Robert Arnason, Tim Arnason, Joe Arnason, Lynnette Einarson, Beverly Kristjanson-Einarson, Patricia Kuzmak-Richards, Lyle Olson, Peter Magnusson, Shirley Michaluk, Dilla Narfason, May Peiluck, Delores Miller-Skolny, Joe Sorokowski, Katherine Stemp-Olafson, Lillian Wlosek, and others.

Project timetable, material availability and budget considerations prevented a more thorough investigation to be undertaken and a more traditional history to be compiled. This commemorative history is essentially a compilation of facts, passages and images appearing in other publications and source materials and simply quoted or paraphrased. As a result, some notable events and individuals may not be represented. Similarly, identification and spelling of individuals' names may, on occasion, be in error despite the utmost care taken in transcribing names correctly. Regrettably, minor errors and omissions are inevitable in a publication of this type. Hopefully, they have been kept to a minimum.

**THE GIMLI PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING
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Table of Contents

Introduction..... page 3.

Chapter One - Gimli & its Schools..... page 7.

Chapter Two - School Personnel page 41.

Chapter Three - Student Body page 69.

Chapter Four - Extracurricular..... page 117.

Chapter Five- Building Renewal..... page 129.

Bibliography..... page 148.

Chapter One



Gimli & its Schools

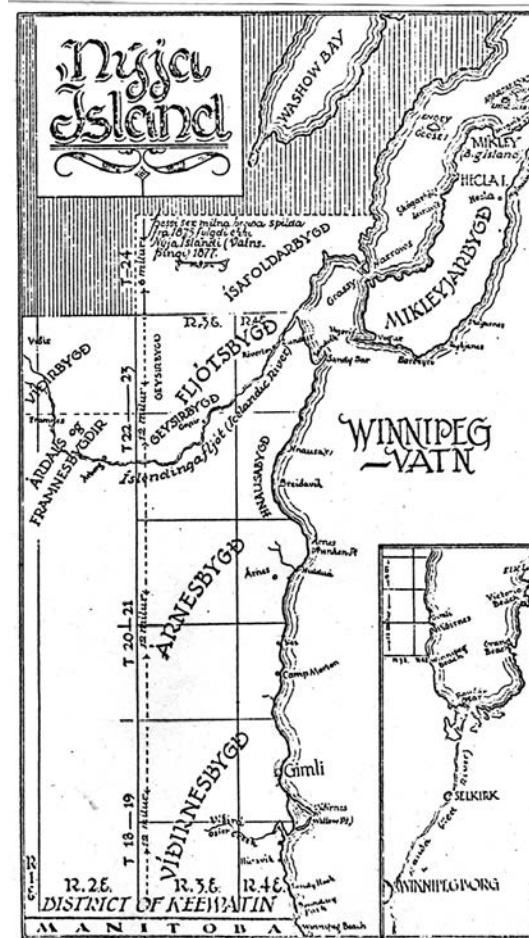
GIMLI & ITS SCHOOLS - A TIME-LINE HISTORY

1875 - First Thing - A School. In his history of Icelandic-Canadian education in Manitoba, *Educational Echoes*, Roy H. Ruth noted that one of the top priorities of the newly arrived settlers at Gimli in the autumn of 1875 was a school. He noted, "Only nine days after the Icelanders had come to Gimli, before shelter had been secured for the winter, the settlers already thought to establishing a school." A letter dated October 30, 1875 from Icelandic Agent John Taylor to Alexander Morris, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, cited: "The Icelanders in the colony are desirous of having a school for their children as soon as they can put up a school house. They have a teacher with them and wish to be connected with the regular educational system of Canada. We are trying to get ourselves under some shelter as quickly as we can, but it is very slow work in this stormy and inclement season." (Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 18.)

The urgency of the school request was evident in that a special messenger was sent with the letter and told to bring back a written reply. Roy Ruth also noted, "The first school was opened shortly before Christmas 1875 with Caroline Taylor, the daughter of the Icelandic Agent Wm. Taylor, as teacher. Thirty pupils were enrolled." (Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 18.)

- **The First Schoolhouse.** An article in the Winnipeg Free Press in 1925, also made note of this initial 1875 schoolhouse. "Gimli was to be no paradise for them that first winter. The day after their arrival there was a heavy fall of snow, accompanied by severe frost. Here were these people in the wilderness with winter hard upon them, without any shelter except a few tents and with only a small supply of food. Log cabins had to be built at once and this was no easy task. There were no horses or oxen and logs had to be drawn by hand. Yet, during that winter 30 log houses were built, including one which was used as a schoolhouse. It is worthy of note that English was taught there that first winter." (Winnipeg Free Press, July 18, 1925 Pg. 9.)

1876 - The Big Group. "In 1876, 1200 Icelanders joined the first group in the fledgling colony, settling along the shoreline



Above. During the 50th Jubilee celebrations held in Gimli in 1925, a group of original 1875 settlers pose for a photograph beside a recreation of one of the initial 30 log cabins built by the settlers in Gimli in October of 1875. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)

Left. A map of New Iceland and its early settlements. The "Isafoldarbygd" area north of the Icelandic River and the 'up-river' "Vidirbygd, Ardals & Framnesbygd" districts were later settlements. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)



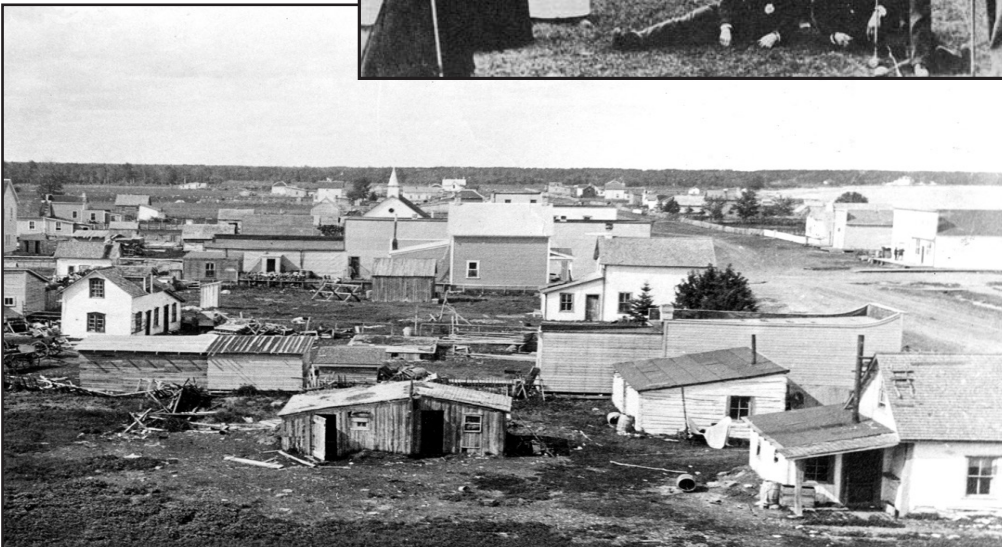
Above. The landing at Willow Point of the first group of Icelanders, October 21, 1875 as commemorated in a 1930 painting by Arni Sigurdson. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)



Left and below. Icelandic settlers cabins, most likely second-generation log structures built during the 1880s to replace the initial smaller and cruder structures. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)



Below. A view of First Avenue about 1920 showing several surviving early log cabins and shanties in the foreground. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)



north of Gimli as far as Lundi near the mouth of the Icelandic River, but during the long, hungry winter that followed, smallpox swept through the entire colony. Over one hundred people died and one-third of the settlers contracted the disease.” (Andy Blique, 1986 Pg. 3.)

- **School Closure Due to Smallpox.** The smallpox epidemic which began in the autumn of 1876, prevented the re-opening of the school in Gimli. That winter, Caroline Taylor, said to have been “an intelligent and distinguished woman”, married Sigurdur Kristofersson. The bridal couple stood in cold, bright weather on the north bank of Netley Creek, which served as the quarantine line, while the minister stood south of the quarantine markers. Later in the winter, when the doctor gave his permission, the school opened. “The teacher was Jane Taylor, a sister of the former teacher. The enrollment was sixty-three, with children of various ages in the same school room. Instruction was given chiefly in reading and writing English. The school in both years was the former government warehouse building.” (Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 18. and John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 40.)

- **Hardship and Tragedy.** “During the next few years the colony continued to grow but was beset by hardship and tragedy. A series of floods and early frosts destroyed their initial attempts at agriculture. The settlers lacked experience in hunting and freshwater fishing and a widespread shortage of food ensued. There was almost no local employment to be found and many of these newcomers were forced to take out government loans in order to survive these initial difficulties. These hardships, compounded even further by a smallpox epidemic and a religious rift which developed amongst the settlers, resulted in a major exodus from the colony. By 1881, only 50 families remained and the settlement was on the brink of collapse.” (Architectural Heritage - The Eastern Interlake Planning District. 1983 Pg. 11.)

- **Regular Day School.** “Rev. Jon Bjarnason came to Gimli in 1877. ‘Mrs. Lara Bjarnason, his wife, conducted the regular day school in Gimli, starting in September 1877. The subjects were reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English and music. The next year at Gimli, 1878-1879, Mrs. Bjarnason was again the teacher, with assistance from her husband and from Fridjon Fridricksson. The enrollment was thirty-four, fifteen boys and nineteen girls. Schools were also opened at the time at Lundi (now

Riverton) with twenty-seven students and in the Vidines district where Kristjan Jonsson was the teacher.” (Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 20.)

1877 - The Governor-General Visits. “The Governor-General, Lord Dufferin, visited the colony in September 1877, and in his inspection saw most of the houses in Gimli and a few farm homes nearby. In his address he said: ...for you possess in a far greater degree than is probably imagined, that which is the essence and foundation of all superiority - intelligence, education and intellectual activity. In fact I have not entered a single hut or cottage in the settlement, which did not contain, no matter how bare its walls, or scanty its furniture, a library of twenty or thirty volumes; and I am informed there is scarcely a child amongst you who cannot read or write.” (Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 20.)

1881 - Provincial Jurisdiction. “In 1881, the Manitoba boundary was extended northward and New Iceland became a part of Manitoba but a ‘municipal’ government did not supplant the old ‘colony’ government until 1887.” (Manitoba Pageant, January 1957)

1885 - Settler Exodus Continues. In 1885, there were only five occupied residences remaining in the Gimli town site. (Gimli Memories 1982 Pg. 73.)

1885-89 - The Colony Rebounds. “The settler exodus from New Iceland proved to be a short-lived event. As the 1880s progressed conditions began to improve. Lower lake levels improved the prospects of using the meadows for farming. As well, with the discovery of good fishing ground north of Hecla Island and improvements of nets and equipment, the fishing industry was able to thrive and become the main source of food and commerce in New Iceland. Boat building and lumbering developed as major industries at the Icelandic River Settlement (Riverton), while Gimli continued to grow as the settlement’s administrative and commercial centre. Settlers who had fled the colony several years earlier began to return in increasing numbers and, joined by new arrivals from Iceland, shared in a period of increasing prosperity.” (Architectural Heritage - The Eastern Interlake Planning District. 1983 Pg. 11.)

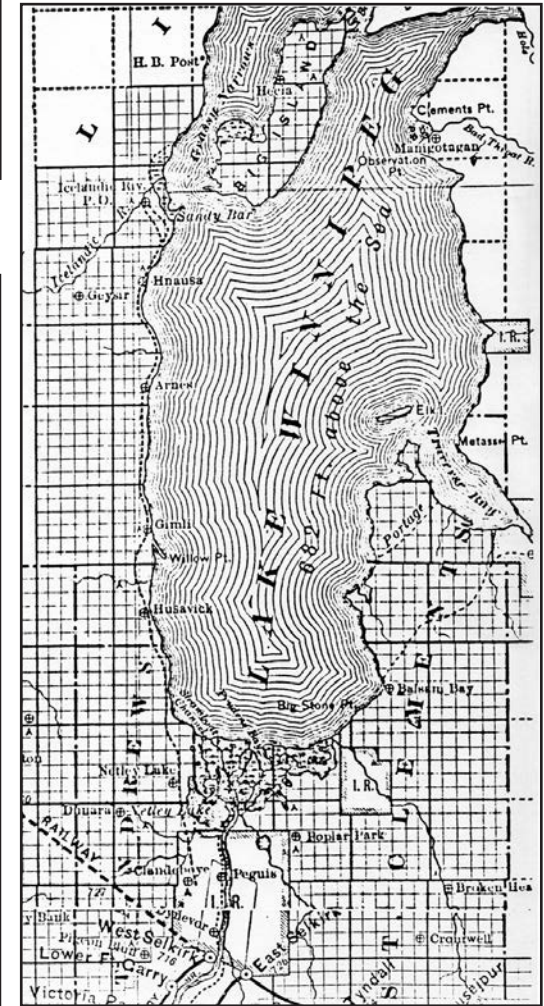
1885 - Day School and Sunday School. “The New Iceland settlements in this period all touched the lake, and the schools



Above and right. Fishing under sail on Lake Winnipeg. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)



Above. Detail from an early Dominion Survey Township Plan for Township 19-4 East. (Archives of Manitoba - Township Plans.)



Above. Detail from a map of Manitoba dated 1898 showing the Icelandic settlements along the Lake Winnipeg shoreline. (Historic Resources Branch - New Iceland file.)



Above. Gimli students, circa 1895. An undated photograph showing 24 students and a female teacher in Gimli. The window placements and corner detail suggest the building behind the group is not the two-room school built in 1900, but likely the structure prior to that, the old Lutheran church. Note the unpainted siding and no visible building foundation. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript*, 1973 Pg. 562.)



Above. The Hans Pjetur Tergesen store as it appeared soon after its construction in 1900. (*Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.*)

were at Gimli, Lundi, Arnes, Hnausa, Big Island and Vidi-ness. The Lutheran Church was closely connected with the schools, with Sunday School teachers often teaching in the regular day schools. The church services and Sunday School instruction were in Icelandic, but the day school teaching was in English. The pastors and their wives did much educational work, and if not teaching actively in day schools, were the reliable substitutes whenever need arose." (*Roy Ruth*, 1964 Pg. 21.)

- **Schooling Re-established.** "The first man to establish an English and Icelandic school for young people in Gimli after the Exodus, was Gudni Thorsteinsson, who later became postmaster. The school was conducted in the home of Petur Palsson and was maintained for a period of three months. About twenty children attended. The fee was fifty cents for each pupil. The school was maintained throughout the next winter under the same arrangement. (*John Gottfried*, 1965 Pg. 48.)

1887 - A Town Library. Dilla Narfason and Mary Shebeski noted in their 1982 local history "*Gimli Memories*" that Gimli's first community library was established in 1887. (*Gimli Memories* Pg. 77.)

1889 - Provincial School Districts. The Manitoba Municipalities Act is amended effectively ending the previous independent municipal government of the New Iceland settlement. On June 6th, 1889 the Manitoba Department of Education officially took over jurisdiction of all the schools in New Iceland along with the collection of all of their school taxes. The province created five large school districts in the region: Gimli No. 585, Arnes No. 586, Lundi (now Riverton) No. 587, Hnausa (original name Baldur) No. 588 and Big Island No. 589. The next year, 1890, a second school district was formed on Big Island, named Grund No. 627 (later changed to No. 2243). On April 11, 1891, Kjarna No. 647 was established at Husavik, south of Gimli and two years after that on February 10, 1893, Isafold No. 746 was established about six miles north of Riverton.

These school districts met the educational needs of the settlement until 1900, when Minerva No. 1045 was formed just south of Gimli on January 2 and South Arnes

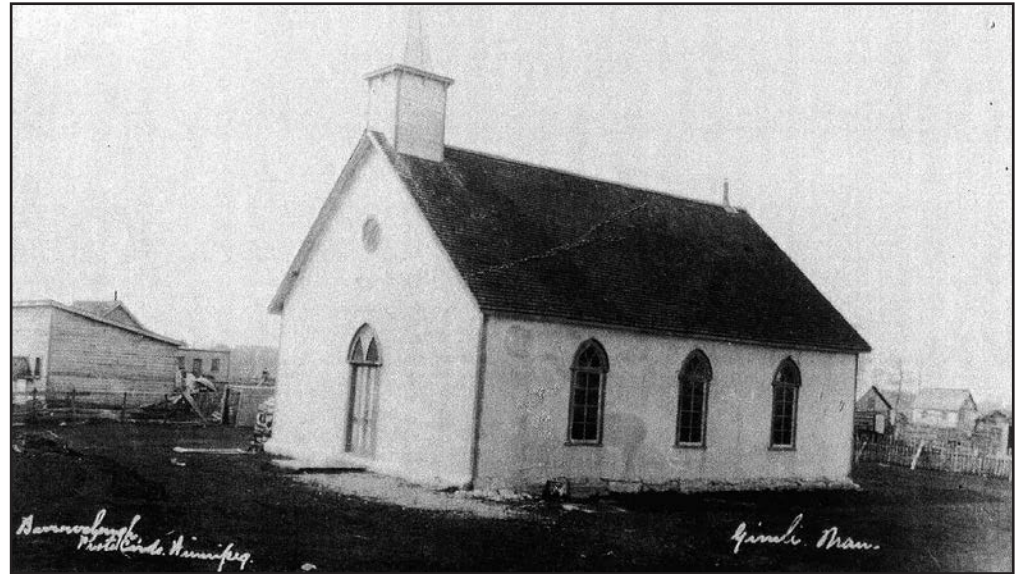
No. 1054 on February 2, 1900. Population growth in the settlements and convenience were major factors in forming new school districts. If the original school districts were too large, they were often later divided into smaller districts so the pupils were closer to the schools. This was the era of the one room rural school in Western Canada. (*Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 22.*)

- **Gimli's First Public School.** The Winnipeg Free Press made a brief reference to Gimli's 1889 school. It noted that: "The Gimli school district was officially organized in 1889 and teaching started with one teacher and twenty students in a log house 18 x 24 feet." John C. Gottfried, in his 1965 master thesis on the history of the Lakeshore School Division, also provided a description, "The Canadian public school finally commended in a rather large structure. The Lutheran congregation of Gimli owned this building and conducted its services, Sunday School and other meetings there, but sold it to the school district for a hundred and fifty dollars, with the stipulation that it might use it over week-ends the following year. The first teacher was Sigurdur G. Thora-ensen, then newly arrived from Iceland. The first public school in Gimli was enlarged and remained in use until the year 1900." (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 64.*)

- **A New Dominion Postal Outlet.** "The (Dominion of Canada) Gimli Post Office, was established in 1889 with weekly mail brought from Selkirk, forty miles by lake in summer, by a pony in winter, in the spring and fall carried by men." With the establishment of government post offices within the former colony, the old "New Iceland" postal district ceases to exist. (*Winnipeg Free Press, June 27, 1925 Pg. 9.*)

1891 - New Town Residents. "The number of occupied residences in Gimli increases to forty from only five, six years previous. Also in 1891, Gisli Thompson opened a print shop in Gimli." (*Gimli Memories, 1982 Pg. 73.*)

1897 - Slavic and German Settlement. The inland areas of New Iceland had largely remained unsettled by Icelanders who preferred lake front or near lake locations for their homestead claims. In 1896, Eastern European immigration to Western Canada increased the pressure put on the Dominion Government to open up the unsettled areas of New Iceland. This was done in 1897, and soon afterwards large groups of Ukrainians and a lesser



Above. Photo of "Gimli's first church" and, therefore most probably, the same structure which was sold in 1889 to the new Gimli School District No. 585 by the Gimli Lutheran congregation for use as the town's first Manitoba Department of Education sanctioned "public school." (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. An undated class photograph taken in front of the two-room 1900 school house. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 562.*)



Above. A distinctly “pastoral” image of Gimli’s fourth free standing school building. This one-story, two-classroom, wood-frame structure was constructed in 1900. Note the absence of any buildings behind the school towards the west, and the flock of sheep grazing on Second Avenue in front of the school. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 562.*)



Above. An early view of the “Gimli Warf”. Gimli’s first pier was constructed in 1900 with Dominion Government financial assistance and has since undergone many reconstructions and expansions. (*Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.*)

number of Polish and German settlers began to fill the interior portions of the former reserve. (*Architectural Heritage - The Eastern Inter-lake Planning District, 1983 Pg. 12.*)

1900 - A Proper New Schoolhouse. In 1900 the old log schoolhouse was replaced by an attractive two-room wood frame building erected near the corner of Second Avenue and First Street North. “The first principal of this two-room elementary and high school was Hjortur J. Leo, a gifted man, who later became a Lutheran minister, but continued to devote his time to teaching. The graduates from the high school section were entitled to enter Normal School and many did so. In order to qualify for high school grants, an enrolment of at least fifteen was required. Gimli was always able to maintain the enrolment above this minimum, and as a result, it was always able to secure the provincial grant and acquire an excellent record for scholarship.” Teacher Miss Jona Vopni’s annual salary for 1900-01 was \$350. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 1.*)

1900 - Minerva School Established. Minerva No. 1045 was established on May 2, 1900 by residents living south west of the community and taking a large chunk out of Gimli school district No. 858 as a result. The first Minerva schoolhouse, completed in the fall of 1900, was built on NE6-19-3EPM, three miles southwest of Gimli.

1902 - Brilliant Students. “In 1902, the Educational Association of Lake Winnipeg was formed. At one of the meetings of this association the superintendent of provincial schools Mr. A. McIntyre, and Inspector E.E. Best gave a summary of student progress, teaching results, and general conditions in New Iceland, 1889-1902. They expressed great satisfaction with the past, and looked forward with keen anticipation to see the future contribution of some of the students. At that time the Icelandic students were distinguishing themselves at the University of Manitoba, the Icelandic Chair at Wesley College had been formed, and a steady flow of brilliant students came to Winnipeg from New Iceland.” (*Roy Ruth, 1964 Pg. 24.*)

1903 - The CPR Resort at Winnipeg Beach. Canadian Pacific Railway constructed a 30 mile (48 km) branch line from Selkirk to Winnipeg Beach, owned and developed by the

CPR as “a summer resort destination for Winnipeggers.” Not long after, CPR vice-president William Whyte announced he intended to extend the line to the Arborg area and by-pass Gimli by several miles, taking advantage of the gravel ridge in the area to significantly save on construction costs. Whyte’s viewpoint caused panic among Gimli’s businessmen who were steadily losing trade to Winnipeg Beach merchants. Gimli residents formed a railway committee lead by Sigtryggur Jonason. Despite vigorous lobbying, Whyte refused to extend the line into Gimli, citing the difficulty of building along the lakeshore through swamps and over five creek crossings. Whyte finally insisted that the government must fund the construction at \$3,200 per mile - double the usual grant at the time. To the great relief of all the residents of Gimli, Ottawa agreed to the additional funding and Whyte authorized commencement of construction on the ten mile (16 km) line. (*Winnipeg Real Estate News, Oct 19, 2007 Pg. 6-8.*)

1906 October 20 - The last spike of the railway from Winnipeg Beach to Gimli was driven on October 20, 1906. “The opening up of a line of railway between Gimli and Winnipeg is being hailed with delight by Gimli residents.” On November 26 a special ceremony was held. “The arrival of 300 Winnipeg Icelanders, and another 75 picked up at Selkirk *en route* for the special ceremony nearly doubled the existing population of 800 people.” All the dignitaries were invited to a reception to mark the occasion held at Baldur Hall (which stood at the corner of Second and Centre). The new Gimli railway station very soon became the hub of activity in the community with daily trains running to Winnipeg in the morning and returning in the evening. During the summer, two trains ran daily between Gimli and Winnipeg. (*Winnipeg Real Estate News, Oct 19, 2007 Pg. 6-8.*)

The town did not provide much more than basic goods prior to 1906. As the railhead for the next five years, the town became the distributing point for the entire area to the north. It also began to develop into a tourist centre for summer beach addicts.

1911 - A Third Classroom Needed. During that year enrollment increased necessitating the erection of a small one room building, just south of the main two room school. The annual salary for Gimli Public School teachers was raised by \$100 to \$600. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 2.*)

1912 - And Another. Again in 1912, an additional, fourth,



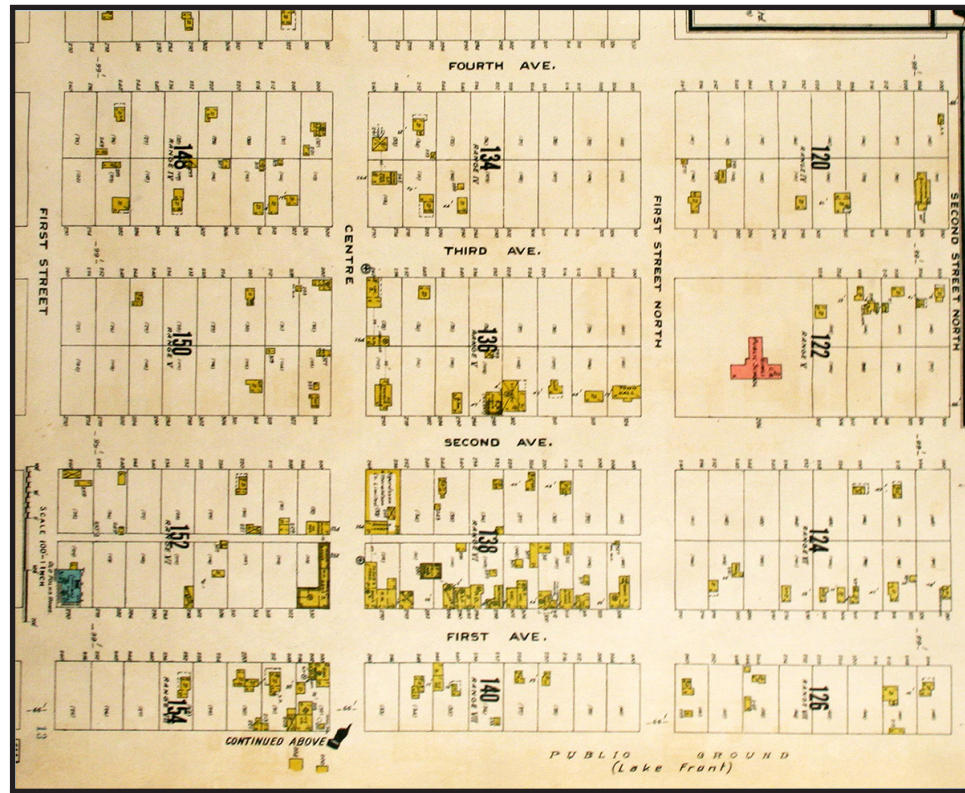
Above. A train conductor and passengers photographed on the Gimli CPR Station platform. For decades, the railroad was the primary method of transportation to and from Gimli, and consequently the station was an important community focal point. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



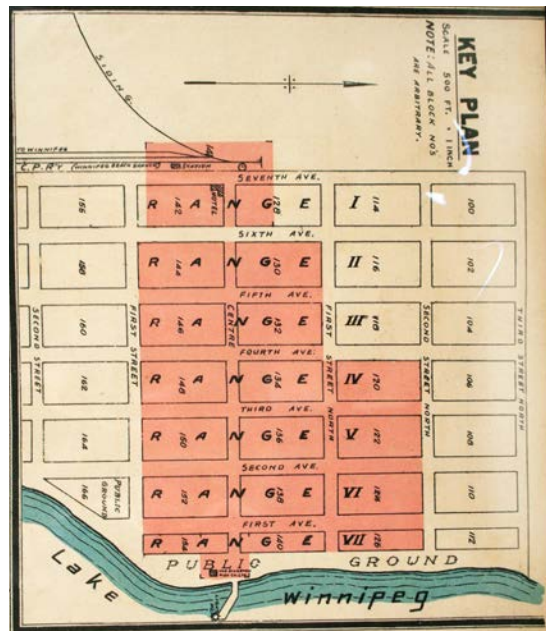
Left. An early view of the beach area north of the harbour. Note the change houses at the right and the dock and “downtown” Gimli in the distance. (*Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee Coll.*)

Right. A photo of some of Gimli’s earliest cottages. The church spire in the distance is the Icelandic Lutheran Church constructed in 1908. (*Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee Coll.*)





Above and right. Details from a "Fire Atlas" insurance map of Gimli dated July 1919. The above detailed plan shows survey lots and blocks as well as individual buildings in the centre portion of the community. The Key Plan, to the right, shows survey ranges and blocks for a larger part of the community including the railway station and a portion of the "end of track" turnaround along Seventh Avenue. (Archives of Manitoba - Fire Atlas Coll.)



classroom was required, and temporary quarters were found in the Good Templars Hall at the corner of Third Avenue and First Street South." (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 2.*)

- **A Free Press Reporter in Gimli.** The Winnipeg Free Press in a May 12, 1912 edition article on Gimli, included the following observations: "Gimli is fortunately placed beside the largest expanse of water in Manitoba. The large bay, seven or eight miles across, formed by Willow and Birdpoints, offers in an immense semicircle, an expanse of beautiful bathing beach, which could scarcely be excelled. The village is aptly described by the contradictory terms of an old-new town. With modern improvements of graded streets and well-kept sidewalks; a beautiful park and a number of beautiful summer cottages; a deep contrast is observed in the small houses of a number of permanent residents, reels of fishing nets and nets on back of fences and a general quaint old world air permeating the whole.

Among the permanent residents of Gimli, perhaps the most imposing is that of H.P. Tergesen, the Mayor, and the next that of E.S. Jonasson, the Secretary-Treasurer of the village. Two good hotels provide the accommodation for the transient visitor, and during the dog days their accommodation is always taxed to the full. The Gimli Hotel is located close to the depot, while the Lakeview Hotel occupies a prominent place by the lakeshore. This large hotel is thoroughly modern.

Six artesian wells at convenient points in the town give a never-ending water supply. The water in each case is delivered at considerable force through a two-inch pipe, and the waste is carried away to the lake in drains.

Since its incorporation as a village, Gimli has seen steadily increasing land values. Recently, the sale of 80 acres of land was made immediately adjoining the town on the north for \$5,000.00. Two years ago this property was valued at \$1,500.00. In the six general stores a wide variation of goods are carried. In addition to these stores, there are: bake shops, two butcher shops, a restaurant, two barber shops, pool rooms, jewellery store, harness and shoe shops, three livery stables, two blacksmiths shops, a tinshop, two licensed hotels, one temperance, a drug store with Manitoba Telephone central, a railway station with telegraph, one doctor, three implement warehouses, two lumber yards, three cord wood yards, and two churches, Unitarian and Lutheran." (*Winnipeg Free Press, May 12, 1912 Pg. 12.*)

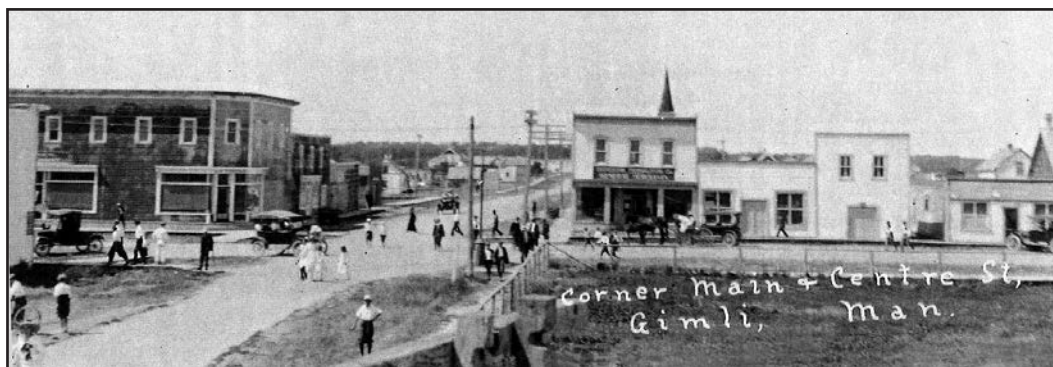
1913 - A New Structure Needed. “At Gimli there is a thoroughly good school with a high school department... I did not see the youngest children, which are housed separately in a building some distance from the main buildings, but in the other grades the knowledge of English was excellent... What the Gimli school most needs is a new structure. At present it is housed in three separate buildings, one of which, as mentioned, is some distance from the others. But the question of a new building has been thoroughly mooted and I understand that a modern school building is to be erected this year. At present there are from twenty to thirty children of school age in Gimli not going to school, mainly through lack of accommodation. The fact that several pupils over twenty years of age were attending the school argued education ambition, but it also argued that school conditions in the past had not been all that could be desired.” (*Winnipeg Free Press*, Jan. 6, 1913 Pg. 3.)

1914 - Teacher’s Salary. Annual salary for teachers was raised from \$500 to \$650. School closed April 1914 “due to illness.”

- **Writing Competitions.** “Last year more than one hundred schools took part in the Writing Tournament held in the inspectorates of E.E. Best and E.D. Parker. The Silver Cup presented by the Central Business College for the best penmanship in grades VI, VII, and VIII, was won by the Gimli School, while Teulon succeeded in capturing the Department Cap, for grades III, IV and V. The contest this year will be held on the third Friday in May and preparations for it are going on every day. The cups are awarded to the schools whose three contestants, one from each grade, aggregate the highest, and are held one year.” (*Stonewall Argus*, May 1, 1913.)

- **Senior Matriculation.** “Principal and Mrs. Hodgkinson spent their Thanksgiving in the city with their daughter. They returned to Gimli on Monday. Mr. Hodgkinson has decided to give the young people of Gimli a chance to take their matriculation at home if they so desire, and already five of his pupils have branched off from the teachers’ course to avail themselves of this opportunity.” (*Manitoba Free Press*, Jan. 6, 1913 Pg. 27.)

- **Concert at Gimli Hall.** “A very enjoyable concert was held at Gimli hall on Friday night last week under the auspices of the Lutheran Young People’s society. A lengthy and extremely interesting programme occupied the earlier part of the evening,



Above and below. Early views of First Street, Gimli looking west up Centre Street and looking north along First Avenue. The H. P. Tergesen store, then a two-story structure, can be seen in both photographs. (*Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.*)



Above. A photograph, likely taken in 1912 or 1913, shows the one room school house constructed in 1911 when a third classroom was required due to increasing enrollment. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript*, 1973 Pg. 562.)

Tenders for Building

Sealed bulk or separate tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 5 p.m. June 1st, for all trades necessary for the erection and completion of a 6 room school building in the Town of Gimli, Man.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the Office of Frank R. Evans, architect, Winnipeg, or at my office in Gimli.

A marked cheque for 5 per cent. of the amount of tender must accompany all proposals.

A. G. POLSON,
Sec.-Treas., Gimli, Man.

Left. Copy of the notice published in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 26, 1915 edition calling for tenders "for all trades necessary for the erection and completion of a 6 room school building in the Town of Gimli, Man." (Winnipeg Free Press May 26, 1915 Pg. 2.)

Below. Winnipeg contractor Halldor Sigurdson and his crew pose for a photo on the front steps of the nearly completed Gimli Public School. Some of the workers were Gimli residents. Sigurdson later built an almost identical school building in Elm Creek, Manitoba. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



while dancing took up the latter part. (Manitoba Free Press, Jan. 6, 1913 Pg. 27.)

- **Railway Extended to Riverton.** The CPR railway branch line was extended from Gimli to Riverton in 1913 and 1914, with steel being laid during the autumn of 1914. The first train arrived in Riverton on November 2, 1914. (Gimli Memories 1982 Pg. 89.)

1915 - Classroom Shortage. "When a fifth classroom was required during the 1914-15 school year, space was found on the second floor, since removed, of the H.P. Tergesen Store at the corner of First Avenue and Centre Street." (Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 2.)

- **Finally A New School.** "The next major advance in the Gimli School District came in 1915 with the erection of a new school - a six-room brick structure. It was planned to use four rooms for the elementary grades and two rooms for the high school. Its construction featured the most modern conveniences and school equipment available at that time, even to the extent of being wired for electricity. Mr. Halldor Sigurdson of Winnipeg was the contractor." Some workers came from Gimli. An identical school is said to have been built in Elm Creek, Manitoba. "The cost of the school, \$20,000, was a large undertaking for the community at that time. Much of the credit for the foresight and planning is due to the board members of 1915: Gudni Thorsteinsson, A.G. Polson, and B.B. Olson." (Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 72. and John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 67.)

- **In Gimli They Have a New School.** "In Gimli they have a new up-to-date 6-room school, and four teachers. One room is fitted up for domestic science work, and as the local Home Economics society assisted in furnishing this room it is used by them for their weekly meetings. In this school there is a nicely furnished teachers' room and a small library in which a very creditable school library has been started." (Winnipeg Free Press Oct. 7, 1918 Pg.7.)

1917 - Old Schools Sold. The former one-room school was sold to Jacob Greenberg and incorporated in his store on First Avenue. Then, the former two-room school was sold and moved across the street, where it served various purposes, including a town hall, before it was moved away in 1969 to make room for a new fire hall. (Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 4.)



Left. The new and former school side by side. The old two-room school was soon sold and moved to a new location along First Street North. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.)



Above. An elevated view of Gimli from the roof of the Gimli Public School looking to the north east with the crossroads of Second Avenue and Second Street North at the centre. Notice that Second Avenue is no more than a grassy strip with a narrow dirt path down the centre. (Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 566.)



Above. A photograph taken same time and vantage point as the previous, this time looking south east, towards the town centre and harbour area. The windmill in the centre of the photos was built by the CPR to pump lake water to the water tower located near the station on Seventh Avenue. Note the rows of neatly piled firewood. (Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 566.)

1919 - Temporary School Closure. In November of 1918 Gimli and surrounding schools closed due to the “Spanish flu epidemic” and were not reopened until January 2, 1919. (*Winnipeg Free Press, June 27, 1925 Pg. 17.*)

1920 - Scholars Pass Entrance Exams. “Inspectoral Division No. 19. Inspector H.D. Cumming. Gimli School. Honors: Ingibjorg Olson, Gudny Solmundson, Violet Thorsteinson. Pass: Gudrum G. Anderson, Thelma R. Bristow, Halldora Bjarnason, Olive M. Chriswell, Stina Christie, Ethel Greenberg, Graverase Isfjord, Johannes Jonasson, Throleif Johnson, Valdina Kristjanson, Thora Thordarson, Carlyle Johanson. (*Manitoba Free Press, July 28, 1921 Pg. 11.*)

- **Fifth Classroom Started.** “In 1920, a fifth classroom was put into service, in the new Gimli Public School.” (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 5.*)

- **Winter Fishing.** “Two boats loaded with men, supplies and dogs left Gimli Monday night for the North on Lake Winnipeg. These are the first boats to take the men out for the Winter



Above. Photograph of early businesses located along First Street, north of Centre Avenue. Note the Gimli Public School visible in the background. (*Lyle Olson Coll.*)



Above. This photograph taken from the open cockpit of a Vickers Vidette “flying boat” in 1926, is likely the earliest aerial photo of the community of Gimli. Note the new 1915 Gimli Public School on Second Avenue at centre left. Note also the nearby former two-room school (1900), moved across the street to the south side of First Street North where it served as the Town Hall at the time. Note also, the railway spur line running from the left to the harbour area at centre. (*Manitoba Maps & Surveys #A948-44.*)

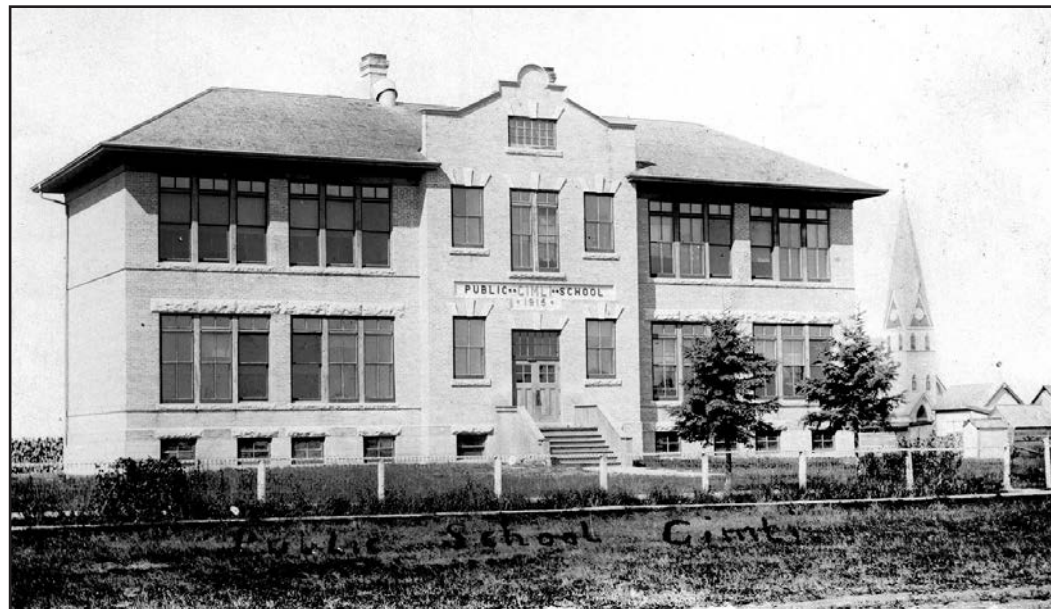
fishing, it was reported from Gimli. Two boats left last week taking supplies to different camps. The boats that went out Monday night were the Wolverine, belonging to the Northern Fish Company and the Goldfield, belonging to the Riverton Fish Company. Over 125 men were on the boats, taking with them about 150 dogs, besides Winter supplies. It is always an important event of the year at Gimli when the fishermen leave for the North and the little bridge was the centre of a spectacular scene Monday, with fishermen loading their supplies, dogs barking and howling, children running about in a state of great excitement. The Garry, belonging to the Robinson Company, was expected to leave Tuesday night, and the other boats will follow. Last year nearly all the boats that went out were caught by the cold weather and were frozen in at the different harbors along the shores of Lake Winnipeg." (*Brandon Daily Sun, Oct. 27, 1920 Pg. 1.*)

1925 - Student Numbers. "Grades I - VIII in the public school have an enrollment of 155, and Grades IX - XI in the high school an enrollment of 40." (*Winnipeg Free Press, June 27, 1925 Pg. 17.*)

- **Gimli in 1925.** "The present population is about 600. Over 1,000 people are added in the summer, when about 200 summer cottage owners move their families in for a rest. Weekend guests find lodgings at the hotel or with their friends. Gimli has six general stores, two meat-markets, four ice-cream parlors and fruit-stores, two restaurants and cafes, one motion picture theatre, one hotel, a first-class garage, one bank, two barber shops, two carpenter shops, a drug store, and a resident doctor to look after the physical well-being of the people.

The Gimli fisheries have their headquarters at Gimli where their steam-boats bring the fish from the fishing station on the north lake to Gimli, where it is reshipped and sent by rail to outside markets. Some fishing is done along the shore for home use. A dozen artesian wells over 100 feet deep have been made at convenient places for every householder's use." (*Winnipeg Free Press, June 27, 1925 Pg. 17.*)

1920s - Special Courses. "Girls sewing classes were organized in Gimli in the early 1920s through the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. It was an extracurricular activity held in conjunction with the shopwork classes for the boys." (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 154.*)



Above. View of the Gimli Public School not long after its construction. Note the two spruces, wire fence and boardwalk in the foreground and the Lutheran church with its original tall spire in the background. (*Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll.*)

HELP WANTED

TEACHERS.

GIMLI S. D. NO. 585 REQUIRES EITHER male or female teacher holding first or second class certificate; duties to commence Aug. 23rd, 1916. Apply, stating experience and salary required and giving references, to A. G. Polson, sec-treas. Gimli, Man.

AUDENVILLE S. D. 716 REQUIRES A teacher (male or female) for three months; duties commencing Sept. 1; must have second or third class certificate. Ap-

GIMLI S. D. NO. 585 REQUIRES FEMALE teacher holding third or second class certificate; one who can teach music in different grades; duties to commence August 23rd, 1916. Apply, stating experience and salary required and giving references, to A. G. Polson, sec-treas.

TEACHER WANTED FOR BANK END School District 1425. holding second or

Left. Help Wanted notices appearing in the Winnipeg Free Press on August 2nd and 8th, 1916.

*HELP WANTED
TEACHERS*

"Gimli S.D. NO. 585 REQUIRES EITHER male or female teacher holding first or second class certificate; duties to commence Aug. 23rd, 1916. Apply, stating experience and salary required and giving references, to A. G. Polson, sec-treas., Gimli, Man.

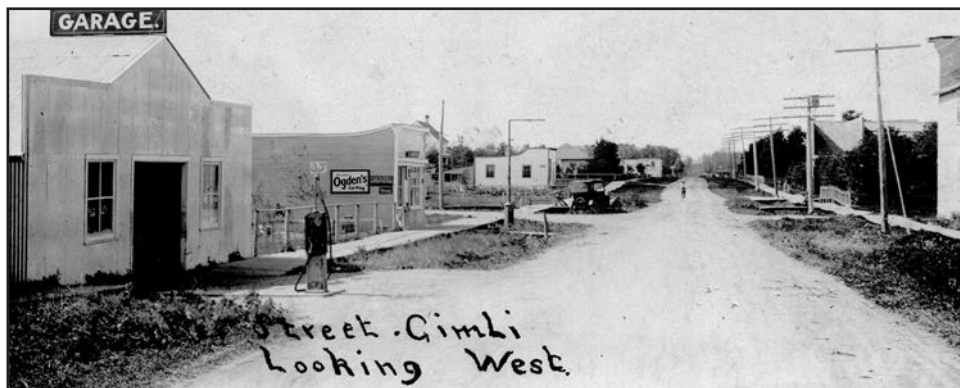
Gimli S.D. NO. 585 REQUIRES Female or female teacher holding third or second class certificate; one who can teach music in different grades; duties to commence Aug. 23rd, 1916. Apply, stating experience and salary required and given references, to A. G. Polson, sec-treas., Gimli, Man."



Above. Photo taken during the "Jubilee Celebrations" held in Gimli in June, 1925 to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Gimli. The large sign reads: "1875 Welcome 1925 Gimli Park". (Lyle Olson Coll.)



Above. A view of First Avenue north of Centre Street during the 1920s. Below. A view up Centre Street from roughly the same time. (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli Coll.)



1928 - Temporary School Closure. Schools closed the entire month of September 1928 due to outbreak of infant paralysis. (Heritage Classroom Coll. notes.)

1930 - Town Electrification. Gimli is finally connected to the province's hydro electric grid in December of 1930. Electric light, appliances and home refrigeration are now available to all town residents. When the 1915 Gimli Public School was eventually connected to the service the wiring which was installed during its construction was found to be faulty and had to be replaced. (Gimli Memories Pg. 73.)

1930 - A New Principal and Hard Times. William Mel-drum, who became Principal in 1929 and guided the school through the first five years of the Great Depression, was remembered as a sincere and devoted teacher. In 1930, the mortgage on the public school was burned at a grand public ceremony at which the Gimli women's Institute served a dinner, and the next day they entertained the children. The resultant reduction in overhead expenses allowed the school board to continue paying the teachers \$80 a month thereby retaining an excellent staff, since most districts found it difficult to pay \$45 a month. Rural school districts frequently have difficulty in securing qualified teachers during the Depression years. (Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 174.)

1932 - Temporary School Closure. School closed 3rd week of June "due to illness." (Heritage Classroom Coll.)

- Riding the Rails to School. The Gimli Saga tells of the difficulties some students had getting to school. During the Depression years Gimli School provided secondary education for students from the surrounding districts. At first these student were required to pay a fee, but later the municipality contributed towards the maintenance of the high school. The boundary of the Gimli School District extended one mile north, west and south of the town limits. Some students who attended from outside these limits, made daily use of the train service. A student rate of about one cent a mile was charged by the railway. The students arrived at the school at 7:30 A.M., when they were admitted to the school, to complete any unfinished assignments. At the end of the school day, they would remain on the premises until about 5:00

P.M., then go to the sitting room of the Como Hotel located across the road from the Canadian Pacific Railway station, and await the arrival of the train at 7:30 P.M., to bear them home again. Because of the inconvenience and expense, only the better students were sent to High School during the Depression. (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 175.*)

- Mature Students. “The period of the Depression saw the return of many mature students to the classroom - some to improve their chances of securing employment; others because no other alternative presented itself to better utilize their time. The increased enrolment provided an additional challenge to the already overburdened teaching staff. Because of the inconveniences endured by the family, and the expenses involved, only the better students were sent to town during the depression years to further their education. As a result, most of the students were in earnest; and Mr. John K. Laxdal, with the assistance of Miss S. Stefansson, and a fully-qualified staff, developed for the Gimli Public School the reputation of being one of the foremost high schools in Manitoba for scholarship. The calibre of the teachers and students remained high until after World War II.” (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 71.*)

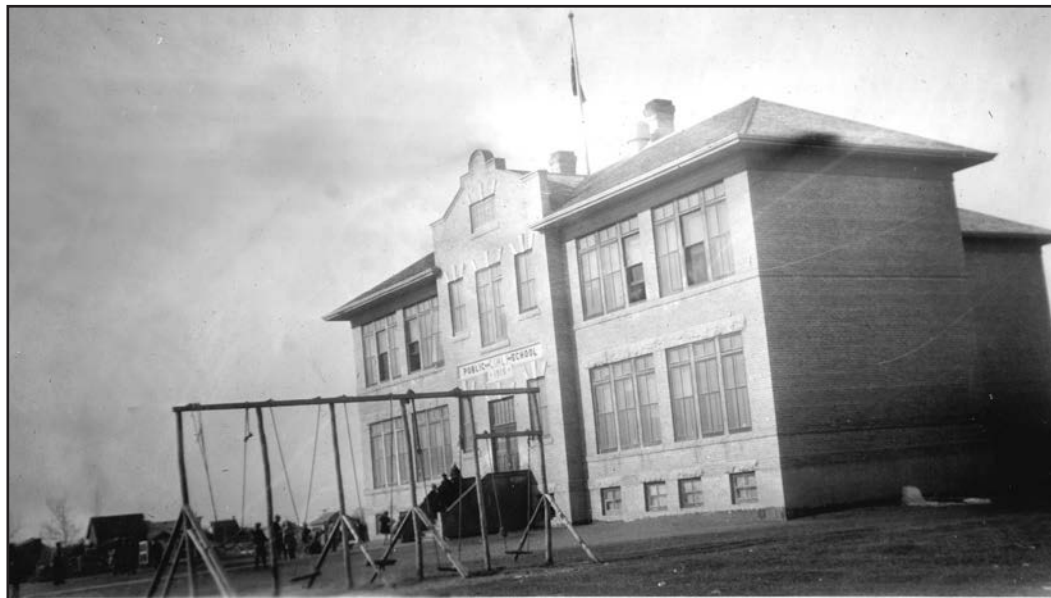
1937 - Scarlet Fever. In the spring of 1937 a Scarlet Fever outbreak occurred in the Gimli area, and a Dr. Shaw was sent out by the provincial health authorities to inoculate local residents and students against the disease. (*Gimli Memories, 1982 Pg. 73.*)

- Elementary School Spring Concerts. “Through the years the elementary school had been noted for the concerts it held every year, which included lavish costumes planned by the teachers, and every child taking part. They were held in the old parish hall, and proceeds were used to purchase school sports equipment.” (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 176.*)

1939 - Cordwood Supply. School Board Minutes for Meeting on March 13, 1939. Motion 4: “That the following accounts be accepted and the treasurer be authorized to pay same. A. Krulitski (sic), 6 cords, \$12.75; Walter Rogiski, 5 cords, \$11.25; Mike Hrimchuk, 15 cords, \$33.75; A. Patzel, 20 cords, \$45.00; M. Rogiski, 10 cords, \$24.00; Alex Graboski, 12 cords, \$24.00; Pete Krawchuk, 26 cords, \$58.50; Lakeside Trading Co., 49 1/5



Above. Two women sawing firewood with a large Swede Saw as a young child looks on. Note the former (1900) school, which was then used as the town hall. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 724.*)



Above. Gimli Public School prior to the 1941 addition, which was built in the corner on the right hand side. Note the wooden swing set in the foreground. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergeson Coll.*)



Above. A photograph taken from the west side of the school grounds showing, at left, part of the two storey, two classroom addition constructed in 1941 in the northwest corner of the building. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. A group of women, possibly student's mothers, in a Gimli Public School classroom inspecting a display mounted on the blackboards. The clothing styles suggest a late 1940s to early 1950s date for this photograph. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergeson Coll.*)

cords, \$104.75. Total 143 1/2 cords, 92 cords white, 51 1/2 mixed. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 21.*)

- **Dental Clinic.** School Board Minutes for Meeting on April 23, 1939. Item 19. Motion: "That the School Board will sponsor a Dental Clinic for the children attending the Public School and as no levy has been made to defray the cost of same by the Board, donations will be accepted to help meet the cost form different organizations...and that the Secretary Treasurer be authorized to pay the Canadian Foundation for Preventative Dentistry the sum of \$90.00 on account of the Clinic. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 34.*)

- **Teachers Salaries.** School Board Minutes for the Special Meeting held in the Town Hall on July 10th (1939) at 8:00 PM with all trustees present. Item 26. Motion: "That the following teachers be engaged for the 1940-41 school term: J.K. Laxdal, Principal, Salary - \$1,700.00, K. Rodgers assistant Principal, Salary - \$1,000.00, K. Benson, salary - \$720.00, J. Thordarson, salary - \$720.00, Margaret Johnson, salary - \$650.00...and also "that the Secretary be authorized to advertize in the Winnipeg Free Press for 3 days for a male teacher for Grades 7 and 8, said applicant to able to teach manual training. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 36.*)

- **War is Declared.** World War II begins on September 1, 1939 involving initially most of Europe, England and the British Commonwealth countries, including Canada. On December 6, 1941, Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbour bringing the Americans into the war and significantly widening the war into a world wide conflict.

1941 - Annual Budget. School Board Minutes for Meeting on April 18, 1941. Motion 1: "That the following estimate for the 1940-41 school term be passed. Salaries - \$7,175.00, Laboratory & Library - \$100.00, Furnishings & Repairs - \$450.00, Fuel - \$225.00, Sundry Expenses - \$300.00. Total: \$8,250.00. Legislative Grants - \$1,400.00, High School Grants - \$1,300.00, General School Tax - \$3,200.00, Special School Tax - \$2,350.00. Total: \$8,250.00. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 42.*)

- **Building Addition.** At the same April 18 meeting, Motion 3: "That bylaw No. 3 authorizing the borrowing of \$15,000.00 at 5 percent - payable in 15 years - for the purpose

of enlarging the school house by two rooms also installing new heating system and indoor toilets, be now introduced and read for the First, Second, and Third times and finally passed.

Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 43.*)

- **A More Satisfactory Arrangement.** The two-room high school section thereafter officially becomes a provincial “Collegiate Institute.” “The addition of two extra rooms in 1941 also enabled a more satisfactory arrangement of classes and permitted a separation of the grades into individual classrooms.” (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 8.*)

- **High School Fees.** The high school section of the Gimli Public School had been the chief centre of secondary education for the students from the surrounding school districts. These students were at first required to pay a small fee; later arrangements were made whereby the municipality contributed towards the maintenance of the high school. While some school districts, such as Winnipeg Beach, and Kjarna, established their own one-room high schools, the arrangement with Gimli remained in operation until the establishment of the Evergreen School Division. (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 70.*)

1943 - C.A.T.P. No. 18 Flying School. “Commonwealth Air Training Plan Gimli Flight School was opened in September 1943 as No. 18 Service Flying School and began training pilots from around the British Commonwealth for Allied Forces service during World War Two. Although the base was fully self contained, service men in ‘air force blues’ became a common sight in town and local businesses profited by the presence of the new airbase.” (*Gimli Memories, 1982 Pg. 93.*)

- **Coal Order.** School Board Minutes for Meeting held in the Town Hall on January 22nd, 1943 with all trustees present. Motion 7. “That the Secretary be authorized to order 2 carloads of stoker coal from the Winnipeg Supply & Fuel Co., 1 car for immediate delivery and the second for the 1st of September. Carried.”

- **Principal’s House.** School Board Minutes for the same January 22nd, 1943 meeting. Motion 8: “That the rent of the house occupied by the principal be fixed at \$17.50 per month. Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 54.*)

1945 - V.E. Day. World War II ends in May with an Allied



Above. 1940s. The Home Front. Elin Arnason, Ninna Bjarnason, and Doreen Torfason sold the most War Saving Stamps. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript 1973 Pg. 976.*)



Above. 1940s. The Home Front. Gimli Public School students Lorraine Peterson & Leon Jonasson ‘playing war’. The seriousness of what was occurring was made evident when popular Gimli teacher Oskar Solmundson was killed in action in 1943 while serving as a pilot with the R.C.A.F. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergeson Coll.*)

Forces Victory. The flight school base was soon temporarily shut down. A former Gimli Public School student recalled, "When World War II was over in Europe, a special ceremony took place in the Gimli School on Monday, May 7, 1945. Each student was given a booklet, put out by the Department of Education entitled 'Thanksgiving Remembrance Rededication' with a picture of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on the cover. This booklet was a part of a programme that was very much like a Remembrance Day Service. The next day was V. E. Day, May 8, 1945 and a school holiday." (*Gimli Memories, 1982 Pg. 89.*)

1947 - Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Laxdal. "A farewell party was held in the Gimli pavilion for Mr. J.K. Laxdal, former Principal of Gimli School. Mr. Laxdal has been principal of the Gimli Collegiate since 1935 and prior to that he taught the Grade VIII class here. Mr. and Mrs. Laxdal and their three children, John, Joanne and Shirley have moved to Winnipeg where Mr. Laxdal will teach at the Normal School." (*Gimli High Lights, Autumn 1947 Pg. 1.*)

1947 - A Succession of Temporary Classrooms. "The first signs of the post-war population explosion made their appearance in 1947 when the Grade seven class was forced to seek accommodation in the Town Hall. In 1948, another temporary classroom was formed in the Gimli Public School basement for elementary grades. The Gimli Memorial Centre was the location of the third extra classroom in 1949. When Mr. J.F. Morrison became principal in 1949, the town was giving serious consideration to the erection of a new school. No action however, was taken." (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 72.*)

- **Caretaker Salary.** School Board Minutes for Meeting on June 4, 1947. Motion 4. "That I.N. Bjarnason the Caretaker be paid the sum of \$1,440.00 for Caretaking from Sept. 1st 1947 to Aug. 3rd 1948 payable at the rate of \$120.00 per month. The school decorating required is to be done immediately after the close of the school term, and during the month of August he (may) be free to do work outside the school, providing he attends the school weekly to look over the rooms to see that no damage has been done to windows, and to have the school cleaned up ready to open on Sept. opening day. All minor repair work is to be done at all times. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 79.*)

1948 - Teachers Salaries. School Board Minutes for Meeting on May 31, 1948. Motion #3: "That the following teachers be engaged for the school term Sept 1948 - June 1949: Clarence Voigt - Principal, \$2,600; S. Stefansson \$2,200; Elizabeth Barkwell \$1,900; Alison Millar \$1,340; Margaret R. Paterson \$1,370; John C. Gottfried \$1,500; Ethel Greenberg \$1,480; Ljotun Thorsteinson \$1,470; Peter Susky \$1,500; Jorunn Thordarson \$1,770; and that contracts be signed for the aforementioned amounts Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 90.*)

- **Non-resident Fees.** School Board Minutes for meeting held in the Town Hall on Monday Aug. 23rd 1948 at 5 PM. Motion 5. "That the non-resident fees for students be fixed as follows: Grades I to VIII - at \$25.00 per year, Grades IX to XI - at \$30.00 per year and that the fees be collected in advance. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 92.*)

1950 - More Temporary Classrooms Needed. In 1950 a second temporary classroom was required in the Gimli Memorial Centre and, due to an increase in the enrollment of the Grade Twelve class, the school library room was converted into a temporary grade twelve classroom. (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 175.*)

- **A Plan for a Four-room High School.** School Board Minutes for Meeting on June 6th, 1950. Item #2. Motion: "That whereas Bylaw No. 1-50 of the Gimli School District NO. 585, has been approved by the Resident Electors at the election held today. Therefore said Bylaw No. 1-50, being a Bylaw to authorize the borrowing of fifty thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a four room high school with library and laboratory and issuing debentures therefore, repayable in 15 annual payments with interest at four percent, be given a third and final reading and submitted to the Municipal and Public Utility Board for their final approval. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book 1937-57 Pg. 119.*)

- **Finally, a New School Building.** The Autumn 1950 edition of the *Gimli School Daze* student newspaper reported the following regarding the new school, then still under construction: "the construction of the new Gimli School on Third Avenue, one block north of the old school, was proceeding as usual at the first of November. The workers have already finished applying the tar on the roof. The tar was brought up in barrels, and then it was broken up, and finally melted. It was then pulled up on a pulley

and spread upon the surface of the roof with mops. The tar on the roof made it waterproof and weatherproof. The brick layers have started laying bricks and are progressing very rapidly. They are putting the bricks almost all around the school. They are expected to be finished completely within the next week or so.

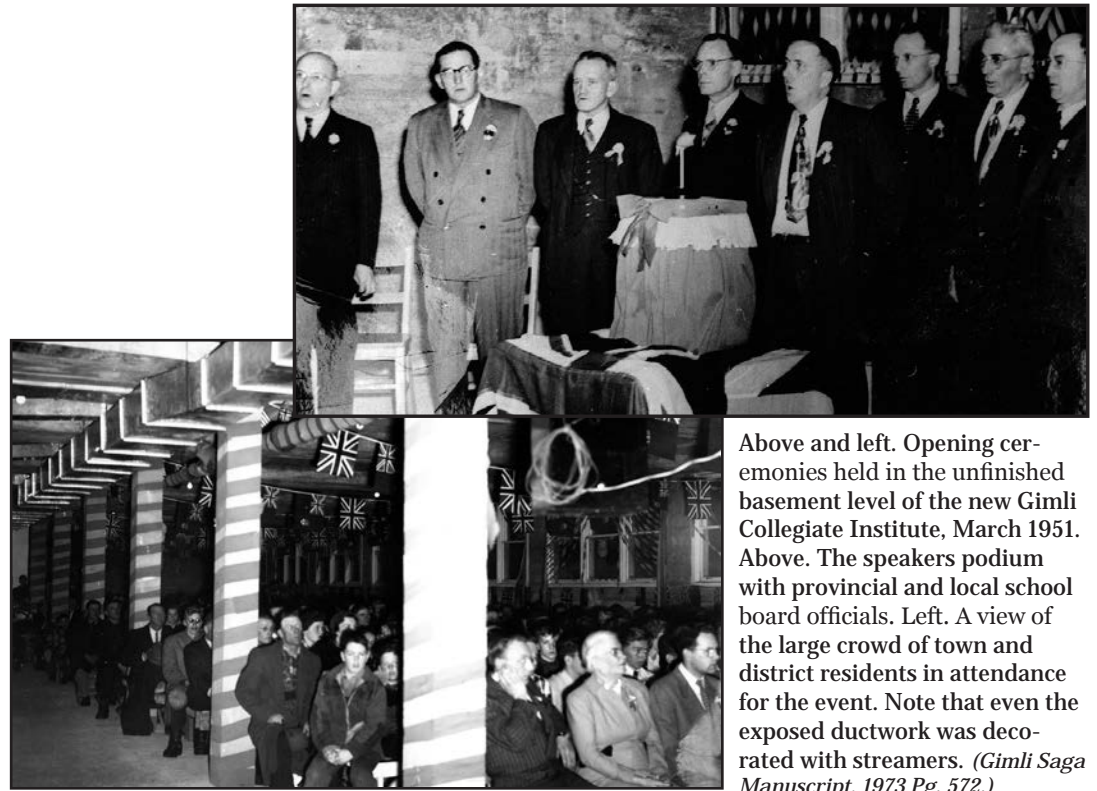
The windows were put in the basement and in the top floor. The furnace has been placed in the basement. The earth has been replaced around the building by the aid of bulldozers. The top floor, which contains six rooms, has not been progressing as well. The framework of the rooms is the only part up so far. The new school is expected to be completed by the latter part of December. This means that the High School will move into it after the Christmas holidays.” (*“Schooldaze”, Autumn 1950 Pg. 10.*)

- **Collegiate Construction.** “In the spring of 1950, the ratepayers voted overwhelmingly in favour of spending \$60,000 on a new collegiate. Work began that summer on the construction of an eight-room collegiate with provisions for an additional four classrooms in the basement should the need arise. The building was located on the block north of the Gimli Public School facing Third Avenue.

Before the work on the new school was completed, Grades Six and Seven had to relinquish their classrooms in the Gimli Memorial Centre to allow for the implementation of the Town’s winter sports activities. These classrooms were moved into the basement of the uncompleted collegiate in January 1951. There, classes were conducted to the accompaniment of hammering, sawing, and the breaking of concrete to install plumbing.”

The Gimli Collegiate Institute building was formally opened in March, 1951. The high school section, with Mr. Sigurjonsson as principal, moved from its cramped quarters into the new structure. The elementary grades, with John Gottfried as principal, remained at the old Gimli Public School. This marked the first departure in the school district of having all classrooms under the supervision of the secondary school principal. (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 73. and Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 176.*)

- **Student Inoculations.** “In November 1950, inoculations and vaccinations were given to all school children, who were not immune to Diphtheria, Smallpox, and Whooping Cough. Dr. Johnson, assisted by a nurse, attended the school



Above and left. Opening ceremonies held in the unfinished basement level of the new Gimli Collegiate Institute, March 1951. Above. The speakers podium with provincial and local school board officials. Left. A view of the large crowd of town and district residents in attendance for the event. Note that even the exposed ductwork was decorated with streamers. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 572.*)



Above. A sketch of the 1951 Collegiate building by Grade 12 student Terry Tergesen. The drawing was published in the Autumn 1950 edition of the “Schooldaze” high school newspaper. Terry Tergesen went on to become a professional architect. (*Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee Coll.*)

for a number of days in order to give everyone the injections. A number of Grade XI students aided the doctor and nurse in their work." (*Schooldazes*, Autumn 1950 Pg. 14.)

- **Commercial Course.** Gimli Special Meeting. "Held in the Town Hall on Monday Sept. 11th, 1950, at 8:00 P.M. Called by Chairman A.B. Ingimundson, to investigate possibilities of teaching a Commercial Course this term. Principal Johann Sigurjónsson reported that he had consulted Dept. of Education regarding grants." Motion 1. "That the Commercial Course be taught this year and that the necessary equipment, typewriters, tables and chairs be purchased. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 130.*)

1950s - An Enriched Programme. "The next phase in the growth and development of education in the Gimli School District was marked by an increased effort by the teachers to provide a complete range of educational opportunities. The collegiate developed a diversified programme, including a commercial department, sewing, shop-work, visual education and sports. The elementary school had its own school paper; held annual Christmas and Easter concerts; offered sewing, shop-work, visual education, and sports. The sustenance of an enriched programme was difficult. Fully-qualified and experienced teachers were required. These could not be obtained because of a province-wide shortage and the lack of an adequate salary scale in the district." (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 74.*)

1951 - Electrical Wiring. Gimli School Board meeting held in the Town Hall on Wed. May 30th, (1951) at 7 PM. Motion 5. "That tenders be called for the wiring of Public School according to specifications on blue prints submitted and approved by the Manitoba Power Commission. All work to be completed before August 25th 1951 with a penalty clause for non completion on date specified. Tenders to include all work and materials, to be in hand of Secretary by June 15/51. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 160.*)

1952 - Manitoba Musical Competition. Gimli School Board meeting, held at the Collegiate on Wednesday Jan 30th, 1952 at 7:30 P.M. Motion 2. "That Mrs. M.C. (Margaret) Bullock be permitted to be absent from school for the time required to participate in the Thirty-Fourth Annual Manitoba Musical Competition

to be held in Winnipeg on March 24th, 1952, and to take in the children required for the Choir or Choirs entered. And further to defray a portion of the expenses in the neighborhood of \$10.00. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 181.*)

- **Sewing Machine Purchase.** Gimli School Board meeting held in the Collegiate on Wed. Dec. 3, 1952 at 7:30 PM. Motion 2. "That three new Singer sewing machines be purchased for the Public School, Model 15-91-401; electric model; at net price of \$106.15 each; less an allowance of \$5.00 for each of the old machines; and a button holer and zipper foot for the sum of \$10.31. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 201.*)

1953 - Icelandic Lessons. Gimli School Board meeting held at the Collegiate on Wednesday, January 7th, 1953 at 8 P.M. Motion 9. "That a classroom in the collegiate be made available on Friday evenings for teaching Icelandic poetry, providing that the group taking these classes will not cause any extra work for the Caretaker. These classes are to begin Friday Jan 9th and be held every second Friday thereafter till May, in the room where Grade XI is seated. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 205.*)

- **Manitoba Teacher's Society.** Gimli School Board "Special Meeting. Held at the Collegiate on Tuesday May 26th 1953; to consider payment of bills and to further consider a contract for the teachers re: salaries for the forthcoming term.... Motion 4. That the following salaries be proposed to be written into a Contract with the Gimli Local 21-3 of the Manitoba Teachers Society. Mrs. E. Magnusson \$2,550; Ljotun Thorsteinsson \$2,400; Ethel Greenberg \$2,400; Edith Orton \$2,100; Peter Susky \$2,550; John C. Gottfried \$2,850 to be principal of Public School; John Dyck \$2,800; Miss S. Stefansson \$3,150; John Peter Packota \$3,500. If this proposal is accepted by the Gimli Local 21-3, the chairman and the Secretary Treasurer, be authorized to sign a Contract for the next school year for one year only. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 213.*)

- **Gimli School Concert.** "The first four grades of Gimli Public School held their annual concert at the Parish hall March 25. The program included fairy fantasies with dialogue and songs directed by class teachers Mrs. L. Keith, Mrs. E. Magnusson, Miss L. Thorsteinsson and Miss E. Greenberg, and elementary

gymnastics directed by Peter Susky." *(Winnipeg Free Press March 16, 1954 Pg. 5.)*

1954 - Collective Bargaining. "It was during these post-war years that the Manitoba Teacher's Society was attempting to institute collective bargaining with school boards. During the Depression teacher's salaries had fallen to very low standards, but with increasing school population, teachers were scarce and able to demand a fair salary. In 1954, a determined stand was made by teachers in Gimli, and the Gimli School District became the first district in the Evergreen School Division to sign a collective agreement between the Gimli School Board and the Manitoba Teachers Society. *(Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Education Pg. 9.)*

- **Concert Monies.** Gimli School Board, 1954. First Meeting. "Held in the Collegiate on Wednesday Jan. 6th 1954 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 11. "That the Secretary-Treasurer ask the principal of the Public School to give an accounting of all monies received by concerts, and show how they are spent. This account should be made up annually and be audited, as the Board is responsible for spending and accounting of all monies within the School District. Carried." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 228.)*

1955 - Student Prizes. Gimli School Board meeting May 4th, 1955. Motion 2. "That the School District purchase the Award prizes and pins required for top students in each of the Classes. Carried." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 258.)*

- **Religious Exercises.** Gimli School Board meeting Nov. 2, 1955. Motion 2. "That Bylaw No. 1-1955 being a Bylaw to direct that religious exercises shall not be held in the schools of the Gimli School Division No. 585 during this current school year ending June 30th 1956, permission for this bylaw to be passed being set out in Subsection 2 Section 252 of the Public School Act, now introduced is hereby read a first, second and a third time and finally passed. Carried." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 268.)*

1957 - Sewer and Water. Gimli School Board meeting Held at the Collegiate on Wednesday October 2nd 1957 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 4. "That the Treasurer be authorized to sign the forms asking for a price for water and sewer connection to the schools

and residence of the principal. Carried." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 9.)*

- **More Temporary Classrooms.** "From 1957-1961, The School District again found itself with too few classrooms. In 1957, the Gimli Memorial Centre again became the location of a classroom. The following year, the Grade Eight class was moved into the Gimli Collegiate Institute." *(John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 77.)*

1958 - Coke Machine. Gimli School Board meeting held in the Collegiate on Wed. Feb. 5th 1958 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 2. "That the Trustees do not approve of having a Coke vending machine installed in the Collegiate. Carried." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 15.)*

- **Special Meeting.** "Held on Thursday June 5th, 1958 at 8:15 PM at the Collegiate to meet with the Conciliation Officer and the representatives of the Teachers Society Local with a view of completing a settlement in the salary schedule, various offers being made previously having failed to settle the matter. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM to the next day at 7:00 PM and the Teachers representatives were advised that they were to have been prepared to conclude an agreement and not merely to listen to new proposals to take back to their local for discussion, by which action on the discussions of the whole evening actually could not solve anything. On Friday June 6th, 1958 at 7:00 PM both parties resumed negotiations with the Conciliation Officer, and a satisfactory agreement was reached. The Trustees held their Special Meeting.

Motion 1. That the Agreement concluded with the Gimli Local 21-3 of the Manitoba Teachers Society be agreed to by the Trustees and shall contain a basic salary of: \$2,600 for a Class I (Certificate) Teacher, with five increments of \$100 and two of \$150, and for teachers at the Collegiate a Basic of \$3,100 for Class II: \$3,600 for Class III; and \$4,000 for Class IV. There shall be seven increments of \$200 per annum." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pgs. 27-28.)*

- **Additional Classroom.** Gimli School Board meeting held at the Collegiate on Wed. Sept. 10/1958 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 3. "That an addition classroom be erected in the Collegiate to provide accommodation for Grade VIII Students which will have no room as Grade 1 Class requires to be split in two. Carried." *(Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 33.)*



Views of the new Gimli Composite school. Above. Under construction during the early spring of 1961. Below. Soon after completion later that same year. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 604.*)



Above. Minister of Education George Johnson cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new Composite High School. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 604.*)



- **Dress Code.** Gimli School Board meeting held at the Collegiate on Wed. Nov. 4th at 8:00 P.M. Motion 4. "That the recommendations by the staff of the Collegiate with regards to type of dress for students, listed as, 1. Girls to wear skirts all year round except on days when they have physical training, 2. Wearing of transparent blouses be prohibited, 3. No leather jackets, windbreakers or heavy sweaters be worn in class, 4. All rubbers and overshoes be removed at the doors, 5. Wearing of heavy boots with cleats or clickers be prohibited, be hereby approved of by the trustees and that the teachers be empowered to enforce them. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 38.*)

1959 - Evergreen School Division NO. 22 Established.

The Evergreen School Division No. 22 was incorporated as a result of recommendations contained in the Report of the Manitoba Royal Commission on Education and came into existence after a referendum held in March, 1959. Elected trustees representing Arborg, Gimli, Riverton, Fraserwood, and Winnipeg Beach made up the first Evergreen Division Board. The job of the board was to oversee the operation of three secondary school centres in the division: Gimli, Arborg and Riverton, with new secondary schools to be built in each community. (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pg. 63.*)

- **Collegiate Rented to Evergreen.** Gimli School Board meeting Oct. 7, 1959. Motion 3. "That the Collegiate Institute be rented to the Evergreen School Division for the year 1959-60, at the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars, payable at the rate of \$1,200 per month from Sept. 30th 1959 to June 30th 1960. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 63.*)

- **Safety Patrol Rain Gear.** Gimli School Board meeting Oct. 7, 1959. Motion 8. "That rain capes and rain caps be purchased for the Safety Patrol at the Elementary School to be used during inclement weather. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 64.*)

1960 - Gestetner Duplicator. Gimli School Board meeting "Held at the Elementary School on Friday Feb. 5th 1960. Motion 9. "That the Evergreen School Division be advised that the Gimli School District is in need of the Gestetner Duplicator and



Above. 1967. Minister of Education Dr. George Johnson and Thor Stevens cutting the ribbon to open the George Johnson school, assisted by Superintendent of Education John Chalaturnyk. Master Thor Stevens, as a direct descendant of an initial Gimli pioneer, was chosen to represent the community's founders. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 586.*)



Above. 1967. Dr. Baldur H. Kristjansson, Deputy Minister and Chairman of the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board, and former Gimli Public School pupil addressing the gathering. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 586.*)

**THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL
DIVISION NO. 22**

Invites applications from qualified teachers for positions in new secondary schools at Arborg, Riverton and Gimli. Duties to commence Fall term. Salary schedule as follows:

Class 3	\$3,800—\$5,400
Class 4	\$4,400—\$7,300
Class 5	\$4,700—\$6,000
Class 6	\$5,100—\$8,800

Increments at \$200 per year to maximum. Applicants should state qualifications, experience, age, marital status, subjects preferred. Forward applications to R. L. Peaker, Sec.-Treas., Riverton, Manitoba.

**THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL
DIVISION NO. 22**

requires the following qualified personnel

ONE INDUSTRIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR
ONE DOMESTIC SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR

ONE COMMERCIAL TEACHER for departments to be established in the new secondary school at Gimli. Applicants should state qualifications, experience, age and marital status. Forward applications to R. L. Peaker, Sec.-Treas., Riverton, Manitoba, or phone Riverton 7-9264.

Evergreen School Division notice inviting qualified applicants for positions in Gimli. (Winnipeg Free Press, April 19, 1961 Pg. 36.)

Boards Can Hire, Fire Retire

The court of Queen's bench Monday ruled that school board has the power to set a compulsory retirement age for teachers.

A judgment from Mr. Justice A. M. Monnin ruled that a compulsory retirement policy is a necessary adjunct to the power of hiring and firing, which school boards have under the Public Schools Act.

The court's decision followed a dispute between a Gimli teacher, Miss Ljotun Thorsteinsson and the Gimli school district. Miss Thorsteinsson was given notice by the board last year because of a new board policy of retiring teachers at 65. The teacher, who had 11 years with the district, contended a board had no power to set a compulsory retirement age.

Mr. Justice Monnin noted that nowhere in the Public Schools Act is a school board prohibited from establishing a compulsory retirement policy.

"Such a policy," he continued, "nowadays is practically a necessary adjunct to the power of hiring and firing. Employees are as much if not more interested in it than employers. Teachers are provided with retirement allowances and pensions by virtue of the Teachers' Retirement Allowance Act and by the same act school boards are compelled to contribute a fluctuating amount each year for each teacher employed by it.

"Retirement age, retirement allowances and pensions are matters which now go hand in hand with hiring and firing of personnel . . . It is only reasonable and fair that the power to fix such a compulsory retirement age unilaterally and without agreement between the appellant (Miss Thorsteinsson) or her representative and the respondent (Gimli school board) is incidental to and consequential upon the powers of hiring and firing and impliedly given to the respondent by the Public Schools Act."

The costs were awarded to the Gimli school board.

(Winnipeg Free Press, June 13, 1960 Pg. 8.)

a typewriter for its use, and that it should make arrangements for transfer of same in the near future. Carried." (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 73.)

- **Collegiate Needed Back.** Gimli School Board meeting held at the Elementary School Wednesday Dec. 7th, 1960 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 4. "That the Evergreen School Division be advised that the rental agreement for the Collegiate Institute expiring June 30th, 1961, will not be renewed, as the rooms of the Elementary School are overcrowded at present and the situation will not improve. It is therefore necessary to use most of the rooms for the fall term. Carried." (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 95.)

1961 - Evergreen Consolidated High School. The *Gimli Saga* records that in 1961 a new regional High School, the "Gimli Composite High School" was constructed in Gimli, on the west side of town in 1961 just beyond the CPR tracks and Provincial Highway No. 9. When it came into operation in the Fall of 1961 the organization of the elementary grades was changed. The High School Grades (9-12) went into the new building. Middle Grades (5-8) went to the 1951 former Collegiate and Elementary Grades (1-4) had their classrooms in the old 1915 Gimli Public School building. Mr. Michael Moroz moved into the former Collegiate building and became the new principal of Grades Five to Eight. Miss Ellen Magnusson, for many years an excellent elementary teacher, was made principal of the primary grades in the old Gimli Public School. (*Gimli Saga*, 1975 Pg. 176.)

- **Athletic Trophies.** Gimli School Board meeting held at the Elementary School on Wednesday June 7th 1961 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 3. "That the purchase of two trophies for the field day to be held for Grades V to VIII is hereby authorized. Carried." (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 110.)

- **School 1 and School 2.** Gimli School Board meeting held at the former Collegiate Bldg. on Wednesday Sept. 6th 1961 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 3. "That the old Elementary School housing Classes of Grades I to IV be designated as School I and the former Collegiate be designated as School II. Carried." (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 115.)

- **Streamliners Sewing Club.** Gimli School Board meeting held at School No. 2 on Wednesday Oct. 4th, 1961 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 6. "That the Gimli Streamliners Club be al-

lowed to use a classroom at School No. 1. The Caretaker is to be contacted by the Club to notify him when meetings are to be held. The club is to be responsible for leaving the room in neat condition. Smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the school Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 120.*)

1962 - New Caretaker. Gimli School Board meeting held at the No. 2 School on Wednesday March 7th, 1962 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 5. “That J. Szpyt who has taken over the Caretaking duties during the illness of Mr. Bjarnason be paid at the same remuneration allowed Mr. Bjarnason at the rate of \$53.70 per week, and at \$15.00 per month of 20 days school is open for attendance officer duties, the payment to commence Feb. 18, 1962 and be paid at that rate until further notice. Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 129.*)

- **Additional Pay.** Gimli School Board meeting held at the No. 2 School on Tuesday June 5th 1962 at 8:00 P.M. Motion 6. “That teachers having over 35 pupils in class as at end of December 1961, be paid at the rate of \$10 for each pupil in accordance with Salary Schedule in effect. Carried.

- **Roof on School No. 2.** Motion 7. “That the roof on School No. 2, which developed a crack 35 feet in length be repaired by Superior Roofing Ltd at an estimated cost not to exceed the sum of \$100. Carried

- **Roof on School No. 1.** Motion 8. “That the flat roof on School No. 1, built in 1941, have the covering replaced with a new composition deck, and that the work be done by Superior Roofing at a cost not to exceeded \$400. Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 138.*)

1963 - Trustee Appointed. Gimli School Board meeting held at School No. 2 on Jan 2nd 1963 at 8:00 PM. Motion 2. “That John W. Chudd be appointed as trustee for the years 1963 to 1965 inclusive, to fill the vacancy due to neglect of the Electors to nominate a candidate on nomination day. Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 154.*)

1966 - Closing Second Street. The 12th regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Gimli School District No. 585 was held at School No. 1 at 7:30 P.M. on Wed. Dec. 7th 1966. Motion 15. “That the District agrees to all points raised by the Town of



Above. Gimli School Board No. 585 Chairman, Dan Hawrykow turning the sod for the George Johnson School. Left to right: L. Tergesen, T. Cherney, E. Magnusson, N. Kozak, V. Einarson, G. Phillips, C. Hamelynck, H. Bouillet, M. Moroz. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 576.*)



Above. Gimli Elementary Schools. Left to right: Miss Stefansson Elementary School, the “Gymnatorium”, George Johnson Middle School and, at the extreme right, the Gimli Public School (1915) Junior High. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 622.*)



Above. Aerial vertical view of Gimli in 1967, showing the five-year old, Gimli Composite High School, near the bottom centre of the photo. Also visible, at the image top-centre, from left to right, are the 1951 Stefansson Elementary School building; the newly-completed George Johnson Middle School; and south of that, the old 1915 Gimli Public School. Note also that there are no longer any residential structures on either of the two blocks and also that Third Avenue appears to be still open and functional at the time of this photo. One year later year the “gymnasium” will have been constructed in that area between the two buildings and incorporating that section of Third Avenue into the two, now joined, school grounds. (*Gimli Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

Gimli in connection with the closing of Second Street and authorizes the Secretary to write a suitable letter confirming this agreement to the Town Council. Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1966-67 Pg. 29.*)

- **Auditorium Plans.** Special meeting #4 was held in School No. 2 on March 30, 1967. Mr. Berman presented the finalized drawings for the auditorium. Motion 2. “That the architect’s fee for the Auditorium and upgrading of School No. 2 be approved and that the outstanding 50% of the fee to the amount of \$5,100 be paid. Carried.” (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1966-67 Pg. 40.*)

1967 - Building Inspections. A Local Government Boundaries Commission report released in March 1968 entitled *Schools in the Interlake – Manitoba Vol. 1*, provided the following information regarding Gimli’s three school structures, from a June 1967 inspection. Community Population - 2,400:

1. School - Gimli Public. Original building - 1915. Addition 1 - 1941. Principal - Mr. M.W. Moroz. Grades - IV to VI. Academic Rooms – 9. Adm. Rooms – Principal 1, Staff 1. Floor area - 10,020 sq. ft. (including both floors, excluding basement), Number of stories - Two, 15 feet high each, plus a basement. Enrollment – 238. Number of Staff - Teachers 8 (excluding Principal), Janitor 1. Condition of building – Fair to Poor. Exterior is in better condition, interior in poor state. Life Expectancy – 5 to 10 years. Remarks – Illumination, acoustics and heating are adequate. This school is located in the same site with S. Stefansson and George Johnson schools, and all three schools are under the jurisdiction of the same principal.

2. School - Stefansson. Original building - 1950. Principal - Mr. M.W. Moroz. Grades - VI to VIII and Special. Academic Rooms – 11. Adm. Rooms – Principal 1, Staff 1. Floor area - 6,348 sq. ft. (excluding basement). Number of stories - One, ten feet high, plus a basement. Enrollment – 221, (including 37 grade VIII students located in the high school). Number of Staff - Teachers 8 (including principal and 1 teacher located at high school), Janitor 1. Condition of building – Fair. Life Expectancy – 10 to 15 years. Remarks - Illumination and acoustics are adequate. Heating is poor. One classroom (Grade VIII) is located in the High School.

3. School - Gimli Composite High. Original build-

ing - 1960. Addition 1 - 1966. Principal - Mr. H. Benson. Grades - IX to XII. Academic Rooms – 19. Adm. Rooms – Principal 1, Vice-Principal 1, Office 1, Guidance and Counselling 2, Janitor 1. Auditorium-cum-Gymnasium. Floor area - 55,100 sq. ft. (excluding basement). Number of stories - One, ten feet high, crawl space, no basement. Enrollment – 467. Number of Staff - Teachers 27 (including principal and vice-principal), Secretary 1, Janitors 2. Condition of building – Good. Life Expectancy – 30 to 35 years. Remarks - Illumination, acoustics and heating are adequate.

4. School - George Johnson (under construction - 1967). Principal - Mr. M.W. Moroz. Grades - I to III, plus kindergarten. Academic Rooms – 12. Adm. Rooms – Principal 1, Staff 1, Storage 1, Custodian 1. Floor area - 13,563 sq. ft. Number of stories - One, ten feet high, crawl space, no basement. Enrollment – 368 (anticipated in Sept/67). Number of Staff - Teachers 12 (anticipated in Sept/67), Custodian 1. Condition of building – Good. Life Expectancy – 35 to 40 years. Remarks - The building is under construction at present, and will be ready for use by Sept/67. (*Local Government Boundaries Commission, Schools in the Interlake – Manitoba Vol. 1, March 1968.*)

1967 - School Divisions Supplanting School Districts.

During the early 1960s a province-wide plan of school Consolidation was implemented in Manitoba, as the old rural school districts system became increasingly expensive and inefficient to operate. Small rural school districts were dissolved in favour of larger school divisions. Beginning with the high school grades, students were bussed from outlying areas to large central school buildings. Later, elementary grades were also bussed to central locations, as the Divisions took over operation of all school districts. Gimli No. 585 was officially dissolved on April 1st, 1967 as the district became part of the Evergreen School Division No. 22. Minerva No. 1045 was officially dissolved the same day. Hnaua No. 588 closed on January 1st, 1967. The final meeting of the Winnipeg Beach No. 1331 School District was held on April 5, 1967. (*Archives of Manitoba, Local Government Boundaries Commission 1968. Pg. 80.*)

- **Middle School Classroom Shortage.** “The 1951 Gimli Collegiate building, which Grades Five to Eight were then attending, had become badly overcrowded. The Gimli school board, in the final years before being dissolved in favour of the Evergreen School Division, faced the necessity of having to erect

a new elementary school building. A heated controversy, as to its location, occupied public and school board attention for months. Some favoured the school being built near the high school, west of the tracks and Highway Number Nine. Others thought this location was inconvenient and dangerous for the children living in town. The School board was divided on the issue. Finally, the final residence in the block adjacent to the Gimli School was purchased. The board had purchased other properties in previous years, intending to build there.” The roadway block of Second Street North between the school was closed, and the construction of a new one-storey modern brick school was begun. (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 177.*)

- **A New Elementary School.** “Sod was turned in the spring with the school opening that fall. The new school had 12 classrooms and offices. It was initially used for Kindergarten through Grade three.” The new school was officially named the George Johnson School after the then Minister of Education and was the new location of classrooms for Kindergarten to Grade 3. At the same time, the former 1961 Collegiate building was renamed in honour of much loved and long-standing teacher Miss Sigurbjorg Stefansson. It was used for Grades 4 to 6 classrooms. The old 1915 Gimli Public School building was occupied by grades seven and eight and retained its original name. It soon became a separate entity known as the Gimli Junior High School. (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 180.*)

1968 - The First Auditorium. The official opening of the “gym-auditorium” occurred in the autumn of 1968. “Fitted to the new school, and the former collegiate, was a large 12-classroom count gymnasium, something long needed for physical education. The gymnasium enabled the elementary school children to hold art and science fairs, concerts, and volleyball and basketball tournaments.” (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 178.*)

- **High School Addition.** “An addition to the High School was built in 1968, making some additional classroom space and a new library. Part of the school cafeteria was partitioned off to make a new drafting room. The school is filled to capacity now and has the largest commercial department outside of greater Winnipeg. There are, in 1970, 27 teachers on the staff, plus a school secretary. The school board which had offices in the high school, moved to rented space in the Valgardson Building in 1969 to free more space for classes.” (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 605.*)

Gimli School Closes

The 50-year-old Gimli public school has finished its service in Manitoba's educational system, after having been a combined elementary and high school, an elementary school, a primary school and finally a junior high school.

Its Grade 7 and 8 students will move into the east wing of Gimli Composite High School after the spring break.

When a two-foot slab of decorative Tyndall stone fell from over the school main entrance recently, the school was evacuated.

Closing ceremonies for the school were held, and the flag was lowered for the last time and presented to Sigurbjorg Stefansson, a teacher in the school from 1923 to 1950. The school was built in 1915 for \$20,000 and a new wing was added in 1940.

(The Winnipeg Free Press, Mar. 29, 1974 Pg. 55.)

1972 - Supt. Report. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Evergreen School Division #22 held at Gimli June 19, 1972. 12/72. Supt. Report: Comments from Principals - Gimli Elementary - "Gimli Public School is in need of repair." *(Evergreen School Division # 22 Minutes - 1972.)*

- **Consulting Engineer.** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Evergreen School Division #22 held at Gimli July 17, 1972 at 10:00 A.M. 13/72. Item 3. "That the Gimli Public School be used for the 1972-73 school term for Grade 7 and 8. Tabled." Item 4. "That a consulting engineer be engaged to give a report on the Gimli Public school as soon as possible. Carried." *(Evergreen School Division # 22 Minutes - 1972.)*

- **Report Tabled.** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Evergreen School Division #22 held in the Board Office in Gimli August 21, 1972 at 10:00 A.M. 14/72. Item 3. "That the report on the Gimli Public School prepared by MacLeod and Berman be approved for reference. Carried." *(Evergreen School Division # 22 Minutes - 1972.)*

1974 - Moving Grade 7 & 8 if Necessary. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Evergreen School Division #22 held at Gimli March 18, 1974 at 6:00 P.M. 8/74. Item 17. "That permission be given to the Building Committee to authorize the moving of Grade 7 and 8 to the Gimli Collegiate if deemed necessary. Carried." *(Evergreen School Division # 22 Minutes - 1974.)*

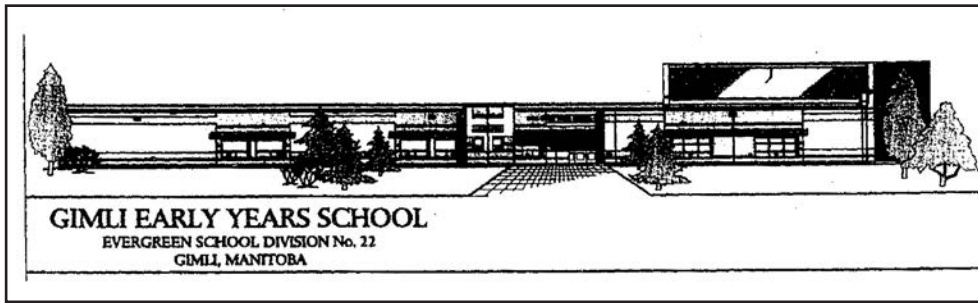
- **Gimli Public School Closes.** "The 50-year old Gimli public school has finished its service in Manitoba's educational system, after having been a combined elementary and high school, an elementary school, a primary school and finally a junior high school. Its Grade 7 and 8 students will move into the east wing of Gimli Composite High School after the spring break. When a two-foot slab of decorative Tyndall stone fell from over the school main entrance recently, the school was evacuated. Closing ceremonies for the school were held, and the flag was lowered for the last time and presented to Sigurbjorg Stefansson, a teacher in the school from 1923 to 1950. The school was built in 1915 for \$20,000 and a new wing was added in 1941." *(Winnipeg Free Press, Mar. 29, 1974 Pg. 55.)*

- **Call for Demolition Tenders.** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Evergreen School Division #22 held at Gimli April 15, 1974 at 6:00 P.M. 12/74 Item 2. "That





Above. An aerial view of Gimli taken in 1989 looking towards the southwest. Clearly visible, at centre right, is the elementary school “block” of buildings, including the 1915 Public School building, and the adjoined, George Johnson Middle School, the “gymnasium” and Sigurbjorg Stefansson Elementary School. At the time of this photo the 1915 Gimli Public School building had been closed for 15 years and used only for miscellaneous storage purposes by the Evergreen School Division. (*Mackee Archives, University of Brandon, Manitoba Pool Elevator fonds.*)



Above. An architectural rendition of the 2003 new Sigurbjorg Stefansson Elementary School. (*The Interlake Spectator, June 23, 2003. Pg. 10.*)



Left and below: Sigurbjorg Stefansson Elementary school in 2015. (*Author's Photos.*)



consideration be given to calling for tenders for the demolition of the Old Gimli Public School as soon as is practical Carried." (*Evergreen School Division # 22 Minutes - 1974.*)

2001 - New Elementary School "Construction is gaining momentum on Gimli's new \$3.8 million elementary school. Work started over three weeks ago on the 31,000-sq.-ft. building which will accommodate up to 275 kindergarten to Grade 4 students when it opens in September 2002. MCM Architects Inc. of Winnipeg designed the nine-classroom school, which is being built at the west end of the Gimli high school play field.

The board has decided that the elementary building will be named the "Miss Stefansson School," in honour of Sigurbjorg Stefansson, a much-loved former teacher in the Gimli school system. Born in Mountain, North Dakota in 1897 and raised in Wynyard, Sask., Stefansson embarked on her teaching career in 1920 after graduating with a B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba. She was a junior teacher and assistant principal at Lundar from 1920-23 before commencing a Gimli teaching career that spanned four decades. As Gimli's assistant principal from 1923-56, she specialized in teaching English, French, Latin, and Icelandic. After relinquishing the vice-principalship, she continued as a classroom teacher until she made her second retirement permanent in 1962.

Active in many community organizations, Stefansson donated the land for the Gimli Branch of the Evergreen Public Library on First Ave. In her later years, the shy and retiring teacher declined many awards, including an honorary degree from the University of Winnipeg in 1975. She died in 1985 at age 88.

When the new elementary opens, Gimli's Grades 5-7 students will remain at the existing early-middle years school on Third Avenue. The board had decided that the middle years school be called "The George Johnson School." Johnson, also deceased, was a Gimli family doctor who went on to become the region's Conservative MLA, a provincial cabinet minister for health and education in the Duff Roblin administration and ultimately Manitoba's Lieutenant-Governor. The names of both Johnson and Stefansson currently adorn the over crowded early-middle years school for Grades 1 to 7 students. (*The Interlake Spectator, July 1, 2002 Pg. 47.*)

2003 - New Stefansson Elementary. “The Evergreen School Division is part way through an \$8 million program to upgrade division school buildings over a four year period. Virtually completed are the new \$3.5 million Sigurbjorg Stefansson elementary school in Gimli and a \$1.5 million remodelling and expansion of the Winnipeg Beach elementary school. Still to come are major renovations at the Dr. George Johnson Middle School in Gimli and at the Arborg Early-Middle Years School. Acting Evergreen Superintendent Doug Anderson said that with the spring departure of elementary students to Sigurbjorg Stefansson, the George Johnson building is to be converted into a true middle school for Grade 5 to Grade 8 students.

Anderson said the Johnson refurbishing provides for new administration offices, a staff room, a library area, two science rooms, a band room, a grooming room for special needs students and the construction of a new classroom and renovation of several others. As well, the old two storey wing at the north end of the building is to be demolished under plans currently being prepared by MCM Architects of Winnipeg.” (*The Interlake Spectator*, June 23, 2003 Pg. 10.)

2009 - Historic School Bites the dust. “A Gimli landmark disappeared last month when contractors demolished the old Sigurbjorg Stefansson wing of George Johnson Middle School. The building dated back to 1951 when it was erected for \$60,000 as Gimli’s first stand alone collegiate. It became a middle years school in 1961 after the opening of the present Gimli Composite High School on Highway 9. Progress continued in 1968 when the Stefansson building was expanded southwards with the addition of a gymnasium and the George Johnson Elementary School. The twinning of the middle years and elementary schools lasted for 35 years until the elementary students moved in 2003 to a newly built school on Autumnwood Drive. With this development the new elementary became the Sigurbjorg Stefansson School named after a beloved Gimli teacher who taught in the community from 1923 to 1962. Minus the obsolescent old wing, George Johnson is in the final stages of being transformed into a fully modern middle school.” (*The Interlake Spectator*, Friday Jan. 9, 2009 Pg. 5.)



Above. Contractors work to demolish the Sigurbjorg Stefansson wing of George Johnson Middle School in Gimli. (*The Interlake Spectator*, Jan. 9, 2009, Pg. 5.)



Above left and below. The Gimli Composite High School in May 2015. (Author's Photos.)





Above and below. The Dr. George Johnson Middle School in May 2015. *(Author's Photos.)*





Chapter Two

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Principals, Teachers and Trustees

~ GIMLI PUBLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ~

Gimli Public School (1915) opened in September 1915.		1945-46	Mr. Jon Laxdal
1915-16	Miss Sigrun I. Helgason (Grades 1-11.)	1946-47	Mr. C.D. Voight
1916-17	Miss Olafia Jonsson	1947-48	Mr. C.D. Voight
1917-18	Miss Olafia Jonsson	1948-49	Mr. C.D. Voight
1918-19	Miss Olafia Jonsson	1949-50	Mr. John Morrison
1919-20	Mr. Gudmundur Thorsteinsson	1950-51	Mr. Johann Sigurjonsson
1920-21	Mr. Gudmundur Thorsteinsson	1951-52	Mr. John Gottfried - (Grades 1-4.)
1921-22	Miss Olafia Jonsson	1952-53	Mr. John Gottfried
1922-23	Miss Olafia Jonsson	1953-54	Mr. John Gottfried
1923-24	Miss Olafia Jonsson	1954-55	Mr. John Gottfried
1924-25	Miss Ethel Groves	1955-56	Mr. John Gottfried
1925-26	Mr. Robert.C. Mulligan	1956-57	Mr. Sam Yaremchuk
1926-27	Mr. Alfred Gillespie	1957-58	Mr. Sam Yaremchuk
1927-28	Mr. Alfred Gillespie	1958-59	Mr. Sam Yaremchuk
1928-29	Mr. Alfred Gillespie	1959-60	Mr. John Moroz
1929-30	Mr. William Meldrum	1960-61	Mr. John Moroz
1930-31	Mr. William Meldrum	1961-62	Miss Ellen Magnusson
1931-32	Mr. William Meldrum	1962-63	Miss Ellen Magnusson
1932-33	Mr. William Meldrum	1963-64	Miss Ellen Magnusson
1933-34	Mr. William Meldrum	1965-66	Miss Ellen Magnusson
1934-35	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1966-67	John Moroz - (Grades 7 & 8)
1935-36	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1967-68	John Moroz
1936-37	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1968-69	John Moroz
1937-38	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1969-70	John Moroz
1938-39	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1970-71	Mary Shebeski & Ted Jaremy
1939-40	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1971-72	Ted Jaremy
1940-41	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1972-73	Ted Jaremy
1941-42	Mr. Jon Laxdal	1973-74	Ted Jaremy
1942-43	Mr. Jon Laxdal		
1943-44	Mr. Jon Laxdal		
1944-45	Mr. Jon Laxdal		

Classes in the Gimli Public School
(1915) ceased in March 1974.



Gudmundur Thorsteinsson
1919-21



Miss Olafia Jonsson
1916-24



Jon Laxdal
1934-46



Mr. C.D. Voight
1946-49



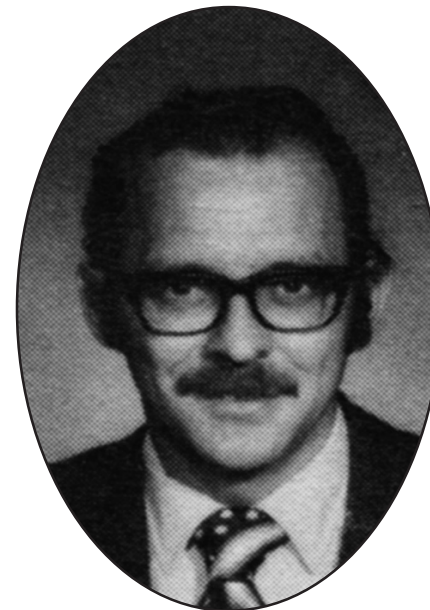
John Gottfried
1951-56



John Moroz
1959-61 & 1965-71



Miss Ellen Magnusson
1961-66



Ted Jaremy
1971-74
Last Principal

Principals

GIMLI PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS 1915-1975

~
1915-1951: Grades 1 - 11.
Also 12, some years.

1951-1961: Grades 1 - 8.
Elementary & Middle School.

1961-1967: Grades 1 - 4.
Also 5, some years.

1967-1974: Grades 7 &- 8.
Gimli Junior High.

~
1915-16. First Term in new school. (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)
Miss Sigrun Helgason, Principal from Sept.- Dec. and Miss
Olafia Jonsson, Principal from Jan.-Jun. Emma Thompson
(Grades 1-2); Miss J. Stefanson and Mabel Joseph (4-6);
Ethel McBeth, then I. Bjornsson (7-8).

1916-17. (Grades 1 to 11 taught.) Olafia Jonsson Principal
from Sept. 1916 to Jun. 1917.) No other info available.

1917-18. (Grades 1 to 11 taught.) No other info available.

1918-19. (Grades 1 to 11 taught.) Asta Austman, Principal. No
other info available.

1919-20. (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)
D.J. O'Connor (K-2); Claire O'Connor (3-5); Lara Thordar-
son (3-7); Ingibjorg Petursson (5-7); Gudmundur Thorsteins-
son (8-10); Paul Hiebert (8-10); E. Eldjarnson.

1920-21 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)
Jonasina Stefanson (2-3); Elizabeth Knox (2-3); Lara Thor-
darson (4-6); Ingibjorg Petursson; Gudmundur Thorsteins-
son (9-11); Major S.S. Bryan (9-11); J. Abrahamson.

1921-22 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)
Miss Olafia Jonsson, Delle M. Myers; Jean Grey (2-3); Lara



Gudmundur Thorsteinsson
Teacher and Principal, 1919-20.
(Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. The teaching staff for the 1921-22 school year. Left to right: Miss Delle M. Myers, Miss Lara Thordarson, Miss Olafia Jonsson, Major S. S. Bryan, Miss Jean Grey and Miss Ingibjorg Petursson. (*Gimli Saga manuscript, Pg. 564.*)



Above. Major S.S. Bryan, (left) and Miss Olafia Jonsson (right) during the 1922-23 term. *The Gimli Saga* notes: "Mr. G. O. Thorsteinsson, a veteran of World War I, became principal in 1920, assisted by a Major Bryan. When Mr. Thorsteinsson resigned in 1922, Miss Jonsson returned as principal, and Major Bryan left, declaring that no man should have a woman as his superior." (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 205.*)



Above: 1935-36 Teachers. Alma Olson, Jorunn (Joey) Thordarson, Jon K. Laxdal, Sylvia Thorsteinsson, Oscar G. Solmundson and Ellen Frederickson. (*Ellen Magnusson Coll.*)

Thordarson (4-5); Ingibjorg Petursson (6); Mabel Joseph (1-3). Major S.S. Bryan.

1922-23 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jean Grey (2-3); Margaret Skaptason (4-5); Ethal Groves (6-8); S. W. Code (9); Olafia Jonsson (10-11); Elizabeth Fahey (12).

1923-24 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jean Grey (1-2); Margaret Skaptason (2-3); Amy McPherson (4-6); Miss Ethel Groves (6-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); Olafia Jonsson (10-11).

1924-25 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jean Grey (1-2); L.M. Cameron (2-3); Margaret Skaptason (2-3); Benjamin Olson (4-5); Ethel Groves (6-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); Olafia Jonsson (10-11).

1925-26 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Laura Solmundson (1-5); Jean Grey (1-2); Th. Johnson (4-5); Benjamin Olson (4-5); Ethel Groves (6-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); R. C. Mulligan (9-11).

1926-27 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Laura Solmundson (1-3); J.B. Chambers (2-3); W.H. Wilkinson (5, 7-9); Ljotun Thorsteinson (6-8); E. Beudt (9); Alfred Gillespie (9-10).

1927-28 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Vigdis Magnusson (1-3); J. B. Chambers (2-4); Th. Johnson (5-6); Carl Thorsteinson (6-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); Alfred Gillespie (10-12).

1928-29 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Elsir Peturson (1-2); Vigdis Magnusson (3-5); Franz Solmundson (4-6); Jon Laxdal (7-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9).

1929-30 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Elsir Peturson (1-2); Franz Solmundson (5-6); Jon Laxdal (7-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); William Meldrum (9-11); Stefan Eldjarnson.

1930-31 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Vigdis Magnusson (3-4); Franz Solmundson (5-6); Jon Laxdal (7-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); William Meldrum (10-11); Jorunn Thordarson (12); Stefan Eldjarnson.

1931-32 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (G 1-2); Alma Olson (3-4); Sylvia Thorsteinsson (5-6); Vigdis Magnusson (7-8); Jon Laxdal (8-9) William Meldrum (10-11).

1932-33 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Alma Olson (3-4); Sylvia Thorsteinsson (5-6); Benjamin Olson (7-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); William Meldrum (10-11).

1933-34 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Alma Olson (3-4); Sylvia Thorsteinsson (5-6); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); Benjamin Olson (7-8); William Meldrum (10-11).

1934-35 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Alma Olson (3-4); Sylvia Thorsteinsson (5-6); Benjamin Olson (7-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); William Meldrum (10-11).

1935-36 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Alma Olson (3-4); Sylvia Thorsteinsson (5-6); Oskar Solmundson (7-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); Jon Laxdal (9-10).

1936-37 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Ellen Frederickson (3-4); Sylvia Thorsteinsson (5-6); Oskar Solmundson (7-8); Jon Laxdal (9-10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).



Above: Alma Olson, Sylvia Thorsteinsson, & Jorunn Thordarson, circa 1936. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above: 1938-39. Jorunn (Joey) Thordarson, Frank Wilson, Kristine (Stina) Benson, Jon Laxdal, Sigurbjorg Stefansson, Oskar Solmundson and Ellen Frederickson. (Ellen Magnusson Coll.)



Above. 1939-40. Frank Wilson, Oskar Solmundson and Kristine Benson on the top step. Jon Laxdal and Jorunn (Joey) Thordarson middle step and Ellen Frederickson alone on the lowest step. (*Ellen Magnusson Coll.*)



Above. 1940-41. Back: Roland Hunt, Mathildur Frederickson, Jon Laxdal. Middle: Kristine Benson, Jorunn Thordarson. Front: Margaret Johnson. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Right: 1943-44. A group photo on the school front steps. Back: Hugh Beddome, Edna Alford, Jon Laxdal, Middle: Margaret Johnson, Kristine Benson, Jorunn Thordarson, Front: Edith Loewen. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)

1937-38 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Sigrund Johannsson (4-5); Oskar Solmundson (6-8); Jon Laxdal (9-10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).

1938-39 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Ellen Frederickson (2-3); Kristine Benson (4-5); Oskar Solmundson (6-8); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9-10); Jon Laxdal (11).

1939-40 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Ellen Frederickson (2-4); Kristine Benson (5); Oskar Solmundson (6-8); Jon Laxdal (9-10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11) Frank Wilson.

1940-41 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Margaret Johnson (2-4); Kristine Benson (5-6); Roland Hunt (7-8); Jon Laxdal (9-10); M.F. Frederickson (11).

1941-42 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Margaret Johnson (2-3); Kristine Benson (3-4); Hugh Beddome, (5-6); Alex Ewanchuk (7-8); M.F. Frederickson (9-10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11); Jon Laxdal (12).

1942-43 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1); Margaret Johnson (2-3); Kristine Benson (3-4); Hugh Beddome, (5-6); Alex Ewanchuk (7-8); Edna Alfred (9); Jon Laxdal (10). Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).

1943-44 (Grades 1 to 12 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1); Margaret Johnson (2-3); Kristine Benson (3-4); Edith Loewen (5-6); Hugh Beddome, (5-6); Edna Alfred (9); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11) Jon Laxdal (12).

1944-45 (Grades 1 to 12 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Margaret Johnson (2-3); M.K. Johnson (2-4); Kristine Benson (4-5); Edith Loewen (5-6);

Hugh Beddome, (7-8); Aileen Hebert (9); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9) Jon Laxdal (10).

1945-46 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Margaret Johnson (2-3); Kristine Benson (4-5); Margaret Paterson (5-6); Hugh Beddome, (7-8); Bertha Vandersteen (9); Jon Laxdal (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).

1946-47 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Margaret Millar (2-3); Kristine Kristofferson (3-4); Margaret Paterson (4-5); Harvey Hedley (6); Bertha Vandersteen (9); Jon Laxdal (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).

1947-48 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1) Margaret Millar (2); Kristine Kristofferson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4-5); Margaret Paterson, (G 6); Harvey Hedley, (G 7); John Gottfried (G 8); Elizabeth Barkwell, (G 9); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (G 9), Clarence Voigt (G 10).

1948-49 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn Thordarson (1-2); Margaret Millar (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Margaret Paterson (5-6); Peter Susky (7-8); Earl Calverley (9); Clarence Voigt (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).

1949-50 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)

Jorunn V. Thordarson (1); Ellen Frederickson (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Alfred Roehl (6); Peter Susky (6-7); John Gottfried (8); John Morrison (9); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); Harry Galen (10).

1950-51 (Grades 1 to 12 taught.)

Jorunn V. Thordarson (1); Torfason, (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Jonina Asmundson (5); Alfred Roehl (6); Peter Susky (7); John Gottfried (8); Sigurbjorg



Above. 1944-45. Kristin Benson, Aileen Hebert, Edith Loewen, Jorunn Thordarson and Margaret Johnson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1945-46. A backyard get together of teachers, spouses and friends. LR: unknown, Margaret Patterson-Olson, Mrs. Laxdal, Margaret Johnson, Stina Benson-Kristofferson, Mrs. Beddome, Margaret Skaptason-Stevens, Joey Thordarson, unknown, Hugh Beddome, Jon Laxdal, Miss Bertha Vandersteen. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1949-50. Christmas grouping: Back row: Jorunn Thordarson, Alfred Roehl, John Gottfried, Ellen Frederickson-Magnuson, Peter Susky. Front row: Ljotun Thorsteinsson, Marjorie Bullock, Ethel Greenberg. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. 1953-54. Back row: Ljotun Thorsteinsson, Edith Orton, Peter Susky, Ellen Magnusson, Ethel Greenberg. Front row: Lorna Wally, John Gottfried, Yvonne Sawchuk. (*Peter Magnusson Coll.*)

Stefansson (9); Johann Sigurdson (9); Harry Galan (10); J. Cameron (10); Ethel Barclay (12); Elma Ruchatski (Comm).

1951-52 (Grades 1 to 12 taught.),
Jorunn V. Thordarson (1); Ellen Magnusson (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Margaret Bullock (5); Alfred Roehl (6); Peter Susky (7); John Gottfried (8); R.A. Olafson (9); Horace Bally (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (9); John Packota (12).

1952-53 (Grades 1 to 11 taught.)
Evelyn Lambert (1); Ellen G. Magnusson (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Elizabeth Horobetz (5); Edith A. Orton (6); Peter P. Susky (7); John C. Gottfried (8); Gloria Johnson (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11).

1953-54 (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)
Miss E. Elliot (1); Ellen G. Magnusson (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Lorna Wally (5); Edith A. Orton (6); John C. Gottfried (8); Yvonne A. Sawchuk (9); John Dyck (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11); John Peter Packota (12).

1954 -55 (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)
Patricia H. Foster (1); Ellen G. Magnusson (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Alma M. Sigurdson (5); Edith A. Orton (6); Helga E. Johnson (7); John C. Gottfried (8); R.A. Hilton (9); Wesley B. Penner (10); Sigurbjorg Stefansson (11); Walter Zyla (12).

1955-56 (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)
Patricia H. Foster (1); Ellen G. Magnusson (2), Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Ethel Greenberg (4); Yvonne M. Copeland (5); Inga Wipper (6); Cecil E. Hopko (7); John C. Gottfried (8).

1956-57 (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)
Violet R. Blaker (1); Ellen G. Magnusson (2); Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Louise M. Sumner (4); Mc Mildred Curdy, Evelyn (5); Wipper, Inga (6); Hopko, Cecil E. (7); Samuel Yaremchuk (8).

1957-58. (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)

Violet Blaker (1); Ellen Magnusson (2); Ljotun Thorsteins-
son (3); Louise Sumner (4); Mildred McCurdy (5); Minna
Boyd (6); Michael Moroz (7); Sam Yaremchuk (8).

1958-59. (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)

Violet Blaker (1); Agnes Martens (2); Ellen Magnusson (2);
Ljotun Thorsteinsson (3); Irene Eggertson (4); Helga John-
son (5); Michael Kubas (6); Michael Moroz (7); Samuel
Yaremchuk (8).

1959-60. (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)

Agnes Martens (1); Patricia Foster (1 & 2); Ellen Magnus-
son (2); Hulda Bjarnason (3); Irene Eggertson (4); Machiko
Shibuya (5); Michael Kubas (6); Michael Moroz (7); Samuel
Yaremchuk (8).

1960-61. (Grades 1 to 8 taught.)

Dorothy Coates (1); Marion Enns (2); Ellen Magnusson (2);
Hulda Bjarnason (3); Doris Howard (4); Machiko Shibuya
(5); Michael Kubas (6); Michael Moroz (7); Theodore La-
gloire (8).

1961-62. (Grades 1 to 5 taught.)

Lillian Wlosek (1); Daisy Isfjord (1 & 2); Ellen Magnusson
(2); Donna Gunn (3); Gladys Zozecki (3); Doris Howard (4);
Machiko Shibuya (5); Michael Kubas (6); May Kardal (6).

1962-63 (Grades 1 to 6 taught.)

Lillian Wlosek (1); Gladys Reinhardt (1 & 2); Ellen Magnus-
son (2); Hulda Bjarnason (3); Kristine Kristofferson (3 &
4); Doris Howard (4); May Rye (5); Margaret Bergner (5);
Doris Griffiths (5 & 6).

1963-64 (Grades 1 to 5 taught.)

Margaret Bergner (K); Gladys Reinhardt (1); Daisy Isfjord
(1); Ellen Magnusson (2); Ladine Rousseau (3); Kristine
Kristofferson (3 & 4); Mary-Ann Luprypa (4); May Rye (5);
Karen Dixon (5).



Above. 1962-63. Left to right. 1. Hulda Bjarnason, 2. Lillian Wlosek, 3. Gladys Reinhardt, 4. Ellen Magnusson, 5. Kristine Kristofferson, 6. Doris Howard, 7. Margaret Bergner. (*Lillian Wlosek Coll.*)



Above. 1965-66. **Back row:** Kristine Kristofferson, Elizabeth Finnsen, Ellen Magnusson; Margaret Grabenhof. **Front row:** Daisy Isfjord, Sharon Stefanson, Sylvia Cherepak, Lillian Wlosek. (*Lillian Wlosek Coll.*)



Above. 1960. Back row: Michael Moroz, Principal, Mike Kubas, Doris Howard, Dorothy Coates.
Front row: Miss Enns, Hulda Bjarnason, Miss Machiko Shibuya, Ellen Magnusson, Ted Lagloire.
(Ellen Magnusson Coll.)

1964-65 (Grades 1 to 5 taught.)

Margaret Bergner (K); Daisy Isfjord (1); Elizabeth Finnson (1 & 2); Ellen Magnusson (2); Ladine Rousseau (3); Kristine Kristofferson (3 & 4); Mary-Ann Luprypa (4); May Rye (5); Hulda Bjarnason (5).

1965-66 (Grades 1 to 5 taught.)

Margaret Grabenhof (K); Daisy Isfjord (1); Elizabeth Finnson (1); Lillian Wlosek (1 & 2); Ellen Magnusson (2); Sharon Stefanson (3); Sylvia Cherepak (3); Kristine Kristofferson (4); Frances Olson (4 & 5); Hulda Bjarnason (5).

1966-67 (Grades 1 to 5 taught.)

Story Leonette (K); Lillian Wlosek (1); Marlene Friesen (1 & 2); Christine Albrecht (2); Elizabeth Finnson (2); Sylvia Cherepak (3); Ladine Luprypa (3); Ellen Halfdanson (4); Kristine Kristofferson (4); Don Hrehoruk (5); Frances Kuzik (5).

1967-68. (Grades 7 and 8 taught.)

Don Hrehoruk (7); Ed Powroznik (7); Joe Sorokowski (7); Les Kudor (8); Michael Sirnik (8); Peter Wesley (8).

1968-69. (Grades 7 and 8 taught.)

Ed Powroznik (7); Joe Sorokowski (7); Michael Sirnik (7); Les Kudor (8); Don Hrehoruk (8); Peter Wesley (8).

1969-70. (Grades 7 and 8 taught.)

Marion Nesbitt (7); Jean Chartrand (7); Richard Johnston (7); Peter Wesley (7); Charlotte Conrad (7); Don Hrehoruk (8); Ed Powroznik (8); Joe Sorokowski (8); Michael Sirnik (8); Margaret Milne (8); Cecilia Atkinson (8).

1970-71. (Grades 7 and 8 taught.)

Rudolph Thiessen (7); Cecil Anderson (7); Marion Nesbitt (7); Joe Sorokowski (7); Richard Johnston (8); Charlotte Conrad (8); Michael Sirnik (8); Ed Powroznik (8); Jean Chartrand (8); Cecilia Atkinson (8); Richard Johnston (8).

1971-72. (Grades 7 and 8 taught.)



Above. 1960s. 1. Doris Griffiths, 2. John Suprowich, 3. Mike Kubas, 4. Michael Moroz, 5. May Rye.
(May Peiluck Coll.)



Above. 1966-67. Left to right: 1. Shirley Cook, 2. Marlene MacDonald, 3. Ladine Lupryta, 4. Ellen Magnusson, 5. Christine Albrecht, 6. Sylvia Cherepek 7. Lillian Wlosek, 8. Kristine Kristofferson. (Lillian Wlosek Coll.)



Above. 1969-70: **Back row:** Peter Wesley, Ed Powroznik, Don Hrehoruk, Cecil Anderson, Richard Johnston, Mike Sirnik, Joe Sorokowski. **Front row:** Margaret Milne, Cecila Atkinson, unknown, Jean Chartrand, Charlotte Conrad, Marion Nesbitt. unknown. (Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee.)

Joe Sorokowski (7); Ed Powroznik (7); Rudolph Thiessen (7); Richard Johnston (7); Jean Chartrand (8); Cecil Anderson (8); Michael Sirnik (8); Veronica Stepa (8).

1972-73 (Grades 7 and 8 taught.)

Joe Sorokowski (7), Cecil Anderson (7), Rudy Thiessen (7), Richard Johnston (7), Jean Chartrand (8), Ed Powroznik (8), Mike Sirnik (8), Veronica Stepa (8).

1973-74 (Grades 7 & 8 taught.).

Joe Sorokowski (7), Cecil Anderson (7), Rudy Thiessen (7), Richard Johnston (7), Jean Chartrand (8), Ed Powroznik (8), Mike Sirnik (8), Veronica Stepa (8).

Gimli Public School (1915) ceased to be used for classes in March 1974.



Above. Part of the staff that moved to the High school over Easter break, 1974. **Back row:** Michael Sirnik, Joe Sorokowski, Jean Chartrand, unknown, unknown, Ted Jaremy. **Front row:** Rudy Thiessen, Richard Johnston, Ed Powroznik, Cecil Anderson. (Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee.)



Olafia Jonsson
1915-24



Lara Thordarson
1919-22



Sigurbjorg Stefansson
1923-1962



Jon Laxdal
1928-31 & 1935-47



Jorunn Thordarson
1930-52



Sylvia Thorsteinson
1931-37



Alma Olson
1931-36



Oskar Solmundson
1935-40



Ellen Magnusson
1938-40 & 1951-67



Kristine Benson-Kristofferson
1938-48 & 1962-67



Margaret Johnson
1940-46



Hugh Beddome
1941-46



Edith Loewen-Orton
1943-45 & 1952-55



Aline A. Hebert
1944-45



Margaret Paterson
1945-49

Teachers



Bertha Vandersteen
1945-47



Margaret Millar
1946-49



Ethel Greenberg
1947-56



John Gottfried
1947-48 & 1950-56



Peter Susky
1948-50



Ljotun Thorsteinsson
1948-59



Ellen Fredrickson
1949-50



Evelyn Lambert
1952-53



Helga Johnson
1954-55 & 1958-59



Patricia Foster
1954-55



Louise Sumner
1956-58



Mildred McCurdy
1956-58



Violet Blaker
1956-59



Minna Boyd
1957-58



Michael Moroz
1957-61

Teachers



Mike Kubas
1958-62



Hulda Bjarnason
1959-61, 1962-63
& 1964-66



Machiko Shibuya
1959-62



Marion Enns
1960-61



Dorothy Coates
1960-61



Doris Howard
1960-63



Ted Lagloire
1960-61



May Kardal
1961-62



Doris Griffiths
1962-63



Lillian Wlosek
1961-63 & 1965-67



Daisy Isfjord.
1961-62 & 1963-66



Don Hrehoruk
1967-74



Ed Powroznik
1967-1974



Mike Sirnuk
1967-74



Jean Chartrand
1970-74

Teachers

GIMLI SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 585 BOARD TRUSTEES

~

Gimli School Board No. 585 was established on May 14, 1889.

- 1889.** Gisli Thompson, Johann Arnason and Petur Palsson.
- 1890-93.** Records missing.
- 1894-96.** Gisli Thompson (Sec.-Tr.), Johann Arnason, Kristjan Lifmann.
- 1897.** Gisli Thompson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, Josep Freeman.
- 1898.** Gudni Thorsteinson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, Jon Peturs-son.
- 1899.** Albert Kristjansson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, Jon Peturs-son, Gudni Thorsteinson.
- 1900.** Gudni Thorsteinson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, Benedikt Freemansson, Bjorn Olson.
- 1901.** Bjorn Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, Benedikt Freemans-son, Gudni Thorsteinson.
- 1902-03.** Bjorn Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, H. P. Tergesen.
- 1904-05.** Bjorn Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Magnus Gudlaugsson, C. B. Julius.
- 1906-07.** Bjorn Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Gudni Thorsteinson, Magnus Gudlang-son replaced by Johannes Sigurdson.
- 1908-10.** Bjorn Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Gudni Thorsteinson, Johannes Sigurd-son.
- 1911.** Bjorn Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Johannes Sigurdsson, August Polson.
- 1912-13.** Gudni Thorsteinson (Sec.-Tr.), Bjorn Olson; August Polson.
- 1914-18.** Records missing.
- 1919.** Einar Jonasson, Hannes Kristjanson, August Polson.
- 1920.** Einar Jonasson, Hannes Kristjanson, Sveinn Bjornson, Mrs. Krist-jana Thordarson (1st woman trustee).
- 1921.** Einar Jonasson, Mrs. Kristjana Thordarson, Hannes Kristjanson,

- Mrs. Mrs. Hansina Erlendson (2nd woman trustee), Stefan Eldjarnson.
- 1922.** Harry Lawson, Einar Jonasson, Stefan Eldjarnson, Mrs. Hansina Erlendson, Hannes Kristjanson.
- 1923.** Harry R. Lawson, Einar Jonasson, Stefan Eldjarnson, Mrs. Han-sina Erlendson, Hannes Kristjanson.
- 1924.** Harry Lawson, Hannes Kristjanson, W. Arnason, Stefan Eldjarn-son, S. Bjarnsson.
- 1925.** Harry Lawson, Hannes Kristjanson, W. Arnason, Stefan Eldjarn-son.
- 1926.** Hannes Kristjanson, V. Arnason, Harry Lawson, V. Stefansson.
- 1927.** Hannes Kristjanson, V. Arnason, Harry Lawson, V. Stefansson.
- 1928.** V. Arnason, V. Stefansson, Hannes Kristjanson, Harry Lawson, Stefan Eldjarnson.
- 1929.** Stefan Eldjarnson, Hannes Kristjanson, Baldur Jonasson, V. Arnason, V. Stefansson, O. Jonasson.
- 1930.** Stefan Eldjarnson, Hannes Kristjanson, Milliare Arnason, Baldur Jonasson, John Indridason.
- 1931.** Stefan Eldjarnson, Hannes Kristjanson, Baldur Jonasson, Harry Lawson, H. Bjarnason.
- 1932.** Hannes Kristjanson, Stefan Eldjarnson, Harry Lawson, H. Bjarnason. Baldur Jonasson.
- 1933.** Hannes Kristjanson, Stefan Eldjarnson, Harry Lawson, H. Bjarnason, Baldur Jonasson, Stefan Eldjarnson.
- 1934.** Hannes Kristjanson, Stefan Eldjarnson, Baldur Jonasson, Harry Lawson, H. Bjarnason.
- 1935.** Harry Lawson, Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, H. Bjarnason, Ingigerdur Eldjarnson.
- 1936.** Harry Lawson, Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, Jon Indrida-son, Ingigerdur Eldjarnson.
- 1937.** Harry Lawson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, Jon Indridason.

1938. Harry Lawson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, Jon Indridason.

1939. Hannes Kristjanson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, Jon Indridason.

1940. Hannes Kristjanson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, Jon Indridason.

1941. Hannes Kristjanson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, Norman Stevens, Sveinn Valgardson.

1942. Hannes Kristjanson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, George Johnson, Sveinn Valgardson.

1943. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Sveinn Valgardson, Baldur Jonasson, George J. Johnson.

1944. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Sveinn Valgardson, Baldur Jonasson, George Johnson.

1945. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Sveinn Valgardson, Baldur Jonasson, George Johnson.

1946. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), Stefan Eldjarnson (Sec.-Tr.), Baldur Jonasson, George Johnson, Harold Bjarnason.

1947. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), George Johnson, Harold Bjarnason, Hugh E. Beddome.

1948. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Harold Bjarnason, Hugh Beddome, Fred Bergman.

1949. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Harold Bjarnason, Hugh Beddome, Fred Bergman.

1950. Kjartan Johnson (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Harold Bjarnason, Hugh Beddome, Fred Bergman.

1951. Dr. A. B. Ingimundson (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Harold Bjarnason, Hugh Beddome, Fred Bergman.

1952. Fred Bergman (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), A. B. Ingimundson, Joe Arnason, F. G. Sigmundson.

1953. Fred Bergman (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Joe Arnason, Frank Arnason, Robert Tergesen, Marvin Danielson.

1954. Frank Arnason (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), A. H. Valgardson, Joe Arnason, Robert Tergesen, Marvin Danielson.

1955. Frank Arnason (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Robert Tergesen, A. H. Valgardson, Marvin Danielson, Harold Dalman.

1956. Harold Dalman (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Robert Tergesen, Arthur Washburn, David Oakley, Adolf Valgardson.

1957. Harold Dalman (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Robert Tergesen, Art Washburn, David Oakley, Charles Scribner.

1958. Charles Scribner, John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), David Oakley, Art Washburn, Margaret Olson, Lionel Beauchemin,

1959. David Oakley (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Lionel Beauchemin, Harold Kristofferson, Charles Scribner, Margaret Olson.

1960. Harold Kristofferson, (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Allan Bailey, Lionel Beauchemin, David Oakley, Margaret Olson.

1961. David Oakley (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Harold Kristofferson, Lara Tergesen, Dan Wawrykow, Allan Bailey.

1962. Allan Bailey (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Dan Wawrykow, Lara Tergesen, John Hykawy, Donald Benedictson.

1963. Lara Tergesen (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Dan Wawrykow, John Hykawy, Donald Benedictson, John Chudd.

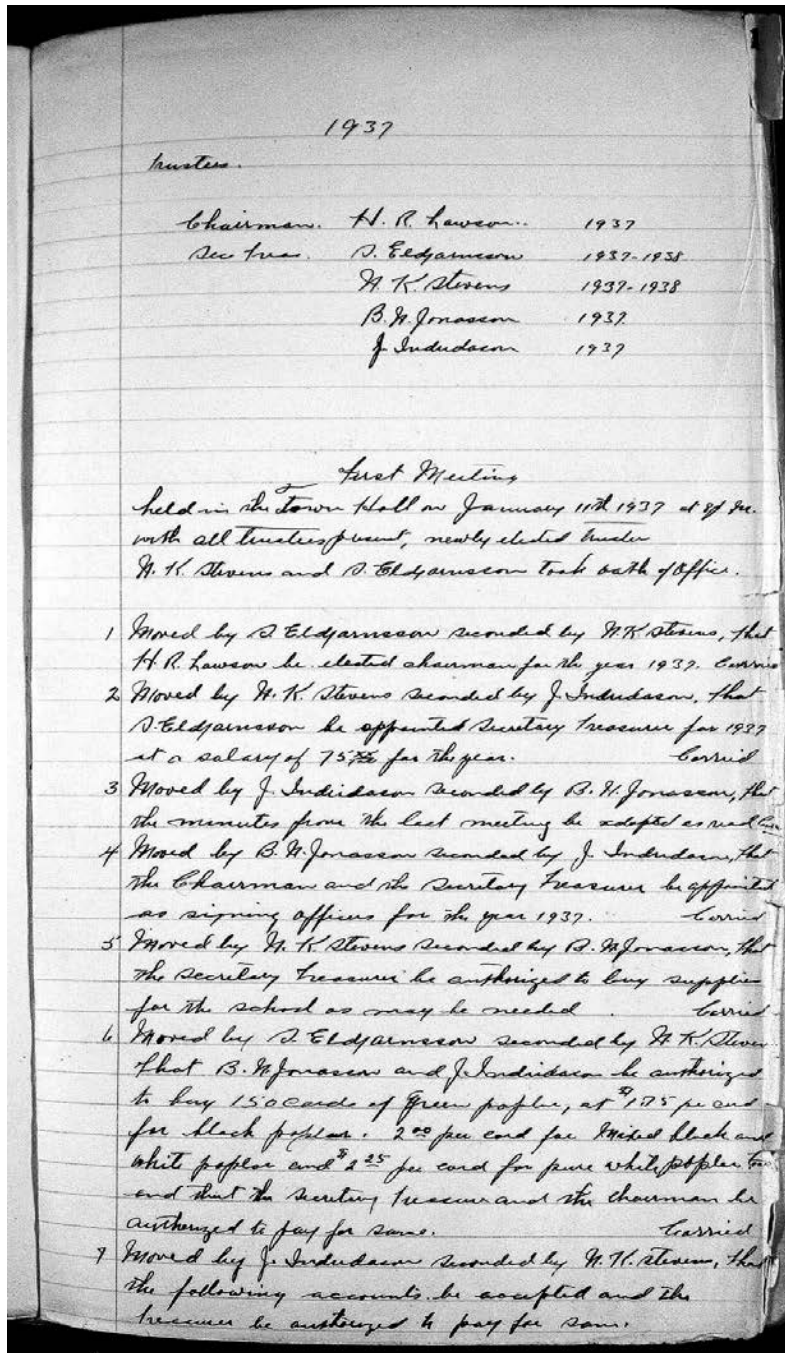
1964. Lara Tergesen (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), John Hykawy, Dan Wawrykow, John Chudd, Donald Benedictson.

1965. Lara Tergesen (Chair), John Hass (Sec.-Tr.), Dan Wawrykow, John Chudd, Baldur Peterson, Kristjan N. Bjarnason,

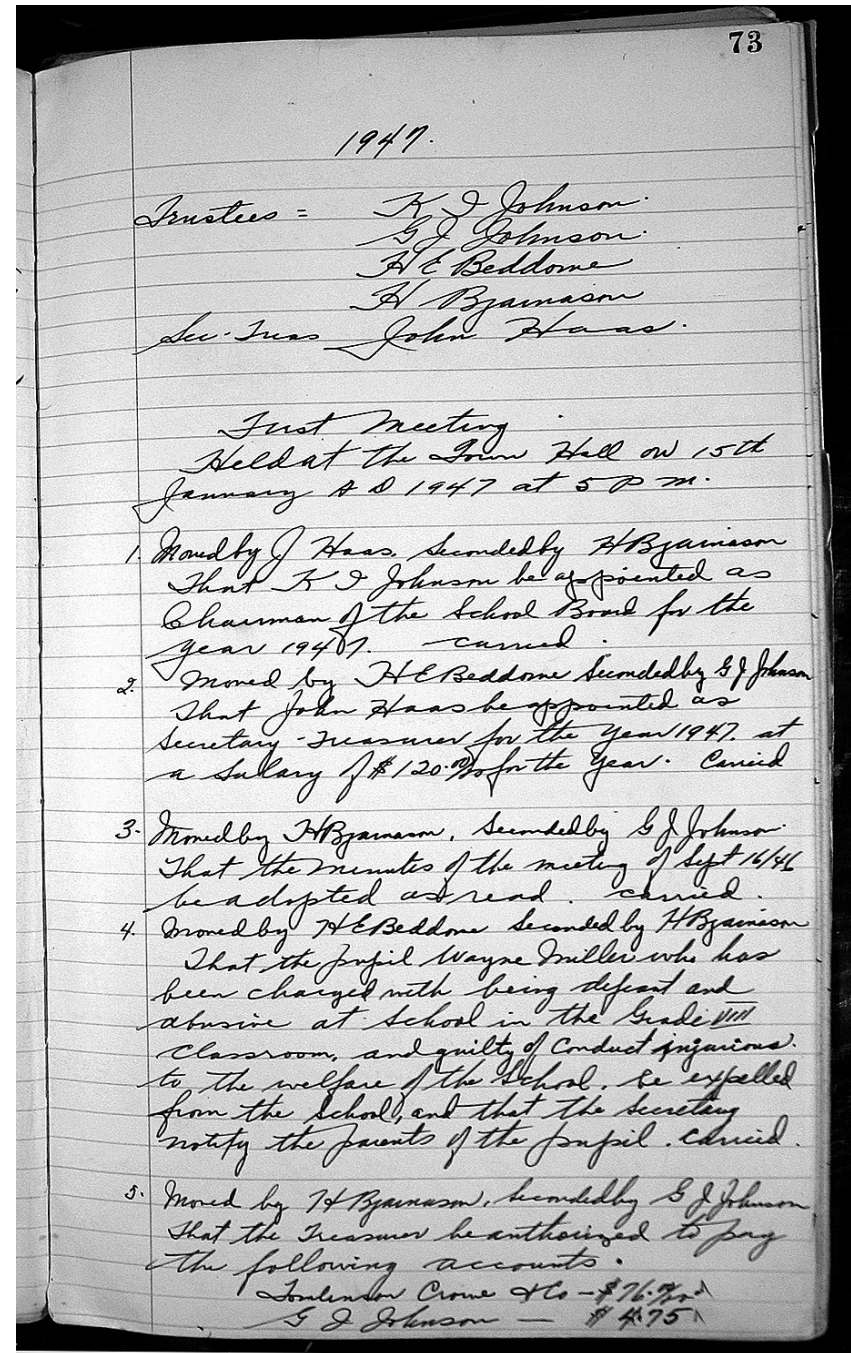
1966. Larus G. Albertson (Chair), Margaret Olson (Sec.-Tr.), Dan Wawrykow, Lara Tergesen, Baldur Peterson, H. J. Bouillett.

1967. H. J. Bouillett (Chair), G. Hamrlynk (Sec.-Tr.), M. G. Phillips, John Chudd, Larus G. Albertson, J. W. Cherny.

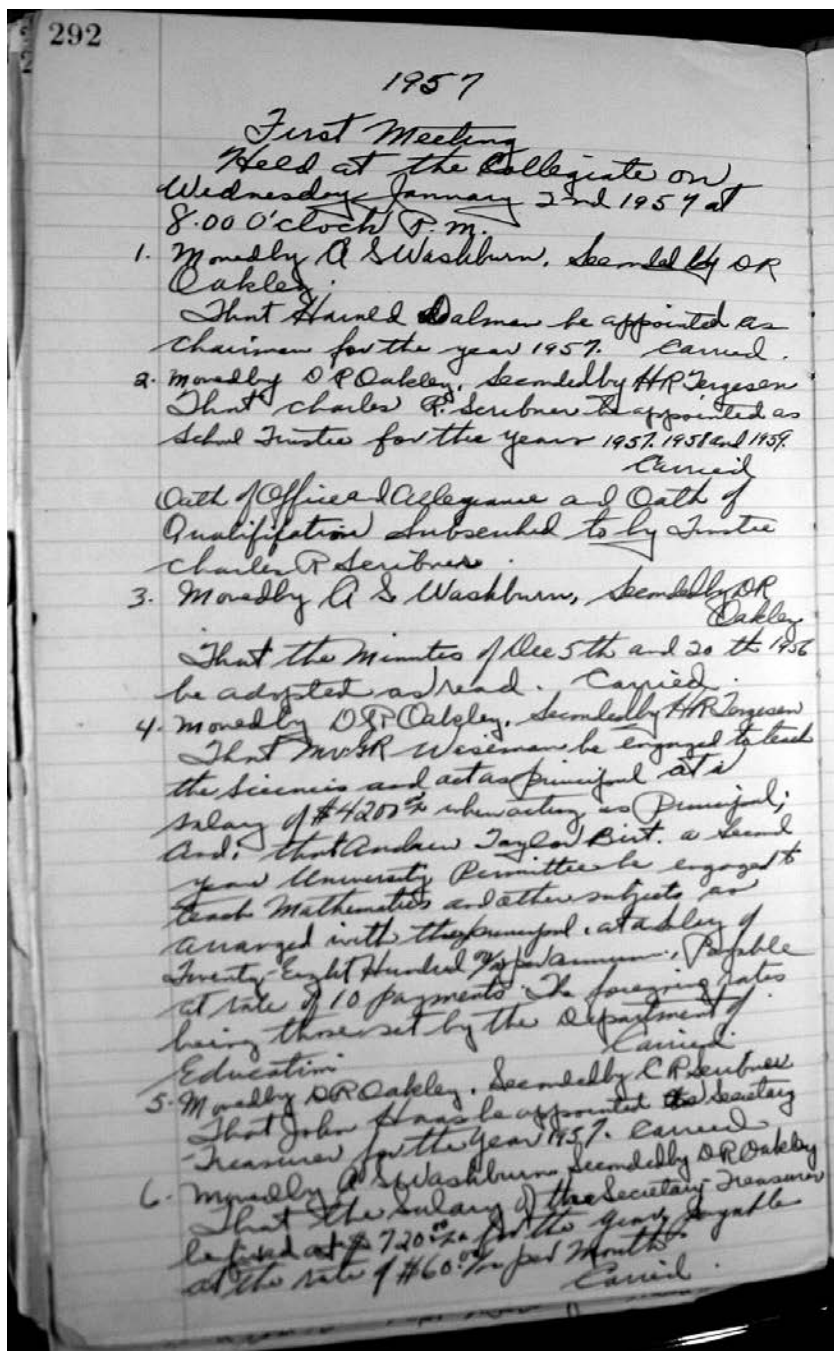
Gimli School Board No. 585 was dissolved on April 1, 1967.



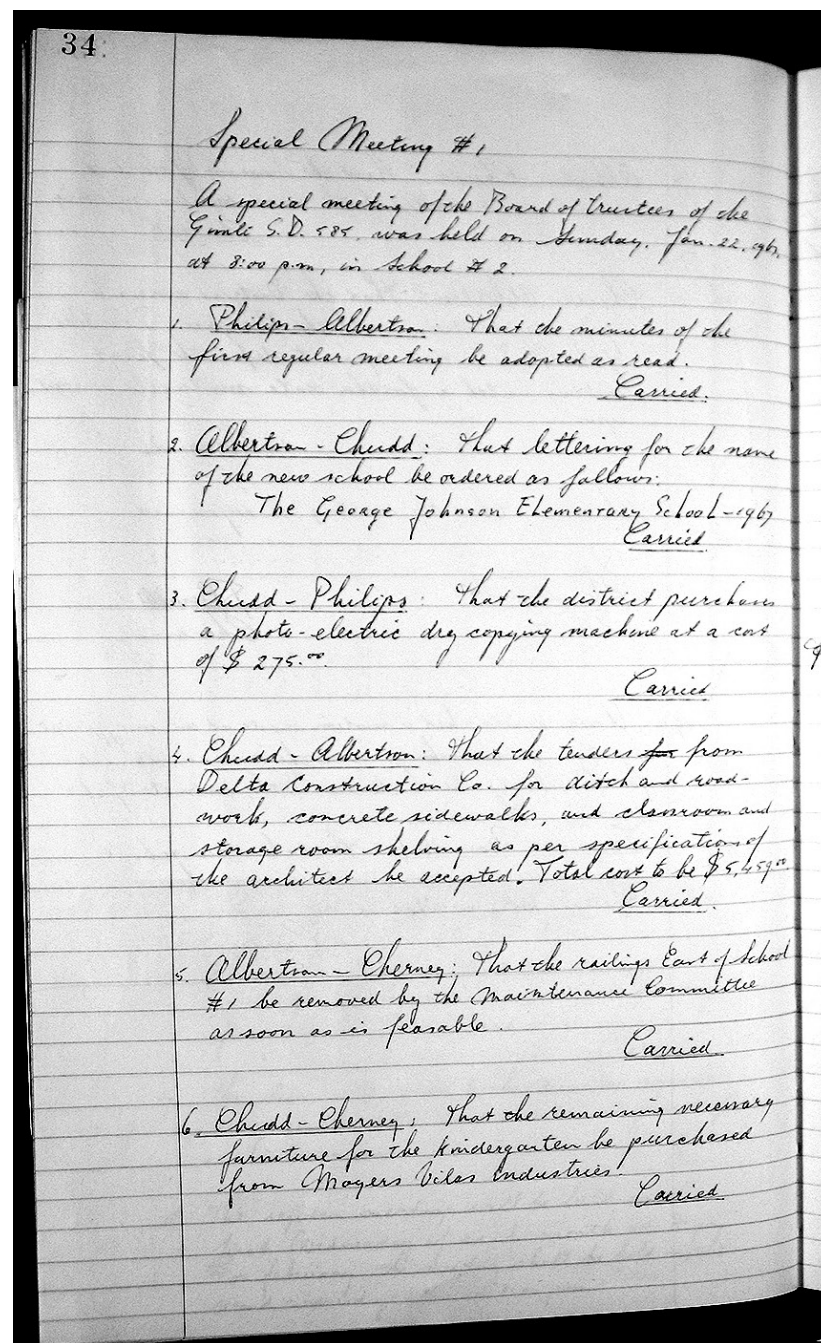
Above. 1937 - First Meeting held in the Town Hall on January 11th at 8 P.M. with all Trustees present. (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 19.)



Above. 1947 - First Meeting held at the Town Hall on 15th January A.D. 1947 at 5 P.M. (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 73.)



Above. 1957 - First Meeting. Held at the Collegiate on Wednesday January 2nd, 1957 at 8:00 o'clock P.M. (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 292.)



Above. 1967 - A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Gimli S.D. 585 was held on Sunday Jan 22, 1967 at 8:00 P.M. in School #2. (Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1966-67 Pg. 34.)

Some Outstanding & Noteworthy School Personnel

“Many excellent principals and teachers have served at the Gimli Public School since the early beginning, and numerous students of high character and calibre have graduated from them to enter a variety of occupations and professions, some even to occupy posts of national and, in some instances, international importance.” (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1975 Pg. 170.*)

Some of those individuals include the following Trustees, Teachers, and Principals:

W.J. Arnason

Long Serving Trustee

Harold Bjarnason,

Long Serving Trustee

Ingolfur N. Bjarnason,

Longest Serving Cartaker

Mrs. H. Erlendson

Long Serving Trustee
and Sec.Tres.

Einar S. Jonasson.

School Trustee, Town Councillor
and MLA.

Dr. A.B. Ingimundson

Long Serving Trustee

Dr. George Johnson

School Trustee, Town Physician
MLA, Minister of Education & Health

John C. Gottfried

Long Serving Teacher and Principal
and MLA

Many Gimli teachers have been

hometown products who returned to their old school to teach: among them, Miss Jorunn (Joey) Thordarson, Miss Ljotun Thorsteinsson, John C. Gottfried, Miss Lara Solmundson, now Mrs. Lara Tergesen, and her two brothers Franz Solmundson and Oskar Solmundson - the latter who was killed overseas in the R.C.A.F. during the Second World War. Also, Kristine Benson-Kristofferson, Sylvia Thor-

steinsson-Kardal, Franklin Olson, Miss Lara Thordarson and Miss Ethel Greenberg. Also, Miss Hulda Bjarnason (who as daughter of caretaker Ingolfur Bjarnason was born in a basement suite in the Public School), Doris Howard, May Kardal-Peiluck. The three noted with hyphenated names were teachers, forced to resign upon marriage, but who later returned to teach when the regulations were changed. (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 180.*)

John Haas

Long Serving Trustee
and Sec.Tres.

Olafia Jonsson

Early Teacher and Principal

Hannes Kristjanson

Long Serving Trustee
and Board Chair

John K. Laxdal.

Long Serving Teacher
and Principal

Harry Lawson

Long Serving Trustee

Bjorn B. Olson

Long Serving Trustee
& Sec.Tres.

Mrs. Margaret Olson

Board Trustee

Sigurbjorg Stefansson

Teacher for 40 years
and Community Leader

Lara H. Tergesen

Teacher, Trustee
& Board Chair

Bergthor Thordarson

Early Mayor, Trustee
and Community Leader

Mrs. Kristjana Thordarson

1st Woman Trustee

Jorunn (Joey) V. Thordarson,

Long Serving Teacher

Gundi Thorsteinsson

Early Teacher and Trustee

Miss Ljotun Thorsteinsson

Long Serving Teacher

SCHOOL CARETAKERS

The caretakers did much arduous work, especially during the early years, carrying water for the entire school over two blocks, until waterworks were installed in 1951. One of the most difficult periods occurred when a new furnace turned out to be too small for the size of the building, and until the error was rectified, Mr. Bjarnason spent many nights tending that furnace in an effort to have the school warm enough for the pupils and teachers. In those days the caretaker also served as truant officer, tracking down delinquent children who did not turn up for classes. Arni Gottskalksson was the first caretaker of the Gimli Public School (1915) and served in the position for 17 years. Ingolfur N. Bjarnason set the record as caretaker for the longest period, 26 years from 1938 to 1964. (*Gimli Saga, 1975 Pg. 181.*)

School Board Minutes for Meeting on Monday May 11, 1949. Item 4. Motion: "That the salary of the Caretaker, be fixed at \$1,500.00 for the year commencing at the rate of \$125.00 per month, and that he be granted a holiday of one month during August, providing school is ready to open on commencement of the fall term of 1949. Carried." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1937-57 Pg. 102.*)

School Board Minutes for Meeting on Monday Oct. 6, 1960. Motion 2. Schedule A. RESOLUTION COVERING CARETAKERS SALARY AND DUTIES "The Employee is expected to interpret these instructions intelligently, bearing in mind that no instruction however elaborate can provide for every emergency or replace sound judgement and efficient supervision.

The Duties of the School Caretaker shall be and in order of precedence as follows:

1. To regulate and maintain the heating system at the proper temperature daily;
2. To sweep or damp mop the classrooms and corridors each day, in the Public School and Curling Rink;
3. To dust with a damp duster - desks, seats, ledges and other parts of the building where dust may lodge, (as required);
4. a - To scrub sinks, fountains, urinals, bowls, toilet seats and lavatory floors daily, b - To keep a sufficient supply of toilet tissue, paper

towel, and soap in their proper containers, c - To supervise the Boys Washroom when necessary, d - Replace all burned out light bulbs in both schools.

5. Safety Measures - To ensure that walks are sanded or kept free of snow or ice during the winter season as required.
6. To notice any necessary repairs and report same to the Board immediately. To make minor repairs as expected of a handyman, including minor painting. Generally to take care of school property and to keep the accommodations in good condition. The Caretaker shall be responsible to the Principal, and Chairman or member appointed by the Board for his duties.
7. To cut and trim grass during the summer season, take proper care of yard and landscaping. Pick up paper and rubbish at all times during the school term.
8. The Caretaker shall be required to work a minimum of 44 hours per week during July and August.
9. The Caretaker shall have a three week holiday during the July and August period at a time arranged with the Board.
10. The Caretaker shall keep a daily worksheet as required by the Board.

Certified true copy forming part of Resolution No. 3 of Oct. 5th 1960." (*Archives of Manitoba - Gimli School Board Minute Book, 1957-66 Pg. 88.*)



Right. An undated photograph of Arni & Petrina Gottskalksson. Arni Gottskalksson was the first caretaker of the Gimli Public School, 1915. (*Gimli Saga, book, Pg. 181.*)

**TEACHER'S
DAILY PLAN
AND
RECORD BOOK**

For elementary schools other than those on the rotary system

NUMBER ONE

By G. H. Dobrindt, B.A., B. Paed.

School: *Gimli No. 2*
Teacher: *J. P. Sorokowski*
Grades: *Seven*
Year: *1966-67* & *Sept 1968*

KITCHENER PRINTING SERVICE
686 Victoria Street North
P. O. Box 1
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

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Above. 1966-67 Administrative Duties. Sample pages from Joe Sorokowski's "Teachers Daily Plan and Record Book" for the 1966-67 school year. (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 - 9:55	MATH.	MATH.	MATH.	MATH.	MATH.
9:55 - 10:30	HEALTH	S.R.A.	ENGLISH	S.R.A.	ENGLISH
10:30 - 10:45	Recess				
10:45 - 11:20	ENGLISH	SOCIAL STUDIES	READING OR LITERATURE	SPELLING OR ENGLISH	SOCIAL STUDIES
11:20 - 11:55	LITERATURE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE	LIBRARY	SPELLING READING
12:00 - 1:30	Noon				
1:30 - 2:10	SOCIAL STUDIES	ENGLISH	SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES	ART
2:10 - 2:30	SPELLING	SPELLING	SPELLING	LITERATURE OR READING	ART
2:30 - 2:45	Recess				
2:45 - 3:20	FRENCH S.R.A. (85)	READING OR LITERATURE	HEALTH	SCIENCE	PHYS. ED.
3:20 - 3:55	SCIENCE	FRENCH PHYS. ED (85)	PHYS. ED.	FRENCH S.R.A. (85)	FRENCH PHYS. ED (85)

Above. 1966-67. Timetable. A personal weekly class schedule found in Joe Sorokowski's 1966-67 "Teachers Daily Plan and Record Book". (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

(PUPILS' NAMES)	Language Skills RECORD OF TESTS										
	Chapters 1-2, 3, 4	Chapter 5 & 6	Chapter 7 & 8	Chapter 9 & 10	Chapter 11 & 12	Chapter 13 & 14	Chapter 15 & 16	Chapter 17 & 18	Chapter 19 & 20	Chapter 21 & 22	Chapter 23 & 24
Boychuk, Gloria	92	88	90	85	77	80	81	96	84	85	88
Bults, Grace	79										
Charette, David	56	85	71	63	58	76	66	78	57	60	65
Cherney, Rhonda	87	97	92	90	78	84	84	92	87	90	90
Chesney, Shirley	93	97	96	86	77	85	83	96	86	90	91
Crenshaw, Thor	91	72	82	ABS	70	76	73	73	78	82	78
Einarsen, Sandra	74	62	72	83	77	78	79	77	75	85	79
Elliott, Christine	79										
Ericksen, Jo-Ann	73	70	72	83	78	78	80	68	76	84	76
Seinheim, Francine	84	62	73	70	62	70	67	80	63	60	68
Halliday, Sharon	95	98	97	95	80	90	88	92	81	81	85
Isfjord, Louise	84	68	76	95	52	68	72	90	62	73	75
Kennested, Christine	89	95	92	75	72	80	76	98	85	91	91
Kozak, Janet	75	90	83	90	80	90	87	68	87	88	81
Kristoffersen, Judy	ABS	75	75	83	75	80	79	90	83	92	88
Kronbauer, Eileen	48	73	61	80	43	55	60	68	58	67	64
Magnussen, Cheryl	65	77	71	95	72	70	79	68	76	80	75
Magnussen, Warren	88	87	88	65	68	80	71	92	72	78	81
McNamee, Terry	95	98	97	96	85	90	90	92	94	93	93
Martin, Barry	48	64	56	58	58	70	62	56	53	61	57
Olsen, Karen	94	92	93	88	82	84	85	100	89	90	93
Panteluk, Shaunda	97	92	95	88	72	80	80	98	84	87	90
Penziwol, Peggy	80	88	84	83	73	80	79	88	87	86	87
Peterson, Mary	90	93	92	70	75	84	76	88	89	88	88
Pistawka, Brian	94	80	87	83	77	88	83	80	78	70	76
Prize, Alexander	56	87	72	90	65	75	77	84	68	76	76
Sander, Lois	85	98	92	93	73	82	83	44	76	ABS	85
Stevens, Glen	65	97	81	90	75	75	80	93	74	82	83
Szynkorchuk, Janice	86										
Thordarson, Randy	85	90	88	80	53	75	69	87	66	68	74
Wawrykow, Michael	85	102	93	95	78	88	87	92	82	88	86
Young, Wayne	45	32	39	60	37	45	47	62	46	50	53
Bickett, Dorothy	72	72	74	83	73	78	88	82	95	85	85
Williams, Maureen	abs	33	33	63	52	45	53	60	64	45	56
LYWAK, Theresa						60					

(PUPILS' NAMES)	Science RECORD OF TESTS										
	Chapters 1-2, 3, 4	Chapter 5 & 6	Chapter 7 & 8	Chapter 9 & 10	Chapter 11 & 12	Chapter 13 & 14	Chapter 15 & 16	Chapter 17 & 18	Chapter 19 & 20	Chapter 21 & 22	Chapter 23 & 24
Boychuk, Gloria	70	88									
Bults, Grace	74	76	84	57	73	73	68	61	77	86	93
Charette, David	63	78	54	55	63	80	ABS	80	70	70	76
Cherney, Rhonda	96	86	94	65	85	95	98	97	93	100	90
Chesney, Shirley	61	62	79	57	65	67	66	67	73	88	85
Crenshaw, Thor	88	72	96	76	83	88	76	82	91	90	98
Einarsen, Sandra	91	90									
Elliott, Christine	67	62	72	58	65	67	66	57	78	64	59
Ericksen, Jo-Ann	73	70	77	55	69	61	40	51	65	82	56
Seinheim, Francine	92	98	84	67	85	81	82	82	90	88	84
Halliday, Sharon	71	68	74	52	66	55	50	53	59	83	88
Isfjord, Louise	94	92	84	57	82	89	90	90	92	95	94
Kennested, Christine	98	76	80	58	78	90	84	87	90	85	85
Kozak, Janet	88	ABS	76	63	76	54	78	66	ABS	93	82
Kristoffersen, Judy	35	66	60	43	52	48	74	64	77	58	66
Kronbauer, Eileen	84	74	81	52	73	64	ABS	64	66	60	62
Magnussen, Cheryl	83	78	83	53	74	48	72	60	73	82	92
Magnussen, Warren	93	80	88	58	80	62	78	70	90	ABS	88
McNamee, Terry	72	58	74	52	64	50	ABS	50	69	55	58
Martin, Barry	92	86	92	63	83	87	94	91	96	99	100
Olsen, Karen	92	84	94	67	84	89	86	88	91	ABS	96
Panteluk, Shaunda	95	80	82	62	80	84	92	88	84	90	96
Penziwol, Peggy	94	78	92	67	83	87	88	88	89	83	94
Peterson, Mary	93	74	80	67	79	ABS	88	88	84	75	78
Pistawka, Brian	75	50	82	62	67	65	58	62	54	83	85
Prize, Alexander	96	88	93	63	85	94	82	88	96	95	ABS
Sander, Lois	91	96	74	50	78	81	80	81	97	70	96
Stevens, Glen	98	88									
Szynkorchuk, Janice	65	78	73	62	70	79	68	74	76	78	96
Thordarson, Randy	92	86	82	55	79	83	80	82	76	83	90
Wawrykow, Michael	65	56	42	73	53	38	36	32	ABS	38	66
Young, Wayne	abs	69	86	50	68	ABS	72	72	60	80	70
Bickett, Dorothy	abs	abs	50	40	45	54	28	41	59	64	62
Williams, Maureen											
LYWAK, Theresa											

Above. 1966-67 Administrative Duties. Test Marks for Language Skills in Joe Sorokowski's "Teachers Daily Plan and Record Book". (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

Above. 1966-67 Administrative Duties. Test Marks for Sciences in Joe Sorokowski's 1966-67 "Teachers Daily Plan and Record Book". (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

TIME	MONTH	September	DAY	Thursday	DATE	15	
9:00 9:55	Math: Test on numeration system: Correct if time permits. Review form of statements required for problems!						
9:45 10:30	Health - (7P) Pupils do remainder of ques. on assignment. Correct ques. on page 15 of text &						
10:45 11:20	English: Complete exercise 11 on pages 9 and 10. ✓						
11:00 11:55	Phys. Ed (8A) - Exercise period - skill - passing in flag football. Short game. ✓						
1:30 2:10	Soc. St: Read "Beginning of Settled Life". Discuss and make notes in point form. ✓						
2:10 2:50	Spelling: complete exercises on Unit 2 (Correct if time permits.) &						
2:45 3:20	Science: Complete discussion on last circle of parts of flower. Pupils read remainder of chapter. Make diagram of nasturtium flower parts in notebook						
3:10 3:55	Reading: Read page 11. Do exercise three on page 1 orally ✓						
LATES TO-DAY		ABSENTEES		HOMEWORK		REMINDERS	
		Louise		Spelling English		Wayne's report car sheets for spell. chart Convention ✓ Clean & Check last ✓	

Above. 1966-67. Joe Sorkowski's Daily Plan and Record page for Thursday, September 15, 1966. (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

TIME	MONTH	September	DAY	Thursday	DATE	29	
9:00 9:55	Math: Correct: # 2, 3, 4, (p. 15) ORAL: VOCABULARY (p. 16) WRITTEN: 1-10 (p. 16) ✓						
9:45 10:30	HEALTH (7P) - Correct 6 quest. at end of Unit 1. ✓ Introduce: the eye ✓ and discuss structure &						
10:45 11:20	Lang: Correct Ex. 6 (p. 91) ✓ Oral: Ex. 1 (p. 92) Ex. 3 (p. 92) ✓ Ex. 1 (p. 93) ✓						
11:00 11:55	Phys. Ed. (8A) - Discuss definitions of terms used in Football. (p. 10)						
1:30 1:45	Writing: A a a America apricot						
1:45 2:20	Soc. St. Correct: Assign # 1 and # 2. Pupils read "Boat builders" and "Picture Writing" ✓						
2:20 2:30	HEALTH: Correct Assignment # 2. &						
2:45 3:20	Science: Discuss: Why Seeds must travel. ✓ of fruits and seeds ✓ (3) Seeds carried by Wind. ✓ Water, People ✓						
3:10 3:55	Reading: Correct: Ex. 8 (p. 87) ✓ Discuss: Prefixes with more than one meaning Assign: Ex. 9 A and B (p. 88, 89)						
LATES TO-DAY		ABSENTEES		HOMEWORK		REMINDERS	
Grace (afternoon)		Jonnie (afternoon)		Soc. St. Reading		Eng. Model, Body, Leg Alphabet (Eq. 3, p. 91) Spelling (p. 16) Math, David Quiz	

Above. 1966-67. Joe Sorokowski's Daily Plan and Record page for Thursday, Sept. 29th, 1966. (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

GIMLI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL								
STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES								
	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	YEAR BOOK	SOCIAL	BOYS' SPORTS	GIRLS' SPORTS
7-1	Jerry Semchshyn	Martin Williams	Darryl Howryluk	Sherie Dola	Biakta Lachura	Stephen Klym	Jean Zabirka	
7-2	Sandra Sigurdson	Bruce Benson	Dean Thorvaldson	David Cherniak	Bradley Fjeldsted	Joey Pokrowski	Heather Goodman	
7-3	Randy Sylvester	Danny Guttormson	Debbie Natyna	CINDY BJORNSON	MARGARET ISFELD	JEFF VALGARDSON	DENNETTE PARSONS	
7-4	ARTHUR BARKER	CHRIS WOLFE	MARGARET CANDLER	JOEY EAIN	COLLEEN WALLER	EDWIN GREENBERG	ADRIENNE MOSKAL	
7-5	COLLEEN HAAS	DOUGLAS DEY	RICKY HELMS	MITCHELL HAWRYLUK	DEBBIE HENDERSON	DALE FEDORCHUK	KATHY EMERICH	
8-1	JOHN RADOMSKI	TEENIE BOBBIE	ELAINE LILLIE	RUBY WISHNOWSKI	KEN KOROLYK	TIM DUDRAK	JANIS BOCHURKA	
8-2	BRENDA ISFELD	LOUISE OAKLEY	SUSAN LUSCHINSKI	MARTYN HALL	CINDY MAGNUSSON	TROY VALGARDSON	FREDERICA ANTON	
8-3	DONNA HUMINICKI	ANNA LEE ANDERSON	CAROL KOHLER	BEVERLEY BARTEAUX	ROBIN POLOSKI	JEFF HOUSTON	HAZEL GRAHAM	
8-4	JENNIFER GOODMAN	RANDY TOMCHAK	BEV ARNASON	PAM WAYER	MELANIE SIGMUNDSON	MICHAEL HOLM	HEATHER ALBERTSON	
8-5	MICHAEL MARTIN	CLAYTON REYKDAL	JANET RUDOLPH	JOHN ZABIRKA	LARRY HRYCZYNA	LESLIE HJORTLEIFSON	RHONDA GORDON	

Above. 1973-74. Gimli Junior High School Student Council Representatives name sheet. (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)

ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN #66

4 June '74

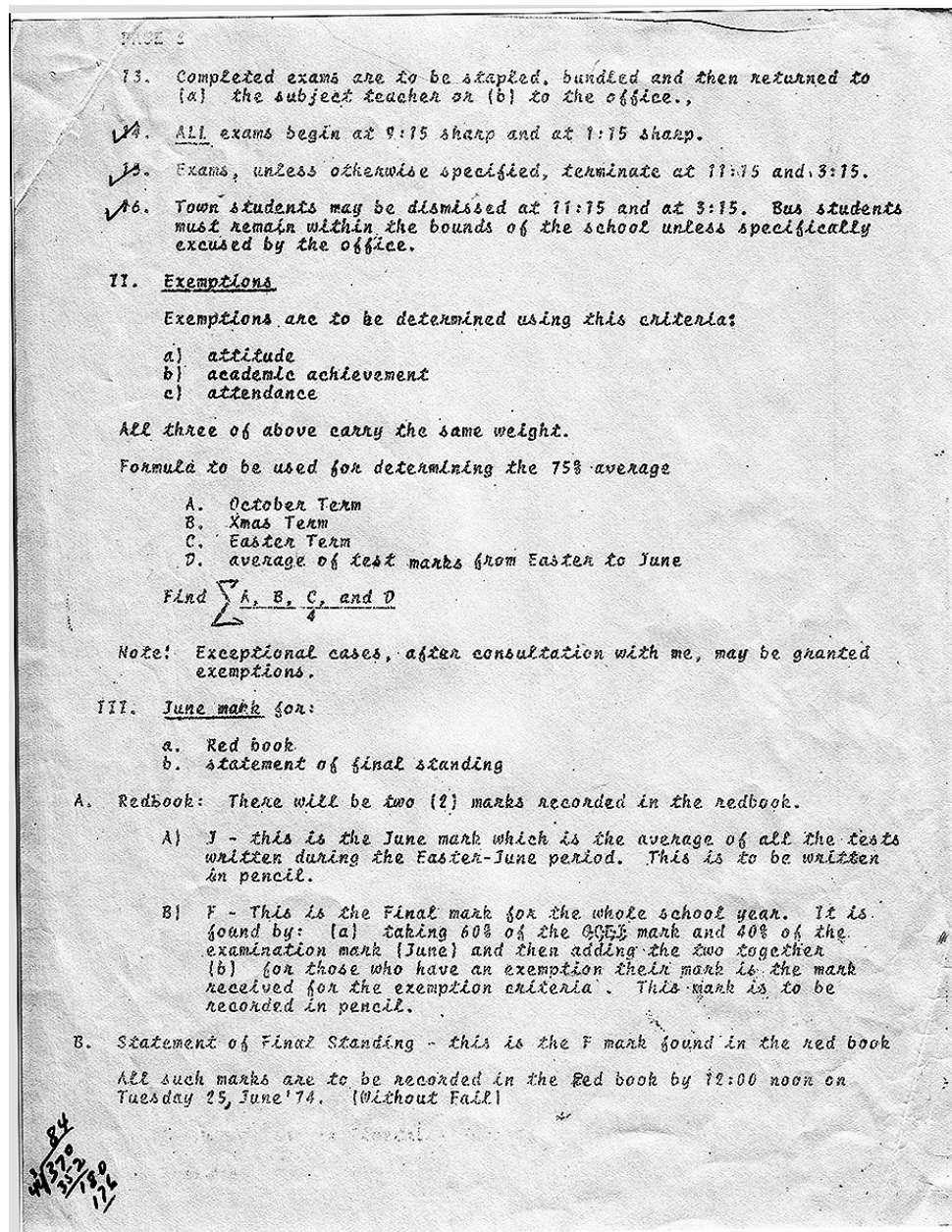
The following guide sets out that which is to be followed by the teachers of Gimli Junior High School regarding examinations, marking, exemptions, calculation of final mark for promotion in June, exam timetable, teacher timetable for end of month, and etc.

1. Timetable Examinations June '74 GJHS

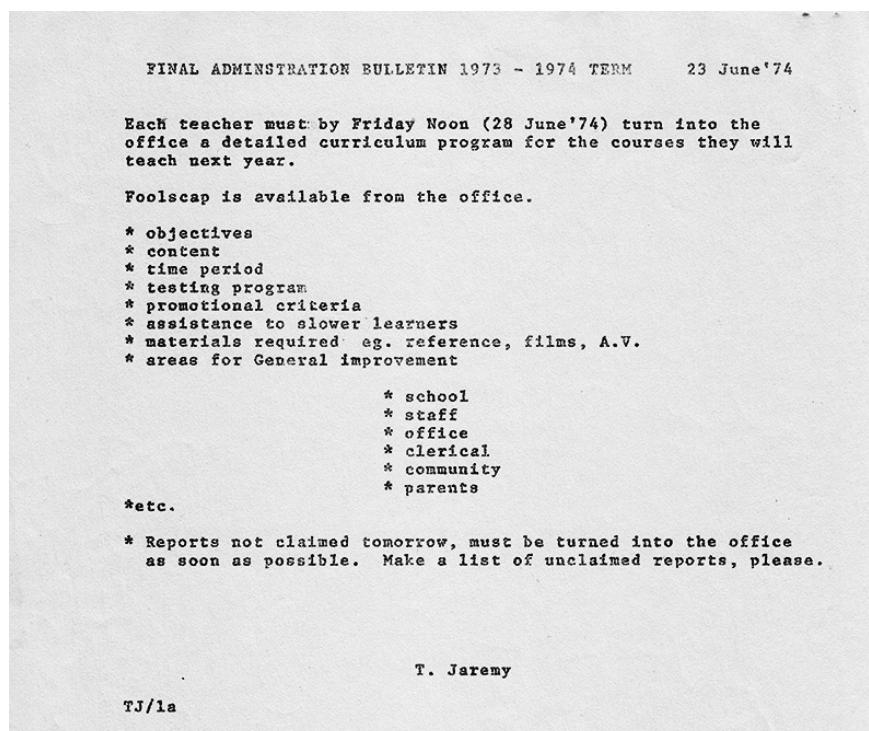
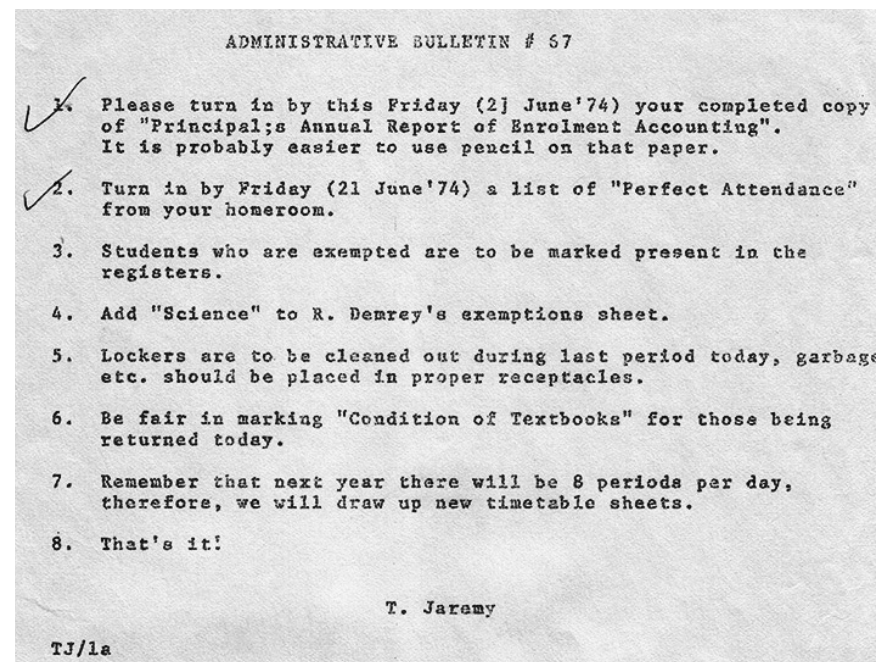
Date	AM	PM
Tuesday 18 June '74	Language Arts	Science
Wednesday 19 June '74	Social Studies	Fa/Ukrainian
Thursday 20 June '74	Mathematics	Health
Times:	A.M. 9:15 - 11:15	
	P.M. 1:15 - 3:15	

- All examination sittings will be in the individual homerooms.
- All candidates must be in their rooms by 9:00 AM for the morning examinations and by 1:00 PM for their examinations in the afternoon.
- All candidates must have the necessary physical equipment for each examination sitting.
- No student will be dismissed before 11:00 A.M. and/or 3:00 PM, unless specifically excused by the office.
- Teachers will number each desk in their homeroom.
- Teachers may change examination seating plan from day to day or exam sitting from morning to afternoon.
- Teachers will take a double roll call each morning and afternoon - one for the register and one on the sheets provided for by the office - the attendance sheet for the office must be turned in promptly each morning and afternoon, (not later than 1/2 hour after the start of the exam)
- Teachers must supervise, not mark, during the time of the actual examination sitting.
- If there are spare teachers handy, they will be utilized to relieve teachers on examination duty.
- Caution your classes on the hazards of cheating!
- If some students require a longer period of time to finish an examination, see the office before giving the longer period of time.
- Teachers must have their exams in the office 1 day before that exam is to be written (stapled, by class, and with sufficient copies per class)

Above. 1973-74. Administrative Bulletin #66 - "4 June '74" Pg. 1. (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)



Above and right. 1973-74. Administrative Bulletins issued by Principal Ted Jaremy during the last year that the Gimli Public School (1915) was used for classes. Above. #66 - June 4, 1974 Page 2; Top right. Administrative Bulletin #67; Bottom right. June 23, 1974. Final Bulletin 1973-74 Term. (Joe Sorokowski Coll.)



TEACHER'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT
FALL TERM 19 *60/61*

(Name of School) (Name of School District or Division) No. _____

N.B. The Legislature Grant for the half year is not payable in any school district until the half-yearly Report is fully and accurately completed from the actual register, certified by the Secretary-Treasurer and the Teacher, and sent to the Department of Education.

AGE	GRADE	NAME OF PUPIL	CHECKED BY	ACTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR TERM	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE	AGE	GRADE	NAME OF PUPIL	CHECKED BY	ACTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR TERM	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
9	III	Aranson, Larry		70	76	8	III	McLennan, Lyle		79	76
9	III	Aranson, Barry		75	76	8	III	Maroz, Barry		66.5	76
9	III	Aranson, Leslie		74.5	76	8	III	Olson, Kenneth Paul		79	76
9	III	Aranson, Maurcen		69.5	76	10	III	Sawa, Elwing		76	76
9	III	Beachem, Barbara		71.5	76	9	III	Sigurdson, Brian		68	76
9	III	Biluck, Michael		71.5	76	9	III	Sinclair, Donna		65.5	76
8	III	Bobbie, Dennis		73	76	8	III	Sveinson, Ingrid		75.5	76
9	III	Bryson, Brenda		74	76	8	III	Thordarson, Douglas		74	76
10	III	Coldwell, Harold		68.5	76	8	III	Washburn, Janet		76	76
9	III	Darosh, John	✓	74	76	10	III	Howell, Finar		71	76
9	III	Finarson, Robert		72.5	76						
9	III	Erickson, Marilyn		72	76						
9	III	Farago, Michele		72	76						
9	III	Firman, Evelyn		76	76						
9	III	Gillies, Jay		52.5	59						
9	III	Johannson, Emily	✓	68	76						
9	III	Johnson, Gerald		72.5	76						
9	III	Johnson, Kathryn		73.5	76						
9	III	Johnson, Karen		74	76						
9	III	Josephson, Linda		68	76						
9	III	Kanteluk, Kenneth		75	76						
9	III	Kardal, Marlene		74	76						
9	III	Krulichki, Kenneth		71	76						
9	III	Magnusson, Brian		74	76						
9	III	Magnusson, Roberta		71.5	76						
9	III	Martin, Theodore		71.5	76						
9	III	Miller, Corcen		22.5	28						
TOTALS						TOTALS				3065	2797

TEACHER'S DECLARATION (Hand your report, when completed, to your Secretary-Treasurer)

I, Hulda Bjarnason Teacher of the Gimli (Name of School District or Division) Number 585 in the Province of Manitoba do solemnly declare:

- That I have conducted my classroom in accordance with the law and regulations.
- That to the best of my knowledge and belief, the record of attendance and enrolment of pupils and other information herein furnished is true and correct, and in accordance with the law and regulations of the Province of Manitoba, and I make this declaration, conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Declared before me at Gimli in the Province of Manitoba this 21st day of December A.D. 19 60

H. A. Bjarnason Teacher
John Haas Secretary-Treasurer

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information furnished in this report is true and correct, and in accordance with the law and regulations of the Province of Manitoba.

John Haas Secretary-Treasurer

Above. 1966-67. Page one of the Teacher's Half Yearly Report prepared by Hulda Bjarnason on December 21st, 1960 for her Grade Three class. (Archives of Manitoba - Teachers Half Yearly Reports.)

TEACHER'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT
FALL TERM 19 *62*

Gimli Public School (Name of School) (Name of School District or Division) No. _____

N.B. The Legislature Grant for the half year is not payable in any school district until the half-yearly Report is fully and accurately completed from the actual register, certified by the Secretary-Treasurer and the Teacher, and sent to the Department of Education.

AGE	GRADE	NAME OF PUPIL	CHECKED BY	ACTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR TERM	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE	AGE	GRADE	NAME OF PUPIL	CHECKED BY	ACTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR TERM	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
7	2	Anderson, Gergary		75	76	7	2	Narvason, Clifford		75	76
7	2	Aranson, Charlene		70	76	7	2	Olson, David		70	76
7	2	Aranson, Kurt		70.5	76	7	2	Prize, James		72.5	76
7	2	Biluk, Brenda		69	76	7	2	Sigurdson, Elaine		69	76
7	2	Bjornson, Sheila		74	76	7	2	Stemp, Deborah		75	76
7	2	Berezowski, Randolph		74.5	76	7	2	Schmundson, Lillian		73	76
7	2	Cuthill, Cameron		76	76	7	2	Thordarson, Timothy		75.5	76
7	2	Dudar, Shirley		76	76	7	2	Uvalgardson, Susan		75	76
7	2	Dubchak, Charlene		76	76	7	2	Ukretstuit, Eileen		75	76
7	2	Dell, Michael		75.5	76	7	2	Warcemaga, Brian		76	76
7	2	Demchuk, Valerie		75	76	7	2	Zdelait, Clarence		75	76
7	2	Firman, Jo-Ann		76	76						
7	2	Hukaway, John		74	76						
7	2	Hukaway, Cheryl		74	76						
7	2	Helgason, Laverne		74.5	76						
7	2	Johnson, David		72	76						
7	2	Johnson, Sheila		72.5	76						
7	2	Johnson, Linda		76	76						
7	2	Johnson, Linton		76	76						
7	2	Jonasson, Paul		74.5	76						
7	2	Josephson, Carolyn		76	76						
7	2	Kardal, Lorna		75.5	76						
7	2	Kasupski, Lorne		74.5	76						
7	2	Kanteluk, Ronald		72.5	76						
7	2	Melsted, Marilyn		72	76						
7	2	Markusson, Daphne		76	76						
7	2	Neville, Philip		70.5	76						
7	2	Aranson, D.									
TOTALS						TOTALS				3067	3040

TEACHER'S DECLARATION (Hand your report, when completed, to your Secretary-Treasurer)

I, Ellen Gudrun Magnusson Teacher of the Gimli S.D. (Name of School District or Division) Number 515 in the Province of Manitoba do solemnly declare:

- That I have conducted my classroom in accordance with the law and regulations.
- That to the best of my knowledge and belief, the record of attendance and enrolment of pupils and other information herein furnished is true and correct, and in accordance with the law and regulations of the Province of Manitoba, and I make this declaration, conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Declared before me at Gimli in the Province of Manitoba this 21st day of December A.D. 19 62

Ellen G. Magnusson Teacher
John Haas Secretary-Treasurer

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information furnished in this report is true and correct, and in accordance with the law and regulations of the Province of Manitoba.

John Haas Secretary-Treasurer

Above. 1966-67. Front page of the Teacher's Half Yearly Report prepared by Ellen Magnusson on December 21st, 1962 for her Grade Seven class. (Archives of Manitoba - Teachers Half Yearly Reports.)

COLLEGIATE

Reg. No. 1186-25 PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MANITOBA

Professional First-Class Teacher's Certificate

It is hereby Certified that Sigurbjorg Stefansson, B.A. has presented satisfactory evidence to the Advisory Board for the Province of Manitoba:

1. That she is the holder of a Grade XII Entrance-to-Normal Diploma.
2. That she has received the Professional Training and has passed the Professional Examinations required by the Regulations of the Board for First-Class Teachers.
3. That she has taught successfully in the Province for at least one year.
4. That she is a person of good moral character.

she is, accordingly, awarded this

Professional First-Class Certificate, Grade A

which shall be valid as a License to Teach in any Public School in Manitoba during the pleasure of the Board.

Countersigned: Andrew Moore Registrar

Ruben. Cannon
Minister of Education

Department of Education, Winnipeg, June 19th., 19 25.

Sigurbjorg Stefansson's B.A. First Class Teacher's Certificate. Collegiate. June 19, 1925. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)

Chapter Three



Student Body

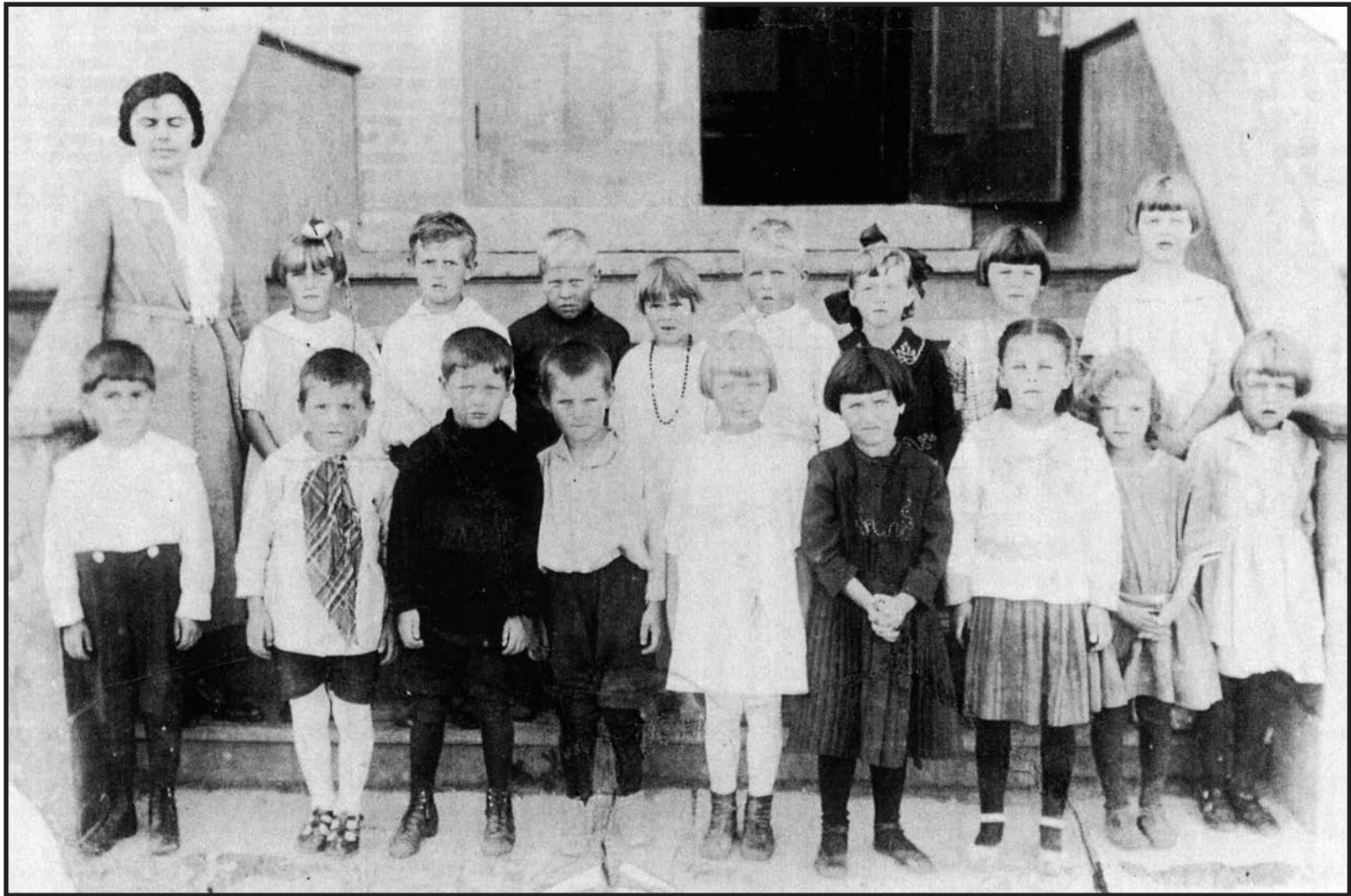
1915-1974



Students, but not a class photo. Often mistaken for a 1915-16 class photo, but actually a Juvenile Good Templars Lodge group, and its leader Mrs. Chiswell, proudly displaying the award they won for being the “most outstanding lodge in Manitoba”. The banner reads: Prize Banner. I.O.G.T.-T.L. & P. Grand Lodge of Manitoba & N.W. Back row: Margaret Peterson, Inga Thorarinson, Lena Rafnson, Imba Gislason, Gavrose Johnson, Jona Arason, Esther Johnson, Fusi Thorarinson, Margaret Polson, Albina Hannesson, Loa Brynjolfson, Hanna Kristjanson, Florence Polson, Lara Sigurdson, Leo Jonatanson. Second from back: Lara Solmundson, Inga Arason, Lilja Solmundson, Laura Sefanson, unknown, Olive Chiswell, Aurora Isfeld, Oddny Johnson, Ethel Thorsteinson, Victor Thorsteinson. Third from back: John Thordarson, Harold Erjford, L. Bjarnason, * Erjford, Lena Polson, Wyatt Polson, Harold Eggertson, * Eggertson, Eddie Jonasson, Oli Jonasson, * Viglundson. Fourth row from back: Joe Bjarnason, Solvi Oddson, Charlie Davidson, Don Holm, Gudny Solmundson, Alma Tergesen, Oli Goodman, Garland Rafnson, Robert Tergesen, * Rafnson. Front row: Willie Hannesson, Halli Sigurgeirson, Franz Solmundson, Inga Solmundson, Fjola Polson, Emily Jonansson, Gudrun Bjarnason, Imba Olson, Valdina Peterson. Miss Chiswell. (*Gimli Saga manuscript, Pg. 891.*)



1920-21. Fall Term Principal, Mr. Gudmundur Thorsteinsson. Spring term Principal, Miss Olafia Jonsson. 1. Major Bryan, 2. Olivia Johnson, 3. unknown, 4. Begga Einarson, 5. Alma Tergesen, 6. Pauline Olson, 7. Imba Olson, 8. Jenny Kronson, 9. unknown, 10. Skuli Sigurdson, 11. unknown, 12. unknown, 13. Kristjana Johnson, 14. Josie Johanson, 15. Ethel Thorsteinson, 16. Ada Greenberg, 17. Olafur Goodman, 18. Robert Tergesen, 19. Franz Solmundson, 20. Tody Thordarson, 21. Valdina Kristjanson, 22. Gudny Solmundson, 23. unknown, 24. Jonina Larusson, 25. Thelma Bristow, 26. Gusta Finnson, 27. Gavros Isfjord, 28. Violet Thorsteinson, 29. Alla Bjarnason, 30. Ethel Greenberg.
(New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



1921-22. Grades One and Two. Teacher, Miss Della Myers. Back row. Kristine Benson, Humphrey Olson, Helgi Thorsteinson, Pearl Sigurgeirson, Thordur Johnson, Stella Hanesson (Einarson), Freyja Olafson (Thomas), Josephine Olafson. Front row: Einar (Buster) Wilkinson, Ernie Otter, Connie Benson, John Bjarnason, Ruby Thorsteinson, Minnie *, Fjola Solmundson, Ruby Ganton, Marguerite Smith. *(New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)*



Mid-1930s. Teacher, Sylvia Kardal. Front row: Isabel Einarson, unknown, unknown, unknown, Jean Slobodian, Magaret McLaren, Laura Johnson, Joyce Thorkelson. Second row: Margaret Olson, Lara Thordarson, Elaine Bristow, Aurora Stevens, Peggy Stevens, unknown, unknown. Third row: unknown, unknown, unknown, Grace Magnuson, unknown, Thorey Thompson. Fourth row: unknown, Donny Einarson, Allan Helgason, Allen Peterson, Walter Josephson, Victor Torfason. Fifth row: unknown, Jonas Johnson, Joey Tergesen, Albert Skomorowski. Sixth row: Johnny Epp, unknown, M. Johnson, unknown, Teddy Olson, Lenny Jakobson, unknown. **Sylvia Kardal-Thorsteinson.** (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Left. 1936-37 school year class. Back row of 5 boys: Harald Vidal, Joey Einarson, Lawrence Sveinson, unknown, Steve Sigurdson. Third row of 5 boys: unknown, Gusti Jacobson, Marvin Solmundson, Norman Greenberg, unknown. Second row, 4 girls: unknown, Gudrun Johnson, unknown, Kristjana Thordarson. Front row of 4 girls: Anna Bjarnason, Lorna (Tandy) Einarson, Margaret Torfason, * Bjarnason. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)

Right. 1937-38. Back row: Joe Wilkinson, Buddy Jonasson, Marvin Solmundson, unknown, Joey Arna-son, Henry Koch, Henry Rech. Front row: Violet Einarson, Emily Johannesson, Alda Kristjansson, Stella Flascha, Villa Johnson, Anna Bjarnason. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)





Above. 1940-41. Grade One. 1. Teacher, Jorunn (Joey) Thordarson. Back row: 2. Hope Solmundson, 3. Ernest Finnson, 4. Kristinn Haldorson, 5. Alex Bajkov 6. Arthur Goodman, 7. Arnie Suhr, 8. Richard Glendening, 9. Thor Thompson, 10. Terry Tergesen, 11. Fred Arnason, 12. Robert Stefanson, 13. Robert Beddome, 14. Jack Valgardson, 15. Mike Solarchuk, 16. John Chudd 17. Leon Jonason. **Second row:** 18. unknown, 19. Mickey Peterson, 20. Delores Dell, 21. Lorraine Peterson, 22. May Stefanson, 23. Jean Roth, 24. Vivienne Magnuson, 25. Pearl Lee, 26. Margaret Hass, 27. Molly Peterson, 28. Norma Rutherford, 29. Barbara Stevens. **Front row:** 30. Cecilia Hass, 31. Georgina Isfeld, 32. Helga Peterson, 33. unknown, 34. Elsie Shewaga, 35. Joyce Chudd, 36. Rosemund Roth, 37. Jeanette Bristow, 38. unknown, 39. Niels Bjarnason. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



1942-43. Grade 2. Teacher, Miss Margaret K. Johnson. Front row: Tillie Demarchuk, Lorraine Peterson, Rosemarie Cook, Joan Hinrikson, Ellis Rushworth, Jeanette Bristow, Elsie Shjewaga, Rosemund Roth, Joyce Chudd. **Second row:** Pearl Lee, Helga Peterson, Mickey Peterson, unknown, Barbara Stevens, Jean Roth, unknown, Molly Peterson, unknown, May Stefanson, unknown, unknown. **Third row:** Miss Margaret Johnson, Helen Epp, Kristinn Haldorson, Rosevalt Thompson, Thor thompson, Hope Solmundson, unknown, Margaret Haas, Cecilia Hass. **Back row:** unknown, Terry Tergeson, Alexis Baikov, Leon Jonason, Richard Glendinging, Fred Arnason, Arthur Goodman, John Demarchuk, Jack Valgardson, Niels Bjarnason. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



1942-43. Grade Nine boys. Teacher, Edna Alford. Left to right: Burbank Kristjanson, Arthur Schnerch, Miss Edna Alford, Arthur Bristow, Alan Peterson, Gunnlaugur Helgason, Fred Bergman, Marino Johnson, John Arnason, Albert Skomorowski, Kris Sigurdson, unknown, * Hancharyk, Stan Milner, Bill Solarchuk, Joe Tergesen, Joe Grabowski, Adolph Wachun. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



1943-44. Grade One. Teacher, Miss Jorunn Thordarson. Back row: unknown, Lloyd Hanneson, Magnus Thompson, Gail Bristow, Igna Stevens, Allen Isfeld, Edward Kushnir, Raymond Solmundson, Leonard Olson, unknown, John Laxdal. Second row: Miss Jorunn Thordarson, Kenneth Kristjanson, Clifford Stevens, Gordon Peterson, Tony Kozolowski, unknown, Lillian Holm, Steve Sigurdson, Elmer Beddome, Johan Johnson, John Kressock. Third row: Tanya Bajkov, Clifford Miller, Edward Berezowski, Carl Thorsteinson, Ronald Hass, Joan Helgason, Faye Rutherford, John Kuznich, unknown, Thomas Grabon, Carol Sigurdson. Front row: Beverley Kriuson, Archie Kushnir. Note the war saving stamps and other World War II "Home Front" posters on the wall behind the students. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



1943-44 Circa. Teacher, Miss Kristine Benson. Back row: Margaret Jones, Willie Bristow, Gord Goodman, Nanna Johnson, Eleanor Westman, Ralph Magnusson, Leo Kristjanson, Gwen Peterson, unknown, Tommy Thompson, Wally Einarson, Doug Stevens, Emily Demarchuk, Lilja Danielson. Middle row: Don Holm, Clifford Thorkelson, Jacquie Thorkelson, Gunni Magnusson, Juno Jacobson, Evelyn Jacobson, Jonina Johnson, Nick Grabon, Dori Magnusson. Front row: Sigurjon Peterson, Hugh Johannson, Donna Torfason, Lois Einarson, Joy Sigurdson, Donna Stevens, Gloria Isfeld, Maria Isfeld, unknown. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



1944-45. Grade Nine. Front row: Jon Laxdal (Principal), Betty Jean Wasson, Pauline Bohonus, Olga Solarchuk, Bina Johnson, Jean Krulicki, Elin Arnason, Gloria Halldorson, Eileen Einarson, Doreen Torfason, **Miss Aileen Hebert** and **Miss Sigurbjorg Stefansson**. **Middle row:** Marge Magnusson, Ninna Bjarnason, Mary Kutcher, Elsie Hladun, Joan Baker, Valborg Stevens, Anna Johnasson. **Back row:** Alan Helgason, Michael Glowa, Herman Arnason, Peter Hancharek, Kenny Einarson, Walter Demedash, Tony Hancharek, Nick Bajkov, Peter Thompson. (*Dilla Narfason Coll.*)



1944-45. Grade Ten. Front row: Jon Laxdal (Principal), Gladys McLaren, Dolores Johannesson, Laura Johnson, June Einarson, Ellen Sigurdson, unknown, unknown, **Miss Aileen Hebert, Miss Sigurbjorg Stefansson.** **Middle row:** Burbank Kristjanson, Lara Thordarson, Margaret Anderson, Polly Jonasson, Aurora Stevens, Mary Klym, Bernice Goodman, Lilja Isfeld, unknown. **Back row:** Paul Hancharyk, Margaret Olson, Adolph Wachun, Joe Grabowski, Raymond Halldorsson, Bill Solarchuk, Authur Schnerch, Leslie Miller, Kris Sigurdson. (*Dilla Narfason Coll.*)



1949-50. Grade Eight. Teacher, John Gottfried. Front row: Clifford Miller, Lawrence Sprowl, Niels Bjarnason, Ross Ingimundson, Charles Kingston, Christine Kingston, Johan Johnson. Second row: Jackie Anderson, Joan Solmundson, Larry Quast, Cooper Quast, Bennetta Helgason, Magdaline Emerick, Dorothy Olsen, Inga Stevens, Carol Sigurdson, Kristine Magnuson, Archie Kushnir. Third row: Mr. John Gottfried, Phyllis Sprowl, Margarate Bjarnason, Angela Pistawka, Linda Howard, Gail Bristow, Eleanor Evans, June Martin, Barbara Stevens, Rosmund Roth. Back row: Robert Kolton, Elmer Beddome, Barry Carlson, Jack Valgardson, Walter Finnson, Malcom Franz, John Kressock. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



1951-52. Grade Five. 1. Teacher, Marjorie Bullock. Back row: 2. Gordon Albertson, 3. Lorna Gottfried, 4. Beverly Kell, 5. May Kardal, 6. Annette Larnsson, 7. Robert Benediktson, 8. Louise Anderson, 9. Katheline Banks, 10. Gerald Clark. Second row: 11. Robert Moroz, 12. Stevie Isfeld, 13. Walter Menzies, 14. Irene Demarchuk, 15. Gail Kennedy, 16. Marilyn Magnuson, 17. Jacqueline Evans, 18. Norma Stevens, 19. Linda Bjarnason, 20. Heida Holm, 21. Brian Passey. Third row: 22. Richard Arnason, 23. Roy Solmundson, 24. Elroy Sveinson, 25. Peter Shewaga, 26. David Einarson, 27. Palmi Holm, 28. Joey Gottfried, 29. Eleanor Haas, 30. Mary Pistawka, 31. Pauline Kantyluk, 32. Jeanette Peterson. Front row: 33. Jerry Arnason, 34. Arnold Kardal, 35. Jon Stevens, 36. unknown. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



1952-53. Grade One. 1. Teacher, Miss Lambert. Back row: 2. unknown, 3. unknown, 4. unknown, 5. Edward Scribner, 6. Donny Einarson, 7. unknown, 8. Kathy Lenchuk, 9. Louise Demchuk, 10. Donalda Scribner, 11. unknown, 12. Janis Tergesen. **Middle Row:** 13. unknown, 14. Kenny Vidalin, 15. Lorne Berezowski, 16. Phillip Thorkelson, 17. Edward Holk, 18. Barry Erickson, 19. Robert Kardal, 20. Janis Johnson, 21. Carol Coldwell, 22. Connie Magnusson, 23. Gladys Mormon, 24. Judy Dalman. **Front row:** 25. Peter Slywka, 26. Brian Arnason, 27. unknown, 28. James Stasiuk, 29. Wally Sigmar, 30. Ricky Josephson, 31. unknown, 32. Terry Greenberg, 33. Linda Parker, 34. Ruth Solmundson, 35. Louise Solmundson, 36. Kathe Stemp. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



1952-53 Circa. Grade Six. Teacher, Mrs. E. Orton. Front row: Mary Pistawka, Jeanette Peterson, Norma Stevens, Elroy Sveinson, David Einarson, Mrs. E. Orton, Joey Gottfried, Dick Arnason, Robert Moroz, Heida Holm, Eleanor Haas. **Middle row:** Marilyn Magnusson, Anette Larsisson, Joyce Taylor, Arnold Kardal, George Tay, Barney Johnson, Beverley Thorkelson, May Kardal, Lorna Gottfried. **Back row:** Steve Isfeld, Jon Stevens, Jerry Arnason, Linda Bjarnason, Irene Demarchuk, Louise Anderson, Gail Kennedy, Ronald Stasiuk, Walter Menzies, Robert Holm, Gordon Albertson. (May Peiluck Coll.)



1953-54. Grade Two. 1. Teacher, Ellen Magnusson. Back row: 2. Ricky Josephson, 3. unknown, 4. unknown, 5. Johnny Kozlowski, 6. unknown, 7. Peter Slywka, 8. Janis Tergesen, 9. Brian Arnason, 10. Louise Demchuk, 11. Lorne Berezowski, 12. Kathe Stemp, 13. Unknown. **Middle Row:** 14. Larry Stasiuk, 15. Barry Erickson, 16. unknown, 17. Donna Morgan, 18. Edward Scribner, 19. Leslie Hoek, 20. Donny Einarson, 21. James Stasiuk, 22. Robert Kardal, 23. Phillip Thorkelson. **Front row:** 24. Kenny Vidalin, 25. Carol Coldwell, 26. Kathy Lenchuk, 27. Gladys Mormon, 28. Louise Solmundson, 29. Linda Parker, 30. Terry Greenberg, 31. Connie Magnusson, 32. Ruth Solmundson, 33. Donalda Scribner, 34. Janis Johnson. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



1954-55. Grade Three. Teacher, Miss Ljotun Thorsteinsson. Back row: Edward Morlock, Ruth Solmundson, Edward Scribner, Terry Greenberg, Connie Magnusson, Gladys Mormon, Richard Bjarnason, and Donalda Scribner. Middle row: Phillip Thorkelson, Barry Erickson, Janis Johnson, Lesley Hoek, Robert Kardal, Carol Coldwell, Larry Stasiuk, Johnny Kozlowski, James Stasiuk. Front row: Lorne Berezowski, Peter Slywka, Janis Tergesen, Brian Arnason, Kathe Stemp, Kenny Vidalin, Ricky Josephson and Louise Demchuk. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



1956-57. Grade Four. 1. Teacher, Ethel Greenberg. Back row: 2. Donalda Scribner, 3. Barry Erickson, 4. Donna Morgan, 5. Janis Johnson, 6. Floyd Starr, 7. Phillip Thorkelson, 8. Lesley Hoek, 9. Gladys Mormon, 10. Terry Greenberg, 11. Susan Johnson. Middle row: 12. unknown, 13. Edward Scribner, 14. Connie Magnusson, 15. Robert Kardal, 16. Kathy Lenchuk, 17. Kathe Stemp, 18. Richard Bjarnason, 19. Arthur Kardal, 20. Larry Stasiuk. Front row: 21. Kenny Vidalin, 22. Edward Scribner, 23. Ricky Josephson, 24. James Scribner, 25. Janis Tergesen, 26. Louise Demchuk, 27. Lorne Berezowski, 28. Brian Arnason, 29. Petger Slywka. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



1956-57. Grade Five. 1. Teacher, Miss McCurdy. Back row: 2. Arthur Kardal, 3. Barry Erickson, 4. Lesley Hoek, 5. Edward Scribner, 6. Robert Kozlowski, 7. Larry Stasiuk, 8. Edward Morlock, 9. Robert Kardal, 10. Richard Bjarnason, 11. Unknown. Second row: 12. Susan Johnson, 13. Donald Scribner, 14. Phillip Thorkelson, 15. unknown, 16. Floyd Starr, 17. Ruth Demchuk, 18. Donna Morgan, 19. Janis Johnson, 20. Lorne Berezowski. Third row: 21. Kathe Stemp, 22. Ruth Solumundson, 23. Angie Panteluk, 24. Kathy Lenchuk, 25. Janis Tergesen, 26. Terry Greenberg, 27. Connie Magnusson, 28. Louis Demchuk, 29. unknown, 30. Brian Arnason, 31. Peter Slywka, 32. Ricky Josephson, 33. Kenny Vidalin, 34. James Stasiuk. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



1955-56. Grade Six. 1. Teacher, Mrs. Minnie Boyd. Back row: 2. Johnny Kozlowski, 3. Lorne Berezowski, 4. Richard Bjarnason, 5. Barry Erickson, 6. Edward Scribner, 7. Lesley Hoek, 8. Ricky Josephson, 9. Brian Arnason, 10. Unknown. Second row: 11. Louise Demchuk, 12. Angie Panteluk, 13. Floyd Starr, 14. unknown, 15. Michael Michaluk, 16. unknown, 17. Kathy Lenchuk, 18. Ruth Solmundson. Third row: 19. Ruth Demchuk, 20. Susan Johnson, 21. Donalda Scribner, 22. Connie Magnusson, 23. Janis Johnson, 24. Judy Einarson, 25. Janis Tergesen, 26. Kathe Stemp, 27. Terry Greenberg. Front row: 28. James Stasiuk, 29. Edward Morlock, 30. Larry Stasiuk, 31. Peter Slwyka, 32. Phillip Thorkelson. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



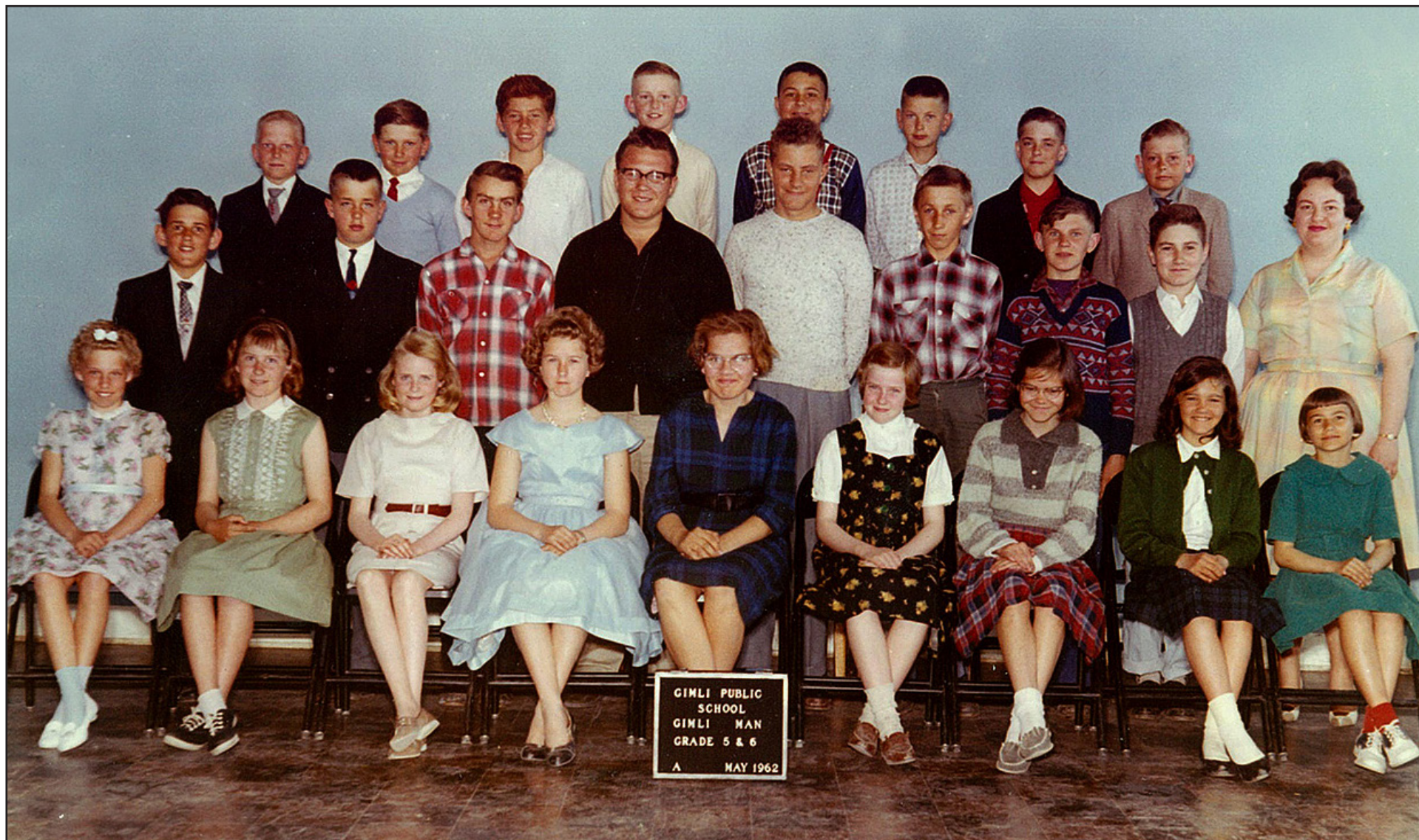
1956-57. Grade Seven. Teacher, Mr. Moroz. Front row: 2. Brian Arnason, 3. Ricky Josephson, 4. Larry Stasiuk, 5. Edward Scribner, 6. Unknown, 7. Leslie Hoek, 8. Robert Kozlowski, 9. Barry Erickson, 10. Peter Hilcoff, 11. James Stasiuk. **Second row:** 12. Ruth Solmundson, 13. Angie Panteluk, 14. Robert Kozlowski, 15. Michael Boychuk, 16. unknown, 17. unknown, 18. Michael Michaluk, 19. Virda Miller, 20. Unknown. **Third row:** 21. Janis Tergesen, 22. Judy Einarson, 23. Kathy Lenchuk, 24. Susan Johnson, 25. Donald Scribner, 1. Mr. Moroz, 26. Rose Marie Suchy, 27. Connie Magnusson, 28. Terry Greenberg, 29. Kathe Stemp, 30. Louise Demchuk. **Front row:** 31. Phillip Thorkelson, 32. Peter Slwyka, 33. unknown, 34. Lorne Berezowski, 35. Richard Bjarnason. (Katherine Stemp Olafson Coll.)



1960-61. Grade Seven. Teacher and Principal: Mike Moroz. The following students names were obtained from class register but are not matched to the individuals in the class photo above. The students in Principal Moroz's class were: Merle Aagesen, Roy Albertson, Jack Arden, Judith Arason, Bruce Arnason, Robert Arnason, Valdine Arnason, Dolores Beauchemin Diane Bjarnason, Terry Danielson, Lawerence Franz, Sharon Gislason, Lorne Gordon, Lynn Gottfried, Bernhard Haucke, Richard Hauk, Patricia Hykawy, Charlotte Johannson, Jacqueline Kanteluk, Keith Kristofferson, Lorna Lenchuk, Barry Luprypa, Paul Magnusson, Peter Magnusson, Lorne McLellan, Brian Menzies, Fred Miller, Linda Stemp, Effie Thordalsonk, Edward Peiluck, Gary Peterson, Walter Stasiuk, Linda Stemp, Beverly Stewart, Judith Stevens, Joan Szynekarchuk, Effie Thorkelson, Lorna Mae Thorkelson, Victor Thordarson, Sandra Walker, Zelda Wood, Patsy Ann Zwolak. (*Ellen Magnusson Coll.*)



1960-61. Grade Four. Teacher, Miss Doris Howard. Back row: Larry Arnason, Richard Banera, Lorne Thordarson, Barry Reykdal, * Davis, Kazimar Penuita, Gregory Stevens, Lenard Anderson, Anton Biluk, Grant Gislason, Brian Thordarson Gordon Stefanson, Gordon Jacobson. Middle row: Charles Scribner, Gerald Grabon, Kristina Pinuita, Marie Kardal, Cheryl Perry, Carol Cook, Janice Arnason, Bonnie Thordarson, Coreen Sinclair, Florence Howell, Shirley Johnson, Kenny Beauchemin, David and Charlie Peiluck, Front row: Wanda Solmundson. Judy Beauchemin, Tanis Thorsteinson, Edwina Cuthill, Linda Andrewshenko, Maureen *, Kathy Gordon, Terry Johnson, Valerie Peterson, Doreen Thordarson, Jo-Ann Arnason, Shirley Krulicki, Debbie Benedictson, Karen Beauchemin. (Shirley Michaluk Coll.)



1961-62. Grade Five & Six. Teacher, Sylvia May Kardal. Back row: Billy Arnold, Anton Dorash, Richard Starr, Marino Jonasson, Brian Cook, Gerald Grabon, Davies Dielsnider, Barry Regal. Middle row: Kenny Beauchemin, Gregory Stevens, Sam Thordarson, Jerry Stasiuk, Richard Yourchenko, David Peiluck, Casimir Peniuta, Fred Bailey. Front row: Teresa Stemp, Georgina Thorkelson, Cheryl Perry, Wendy Lenchuk, Emily Johnson, Florence Howell, Christrine Einarson, Irene Kozlowski, Marilyn Kozlowski. (May Peiluck Coll.)



1966-67. Grade One. 1. Teacher, Lillian Wlosek. Back row: 2. unknown, 3. unknown, 4. Unknown, 5. Kenneth Dell, 6. Darren Couch, 7. Kris Olson, 8. Unknown, 9. Ed Johnson, 10. unknown, 11. Bernard Little. Middle row: 12. Michael Martin, 13. Robert Thordardson, 14. Peter Gzegotzy, 15. Michael Joyce, 16. Sharon Matheson, 17. Karen *, 18. Ricky Solmundson, 19. Jimmy Kernested, 20. unknown, 21. Roger Beauchemin, 22. Kevin *. Front row: 23. unknown, 24. Sandra *, 25. Connie Fletcher, 26. Tanis Benson, 27. Debbie Magnusson, 28. Danielle *, 29. Joan Stevens, 30. Roberta Larusson, 31. Beverley Dubchark. The 1966-67 school year was the last in which the Grades 1-4 attended their classes at Gimi Public School (1915). The building was thereafter a Junior High exclusively for Grades 7 & 8 classrooms. (Lillian Wlosek Coll.)



1966-67. Grade Five. 1. Teacher Don Hrehoruk. Back row: 2. Reid Kuzyk, 3. Gary Magnusson, 4. Graig Cherniak, 5. Michael Panteluk, 6. Gordon Borody, 7. Guy Martin, 8. Lorne Smith, 9. Larry Sigmundson, 10. Douglas Prise, 11. Larry Markusson, 12. Ron Kurliki. Middle row: 13. Ken Kernestea, 14. Tim Arnason, 15. Brenda Eyjolfson, 16. Lenore Sigurdson, 17. Shauna Markusson, 18. Sharon Luprypa, 19. unknown, 20. Cheryl Chudd, 21. Sharon Stevens, 22. Lesley Finley, 23. Ron Isfeld. Front row: 24. Cathy Andrusenko, 25. Cathy Warcimaga, 26. Norma Thordarson, 27. Leslie Magnusson, 28. unknown, 29. Carole Josephson, 30. Beverley Soutar, 31. unknown, 32. unknown. (Tim Arnason Coll.)



1967-68. Grade Seven. 1. Teacher, Joe Sorokowski. Back row: 2. David Arnason, 3. unknown, 4. Wayne Young, 5. Warren Magnusson, 6. Sandy Prise, 7. Judy Kristofferson, 8. Christine Kernested, 9. Brian Pistawka, 10. Barry Morten, 11. Michael Wawryko, 12. Glen Stevens. Middle row: 13. Karen Olson, 14. Shawnda Panteluk, 15. unknown, 16. unknown, 17. Francine Geirholm, 18. Joann Erickson, 19. unknown, 20. Rhonda Cherney, 21. Terry McNamee, 22. Shirley Chesney. Front row: 23. Louise Isfjord, 24. Sandra Einarson, 25. Peggy Penziwol, 26. Mary Peterson, 27. Maureen Williams, 28. Eileen Kronbauer, 29. Gloria Boychuk, 30. Dorothy Rickett. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

“Many excellent principals and teachers have served at the Gimli Public School since the early beginning, and numerous students of high character and calibre have graduated from there to enter a variety of occupations and professions, some even to occupy posts of national and, in some instances, international importance.” (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 170.*)

Some of those individuals include the following Gimli Public School (1915) graduates and former students:

Dr. David Arnason
Author, Editor, Journalist

John J. Arnason
Electrical Engineer
President & CEO of Manitoba Hydro

Frank Anderson
Trustee, Engineer, Land Developer

Harold Bjarnason
Professor and Civil Servant

Janis Johnson
Senate Member

Kristin Johnson
Artist and Photographer

Einar S. Jonasson
Trustee, Councillor, Mayor
and MLA

Dr. Baldur H. Kristjanson
Economist & Administrator
Agriculture Canada, United Nations

L. Burbank Kristjanson
Economist & Administrator
Man. Dept. of Agriculture, University of Manitoba

Dr. Kristjan Kristjanson
Professor & Administrator
Northern Affairs Canada, Manitoba Hydro

Dr. G. Albert Kristjanson
Sociologist-Economist
Man. Dept. of Agriculture, University of Manitoba

Dr. Ragnar (Larry) Kristjanson
Commissioner
Canadian Wheat Board

Dr. Leo F. Kristjanson.
President
University of Saskatchewan

Kristine Kristofferson
Teacher, Author

Valerie Peterson
Athlete

Archie Polson
World War I Hero & Fatality

Dennis Stefanson
Teacher and Principal

Eric Stefanson
Member of Parliament

Eric Stefanson Jr.
Hockey Player
Provincial Cabinet Minister

Tom Stefanson
Stefanson & Co.
Charter Accountants

Kris Stefanson
Manitoba Crown Prosecutor

Joe Tergesen
Hockey Player
Businessman

Bergthor Thordarson
Trustee, Councillor, Mayor
and Prospector

W.D. Valgardson
Author, Editor, Journalist

Most-wanted Men in Canada: Six Brains Named Kristjanson.

“When Dr. Larry Kristjanson, commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board wants a specialist’s help on a tough economic problem he’ll probably pick up the phone and call Dr. Baldur Kristjanson, chairman of the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board. And if Baldur doesn’t know the answer, Larry still has the first class brains of four other brothers at his fingertips. Chances are he will soon have the information he wants. For the brothers Kristjanson represent one of the most formidable arrays of intellectual talent in Canada - six middle aged whiz kids whose influence in the fields of agriculture, economics and education extends from their native prairies to the arid wastes of Persia.

The improbable base for this network of knowledge is the little Manitoba fishing village of Gimli, on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg. It was where the Kristjansons grew up, sons of an impoverished Icelandic immigrant who helped open up the West seventy years ago. Their father Hannes, who died eight years ago, made sure the brothers had two things going for them that far outweighed the disadvantages of their background. One was the Icelandic concept of *samvinna* or togetherness; the other was an early unquenchable thirst for learning.

As a smoothly functioning family brain trust, the Kristjansons could sell themselves to any large U.S. corporation and virtually name their own price. But fortunately for a variety of government agencies and international organizations, the brothers believe there are better ways to put their PhD’s to work. Here’s how the rest of the Kristjanson brain power is deployed at the moment.

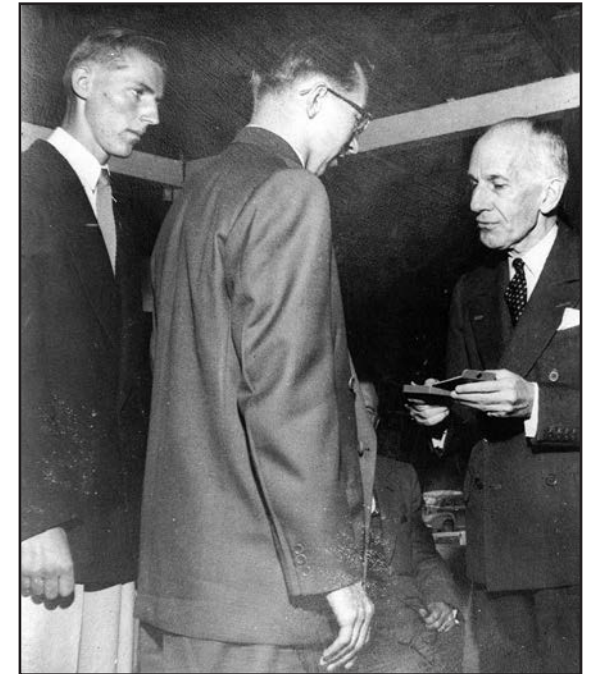
Kris, director of the economics division of Manitoba Hydro; Leo, in his first year as associate professor of economics and political science at the University of Saskatchewan; Albert, a newly

appointed assistant director of the Manitoba agricultural department’s economics and publications branch; Burbank, moving to Rome as chief of the Food and Agriculture Organizations Land and Water Development Branch, following a stint in Iran as agricultural advisor to the Shah.

Leo is the youngest at thirty-three; Baldur the eldest at forty-seven. All but Albert and Burbank, who are still working on their theses, have doctorates. All have specialized in economics, particularly as applied to agriculture.

The brothers bias towards economics was fostered by their father’s fascination with the basic problem of the 1930s; why poverty in the midst of plenty? “This interested dad, and eventually the rest of us, in economics,” says Burbank. “What made the country tick? Why was there unemployment? We tackled all of these questions at an early age.”

Will they ever market their skills in the U.S.? “Not likely,” says Leo. “We believe money is the least desirable goal. We’ve never felt a university education is a means to an end. To us, education is an end in itself.” (*MacLean’s Reports, October 2, 1965.*)



Above. The Governor General’s Academic Medal is awarded annually for scholastic excellence - Bronze for secondary level education. The above photograph from the 1950s, shows Gimli High School students Harry Shymko and Danny Demedash being awarded Governor General’s Bronze Medals of excellence by The Right Honourable Vincent Massey. Gimli high school students were frequent winners of the award. While a list of early winners could not be located, it was determined that since 1965 alone, 30 Gimli High School students were awarded the Governor General’s Bronze Medal for academic excellence. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 574.*)

Left. 1960s. Miss S. Stefansson presenting the Skuli Johnson Award to Pat Zwolak. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 606.*)

Signature of Parent or Guardian

FIRST REPORT *The B. V. Arnason*

SECOND REPORT *Mr. B. V. Arnason*

THIRD REPORT *Mr. B. V. Arnason*

Message to Parents from the Principal

The purpose of this Progress Report is to keep you informed of the attainments of your child in the regular studies of his grade, and to indicate certain personal traits that are desirable for successful scholarship and good citizenship.

Desirable for good scholarship are: regular and punctual school attendance, vigorous health, good habits of work, neatness, individual effort, initiative and perseverance.

Essential for good and useful citizenship in a community are such person traits as: good character, co-operation, dependability, truthfulness, courtesy, thrift and respect for the laws of the land. It should be the constant aim of the home and the school to stimulate and develop these desirable qualities of good citizenship.

If this Progress Report is not satisfactory please make an appointment with the principal and the teacher concerned so that an effort may be made to discover the cause and if possible find means for future improvement. This can be done only by the earnest co-operation of the parents and the teacher.

Pupils that obtain honor standing in all subjects and have satisfactory attendance and punctuality records of all terms will be promoted without final examinations.

All pupils are required to bring a note from home explaining absence or lateness.

Gimli School No. 585

Progress Report

PUPIL'S NAME *Tim Arnason*

GRADE 5

SCHOOL YEAR 1966 to 1967

TEACHER *Ern. D. Spiddeck*

Motto: "LEARN TO LIVE"

Certificate of Promotion

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

Timothy Arnason

has satisfactorily completed the work of GRADE 5 and is promoted to GRADE 6

DATE *June 30, 1967*

TEACHER *Ern. D. Spiddeck*

PRINCIPAL *Ern. D. Spiddeck*

THE EVERGREEN UNITARY SCHOOL DIVISION No. 22

Progress Report

for GRADES 7 AND 8

19 69 - 19 70

SCHOOL *Scania*

TEACHER *M. M. M. M.*

PRINCIPAL *M. M. M. M.*

COMMENTS

Teacher: First Report—Nov.

Parent:

Signature *Mrs. B. V. Arnason*

Teacher: Second Report—Feb.

Parent:

Signature

Teacher: Third Report—April

Parent:

Signature

Teacher: Fourth Report—June

Promoted to Grade 10

TO THE PARENTS

Our schools are endeavoring to provide an environment where your child may grow naturally in intellect, in social co-operation and in moral responsibility. This report is an attempt to show how well he is developing. As this is a matter of utmost concern to you, we ask that you study the report carefully and consult the school Principal if you desire further information.

Since regular attendance and a happy, robust attitude towards work are so essential, we request you to join with the teacher in striving to attain these objectives.

J. Chalaturnyk
Superintendent of Education

If an interview with the teacher is desired, parents should make arrangements by telephoning the school office TELEPHONE NO.

SCHOLARSHIP

A means EXCELLENT (80% to 100%)
 B means VERY GOOD (70% to 79%)
 C means AVERAGE (60% to 69%)
 D means WEAK (50% to 59%)
 E means POOR (Below 50%)

SUBJECTS	Sept. to Dec.	Jan. to Mar.	April to June
1. ORAL READING	B	B	B
2. ENGLISH	77.5	80	83
3. SPELLING	96	96	100
4. WRITING	C	C	C
5. ARITHMETIC	72	86.5	86
6. HISTORY	80.7	79	82
7. ART	C	C	C
8. LITERATURE	86.5	80	81
9. HEALTH	78.5	86	86
10. SCIENCE	66	77	83
11. MUSIC	D	94	94
12. FRENCH	90.5	92	98
13.			
14. AVERAGE	80.9	84.5	88.1

Attendance A S O N D J F M A M J

Days Absent

Times Late

CITIZENSHIP

S means SATISFACTORY
 N means IMPROVEMENT NEEDED
 I means IMPROVEMENT SHOWN

No comment means not sufficient data for fair judgment.

Attitude and Habits	1	2	3
Industry and attitude to studies	S	S	I
Appearance of Work	S	S	I
Initiative	S	S	I
Truthfulness and Dependability	S	S	I
Courtesy and consideration of others	S	S	I
Obedience	S	S	I
Self control; restraint in speech and action	S	S	I
Respect for public and private property	S	S	I
Posture	S	S	I
Care of dress and person	S	S	I

TEACHER'S REMARKS

FIRST TERM *Tim is a good student who always turns in assignments well. None. Science requires improvement.*

SECOND TERM *Jimmy is progressing well.*

THIRD TERM *Jimmy has continued to improve. He is a good student.*

PUPIL *Tim Arnason* GRADE 8

E - number 50 B - 70-79
U - 54-59 A - 50-100
C - 60-69

ACHIEVEMENT

Grading and marks in school subjects are based upon daily work, tests and examinations.

Honours: "A" or 75% Pass: "D" or 50%	Possible Mark	Nov.		Feb.		April		June		Year's Mark
		Pupil's Mark	Grade Average	Pupil's Mark	Grade Average	Pupil's Mark	Grade Average	Pupil's Mark	Grade Average	
LITERATURE	A ⁺⁺	B	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C
ART	A ⁺⁺	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
MUSIC	A ⁺⁺	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
INDUSTRIAL ARTS AND CRAFTS	A ⁺⁺	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
FRANCE	A ⁺⁺	B	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	A ⁺⁺	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
WRITING	A ⁺⁺	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
ENGLISH: Reading	100							A		
Spelling	50	A						A		
Composition	100	B						A		
Grammar and Usage	100									
GEOGRAPHY	100	B								
HISTORY	100							C		
ARITHMETIC: Fundamental Operations	50	C						C		
Problems	100	A						B		
SCIENCE: Practical (Concepts)	100	A						B		
AVERAGE	100	C						A		

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Pupils shall attend regularly and punctually. Regular dismissals are at 12:00 noon and 3:30 p.m.

A pupil is required to bring a note from home explaining lateness or absence, and also when requesting early dismissal.

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Days Absent	1/2	1	3	1	8	0	2	4	1	2	26
Times late	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WORK HABITS AND EFFORT

	Nov.		Feb.		April		June	
	Excellent effort	Average effort	Excellent effort	Average effort	Excellent effort	Average effort	Excellent effort	Average effort
1. Completes assigned work	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory
2. Uses time wisely	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory
3. Contributes to class discussion	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory
4. Follows direction well	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory
5. Accepts responsibility willingly	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory
6. Reads widely	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory
7. Completes homework	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory	✓	Un satisfactory

A check mark (✓) indicates the stage of progress.

SAFETY

The teaching of safety is emphasized in our schools, and parents can assist greatly by setting a good example for the pupils, and by seeing that they always practise the safety rules. Parents can help in the following ways:

1. Locate the safe play areas in the neighbourhood and have the children use them.
2. Insist that they use the planned route to and from school.

Above. The style of Progress Report card used during 1966-67 school year. Soon after, a new style card was introduced, as observed in the 1969-70 example on the right. (Tim Arnason Coll.)

Gimli High Lights

"FAREWELL" TO MR. & MRS. LAXDAL

In honour of Mr. J. K. Laxdal, former principal of the Gimli School and Mrs. Laxdal a farewell party was held in the Gimli pavilion.

Dr. K. I. Johnson was Master of Ceremonies and presented Mr. and Mrs. Laxdal with a frigidaire. Mayor Egilson spoke on behalf of the Curling Club and the Gimli Board of Trade. Doctor Thompson gave the main address of the evening. Mrs. Wasson spoke on behalf of the Women's Institute and presented Mrs. Laxdal with a membership pin. Mr. O. Kardal entertained with several vocal selections.

Mr. Laxdal has been principal of the Gimli Collegiate since 1935 and prior to that he taught the Grade VIII class here. As principal of the school and as a member of the Board of Trade he has taken a prominent role in the town's activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Laxdal and their three children John, Joanne and Shirley have moved to Winnipeg where Mr. Laxdal will teach at the Normal School. We sincerely hope that they will be happy in their new home and that Mr. Laxdal will meet with the greatest success in his new work.

PHOTOGRAPHER OPENS STUDIO

Mr. C. G. Learned, ex-serviceman has opened a photo studio in Gimli. It is situated just north of the Old Folks Home in the old bank building.

Mr. Learned began his photography while in High School and gained valuable experience while in the air-force. He was stationed in the Yukon and took many pictures of that district from the air. He also spent some time in England where he took many of the pictures he has displayed in his studio.

Mr. Learned will be taking portraits as well as printing and developing roll-films. He has already acquired a good trade but hopes to serve the communities of Hnausa and Riverton also.

This studio of Photography makes one more business establishment in the growing town of Gimli. It is to be hoped that he will meet with every success in this new enterprise.

NEW CLUB FOUNDED

On the 23rd of May, 1947 a group of local women formed the Good Neighbors Association of Gimli. The originators were Mrs. Kelly Thorkelson and Mrs. Gunsi Martin.

The two-fold aim of this association is: to begin a canteen for the younger crowd, and to assist the needy of Gimli. Their plan is to use the Parish Hall for Youth gatherings. On Monday nights the children from eight to twelve years will play games and on Friday nights the teen-agers will congregate for dancing, ping-pong etc. Soft drinks and lunch will be served at cost.

The project is to be financed by a membership fee of fifty cents a year for the younger children and one dollar a year for the teen-agers. Also a source of income will be raffles and dances sponsored by the association.

The Good Neighbors hope to begin their plans early in September. Notices of registration dates for canteen members will be posted in the stores and post-office.

BEAUTY SALON - FIRST IN CENTRE

A definite asset to the town is Thorunn's Beauty Salon, the only up-to-date beauty shoppe in rural Manitoba. A section of the Lakeside store with a plasterboard job plus a few pieces of furniture, hairdressing equipment, and a couple of dabs of pastel paint has a touch of Fifth Avenue splendour.

Thorunn Paulson came from Iceland on January 3rd 1946 and proceeded with a hairdresser's course at Nela Todd in Winnipeg from which she graduated last autumn. Realizing the greater opportunities in the country she opened a shop at Gimli where Mrs. Betty Sigurdson alone could not handle the work offered.

Miss Paulson specializes in cold-waves and machineless permanents. She excels in hair-styling, being especially adept at the latest fashions.

GIMLI HIGH LIGHTS 3.

GIMLI HIGH LIGHTS

Published by a group of teen-agers

Editor—Ragnar Kristjanson
Assistant Editor—Joyce Thorkelson
Business Manager—Roland Jones
Staff—Helen Sigurdson
Dilla Marfason
Delores Johanneson.

EDITORIAL

The Gimli Council is composed of five members—the mayor and four councillors. The mayor is supposedly elected by vote of the taxpayers but here in Gimli the mayor more often attains his office by acclamation because of lack of interest in community affairs on the part of the townspeople.

The town is divided into four wards each ward electing one representative to sit in the council. The meetings are held in the first Tuesday in every month with additional meetings if necessary.

The present council consists of Mr. Barney Egilson, mayor; Mr. Valdi Arnason, representative of Ward I; Mr. G. H. Thorkelson, Ward II; Mr. C. S. Martin, Ward III; and Dr. Ingimundson, Ward IV.

The Gimli High Lights reporters attended the meeting of Tuesday, August 5. They found present only the council minus one member, the secretary-treasurer, the pathmaster, the local mounted police and two semi-interested taxpayers, one of whom insisted that he had been hi-jacked into attending and left after hearing what the pathmaster had to say about the road equipment.

There were several issues brought up for discussion chief among them being the purchase of a machine for road repair and construction. The decision lay between buying a new machine for \$6,600 or a used machine for \$3,000, but it was not necessary for them to come to this decision for after much discussion Mayor Egilson came to the rescue with the suggestion that the road commissioner be consulted and the matter be postponed until the next meeting. This suggestion was readily approved of by the councillors as definitely the easier way out.

Also discussed was the new business tax—a tax to be paid by Eatons and Hudson Bay companies, the fine for neglecting

cutting grass on property, and the disposal of lot 143, 144 which has been occupied for many years but belongs to the town. For a solution to all these problems they turned to Mr. Beddome, secretary-treasurer, who seemed to have all the facts and figures.

The meeting lacked vitality and interest. Everyone seemed bored. There was no controversy over any issue and if any argument seemed about to arise the mayor postpone the matter.

If the taxpayers quit complaining about roads etc. amongst themselves and brought these troubles to the council, we would have a more active and more progressive town. The councillors can do little when they are without the interest of the taxpayers. It is expecting a doctor's remedy when there is no indication of where the ailment lies.

SKATING RINK

For some time now residents of Gimli have been contributing in various ways toward a fund for the building of an indoor skating rink.

A committee of eight looking after the raising and collecting of funds are: Dr. K. I. Johnson, chairman, Rev. S. Sigurgeirson, Sec. Treasurer, Mr. J. K. Laxdal, Mr. G. F. Bergman, Mr. W. J. Arnason, Mr. B. H. Littlewood, Burbank Kristjanson, Arthur Bristow, Jr.

Twenty-two hundred dollars constitutes the present fund. A minimum of six thousand however is necessary before construction can begin.

The rink, to be built in the same location as the present one is to be 170 feet by 70 feet. Plans show a large waiting room at the front and a grandstand on the side.

The sooner the money is raised the sooner will the blueprints become souvenirs so remember that.

Every dollar counts! If you are approached for a contribution give and give generously. The rink is for you and your children.

ED Note: Raffles and dances have been held to raise the sum now on hand.

GIMLI HIGH LIGHTS

MURRAY ANDERSON

For the past summer the Wednesday and Saturday night "park dances" in the pavilion have featured the versatile Murray Anderson and his four piece orchestra. There have been a variety of instruments and a variety of musicians but Murray has always managed to maintain a "four piece" assembly.

At present the band consists of Daisy Jonasson from Riverton at the Piano, Roy McLennen from Gimli on the guitar, Joe Gottfred from Gimli on the drums and of course Murray, a native of Winnipeg Beach with his trumpet. On various occasions he has conducted Eddie Walker from Winnipeg at the sax, Jimmy Carter of Winnipeg at the bass fiddle and Rudy (Mina) Otter from Winnipeg with her accordion.

At the age of seven Murray began taking piano lessons. For ten years every Saturday saw him into Winnipeg by bus in the morning and home again by evening. All the while however, his real ambition was the trumpet.

A job in an aircraft factory took him to Vancouver where he bought a trumpet as soon as the opportunity presented itself. He took lessons in Vancouver where he remained a few months and continued them after his return to Winnipeg.

He joined the army and after a year's service with regular training he was transferred into the band. As trumpeter he toured Ontario for one and a half years.

After his discharge he started a band of his own which has played at dances between Petersfield and Gimli. This winter he intends to spend in Winnipeg continuing with his music studies but the Gimli pavilion has claimed him for next summer again.

We may live without books--
What is knowing but grieving?
We may live without hope--
What is hope but deceiving?
We may live without love--
What is passion but pining?
But where is the man who can live
without dining?

Money isn't everything, a man with ten million is no happier than a man with only nine million.

COFFEE HOUR

"Going out for coffee" twice daily should be recognized by the municipal law as every working persons privilege. The clerks and bookkeepers in all the town's business places become jittery about 10.30 a.m. and anywhere between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m. as the urge for a "moli-sopi" overcomes them. The Central Bakery, Gimli Cafe, Falcons' and Greenbergs' brew enough coffee to pacify the raiders. Sam Toy of Gimli Cafe estimates that fifty to sixty cups are drunk before noon daily. All wage earners unanimously agree that the coffee hour be observed by every proprietor in every season. May it also be remembered that ordering takes one minute, serving another, cooling an additional two, drinking about five, drying three and reading an additional three, giving a grand total of fifteen minutes.

ED NOTE: I hope the "Bosses" realize that clerks who pause for coffee twice a day are twice as efficient as those who are deprived of this joy.

TWINS ARRIVE AT TOP SPEED

An Arborg taxi-driver lost the race with the stork. Twins were born to Mrs. Batenchuck ten miles north of Gimli in the back seat of the car. When visited in the Gimli hospital the next morning all three were doing very well. Both babies, a boy and a girl were over six pounds.

Baseball rules are sometimes wrong. Girls who get to first base with sailors are always out; while those who don't make a hit are safe at home.

Breathes there a man with a soul so dead
Who's never turned his head and said,
"Not bad!"

Congratulations to those whose unflinching efforts have resulted in this the 3rd edition of the "Gimli High Lights". The Learned Studio of Photography hopes to see this newspaper continue in increasing numbers through the coming years.

LEARNED'S STUDIO OF PHOTOGRAPHY
88 First Ave., Gimli.

GIMLI HIGH LIGHTS

"ISLENDINGADAGURINN"

On August 4, 1947 some 4,500 people gathered to celebrate the 55th annual "Islandingadagurinn". The first Monday in August has been set aside by the Icelanders to commemorate the founding of the Icelandic settlement in the new world. People of Icelandic origin and their friends from coast to coast and from the U.S.A. attend each year to renew old acquaintances and listen to the program.

The proverbial rain fell Monday morning but by 11 a.m. all was clear. Sports commenced immediately the sun came out and continued through the greater part of the afternoon. Races, high jump, broad jump, javelin and discus throw, shot putt, and ball throw give athletes an opportunity for competing. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to winners in the senior sports.

Javelin: L. Stefanson, A. Helgason, L. Danielson.

Discus: S. Stefanson, J. H. Peterson, P. Helgason.

Girls' Ball throw: Helen Goodman, Grace Jonasson, Mildred Nelson.

Girls' 100 yard dash: Dolly Curtis, Shirley White, Karin Arnason.

100 yard dash, open: Sandy Gibb, Andy Gibb, Ken Peters.
Girls' running high jump: Dolly Curtis, Shirley White, Anna Thorgilsson.
Running high jump: S. Gibbe, L. Danielson, K. Thorgilsson.
Running broad jump: K. Peters, A. Thorgilsson, Victor Torfason.

The program commenced at 2 p.m. with "O, Canada" and "Gud vors lands" on the arrival of the "Fjallkona" (maid of the mountains), Mrs. Kristin Stefansson and her two attendants Misses Lilja Johnson and Thora Aegirson, all of Winnipeg. An Icelandic choir from Winnipeg offered many selections and soloist Elmer Nordal sang several Icelandic songs.


Among the guest speakers were Rev. E. Brynjolfsson, Mr. B. Egilson, mayor of Gimli, Dr. S. O. Thompson, M.L.A. of Riverton, G. L. Johannesson, Icelandic consul, Rev. P. M. Petursson of Winnipeg, and J. Helgason of the Icelandic daily paper "Timinn".

Following the program in the park many followed the "Fjallkona" and attendants two blocks to the Icelandic memorial monument where with some ceremony she laid a wreath.

The crowd dispersed somewhat but gathered again for a sing-song at seven. This was followed by a dance beginning at about ten. There were no accidents and the day in general was very successful.

Thorunn's
BEAUTY SALON

COLD WAVES
HEAT WAVES (machinists)
SHAMPOOS (rainwater) and FINGER WAVES



POPULAR PRICES
CORNER OF FIRST and CENTRE

FOR QUALITY and SERVICE

GROCERIES
DRY GOODS
HARDWARE
BUILDER'S SUPPLIES
PAINTS

Full and winter stock arriving soon!



Left, below and next page. Sample pages from the yearbook *Golden Memories 49* produced by the next to last class of high school students to be taught in the Gimli Public School (1915) building. This class was also the last that "graduated" upon completing Grade 11. In 1950-51 Grade 12 was once again offered. (Delores Skolny-Miller Coll.)



GRADE IX

FRONT ROW: Eleanor Rostek, Doris Sveinson, Margaret Anderson, Gudrun Stevens, Frances Krulicki, Florence Albertson.

SECOND ROW: Donna Stevens, Vivian Kristjanson, Marilyn Quast, Betty Smyth, Alice Thornton, Connie Bendikson, Florence Rojaske.

BACK ROW: Dan Ponaranski, Bohdan Bohenez, Paul Shewchuck, Wallace Bergman, Irvn Greenberg, Benny Laruson, Jackie Thorkelson.

MISSING: Don Martin.



GRADE IX GIRLS

FRONT ROW: Esther Stevens, Mickey Peterson, Vivienne Magnusson,
Margaret Haas, Joan Smith, Helga Peterson.

SECOND ROW: Irene Miller, Habel Sigurdson, Lucille Jones,
Betty Thornton, Doll Morley, Mildred Sigurdson,
Murrey Tachnyk.

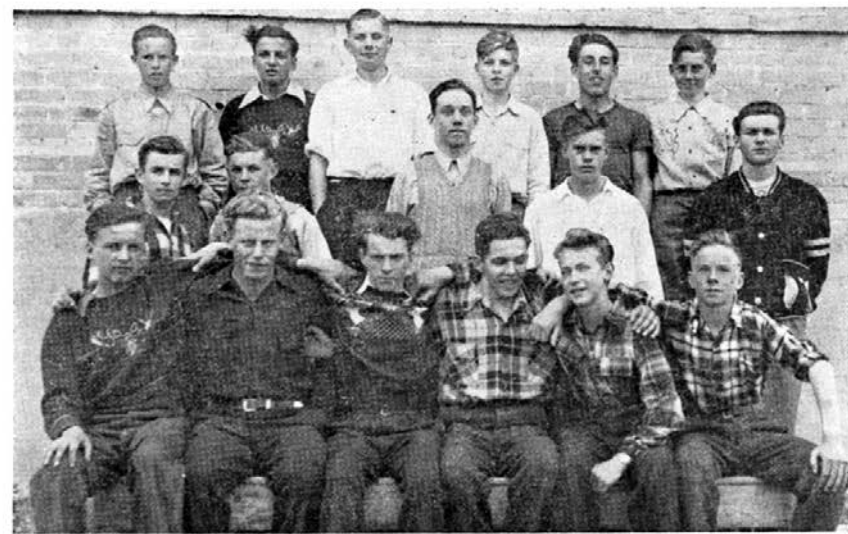
BACK ROW: Lilja Danielson, Margaret Holstad, Mary Kressock, Lorene
Susky, Katherine Hladun, Betty Miller.

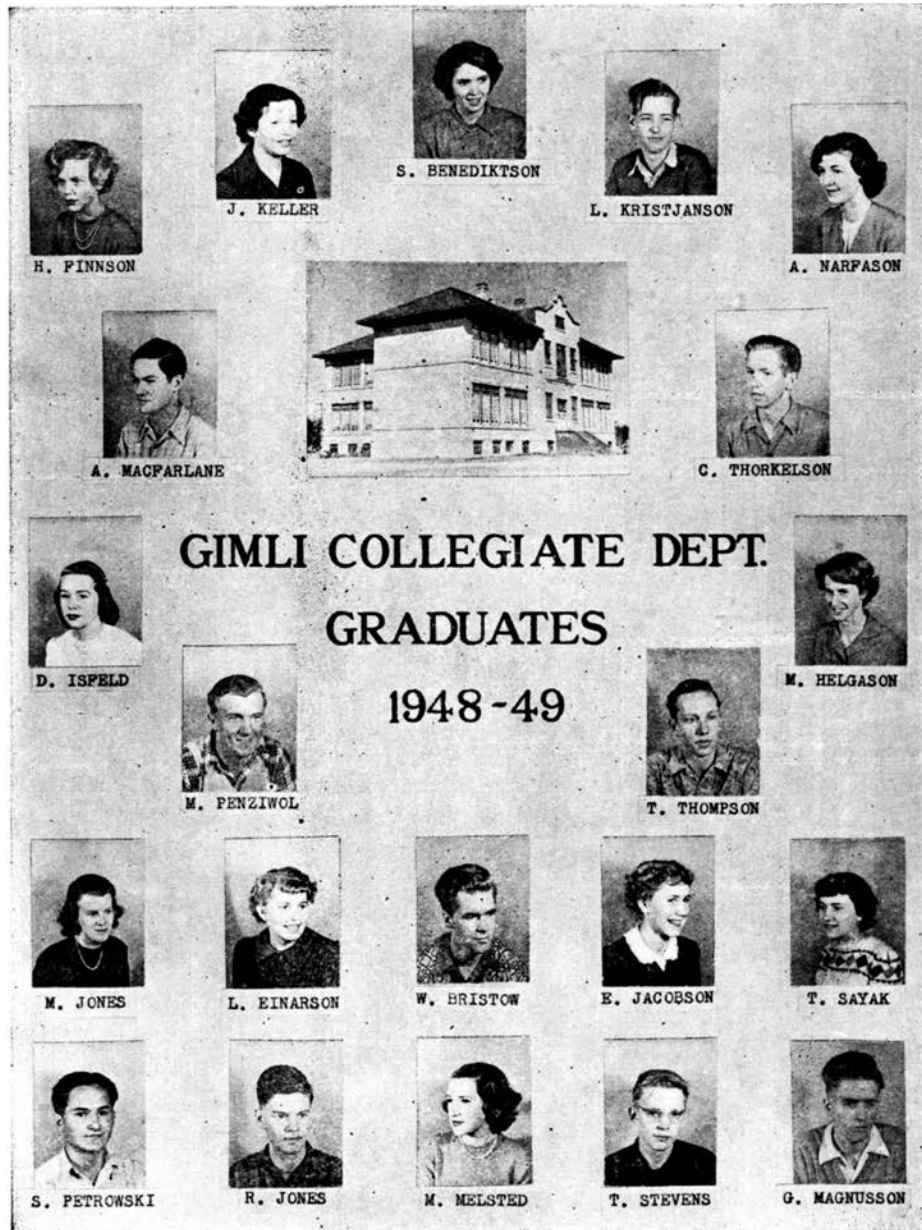
GRADE IX BOYS

FRONT ROW: Eddy Chudd, Dori Magnusson, Teddy Selmundson, Rudy
Bristow, Terry Tergesen, Freddie Arnason,

SECOND ROW: Jim Robertson, Edward Chernick, Robert Beddome, Oswald
Holm, Arnold Helgeson.

BACK ROW: Robert Isfeld, Johnny Chudd, Victor Wlosek, Leon Jonnason,
Walter Yalovetz, Ronny Voigt.





H. PINNISON

J. KELLER

S. BENEDIKTSON

L. KRISTJANSON

A. NARFASON

A. MACPARLANE

C. THORKELSON

**GIMLI COLLEGIATE DEPT.
GRADUATES
1948-49**

D. ISPELD

M. PENZIOW

T. THOMPSON

M. JONES

L. EINARSON

W. BRISTOW

E. JACOBSON

T. SAYAK

S. PETROWSKI

R. JONES

M. MELSTED

T. STEVENS

G. MAGNUSSON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time has come when I must bid my school friends farewell, and go forth in the world to seek my fortune. At the closing of my final year at Gimli School, there are many things that enter my mind. I think of all that school here has meant to me, and look with regret at the things I will be leaving.

I have enjoyed my year as President of the Student Council very much. Besides being a valuable experience in my life, I have had the pleasure of working with a very co-operative group of boys and girls, and all extra-curricular activities have been supported wholeheartedly. I have become aware of a co-operative feeling and evidences of initiative among the students that I had believed did not exist in this school. It is thanks to this spirit that we now wear our class rings, were able to present our plays, and are now able to publish a Year Book.

I would like to extend to the new president of the Student Council my best wishes of success and hope that he will experience as enjoyable a year as I have.

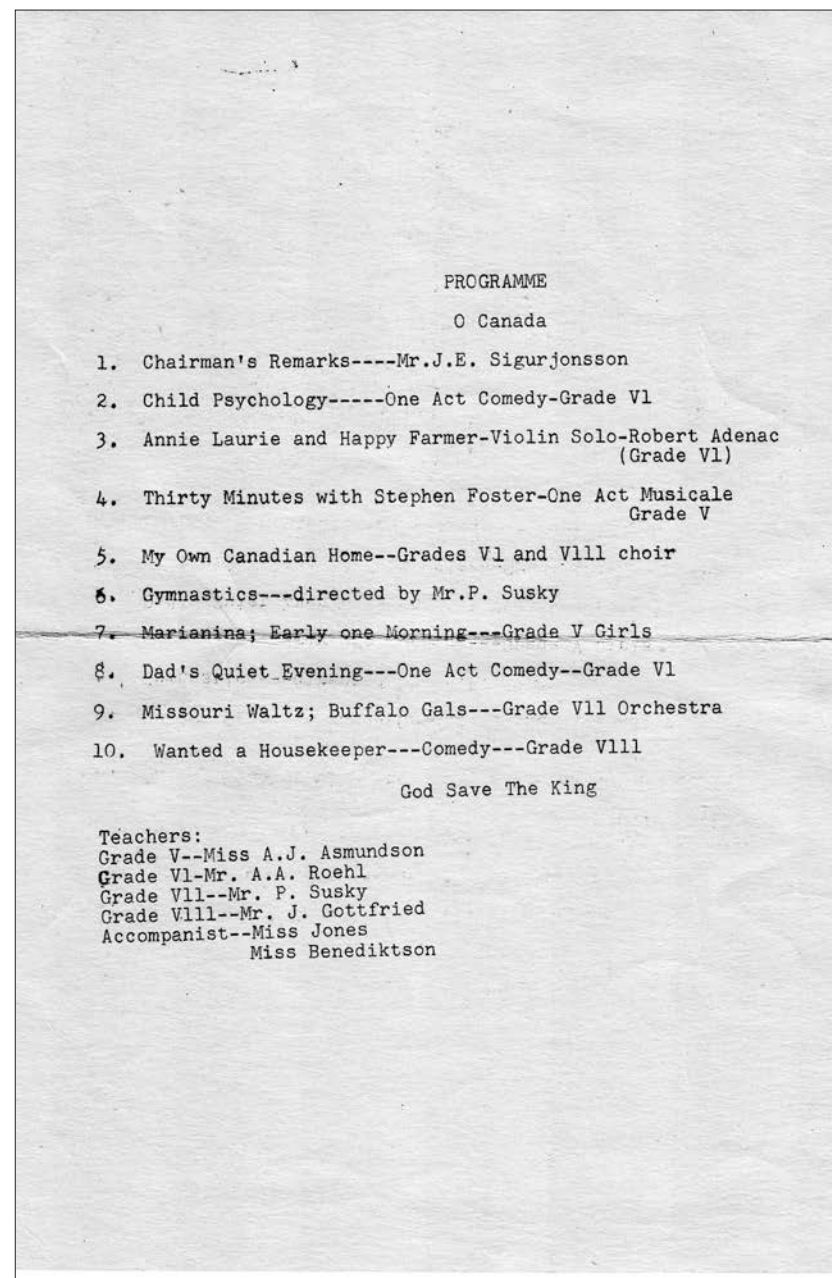
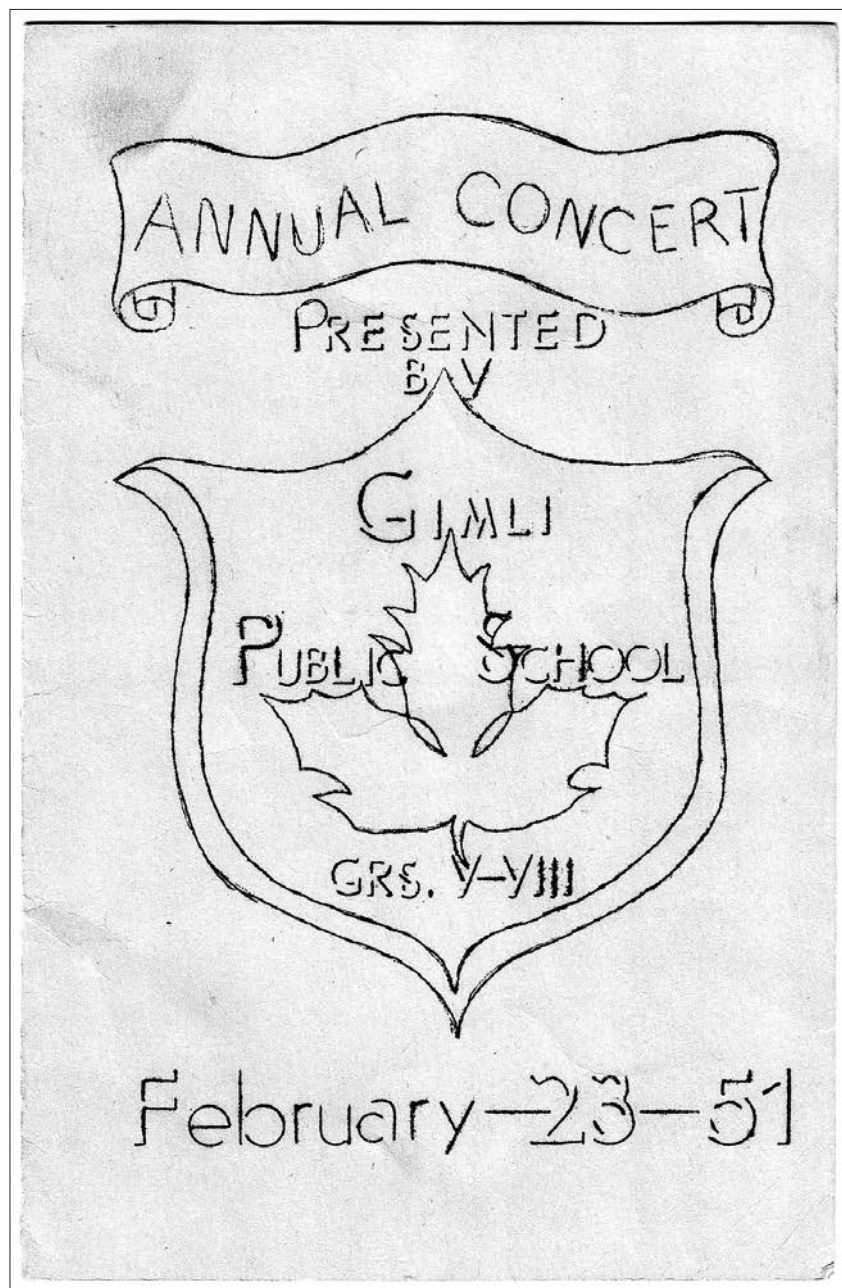
Sheila Bendiktson.

STUDENT COUNCIL

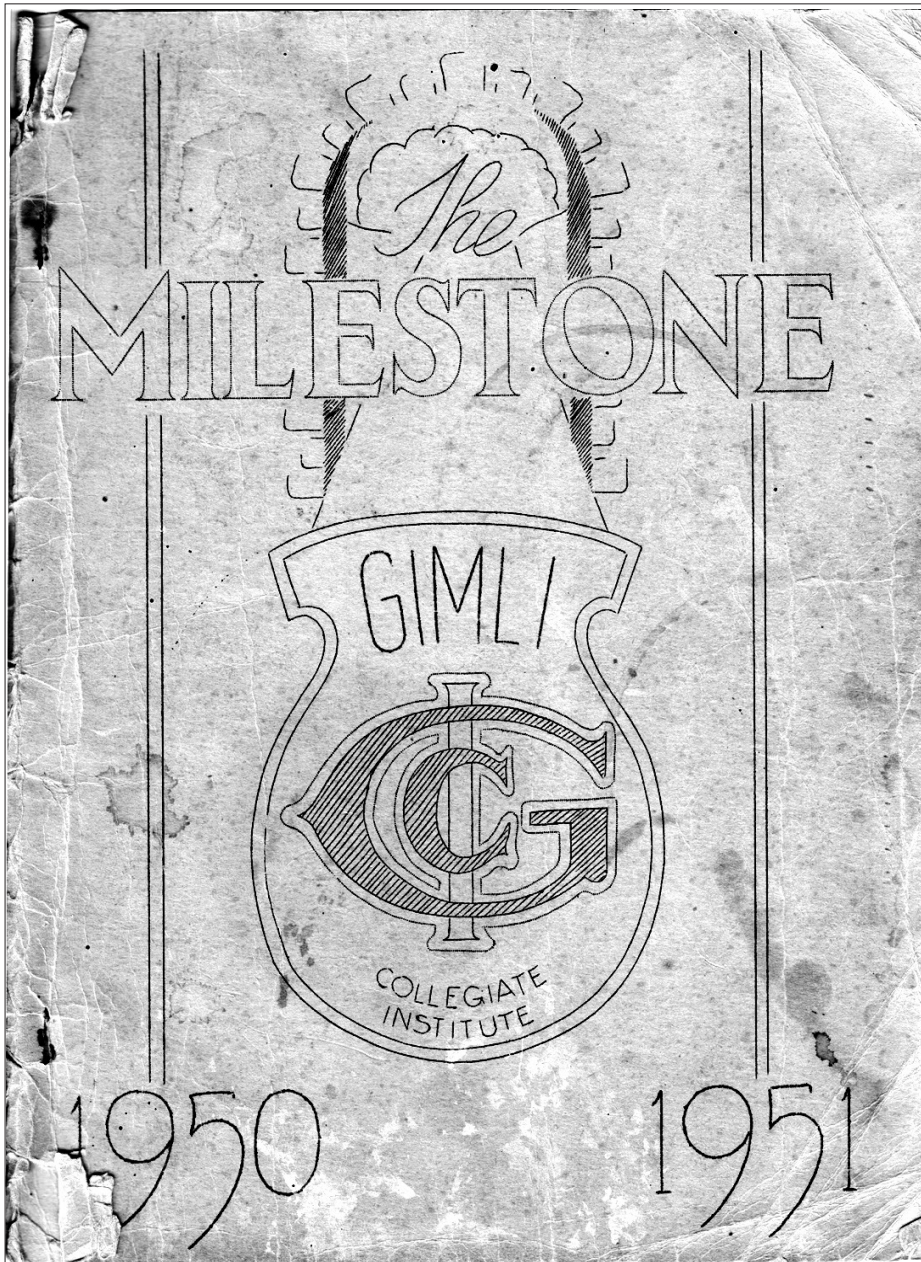
President - Sheila Bendiktson
 Vice-President - Leo Kristjanson
 Secretary - Jean Keller
Members - Connie Bendiktson
 Jackie Thorkelson
 Marilyn Quast

Terry Tergesen
 Helga Peterson
 Irene Miller

Above. Sample pages from the yearbook Golden Memories 49. "Gimli Collegiate Dept. Graduates 1948-49, and the student President's Message pages." (Delores Skolny-Miller Coll.)



Above. Programme for the "Annual Concert Presented by Gimli School GRS. V-VIII, February-23-51." (Beverly Kristjanson - Einarson Coll.)



Above and next page. 1950-51. The cover and sample pages from the Gimli Collegiate Institute's first yearbook in the new Collegiate, entitled: "The Milestone". (Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee Coll.)

STUDENT COUNCIL



YEARBOOK STAFF



STUDENT COUNCIL

Left to Right:

Back.

Mr. Sigurjonsson
 Connie Benediktson
 Gudrun Stevens
 Marilyn Quast
 Helga Peterson
 Mary Kressock
 Rudy Bristow
 Irven Greenberg
 Albert Thorvaldson

Front.

Olan Narfason
 Tanis Sigurjonsson
 Lucille Jones
 Kristine Magnusson
 Terry Tergesen
 John Sigurjonsson
 Wally Bergman
 Freddy Arnason

Missing: Herman Thorvaldson
 Moyra Benediktson

YEARBOOK STAFF

Left to Right:

1st. Row.

Pearl Lee
 Joyce Chudd
 Olan Narfason
 Robert Kolton
 Kristine Magnusson
 Marilyn Quast
 Gudrun Stevens
 Mary Kressock
 Connie Benediktson
 Gwen Arnold

2nd. Row.

Mr. Cameron
 Miss Ruchotski
 Terry Tergesen
 Jim Robertson
 Herman Thorvaldson
 Jonina Eliason
 Jack Meckling

3rd. Row.

Phyllis Sprowl
 Tanis Sigurjonsson
 Wally Bergman
 Robert Beddome
 Helga Peterson
 Albert Thorvaldson
 Lucille Jones
 John Sigurjonsson
 Elmer Beddome

Missing: Bohdan Bohonos



Left to Right

PAPER:

Front:
Robert Kolton
Helga Peterson
Wilfred Bjarnason

Back:
Miss E. Ruchotski
Donna-Mae Einarson
Connie Benediktson
Pearl Lee
Nona Eliason
Angela Pistawka
Missing--Lorane Susky

SOCIAL & LIT.

Front:
Lorraine Peterson
Alice Thornton
Edna Paracholski
Bohdan Bohonos
Mr. H. Galan

Back:
Rudy Bristow
Eleanor Evans
Gail Bristow
Margaret Haas
Thor Thompson

GIRLS SPORTS:

Front:
Miss E. Ruchotski
Joyce Chudd
Mary Kressock
Gwen Arnold
Inga Stevens
Vivian Kristjanson
Missing--Moyra Benediktson

Left to Right

BOYS SPORTS:

Front:
Freddy Arnason
Teddy Solmundson
Johnny Kressock
Irven Greenberg
Mr. H. Galan

Back:
Mr. J. Cameron
Jack Meckling
Siggi Einarson
Wally Bergman
Jack Valgardson
Mike Solarchuk

DRAMA:

Front:
Mr. J. Cameron
Tanis Sigurjonsson
Joan Solmundson
Margaret Melsted
Raymond Howard

Back:
Cooper Quast
Marilyn Quast
Gudrun Stevens
Jeanne Robertson

DEBATING:

Front:
Doris Sveinson
Shirley Anderson
Miss S. Stefansson
Tanis Sigurjonsson
Lilja Danielson
Margaret Bjarnason

Back:
Earnest Finsson
Jim Robertson
Marno Couch
Missing--Joyce Chudd



1950-51. Sample pages from the Gimli Collegiate Institute's first year-book in the new Collegiate, entitled: "The Milestone". (Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee Coll.)

SOCIAL

Committee: Head.....Rudy Bristow
 Fac. Adv.Mr. Galan
 Reprs.....Alice Thornton Edna Paracholski
 Bohdan Bohonos Margaret Haas
 Gail Bristow Lorraine Peterson
 Eleanor Evans Thor Thompson

The Social Committee started off their years work with the Initiation Social in October, for the purpose of welcoming the "Freshies". Because of our large enrolment, it was found necessary to rent the Parish Hall. The evening began with games, and in no time at all the newcomers were feeling at home. Records provided music for dancing, after which an abundant lunch was served. When the evening came to an end everyone had to admit that the social had been a success and the main worry was "when are we going to have another one?"

Our second endeavour was the Christmas Party in December. Upon entering the hall everyone was given a paper hat to wear and soon found themselves gathered around the piano, singing carols. Steve Dohan and his orchestra very generously provided the music. Santa-Claus came with presents for all. The tree and Mistletoe did their share to add the festive spirit.

The first event of the New Year was a tally-ho, which started off from the school. After an hour of energetic activity, everyone trooped back to the collegiate for lunch and dancing.

Perhaps it was due to the cold weather, but our next party was not held until the end of March---our Easter Social. The pupils and Yellow streamers, still remaining from the time of the official opening, turned out to be very appropriate. An Easter Bonnet contest was held, but due to the lack of publicity, there were few contestants. Cards and games entertained those not interested in dancing. Instead of the usual lunch provided by the girls, hamburgers and cokes were served.

The Grade Nine Class showed more initiative and went ahead and had several parties on their own. From rumors, we heard these socials were a lot of fun.

All in all, the socials this year have been very successful, largely as the result of a lot of work and planning by the Social Committee, who have done an admirable job. Of course no amount of work could have made them the successes they were if it had not been for the full hearted support and co-operation we received from the students.

Thanks kids!

Alice Thornton

BOYS SPORTS

Committee: Head.....Ereddie Arnason
 Teacher-Advs...Mr. Galan & Mr. Cameron
 Reprs:
 Ted Solmundson Jackie Valgardson
 Irven Greenberg Johnnie Kressock
 Jack Meckling Siggie Einarson
 Wally Bergman Mike Salarchuk

Baseball: Activity in this field began slowly at the beginning of the term but by Sept. 23rd, the High School was able to form a team to enter the softball tournament at Selkirk. Though they had little time to practice they made a good showing by coping second prize of \$25. Baseball then slowly declined as the weather became colder, consisting mainly of scrimmages during recesses.

The arrival of spring found the field in poor shape due to the building of the new Collegiate on the same field. The boys all pitched together and soon had the field in playing condition. Instead of softball they began practicing hardball and before long had a fair team. They played three games with Riverton but managed to win only one. They lost 2 - 1 and 5 - 4 at Riverton but retaliated to win 15 - 11 at Gimli in a wild slugfest. They also played one game against Teulon, but lost 5 - 3. Looks like the boys had tough luck in the close games! The arrival of the June examinations cut off all activities in this field.

Rugby: With the cold weather in the fall came the more rugged game, football or rugby. Each recess the playground was full of youths eager to play football. Most had never played before but soon became interested in this sport and some have turned into fair ball players. Strangely enough this sport lasted throughout most of the winter and throughout the worst weather the boys proved they were rugged by always turning out in large numbers.

Track and Field:

There was great enthusiasm among the students when the idea was introduced to form a track and field team. However, it soon died down completely except for a few faithfuls who used to run around the block.

Curling: Curling seems to have been the major sports activity at G. C. I. It included a great many students as they turned out in larger numbers than ever before. Since there were so many teams, they had to be divided into two groups, eight in each group. The winners of each group were Freddy Arnason and Rudy Bristow. The play-off for the Oscar Solmundson Memorial Trophy was won by Freddy A. (skip) Connie B. (3rd) Jeanette B. (2nd) and Bernard R. (lead).

A bonspiel was held after the schedule was over and the winners and their rinks were: 1st Event: (1st) Albert Th. (2nd) Thor Th. 2nd Event: (1st) Terry T. (2nd) J. E. Sigurjonsson. The two teams sent to Winnipeg to compete in the High School Curling Bonspiel were Freddy A. (skip) Teddy S. Willy A. Irven G. and Wally Bergman (skip) Terry T. Albert Th. Marno Couch.

Wally Bergman.



1949 "Thrifty Seamers" scrapbook. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

Sewing Classes. Girls Sewing classes were organized in Gimli in the early 1920s through the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. It was an extracurricular activity held in conjunction with the Shopwork classes for the boys. First, Second and Third Year Sewing were taught to Grades Six, Seven and Eight every Friday afternoon during the school year. The project was first reorganized by Mrs. E. Melan, the principal of the school. The Gimli Women's Institute donated the first three treadle model Singer sewing machines.

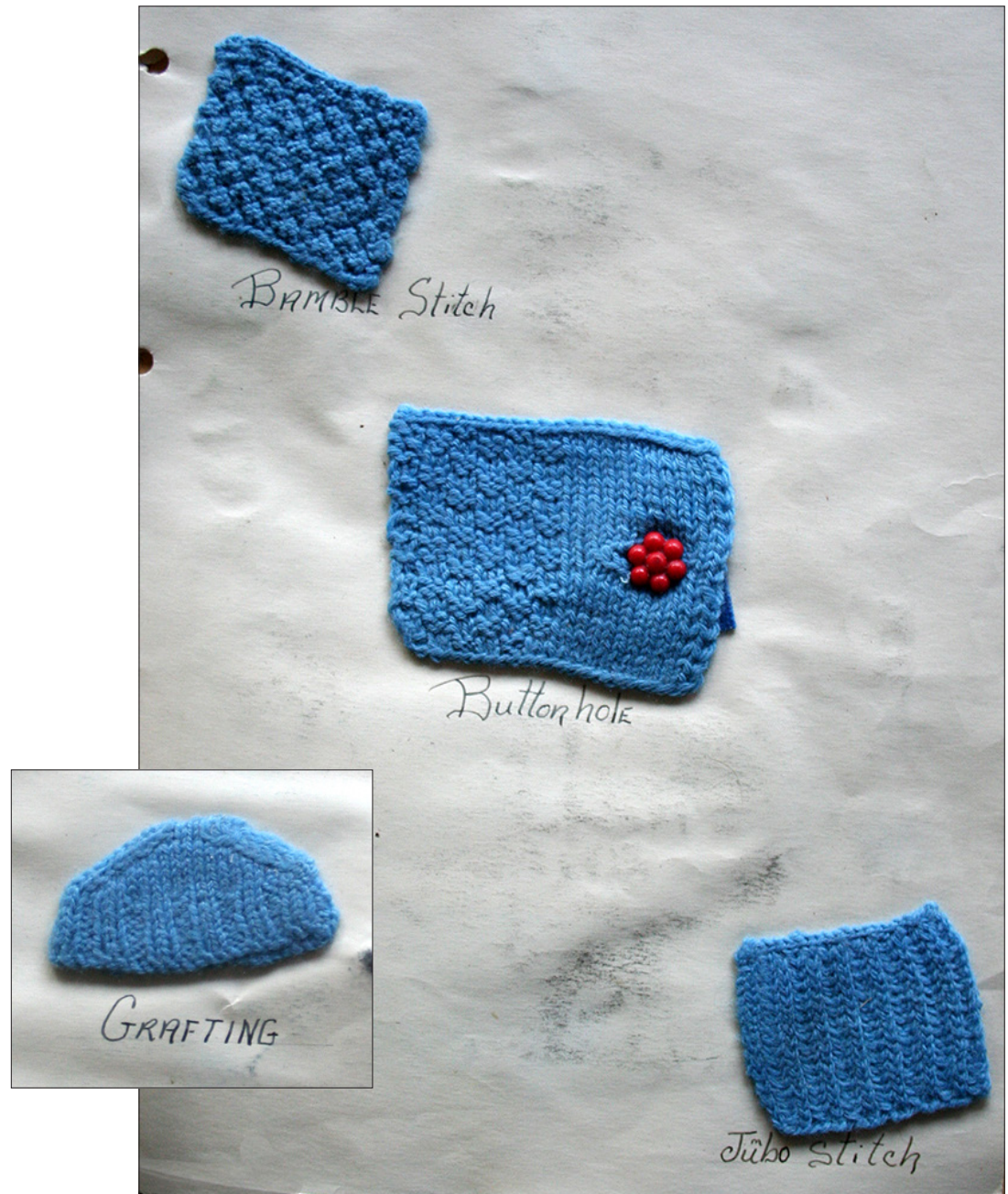
Each year the Sewing classes prepared a display of their best handicrafts for the annual 4-H Club Rally held at one of the larger centres - Teulon, Arborg, or Selkirk. The Gimli girls frequently won awards and one year, two Third Year girls were chosen to represent Manitoba at the Royal Fair at Toronto. Their teacher, Miss J. V. Thordarson, has been a primary teacher and Sewing Instructor for over twenty years at the Gimli Public school.





In 1949, the Gimli Public School was wired for electricity, and the School Board purchased three electric sewing machines. Over sixty girls were then receiving instruction. Sewing Instructors with long service at the Gimli Public School are: Mis. J.V. Thordarson; Miss Ljotun Thorsteinsson, who devoted much extra time to this phase of her school work from 1948 until her retirement in 1960; and Miss E. Greenberg, a devoted teacher, who taught the sewing classes for about ten years before leaving to join the Goulding school staff.

Every year an Achievement day was held at the Gimli Public School. On this day, the best work of the children was placed on display. Officials from the Extension Service were present to judge the sewing and to present the awards. After 1955, all extracurricular activities ceased to be sponsored by the Gimli Public School, and reverted to out-of-school projects for the 4-H Clubs." (*John Gottfried, 1965 Pgs. 153-155.*)



Ó, dýrð sé þér, dagstjarnan bjarta,
 Valanna gyllir þú hlíð,
 Þú neyðir burt náttskuggann svarta,
 Nú lifnar blómrósin frið;
 Alt vermir þín vorbliðan hlíf,
 Alt vaknar á ný (repeat)
 Nú flómar frá sérhverju hjarta:
 Dýrð þér, dýrð þér, dýrð þér!
 Ó, dýrð sé þér dagstjarnan bjarta.

Eg berst á fáki fráum, framum veg,
 Mót fjalla hlíðum háum hleypi eg.
 Og golan kyssir kinn,
 Og á harða, harða spretti
 Hendist áfram klárinn minn.
 Hendist áfram klárinn minn.

Það er sem fjöllin fljúgi móti mér,
 Sem kólfur loftið kljúfi klárinn fer.
 Og lund mín er svo létt,
 Eins og gæti' eg gjörvalt lifið
 geislað fram í einum sprett.

Sjómannasöngur

Létt er skrið á skeiðum, skautafalda
 Ber und himni heiðum hafið blátt.
 Brjóstum þínum broiðum bjarta alda,
 byr á ljósum leiðum lyftir hátt.
 Út á ystu mið, ungra sveina lið,
 Greitt og létt skal greiða skrið.
 Beitum knepri' í kalda,
 köllum nú til valda,
 Syngjum, tókum undir sævarnið.

Veihljóð

Sveinar, heyrið hornið drynja!
 Hátt í dalnum bergmál stynja.
 Fram til lags í laufgan skóg,
 Þar lif er gott til fanga nóg,
 Og skipt sem bræðrum ber, halló,
 Halló, halló, halló, halló,
 Þar lif er glatt til fanga nóg.
 Blómin vakna, brosa titra,
 Bjarkar krónur vagga, glitra.
 Hátt æsku óður stigur,
 Sem örn er flýgur, í blámans geim,
 Halló, halló.
 Fram, hér er veiði' að vinna,
 Til vopna þinna, halló, halló.

Songs Songs

Stína mitt ljúfa ljós
 Lið þú með mér í dansinn
 Þú ert mín æskurós,
 enda skaltu hljóta kranzinn.
 Tra, la, la, la, la, la,
 En hve mjúk er hvíta höndin

Tra, la, la, la, la, la,
 Ó, eg finn að þú ert mín.
 Þó jörðin standi í stað
 Við stígum dans, ei preytt.
 Klukkan, hún kallar að
 Kærði þig samt ekki neitt.
 Litla Stína, ljóðin gjalla
 Tónar kalla, dátt er gaman,
 dónzum saman,
 dónzum brosandí saman.

Í rökkursölum

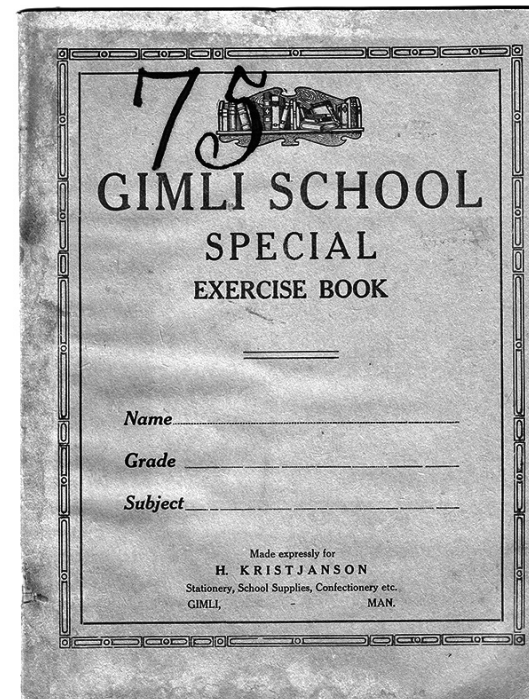
Í rökkursölum sefur
 Hver sóley vært og rótt,
 Og ástvin örmum vefur
 Hin undurbliða nótt.
 Eg heyri unaðsóma
 Á engilstrangjum hljóma,
 Er allt er orðið hljótt.
 Sof í ró! Sof í ró!
 (repeat)

Dagur er lifinn
 dögg skín á völlinn,
 Dottar nú pröstur
 á laufgrænum kvist.
 Sefur hver vindblær,
 sól guðs við fjöllin
 senn hefur allt að skil-
 naði kysst.
 Dvel hjá oss guðs sól,
 Hverf ei með hraða,
 Himneskt er kvöld í þinni
 dýrð,
 Ljósgeislum tendrest
 lífsvonin glaða,
 Lýs vorri sál er burt
 þú flyrð.

III.
 Hvert fór hún? Hvert fór hann? Hvert fór mamma? Hún fór út í búð.
 Fram í eldhús..To the kitchen. Hvert fór Anna? Hún fór út í eldhús
 út í garð.. out into the yard Hvert fór amma þín? Hún fór upp á loft.
 út í búð... to the store. Hvert fór Jón? Hann fór út á götu.
 Hvert fór pabbi þinn? út í garð.

IV.
 1..einn drengur.. boy ein stúlka Mundi á tver systur.
 2..tveir stúlka...girl tver stúlkur Eg sá tvö blóm úti.
 3..þrír barn...child. þrjár stúlkur Eg á einn bróðir.
 4..fjórir einn drengur fjórar stúlkur. Það eru fjórir drengir
 5..fimm tveir drengir eitt barn úti í garði.
 6..sex þrír drengir tvö börn Er Jón bróðir þinn?
 7..sjö fjórir drengir. þrjú börn Nei, hanner bróðir
 8..átta fjögur börn. Siggu.
 9..níu
 10..tíu. Eg fór út í búð með tíu cent. Anna fór með mér.

V.
 borð.. table. gólf..floor. eitt blað tvö blöð
 stóll..chair veggur..wall eitt borð tvö borð
 bók..book gluggi..window einn stóll tveir stólar
 blýant.. pencil hurð...door. einn gluggi tveir gluggar
 penni... pen dyr... doorway einn penni tveir pennar
 blað ... paper. loft..ceiling. einn blýantur tveir blýantar.



Above. Circa 1950. Samples of Icelandic language lesson handouts found in an Exercise Book once belonging to Bennetta Helgason and now one of the exhibit items located in the former school's Heritage Classroom. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)

Above. 1950s. Cover of H. Kristjanson's "personalized" exercise book" #75. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)

Ad Lokurn.

Eftir Karen Bendichte Anderson.

Sara var nú búin að vera í þrjú ár hjá læknum. Hún var nú 16 ára, stór og slánaleg stelpa. Síðastliðnum sunnudag hafði hún verið fermd, og nú sátu lækniinn og frú Nilson í dagstofunni og ráðgáust um, hvað þau ætti að gera við hana, hvort þau ætti að láta hana halda áfram námi sínu í bænum, eða senda hana í fjórskóla.

„Eg er á að segja meiningu mína blátt áfram lækni, á hit eg best að senda hana í skóla; það er eina ráðið til að kenna henni að meta það heimili, sem þér hafid veitt henni. Eg hef aldrei áttur kynst jafn einkennilegu barni. Ef það væri ekki af þvi, að eg hef stundum orðið var við eitthvát hjá henni, sem bendir á góða hæfileika, mundi eg álíta hana alveg tilfinningalaus.“

„Svo þér hafid uppgötvad eitthvát gott?“ sagði lækniinn með þunglyndistegu brosi. „Já, það er meira en eg hef getad séð frú Nilson. Eg hafði hugsad mér að eg gæti verið henni sem faðir en hvernig sem það á kvikast, þá hefir hún látið í ljós slíkan viðbjóð gegn mér, að eg get ekki gert neitt meira fyrir hana.“

„Í staðinn fyrir föður?“ Frú Nilson leit næstum brosandí á hann. Bergur var enn þá ungur. Fán gráu hárin í dókka hárinu hans, gerdu hann að eins athugasvortari.

Hið tilkommesta í lífinu. Eftir Minnie Reid Brech.

Þú veist eflaust, að þegar skyldan kallar á einhvern, er svo óteljandi margt sem þarf að gera fyrst. Þetta var þó ekki tilfellið með Jeff Harris. Það þurfti aldrei að kalla tvísvar á hann meðan hann var lítil drengur. Þegar föturlandið þurfti hjálpar hans, beið hann að eins þangað til hann vissi hvað móður hans vildi að hann gerði. Svo fór hann fyrst að æfa sig í hernadarþjónustu, síðan fór hann yfir hafid og hjálpaði eins vel og hann gat til að fá endað á hörmungunum. Svo kom Jeff aftur, en þá var móður hans lögst til Eilífrar hvíldar. Honum fannst næstum ómögulegt að lifa; tók svo biblíu móður sinnar og fór að lesa hana, og þá varð honum augljóst, að drottinn vildi að hann yrði prédikari, og hann byrjaði strax á þessu starfi. Í næstum þrjú ár hafði engin prédikad í Pine Grove kirkjunni, sök um óvináttunnar milli fjölskyldanna Turner og Magee. Þegar Jeff augljósti að hann ætlaði að prédika í þessari kirkju næsta sunnudag, streymdi fólk að úr öllum áttum. Hann prédikadi svo í þessari kirkju hvern sunnudaginn eftir uminn, og að síðustu var hann orðinn svo fimm eins og hann hefði aldrei annað gert á æfi sinni. Emmy Turner, sem lengi hafði verið í kearastan hans, var afar hreykin yfir honum, og þau voru farnir að tala um að gifta sig, þegar eitthvát bar við sem virtist ætla að hindra giftinguna um stund.

Above. 1950s. Page 1 of H. Kristjanson's Icelandic language exercise book, #75 (shown at left). (Heritage Classroom Coll.)

Above. 1950s. Page 1 of H. Kristjanson's Icelandic language exercise book, #76. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)



Above. Lorraine Einarson with Sigurbjorg Stefansson. No date, 1980s. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. Oli Josephson with Sigurbjorg Stefansson at the same 1980s event. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. A classmate get-together, 1990s. Back row: Aurora Stevens, Valborg Stevens, Gladys MacLaren, Laura Johnson, Dilla Narfason, Anna Johannson. Front row: Eileen Einarson, Marjorie Magnusson and Vivienne Magnusson. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Left. Former members of Miss Violet Blaker's 1956 Grade 1 class pose for a group photo in 2006. (Delores Skolny-Miller Coll.)

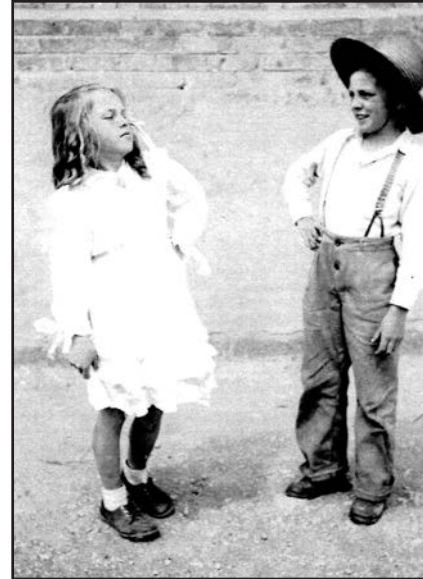
Chapter Four

Extracurricular





Above. Costumed school concert performers pose for a photo. No date. Likely late 1920s. Note the high quality of the children's costumes, likely meant to be "little sprouts and garden fairies". (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Albina Johnson (left), unknown. No date. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. A moustached Billy Magnusson. No date. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. School concert participants. Left to right. Mildred Yuskevich, Gloria McFaydzen and Joan Hinrickson. Undated photograph, likely late 1920s. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



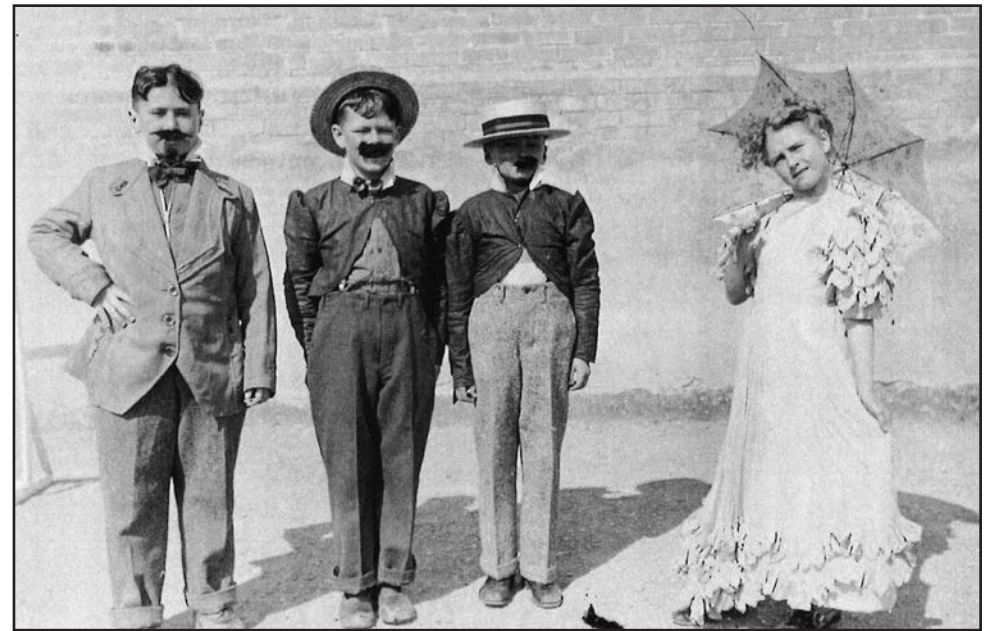
Above. An Oriental troupe. No date. Left to right: Francis Krulicki, Gloria Isfeld, Margaret Anderson, Lucille Peterson, Guðrun Stevens and Molly Peterson. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. Ola Solmundson & Valdi Larusson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. Nettie Kuzmich & Gordie Goodman (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



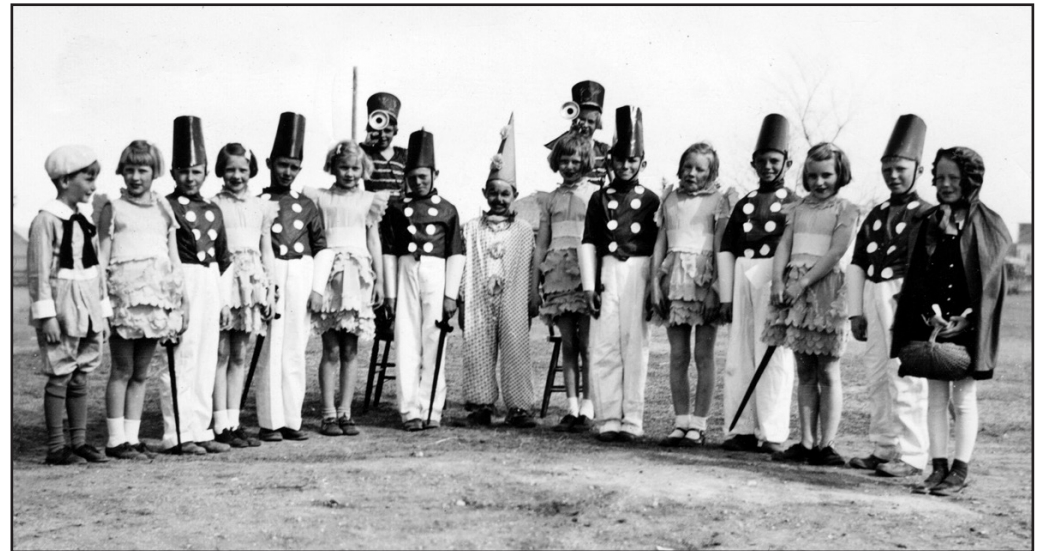
Above. Left to right. Irvin Greenberg, Zeke Valgardson, Johnny Chudd, Margaret Anderson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



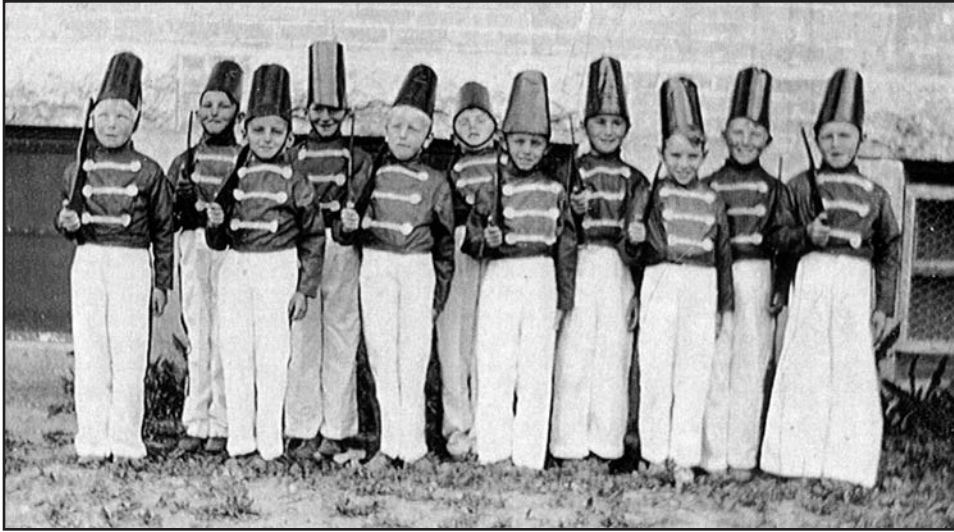
Above. Vivian Kristjanson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. Jack Thorkelson & Donna Torfason. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. A diverse selection of costumed characters, including soldiers with swords, Little Red Riding Hood, a clown and other characters. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)



Above. Soldiers. No date. Left to right. Baldur Peterson, Arni Suhr, Johnny Chudd, unknown, Jack Thorkelson, unknown, unknown, Greenberg, Teddy Solmundson, unknown, Zeke Valgardson. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. 1931. Gimli Public School Concert. Left to right. Hulda Arnason, Anna Arnason, Fjola Johnson, Florence Valgardson, Maria Josephson. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. A group of "bear cubs" complete with honey pails. No date. No names. (*Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973. Pg. 564.*)



Above. Melody Lane singers. No date. Front row. Tillie Demarchuk, Donna-Mae Einarson, Pearl Lee, Margaret Haas, Rosemarie Cook. Back row: Betty Miller, Olga Grabon, Jean Demarchuk, Gloria, Vivienne Magnusson, Barbara Stevens. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. 1930. Girls sports team, likely baseball. Front row. Verman Meldrum, Forence Solmundson, Molly Jonason, Ola Solmundson. Back row. Una Johnson, Ella Stefanson, Jona Olson, Lena Olson and Jessie Meldrum. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. Caption reads, "Crowd watching baseball. Aug. 2nd, 1921. Gimli Man". (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll. #262)



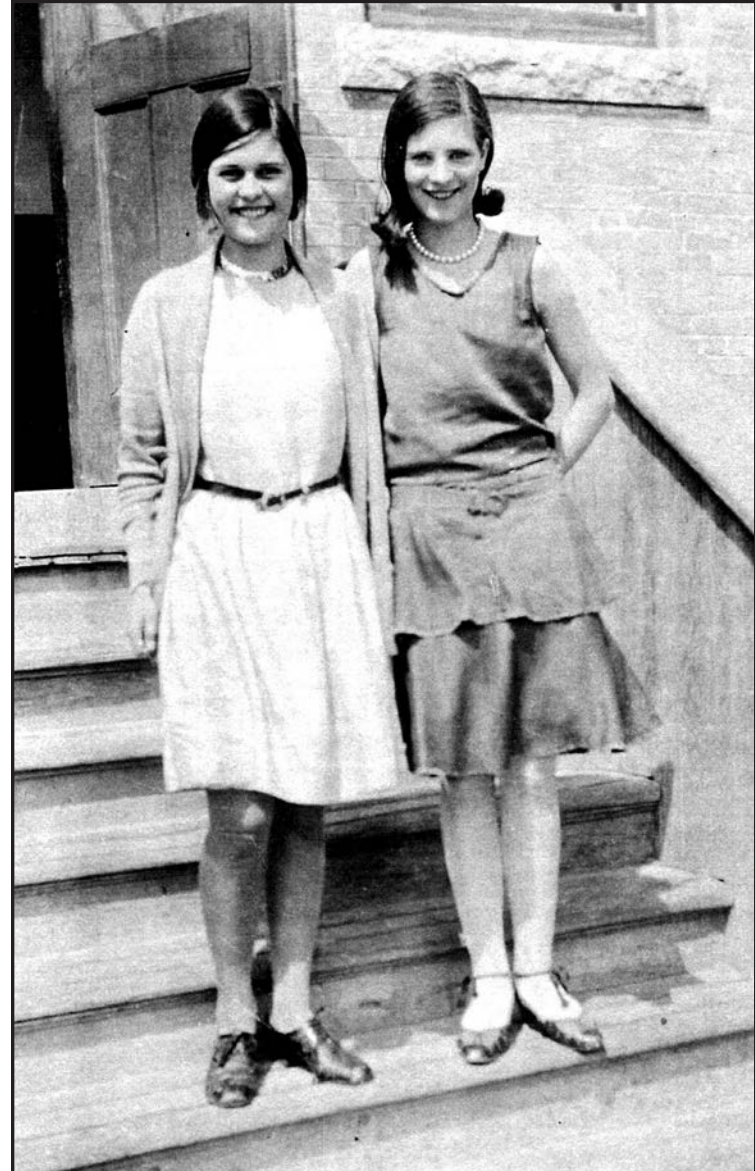
Above. "Junior Maroons baseball team. Gimli Man." No date. No names. Likely 1920s. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll. #262)



Above. The "Junior Tigers baseball team. Gimli Man." Photo taken same time and place as the Junior Maroons photo at left. (Archives of Manitoba - New Iceland Coll. #262)



Above. 1929. Benetta Benson, Sylvia Thorsteinson, Friða Solmundson and Margaret Jacobson. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. 1929. Benetta Benson and Fanny Isfjord. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. 1936 July. A group of young ladies posing with identical style aprons, likely made in sewing class. Note the passing horse and wagon in the background. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



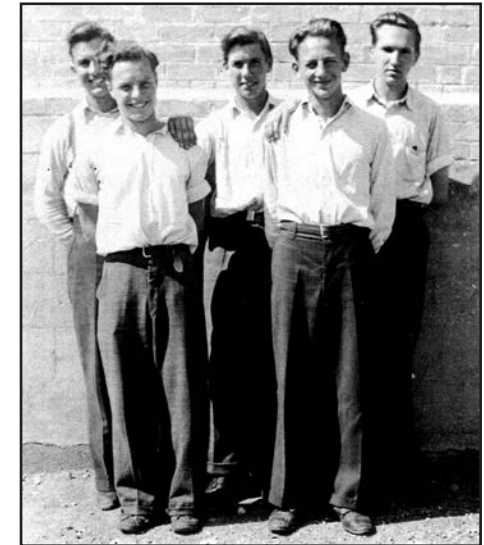
Above. 1936. Gimli High School hockey team. Standing, left to right, Einar S. Jonasson, Norman Greenberg, August (Gusti) Jacobson, John Wilinson, Oskar Solmundson (teacher and coach), Benny Solmundson, S.s. Bjornson, Joey Arnason, Joe Wilkinson, Lloyd Torfason. Leaning forward is alan Valgardson, and sitting with a trophy is Marvin Solmundson. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. Photo dated April 1936 showing four costumed girls. The building in the background is likely the old community hall where most of the early school concerts were held. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above: "Katarinia" Ukrainian Dance troupe 1943. Teacher, Alex Ewanchuk. Dancers, left to right, Arthur Bristow, Bina Johnson, Delores Johannesson, Gladys McLaren, Marjorie Magnusson, Alec Bakkov. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above: 1939-1940. Left to right. Franklin Arnason, Agust Jacobson, Henry Rech. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. 1940-41. Midget Hockey Champions. Front row, left to right, Joey Tergesen and Mundi Markusson (goalie). Middle row: Lloyd Torfason, Don Einarson, Oli Narfason, Laugi Helgason, Oli Josephson. Back row: Johnny Arnason, Albert Kristjanson, Harvey Benson, Freeman Johnson, Elert Einarson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1942-43. Back row. Cpl. Littlewood, Allan Peterson, Lenny Jacobson, Ted Olson, Sidney Greenberg and Lloyd Torfason, Alex Evanchuk. Front row. Johnny Arnason, Helgi Johnson, Bill Solomon, Joey Tergesen, and Elert Einarson. Note the two trophies on the ice in front of the group. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1939. Oskar Solmundson and Rita Greenberg on the pier. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1950s Back pair. Marilyn Quast, Nonna Eliasson. Front pair. Lucille Peterson, Helga Peterson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1950s. Left to right. Mickey Peterson, Nonna Eliasson, Marilyn Quast, Lucille Peterson. (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1940s. Teachers Edna Alfred (left) & Jorunn Thordarson enjoying some free time down by the lake shore. (Icelandic Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. Classmates and Pussy Willows. Left to right. Joyce Thorkelson, Dilla Narfason, Irene Sigurdson, Peggy Stevens, Grace Magnusson, Laura Thordarson, Olavia thorsteinson, Laura Johnson. Thorey Thompson and Jean Solobodian in front. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. 1944. Tap dance troupe for School Spring Concert. Joyce Thorkelson, Irene Sigurdson, Grace Magnusson, Peggy Stevens and Margaret Epp. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. Back row. Gudrun Johnson (Davidson), Palina Lulu Stefanson (Gudmundson), Clara Einarson, Osk Einarson (Bender). Front row. Alda Bjarnason, Grace Johannesson, Agnes Gottfried (Cook), Anna Arnason (Stevens). (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. No date. Likely early 1950s. **Front row.** June Martin, Linda Howard, Kristine Magnusson. **Back row.** Linda Howard, Barbara Stevens, Inga Stevens, Margaret Bjarnason. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. No date. Likely early 1950s. Boys baseball team pose for a snapshot near the school. **Front row.** John Kressock, Jack Valgardson, Klym. **Back row.** Ross Ingimundson, Clifford Miller, Niels Bjarnason, unknown, Malcolm Franz, Archie Kushnir. (*New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.*)



Above. No date. Likely late 1950s. An elementary choir with attractive aboriginal theme costumes, no doubt especially made for the concert.



Above. No date. Likely 1960s. View from another spring concert presentation by Gimli elementary school students. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. 1952-53 Easter concert. Grade Two students. (Katherine Stemp-Olafson Coll.)



Above. 1950s School Concert (Mother Goose Play) (New Iceland Heritage Museum - Tergesen Coll.)



Above. 1967-68. School band performing outside on the school lawn. June 1967. (Dilla Narfason Coll.)



Above. 1960s. A sewing class modelling their work. (Gimli Saga Manuscript, 1973 Pg. 606.)



Above. Scenes from an Easter Concert program during the late 1960s in the George Johnson Middle School auditorium. (*Gimi Saga Manuscript*, 1973 Pg. 608.)

Chapter Five



Building Renewal

Winnipeg Free Press
March 31, 1990

Old Gimli Public School gets reprieve from wrecker

“A 75-year-old Gimli School is safe from the wrecker’s ball - at least for now - after town council agreed to purchase the empty building for \$1.

Gimli Mayor Bill Barlow said the deal involving the old Gimli Public School is contingent on whether council can find the funds to restore the building, which was closed by the province for safety reasons in 1975 when a piece of limestone fell from its decaying ceiling. The building has been mothballed since, and the most recent restoration cost estimate is \$645,000.

Barlow said he has received several inquiries about the building from prospective tenants, but nothing has been settled. If nothing is settled, ownership will automatically revert to Evergreen School Division he said. “We’ve had preliminary talks with some people who have an interest in the building but things are really premature” Barlow said.

“The deal gives us the time we need to answer questions about where the funding will come from to restore the old school. We don’t want to see it knocked down, so we’re trying everything we can to save it. But

if we can’t get anything going, Evergreen gets the building back at their disposal.”

Problems with the old school began shortly after the town expresses an interest in designating the building a municipal heritage site in 1987. At the time, council asked the school division to delay demolition until a heritage committee studied the issue, Barlow said.

After several unproductive meetings over three years, Evergreen began preparing for demolition, but late last year Gimli gave first reading to a bylaw declaring the school a heritage site, freezing the school board’s plans in the process.

“We knew exactly what we were doing,” Barlow told a public hearing last week. “The bylaw was passed to save the school. Now we have the time to find a use for it.”

With its hands tied, Evergreen objected to the heritage designation, because the division did not want ratepayers to fund maintenance and restoration bills.

“It serves no purpose to us at all,” Evergreen trustee Dick Cain, said, adding taxpayers are already paying \$14,000 a year to keep the building heated.

“We have no grievance with the building being declared a heritage site, just as long as the town takes title and pays the bills.”



Above. Gimli Public School as it appeared in 1992, largely boarded up and looking much the same as it did for much of the previous 18 years. At the time, many thought it had become an eyesore and should be demolished. (Manitoba Historic Resources Branch.)



Above. View of the second floor hallway. Note the water damage on the pressed tin ceiling. The handmade sign on the office door frame states: “John Laxdal, Principal Grade 11-12.” (Heritage Classroom Coll.)



Above. A room full of unused metal desks. Metal desks were introduced into Manitoba schools during the early 1960's. Previous to that were the all wood desk "with drawer on the left side under the seat" type. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Where to begin? Going through all the items stored in all the rooms and deciding what to do with each and every item. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

The relationship between Evergreen and Gimli has been severely strained lately and they've been keeping contact through their respective lawyers, Cain said.

At one point this year, Evergreen trustee Nick Melnychuk was asked to leave the room during a school board meeting. Evergreen chairman Peter Caper made the decision to excuse Melnychuk because he felt the trustee's dual role on the Gimli council and on the school board would be perceived as a conflict of interest. That incident strained the relationship even more.

But this latest agreement appears to have everyone smiling. "It appears to be the solution to a longtime problem," said Jack Ferguson, Evergreen finance committee chairman.

"Gimli will buy the building and lease the property from us. We haven't set up any specific time frame, but it's their responsibility to find a use for the place and the money to restore it," he said.

Barlow was also pleased with the agreement, which he admitted was a long time coming. "We met face to face rather than through lawyers and I thought the two sides were on the same wave-length.

"Evergreen doesn't want to see the school torn down either. We're sure it's a sound building, and it's an important Gimli heritage site that needs to be preserved."

(*Winnipeg Free Press, Mar. 31, 1990 Pg.2.*)



Above. Ripping down the classroom walls. First job, start with a hole. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Checking the condition of the floor joists starting with...a larger hole. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Many, many hours later... bare stud walls with the backside of the brick masonry wall behind them. Note the old windows are still in place. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Some of the bricks salvaged when the three 50 foot chimneys were taken down. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. The school building with a scaffold tower set up for the roofers installing a “heritage appropriate” new cedar shingle roof. The old classroom windows were removed at the same time. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. A view of the new wooden shingle roof nearing completion, at least on this wing. Note the plywood protection placed around the building’s new chimney. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. All windows removed, the empty frames boarded over and the building weather tight and secure. Well, almost, some open spaces yet to be covered over. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. A view of the building from the south, showing about twenty sheets of plywood where windows used to be. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. John Arnason cleaning up after a long day. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Kari Oleson with a cordless drill and a pouch full of drywall screws. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Carlo Stefensen took on the job of building the new staircase - no small job. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Leo Kristjanson sanding the "new" hardwood flooring, which was salvaged from the old middle school auditorium nearby and installed in the school. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. The "Huldufolk Moms" come by with a meal. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Don Benedictson and Terry Peiluck enjoying hot coffee and sandwiches during a break. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Coffee and a bite to eat. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)

Below. Open House at the job site. Handmade signs put up during an open house event during the renovations. The signs, those which can be read, say:

HELP!
We need some R. and P.
Roofing and Renovation
Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee

“Purpose of Project
Preserve Old School

In a Business-like Manner”

“WORK ACCOMPLISHED
OR UNDERWAY

- Replace boiler
- Install new chimney
- Install weeping tile
- Install cedar-shingles
- Remove three 50 foot chimneys
- Prepare interior walls for drywall
- Install new flat roof on 1945 addition
- Install new eaves troughing
- Install new triple pane windows.”

The other three signs in the photo below cannot be clearly read but are titled:

Source of Funds
Estimated Costs to Completion
One Way to Finance Costs
(Heritage Classroom Coll.)



Above. A model of Gimli Public School (1915) and “Help” signs on a table during an Open House and fund-raising event. (Heritage Classroom Coll.)



The Interlake Spectator
September 26, 1994

~
**Work Runs Smoothly
on Gimli School Restoration.**

"The volunteer construction workers at the old Gimli Public School are proving that some people do get better instead of older. Half a dozen of them have been putting in a full shift every day for more than two years. This would be unremarkable if they were trained tradesmen. But there are only a few grizzled hands in the group because the majority of the volunteers are retired executives who spent their careers in the upper echelons of management.

They have been brought together by the Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee and a common desire to restore the 79-year-old school, the alma mater of many of them. The school has been closed since 1975 but the passion and hard work of the volunteers is enabling the heritage committee to plan a grand reopening for next Aug. 1.

"The work is going well - we are at the point we expected," says volunteer Larry Kristjanson, the former assistant chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board. "There were doubters who said that we would never get this done. But we have now reached the stage where it is going to be a fact of life."

Kristjanson says the volun-

teers have worked 4,000 hours since January and their time sheets, if they had any, will show more than 12,000 hours by the time the job is finished.

Quite a few of the hours have been put in by John Arnason who was with Manitoba Hydro for 38 years and ended up as president and chief executive officer. Arnason says that he is currently a caretaker and "go-fer" for the electricians working on the restoration project. "It has been a minor adjustment," he said as he paused during the morning coffee break. "Jobs like taking walls apart are tough, but I am enjoying my work at the school."

The rewiring of the school is being undertaken by retired electricians Don Benedictson and Tom Barker. They provide much needed expertise while young muscle has been supplied by Jason Magnusson and Dale Neustater who were hired with a provincial government grant.

The chairman of the building committee is Leo Kristjanson, a former president of the University of Saskatchewan, who works side-by-side each day with his brother Larry. Other volunteers have included Kari Oleson, a 79-year-old retired carpenter, and Carlo Stefensen who built the new stairs in the school. Work so far has included the installation of new steel teleposts to replace the school's old wooden supporting beams. The new wiring is almost complete and lathing and plastering of the interior



Above and right. Views of the excavations involved with installing weeping tile drainage around the perimeter of the building and applying a tar exterior coating to the basement walls. Another major undertaking for the heritage committee. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)





Above. The old fuel oil furnace prior to its removal. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Right. A view of the main level hallway walls after the careful removal of the plaster from the walls without damaging the underlying lath. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

is just a step behind.

Larry Kristjanson says the municipal heritage committee, the sponsor of the project, has spent \$150,000 on work to date. The committee has received three provincial grants totalling \$90,000 as well as \$10,000 from the Town of Gimli and \$7,000 from the R.M. of Gimli. While everything is progressing smoothly, the committee estimates that another \$200,000 will be required to complete the rebuilding of the school. Much of this will have to be spent on heating and air conditioning, plus an elevator for the three-storey building.

Committee members are hoping they can finish the project without dipping further into pockets of Gimli taxpayers. They are talking about establishing a non-profit corporation which would take out a mortgage on the school and repay it with rents from future tenants. Town Council is scheduled to move its municipal office to the first floor of the refurbished building. The heritage group would like to further improve the financial viability of its project by leasing office space to the R.M. of Gimli.

The committee also intends to woo such prospective tenants as the Eastern Interlake Planning Board,

the Gimli Seniors Resource Council and the Gimli office of the Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship Dept. Expanding their operation into the school basement will be the nearby Gimli Children's Centre, but the heritage committee will be furnishing the space on a non-profit basis.

When the final nail is hammered, the old Gimli School will have been totally rebuilt at a Cost of \$350,000. That would compare with a price-tag of \$1 million for a new building of similar dimensions and if \$600,000 to \$700,000 of all the renovations had been carried out by professionals.

"The old school is a jewel," says Dave Cain, Interlake manager of Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Citizenship. There is no other building like it in Gimli. Cain says that in supporting the project, his department is recognizing both the past and present history of the community. "You have to know where you've been in order to know where you're going," he adds. "The refurbished school will be both a reminder of Gimli's heritage and a modern-day tourist attraction."

(*The Interlake Spectator, Sept. 26, 1994 Pg. 4.*)

Winnipeg Free Press
July 27, 2002.

The Huldufolk.

“Be afraid. Be very afraid. The Huldufolk await you in Gimli. Just joking. Actually, the Huldufolk or ‘hidden people’ are impish pranksters who might steal your boots, but they’ll never harm you.”

Author Kathleen Arnason of Gimli, who has written two books about the Huldufolk, says the two little sprites are the embodiment of love, laughter and imagination, “All the good things in life,” she says.

Snorri and Snaebjorn, who live in the attic of the former Gimli Public School, travelled from Iceland to Gimli during the migration of 1875, Arnason says. “The Huldufolk are taken very seriously in Iceland where roads are diverted around rocks and copses where the hidden people are believed to live,” she says.

On arrival in New Iceland, Snorri and Snaebjorn lived in settlers’ trunks until they found a permanent home in shoe boxes in H.P. Tergesen and Sons, a turn-of-the-century family store in Gimli.

She says the little tricksters were inadvertently removed from the store by Leo Kristjanson in his book bag and transported to the attic of the Gimli Public School.

Kristjanson, who attended the school as a boy, left Gimli as a young



Above. Snorri and Snaebjorn as “seen” by artist Jerry Johnson. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

man to get a Ph.D. in economics and eventually became the president of the University of Saskatchewan. Now retired, Kristjanson acts as an interpreter for Snorri and Snaebjorn when they wish to communicate with the outside world.

“They have a great rapport with children who are more likely to see them than adults,” says Kristjanson, adding that the two pranksters recently stole his boots.

For the complete story of Snorri and Snaebjorn and how they saved the Gimli Public School from demolition and caused a new school to be built, refer to *The Story of Gimli: Huldufork*, by Kathleen Arnason with water colour illustrations by Jerry Johnson, formerly of Winnipeg. (*Winnipeg Free Press, July 27, 2002 Pg.7.*)



Above. The Huldufolk bedroom located in the Gimli Public School attic, a gift from the Heritage Committee workers. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Left. Snorri and Snaebjorn volunteer “stand-ins” during an open house event during the building renovations. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)





Above. A tree-planting event held at the Gimli Public School site in conjunction with a Western Premiers Conference held in Gimli in 1996. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. A view of the Gimli Municipal Council chambers. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Approaching the speakers podium, Thor Johansson, Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow, and unknown. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. The Heritage Classroom as it appeared shortly after it was first established in 1996. Note the range of desk styles, the globe lights, and blackboards. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Sod laying day. Tony Peiluck, in the foreground, and other volunteers at work on the Second Avenue side of the yard. Circa 1998. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. John Arnason, foreground, compressing a newly laid length of sod into place. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Laying sod on the west side. Chris Brooks in the foreground. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Mary Peiluck, Chair of the Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee (at the time), getting down and dirty along with all the other volunteers. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)



Above. Finished at last! The sod laying crew pose for a group photo after, what was no doubt, a long hard day. Given all the smiles and grins they are no doubt pleased to have done a good and proper job and to be finally finished. All the activity and people resulted in a rare daylight appearance of Huldufolk Snorri, in the centre of the group, also sporting a big smile. Almost always seen together, Huldufolk Snorri was no doubt the one with the camera taking the photograph. From left to right are: Kathy Arnason, Tony Peiluck, Leo Kristjanson, May Peiluck, next four are unknown, Snorri, Garry Anderson, unknown, John Arnason, Larry Kristjanson, Hans Wuthrich. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

The Interlake Spectator

May 6, 1996

Gimli school restoration wins coveted Award.

The many volunteers who spent untold hours restoring the Gimli Public School (1915) will be recognized in a ceremony at the Legislative building Wednesday evening.

Culture, Heritage and Citizenship Minister Harold Gilleshammer will present the annual Prix Manitoba awards to individuals, organizations and projects that have made a lasting contribution to their communities.

A leading force behind the school restoration project is a group that has become affectionately known as the "Gimli Nine". Their diligence paid off handsomely. The "Gimli Nine" consists of nine Gimli-area retirees who have logged more than 20,000 hours in the last four years at the school.

"The award recognizes projects that have improved and enriched the life of a community," said Dave Cain, an official at the local office of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

"The innovation, creativity, and leadership that took place with this project was incredible." Cain said. Volunteers have not only recycled the building, they'd found meaningful uses for it.

The old public school now

houses the town's municipal offices and Evergreen Basic Needs. The renovated school building is also home to the offices of the local planning district, the Interlake Sports Development Association and the Interlake Self-help Group.

The attic of the old school is said to be inhabited by a pair of elfin creatures called Huldufolk. Snorri and Snaebjorn, as these little folk are called, have been immortalized in several books by Gimli children's author Kathy Arnason. Gimli's Jerry Johnson created the tall-hatted Huldufolk illustrations for Arnason.

The school is owned and operated by the Gimli Heritage Development Corporation while work at the school has been directed by the Gimli Heritage Committee. This committee, the corporation and volunteers are now working with the Icelandic Museum to develop the school's basement as a temporary home for the museum. The museum's current home along Gimli's waterfront is in need of repair. Already artifacts stored there have been damaged by water.

When work preparing the basement area for the arrival of the museum is complete, volunteers will have logged an estimated 30,000 hours at the school. (That's the equivalent of one person working full-time for 15 years, four months, and 20 days without a break.)

(The Interlake Spectator, May 6, 1996.)



Above. Janice Filmon, Premier Gary Filmon and John Arnason. *(Heritage Classroom Coll.)*



Above. Premier Gary Filmon and Mayor Barlow photographed during the Prix Manitoba Award presentation ceremony in 1996. *(Heritage Classroom Coll.)*



Above. The “Gimli Nine”, heritage committee. The main group of individuals responsible for the successful preservation and rehabilitation of the former Gimli Public School (1915) from 1990 to 1996. Left to right: Zeke Valgardson, John Arnason, Larry Kristjanson, Leo Kristjanson, Don Benedictson, Tom Barker, Tony Peiluck, Carlo Stefensen and Kari Oleson. (*Heritage Classroom Coll.*)

The Interlake Spectator
November 18, 1996

Heritage Federation presents awards to Gimli movers and shakers

~

Gimli school renovation celebrated

The renovation of the old Gimli Public School was once again recognized when both the group that marshalled volunteers for the comprehensive work and its gentle leader were recently recognized with awards from the Manitoba Heritage Federation.

Leo Kristjanson received a regional volunteer award for the Interlake for his work as leader of the renovation at the landmark school on Gimli's Second Avenue, a block north of Centre Street. "Leo Kristjanson's hands-on involvement six days a week (sometimes seven) over a five-year period was an inspiration to all who worked with him," federation president Norm Black told about 60 people who attended a Thursday reception at the school. "His quiet intelligent approach to problem-solving and decision making convinced those who worked with him that the project would be a success.

After some 25,000 hours of volunteer labour on the building, the Gimli School is now a cultural centre, museum, town administrative offices, social services centre and home to the Huldufold, Snorri and Snaebjorn, those mischievous elf-like creatures

1915 ~ Gimli Public School ~ 2015

who live in the attic of the old school." Town of Gimli Mayor congratulated the volunteers for their "tremendous achievement" noted Black during his presentation to the committee. "Gimli is very proud of what you have done," Barlow said. "This school has become such an incredible community centre. That is what you hoped to do and that is what you achieved."

(The Interlake Spectator, Nov. 18, 1996 Pg. 4.)

The Selkirk Journal
July 5, 1996

Noted artist's work now on display

~

"Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon told a Canada Day crowd of about 150 people that it was "only fitting" that the works of talented Icelandic artist Johannes Sveinsson Kjarval should be displayed at the old Gimli Public School (1915).

Filmon and a host of other dignitaries were on hand for the July 1 official opening of the exhibition. The ceremony took place outside on the grounds of the old Gimli Public School. Many toured the school later. Winnipeg Beach harpist Heidi Hunter provided music in the Town of Gimli council chambers while others drifted upward to the second-storey room where the Kjarval exhibit is on display.

Oil paintings, water colours and drawings are displayed in the

large well-lit second-storey room. Kjarval died in 1972 at the age of 87. His keen sense of colour and balance earned him a reputation as among one of Iceland's greatest artists.

The Kjarval exhibition is sponsored by the Evergreen Cultural Education Committee, a group established last year to promote the arts and culture in the region. Though Kjarval's works have been exhibited in galleries in New York City and in Denmark, the Gimli run marks the first time Kjarval's work has been on public display in Canada.

"I'd like to congratulate the committee for bringing the exhibit here," Filmon said. "I think it's almost perfectly fitting that the exhibit take place in this historical building."

He called it a wonderful opportunity to have the work of an artist of Kjarval's stature on display.

"Its a cultural feat for the Icelandic community, a community that has contributed immensely to cultural education in our province," the premier said.

It is not surprising Filmon and hundreds of others have taken a keen interest in what happens at the historic Gimli Public School. Premier Filmon and his wife Janice own a summer home at Gimli. As well, they joined the massive volunteer effort to renovate the old Gimli Public School."

(The Selkirk Journal, July 5, 1996 Pg. 19.)



Above. The former Gimli Public School (1915) in all its restored beauty in a circa 2005 photograph. (Manitoba Historic Resources Branch.)

The Interlake Spectator
October 26, 2007

Old School, New Purpose

“Its the heart of the town now,” says Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee member Larry Kristjanson about Gimli Public School (1915). “Its part of old Gimli. Had we not saved it, more of Gimli’s heritage would be gone.” After 59 years of educational service, Gimli Public

School (1915) became a classic case of use it or lose it. Languishing empty for more than a decade, talk of demolishing the school began. A nine-member group, determined to save it, formed the Gimli Municipal Heritage Committee.

They were highly motivated; half of them had attended Gimli Public School. That was in 1990. Today the beautiful 1915 school has new relevance and new purpose, an excellent example of adaptive re-

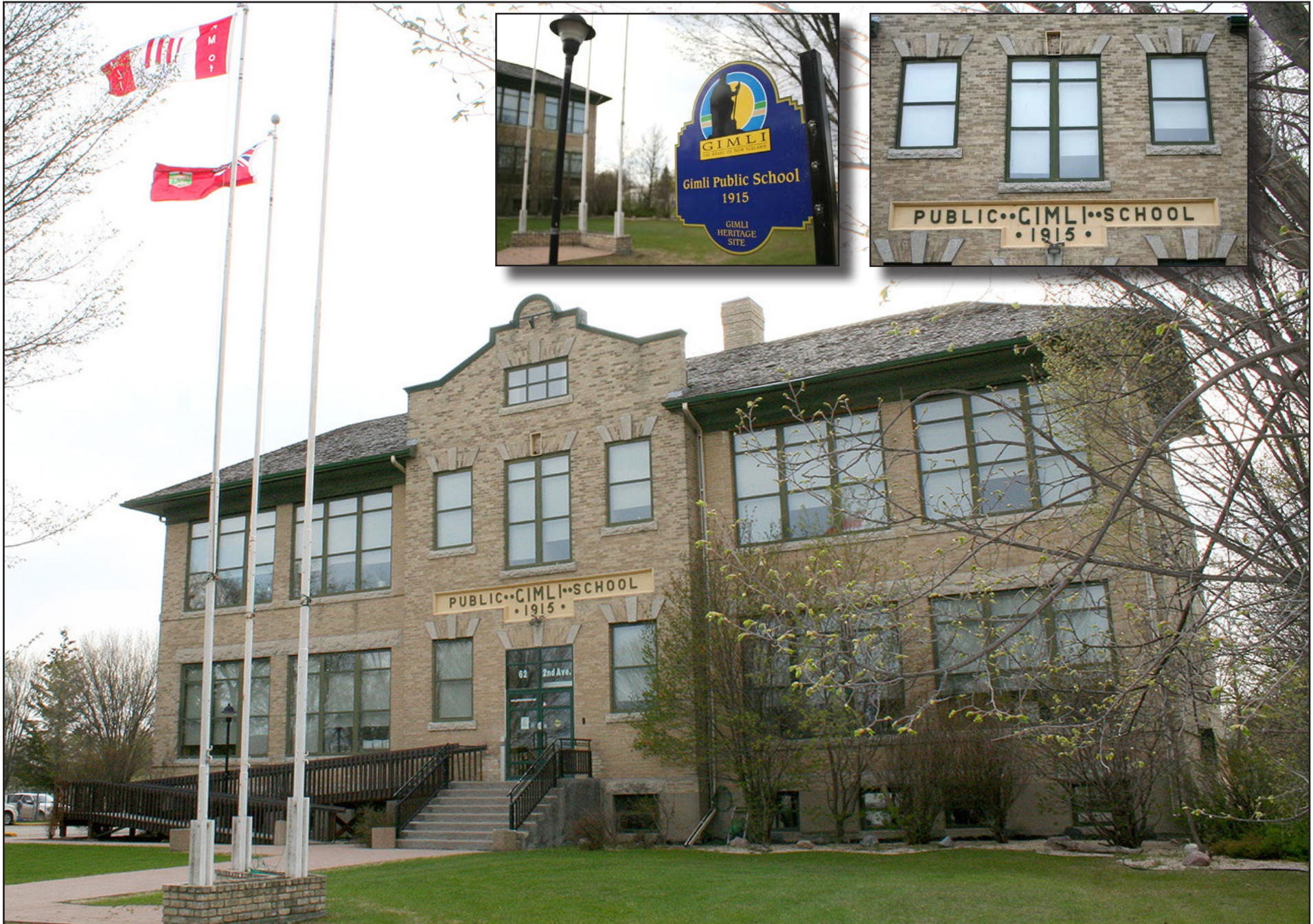
use that retains heritage integrity.

After a five-year restoration process, the school now provides offices for municipal, provincial and non-profit organizations. Preserving the exterior and interior character, such as the tin ceilings and hardwood floors throughout, gives the old school warmth and familiarity, making it a comfortable place to work and visit.

As an adjunct of the New Iceland Heritage Museum, one of the classrooms has been restored to its original form. The Gimli Public Art Committee uses one room as a gallery. The attic is a home for the Huldufolk - mythical Icelandic little people - characters popularized by local author Kathleen Arnason. “Without our heritage buildings we’d be a conventional town with conventional houses,” says Kristjanson. “No character, noting distinctive.”

Gimli Heritage Corporation now manages and maintains the public school. Bill Barlow, and original corporation member and Gimli councillor, says, “Its a solid building that’s holding up well. The renovations were done up to code from the attic to basement floor. Gimli has a very heritage-friendly mayor and council who are currently working on major strategic planning for the town’s future. Says Barlow, “Heritage is a big part of that.”

(The Interlake Spectator, October 26, 2007 Pg. 28.)



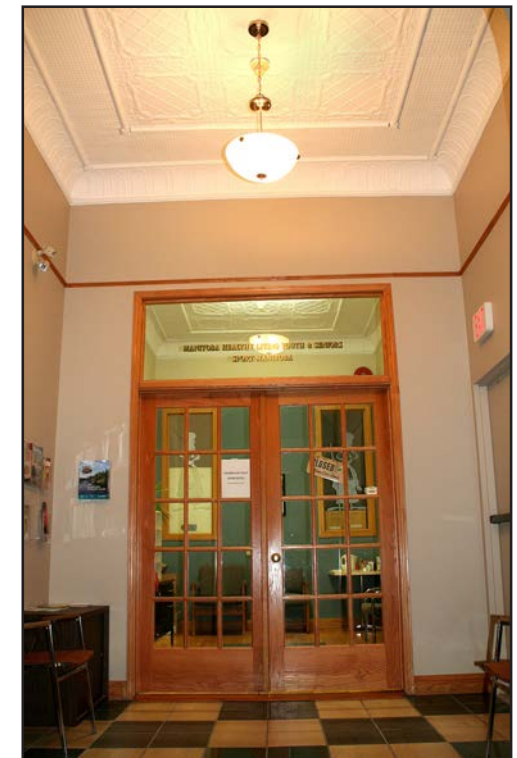
Above. 2015. Exterior views of Gimli Public School (1915) on a sunny spring day in May 2015. Note the infamous “errant” keystone was not returned to its proper place during the renovations.



2015. Views of some of the interior spaces at Gimli Public School (1915), 62 - 2nd Avenue in May 2015. Including, clockwise from top right:

- the main floor hallway with the Municipality of Gimli General Office at the far end and Council Chambers to the right;
- the service desk and public area of the General Office;
- the lobby area in front of the offices of Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth & Sport, and Sport Manitoba, on the second level; and
- a view of the interior of the Council Chamber - Courtroom.

Note the old style painted-glass signs and lighting fixtures; the restored pressed-tin ceiling panels; the new wood paneling and mouldings; and the hardwood floors in the Council Chambers all adding to the unique "town schoolhouse" character of the site.



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Jerry Johnson

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