

Osakis was the first School district in Douglas Count and known as District #1. District #2 was Alexandria. Forada was District #3. The schools were given their numbers in the order they started. At one time there were 104 School Districts in Douglas County.

**Oak Grove School District #24** was established in the SE corner of the NE1/4, Section 12 of Lake Mary Township on March 9, 1869. The school district boundaries included parts of Hudson Township across Highway 29. We assume that originally the grounds had oak trees which gave the school its name.

In 1885, a special meeting was called to propose and approve the building of a new school building on the old site. Building Bond was \$600 to be paid off at \$100 per year with interest not to exceed 10%. Plans for the proposed building were hand drawn. Copies from the historical file are displayed. Note –apparently a ruler was not used.

A list in the Douglas County Historical file indicates that Oak Grove had eighth grade classes until 1947. An county-wide eighth grade graduation was held each year in Alexandria. From about 1948 until 1955 only grades through sixth grade were taught in the country school. Then for a few years again there were eight grades with a second part-time teacher assisting. Mrs. Rapp was one of the assisting teachers.

As progress caused change in the county, so too did the structures of the schoolhouses and boundaries of the School Districts. In June of 1971, the era of the country schools ended entirely. In the State of Minnesota, all School Districts were absorbed into school systems offering kindergarten through grade 12.

After consolidation with the “town school”, the old building and site were sold. A furnace explosion destroyed much of the building, but it was rebuilt on the same foundation. It is owned by Paul Kuhnau and he operates Paul’s Upholstery on the former Oak Grove School site.

memories from country school: The paste jar – you got a glob of paste on a scrap piece of paper; the thrill of the new box of colors on the first day of school each year; the Kluver kids were wonderful athletes and got chosen first; first base what the girls’ outhouse and third base was the boys’ outhouse; Remember the Christmas program – the boards were supported on cement blocks, the curtain was strung on wire that stretched from one side of the room to the other, and the program included Christmas Carols? I think Mrs. Barsness wrote the Zaner-Bloser book of handwriting—her penmanship was perfect. She was also a wonderful piano player, and we sung songs from the Golden Song Book. Remember the well pump that supplied water for drinking and washing hands? There was a substantial sturdy chainlink fence that enclosed the school grounds. There was a hole underneath that fence on the southeast corner. Some students used that hole as a shortcut when leaving the grounds.

Special thanks to everyone who made this reunion possible, especially **Anne Hiebel Tatum, Lorlee Bartos, Stan Rolfsrud, Dorothy Hlinsky**. Thank you all for “spreading the word”....

**Thank you for coming!**

**LuAnn Bartos Schrader**

**HYPERLINK** <mailto:schrader@bevcomm.net> [schrader@bevcomm.net](mailto:schrader@bevcomm.net)