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When Kekoskee had a School

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 CONTRIBUTOR

This is a brief summary of a school in Kekoskee. The beginning of school days in the village is a bit uncertain. Old records show that the first schoolteacher hired was in 1867. It is then assumed the construction of the first schoolhouse was approximately in at that time.

It is hard to imagine what teaching was like in the early years – the horse and buggy days. Whatever children learned in school was likely appropriate at the time. Each student had a life to live not knowing what the future had in store for them.

My mother, who grew up in Kekoskee, went to grade school in there. Her dad was the village blacksmith. My mother said in her day the village was a bustling community with plenty to do and much going on.

The first public school house in Kekoskee was located in a park on the south end of the village on Hwy Y. Later a new and remodeled school was moved to the southwest corner of Market and Valley streets.

The Kekoskee school closed after the 1971-1972 school year, and students then became part of The Mayville School District. The school building was eventually sold to a private resident.

In the early years the school had a coal furnace. There was a stoker box filled with coal. Klinkers and ashes had to regularly be taken out of the furnace when in use. Boys were assigned to shovel the walk leading up to the schoolhouse. Children were assigned to mop the classroom floor. Cleaning the chalkboards and erasers was also an assigned chore.

Children listened and partici-

pated in radio programs such as "Let's Sing" and "Let's Draw."

Some of the early teachers often lived with member of the community. Teacher pay was low. In 1955, teachers in Kekoskee were paid approximately \$3,000 per year.

Listed below are a few of the teachers who taught in the later years before the Kekoskee school closed. Hopefully readers of this article will remember a teacher or two.

Teachers included Verna Marohl, Elmer Bonack, Courtney Dethardt, Bill Fehling, Mary Shriner, Zora Falk, Milton Hurlbert, Ruth Lagenhorst, Florence Metke, Gertrude Mielke, Arnold Muche, and Donald Roll.

Changes do come. No one has been able to stop or even slow down Father Time. Kekoskee had a school!



A souvenir card of Kekoskee School staff from 1906-1907. **SUBMITTED**

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