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to carry our water from Cesnik's through the brush.

Fires. My gosh. Awful dry and get up to the house. There was only 150 feet clearance between the down where Frank Morgal lives. house and the woods. You could see the fires light up the sky west with us a couple of nights in case of what we had carried from Cesnik's. night.

I went to school at the logging Hecla, S.D. in the late 1880s. camp building. Harvey Long was back to Illinois.

Mr. Will Demeir had a post office in the logging camp school. They had the place Gabby Lamovec has now. They moved the post office over there. He lived here from the first part of 1908.

A storekeeper came in and had a store in the logging camp for 1908, '09, and part of '10. Then he moved into Suda's store.

The logging camp store school was back of Mary's Lesar's store, where Mrs. Gregorich has her house -- east of the spur that went to the Eau Claire River.

Railroad spur went past Leo Gregorich's, then through Frank Perovsek's land, past Bill Petkovsek's and Jelercic's down to a landing by the river. Robert Herrick knows where it was.

John and Balbina Bayuk came here in 1910. I remember when my Dad and I came to see them. We brought some rutabagas and potatoes one Sunday to them (on the farm). We had a homemade sled and the road wound around. I thought we were never going to get there. Joe and Genevieve went to school with me

The school was built in 1909 and we started in November. Harvey Long was a very good teacher.

In the summer of 1913, Anton J. Trabovic came here, visiting everyone and taking their pictures. He took one of our family.

My mother and dad sawed cordwood all day. I went to school. John started in 1909. We went until

Cesnik showed us how to get to our 1913. Then the pupil load got so the train, up the railroad grade to place. We had to walk back toward heavy that another school was built the northeast, there was nothing Willard, then took a path through called North Willard, on one acre but pine stumps. Happy's land was the woods that my Dad had made. of land on the northeast corner of It went through Cesnik's land, then Kokaly's land. The school was later of swampy. There was a barn that to ours. We hit an old logging road closed for lack of pupils and the there. It went past our land and west building was sold to Jake Barr. The into Lucas'; and old tote road for North Mound School was moved to I used to go by there every morning north of Frank Artac's on Counyt We saw our new home, a cabin. Road O when the Benjamin School a frame house with a steel chimney. We didn't have a well and had burned down. Gorman School I used to get a quart of milk after was also closed and sold to Pete Bogdonovich.

A small van was purhased for hot that year in the woods. We had a school bus. John Zagozen made great big maples around our house seats for it. Martin Kirn was the bus and my Dad raked the leaves away, driver. He had two separate routes, into the woods so the fire wouldn't one north and one south of Willard. Blackberry is the only school left,

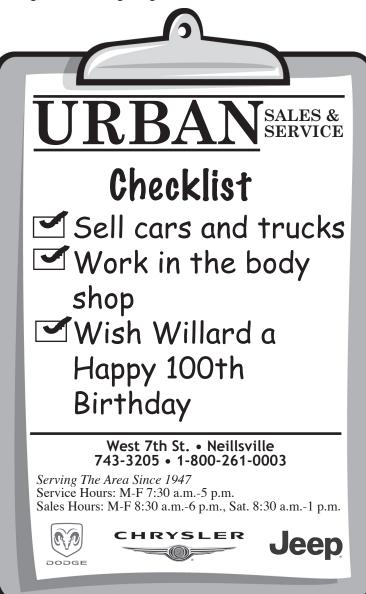
If no one knew how to swear, they sure knew how when they got of the middle mound at night. Mrs. through with school. She could Peroshek's brother came to sleep swear like a trooper and do it without vengeance; it was just a a fire. We didn't have any water; just habit. Tioga was in existence before Willard. The depot was built there We were afraid of the wolves at in the 1880's or 1890's. Harold Stabnow remembers coming from

Willard Depot was built in 1910. our teacher. Sam Long was his Before that, the old logging camp brother, who lived where Dan Boh was used for a post office, depot lives now. Sam taught school in and store. People lived there in Gorman later on. Harvey taught here nothing but an old shack. There in 1908, '09,'10 and finished up in were a couple of barns. Pine stumps 1911. He sold out in 1912 and went were everywhere. I looked up that morning, as we were getting off

nothing but pine stumps and kind Mr. Claire had a bull in, right across from where the parish house is now. on my way to school. Claire lived in school and it was frozen by the time I got home.

One of the things that stands out in my mind is the first fire we had in January of 1910. Harvey Long, our teacher, was pacing up and down the aisle just before we were to have a class. He was deep in thought it seemed to me. I was on the west side of the building. All of a sudden he got up and tore out out of there like a streak of lightning. We looked and saw Claire's house afire. Mrs. Claire was coming up the road with Allen and carrying Elizabeth. Arnold, Alma and Ada were all in school. He ran down to meet Mrs. Claire and help her with the children. He came back to dismiss school, so we went home. He couldn't save the building. We could hear the bullets

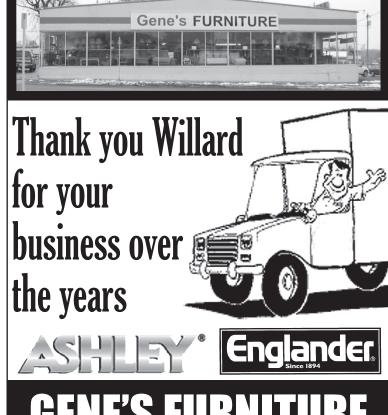
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Willard welcomes Centennial visitors

Marie Lunka, daughter of Willard settlers Frank and Mary Lunka, meets a visitor at the Gorman depot, southwest of Willard. In the same way, Willard citizens will meet visitors at their Slovenian Heritage Days, July 27-29, 2007, in celebration of their Centennial. Photo courtesy of Spominska Zgodovina Historical Memories, Willard,



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