

## Memories, from page 13

Cesnik showed us how to get to our place. We had to walk back toward Willard, then took a path through the woods that my Dad had made. It went through Cesnik's land, then to ours. We hit an old logging road there. It went past our land and west into Lucas'; and old tote road for may years.

We saw our new home, a cabin. We didn't have a well and had to carry our water from Cesnik's through the brush.

Fires. My gosh. Awful dry and hot that year in the woods. We had great big maples around our house and my Dad raked the leaves away, into the woods so the fire wouldn't get up to the house. There was only 150 feet clearance between the house and the woods. You could see the fires light up the sky west of the middle mound at night. Mrs. Peroshek's brother came to sleep with us a couple of nights in case of a fire. We didn't have any water; just what we had carried from Cesnik's. We were afraid of the wolves at night.

I went to school at the logging camp building. Harvey Long was our teacher. Sam Long was his brother, who lived where Dan Boh lives now. Sam taught school in Gorman later on. Harvey taught here in 1908, '09, '10 and finished up in 1911. He sold out in 1912 and went 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

1913. Then the pupil load got so heavy that another school was built called North Willard, on one acre of land on the northeast corner of Kokaly's land. The school was later closed for lack of pupils and the building was sold to Jake Barr. The North Mound School was moved to north of Frank Artac's on County Road O when the Benjamin School burned down. Gorman School was also closed and sold to Pete Bogdonovich.

A small van was purchased for a school bus. John Zagozen made seats for it. Martin Kirn was the bus driver. He had two separate routes, one north and one south of Willard. Blackberry is the only school left, down where Frank Morgal lives.

If no one knew how to swear, they sure knew how when they got through with school. She could swear like a trooper and do it without vengeance; it was just a habit. Tioga was in existence before Willard. The depot was built there in the 1880's or 1890's. Harold Stabnow remembers coming from Hecla, S.D. in the late 1880s.

Willard Depot was built in 1910. Before that, the old logging camp was used for a post office, depot and store. People lived there in nothing but an old shack. There were a couple of barns. Pine stumps were everywhere. I looked up that morning, as we were getting off

the train, up the railroad grade to the northeast, there was nothing but pine stumps. Happy's land was nothing but pine stumps and kind of swampy. There was a barn that Mr. Claire had a bull in, right across from where the parish house is now.

I used to go by there every morning on my way to school. Claire lived in a frame house with a steel chimney. I used to get a quart of milk after 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 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, Wis.



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