

Historic Sansarc Country School Museum & Orton School Bell

Readin', Ritin', 'Rithmetic

**Hayes, Stanley County 1910-1969
Mission Ridge, Stanley County 1925-2015**



Preserving History in Fort Pierre, SD

Imagine spending your school days in this room

Authors:

Betsey DeLoache & Deb Schiefelbein

The Sansarc Country School Museum is owned and operated by the Verendrye Museum. All donations are appreciated and help keep up the maintenance on the building.

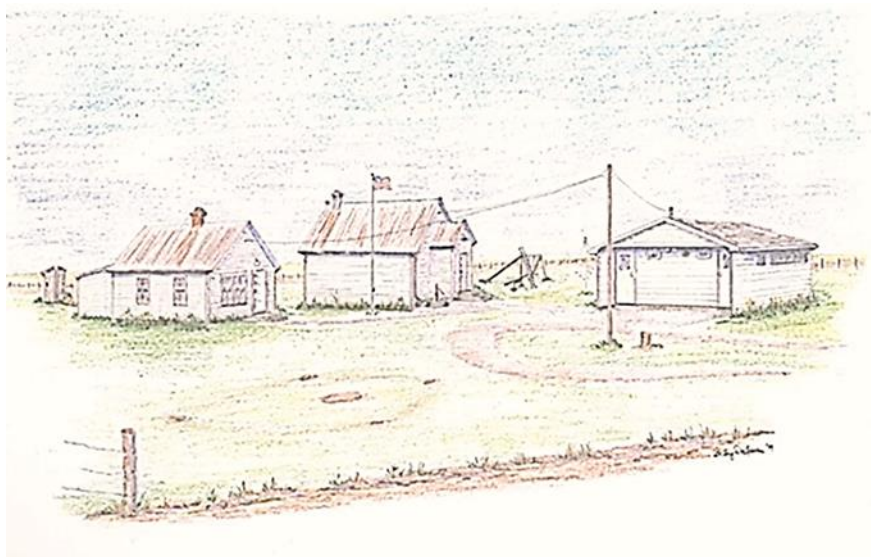
Thank you for exploring the school - we hope you enjoyed your visit.

Please come back again!

verendryemuseum.com

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Revised January 2020



1967 Sansarc School Campus



2013 Orton School, Mission Ridge

Original drawings by Betsey DeLoache
Red Bird Studio

History of the Schoolhouse

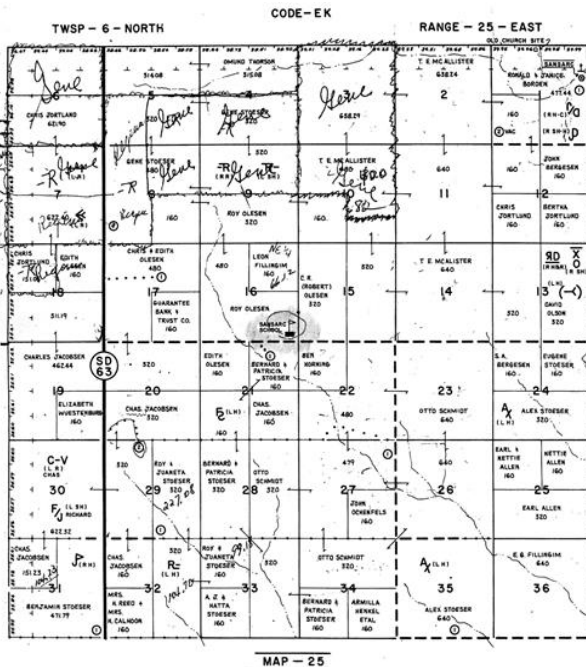
The first Sansarc schoolhouse (East) built along Sansarc Creek in 1904 on George Walker's place, now Timmy Olson's place. There were Sans Arc Indian tribes in the area of Cheyenne River. Sans Arc can mean "no bow" or "unmarked arrows". The Sans Arc Indians did not mark their arrows so they would all share the meat, rather than have all the meat go to only the brave who killed the bison. It is also thought they used spears instead of bow and arrows.



Sansarc School (west) built around 1910 in Stanley County and used actively as a school until 1969.

Phone service began in April 1960.

Early it was on the Jacobsen place.[Section 20] The last location was near Bernard Stoesser's place.[Southeast corner of Section 16 at flag symbol]



In notes by Frances Sampson Olesen, she has that Sansarc was established in 1904; and a new school was built in 1906. She has that Sansarc started as District #14. From 1912-1958 it was District #95. In 1958, it was in Trail District #98.

Purchased and moved to Gene Stoesser ranch in 1973. Gene then brought schoolhouse to Fort Pierre to be used as a museum in 1975 and donated it to the

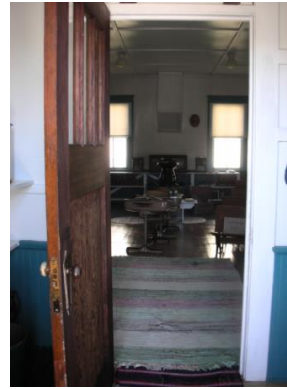
Verendrye Museum. Restoration of roof and interior in 1999 to prevent deterioration of building by Verendrye Museum and Stanley County School Board, guided by Gene Stoesser and Mary Beth Stoesser Fravel. The original teacher cottage built next to the school and used actively until 1969, and original swing set were located in April 2014. In 2014, Deb Stoesser



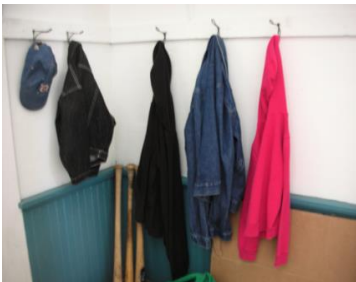
Schiefelbein guided cleaning, furnishing, improving appearance and functionality of building, and it was open as an interpretive museum in June 2014.

There were six windows, and one entrance door. The bathroom was one of the two school outhouses.

The one room school is 18 feet wide and 23 feet long and has six windows on South and two windows on East, a front entry with interior door and transom window to the room and outside entrance.



The entry is used for hanging coats, storing water cooler, keeping balls and bats, lunch pails, boots.





Washbasin



Hand pump, cooler, paper cups, lunch pails

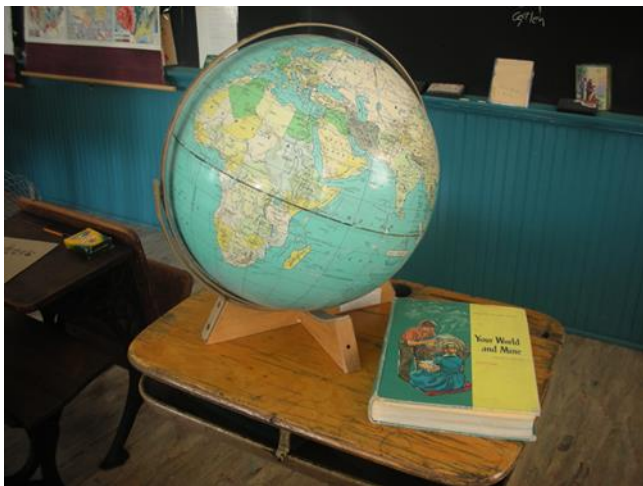
In the school was a potbelly stove in the rear that used wood and coal, and later an oil-burning stove.



Potbelly stove with tin collar, wood box, coal hod and scoop, utensils

There was a cistern near the front entrance, dipping a bucket to get the water and eventually using a hand pump, and flagpole between the two buildings. Phone service began in 1960.

Books from first to 8th grade curriculum, maps, globe, teaching aids, and blackboards are in place.



Globe and Geography textbook



Books for reading on bench with multiplication flash cards



On the walls are framed pictures of Presidents Lincoln and Washington, Lord's Prayer, The Lord, YCL (Young Citizens League) banner and certificates.



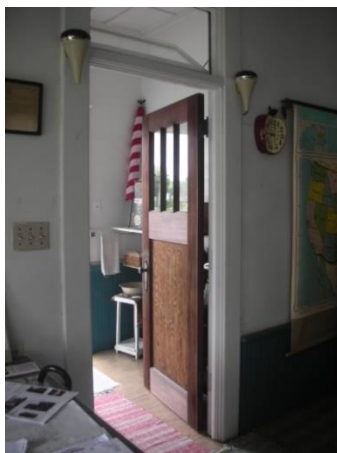
The school was used as a polling site and has an original ballot box.



Old school desks



YCL Lyrics (1929): “O, up from every valley And down from every crest, We come, thy loyal children, By all thy favors blest, To pledge our firm allegiance, America to thee, Thy guardians of tomorrow, By mountain, plain, and sea. 2) In all the winds of heaven, There breathes a patriot’s creed, Clean hearts and minds and bodies, Serve best our country’s need, That creed we hold America, Enshrined in heart and soul; A deeper sense of duty And better lives our goal. Chorus: We march and we sing; our voices ring; Young citizens are we; Leagued in a host whose watchwords are Youth, courage, loyalty. Hailing our nation’s banner, a-float in the sun-lit sky, Which thru hopes and fears, thru future years, We will hold evermore on high.”

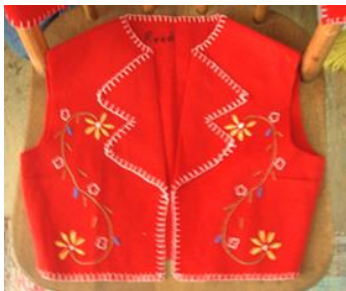


Door from classroom to entry

Classroom Setting



Switzerland Folk Dance for Legislators and Governor 1963



History of Teachers

In the original location in Stanley County, the teacher cottage next to the school was 17 feet wide and 20 feet long. It had three rooms: a living room with heater, a kitchen with sink and stove, a bedroom, and lean-to on the back for coal/wood storage.



1967



2014

The cottage still stands on a ranch in Northern Stanley County.

Teachers at Sansarc School 1914-1969

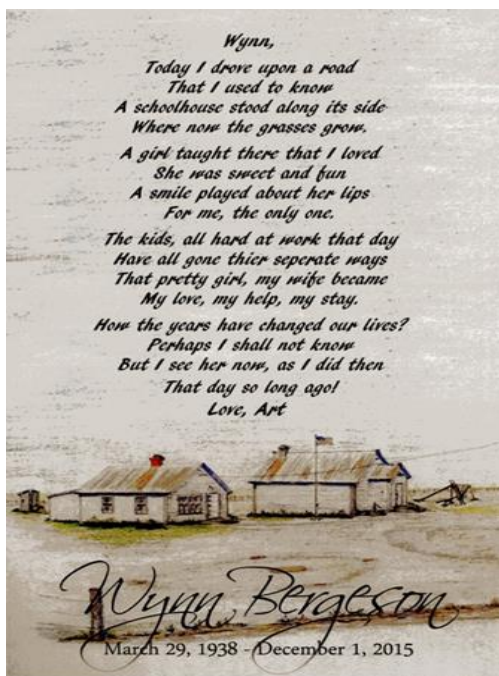
<u>Year</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Home address</u>	
1914	Sansarc	95	Leah Borden	Sansarc	
			Lois Putnam		
			Mrs. Cy Adams		
1915	Sansarc		Marie Berg	Sansarc	
1916	Sansarc		Hope Sheldon	Sansarc	east
			Mary Lowell Somers		west
1917	Sansarc		Mrs. Mary Patrick	Sansarc	east
			Lois M Smith		west
1918	Sansarc		Mary Patrick	Sansarc	east
			Verna Milton		west
1919	Sansarc		Mary Patrick	Sansarc	
1920	Sansarc		Elizabeth F Stinson	Davenport	
1921	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Mardelle Jordan		
1922	Sansarc		Joe E Lind	Sansarc	east
			Mardelle Jordan		west
1923	Sansarc		Joe E Lind	Sansarc	east
			Vincent Chaffee		west
1924	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Vincent Chaffee		
1925	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Vincent Chaffee		
1926	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Irma McFarling	Lacy	
1927	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Irma McFarling	Lacy	
1928	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			D Ralph Jordan		
1929	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Grace E Matteson	Hayes	
1930	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	
			Grace E Matteson	Hayes	
1931	Sansarc		Edith M Griffith	Sansarc	

		Charles J O'Connor	Hayes
1932	Sansarc	Mrs. Mina O'Rielly	Hayes
		Mrs. M Wright	Sansarc
1933	Sansarc	Margery Wright	Sansarc
1934	Sansarc	Margery Wright	Sansarc
1935	Sansarc	Margery Wright	Sansarc
1936	Sansarc	Margery Wright	Sansarc
1937	Sansarc	Margaret Humphrey	Sansarc
1938	Sansarc	Minnie Humphrey	Sansarc
1939	Sansarc	Merle Olesen	Hayes
1940	Sansarc	R Wilfred McCoy	Hayes
1941	Sansarc	R Wilfred McCoy	Sansarc
		Merle Olesen	Fort Pierre
1942	Sansarc	Gloria Saucerman	Midland
1943	Sansarc	Gloria Saucerman	Midland
1944	Sansarc	Ellen Tolton	Hayes
1945	Sansarc	Margaret Humphrey	Sansarc
1946	Sansarc	Margaret Humphrey	Sansarc
1947	Sansarc	Margaret Humphrey	Hayes
1948	Sansarc	Fanny Burmaster	Sansarc
1949	Sansarc	Fanny Burmaster	Sansarc
1950	Sansarc	Fanny Burmaster	Sansarc
1951			
1952	Sansarc	Fanny Burmaster	Sansarc
1953	Sansarc	Fanny Burmaster	Hayes
1954	Sansarc	Agnes Ann Ourada	Hayes
1955	Sansarc	Agnes Ann Ourada	Hayes
1956	Sansarc	Harold Ellingson	Hayes
		Mrs. Frances Nemec	
1957	Sansarc	Handrahan	Fort Pierre
1958	Sansarc	Trail 98 Winifred Nemec	Hayes
1959	Sansarc	Winifred Nemec Bergeson	Hayes
		Linda Caruthers Sandal	
1960	Sansarc	(Susie)	Hayes
1961	Sansarc	Jennie Wagner	Hayes
1962	Sansarc	Jennie Wagner	Hayes

1963	Sansarc	Joyce Keckler	Hayes
		Loretta Opstedahl	Hayes
1964	Sansarc	Joyce Keckler	Hayes
		Loretta Opstedahl	Hayes
1965	Sansarc	Alice A Kirksey	Hayes
		Frances Sampson	Hayes
1966	Sansarc	Frances Sampson	Hayes
		Joyce Keckler Collins	Hayes
1967	Sansarc	Winifred Nemec Bergeson	Hayes
		Phyllis Stoesser	Hayes
1968	Sansarc	Phyllis Stoesser	Hayes
		Alma Pugh	Hayes
1969	Sansarc	Closed	

Teacher Stories

Winifred Nemec Bergeson 1958-59



Linda “Susy” Caruthers Sandal 1960



2014 at the
teacher's desk



Loretta Opstedahl Tibbs 1963-64



Loretta started her first year teaching the lower school (1st through 4th grade) in the new building shown below, during 1963, with her best friend, Joyce Keckler, teaching in the upper school, (5th through 8th grade) in the old Sansarc building. There were 26 total students, all Stoesers.



Loretta 1965-66

Joyce 1963

A story she recalls: “One very blizzardy spring day the kids looked out of the school and saw some of the neighbors horses in the wind, rain and snow which had almost driven them into the corner of the fence.

Well, as the day wore on the kids kept watch and noticed a newborn colt that was laying flat in the mud and rain. Well, they talked each other and Joyce and I into dragging the colt into the school and warming it up.”



Second school building added 1962

Frances Sampson Olesen 1965-66



School Days 1966-67

“My sister living in South Dakota told me of a school west of Pierre that was looking for a teacher. I applied and was hired. This was Sansarc. This was a two-teacher school. I taught the lower grades (in the newer building). I taught here 2 years. This was an interesting school in that all the students had the same last name. After leaving Sansarc, I took a year off from teaching and went to Mankato State College to get my 4-year degree.

I then went on to teach 4th grade for two years in Algona, Iowa. I felt there wasn't as much parental input there as there had been in the rural schools.”

Phyllis Alleman Stoeser 1967-68



Alma Pugh 1968



The Day I “Loving Cared” My Hair

The day was bright and sunny
I was feeling rather gay,
I looked into the mirror
And my hair looked kinda gray.

My mother and so many friends
Had said “Your hair is rather drab,
Why don’t you put some rinse on it
And color it – just a dab?”

I went to Pierre the other day
And bought some Loving Care,
Now I grabbed the bottle quickly –
I was in the mood for dare.

I took one look at “drabby” me
Then I put the color on...
When I had time to look again
The drabbiness was gone.

I resembled a valentine
Or the red stripes in our flag
I had used but half the color
Now I did look like a hag.

I put the plastic bag on
And grieved the allotted time
When I rinsed it and looked again...
Great day! I looked in my prime!

The gray is rather golden now,
And the red a brighter hue
I like it much, much better now

Than I did at that first view.

I'm really for this Loving Care
For thirty-niners like me
I'm already saving up my dimes
To purchase some more you see.

When I really do get older,
And my hair is really gray
Because I've always liked gray hair
I'll keep it just that way.

P.S. Oh! Hubby dear is at the door
I'll say from the beginning
That what he sees is really me,
And not Miss Rhonda Fleming.

P.S. to the P.S.
Do you know what he really said?
Oh dear! He's such a bore,
"If half the bottle did so much
Why didn't you use some more?"

Alice Aleeyne Kirksey



Alice Aleeyne Kirksey

**Ragtime – Folk Songs
And a Mellerdrummer
Mort Hamilton and the Music Students**

Marva Lee Norman	Smokey Mokes	Abe Holzman
Mary Beth Stoeser	Clementine	Folk Song
Julie Stoeser	On Top of Old Smokey	Folk Song
Valerie Johnson	Tell It To Me	Ben Harney
Kevin Neuhauser	Good-Bye Old Paint	Folk Song
Lorena Stoeser	John Peel	Scottish Folk Song
Pam Stoeser	Hello My Baby	Joe Howard
Lori Stoeser	Red River Valley	Folk Song
Julian Roseth	Bos'n Rag	Fred Stone
Jo Lynn Stoeser	Dill Pickles	Charles Johnson
Cindy Markwed	Rag-Ma-La	Anderson & Shaw
Debbie Buchholz	Shenandoah	Folk Song
Debbie Stoeser	Hilarity Rag	James Scott

No No A Million Times No
A Mellerdrummer by Bud Tomkins

Overture	Mort Hamilton – Bruce Norman	
Pappy	Debbie Buchholz	
Noble Hart	Julian Roseth	
Nellie	Cindy Markwed	
Stafford Black Heart	Kevin Neuhauser	
Birdie Seed	Debbie Stoeser	
Iffy Cann	Bruce Norman	
City Gals	Jo Lynn & Mary Beth Stoeser	
	Pam & Lori Stoeser	
	Julie Stoeser	Lorena Stoeser Valerie Johnson

Music lessons were taught by many teachers, as well as some talented local residents.

History of Students



1926-27 L to R back: Charles Jacobson, George McRae, Ruth Newby, Laura McRae, Rose McFarling; front: Frank Earls, Ben Stoeser, Roy Leo Stoeser, Maude McRae, Vernon Jacobsen; Teacher: Mrs. Grace E Matteson, Mrs. McFarling



1930 L to R back: Laura McRae, Rose McFarling, Ruth Newby, Charles Jacobson; front: Ben Stoeser, Vernon Jacobson, Roy Leo Stoeser, George McRae; teachers Edith Griffith and Grace Matteson

Overall, 29 Stoeser first cousins, and their 5 fathers all attended Sansarc School.



1943 Stoesers L to R: back: Alex (18), Ben (20), Gene (15), Roy Leo (29) Front: A.J. (57), Bernard (13), Hatta (51)



Circa 1941 L to R: Back row Teacher, Gloria Saucerman, Billy Andersen, Roy Olesen, Alta Olesen, Robert Olesen; middle row Billy Klienaxle (hat), Francis Olesen, Frank Miller, Mary Andersen, front row: Marcela Andersen, Shirley Olesen

Students Attending:

Anderson, Billy
Anderson, Marcella
Anderson, Mary
Earls, Frank
Harrison, Jerome
(Two girls and another boy)
Jacobson, Charles
Jacobson, Vernon
Jordan, Dan
Kelly, Billy
Kjar, Andrew
Klienaxle, Alfred
Klienaxle, Billy
Klienaxle, Richard
McFarling, Rose
McRae, George
McRae, Jess
McRae, Laura
McRae, Maude
Newby, Ruth
Olesen, Alta
Olesen, Andrew
Olesen, Francis
Olesen, Irene
Olesen, Jerry
Olesen, Mary Jean
Olesen, Robert
Olesen, Roy
Olesen, Shirley
Olson, Alan
Olson, Daveen
Olson, David
Olson, Lenny
Olson, Stan
Parker, Billy
Parker, Mike
Puryear, Elizabeth (East)
Puryear, Mary (East)
Sowards, Pam

Sowards, Patti
Sowards, Paula
Stoeser, Alex
Stoeser, Ben
Stoeser, Bernard
Stoeser, Bert
Stoeser, BJ
Stoeser, Bob
Stoeser, Clayton
Stoeser, Deb
Stoeser, Diane
Stoeser, Galen
Stoeser, Gene
Stoeser, Jim
Stoeser, JoLynn
Stoeser, Julie
Stoeser, Kathy
Stoeser, Keith
Stoeser, Linette
Stoeser, Lorena
Stoeser, Lori
Stoeser, Mary Beth
Stoeser, Mike
Stoeser, Nancy
Stoeser, Norm
Stoeser, Pam
Stoeser, Randy
Stoeser, Reed
Stoeser, Rod
Stoeser, Roy Leo
Stoeser, Steve
Stoeser, Teresa
Stoeser, Tim
Stoeser, Vicky
Stoeser, Vince
Trittle, Greg
Walker, Beth
Walker, David
Walker, Jack
Walker, Margaret

(These students attended Sansarc School West and later Sansarc School except where designated as East.)

For at least ten years beginning in 1953, the majority of the students at Sansarc School were members of the Stoesser family. In this photo, there are seventeen students, siblings, and cousins, with the surname of Stoesser. Photo is from an article in the March 18, 1963, Prairie State News.



1963

L to R front row: Vicky, Lori, Jimmy, Vince; second row: Randy, Norman, Julie, Bob, JoLynn, Reed; back row: Steve, Rodney, Debbie, Kathy, Pam, Bert, Clayton, with their teacher, Mrs. Jennie Wagner of Pierre

1965 Sansarc Lower: L to R: Jim, Mike, Vince, Galen, Lori, Vicky, Mary Beth, Lorena, with their teacher, Miss Frances Sampson



SANSARC (LOWER)



SANSARC (UPPER)

1965 Sansarc Upper L to R back: with their teacher, Mrs. Leo (Aleeyne) Kirksey, Randy, Pam, Deb, Bert, Clayton; front: Julie, Bob, Reed, Norm, Jo Lynn

Sansarc Upper



TEACHER: Mrs. Kirksey. BACK ROW: Debra Stoesser, Albert Stoesser, Clayton Stoesser, Pamela Stoesser.
FRONT ROW: Julie Stoesser, Reed Stoesser, Jo Lynn Stoesser, Robert Stoesser, Randy Stoesser, Norman Stoesser.

Sansarc Lower



TEACHER: Miss Sampson, BACK ROW: Vince Stoesser, Mike Stoesser, Jim Stoesser FRONT ROW: Lorena Stoesser, Galen Stoesser, Vicky Stoesser, Lori Stoesser, Mary Beth Stoesser.

1966



TEACHER: Phyllis Stoeser Front: Gaylen Stoeser, Lori Stoeser, Vince Stoeser, Middle: Norm Stoeser, Bob Stoeser, Vicki Stoeser, Jim Stoeser, Randy Stoeser Back: Reed Stoeser, Mike Stoeser, Julie Stoeser, JoLynn Stoeser

Upper Sansarc

Lower Sansarc

TEACHER: Mrs Alma Pugh Front P. Sowards, B.J. Stoeser, N. Stoeser, P. Sowards Back L. Stoeser, P. Sowards, M. Stoeser



1969

Sansarc swing set modified with teeter-totter on top of slide so students could jump off into snow banks 1960's

This picture shows Randy on the end of the teeter-totter, Deb on top and JoLynn, Vince and Lori coming up the slide.



Sansarc swing set at Hayes

Gene Stoesser kids getting ready to ride to school 1963



L to R: Deb, Rod, Norm, Clayton, and Lorena (front)

Ready for school – riding bicycles



First Day of School, Sept 1966 Stoessers

L to R: Nancy (1st grade), Lori (5th grade), Pam (7th grade),
Bob (5th grade)

Christmas Play at new Sansarc School

1966 Nancy (L) and Pam (R) reciting poems in front of curtain



Wedding skit, School Play at Sansarc May 1968

L to R: Paula Sowards, Galen Stoeser, Nancy Stoeser, BJ Stoeser, Patty Sowards, Mary Beth Stoeser, Lorena Stoeser



Stanley County Rural School students' 8th grade graduation 1967 at
Congregational Church, Fort Pierre



L to R back: Gary White, Jeff Mortenson, Kirby Hedman, Bruce Norman
Front: Pam Stoeser, Pam Stirling, Deb Stoeser, Karla Hedman



L to R: Pam Stoeser, Miss Frances Sampson, Miss Joyce Keckler, Deb
Stoeser

8th grade graduation May 12, 1967 in Fort Pierre

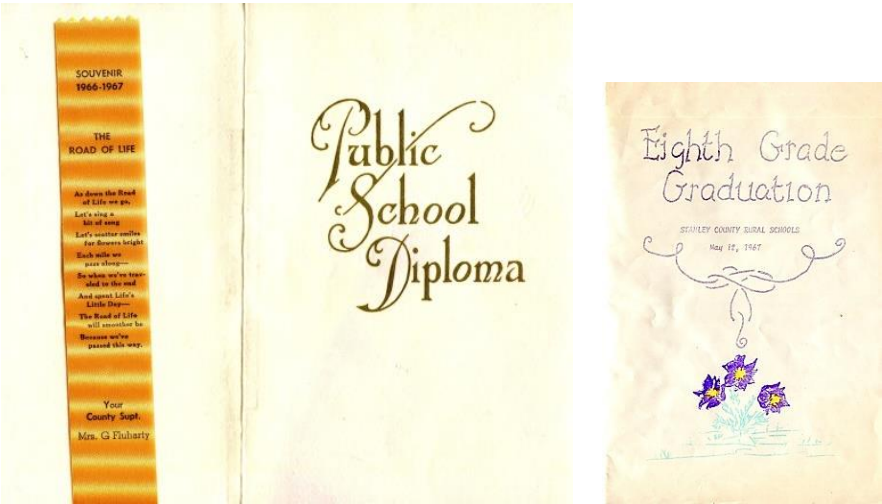


Superintendent Gretchen Fluharty presenting Pam Stoeser with diploma



L to R back: Laurel Ernst, Dayle Tibbs, Pam Stirling, Kirby Hedman, Jeff Mortenson, Bruce Norman, Gary White
Front 2nd person L to R: Susy Deal, Pam Stoeser, Karla Hedman, Deb Stoeser, also pictured Mary Ellen Andersen, Phyllis Seidler, Sandra Tolton

Rural School program and public school diploma 1967



Insert inside of program





L to R: Rev John Lurvey, John Fischer, Bernard Duffy,
Superintendent Gretchen Fluharty



Girls at Graduation Luncheon



Boys at Graduation Luncheon

Awards for Rally Day at Stanley County and end of school



Stoesers at St John’s Catholic Church, Fort Pierre, June 26, 1971
Keith’s wedding day



Top to Bottom, L to R:

<u>Gene’s</u>	<u>Bernie’s</u>	<u>Roy Leo’s</u>	<u>Benny’s</u>	<u>Alex’s</u>
Rode	Steve	Tim, Kathy, Keith	JoLynn	Mike
Clayton	Pam	Bert, Reed,	Mary Beth	Jim
Deb	Bob	Randy, Linette, Julie	B.J.	
Norm	Lori	Vince, Diane, Vicky	Teresa	
Lorena	Nancy	Galen		

2014 Stoeser Reunion at Sansarc School Museum



L to R Back: Reed, Rod, Keith, Tim, Steve, Clayton, Jim
Middle: Kathy, Deb, Linette, Julie, Mary Beth, Pam, Bob
Front: Nancy, Lori, Diane, Lorena

Bernie and Pat Stoeser, July 2014 at Sansarc School



Deb Stoeser Schiefelbein Grandkids-the Schiefelbein's and Jones'
Closest desks: Bronson S, Cora J, Quinn S; Middle Row: Carter S and
Slaton J; Last Row: Axl J



Time for school work-July 2019



The Wendte School (1910-1981) in Sansarc School Museum

Model of Schoolhouse close-up, on a teacher's desk and recitation bench



Orton School, Mission Ridge, Stanley County 1925-2015



2013 photo by Betsey DeLoache

By Deb Schiefelbein/Sunny Hannum

The Orton School bell made its first public appearance in Fort Pierre during the 4th of July parade with the unveiling happening IMMEDIATELY after the parade at the Sansarc School behind the Log Cabin in Fort Pierre.

Schoolchildren and others will have the opportunity to ring the bell for HISTORY supported by a donation for the Verendrye Museum.



Unloading the 800 pound bell

The Dedication of the Bell event included speakers Phyllis Fravel, Darla Tibbs, Peggy Tibbs, Lynn Fravel, and others who shared their experiences at the Orton School.



Students and teachers of Orton School at the Dedication

Future leaders enjoying the moment by celebrating July 4th with the ringing of the bell.



Quinn Schiefelbein is shown ringing the bell at the Dedication, after first putting in her donation.

In 1925, the bell was placed atop the Orton School in Mission Ridge, 45 miles northwest of Fort Pierre, SD, ten miles from Highway 1806, where it rang every morning to indicate the starting of the school day until 2015 when the school was officially closed.



In the summer of 2008, Raymond Tibbs (top), Kyle Tibbs (bottom) and the boy, Grady Tibbs, worked on shoring up the framework for the bell. (Photos courtesy Darla and Loretta Tibbs.)



Looking at a list of students that attended there between 1916 and 2009, you would find 37 Tibbses, including Casey Tibbs. The Tibbs family had the most in attendance.

Photo of Orton students 1954



Standing Martha McRae (teacher) The kids left to right are: Terry Tibbs, Fio Tibbs, Clifford Tibbs, Rocky Tibbs, Mike Tibbs, Joey Jesso, Bernie Tibbs, Pat Tibbs, Jesse Tibbs, Verne Valentine, Bennie Harvey, Jill and Larry Tibbs (double) and Tim Tibbs

Upon the renovation of the Sansarc County School Museum in 2015, Peggy Tibbs, Phyllis & Lynn Fravel and Deb Schiefelbein began the discussion of relocating the Orton School bell to Fort Pierre to be part of the display of the country school museum revitalization project prompted by author Betsey DeLoache. Phyllis Fravel and her family attended and taught at the Orton School, thereby, it was important to take steps to prominently display the bell for everyone to enjoy. Discussions began with the request to purchase the bell from Stanley County Schools when the Orton School was officially closed. Verendrye Museum Board of Directors Zay Norman and Deb Schiefelbein attended the School Board Meeting and closed the deal in 2016.



During the fall of 2017, Brandon Vevig (Phyllis Fravel's grandson) was repairing many of the homes on Orton Flat in the Mission Ridge area and with the heavy equipment there, they decided to remove the bell and deliver it to handy man Brian Scott on the Bad River for preparation of the structure that would support the bell. Brian and friends formed a concrete base and iron structure from the **White River 1907 Bridge Beam** (pictured to left, donated by Bob & Elsie Bak, Bak Construction) which was perfectly detailed for placement by the Sansarc Country School Museum.

Country schools have been an important part of the culture of South Dakota throughout the previous century until they began to be closed after 2000. According to South Dakota Department of Education records, during the 2009-2010 school year there were 24 one- and two-teacher schools in the state, excluding Hutterite colony schools. There are 152 school districts in the state. South Dakota reached its peak with oneroom schoolhouses in 1916, with 5,011 in operation, said Charles Woodard, of Brookings, co-author of the book "One-Room Country School." In the early 1930s, that number decreased to 4,731. In the mid-1940s, 3,599 were open. By the turn of the century, there were only 50 rural schoolhouses operating in South Dakota. The following paragraphs are quoted from "Country Schools: Past and Present" by Betsey DeLoache: "What is fascinating to me is to hear about students walking or riding horseback several miles to school in all types of weather. They also told me about gathering desks around the stove to keep warm in the winter, baking potatoes on the stove for lunch, playing at recess with found objects like sticks and tumbleweeds, and having a Christmas program in the school with sheets hung on a wire to form the stage area.

I admire the courage of the teachers who arrived at school early to get the fire going with wood and coal before the children came in with cold hands and feet. The teachers would stay in the schoolhouse overnight in a cramped corner with sometimes no electricity, phone, or indoor toilets, in a very remote area, and taught students in multiple grade levels all at once.”

Orton School
Originally Prepared by Marion Hudson

Location: Approximately forty-five miles northwest of Fort Pierre, SD, on Highway 1806, which is an oiled road to within ten miles of the school. The last ten miles is graveled. Address is Mission Ridge, Stanley County, SD
Original Location: No. This building was four miles west of the present site. In 1952, the school was moved from West Orton to East Orton in order to accommodate the entire community, since East Orton School was too small. East Orton School was moved to Standing Butte and later discontinued.

Name of Building and Origin of Name: In 1907, Crazy Woman Flat was the original name of the community known as Orton Flat. I believe this was given because of the many homesteaders who came and left because of the hardships, which they could not endure. One instance which is told of a woman homesteader coming out of her shack in a long dress and stampeding a herd of cattle, which was being moved. Henry Angel, who was with the herd, said “A crazy woman, GOD, a crazy woman.” Mrs. Babcock, a homesteader, whose maiden name was Orton, had the first Post Office and thus the community received the name Orton. Orton #8 was the name and number of this school district for many years. In 1976, the County of Stanley took over all the schools and the present number is 57-1.

The district was organized and the school was built in 1918 by Henry Hopkins, with the help of Severt Thorsen, John Hill, Glen Fravel and more. Mrs. Alta Hill was the first teacher in the newly organized district and new school year house. She taught for two years and had fifteen to twenty pupils each year. The school has been used for about fifty-three years. From 1943-1952 school was held in the East Orton School and this building was vacant. The school was built according to specifications for schools at that time.

Orton School Picnic

Photo of
school picnic
courtesy
Prairie
Progress,
Roy and
Edith
Norman



Names of Former Teachers at West Orton and East Orton Schools:

Helen Sorenson	Monica McCall	LaVerne Valentine
Katie Brady	Dorothy Curtis	Phyllis Fravel
Alta Hill	Ruth Olson	Irene Payton
Florence Hughes	R.D. Harlan	Irene Walsh
Celia Samuelson	Gretchen Fluharty	Elizabeth Trimble
Florence Young	Ruth Wightman	Virginia Stanbrough
Bertha Kirley	Juanita Crouse	Sylvia Anderson
Marie Johnson	Olga Olson	John Endes
Katherine Carlisle	Anna Soper	Anna Dunkleberger
Gertrude Knoepker	Horace Miers	Loretta Tibbs
Ida Erickson	Edith Young	Edd Book
Minnie Humphrey	Mina Erickson	Letha Parsons
Amanda Fravel	Martha McRae	Elizabeth Hoyt
Elsie Reed	Luella Graham	Philip O'Connor
Hattie Brown	Ellen Tolton	Debra Osborne
Grace Frost	John Angyal	Shari Metz
Nancy Schmidt	Janice Fink	Maria Bergeson
Rick Zollner	Steve Pickner	David Owens
Lynn Larson	Maia Lynstad	Theresa Beastrom
Darla Tibbs	Rose Marie Shoemake	Shari Beeghler

Other architectural features: Basement under new addition with two entrances contains gas furnace, cupboards, and gas range. Upstairs teacherage also has two entrances, inside and outside.

Anything Left Inside: Completely furnished for school use.

Current Condition and Use: The building was moved and remodeled in 1952 by Robert Hutchison Contractors and again remodeled and enlarged in 1975 by Glover Construction. It is in good condition.

The school building has been used as a community building for all community projects such as Church, Elections, Parties, School Programs, Weddings, Funeral Luncheons, and Picnics.

District Records: Stanley County Business Manager's Office, Fort Pierre, SD.

Electricity was installed in 1957 and telephone in 1961.



2013 - Orton southwest view with teacher's mobile home pad, courtesy Betsey DeLoache

Names of people that attended East or West Orton Schools: 1916-2009

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Abbott, Raymond | 41. Fravel, Lynn |
| 2. Abbott, Walter | 42. Fravel, Pearl |
| 3. Angell, Marie | 43. Fravel, Ronald |
| 4. Angyal, Jamie | 44. Greenwood, Dick |
| 5. Angyal, Nola | 45. Hansen, Emily |
| 6. Baird, Dorothy | 46. Hansen, Sheridan |
| 7. Baird, Lois | 47. Hart, Bill |
| 8. Bear, Harold | 48. Hart, Ray |
| 9. Bilbrey, Jim | 49. Hart, Robert |
| 10. Buchanan, Jordan | 50. Hart, Stanley |
| 11. Caraway, Justin | 51. Hart, Warren |
| 12. Chisolm, Dan | 52. Harvey, Benjamin |
| 13. Chisolm, Janet | 53. Harvey, Carla |
| 14. Deal, Dallas | 54. Harvey, Clarise |
| 15. Deal, Kristie | 55. Harvey, Eldon |
| 16. Deal, Ray | 56. Harvey, Ella |
| 17. Deal, Shawn | 57. Harvey, Erma |
| 18. Deal, Vickie | 58. Harvey, Gelina |
| 19. Donelan, Brenda | 59. Harvey, Jay |
| 20. Donelan, Dan | 60. Harvey, Kay |
| 21. Erickson, Alf | 61. Harvey, Penny |
| 22. Erickson, Anton | 62. Harvey, Rhonda |
| 23. Erickson, David | 63. Harvey, Shane |
| 24. Erickson, Donald | 64. Harvey, Shelly |
| 25. Erickson, Elin | 65. Hill, Alice |
| 26. Erickson, Ida | 66. Hill, Stanley |
| 27. Erickson, Mina | 67. Holloway, Johnny |
| 28. Erickson, Raymond | 68. Houck, Jessica |
| 29. Erickson, Selma | 69. Houck, Roberta |
| 30. Fischer, Clifford | 70. Houck, Tommy |
| 31. Fischer, Leland | 71. Hoyt, Todd |
| 32. Fischer, Roxanne | 72. Humble, Tomisue |
| 33. Fischer, Shari | 73. Ingle, Darla |
| 34. Fravel, Clifford | 74. Ingle, Shari |
| 35. Fravel, Ethel | 75. Jefferies, Elmer |
| 36. Fravel, Helen | 76. Jefferies, Leonard |
| 37. Fravel, Herbert | 77. Jesse, Joseph |
| 38. Fravel, James | 78. Kirley, Elaine |
| 39. Fravel, Kathryn | 79. Kirley, Eloyd |
| 40. Fravel, Linda | 80. Kirley, Charlene |

81. Kirley, Fayne
82. Kirley, Gertrude
83. Kirley, Johnny
84. Kirley, Joseph
85. Kirley, Joyce
86. Kirley, Laurin
87. Kirley, Marie
88. Kirley, Mildred
89. Lappe, Shari
90. Lewis, Audrey
91. Meinen, Lois
92. Myers, Belinda
93. Myers, Bill
94. Myers, Frank
95. Myers, Renee
96. Nickels, Boots
97. Nickels, Dianna
98. Nickels, Laveta
99. Nickels, Tracy
100. Norman, Paige
101. Norman, Seth
102. Norman, Zachery
103. O'Day, Cindy
104. O'Day, Mike
105. O'Day, Pat
106. O'Day, Ray
107. O'Day, Roy
108. O'Day, Wendy
109. Parks, Ilah
110. Parks, Norman
111. Payton, Billy
112. Payton, Douglas
113. Payton, Susan
114. Price, Bill
115. Price, Catherine
116. Price, Gile
117. Spencer, Paula
118. Stewart, Kayla
119. Stewart, Martha
120. Stewart, Rebecca
121. Stewart, Shawn
122. Stoeser, Chance
123. Stoeser, Heath
124. Stoeser, Tyler
125. Storrs, Alton
126. Storrs, Bill
127. Storrs, Pam
128. Tabbert, Jason
129. Tabbert, Jared
130. Tabbert, Joshua
131. Thompson, Alice
132. Thompson, Billy
133. Thompson, Bo
134. Thompson, Charles
135. Thompson, Donna
136. Thompson, Lynette
137. Thompson, Mary
138. Thompson, Royce
139. Thompson, Thomas
140. Thoreson, Arline
141. Thoreson, Marian
142. Thoreson, Marjorie
143. Tibbs, Ancel
144. Tibbs, Ardith
145. Tibbs, Bernard
146. Tibbs, Casey
147. Tibbs, Clifford
148. Tibbs, Dan
149. Tibbs, Darlene
150. Tibbs, Darren
151. Tibbs, Dayle
152. Tibbs, Diana
153. Tibbs, Dolly
154. Tibbs, Frank
155. Tibbs, Grady
156. Tibbs, Jill
157. Tibbs, Jessie
158. Tibbs, John
159. Tibbs, Katherine
160. Tibbs, Kyle

161. Tibbs, Larry
162. Tibbs, Layma
163. Tibbs, Levi
164. Tibbs, Mike
165. Tibbs, Pat
166. Tibbs, Patricia
167. Tibbs, Ralph
168. Tibbs, Raymond
169. Tibbs, Regina
170. Tibbs, Rocky Lane
171. Tibbs, Tawn

172. Tibbs, Terry
173. Tibbs, Tether
174. Tibbs, Thad
175. Tibbs, Tim
176. Tibbs, Tom
177. Tibbs, Tony
178. Tibbs, Vickie
179. Tibbs, Wayne
180. Tibbs, Zane
181. Ulmet, Betty
182. Ulmet, Dorothy



Orton Campus northwest approach on driveway

183. Ulmet, Marie
184. Ulmet, Nathalie
185. Ulmet, Ruth
186. Valentine, Ausbrand
187. Valentine, Ella
188. Valentine, Hilda
189. Valentine, Martha
190. Valentine, Verne
191. Wiggington, Gene
192. Wightman, Blanche
193. Wightman, Clarence

194. Wightman, Hazel
195. Wightman, Roy
196. Wightman, Ruth
197. Wilson, Don
198. Wilson, Scott
199. Richardson, Peggy
200. Richardson, Helen
201. Richardson, John
202. Struck, Marlene



Orton west side view with slide in back



Orton swings



Orton Giant Stride

Photos 2013, courtesy Betsey DeLoache

A typical day in a one-room school in the past

- Hang coats, store boots and lunch pails in entry area
- Went outside to get the water to fill the cooler
- Raising the flag and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag outdoors
- Sing songs, early days sang YCL song
- Sometimes said prayers, depending on the family background
- Health checkup: hands, teeth, hair; taught hygiene
- Duties assigned by YCL (Young Citizens League)
- Recitation by students at front of classroom
- Older students assist younger students with assignments
- Recess: Played games outside according to how many students and what their ages so all played together; sometimes teacher joined in, too; hand bell to call in to start classes
- Classes
- Lunch: carried lunch in paper sack, syrup pail, tin box; might heat on stove i.e. soup or grilled cheese sandwiches; fruit and cookie; wash hands at wash basin with soap, using water carried into school and kept in bucket or crock; games after eating
In winter kept lunch and water in classroom so it wouldn't freeze
After lunch recess, the teacher read to students a chapter in a novel like "Little House on the Prairie" by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Classes
- Recess
- Fridays: Art lessons
- Lower the flag and fold properly
- Bank fire for next day in potbelly stove
- Erase the board, clean school
- Dismissed

Present day is similar with conveniences that are more modern.

HISTORIC Pierre & Fort Pierre PLACES

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Commission, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501
www.historicpierrefortpierre.com





Sansarc School



Orton School

**www.verendryemuseum.com
contact@verendryemuseum.com**