

Life at Logan

Logan Elementary School, a one room schoolhouse, sat in an empty field in the middle of the North Dakota prairie in the 1940's. It was supposed to be a white building, but the paint was usually peeling from the hot sun in the summer and the freezing snow and wind in the winter. Sometimes there were only five students and sometimes there were as many as ten. A long hallway in the front had lots of coat hooks and a bench that held a jumble of boots, coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and lunch boxes.

A coal shed right next to the school held the coal for the furnace that heated the classroom. The teacher had to bring the coal in every morning and the older students kept the fire burning all day.

The large barn behind the school held the horses that older children were allowed to ride to school during nice weather. Jimmy Cruff, an eighth grader, had to ride his black and white pinto pony every day to lead twenty-five cows to a nearby pasture. He kept his pony in the barn and then drove the cows back home at the end of the day. His sister drove a buckboard wagon that was pulled by a white horse named May. Every morning she had to bring her sisters and all their lunches. She also had to bring the drinking water for the school since there wasn't any running water. The water was carried in a five gallon cream can in the back of the wagon.

No running water also meant that there were no bathrooms in the school. It didn't matter if it was hot, rainy, windy, or snowy. The children and the teacher had to use the two outhouses behind the school.

The teacher was usually between the ages of eighteen and twenty. In those days, all a teacher needed was a high school education and about three months of college before getting a teaching job in a prairie school. She had to teach five to ten children from first grade to eighth grade. Because she came from the city, the teacher lived on one of the family farms.

Number of words read correctly:

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