

## Life at Logan

Logan Elementary School, a one room schoolhouse, sat in an empty field in the middle of 16  
the North Dakota prairie in the 1940's. It was supposed to be a white building, but the paint 34  
was usually peeling from the hot sun in the summer and the freezing snow and wind in the 52  
winter. Sometimes there were only five students and sometimes there were as many as ten. A 67  
long hallway in the front had lots of coat hooks and a bench that held a jumble of boots, 86  
coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and lunch boxes. 93

A coal shed right next to the school held the coal for the furnace that heated the 110  
classroom. The teacher had to bring the coal in every morning and the older students kept 126  
the fire burning all day. 131

The large barn behind the school held the horses that older children were allowed to ride 147  
to school during nice weather. Jimmy Cruff, an eighth grader, had to ride his black and white 164  
pinto pony every day to lead twenty-five cows to a nearby pasture. He kept his pony in the 183  
barn and then drove the cows back home at the end of the day. His sister drove a 201  
buckboard wagon that was pulled by a white horse named May. Every morning she had to 217  
bring her sisters and all their lunches. She also had to bring the drinking water for the school 235  
since there wasn't any running water. The water was carried in a five gallon cream can in the 253  
back of the wagon. 257

No running water also meant that there were no bathrooms in the school. It didn't matter 273  
if it was hot, rainy, windy, or snowy. The children and the teacher had to use the two 291  
outhouses behind the school. 295

The teacher was usually between the ages of eighteen and twenty. In those days, all a 311  
teacher needed was a high school education and about three months of college before 325  
getting a teaching job in a prairie school. She had to teach five to ten children from first 343  
grade to eighth grade. Because she came from the city, the teacher lived on one of the 360  
family farms. 362

Number of words read correctly:

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