

The Burschville School

Report



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH HENNEPIN PIONEER SOCIETY

Summer 2025

Summerfest—August 10, Sunday noon-4:30

Mark your calendars for our annual Summerfest at Burschville School. Welcome returning food wagon, BSQ's BBQ, Bryan Swanson "Pitmaster", to the event. We are featuring a new guest, Rod Cerar, an International Entertainer, with music you can sing along with or tap your toes! Using the dance floor is also an option  for those in the mood!



Deb Weinand and niece, Emily Splitzdozer,
Summerfest 2022

Rod Cerar



International Entertainer,
TV Show Host and
Producer. Winner of 8 national
entertainment awards.

Featuring the "Music of our
Lives" with the best of the
50's & 60's, Big Band,
Show Tunes, Polkas, Ethnic,
Swing and Country Music!

Radio, Television, Recording Artist

Minneapolis, MN

www.RodCerar.com

612-723-2397



Sister & brother, Finley & Grayson
Weber-Summerfest 2019

Recent Projects/Improvements:

Two of our members finished work in the school, after the floor was completed. We now have floor trim back in place. The Chimney was just refurbished and completed by Ashton McGee Reconstruction, out of Minnetonka.

The next step will be having the same company start reroofing the 4 buildings on the site; the school, outhouses, and log cabin. Sealing up tight the structures will insure a longer life for School District 107! So, keep an eye out when you drive by and you will see work in progress. Ours is one of the only one-room schools left in Hennepin County on it's original site! We have quite a Gem in Corcoran!!!

In May St. John's 2nd grade class visited again to fill our school with children's voices! What a joy to have them experience life in a one-room school.

A new year and new stories to gather and tell. If you hold any special memories of life in the Corcoran community and attended one of our 8 schools, or have photos, please contact us. We are looking forward to more outreach and growing memberships to keep our school alive for families moving forward.



Introducing Gordy Schmidt. He taught school in Rockford, MN for 32 years, coached wrestling and baseball. Maybe he was your coach or teacher?



Excerpts from “Memories of a one-room school, District #47,” by Gordy Schmidt in 2003:

Part III

District #47 was located near the corner of Rockford Rd and Peony Lane. The last bell for District #47 rang about 1956-67 when consolidation with the Wayzata took place. It closed before the Burschville School did in 1967.

One of my worst memories was the fact that until I got into about 3rd grade, I was a stutterer. If I was called upon to read I would panic. That was really the only fear that I had in the first 8 grades of school. How I ever overcame that speech problem I do not remember. I never had a problem in high school at Wayzata or college. There also was a time when I was afraid I would get caught for indulging in the smoking of corn silk. A few of us got together and decided it would be cool to smoke so we gathered up some corn silk and rolled it up and lit it. Nobody inhaled anything but we thought we were big shots after that. However, we all were deathly afraid our parents or the teacher would find out. Compare that to today and the drugs and other illicit activities that so many kids take for granted as a way of life. I'd take those old days back in a heartbeat. I am hoping that, for the sake of my grandchildren, some of the old values will return to the American scene. Another little secret was just up Holly Lane from our school. It was called the tunnel of love. A few of the older kids would sneak up to this creek tunnel that ran under the road. If the boy and girl could work up the courage, they would kiss each other. If the kids in the lower grades saw them it became the talk of the school. Real hard core stuff eh? I shudder to think what goes on today.

When the last week of school rolled around we would plan a cleanup day. This consisted of everyone bringing a rake from home and special picnic lunches. We would spend the whole morning raking all of the school grounds, have a huge fire (no permit) and cook hotdogs and just plain enjoy a great picnic feast. The afternoon was strictly playing softball. We knew that when this day ended that the school year was about over. In all of those 8 years, we never had any child hurt seriously or anyone killed on the farm or elsewhere. We were just one happy family of kids who had so many things in common. That being, not much money, mostly raised on a farm and nobody with a television. Can you imagine that! We all survived with no televisions to fill the void in our life. Believe me, there weren't too many voids. Horses and cows had to be fed, manure cleaned out of the barns, silage thrown down at feeding time and of course the milking of cows every morning and night, 7 days a week. None of us knew much about any other life. It was truly wonderful but at the time it didn't seem like much fun. Most of the kids that I went to school with became very successful businessmen, farmers, teachers, doctors and every other type of profession imaginable. I think the ethic of hard work is what put most one-room school kids above so many others. If you would check the background of many of our country's leaders you would find that a lot of them attended one-room schools.

Most of the one-room schools were consolidated into larger educational facilities in the middle 50's. For me and the other kids coming from our school and going to the newly built Wayzata High School on highway 12, it was quite a shock, but for some reason, we all adjusted rather quickly and had 4 wonderful years of school, and many graduating with all kinds of honors and distinctions. For me, graduation was 1957 and I had absolutely no clue what I was going to do. My brothers were cabinetmakers and I thought maybe that's what I was going to do. As it turned out, I spent 2 years in the Army, one of my shipmates going to Germany was Elvis Presley! People still don't believe me when I tell them that but it is fact. That is a whole different story.

To get back to my little story, most of the area I have been talking about is now consumed by large homes and businesses. Our school was converted into a home for many years and eventually torn down. The property is still there and the sign saying Hollydale Golf was there permanently. ***The golf course has gone away with**

the expansion of more new homes (edited). The old well pit hole is also there and it is kind of fun once in a while to go down into it as it brings back memories of thawing the pipes. The Hamel school was torn down unfortunately. The Corcoran school has been a home to Butch Neumann and his family for many years **(they just moved away in 2024 and a new family resides there. The Neumann's remodeled the school into a home after the closing of the school)*. The Egan school is still standing and has been a home for many years also. However, with the Maple Grove development coming it will soon be destroyed. It stands on the corner of Lawndale and County Rd 47. The Hennessey Hill school is still standing and it still looks like a school on the inside. It stands on a hill by a cemetery on Bass Lake Rd. **This school has also been demolished. The one-room schools in the area are disappearing as new homes are being built.*

Each time I see an old building standing on a corner of a farm field in western Minnesota I can picture kids running around outside and the teacher standing at the door ringing a bell. You can always tell if the building was a school because of the location of windows, centered front door and other characteristics. Soon the landscape will no longer be dotted by these wonderful glorious buildings that we all called school for so many years. They served a most important role in the development of this great nation of ours. Hopefully, a few of the things I have said here will inspire you to remember them and realize that there really was a simpler, humble life for a lot of the kids of the 1920's through the 1950's. I will always cherish the wonderful happy life of being a farm boy and attending a one-room school. I hope my children and grandchildren will find this piece of history to be a fun read and appreciate what the past has done to mold the future for them.

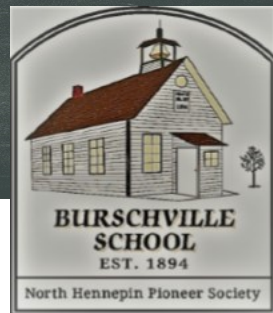
I would like to back up to the name that was brought up before, Francis Berube *(*In Part I of Gordy Schmidt's article)*. Francis Berube's farm granary, where the original school was located also has a piece of history from the Sioux Uprising in Minnesota. The Dustin family of the Howard Lake area were killed by the Sioux Indians in a surprise attack just west of the town. A historical marker marks the spot on highway 12. This attack was all part of the Sioux Uprising that spread throughout most of southern Minnesota, mainly in New Ulm. As is historically recorded, the Dustin's were all killed except for the 2 Dustin children. One of the children was named Allen Dustin. Allen's mother, who had 2 arrows in her back, carried the 2 children to a neighbors cabin and then died. The son, Allen, was taken in by Francis Berube who raised the boy as his own. He was raised on the Berube farm where my grandmother was also raised. In later life he moved to California to be pretty much lost from family history. So, as it was, Allen and my grandmother went to the same little one-room school, District 47. For more information on the Dustin Massacre, check the Howard Lake Herald account of the early 1900's, or simply click on Dustin Massacre on Google.

If anyone is interested in who I am, I can only say I taught elementary school for 1 year in Arlington, Minnesota and 32 years in Rockford, MN. I coached wrestling for 25 years. I have 5 brothers and sisters. Hugh (Sonny), Marvel Miller, Roger (Pete), Rita (Gray), Ival (Flemming). I am married to Kathleen Murphy and have 5 children. Billy, Mollie, Charlie, John and Joe. I presently *(in 2003)* work for the city of Loretto taking care of the ballfields, as I have for 16 years. I also deliver Dominos pizza to Wayzata High School, which is how this whole idea came about as I was explaining some of this history to one of the cooks who lives near the Egan school and was really interested. I surmised that a little history lesson for her and anyone who might want to read this would be of interest. I am also hoping that any of the past students of District 47 who read this will contact me and possibly add some of their own little stories. I am quite certain that every one-room school that existed has walls that could really tell a tale. Another side note to all this is that the original home and farm I was raised on is still standing on the corner of Rockford Rd and Peony LN. The farm itself, both north and south of Rockford Rd is completely filled in with houses and townhouses. As I drive by our farm each day while delivering pizza to the high school I can picture all of the things that went on there when I was growing up. I guess you might say I was the luckiest boy in the world. Thanks mom & dad (now deceased)!

Thanks, Gordy Schmidt

**More memories to follow in Issue #14*





We welcome visitors! Email or call for an appointment to visit our gem
Of a school during the warmer weather of May-September.

Next Meetings

June 17, July 15, Sept 16, Oct 18, Nov. 15

Cleaning & set up Sat. August 9th 8:30 am

No meetings for Dec. & Jan 2025-2026

Summerfest 2025: Sunday, August 10th noon-4:30

Meeting Schedule

Winter Meetings 2025-26 (Oct. through Apr.)

3rd Saturday of each month at 9 a.m.

Location: Immanuel United Methodist Church

Summer Meetings 2025 (May through Sept).

3rd *TUESDAY* of each month at 7 p.m.

Location: Burschville School at: 22995 County Rd 10,
Rogers, MN 55374

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 391, Hanover MN 55341

NHPS Officers

Bonnie Maue -President -763-639-1438

Dale Pomerleau-Vice President -763-458-9880

Deb Weinand -Secretary

Dee Cain-Treasurer

Corcoranschool1894@gmail.com or visit us online:

www.corcoranmn.gov (choose *Our Community/Events/*
North Hennepin Pioneer Society).



We have a new Web site and a QR code:
<https://sites.google.com/view/burschvilleschool>
Check us out!!

New Opportunities

Are you interested in your local community's history and would like to influence the future goals of a National Historic Site in your area? The North Hennepin Pioneer Society (NHPS), who manages the Burschville School in Corcoran, is looking for individuals and families to join our organization.

We are seeking board members for open positions. We are looking for new approaches to historical exhibits and fundraising. We would like ideas for generating further interest in local history, and showcasing relevant connections between the Burschville School and our community.

For more information, or to share your ideas, please contact Bonnie Maue at: 763-639-1438, or email the school at the address listed below.

WANTED

Historical documents, photographs or artifacts relating to the Burschville School, or other one-room schools once in Corcoran

- Volunteers to help with grounds upkeep, building maintenance and special projects, and programs at the school.
- New members (yearly membership is \$15/person, \$25/family or \$5/student).
- 2025 memberships are due now
- Monetary donations to support the school