

Caron Lade

FORMER HIBBING SCHOOLS - BY: Senia Nelmark

March, 1925, I came to teach in the Townline School which was a one room class building located on the Townline Road which now is a vacant lot southeast of the Hibbing-Chisholm Airport.

This rural school had grades one through six - a few students in each grade. I still remember beautiful wild flowers the children brought me that they had picked along the roadsides on the way to school. May flowers, cowslips, iris and arbutus decorated the classroom daily. That spring the Hibbing Boy Scouts came and planted evergreen trees which now have grown into a dense forest. Transportation was provided by the school bus.

In the fall of 1925, I was transferred to the Red Ore or Mitchell School which was in the Mitchell Location, a railroad center. This portable wooden building had one classroom and a recreation room where community programs and dances were held. There were six grades with a few children in each grade. Transportation to this school was by street car which I got at the station located <sup>where the</sup> ~~at the~~ <sup>now is</sup> present Atrium Restaurant. After school I got the street car near the road. From the Mitchell School I was transferred to the Brooklyn School where I had one of the sixth grades. The Brooklyn School was a large brick building with classrooms from Kindergarten through the sixth grade. The kindergarten and grades one and two were on the southside of the building and grade three and intermediate grades were on the northside of the building. The auditorium or gym (with stage one end) and the kitchen were on the main floor. The Principal's office was on a separate floor. There was a teacherage (living quarters for teachers) on the top floor. Later this area was converted to a library.

Brooklyn School had a fire in the spring of 1973. The school was completely demolished. A vacant lot now remains.

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Since I was living at the Stevenson School Teacherage, I had to transfer to the Stevenson School - a mining location. This school, a wooden two-story building with classrooms on the main floor and a teacherage above. This consisted of Kindergarten thru the sixth grade. Each teacher taught several grades. There was a large playground where the children played during the noon hour and at recess time. This school was demolished when the Stevenson people moved to Keewatin. From Stevenson I went to Carson Lake or Leetonia School. This school was a large wooden structure. There were classrooms from kindergarten thru the sixth grade. The Gym was in the basement and all the classrooms on the main floor. The top floor had a teacherage. The intermediate grades were in the portable section of that building. There was a classroom for the "special-help children". The principal was the sixth grade teacher. Night school classes were held for the adults who were learning English language and those interested in securing their U.S. Citizenship papers. This school was demolished after the iron mines <sup>expanded,</sup> ~~closed~~. Transportation to school was by bus, for the teachers who taught night school a car transported them. From the Leetonia School I was transferred to the Kelly Lake School at Kelly Lake - a busy railroad center. This school was a wooden building with classrooms - kindergarten through sixth grade. The sixth grade teacher was the principal. The building had a teacherage on the top floor. The Gymnasium with a stage was on the lower floor. This school also had a fire and was demolished and is now another vacant lot overlooking Kelly Lake.

From the Kelly Lake School I went to the Cobb-Cook School which was named after Fred Cobb and Earl Cook who were the first Hibbing boys killed in World War I. This brick school was the second grade school to be built in Hibbing in 1920. The first school was the Alice School in South Hibbing which has also been demolished. The Cobb-Cook School had a kindergarten and two classrooms for each grade, a gym and an office for the principal and one

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for the nurse.

In 1953-54 a new addition was built. The new section had two Kindergartens, two first grades, two second grades and a library and nurse's office, a kitchen, a gym with a stage, a special classroom and teachers' lounge.

This school is the only one still standing of the seven schools I taught in from 1925 through 1969

Because of the expansion of mining, these locations were moved. Various nationalities were represented in these locations.