

25. Waterworks system installed in 1905.
26. First Light & Power Co. in 1906.
27. Chetek Chapter #124 O. E. S. in 1911.
28. Farmer's Store was built in 1911.
29. Chetek Equity Shipping Association formed in 1911.
30. Rebekah Lodge first formed in 1891, reorganized as the Lakeview Rebekah Lodge #99 in 1912.
31. Howard Campbell Post #179 organized in 1919.
32. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179 formed in 1920.

HISTORY OF THE CHETEK SCHOOLS

BY MRS. ALYCE GOTHAM, WRITTEN IN 1966

One hundred years ago eight pupils attended the first school in Chetek, which was conducted by Mrs. D. Plato in 1871 in the Bradford Lampman home located where the Methodist Church now stands. The following year a log school house was built on the east side of Dunsmoor's hill (City Hill) with Mrs. Plato, followed by Mrs. Thomas Gotham, as teachers.

In 1878 a new school house was erected just east of the log building which later became the Catholic church. This building housed all the grades until 1883 when Moore's hall (the second story of the present IOOF hall) was rented during the years of 1883 and 1884 for the upper classes. N. E. Carver was the upper grade teacher and later he was County Superintendent for several years.

In 1884 an \$8,000 four-room frame building was erected facing south on the block of the present junior high building. That year, with Tena McDonald and N. E. Carver as instructors, school commenced in the two lower rooms; the upper rooms were not completed until the following year.

In 1890 the first class was graduated from the Chetek High School. The three members of this class were: Ben Museus, Joseph Gilbert and Byron Carter.

Prior to this time the rooms had been divided into primary, intermediate and "grammar" (upper) grades. Pupils were not grouped into grades, but rather in accordance with the readers they were using, which was considered a "modern idea" then. With the addition of a high school department in 1886, an effort was made to arrange the pupils according to definite grades.

In 1902 when L. P. Charles was principal a \$2,000 addition was completed on the north side of the building. It had been in use only two weeks, when early one November morning, a fire starting from the chimney, destroyed the entire building. As there was no adequate fire-fighting apparatus, hope was soon abandoned for the building and nearby buildings were drenched with buckets of water. It was feared that the fire might spread to the business section of Chetek; the wind, however, carried sparks in a northwesterly direction, and repeatedly caused small blazes on the roof of the Methodist church.

Practically all the equipment was removed from the building and school reconvened a short time afterward. The high school, with L. P. Charles as principal, was held in the Presbyterian church, the "grammar" grades in the Methodist church, and the lower grades in the Knapp Stout and Company store building.

In 1903 a new brick school house costing \$16,500 was completed. Between 40 and 50 students were taught by four elementary instructors and the high school faculty consisted of one, Mr. L. P. Charles, who taught a three-year program.

Principals in this building were George Paulus, C. Schroeder, Mr. Chapman, M. Jenks, G. Young, A. G. Churchward, Carl Blume, and H. B. Wear. Of these teachers Mr. Paulus taught the longest time, remaining here for eight years. This is the building that was used by the lower elementary grades for years; it was torn down in 1962.

In 1907 a four-year secondary curriculum was adopted which resulted in the need for more room and more teachers. By 1917 the fourteen-year-old building could no longer accommodate all the grades, and the Capener building, in which the Clover Farm Store is now located, was leased for the eighth grade. During 1919, 1920, and 1921, this building housed both the seventh and eighth grades, while a two-room barracks erected just south of the school building housed the fifth and sixth grades. There was no gymnasium and the basketball players played in an old dance pavilion up on the lake in north Chetek until a new building could be erected.

The new high school building was erected in 1921 and cost \$60,000. Its first principal was George DeGuire, who taught here eleven years. Mr. Elton Boettcher, who came here in 1933, was high school principal for four years, followed by E. L. Brown for six years, and D. J. Huenink for twelve and a half years.

In 1938 the first football was played at Chetek High School. It was also in that year that parents first saw their children leave for school on a school bus. Only students living over two miles from school could be transported, which is much different from the case today when all students may ride the twenty-one buses provided; in addition, transportation is furnished for kindergarten children for both morning and afternoon sessions.

The Chetek Alumni Association was organized in 1949. It has been a very active organization and each year, together with the Senior Class, they sponsor a Senior-Alumni banquet during the Christmas holidays. At these affairs there have been as many as 210 in attendance. They also sponsored and published directories in 1952 and again in 1957. Each summer there are usually two or three class reunions held, which definitely renews the loyalty and increases the interest in the affairs and future of Chetek High School.

An increasing town population and area consolidation, beginning in 1953, imposed an increasing strain on the capacity of existing facilities, and the dream of a new high school was finally fulfilled in 1956 when the present senior high school was opened. Mr. Carl Gerber was the first principal.

This building cost \$500,000 and was located on a 98-acre plot of land on the west side of the city. There were eight teacher stations, new modern equipment in the business education department, library, gymnasium, music room and cafeteria besides a health room, ample storage space and cheerful offices. The gym floor was 38 by 92 feet which seemed immense after the small gym in the old high school. The auditorium seated 1200, the bleachers 800 alone, and they were more than filled the day of dedication on January 6, 1957.

Consolidation continued: Sand Creek voted to join the district in February, 1957, and several rural schools were consolidated by action of the County School Committees. In the fall of 1959, a new \$100,000 addition to the high school was finished which included a beautiful and spacious two-room home economics department, an agriculture classroom and a workshop, an industrial arts department, and two rooms used for business education classrooms.

In addition to this, a new elementary school was dedicated on February 28, 1960, as Roselawn Memorial. This school which cost \$193,000 represented another step in the realization of the community's educational goal—that is, to provide opportunities enabling each student to learn to the best of his ability. The building which was constructed at a cost of less than \$10 per square foot was situated on approximately seven acres of land, thereby providing ample area for expansion, for recreation, and physical education. It also had 13 classrooms, an adequate library, proper lighting, good acoustics, hot lunch program, special education, and kindergarten facilities.

Under the leadership of Donald Duncanson, supervising principal, who succeeded Carl Gerber in February, 1959, and William Bowman, who succeeded Mr. Duncanson on July 1, 1961, consolidation continued until twenty-one rural schools and the Sand Creek area schools were all combined into the Chetek Area Schools. This year there are no rural schools being used and the district now comprises Roselawn Memorial, grades, K-4; Chetek Elementary, grade 6; Chetek Junior High, grades 5, 7, and 8; Sand Creek Elementary, grades 1-8; and Chetek Senior High, grades 9-12.

There is a staff, under the supervising principal Jerry R. Isaacs, of 61 teachers, 7 custodians, 8 cooks, 2 secretaries and a bookkeeper.

At the present time an addition to Roselawn Memorial is being constructed that will add an all-purpose room with new kitchen facilities and the former lunchroom will be converted to office, nurse, guidance and workroom facilities.

In addition, a building program consisting of a new junior high school, an addition to the high school, and the remodeling required in the high school, is well under way. It will nearly double the existing building and cost approximately \$675,000. Plans include the:

1. Remodeling of the existing library into one classroom; cafeteria, study hall and kitchen into three classrooms.
2. Adding three new classrooms plus additional music practice rooms and general small group vocal and instrumental room.

3. Building facilities for combined Senior boys and team locker room with storage rooms and laundry facilities.
4. Building new kitchen, library, study hall and lunch room combination.

In all of these areas, music, home economics, science, library, shop, and physical education, the advantage of the joint, yet separate, operation provides a greatly enlarged program for the Junior High School level students which was not available in the old Junior High School building.

Thus, in the last ninety-three years our Chetek schools have grown from a handful of students meeting in a home to the latest in modern structures and an enriched program that our ancestors in their wildest dreams could not have imagined.

In the past seventy-five years, from the first graduating class in 1889 to and including 1964, there have been 2,208 graduates of the Chetek High School, which is more people than we have living in Chetek today.

In the first graduating class of 1889 there were only two members; in 1890, three members; and from that time on, the classes have continued to increase. In 1963 there were ninety-three graduates, but this 1964 class of over one hundred will be the largest class ever graduated from Chetek High School.