

St. Michael Historical Society

N E W S L E T T E R



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Meetings for 2009
- August 31
- October 5
- December 7
- Public Schools
- School Days
- Created By Genny Kieley

C a t h o l i c g r a d e s c h o o l
1 9 2 9 - 3 0 g r a d e s 1 & 2

Top row- left to right

Cecelia Barthel, Maurice Zachman, Celly Kilian, Eldon Eicher, Oliver Krieger, Emery Vetsch, Raymond Berning, Alvin Eicher, ??, Bernard Hackenmueller

2nd row from top

??, Martina Daleiden, Margaret Braun, Melinda Kasper, Thelma Vetsch, Bernice Russell, Cecilia Marx, Malita Kasper, Annabelle Zachmann, Armella Daleiden, Evelyn Haehn, Frank Hartman

3rd row from top

Lloyd Dick, ??, Jeanette Andersen, Florence Hackenmueller, Verna Hengels, Rose Mary Barthel, Eleanor Goeb, Carolyn Kasper, Anita Bloms, Pearl Dick, Petronella Duerr, Clem Barthel

Bottom row

Dan Otten, Lester Gutzwiller, Louis Otten, Alvin Mastley, Dale Kessler, Eldon Kasper, Victor Becker, Joe Steffens

Sweet Memories

St. Michael Catholic School 1899-1940

by Annabelle Zachmann Kons



I attended Catholic school in St. Michael from 1st through 8th grades, starting in 1928 and graduating in 1936.

It was the second school for St. Michael, built in 1899, an impressive two-story building, with 4 classrooms, two grades to each room. It was quite a change from the one-room schools that dotted the rural areas. However, in keeping with the times, there was no indoor plumbing.

We had the Notre Dame nuns as our teachers that came to St. Michael to teach as early as 1876.

When I started school I spoke only German, as most of my classmates did. The Sisters had quite a challenge teaching us to speak, read and write in English. In previous years, both German and English were taught, but

discontinued. We were encouraged to speak and pray in English at home, which we did.

Our home was directly behind the school so we only needed to walk across the schoolyard to attend school. We lived in our mother's childhood home; so this was also true for her and her nine siblings.

Our parents were Clem and Christine (Wey) Zachmann. My brothers, Bernard, Emmett and Octave also attended the school through the 5th grade; then were transferred to the public school as was the rule for all boys at that time. My sister Eileen and brother Carroll also started at the "old" school for several years, then went to the brand new school where my sister Dolores started 1st grade. The present Catholic Elementary school was built in 1940.

I have fond memories of my old St. Michael school, my classmates and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.



Note The second building was built under the direction of Fr. Deustermann in 1899. It served as the Parish school until 1940 when the first section [the northern section] of the present school was built.*

1913

School Days

by Rose Ann Kasper Gindele

I have fond memories of my school days in St. Michael. I was born in 1938 and started school in 1944, in the new St. Michael Catholic School, which opened in 1940. There was no Kindergarten in St. Michael until 1967. Lunches were provided shortly after it opened, however some remember bringing or walking home for lunch if they lived in town. The 1st grade classroom was a District # 20 public classroom and was rented from the parish. My teacher was Miss Piram. There was no bus service in the 1940's so our Dad drove us to and from school. When there was field work going on, we walked home, two and one half miles. Throughout grade school the girls wore dresses all the time, no slacks. In Winter we wore long stockings and in Spring and Fall we wore anklets. Our school pictures were done individually, no group class picture. For grades 2 thru 7th my teachers were all nuns.

Once again, my 8th grade classroom was a District # 20 public classroom, rented from the parish. My teacher was Mr. Huber. When we graduated from the 8th grade in 1952, it was a big event. For the celebration we attended church, received a diploma from Fr. Geisenkoetter and Joseph Huber, had breakfast, and posed for a picture. Wearing our Sunday best, the girl's in dresses, with hats, white gloves, nylons and heels. The boys wore suits and ties. Then about 2 weeks later, we all had to go to a Graduation Ceremony at the Buffalo High School to receive our diplomas from the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Inez Anderson.

In 1950, plans for a new Catholic High School in St. Michael had begun and the freshman class started. In 1951, school bus service began. For a number of years, students from the surrounding communities came to attend the St. Michael Catholic High School. The building was completed in 1953 and all the teachers were nuns, even for girls Phy Ed. The only other teacher was Mr. Le Tourneau for the boys Phy Ed and Shop. The girls always wore uniforms, navy blue jumpers with white blouses. There was the advantage of knowing what you'd be wearing the next day, and everyone dressed alike. The 1st class to graduate was in 1954. I graduated with the 3rd class in 1956 with 43 students. The Catholic High School operated until the Public High School began in 1968.



**St. Michael Public School
8th Grade 1952 District # 20**

Father Geisenkoetter, Teacher Joseph Huber

Dolores Florek, Marlene Eull, Barbara Kasper, Wayne Duerr, Fred Vetsch, Rose Ann Kasper, Joanne Lenneman, Mary Ann Dehmer, Shirley Kilian, Jeanette Zachman, Judy Thielen, Kenneth Gutzwiller, Allen Schulte, Philip Klimek.

Alice Zahler, Frances Lenneman, Nona Vetsch, Jeanne Robeck, Tony Lenneman, Lloyd Kasper, Ronald Goeb, Daniel Duerr, Warren Duerr, Eddie O'Donnell, John Lehn, Ricky Robeck

WE'RE ON THE WEB
STMHISTSOC.ORG



St. Michael Historical Society

St. Michael City Hall
3150 Lander Avenue NE
St. Michael, MN 55376
Phone : 763-497-2041

We need your photos and stories

The Fall Newsletter will include past St. Michael businesses. Anyone with photos or information please call the Society and leave a message ext. 300

Membership Dues are Payable in January

If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, please send your name and address and submit it along with your check to the address provided.

If you are unsure of your status, call St. Michael Historical Society at [763] 497-2041 ext. 300 and leave a message. We are always interested in donated artifacts related to St. Michael's history. For more information and how you can help please call.

We appreciate your ongoing support.

Wright County Public School District # 94



Bernard Psyk, Marlois Psyk, Polly Bitzer?, David Bitzer, David Gindele
Jeannie Steffens, Donna Bitzer?, Darlene Steffens, Corinne Steffens, Mrs. Zumbuch's daughter, Mary Steffens
County Road 37 & 19—1947-1948 All Grades