

Randolph Area School Districts

School District No. 22 Wayne County



District 22 1945: from left to right: Melva Bargstadt, Louis Bauer, Millie Bargstadt, Darlene Bauer, Frieda Bargstadt, Dale Bauer, Gerry Bargstadt, Dorothy Bauer, Ilene Bauer, Linda Bauer, Ronnie Bauer, Karen Bauer, Don Bermel, Merlin Bauer, Ruth Gries, Arnold Bauer, Jim Gries, unk, Louie Bauer, Jim Bargstadt, Kenneth Bargstadt.

School District No. 22 Wayne County Nebraska was formed on August 2, 1883. The district covered 4 sections (4 square miles) of land in Wayne County, Nebraska. The western border of the district was on the Wayne/Pierce County border. This one room, one teacher school house was built on a piece of property in the center of the four square mile district and was approximately seven miles south of Randolph, Nebraska.



District 22 Christmas play, 1956: Back: unk, unk, Val Pentico, and Dixie Stoltenberg. Middle: unk, Roger Meyer, unk, and David Meyer. Front Debbie Bauer, Doug Bauer, Larry Bermel and unk.

Some interesting facts from records dating back to 1900 are that there have been 44 teachers at the school with salaries ranging from a low of \$40 a month to a high of \$450 a month in 1965. Eva May Plummer and Darrel Pennington, both of whom later taught at the Randolph Public School, each had early teaching experiences at District 22. Eva May Plummer went on to become a Principal at the Randolph Public School.

In 1908, a 5 month school term was approved with expenses running \$500 for the entire school year. The largest class was in 1920 with 22 pupils, and the smallest class was in 1950 with only 3 students attending.



District 22

Three generations of students of the Ludwig Bauer family, consisting of 35 descendants, attended the school. From the time the Bauer's moved to Nebraska until the school closed in 1965, with exception of two years, there was a Bauer descendant attending the school. All ten of the Bauer children received at least some education at the school, 15 grandchildren attended the school, and 11 great-grandchildren.

School began in early September and ended in mid-May. Days began at 9:00 a.m., and ended at 4:00 p.m., with a fifteen minute recess in the morning, an hour long lunch and an afternoon recess of fifteen minutes. The big social event of the year was the Christmas play. This brought all the parents together and each student did his part in the play and singing. This was quite stressful for the students and parents as this was now show time. At the end of the school year, eighth graders took a comprehensive exam over all of the subjects studied through the school year. The playground consisted of a swing set with slide; a giant stride; a merry go round; and two teeter totters.

The teacher pumped water for the cooler and did the teaching and taking care of the building. The miscellaneous duties of the teacher included being sure that the outhouse doors were shut at the end of the day. It was not uncommon for the teacher to board with a family of one of the students. The school was cleaned at the beginning of each year by someone hired to do so, usually an older sibling or mother of the students in the early years. Coal hauling for the stove was hired out also, usually by one of the parents. Classes were called to order at the front of the room when it was the pupil's turn for recitation and instruction.



District 22 burned to the ground in 2005

Art classes were held on Friday afternoons. The school participated in the county fair by displaying art work that the children had made. There was also a county spelling contest and music day when all the schools of the county got together to spell and sing. In later years a field trip was taken to Norfolk or a shared afternoon with another nearby school.

The school closed in 1965. According to published records, "An Auction was held and John W. Burmeister purchased the building and land of District 22 for \$295 while the complete sale totaled \$455." After the closure, District 22 joined the Randolph Public school.

In later years, Roger Meyer purchased the land and schoolhouse from John and in 2005 he was forced to burn the school because it was in such poor condition. Roger says that the giant stride could not be removed from the ground because it was set in so much cement.

There is no doubt that the one room school concept had something right — after all it produced the likes of Presidents (Abraham Lincoln), educators, engineers, doctors, farmers, bee keepers, grain elevator operators, and every other conceivable occupation and tens of millions of mothers and fathers. And now in 2010 we watch our highly evolved elementary schools do what? — That's right, they adopt the one room, one teacher, all classes concept for their 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class of honor students. The processes they use are from another century but they are only fit for the cream-of-the-crop students. You can bet the one room school got something right.

Pierce County School District 28

School District 28, northeast of Pierce was organized on December 16, 1885 with C. E. Manzer as the first director. This District was in the northeast corner of Allen Precinct and the southeast corner of Eastern Precinct.



District 28 NE

An early account of Frank Lageschulte's childhood noted that he attended school at District 28 three and one-half miles from his home. Garrett and Louisa Lageschulte were his parents. Bena Lageschulte was his step-mother. The school was located one

mile south and one mile

east of what is now the intersection of Highways 20 and 81. (Note the 1899 Plat Book of Pierce County puts this school in Section 3 of Allen Township. This is on the Northeast corner of the farm where Jim and Barb Hilkemann currently reside). "Frank Lageschulte was ten years old at the time of the blizzard of 1888 and spent the night with the other children at school. The teacher,

Lizzie Tatge, nearly lost her life trying to bring coal in from an outside shed. The teacher and children finally tied all their coats together and tied them to the oldest boy, so he could reach the coal bin and be pulled back to safety. When the four new school buildings in District 28, Pierce County were erected, a coal bin was attached to each schoolhouse, and a tin box of crackers stored on the hall rafters."

There are few records available for the District until 1906 and 1907 when land transfers occurred and by this time the district was unique in that the school board maintained four schools in a radius of eight miles.

The first land transfer in the Pierce County Records was from August F. and Minnie Huwaldt to the District dated July 25, 1906. This was one acre in square form located in the northeast corner of Section Two (2) Township Twenty Seven (Allen Precinct). This school was known as District 28 Northeast.

On July 26, 1906, a one acre in square form located in the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of Section eleven (11) Township Twenty Seven (Allen Precinct) was transferred to the District. This land was owned by August and Matilda Gerkins. This school was known as District 28 Southeast.

Fred and Julieane Schroeder transferred the southwest corner of Section Thirty Four (34) in Township Twenty Eight (Eastern Precinct) to District 28 on July 27, 1906. This was also a one acre tract in square form and this school was known as District 28 Northwest.

The last land transfer was from Elizabeth and William Arneth who resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to District 28 on January 12, 1907. This tract of land was located in the northwest corner of Section Fifteen (15) Township Twenty Seven (Allen Precinct). This school was known as District 28 Southwest.

All of these land owners were paid \$60.00 for their one acre of land with the stipulation that the land was to be used for school purposes and if it ceased to be used for school purposes the land would revert to and become a part of the subdivision from which the land was taken.

During the 1950-51 school year the Pierce County Leader (newspaper in Pierce, Nebraska) did articles on all of the Rural Schools in Pierce County. The following information was gleaned from these articles: The School Board officers for the 1950-51 school years were: August Rudebusch, Elmer Huwaldt and Leonard Robinson; all of Randolph.

District 28 SW was taught by Miss Phylis Long of Magnet and her pupils were: Barbara Broer, Verne Rudebusch, Joann Broderson, Larry Broer and Peggy Ann Coulter. District 28 SE was taught by Miss Norma Carstens of Randolph. Her pupils were: Harriet Gosch, Teddy Hansen, Carmen Jacobsen, Carole Ballweber, Norma Chaney, Virgil Gosch, Kenny Hansen and Elden Robinson. District 28 NW was taught by Mrs. Darrell Schnoor of Randolph, who had six students: Marilyn Meyer, Jacqueline Breeding, Arnold Topf, Rodney

Breding, Duane Rudebusch and Gerald Meyer. District 28 NE was taught by Miss Bonnie Broer of Randolph and her pupils were: Vernon Hilkemann, Connie Patent, Donald Delozier, Judy Huwaldt, Judy Hilkemann, Jimmy Hilkemann, and Eugene Delozier.

At the May 1960 elections, Pierce County residents were asked to vote on a proposal to consolidate all 28 rural districts in Pierce County and the Pierce school district. This proposal was defeated by 575 persons against the plan and 264 people in favor of the reorganization.



District 28 NE 1924-1925

The end of May 1960, School District 28 of Pierce County petitioned to join the Randolph District No. 45. This petition was approved by a joint Cedar and Pierce County reorganization committee. The petition was then forwarded to the State Reorganization Committee which met in Lincoln on June 8, 1960. The State Reorganization Committee approved the petition and commended District 28 "for making an effort to improve educational benefits for the children in the district."



District 28 N.E. Back: Margie Copple, Cecil Colling, May Jolsen, Earl Jolsen, Keith Sellon, Kenneth Huff Jr. Gene Sellon, Keith Huwaldt, Front: Margret Bermel, Lucy Bermel, Lewis Copple, Gordon Huff Ralph Moony, Unknown

School District 28 had a valuation of \$772,210 and its total mill levy for 1959 was 32.20. Randolph (District 45) had a mill levy of 21.05 for 1959.

In July, 1960 it was announced that District 28 would merge with District 45 with 65 percent of District 28 residents in favor of the merger. District 28 students would begin riding the two new yellow school buses to Randolph Public Schools when school began in the fall of 1960. The school houses and their contents were later sold at public auction, marking the end of District 28, after 65 years of educating the youth in the area.

The following is a list of teachers for District 28 whose records have been located:

Grace	Beaton	1924-25
Mabel	Bennett	1900-02
Florence	Breding	1930-31
Florence	Breding	1942-43
Lois	Breding	1938-43
Nora	Bremmem	1913-14
Gladys	Brennen	1917-18
Donald	Brodersen	1952-53
Betty Jane	Brown	1946-47
Norma	Carstens	1950-52
Lewis	Copple	1947-49
Elizabeth	Dalcher	1930-34
Donna Bell	Galvin	1958-60
Lila Jean	Graham	1953-56
Mary	Harper	1954-60
Delores (Huwaldt)	Haselhorst	1952-54
Edna	Huwaldt	1931-34
Edwin	Huwaldt	1907-09
Minnie	Huwaldt	1926-29
LaVern	Kenny	1956-57
Nadene	Korth	1955-58
Evelyn	Lageschulte	1925-26
Frances	Lageschulte	1934-35
Phyllis	Long	1950-51
Eva May	Plummer	1936-40
Jean Marie	Rudebusch	1954-55
Jeannett	Schnoor	1950-51
Esther	Schram	1920-22
Marjorie	Schreiner	1959-60
Twilla	Sellon	1945-47
Betty	Sellon	1939-40
Claribel	Stingley	1955-56
Annie	Tatge	1891-93
Jessie (Mrs.)	Tatge	1895-00
Suhe	Tatges	1895-96
Pauline	Weber	1946-47
Gladys	Westadt	1921-22
Ella	Whitney	1906-07
Vera	Wimmer	1928-29
Bonnie (Broer)	Witte	1950-54
Evelyn	Witte	1 month 43

School Census records exist for Pierce County and are housed at the Pierce County Courthouse in Pierce, Nebraska. Records for District 28 start with 1892 and go through 1960 when the district consolidated with Randolph. Most of these census records list the name of

child between five years and twenty-one years who lived in the district, give the child's age and the name of parent(s) or guardian. After 1900 the records also give date of birth and later years give place of birth.

Research shows four families who had three generations attend school at District 28. There may have been more, but because of the lack of records these are the only families documented to date: 1) Fern Huwaldt, Keith Huwaldt, Susie, Jean and Peg Huwaldt; 2) Ferd Gerkins, Merle Gerkins, Roy and Cheryl Gerkins; 3) John Huwaldt, Marvin Huwaldt, Nancy and Jo Ann Huwaldt; 4) Ferd Gerkins, Virginia (Gerkins) Gosch and Harriett and Virgil Gosch. There were many families who had two generations attend school at District 28.

Ferd Gerkins served on the School Board but the years of his tenure were not recorded by his family and school records are no longer available. Ferd often told his family that as a kid, he would ice skate to school down the creek from his home west of the school. Merle Gerkins remembers that two of his teachers were Miss Elizabeth Dalcher and Miss Frances Lageschulte. Roy and Cheryl Gerkins remembered that their last teacher at District 28 SE was Mrs. Forest Schreiner.

Keith Huwaldt recalled two of his teachers from District 28 NE, Cecilia Colling and Eva Mae Plummer. Eva May Plummer taught in District 28 from September 1936 until May 1940. Some of the students Keith remembers were: May Jolsen, Earl Jolsen, Keith Sellon, Kenneth Huff Jr., Gordon Huff, Gene Sellon, Margret Bermel, Lucy Bermel, Lewis Copple, and Ralph Moony. Keith's mother, Grace (Beaton) Huwaldt taught in District 28 NE for the term 1924-25, before her marriage to Fern Huwaldt.



Back: Jean Rudebusch, Richard Huwaldt, Jim Hilkemann, Judy Hilkemann. **Middle:** Judy Huwaldt, Terry Huff. **Front:** Susan Huwaldt, Jean Huwaldt, Claudia Reed, John Huff, Greg Reed.

Delores (Huwaldt) Haselhorst also attended District 28 NE and her teachers were Lois Breeding and Twilla Sellon. Delores also remembers that there were only two students in District 28 NE for the year she was a Fifth grader (1944-45) so they went to Randolph Public School for

that year. Some of the students Delores remembers are: Donald, Clarence and David Wattier, Vernon Hilkemann, Jim Huwaldt, Connie Patent, Eugene Delozier and Alvin Rudebusch. After Delores graduated from high school she taught school at District 28 SE from 1952 through the fall of 1954. Some of the students she remembers teaching were: Robert, Roger, Richard, and Orville McDonald, Carole and David Ballweber, Harriet and Virgil Gosch, Ted and Kenny Hansen, Clarence Wessel Jr., Doug Shelton and Larry Haselhorst.

Judy (Hilkemann) McFadden recalls that everyone walked to and from school. The one memory that stands out for Judy is that she had gotten a new coat and walking home from school she got mud on it. When Judy got home she hid in the closet. Judy and her brother, Jim, had the honor of attending two different schools in the district. They attended District 28 NE and District 28 NW.

Jim Huwaldt recalled the following students attending District 28 NE when he was in the school: Delores Huwaldt, Wayne and Mary Jane Koepp, Donald, Clarence and David Wattier, and Jean Marie Rudebusch. He also remembered that his father, Elmer Huwaldt served on the school board but the dates of Elmer's tenure were not recorded by the family and school records are no longer available.

Nancy (Van Slyke) Sauser enjoyed recess the most because everybody had recess together, older kids and younger kids. Christmas programs were fun, with a wire stretched across the room and a curtain hung on it to form a stage. Kindergarten through 8th grade took part in songs and skits, with the older students helping the younger ones. In the winter, the teacher often heated canned soup on the stove and students ate it with their sandwiches for lunch. At the end of each day, the students all started walking to their homes in all four directions, from school. As they went down the road, they called goodbyes to each other until the students were out of sight.

Sally (Lorenz) Manquist reminisces that near their school (District 28 SW) there was a low patch where they would slide on the ice in the winter. One day the ice wasn't very strong and her sister, Sandy got pretty wet and had to dry out in front of the school stove. Sally can also remember that on one occasion they went to District 28 SE. She doesn't remember exactly what the event was, but does recall that they had to learn the song "There Once Were Threeee Fishermen

Sandra (Lorenz) Schlechte and Sally (Lorenz) Manquist remembered that District 28 SW consisted of a single teacher, Mrs. Alice Korth and thirteen K-8 students in school during the year 1957 and 1958. The students were: Linda and Joy Stueve; Jim Ehrhardt; Rick and Roseanne Johnson; Nancy and JoAnn Huwaldt; Dennis White; Carolyn, Marilyn and Arlen Hilkemann and Sandra and Sally Lorenz.

In District 28 SW, when school was called to order, students were seated at desks with lift able lids, adjustable

seats and tops. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and a few songs, sometimes to the accompaniment of various rhythm instruments, began the day. Personal grooming was checked in pairs: Did you brush your teeth? Comb your hair? Let's see your fingernails (always good for farm kids to have a nail file handy). Let's see your shoes?



Back: Peggy Huwaldt, Jean Huwaldt, Claudia Reed, Mary Harper, Susan Huwaldt. Middle: Doug Watter Michle Reed. Front: Greg Reed, Terry Huff, Richard Huwaldt, John Huff.

Sandy and Sally remember class recitation was done on a bench near the teacher's desk at the front of the room. All students could hear and listen to other students do their recitations. Art projects were saved for Friday afternoons, and practicing, practicing and practicing all those loops and penmanship forms over and over, that were just not designed for left-handed people (Sandy and Sally) also stick in their minds.

Many students in District 28 remember recess. Often students would play on the swings and sometimes played softball with the older kids pitch-hitting for the younger students. Then, too, were games of Andy-I-Over; Surrounding; Pump, Pump, Pull Away; Beckon (almost always someone signaling from behind the outhouses), Fox and Goose played in the fresh fallen snow and many other games. Indoor recess games included Wreck the Cars and Upset the Fruit Basket.

Sandy and Sally remember one particular year when their mother (Mary Ann Lorenz) made May Day fudge and popcorn for the students. Jim Ehrhardt was tall enough to boost the girls through a window early so the treats could be a surprise when all came in – including Mrs. Korth when she unlocked the door!

The Lorenzes also remember that Mrs. Korth spent a night or two with their family during an occasional bad weather night, and she invited all of her students, in pairs, to spend a night with her and her husband in their home. Sally remembers going with Carolyn Hilkemann and making baked apples for supper!

Richard Huwaldt remembers sledding down the hill on the north side of the school (District 28 NE) in the winter and playing softball in the same area during the spring. A ball hit toward first base was usually a home run because first base was right next to the fence. Richard also recalls that the school had no running water and one of the teacher's job duties was to bring buckets of water to the school. He remembers that occasionally they would run out of water and the teacher would send a couple of the boys down the road to Fern and Grace Huwaldt's house with a bucket to get more water. He thought that was quite a treat as they got out of school for the time it took to get the water.

Doug Shelton remembers attending District 28 SE. He recalled that in the winter, the older boys would dig tunnels in the big snow banks and then all the boys would crawl through the tunnels having snowball fights. He also remembered that Teddy and Kenny Hansen would ride their horse to school and tie it in the ditch to eat grass while they were in school.



Teacher: Jean Rudebusch. Back: Judy Hilkemann, Jim Hilkemann, Judy Huwaldt. Middle: Richard Huwaldt, Greg Reed, Terry Huff, John Huff. Front: Susan Huwaldt, Jean Huwaldt, Claudia Reed.

Susie (Huwaldt) Wattier has many memories of District 28 NE. She began school in the first grade in 1954 and her first teacher was Jean Rudebusch. The students in school that year were: Greg and Claudia Reed, Terry and John Huff, Richard and Judy Huwaldt, Robert and Sharon Macklin and Judy and Jim Hilkemann. Other teachers Susie had through the years were: Mrs. Claribel Stingley (1955-56), Mrs. LaVern Kenny (1956-57), Mrs. Nadene Korth (1957-58). Note: Nadene Korth also taught at District 28 SE for 1955-1957 terms. The last teacher to teach at District 28 NE was Mrs. Mary Harper who taught 1958 through May of 1960. Note: Mary Harper also taught at District 28 NW from August 1954 until May 1958, before coming to District 28 NE. Other students Susie recalls are Marlin, Tom, Nancy and Paul Van Slyke, Ed, Doug and Mary Rose Wattier, Michele Reed and

David, Marilyn, Vera and Doug Backer. Her sisters, Jean and Peg Huwaldt were also students at District 28 NE.

Naughty school pranks have probably been going on since the first school bell rang at the beginning of time. Several former students remarked on the memory of some older students placing a dead coon (or other wild stinky animal, depending on the memory) on the school stove sometime on Friday, after school had dismissed, which resulted in quite a stink by Monday morning! No names of school, teacher or students will be mentioned here to protect the innocent.

These are only a few of the memories of students and teachers of District 28. All of the students and teachers who contributed to this article hope you enjoyed the trip down memory lane and tell your grandchildren about going to the country school down the road from your home, the grandchildren will never believe it.

The McLean School

School District 43 was organized February 25, 1899. The first school building of District 43 was located at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 17 in Pierce County.

A frame building was built on the corner of the Joseph Rhodes farm. Mr. Rhodes was the first Director. In July 1899, the village of McLean was established and the

school moved to its location on Main Street.

Once more, in 1914, the original frame building was moved, this time to the John Horn farm two miles south of McLean, when the fine brick building was erected.

The McLean school has a wonderful record of scholastic achievements and has had several outstanding teams

in basketball and girls volleyball during the many years it was in operation. Teams have won several trophies.

Late in the season of 1937, the McLean school again purchased the original wooden frame school building from John Volk, Sr. who owned it by that time and moved it back into McLean to be used for an auditorium for the school. By remodeling it and adding to this building, the community had a building that was a very fine addition to school property and would have been a credit to a much larger school.

Most interesting is the fact that the improvement was fully paid for without a cent of outside money or labor. Patrons of the school and residents of this district donated labor and the school board furnished the cash to purchase material. School board members in 1937 were: C. M. Miller, Wm. Lienemann and Raymond Riessen. The auditorium was used for all school activities and was rented out.

At first, the McLean High School had only 11 grades, but in 1921, it had the first 12th grade graduating class with only two graduates. They were Blanche Rohr and Jesse Hewitt.

This is the newspaper account of the fire as it appeared in the newspaper, January 1930. "It was discovered an empty frame building was aflame. The structure, which formerly housed the W. P. Galvin hardware store, was burned to the ground, but splendid work by the McLean volunteers saved other nearby buildings from fire damage."

"The vacant two-story building, which burned, was being used by the high school basketball team as a gymnasium, and the boys had started a fire in the morning to warm things up for a scheduled game that evening. That the building was afire was not discovered until after the boys had gone on to school."

In 1949, the McLean winners of the Class "D" playoff went to Lincoln where they played Farwell in the State Tournament. The team, probably the best in the school's history, and the first ever to reach the state tournament since playoffs had been held, compiled a season of 21 victories and only 1 defeat to Hildreth in the state class "D" semi-finals. McLean players that year were Wendell Smith, Dean Reichert, Arlan Koehler, Carl Johnson, LaVerle Korth, Gilbert Lewis, and Darrell Dangberg with Fred Jelsema as coach.

In 1952 at the girls invitational volleyball tournament in Wayne, the McLean team won the first place trophy. They were one of eight teams to play in the tournament. In 1954 the McLean volleyball team won both the Laurel and Wayne invitational tournaments and placed 2nd in the Center tournament.

In 1956, School District 43 decided to discontinue the operation of the High School in McLean. Members of the last high school graduating class were: LaDonna Dangberg, Carolyn Neitzke, Cleo Timmerman, Sheila Dangberg, and Eileen Stueckrath. The school then offered a curriculum from kindergarten through 8th grade.

In 1962, District 43, (the McLean School) and District 41, (commonly known as Sunnyside School) merged into one district.

The Sunnyside School house was sold to Walter Bruckner and moved into McLean where he converted it into a machine shed and workshop. It still stands there.

In May 1978 School District 43 closed its doors for the last time, and on July 30, 1980 District 43 was dissolved. Landowners were free to join the district of their choice! A public auction of the school contents was held July 18,



The McLean School

1982. Cliff and Donna Bell Galvin purchased the school bell and have it mounted in their yard in McLean.

In 1990, two McLean brothers, Jerry and Doug Backhaus, began tearing their school apart—literally. The McLean Public School, built in 1914, but unused since 1978, was in such poor condition that the village considered it too dangerous to be left standing.

At first, plans called for the building to be demolished quickly and the rubble buried. But the Backhaus brothers received a contract from the McLean Village Board to tear down the school, brick by brick, piece by piece. Both Jerry and Doug have fond memories of the school and said they did not want to see it disappear without salvaging some of the valuable material left inside.

Doug has used some of the cinder bricks to make a small patio outside his home, and Jerry used some of the lumber from the floors in remodeling his farm home.

The slow and careful work resulted in some unexpected finds. One day, as they were sweeping debris from the school's upper story, Doug found an old billfold that had been lost in McLean in 1960, when contractors were hired to install a new fire alarm in the school. The billfold was still in good condition and contained a driver's license, credit cards, a dollar bill, and many family pictures.

The brothers traced the owner of the billfold, and finally located him in Missouri. The one-time construction worker was now a retired Air Force colonel who remembered the day he lost his billfold in a little school in northeast Nebraska. The colonel was especially grateful to have the family pictures returned.

The brothers had promised to try to salvage the McLean Public School sign above the battered front door that opened to so many memories for former students and teachers of McLean Public School. This sign was salvaged and put up on a corner of the school lot as a memorial to the McLean Public School. Cinder blocks from the school were used in the construction of the memorial sign as well as cap pieces from above the doors and the original cornerstone from the school.

Randolph Public Schools "Our Future's Foundation"



Randolph Public High School

The mission of the Randolph Public School is to be the cornerstone in providing all students the best education possible as they become lifelong learners in a changing world.

The first Public School of Randolph was established in 1887. It was a small frame building. The first teacher was Emma Smith who taught the entire school.



1906 Randolph Public Schools 1st Grade Class: Teacher Miss Dell.
Back: Margaret Buol, Lucile Williams, Anna Prein, Piney Anderson, Mae Raeber. **Next Row:** Marguerite Clatterbuck, Verlin Jones, Avery Casteel. **Next Row:** Frances Oliver, Florence Smith, Stuart Cook, Frank Larson, Roy DeKay, Emily Manzer, Louis Adams, Alfred Mailliard
Front: Philip Thompson, Carl Barndt, Waldo Townsend, Charlie Wilson, Elmer Smith, Margaret Hartman, Ruth Hartman, Rhoda Kelly, Mary Alice McDonald, Velma Warren.

The Randolph High School was organized in 1891 and in 1893 the frame building was moved from the site and a brick building was erected. It was made of Randolph bricks. Dr. L. J. Townsend was selected as the first Superintendent. Arthur Benedict was the first graduate, receiving his diploma from the tenth grade in 1893. Material taken from the "Sproutes" written by David M. Rogers, class of 1907, revealed that by 1899 the eleventh and twelfth grades had been added. M. P. Buol (class of 1900) was the first graduate from Randolph's twelve grades.



Mrs. Susie Hughes Buchanan, class of 1897, reported that there were eighteen in high school at that time. There

were eight in her graduating class. W. Scott Prouty was Superintendent and W. L. Shipman, Principal. There were three or four more teachers in the school. Writing was a subject stressed in the high school, plus Algebra, Geometry and Botany. There was a test taken to qualify for a Second Grade Teacher's Certificate. The members of the school board in 1897 were H. Fisher, President; S. O. Reese; W. P. Hill; Paul Buol; J. L. Stewart and M. C. Livingston.



1925 Graduating Class

Twelve years after the addition of the twelve grades, the high school as well as the other grades had out-grown the brick structure in which they had been housed for two decades and with the Nebraska High School law having the tuition paid by the home district made a need for the high school to give a greater field of service to fit the needs of the enrollment advancing toward the one hundred mark. The need now was to give assistance into some vocation calling-normal training, manual training, and agriculture, as well as preparation for college.

By 1911 when the next building was built, there had been one hundred and seventy-three graduating diplomas presented. This building has gone through many renovating projects. The first class graduating from this building was the class of 1911. It had the following members: Hazel Holtz, May Aegerter, Eulalie Carrol, Loraine Holtz, Lauretta Lord, Beth Monfort, Marjorie Parminter, Floyd Peck, Herbert Reese, Roy Stewart, Nellie Thorndike and Elsie Yost. The members of the high school faculty were A. Crago, Superintendent; Edna Mantor; Grace Ealough; Amelia I. Metzger and Narissa Light. The courses offered were to Freshmen: Algebra, English, Physical Geography, Bookkeeping;

Sophomores: English, Civics, Latin, Geometry, Roman History, German; Juniors: English, English History, Normal Training; Seniors: English, Physics, American History, Normal Training, Bookkeeping. A literary work course was required of all students.

In 1915 the school received \$924.50 from the State for free high school tuition. The value of school property of the district was the net sum of \$50,500 of which the building and site was estimated at \$33,500. It took about \$17,000 a year to meet the expense of the school. The number of pupils in the district was 550. The enrollment was 384 with an average attendance of 321.

The first record of a commercial course was to the class of 1917; the Domestic Science program was extended the same year. In 1919 credit was given for music; typing was added in 1920; agriculture and shop programs added in 1922. Band and Glee were recorded in the 1930's and a record of Athletics in the 1940's.

The fire escape steps were placed on the building in 1916; the tunnels in late 1920's and the alarm system in 1960.

An active Alumni was organized in 1914 and the publishing of a High School annual in 1916. The school was under the leadership of F. C. Grant during these rapid growing years. The School Board members in 1916 were S. O. Reese, Paul Buol, C. H. Randal, S. O. Reed and L. G. Larson.

The school established its high place in successful athletics by winning its first silver cup at Bloomfield in 1908 at the High School Field Meet. The 1916 girls' basketball team was undefeated and the boys won the Field & Track Meet. Randolph players were also baseball

Randolph Cards of '29 -- Undefeated and Untied

Randolph high school's football squad this season was co-claimant with Albion for the northeast Nebraska championship. The spotless record this year was the second in three years. In the last five years Randolph football teams have won 31 games, lost 7, and tied one. They have scored 881 points to opponents 169.

In the picture: Top row, left to right—Cain, Roberts, Behn, Fisher, Martindale, Gries, L. Hall.

Second row—Lackas, Lenhoff, Coach Enygg, Gibson, D. Scott, DeLance, Black, Plith.

Front row—L. Scott, Jonas, Theophilus, Clark, M. Hall, Huwaldt.

The 1929 record: Randolph 33, Creighton 0; Randolph 18, Crofton 0; Randolph 13, Wayne 0; Randolph 31, Plainview 0; Randolph 46, Bloomfield 0; Randolph 28, Neligh 7; Randolph 13, Hartington 0; Randolph 24, Pierce 0. Total points, Randolph 206; opponents 7.

champions and basketball champions with Earl Aegerter and Marvin Bowles listed as outstanding winners. Since, 1909 Randolph has had the following superintendents for the school: A. Crago, L. J. Knoll, F. C. Grant, J. W. Hussey, M. R. Edwards, R. A. Dawson, Floyd A. Davis, C. H. Adee, M. L. Swengel, F. H. Larson, James Calloway, W. Brower, and Orwin L. White. The Superintendent in 1961 was Fred M. Pokorney. The school board members of 1960-61 were Marvin Weber, A. B. Helms, Roger Buchanan, Gordon Chapman, Gordon Dennis and Harold Sherwood. The 1960-61 enrollments in High School were 97. The grade school had 167 pupils enrolled at that time with a total enrollment of 266. The 1960-61 faculty consisted of Eva M. Strathman, Neil Kluver, Kenneth Anderson, Dale Kropp, Jim Shook, Ray Friday, John Hill, Frances Anderson, Norma Jean Linscott, Ann Hutchison, Louise Phillips, Opal McCullough, Pat Kropp and Marian Jordan. Randolph citizens were rightly proud of their class A, North Central Association Approved and State Accredited School. The high school courses offered were General, College Preparatory, Vocational Agriculture, Vocational Homemaking and Commercial. The activities were football, basketball, track, volleyball, band, glee, chorus, and declamatory. Other organizations were Student Council, National Honor Society, Future Homemakers of America, Future Farmers of America, Pep Club and R. Club. There was a growing library of more than 2500 volumes and twenty or more periodicals for the use of students and faculty. The fifty year old building was again becoming inadequate to meet the need of the increased enrollment in the grades and the need for a whole school physical development program. The evaluation of the building and site was \$150,000. The assessed value of the district, after the consolidation of District 38 and 82 of Wayne County and District 28 of Pierce County, was \$2,749,500. The budget for the year was \$117,840. The tax levy was 21.21 mills.

(The above history was written by Eva Mae Strathman for the Diamond Jubilee Randolph History Book in 1961.)



Back: Marlin Rudebusch, Gary Bleasdel, Neil Kluver, Ron Sauser, Jim Ehrhardt. Front: John Casel, Bill Dibbert, Marvern Jones, Terry Chapman, Gene Van Aucker

The Board of Education again started studying the possibilities of a building program early in 1963, when a decision was made that the current facilities were not adequate. A proposed \$298,000.00 building program was placed before the voters of the district in a special election which was held on April 23, 1963. The public responded with 603 voters going to the polls. The vote in favor of the proposition was nearly 75% of those casting votes.



1924-1925 Football Team

Construction of the building was completed in time for the opening day of school on August 24, 1964. This was the first public school building program since the old school had been built in 1911. This building consisted of six classrooms for grades one through six. It also included a library room for reference work and reading for elementary pupils. The gymnasium-auditorium held a regulation-size basketball court. In addition to sports events, it was used for physical education and a host of other school activities. The 1963 addition was dedicated on April 4, 1965.

In January of 1970, St. Frances School, an educational institution which had served the Catholic community of the Randolph area for nearly 70 years discontinued operation at the close of the school term. Superintendent Neil Kluver and officials of the Randolph Public School Board of Education revealed their plans for absorbing some nearly 300 St. Frances Catholic School students into the public school system at the beginning of the fall term.

The School District's 45 voters gave overwhelming approval for a \$695,000 bond issue which was brought to the public as a result of the announced closing of St. Frances School. A total of \$390,000 of the amount was used to purchase the St. Frances school building. The remaining \$305,000 was used for various purposes including transportation facilities and a bus barn, an addition to the former St. Frances School to provide a lunch room- doubling as a physical education room, plus additional classroom space at the site of the St. Frances structure. A total of \$29,500 was spent for improvements on the old high school building.

Plans called for the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades to be housed in the old school building, with junior high at the St. Frances site, along with elementary students. Elementary students would also be housed at the new

public school building. At this time the total of the enrollment for Randolph School district was at its highest reaching 900 students, and it was considered a class "B" school.

In 1992 discussion was started about the need to upgrade Randolph Public Schools. After many meetings with the public and school board, a bond issue was passed in January of 1994 for \$3,970,000. Work was started on the addition to the 1963 building and was done in phases. The last phase of the project was the demolition of the old school in June of 1995 and the addition of the music rooms.



Randolph Elementary School

Superintendents for the school since 1961 are as following: Fred M. Pokorney, Neil Kluver, James Troshynski, Marlene Uhing, and Ted Hillman, Steven Rinehart, and David Hamm as the current Superintendent.

The present school board members for the 2009-2010 school year are Dan Backer, Tim Kint, Barb (Jeff) Rohde, Paul Schmit, Jim Scott, and Mike Strathman. The present enrollment for High School grades 7-12 is 183 students and K-6 enrollment in the Elementary is 139 students for a total of 322. Also in the 2009-2010 school year, Randolph Schools became a Class D1 School and made the State playoffs in football and basketball.

Sherry Bradley, Karen Dominisse, Kathy Moore, Latricia Olson, Candace Petersen, Vickie Robinson, Deb Schnell, Theresa Schnoor, and Kathy Wilke. Shared faculty members between both schools are Mark Anderson, Karen Boehmer, Mary Hahne, Chris Hansen, Jennifer Isom-Backer, and Marcia Wakeley. The Junior/Senior High faculty consists of Rob Engel, Carol Erwin, Craig Flaming, Tara Hillman, Jim Hixson, Lori Kalin, Sarah Kilmurry, Peggy Lackas, Mark Lech, Mary Miller, Debra Reigle, Kim Romohr, and Ted Stubbs.

High school courses offered are Core classes: Physical Education, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, Business Technology, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, College Preparatory and College Credit classes. Activities are Football, boys' and girls' Basketball, boys' and girls' Track, Volleyball, Golf, Wrestling, Band, Chorus, Speech, One Act Play, JETS, and Dance team. Other organizations are Student Council,



Construction of the new gymnasium

National Honor Society, FCCLA, FFA and Yearbook.

Both Elementary and High School buildings have libraries with 14,363 copies and 12,639 titles. There are numerous periodicals available via The Nebraska ACCESS online encyclopedia. There are over 15 periodicals readily available with back issues. Four different newspapers are on hand during the school year. K-12 students use the Accelerated Reader Program which encourages reading skills in students. There are computer labs in both the Junior/Senior High School and The Elementary School. There are 190 computers with two servers which are used by both students and staff members.

All Randolph School properties are now valued over \$20,000,000. The assessed values of the District are as follows: Cedar County \$156,147,661; Pierce County \$62,645,001 and Wayne County \$59,906,539. The 2009-2010 budget for Randolph Public Schools is a little over \$4,000,000.00. The 2009-2010 tax levy is .750199.
Submitted by Sue Lenhoff



Butterfly Garden at the Randolph Elementary School

The principals for the 2009-2010 school year are K-6 Principal Pat Sweeney, 7-12 Principal Dennis Bazata. The present Elementary faculty consists of Joan Albers,

Randolph High School Champions



1981 Girls "C" State Champions

Becky Boling, Theresa Thies, Shelley Lackas, Mary Nannen, Rose Tunink, Mary Pflanz, Tracy Borst, Debby Koehler, Melanie Strathman, Inga Brodersen, Shelly Strathman, Jackie Johnson. Front: Marcy Kluver Janet Poppe, Mark Anderson, Dan List, Alex Czeranko, Robin Berner, Lori Robinson

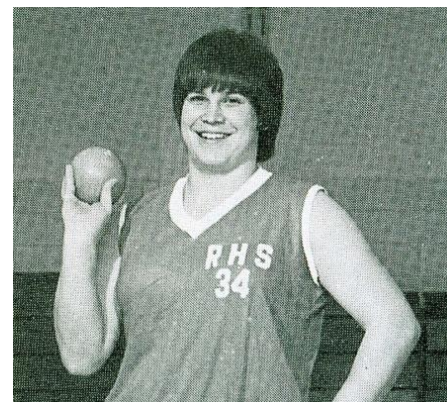


Blake Rethwisch

2009 100 Meter Dash

Time of 10.94.

**2009 200 Meter Dash Time of
22.32. Coach Mark Anderson**



Inga Brodersen

1982 and 1983 Shot Put

Distance of 43' 6 (State Record)

Coaches: Dan List , Jud Devine



2001 State Basketball Champions.

Back row: Assistant Coach Jim Hixson, Head Coach Lyle Nannen, Trevor Anderson, Chad Arens, Jim Dowling, Mitch Tunink, Aaron Billerbeck, Assistant Coach Mark Anderson. Middle Row: Bill Hanson, Bryan Alderson, Justin Gubbels, Bryan Bazata, Nick Haselhorst, Bryce Whalen, Jake Borst. Front Row: Student Managers: Devin Stapleman, Brad Tunink, Brady McDonald, Blake Anderson.



1991 Boys 3200 Meter Relay Time of

**8:10.86. Steve Gubbels, Mike Jones,
Jamie Meyer, Ramsey Lewis.**



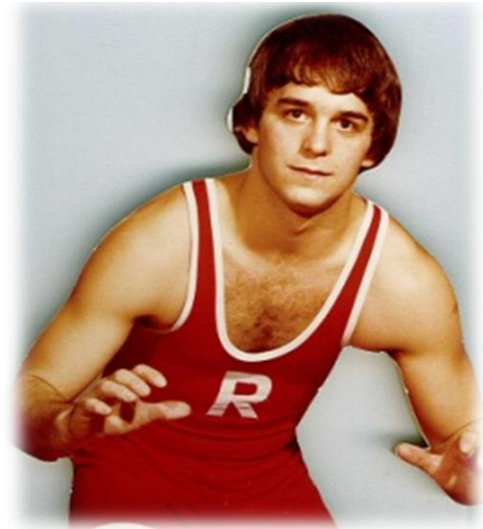
1991 Boys 1600 Meter Relay Time of 3:30.33. Clint Alderson, Jamie Meyer, Ramsey Lewis, Mike Jones. Coaches, Mike Lightfritz and Mark Anderson



2004 2 Mile: Melissa Schmit. Coaches: Ted Stubbs, Jim Hixson



2004 Girls 4 X 800 Relay Team Time of 10:07.19 Team Members:, Britni Korth: Erin Bazata, Genny Graf Sheila Korth, Coach: Ted Stubbs, Jim Hixson



Scott Kruger



State Wrestling Champs: Bill Gubbels, Darin Loberg, John Gubbels, Kyle Gubbels, Casey Gubbels, Jerad Gubbels.

Wrestling Champs

1977 Class C 128 Bill Gubbels
1981 Class C 155 Scott Kruger
1984 Class C 155 Darin Loberg
1986 Class C 138 John Gubbels
2001 Class D 152 Kyle Gubbels
2002 Class D 160 Kyle Gubbels
2005 Class C 135 Casey Gubbels
2006 Class C 140 Casey Gubbels
2009 Class D 160 Jared Gubbels

“C2” One Act State Champions

Director: Jill Hoelsing Assistant Vicki Randolph Best Actor: Nick Bradley

Cast members: Jenny Arens, Annie Arduser, Gabe Backer, Tony Bach, Aaron Becker, Sherri Biernbaum, Nick Bradley, Evan Brandt, Kendra Brummels, Jackie Burbach, Jason Burns, Jeremy Burns, Brad Dowling, Katie Dowling, Sarah Dowling, Katja Emmrich, Jon Graham, Jason Gross, Kim Gubbels, Stephanie Gubbels, Kelli Hanson, Michelle Huetig, J.D. Iles, Chris Keifer, Amanda Konken, Carolina Korth, Brenda Leiting, Bonnie Lenhoff, Jessica Libra, Jenny Morten, Amanda Olson, Toni Olson, Keisha Patent, Becky Rezabek, Kim Riedmiller, Melissa Romohr, Kristin Starzl, Joanna VanSlyke, Justin Wiese, Tom Wiese, Kristen Windle

1996 “C2” One Act State Champions

Director: Jill Hoelsing Assistant: Kim Waddington Cast Members: Katie Alderson, Jennifer Bach, Aaron Becker,

Chris Bradley, Nick Bradley, Kendra Brummels, Jeremy Burns, Angie Dickes, Brad Dowling, Katie Dowling, Jon Gross, Amanda Konken, Carolina Korth, Travis Korth, Ryan Kruger, Brenda Leiting, Amanda Olson, Antonia Olson, Keisha Patent, Shasta Poppe, Becky Rezabek, Beth Rogers, Melissa Romohr, Antoine Rueff, Kristin Starzl, Joanna Van Slyke, Justin Wiese, Kristin Windle, Teresa Wittler

1998 “C2” One Act State Champions

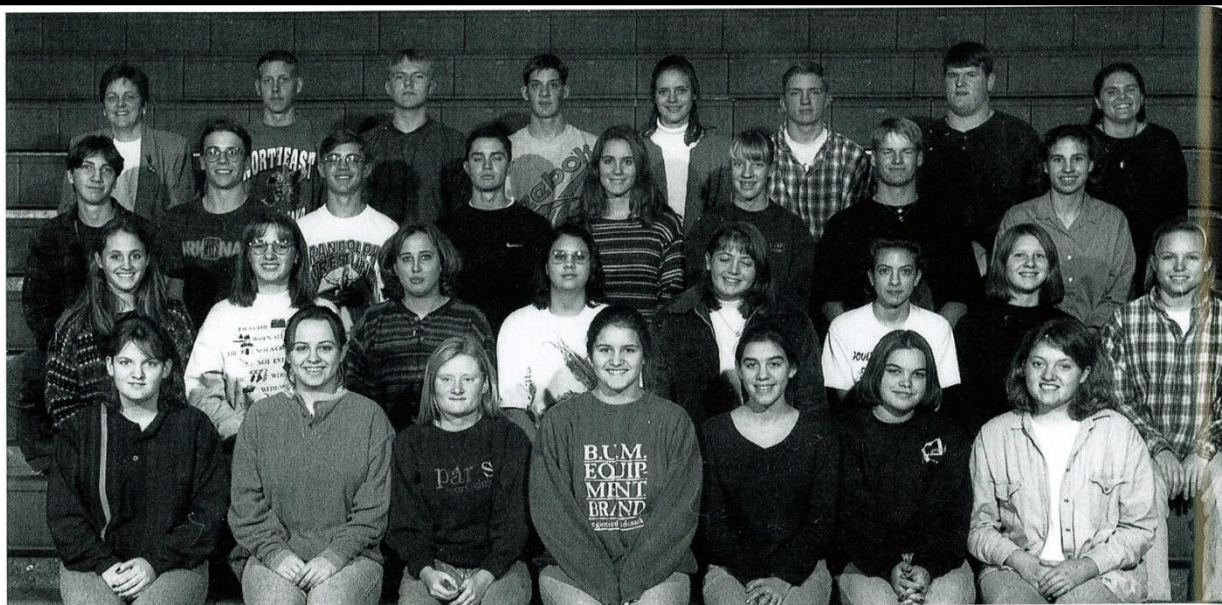
Director: Jill Hoelsing Assistant Best Actor: Nick Bradley Cast Members: Brenda Arens, Jenny Arens, April Bach, Gabe Backer, Aaron Becker, Jared Blunck, Nick Bradley, Kendra Brummels, Jackie Burbach, Jason Burns, Jeremy Burns, Adam Dowling Brad Dowling, Katie Dowling, Sarah Dowling, Angie Folkers, Julia Glaser, Jason Gross, Kim Gubbels, Kelli Hansen, Teri Haselhorst, Michelle Huetig, J.D. Iles, Chris Keifer, Amanda Konken, Carolina Korth, Bonnie Lenhoff, Jessica Libra, Justin Libra, Victoria Meier, Kourtne Morgan, Andy Morten, Jenny Morten, Antonia Olson, Keisha Patent, Holly Petersen, Becky Rezabek, Kim Riedmiller, Melissa Romohr, Kristin Strazl, Kyle Thunker, Joanna VanSlyke, Ashley Wiese, Justin Wiese, Tom Wiese, Kristen Windle

1998 OID State Champions

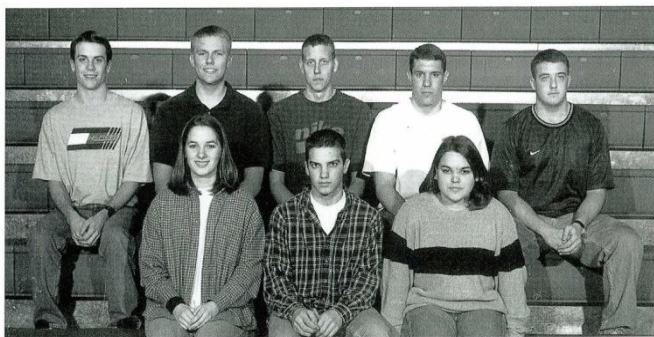
Aaron Becker, Chris Keifer, Melissa Romohr, Justin Wiese, Kristen Windle

1998 State Champions Duet (Speech)

Nick Bradley, Kristen Windle



DRAMA- Front Row: Katie Alderson, Amanda Konken, Antonia Olson, Carolina Korth, Kristin Windle, Keisha Patent, and Amanda Olson. Second Row: Katie Dowling, Melissa Romohr, Jennifer Bach, Angie Dickes, Kristin Starzl, Becky Rezabek, Kendra Brummels, and Shasta Poppe. Third Row: Antoine Rueff, Aaron Becker, Nick Bradley, Chris Bradley, Teresa Wittler, Joanna Van Slyke, Travis Korth, and Brenda Leiting. Fourth Row: Mrs. Jill Hoelsing, Brad Dowling, Justin Wiese, Jon Gross, Beth Rogers, Ryan Kruger, Jeremy Burns, and Mrs. Kim Waddington.



JETS Varsity A Team Front Row(l-r): Melissa Romohr, Adam Gubbels, Keisha Patent.
Back Row(l-r): Aaron Becker, Justin Wiese, Brad Dowling, Ryan Meyer, Kyle Dominisse.

1999 State JETS Team Sponsor: Lisa Linville

Team Members: Melissa Romohr, Adam Gubbels, Keisha Patent, Aaron Becker, Justin Wiese, Brad Dowling, Ryan Meyer, Kyle Dominisse

2000 State JETS Team

Sponsor: Lisa Linville **Team Members:** Chris Keifer, Tony Dowling, Andy Morten, Kim Riedmiller, Catrina Korth, Jenny Arens, Jenny Morten

2004 State JETS Team Place 9th Nationally Sponsor:

Rob Engel **Team Members:** Ti Kauth, Greg Tunink, Sheila Korth, James Svitak, Karissa Dominisse, Wyatt Robinson, Tiffany Kruse, Brandon Massey

FFA

State Degree

1982 Mark Korth; 1983 Greg Lackas; 1986 Eric Frederick; 1994-1995 Adam Gull; 1996-1997 Brian

Junck; 1998-1999 Bruce Backer, Josh Olson; 1999-2000 Tony Bach, Layne Sievers and Tony Dowling; 2000-2001 Zach Meyer; 2001-2002, Kenny Thies; 2003-2004 Wyatt Robinson; 2004-2005 David Arens, Jesse Olson, Michael Schutt; 2006-2007 Philip Wurdinger, Daniel Korth; 2007-2008 Brent Albers, Garret Robinson, Ben Gubbels; 2008-2009 Emily Gubbels, Jackie Thelen, Michael Hasehorst; 2009-2010 Eric Haselhorst, Adam Haselhorst

National Degree

1994 Josh Graham; 1995-1996 Jeff Graham, Megan Patent; 1998-1999 Aaron Petersen, Keisha Patent; 1999-2000 Layne Seivers, Tony Dowling; 2000-2001 Zach Meyer; 2001-2002 Larry Moser, Derrick Owens, Nick Lenhoff, Adam Backer, Chad Junck, Jesse Burbach, Wade Lorenz; 2003-2004 Katie Meyer, Tony Thelen; 2004-2005 Andrew Olson, Andy Nordhues, Cameron Korth, Jay Kauth, Jason Schmit; 2005-2006 Amanda Graham; 2006-2007 Matt Nordhues, Ted Thelen, Aaron Olson, Junior Pfanstiel, Todd Greiner, Josh Jorgensen

1991 State Champ in Ag Mechanics -- Chad Winkelbauer

1992 State Ag Construction – Steve Korth

1999 State Degree Winners -- Aaron Petersen, Josh Olson, Keisha Patent, Bruce Backer

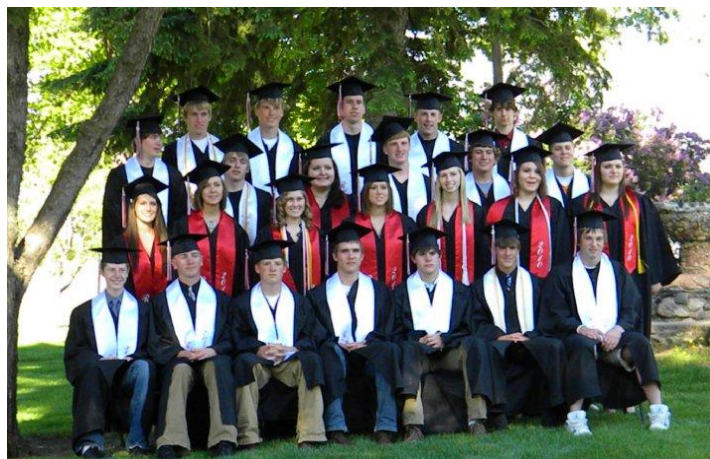
2004 State Champ in Ag Mechanics – Jason Schmit



2010 Randolph High School Band
performing at the Lion's Club
Parade in Norfolk.



2010 RHS Graduating Class Pictured: Back: Jared Schmit, Timothy Schmit, Bradley Thies, Michael Kint, Eric Haselhorst, Colin Fallon. Next Row: Matthew Graham, Exchange Student, Jonathan Gubbels, Nathan Gubbels, Austin Backer Next Row: Kristina Owens, Kristina Backhaus, Kimberly Biernbaum, Brandi Sullivan, Hannah Janssen, Geather Hammond, Cecilia Korth, Front: Jack Thelen, Adam Adam Tunink, Daniel Wessel, Adam Haselhorst, Scott Burbach, Jacob Backer, Daniel Kyles.



Sholes School



About 1910 Sholes Consolidated School

John and Ella Beaton purchased 80 acres of land in March, 1899, which later became the site of the town of Sholes, Nebraska. Sholes was established as a shipping point in Northwest Wayne County. Records indicate that the application for the Sholes post office was made February, 1902 by John Beaton. Mail was to be delivered by the Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee & Omaha Railroad on the line from Wayne to Bloomfield. The first Postmaster of Sholes, was John L. Beaton appointed April 30, 1902 and the post office was in his home.

The consolidated school was built in 1906 when four districts were merged into one. School District 76 opened with M.S. Moats as director, J. L. Beaton as moderator and A. G. Carlson as treasurer of the first school board. H. W. Burnham was elected president at the second meeting and served for many years. The first teachers were B. F. Robinson, Clara Burson, and Mary Pauelski. Since Wayne had the State Normal Training, many of Sholes teachers came from Wayne, often commuting by train. In 1908 the school was consolidated as a short high school through the 10th grade with 73 pupils enrolled and having three teachers. In 1909, there were 95 students, age five through 23 enrolled. A report for the school year of 1911-12 noted nearly a hundred students in the grades kindergarten through 10th, with four teachers instructing the classes.

By 1924 the high school had been expanded through the 11th grade. Superintendent George V. Teazer and faculty member Louise Adam were teaching about twenty high school students.

In 1927 the first twelfth grade graduates included: Clarence Allen, LaRue Miller, Everett Robins, Mae Root, Raymond Root, Lowell Shirts and Esther Wingett. Rinaldo Bacon was the principal.

The first basketball team was organized in 1937. Boys and girls enjoyed basketball and the games were played in overalls. In 1938, maroon and white uniforms were purchased with players feeling very "undressed" in their shorts. Games were played in the Sholes church which was very small so the free throw

line was at half court. There was also both boys and girls softball played.

In 1938-39 Superintendent N. D. Evans and Irma Nelson were part of the faculty teaching 15 students through the twelfth grade in the high school. When Martin Madsen, a Sholes barber, did the janitor work at the school in the 1930's and 1940's, he also gave student haircuts at noon and recess in the school furnace room for a cost of 15 cents.



Sholes school 1910

After World War II a bad fire helped bring about the demise of the high school after the original school building was consumed by flames in April 1948. There were ten high school students and 29 grade school students at the time. Earl Nelsen was the only senior graduating that year. The other students continued their education in Randolph or Carroll. Teachers at this time were: Marjerie Pickering, Miss Thompson, Eva Mae Plummer and Dorothy Ewing.



About 1952 Sholes Elementary School

A new eight grade, one room school was built in 1952 with sixteen pupils. Another room was added the following year, and then there were two teachers. In 1980, classes were changed to Kindergarten through sixth grade. Due to fewer pupils living in the area, the school closed in 1990. Lois Rasmussen was the last teacher in the upper grades with six pupils and Faye

Babst was the last teacher in the lower grades with five pupils.

Some area families with at least three generations who attended Sholes school were: Miller, Isom, McFadden and Kenny. Many people in the area are proud of the education they received at the Sholes school.

St. Frances de Chantal School



St. Frances Catholic Church, School and Rectory

The first Catholic School of Randolph was built in 1899 while Rev. Casimir Renner was pastor. It consisted of four classrooms for elementary grades and living quarter for the sisters. Some of the pupils who entered the first school in 1899 were: James and Mary Stukel; Frank Lexie; Henrietta, Ivo, Mary, Matt, Anna and Margaret Lorge; Agnes, Pete, Mary and Veronica Thies; Cecilia Winkel; Nick Messman; John Klocke, John, Matt and Louis Gubbels; Dan Carroll; William, Fred and Lawrence Lippold; Peter Colling; Henry and Mary Ostendorf; William Dominisse; Jesse, Kathryn and Tony Reding; Bernard, Margaret and Kathryn Hassman; August, Chris and Mike Wintz; William and Nellie Wagner; Henry, John, Mary and Pete Meyer; Lucy, Elizabeth and Joseph Knepper; Rose, Nell, Rita and Margaret Head; Katie, Lizzie and Joe Moser.

The first year's enrollment was 140 students, with children from Randolph, Wayne, Coleridge, Belden and Carroll. It was staffed by the School Sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the first and oldest school in Nebraska staffed by this congregation of Sisters. This religious order of women was founded by three nuns who emigrated to the U.S. from Schwarzbach, Germany in 1872.

Enrollment grew and the frame structure became inadequate. In 1909, a contract was let for a new brick school building at a cost of \$17,000. The building was dedicated on July 5, 1910. The modern building included a full basement equipped with a laundry room, furnace room, a kitchen, and a large dining room for boarders and a smaller one for the Sisters. There were four classrooms on the main floor, two more on the second floor as well as a music room, chapel, and living



St. Frances School

quarters for the Sisters. The third floor contained two dormitories for out-of-town pupils. In 1914 the high school opened, and its first class graduated in May 1918, consisting of Cecilia Colling, Katherine Kessler, and Elizabeth Ostendorf.

Beginning in 1942, the high school senior class began publishing a monthly newspaper, *The Chantalette*. The subscription cost was 5¢ per copy. News of school events, both elementary and high school, were featured. It included editorials, ads from town businesses, alumni news and sports. As the U.S. stepped up preparation for war, the newspaper began to feature articles about the sale of defense bonds and stamps; a Victory Corps was organized; a Junior Red Cross was formed; contests to collect scrap iron were held. Students also participated in collections of newspapers and milk weed seeds (used in making life jackets), and selling vegetable seeds for "V Gardens."



B.V.M. Sodality

In 1943 *The Chantalette* printed a "Directory of St. Frances' Fighting Men" with names of 53 men serving in the Marine Corps, Navy, Army, Coast Guard and Air Corps. In the following year, news articles told of the loss of some of these men. These servicemen who gave their lives in World War II are Thomas Abts, James Bermel, William P. Dwyer, Alvin Kessler, John D. Kint and Rev. Joseph Vanderheiden. Later, during the



St. Frances students 1949

Vietnam War, two more “St. Frances Fighting Men” lost their lives, Stanley Gubbels and James Moser.

The Chantalette consistently received high honors from The Catholic School Press Association, Quill and Scroll, and The National Scholastic Press Association. Many other extracurricular activities were available to students, including activities that enriched the St. Frances Church community, especially the training of altar servers; training of organists; a grade-school choir; Sodality; May Crowning; and Living Rosary.

Baseball was the most popular sport enjoyed by St. Frances youth in the early years. In 1926 a baseball team was organized with John Lenzen as captain. Baseball continued to dominate the physical activity of St. Frances boys for many years. In 1946 basketball was introduced, coached by Gene Kaiser. The athletic teams chose the nickname “Blue Jays” in 1944. Track was added later. Girls participated in intramural sports such as volleyball, tennis, kittenball (later known as softball), and archery.



Top row: Lynn Wattier, Paul Eddie, Dan Widhelm, Joe Hartz, Dennis Wattier. Bottom Row: Earl Leiting, Archie Wattier, Roger Gubbels, Tom Mannion, Dennis Gubbels.

Musical activities were a part of school life. Many students took piano and vocal lessons with the sisters who taught general music classes, choir, and glee club. Over the years music students entertained general audiences with recitals, Christmas programs, and also were rated on performance at O’Neill District Music Contest and at the Wayne Music Contest. In 1952, the contestants included a piano quartet of Alfreda and Lucille Aschoff, Rita Gubbels and Barbara Sauser. Some of the individuals who performed senior recitals were Sharon Huwaldt, Ruth Kuhl, Carol Becker, Barbara Sukup and Susan Viergutz.

Dramatic productions were common, with the first large production, an operetta, *The Golden Slipper* presented on May 25, 1921 in the Opera House. By the 1950s, senior class plays were routine, staged at the Randolph City Auditorium. 1952 brought us “Midnight;” 1958, “Ours Forever;” 1959, “Who Dunit;?” 1960, “All in the Family;” 1961, “Father Was a Housewife;” 1964, “An Old Kentucky Garden;” 1969, “The Moonstone.”

Upon completion of a new residence for the sisters in 1957, the school building now contained four floors of classroom and instructional space. At this time the instructional staff included ten nuns; the pastor, Rev. Raymond Auer; associate pastor Rev. Michael Kelly; and two lay teachers, Mrs. Gertrude Schrad and Mrs. Mary Ann Meier.

Through the years, students’ were enriched by having teachers from other parts of the country and other backgrounds. As an example, in 1963, through the efforts of Sr. M. Hiltrudis who had spent a number of years as a missionary in Asia, St. Frances welcomed its first foreign student, Angele Nguyen, from Vietnam. She lived with the Henry Billerbeck family and graduated with the Class of 1965.

Rev. Otto Buehler became pastor in June, 1960. During his tenure a new school building was erected at a cost of \$341,000. Completed in August, 1966, the new building was opened at the beginning of the 1966-67 school year and the old brick building was demolished. At the end of the 1969-1970 school year, St. Frances School closed. There had been 50 graduating classes, for a total of 684 students who received high school diplomas from the school. The Randolph School District purchased the building and became the only school within the City of Randolph.