

1920

- Women were given the right to vote by the 19th Amendment.



First school buses in front of the 1912-1913 school building.
The postcard was from Ruth Westby Spurlin.

August 6, 1921

- First recorded minutes of a school board meeting in the Nevis School records. It was the reorganization meeting after the July election.

April 22, 1922

- There was a van route with 24 children that needed to be transported in two vehicles because the roads were not in very good condition.
- Minnesota School Board Association dues were \$4.00 for the year.
- As of June 1, the county school nurse position, which had been funded by Red Cross, would no longer be available as the Red Cross funds were exhausted. The county school boards requested the county pay for the school nurse.
- On March 24 the School Board Clerk received a letter from the State Board of Investment of St. Paul that the loan of \$24,000 applied for to build an addition to the school would be available in about July.
- N.W. Fisher Architect, Wadena, Minnesota presented two drawings at the meeting for the addition. A plan of 66x72 came nearest to the \$25,000. A contract was drawn up at this special meeting.

May 6, 1922

- “Old teachers’ salaries” were left at \$125 and new teachers’ salaries were \$100 per month.
- Three applications were received for high school teacher. It was decided each person would be written to find out the least they could be hired for.



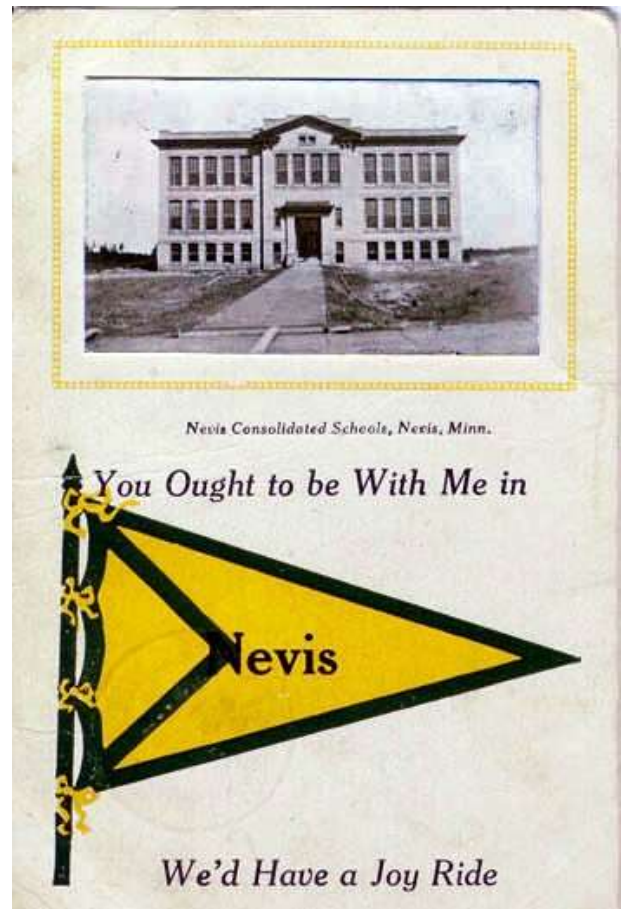
Members of the class of 1922: Lillian Borg, Desma Eells, Myrtle Engstad, Phyllis Fuller, Daniel McCoy, Margaret Newman, Emmet Potter, and Alton Thompson

June 2, 1922

- Graduation ceremony was held on Friday evening. The program read: The senior class play, "The Private Tutor", was performed May 19 and 20. The Junior-Senior Banquet was held Friday evening, May 26, at the New Nevis Hotel. Baccalaureate services were held at the Norwegian Lutheran Church on May 28. There were 8 students who received their diploma that evening.

June 3, 1922

- A discussion on teacher qualifications was held and it was decided to require teachers to furnish a contract that they were legally qualified to teach in a Class A school (high schools with over 500 students)
- 5 days were allowed for teachers' sick benefit.



1920s postcard found online

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS

March, 1922.

Answer questions in the order given. Put down the number of the question and its credits whether you answer it or not. The time for writing this examination is two hours.

ARITHMETIC

Friday, March 31, 8:30 A. M.

Answer any five.

- I. (20) a. Complete the following table by filling in the form correctly:

	Fraction	Decimal	Per Cent
1.	$\frac{3}{4}$?	?
2.	?	.125	?
3.	?	?	450%
4.	?	.025	?
5.	?	?	$\frac{3}{4}\%$
- b. Divide the product of 72 and 96 by the difference of 3611 and 3467.
- II. (20) For a certain community the various tax rates are as follows: Village, 22.5 mills; School District, 14.4 mills; County, 16.87 mills; State, 4.23 mills.
 - a. What amount will a person pay as taxes on a building having an assessed valuation of \$2,770?
 - b. What is the assessed valuation of a house and lot on which the owner pays a tax of \$71.92?
- III. (20) A flour dealer bought 480 barrels of flour at \$7.50 per barrel. He sold half of it at \$9.75 a barrel; 160 barrels at \$8.00 each and the remainder at \$7.00 per barrel. If the storage charges and the cost of selling amounted to \$148, what per cent of profit did he make on the entire transaction?
- IV. (20) A farm of 120 acres was sold at \$62.50 per acre. The purchaser paid down one-third of the cost and on the balance paid interest at a rate of 6%. How much interest does he pay annually?
- V. (20) a. Find the value at \$37.50 per M of the following lot of lumber:
 - 6 pieces 2"x8" beams 18 ft. long.
 - 24 pieces 2"x6" joists 16 ft. long.
 - 16 pieces 2"x4" joists 12 ft. long.
- b. Find the value of a pile of wood 24 ft. long, 6 ft. high and 4 ft. wide, at \$6.50 a cord.
- VI. (20) A family has an annual income of \$2,100. One-fifth is spent for rent; $\frac{1}{5}$ for food and clothing; $\frac{1}{5}$ for fuel; $\frac{1}{5}$ for other purposes, and the remainder is saved. How much is saved each year? What per cent is it of the entire income?
- VII. (20) a. Find the interest on \$960 at 8% for 2 yrs., 3 mos., 15 days.
- b. The premium on an insurance policy for \$4,800 is \$120. Find the rate.

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS

May, 1922.

Answer questions in the order given. Put down the number of the question and its credits whether you answer it or not. The time for writing this examination is two hours.

ARITHMETIC

THURSDAY, June 1, 8:00 a. m.

Answer the first three questions and any other four.

Work must be shown.

- I. (10) The following is the report of attendance at a school. Find the total attendance for the week. Prove results by adding horizontally and vertically. Copy on your paper the columns of figures and give the sums indicated by dotted lines.

	M	T	W	T	F	Totals
First grade	123	120	126	119	115	603
Second grade	98	101	96	97	89	481
Third grade	96	97	93	95	85	466
Fourth grade	101	102	99	103	95	500
Fifth grade	88	90	86	89	80	433
Sixth grade	93	94	92	90	83	452
Seventh grade	76	77	75	74	69	371
Eighth grade	70	80	81	78	75	384
Totals	750	777	777	777	709	3893

- II. (15) On a certain run of 161.88 mi. the rates of an express and a local train are 45.6 mi. an hr. and 28.4 mi. an hr. respectively. What is the difference in the time of these two trains? (Express in hours and minutes.)
- III. (15) How high is a tree which casts a shadow of 168 ft., if at the same time a vertical stick 5 ft. long casts a shadow 8 ft. 9 in. long?
- IV. (15) A boy has a garden 60 ft. by 100 ft. The soil is saturated with water. If a cu. ft. of the soil contains on an average 18 lbs. of water, what is the weight in tons of water in the garden to the depth of a foot?
- V. (15) A cu. yd. of "1-2-3 concrete" contains approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ bbls. of cement, $\frac{1}{4}$ cu. yd. of sand, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cu. yd. of crushed rock. How much of each of these materials will be needed for a job requiring $6\frac{1}{4}$ cu. yds. of concrete?
- VI. (15) Allowing 40 lbs. of silage to the cu. ft., how many tons of silage can be put into a silo that is 18 ft. in diameter and 32 ft. high?
- VII. (15) The expenditures for a certain school were as follows: Teachers' Wages \$4,970, Interest \$65.03, Library, \$46.83, Text Books and Supplies \$362.31, Operation \$1,097.23. This school received from the county and state the following sums: One mill tax \$250, apportionment \$632.40, special aid \$600. What rate in mills will be required to raise the balance by local taxation, if the assessed valuation of the district is \$217,000?
- VIII. (15) Find the interest at 7% on \$580 for 71 days.
- IX. (15) A dealer in rugs bought 104 rugs at \$36 apiece. He sold 74 of them at \$60 apiece, and the remaining 30 at \$45 a piece. What was the dealer's gain per cent on all rugs?

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS

March, 1922.

Answer questions in the order given. Put down the number of the question and its credits whether you answer it or not. The time for writing this examination is two hours.

ELEMENTARY CITIZENSHIP

Friday, March 31, 10:30 A. M.

Answer the first four questions and any other four.

- I. (15) Name three agencies which are maintained at public expense (taxation) which minister to your happiness and benefit. State the way in which each helps.
- II. (15) Give three reasons why it is important for the country that our citizens have good health.
- III. (15) Discuss the school district, the officers, the annual school meeting. What can the people do to have a good school?
- IV. (15) Name five habits which will tend to work out for the success of boys and girls in after life. Give reasons.
- V. (10) What is the Constitution of the United States and what is its purpose?
- VI. (10) Describe briefly the steps a foreigner must take to become a naturalized citizen of the United States. Where can he find out what to do and how to take the necessary steps?
- VII. (10) Discuss how the home, the school, and the community can be made more beautiful and attractive.
- VIII. (10) What is your idea of a good neighborhood?
- IX. (10) Show that tax paying is a privilege and not an imposition.
- X. (10) Name six ways in which you can prove yourself a helpful citizen of your community, your county and your state.
- XI. (10) Tell at least three ways in which the poor and needy in your community or county are helped. What do you think is the best way?

1922 State exam for citizenship, courtesy of Ruth Westby Spurlin.

June 8, 1922

- Discussion and bids were let for the new school addition.
 - Central Caust Co. Staples, Minnesota was awarded the contracting bid for \$19,735.
 - Plumbing, heating, and ventilation bids were awarded to Ray V. Harker Bemidji, Minnesota for \$6,173.
 - Electrical bid was awarded to Naylor Electric, Bemidji, Minnesota for \$548.
 - TOTAL = \$26,456
- They were to start excavating for the new addition on or before June 19, 1922.

June 27, 1922

- The foundation for the new building was in and waiting for brick.

July 1, 1922

- A janitor was hired for \$85 per month, with the understanding extra help may be needed due to the new addition.



Nevis School under construction, this photo was taken while the Nevis School “new” gym was being built in 1922. Person on the right is Jim Shortridge. Photo courtesy of Terry Lindow.

July 15, 1922

- Annual election with polls open one hour, 8-9 p.m., for the election of two directors for three years. This is the first mention in the school board minutes of a school board election.

October 7, 1922

- Taxable valuation of the District was \$380,802.

July 21, 1923

- Janitor hired for an annual salary of \$940 for nine months, plus two weeks before school and one week after.



1921-1922 or 1922-1923
Teaching Staff

Front: unknown,
Mrs. Scherfenberg,
Elvira Fredford, Jennie Berglund,
Helen Aldrich, Mrs. Carlson,
Christine Bergebakken,
Bernice Berglund,
and Mildred Tolass

Back: Alvin E. Carlson and
Rudolph Fjelstad

Photo courtesy of Terry Lindow



1923 Boys Basketball

Carl Giese (class of 1926) and Paul Pederson (class of 1924) 3rd and 4th from left

October 6, 1923

- Levy was set at \$19,780 with teacher salaries of \$14,500 and fuel at \$1,500. The taxable valuation of the district was \$306,760.
- Coal was purchased at \$8.21 per ton from F.O.B. Company of Nevis. The school purchased 20 tons.

December 1, 1923

- \$50 per year was paid to the county for the county nurse. Other districts sharing in the cost of the nurse were Park Rapids, Laporte, Akeley, and Guthrie.
- The auditorium was rented at a charge of \$10 for paid entertainment per night or \$2 per night for rehearsals.
- There were to be no outside shows allowed and no dancing allowed.



1923-1924 Junior and Senior Class picture

Front: Mr. Carl Fjelstad, Carl Giese (class of 1926), Dan McCoy (class of 1922)
 Middle Row: Cora Pearson (class of 1924), Ella Mae Hensel (class of 1925), Stella Qualley (class of 1924), Lydia Gack (class of 1924), Ruby McAllily (class of 1925), Lela Clark
 Back Row: Irene Culver (class of 1924), Amanda Jacobson (class of 1924), Hildur Olson (class of 1924), Dorothy Costley (class of 1924), Ethel Vokes (class of 1924), Leona Cary (class of 1924), and one unknown

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS

May, 1924.

Answer the questions in the order given. Put down the number of the question and its credits whether you answer it or not. The time for writing this examination is two hours.

ELEMENTARY CITIZENSHIP

TUESDAY, May 27, 2:00 p. m.

- I. a. (6) Explain one act of courtesy that you might perform under each of the following conditions:
- 1 Meeting a lady on the street.
 - 2 Eating dinner at the home of a friend.
 - 3 Attending a public concert.
 - 4 Eating lunch at school.
 - 5 Playing games in a park or on a school ground.
- b. (6) Give three reasons why good manners and right conduct are desirable for young people.
- II. a. (6) Name three ways by which respect for the flag of our country may be shown.
- b. (6) State three things which must be considered by those who are careful of their personal appearance.
- III. a. (6) Write from memory one of the following:
- 1 Stanza of the hymn "America."
 - 2 The opening paragraph of Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."
 - 3 Preamble to the United States Constitution.
 - 4 The first stanza of the hymn "America, the Beautiful."
 - 5 Or, if you cannot give any of the above, write a few lines of some patriotic selection you have committed to memory.
- b. (6) Explain briefly the significance of one of the following documents:
- 1 The Declaration of Independence.
 - 2 The Constitution of the United States.
- IV. a. (6) Why is health an essential to a happy and useful life? Give three reasons.
- b. (6) What health habits should be practiced in relation to the following?
- 1 Fresh air
 - 2 Balanced ration of food
 - 3 Drinking of water
 - 4 Use of milk
- V. a. (6) Below is given a list of topics on school sanitation; write one or two sentences on any three, describing the conditions which protect health and promote physical welfare.
- 1 School site
 - 2 Light for the school room
 - 3 Heat and ventilation
 - 4 Drinking water
 - 5 Washing facilities

(OVER)

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS

May, 1924.

Answer the questions in the order given. Put down the number of the question and its credits whether you answer it or not. The time for writing this examination is two hours.

ARITHMETIC

MONDAY, May 26, 8:00 a. m.

Answer all nine questions.

- I. a. (6) Fill in the blank spaces in columns given below:

Fraction		Decimal		Per cent
$\frac{3}{8}$	=	?	=	?
?	=	.0825	=	?
?	=	?	=	6.3%
?	=	.005	=	?
$\frac{7}{5}$	=	?	=	?
?	=	?	=	150%

b. (2) Solve: $29\frac{3}{5} \times 48\frac{5}{7}$

c. (2) Solve: $36\frac{3}{8} \div 8\frac{1}{4}$

d. (2) From $17\frac{5}{6}$ subtract $10\frac{7}{8}$

e. (2) Add: $17\frac{1}{4}$, 25% , $43\frac{4}{5}$, 32% , $57\frac{1}{2}$

f. (2) Solve: $\frac{3}{4}\%$ of \$1,600

g. (4) Find the sum of the quotients:

$$3.24 \div 81$$

$$2.4 \div 1.2$$

$$.0399 \div 1.9$$

- II. a. (5) A man owning $\frac{3}{4}$ of a farm sold $\frac{1}{3}$ of of his share for \$3,125. What was the value of the farm at that rate?

- b. (5) A freight car is 28 feet long, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 5 feet deep. How many tons of coal will it hold if one ton occupies 35 cubic feet of space?

- III. (10) A farmer sold two cows for \$110 each. On one he gained 10% and on the other he lost 20%. Find his gain or loss on the transaction.

- IV. (10) Find the simple interest on \$750 from April 7, 1921 to July 14, 1924 at 6%.

- V. a. (5) A man owns 150 acres of land worth \$125 an acre. If the land is assessed for $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the full value, what will his taxes be at the rate of 15 mills on the dollar?

- b. (5) A city levied \$15,675 in taxes on property assessed for \$950,000. Find the rate of taxation.

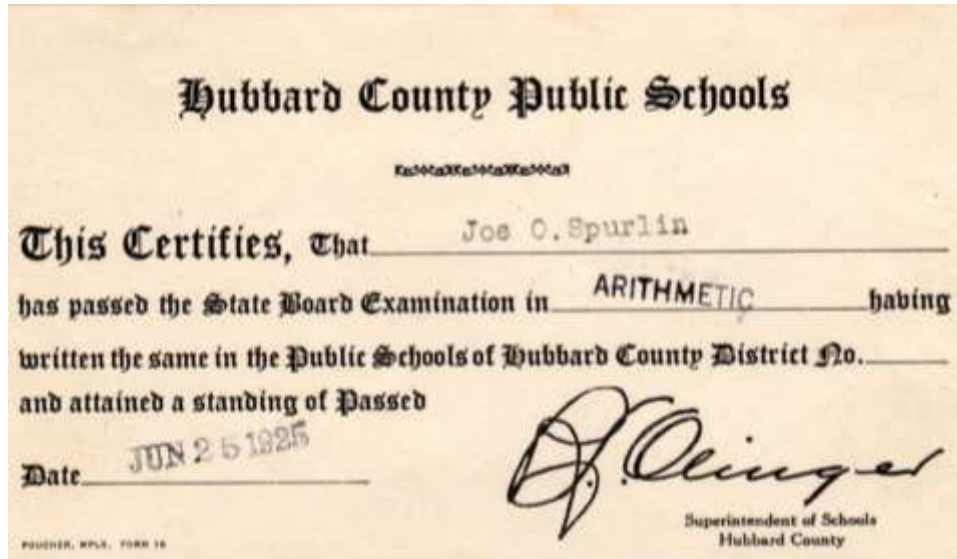
- VI. (10) A real estate dealer received a commission of \$420 for selling a house and lot. If the rate of commission was 4%, how much did he remit to the owner?

- VII. (10) How many feet of fence will it take to enclose a rectangular field that contains 36 acres and is 72 rods wide?

- VIII. (10) A certain silo is 15 feet in diameter and is filled with silage to a depth of 30 feet. If the silage weighs 35 pounds per cubic foot, how long will it last 18 cows if each cow is given 39.27 pounds of silage per day?

- IX. a. (5) A merchant bought goods for \$1,350 which he sold for \$1,875. If his expenses amounted to \$150, what was his gain per cent?

- b. (5) A man's expenses amount to \$52.50 per month, which is $18\frac{1}{4}\%$ of his salary. Find his salary.



Exam certificate after successful completion of State exams, courtesy of Ruth Westby Spurlin.

November 7, 1925

- Policy of no dancing in the school house by any of the classes was adopted by the school board.
- School parties would be allowed on Fridays and Saturdays only and were not to end any later than 11:00 p.m.

January 2, 1926

- School board allowed basketball to be played in the school two nights per week.

March 3, 1926

- Orchestra and Glee Club were allowed to purchase music with money from the "Moving Picture Fund."

January 8, 1927

- Mrs. Bradseth made a request for religious instruction at the school. It was approved with a maximum of three hours per week and instruction not being given at the school.



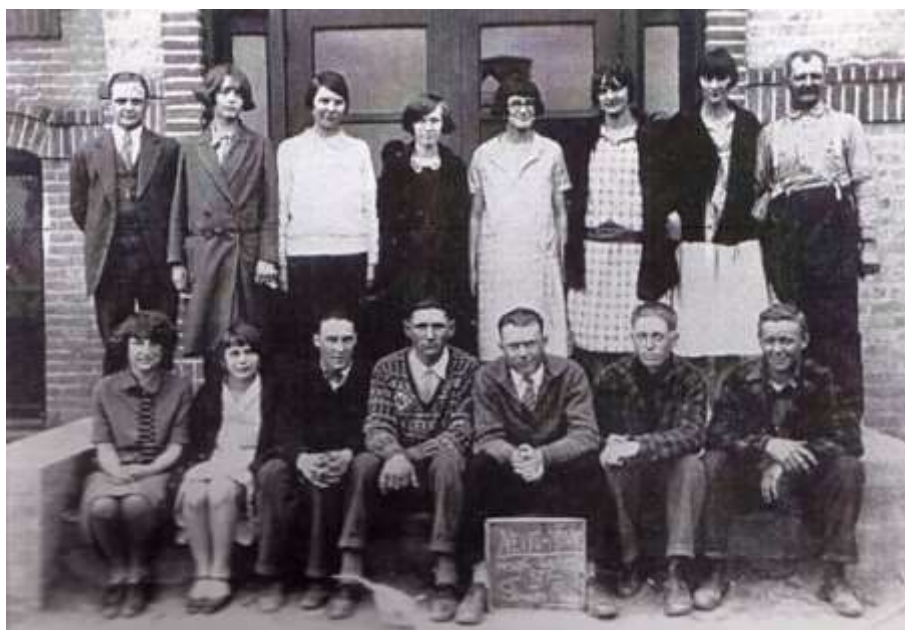
School celebration sometime after 1923 when the addition was finished and before the first motorized school buses arrived in the 1930s.

Photo courtesy of Terry Lindow



Class of 1926

Front: Myrtle Cooper, Louise Lindow, Beatrice Westby, Laura Romer, and Myra Nixon
 Middle: Katy Eells, Betty Borg, Swanhild Logeland, Gladys Davidson, and Clarice Wagner
 Back: Dorothy McKellep, Carl Giese, Gerald Fuller, Lenore Thorbergson,
 Cyril Cornwell, and Thelma Domholdt



Class of 1927

Front: Alice Krees, Alice Jacobson, Harold Pearson, Millard Eells, Gus Kellner,
 Clifford Bostwick, and William Lindow.
 Back: Principal Julian Sletten, Kathryn Carlson, Christine Olson, Violet Sitz, Mable Solo,
 Ruth Thorpe, Mels Frash (janitor) – missing name of one person in this row,
 possibly Helen Gulsvig, Colette McCoy, Edna Rosengren
 Photo courtesy of Terry Lindow

Fall 1927

- Each fall the school was required to submit a census to the county of all students under the age of 16. This census was used for funding of the school. “A complete census shall be taken in every school district, common, independent, and special, between July 1 and October 1 of all children between six and sixteen years of age, which census shall show the name and date of birth of each person required to be enumerated and the name and the address of his parent, guardian, or other person having charge. The compensation for taking said school census and making the extra copies thereof shall be three cents for each pupil enumerated, as shown by the census list.”



Picture taken approximately 1927 of Class of 1933, photo courtesy of Terry Lindow

First Row from back to front in the desks: ?, Ellen Sternberg, ?, Wesly Batown

2nd Row: ?, Albert Lovik, ?, Ernest Jacobson, ?

3rd row: ?, ?, Mildred Trost, ?

4th Row: ?, ?, ?

5th Row: ?, ?, ?

May 1928

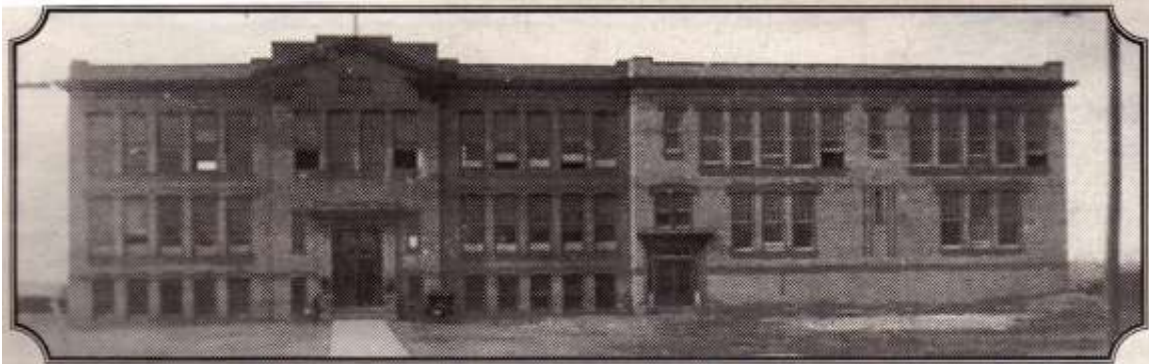
- May 17, 1928 Enterprise: “Radical changes in the teaching staff of the Backus Schools are eminent for the next term owing to the fact that Superintendent S. George Reishus has been elected to the Superintendency of the Nevis School. He will take with him to the Nevis School two teachers from Backus, namely Mrs. J. H. Horton and Mrs. Effie Wareing. Superintendent Reishus received a personal invitation from the directors of the Nevis School which he rates as a professional, as well as, financial advancement...Mr. Reishus will receive a salary of \$2,200 for the first school year of ten months. Nine teachers are employed in the Nevis School and the enrollment this year is 250.”

June 1928

- In the 1974 volume of the Nevis Graduate, it states that the Class of 1928 graduated in June and the class slogan was “With the Ropes of the Past Ring the Bells of the Future.”

September 28, 1928

- Taxable valuation of the district was \$292,254.
- Tax levy was decided to be \$13,000 with teacher wages at \$10,000.
- A piano was purchased for the auditorium at a cost of \$275.



1920s Photo of Nevis School
Photo Courtesy of Northwoods Press

It was the end of the school year, and a kindergarten teacher was receiving gifts from her pupils.

The florist's son handed her a gift. She shook it, held it overhead, and said, "I bet I know what it is. Some flowers."

"That's right" the boy said, "but how did you know?"

"Oh, just a wild guess," she said.

The next pupil was the candy shop owner's daughter.

The teacher held her gift overhead, shook it and said, "I bet I can guess what it is. A box of sweets."

"That's right, but how did you know?" asked the girl.

"Oh, just a wild guess," said the teacher.

The next gift was from Little Ole, son of the liquor store owner. The teacher held the package overhead, but it was leaking. She touched a drop of the leakage with her finger and touched it to her tongue.

"Is it wine?" she asked.

"No," Little Ole replied, with some excitement.

"Is it champagne?" she asked.

"No," he replied, with more excitement, barely able to stand still.

The teacher took one more taste before declaring, "I give up, what is it?"

With great glee, Little Ole exclaimed, "It's a puppy!" from Northwoods Press

1930

- The following is from the first year of the Nevis School Pine Knots newspaper. The first volume was printed March 17, 1930.
 - Girls' basketball had four intramural teams that played during the month of March. They were the Holdems, Rough Riders, Pushems, and Broncos. Each team played nine games during the season.
 - Grades were distributed every six weeks, for six times per year – rather than every nine weeks for four times per year as is the current practice.
 - Valedictorian honors for the year was awarded to Zeda Green whose four year average was 90.12. The salutatorian had an average of 83.75. Calculation was based on a 100 point scale with A being 93 and up, A- being 90, etc.
 - May 23, Friday morning the state board examinations started with English for seniors, and modern history for sophomores.
 - May 24, the Junior-Senior Banquet was held at the Nevis Hotel at 7:30 p.m.
 - May 26, the physics students took their test; the chemistry test was easier.
 - May 27, Tuesday, biology and social problems tests were given.
 - May 29, Thursday was the all school picnic.
 - May 30, Friday evening at 8:15 p.m. Commencement was held. Diplomas for both 8th grade and 12th grade students were handed out.
 - In the Pine Knots school newspaper – it stated “Friday is Memorial Day. We are going to march and carry flags. About a hundred and fifty years ago the first American flag was made by Betsy Ross. She was a dress maker. One day Washington asked her if she would make a flag. She said yes, if she could make stars with five points instead of six. She folded some paper and with just one clip of the scissors the star pattern was made. When the flag was made there were seven red stripes and six white ones. There was a blue field in one corner with thirteen white stars in it. Now there are forty-eight stars in our flag.” (note Hawaii and Alaska have not joined the union yet)



1930-1931 Girls Basketball

Ruth Jacobson (class of 1932), Helga Stafsvig (class of 1931), Catherine Ruddy (class of 1932), Ada Gulsvig (class of 1931), Ruth Lindow (class of 1931), Alma Bergstrom (class of 1931), Violet Archibald (class of 1931), Pearle Karlsrud (class of 1931), Virginia Ruddy (class of 1931), Helen McMahon (class of 1932), Sylvia Thompson (class of 1931), Teacher Ruby Halvorson, Coach Carl Ingebrigtsen

Photo courtesy of Terry Lindow