

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

By Dale Vanderford

The Murdock Historical Society

Contact: 867-2545

Our original School district No. 85 was formed before the town was started. It was called Center because it was located in the center of Elmwood Precinct on the southeast corner of Section 16, the Klemme farm. In 1892, the Center schoolhouse was sold and a two-story building was built in the northeast part of town. This building was used for school purposes until the district consolidated in about 1921 with several adjacent districts, after a county re-districting committee had laid out boundary lines. Bonds were voted and the new consolidated district named C-& moved into the new high school in September 1924. Some other territory was added and a new gymnasium was built in 1951-52. Another annex was built in 1963 after it was decided not to join with the Elmwood and Alvo districts. In the fall of 1964, a new football field and new field lighting was used for the first time. In the early 1900's the highest grades taught were the ninth and tenth. The eleventh grade was taught first in 1911-12. At that time, the course of study was so arranged that the tenth and eleventh could be alternated. The twelfth grade was added after consolidation. Until the new high school was built, the classes were held in the building built in 1892, and the building that had been the Methodist Episcopal church. After bonds were voted for a new building, the question was where to locate it. The majority finally decided to locate it on the present site.

After this time, the children were hauled to school in Model-T Ford trucks when the roads were good and other times in bobsleds and spring-wagons. Some of the early drivers were Paul Stock, Floyd Brakhage, Joe Johannsen, Albert Thiel, Roy Gorthey, W. O. Gillespie, and Alvin Bornemeier. Some of the early Board of Education members were August Ruge, Fred Stock, Sr., Henry Meierjurgan, Wm. Weddell, Henry Tool, Oscar Zink, Frank Buell, Conrad Baumgartner, Henry Guthman, Frank Melvin, Charlie Schafer, Herman Kupke, Charlie Buell, Wm. Stock and Ivy McCrory

Information submitted by the Murdock Historical Society, 9014 – 310th St Murdock NE 68407. www.murdockmuseum.org The museum is open on Sundays from 1:30 –5, or by appointment by calling 402-867-3331.