

McArthurs school as it stands today is pictured in the top photograph and Ford Moyne indicates the date 1926 incised in the stone. Closing exercises at the school in Ops Township take place Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. A new area school is being built in the township at Cunningham's Corner.




A piece of black crepe will be tacked to the big door of McArthur's School No. 6, Ops Township, at the end of the June school term. It will signify the death knell of the institution (the old red school), which will close its door in order to swing along with the educational trend to larger schools, a new place of learning at Cunningham's Corners. The present McArthur's School was erected just forty years ago but the first No. 6 school which was located in the same area, dates much further back.

One elderly gentleman who studied the 3 R's in No. 6 over half a century ago remarked: "Gone are the days when my heart was young and gay" the words of an old song which was one of a couple of dozen which echoed in the first McArthur school. He continued: "The old well is still in use but the wooden pump has been replaced by a more modern pump; the old box stove which radiated heat like a bursting sun on a cold winter day has been replaced by modern heating and the old seats where we cautiously carved the initials of a shy girl friend have been replaced by modern seats."

'The coal oil lamps are no more, three foot length hardwood sticks disappeared years ago. The old and smeared black boards, the old revolving globe and map of the world are no more.'

Another ex-student of No. 6 reflected: "I will never forget the Christmas tree concerts when each youngster, even the small tots, had a piece to say, and when the green tree was a beautiful sight. My memory goes back to a number of stern disciplinarians, but they were kind and very methodical teachers. They could wield a hickory stick or birch rod, or sometimes whip with a twenty inch leather piece of a harness tug, but they did not hold a grudge and we respected these teachers. In my day they included such names as McEachern, Miss Droogan, Miss Sootheran, Miss Hardy and others.

"Well known farmers in the neighbourhood who sup-



ported No. 6 school included: Jas. Robertson, Pogue, McArthur, three generations of Wagstaff, Walker, Fox, Carley, Cunningham, McGaughey, T. J. Currins, Thos. Currins, Welsh, James, Sloan.

School Inspectors who were held in awe at the time included two former Lindsay Collegiate Institute teachers named Jennings and Stevens, as well as R. F. Downey.

What will become of this old house of learning? Perhaps it will be turned into a dwelling, a school for retarded children and will perhaps become the Township Hall where the Township Council of Ops may meet and where other meetings may be held.

The old bell which for years rung out the old may now ring in the new.

MacArthur's School grounds contain 1 acre. A part was purchased from Alex Mitchell and the older part from MacArthur. The present school cost approximately \$10,000.-

00. It was built by Cullon of Bobcaygeon.

The teachers since 1926 included Miss Florence Rundle, Evelyn Moore, Esther Robertson, Vera Robertson, J. Williams of Lindsay and J. McQuarrie of Lindsay.

On June 15th, 1926 it was decided to buy six rods to the west and the balance of the half acre on the north. The price was \$100.00.

The Township of Ops is named after the Roman goddess of plenty and fertility. Ops was the wife of Saturn and the patroness of plenty.