

on the

Sept 16/70

MAIN STREET



The bare foot boy with cheek of tan who walked two or three miles to the country school has gone. Remember when you made your first whistle from a gad from the willow tree? Remember the tamrack gum and how tough it was? Remember the pair of horsehide boots you were ashamed to wear and the copper toe caps and steel plates on the heels? Remember how you cut your initials and that of your girl on the stable door or on a tree? Remember the lovely little canoes you made out of birch bark and birch trees have practically disappeared from the farm bush.

Remember the large straw hats, called a cow's breakfast?

Remember the tin flute you could play a few notes on? Remember how your pockets were weighted down with marbles and beautiful large agates? Remember when you

played odd or even?

Winter with months of bitter cold weather helps one remember the woolen caps and the ear lugs, the long mitts and heavily knitted long socks? There was the heavy scarf wrapped around the throat and the mitts so large and heavy they bulged the pockets? Then there was the touque that grandmother knitted and the scarf about "a mile long".

One thing sure, the winters used to be long and severe. There was no modern cafeteria but Mom could cram a lot of good food into that lunch box. If there happened to be two apples in the box, one was definitely for the teacher and at times she had a row of five or more apples to take back to the boarding house.

In some cases "Jack was perhaps a dull boy" and if he

was too dull or not interested in his work, many times he had to stay in after school and write a tough sentence hundreds of times on the blackboard.

School was not all work and there was lots of time for outdoor sports, particularly football, today called soccer. Teachers had time to play with the boys and these were the times teacher and pupil really got to know each other. Those were the days when boys and girls were taught to the tune of the hickory stick and many a successful business man in after years was thankful for the learning he received in the old country school.