

Gibraltar School Closes Doors; Replaced by Modern Structure

(Continued from Page One)
 or pupils carried drinking water from the first farm south, or from the one opposite. Later, a spring in the woods was used. The first well on the property became a cesspool after indoor toilets were installed in 1940. In previous days, the well had been a torture chamber, where some pupils were dangled head first by the older boys. Fortunately, no one was dropped.

The present well on the north side, which has always been of questionable purity, was drilled deeper when the supply proved inadequate for the new flush toilets after 1951.

Box Stoves
 Of course, box stoves were used for heating in early days when wood was plentiful. Later, a succession of large furnaces, with tin jackets, sat in the west corner. Fresh air was supposed to enter through a square hole in the wall, warm itself inside the jacket and then reach for the ceiling. Some of us believe it never came down again. Later, coal was burned as wood became scarce.

Miss Jean Ruddell proved a good fireman one day. Mysteriously, the woodshed caught fire and while a boy ran to the village to summon help, she shoveled snow on the back porch roof to keep it from burning. It was so hot that steam was rising off the porch and probably off the teacher, too. She thereby saved the school, though. That ended wood and coal heating.

An oil furnace was installed in the new basement in 1950 and when the hydro failed, everybody got the day off. Hydro had been installed about 1937 and a forced air system was attached to the furnace soon after.

Attendance Not Compulsory
 Attendance was not compulsory and to confuse classes, some older boys only came for a few months in the winter. Whether they were responsible for doing the mischief or remained the promoters, we cannot say, but some stories are related.

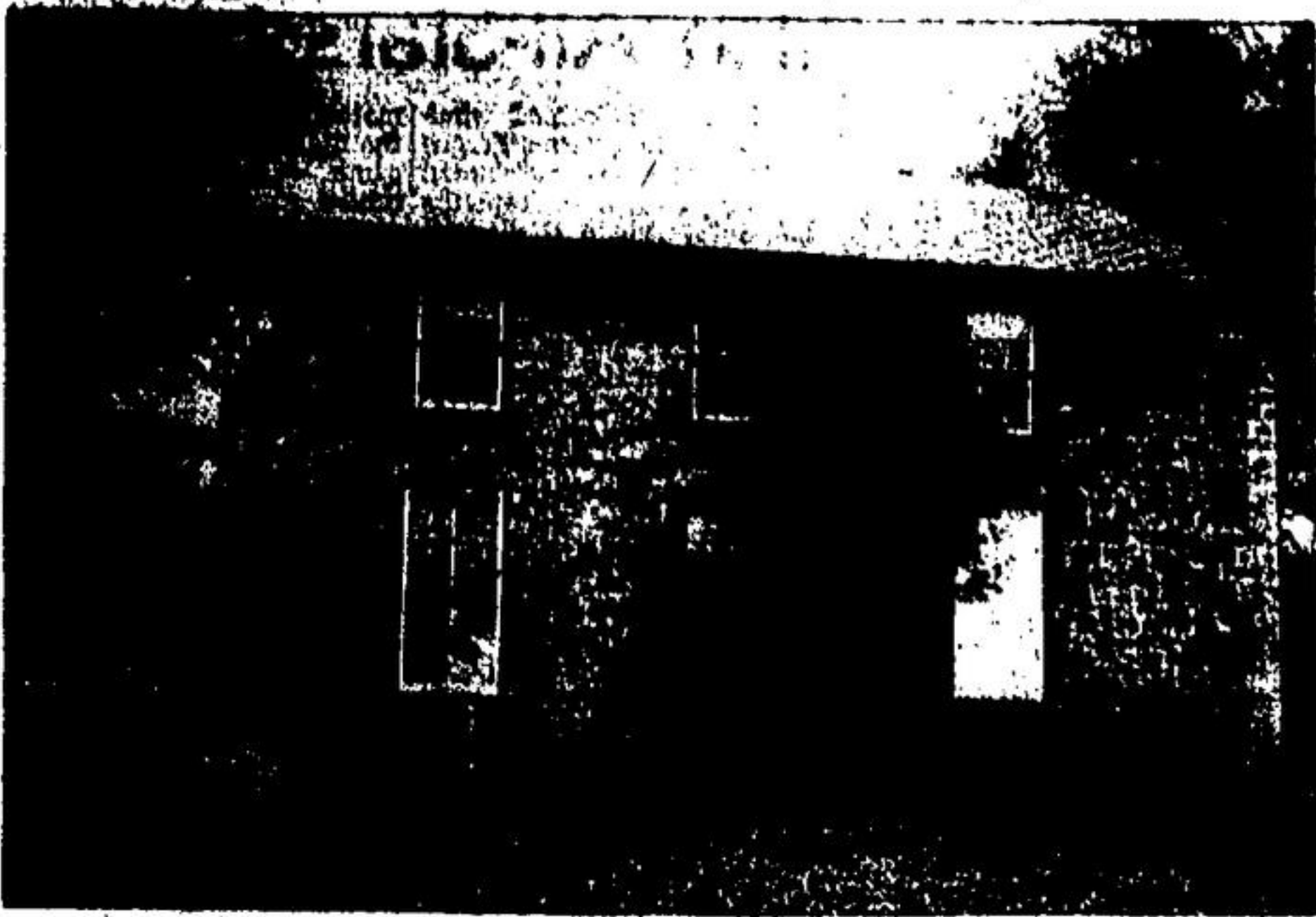
One boy lost part of his thumb when a dynamite cap exploded during school hours. Leonard Chisholm's swamp seemed a suitable place to play hooky and good meals were enjoyed there, including home-cured fat pork provided by one farm boy. Two brothers changed schools and were sent to Georgetown when their father heard they were being educated in the swamp instead of the school room.

A walk through the woods was not as safe and pleasant at one time. Two little girls, who went not more than a field's distance at noon hour to pick flowers, wandered back safely at the day's end.

Much Snow
 The Fifth Line was plugged with snow for several months each winter in those days before snow plows. A wide trench led to the school and to each farm gateway from a crooked trail through the fields, all the way from John K. Brown's gate to the foot of the big hill.

The unofficial taximan of the village, James Scott, once slid off the side of the big hill with a car full of school children. The only casualty after a 20 foot drop — one girl's slightly cut finger.

A register of 1900 shows an enrollment of 64 pupils under teacher Miss Jennie Hutcheon, handling 10 grades. The highest number of days attended by one pupil was 195. Some were only present four days. Little folk were absent



—Staff Photo

all of January and February. Only August was off for summer holidays, but all other holidays were observed.

List Teachers
 Many of those who have taught throughout the years include John Tracey, Miss Bella Gordon, Mr. Corrigan, Mr. McDougall, Miss Ida Ford, Miss Nellie Lindsay, Edward Shortill, Miss Jennie Hutcheon, Miss Kate Kennedy, Miss L. Sinclair, Miss Georgina Young, John Cole, Jas. P. Henderson, Fred Haggard, Miss Bertha Barber, Miss Verna Hall, Wm. Mullin, Carl Adams, Miss Minnie Snow, Miss Helen Ross, Miss Mildred Bessey, Miss Viola Shepard, Miss Hazel Howard, George Jolley, N. Le Seleur, Miss Margaret Young, Miss Isabel Neilson, Miss Meryl Grindell, Miss Jennette Fisher, Miss Francis Jenkinson, Miss Jean Ruddell, Mrs. Jack Lawson, Mrs. E. Wilson, John Allen, Mrs. Hazel McKay, Mrs. Margaret E. Barber, Miss Glenda Quinton, Mrs. Geo. Sumner, Miss Fern Small, Miss M. Archibald, Mrs. Thelma Hearns, John Reed.

Salaries ranged from \$350 early in this century to \$1,000 in 1930, back down in the depression days, and gradually climbed to \$4,100 in the senior room recently.

Teaches Sunday School
 Of interest is that James P. Henderson, who taught here for three years, also taught a Sunday school class in the home of Richard Marshall, and taught the largest Bible Class ever held in Limehouse Presbyterian Church. Later, he became a minister. Some older folk give him credit for their first religious tendencies.

Rev. A. J. Calder taught religious instruction once a week for a time but his other obligations did not permit his continuing.

Former Pupils
 A number of former pupils who furthered their education to take up a profession include Rev. John McColl, a pupil here in 1860; Miss Bertha Barber, who later taught in her home school; Rev. Thomas Meredith, who went to Collingwood for his first year High School as there was not one near

home; Dr. James Lindsay; Mr. Stephen Marshall, later a Colonel in the Salvation Army; Rev. William J. Lane; Campbell Ross, our only druggist; James Ross, our only undertaker, who is now owner of a furniture store; George Cousens with the R.C.M.P.; Colin Cousens of the O.P.P.; Misses Annie Chalker and Margaret Spitzer, nurses; Misses Kate Sharp, Winnifred Ivens, Margaret and Thelma Brown, Ruth McBride, all public school teachers; Miss Doris Mitchell, kindergarten teacher; Douglas M. Gowdy, public school teacher and later on the executive of the Financial Post; Miss Helen Devreux, home economics teacher in MacDonald College; Miss Muriel Stephenson, missionary to India; Miss Isabel Stephenson, missionary to Japan.

Arthur Benton, assessment commissioner, Township of Esqueving; Jack Hainer, a former pupil, has been postmaster, clerk and treasurer in Eyebrow, Sask., where he lives; Randolph Croft, a chartered accountant and later president of a large company, and his brother, Franklin, an author.

Women's Institute
 Limehouse Women's Institute has always taken an active interest in S.S. No. 9. About 1927, the ladies purchased a coal oil stove and a number of kitchen utensils for serving a hot dish for lunch in winter. A number of mothers often contributed the soup etc. Preparation led to considerable interruption of school work and the service was discontinued after a few years.

The W.I. has provided prizes annually for punctuality, cleanliness and regular attendance, for many years. They sponsored picnics until the Parents' Association was organized in 1956.

School Fairs
 Several School Fairs were held here. One large one took place in 1923 in High Park, the site of the new school. Another was held in 1931 in the present Memorial Hall and shed, including a parade of pupils, mostly in uniform. Limehouse lined up 32 pupils beside Blue Mountain's eight.

After the township fairs were discontinued, the W.I. provided seeds for pupils' home garden plots and sponsored a fair and prizes for exhibits of produce each fall. Some displays were as good or better than at the agricultural fall fairs.

Reunion August 18
 A reunion will be held at the school on Saturday, August 18. Invitations have been mailed to many former pupils and any unintentionally missed will be welcome, as well as all the other folk who can attend.

Just as modern communication systems have made vaster numbers of world contacts possible, so our pupils' world will include a larger circle of friends in the future. May that world include good citizens in the future as has the one in the past. Gibraltar boys cut in the new school on the "Rock" in High Park.

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Increased Attendance At Outdoor Service
 Despite chilly weather and rain shortly before, there was increased attendance at the outdoor church service in the park last Sunday. The Rev. J. H. Wilson preached and the Rev. Jelle Numa conducted the service.

Harold Reid played the accordion and sang.

This Sunday Acton Citizens' Band will be on hand again.

Fall Fair Plans Underway As Busy Bee Institute Meets
 The Busy Bee Women's Institute held their meeting at the home of Mrs. Beck on Tuesday, August 14, with 13 members and one visitor present. Mrs. Hayward presided and the meeting opened with all singing the Institute Ode and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect.

Plans were made as to what was being shown at the Fall Fair and a committee also was named for this.

Mrs. Dadds gave the thought for the day. The public relations convener, Mrs. Kidd, gave an interesting paper on "Public Relations in the School." Everyone then joined in singing, "The More We Get Together."

Mrs. Beck then served a delicious lunch and was thanked by convener Mrs. M. MacLeod.

Limehouse has had musical talent developed under music directors Mrs. William Gowdy, Mrs. George Robertson, Crawford Douglas, Miss Jean Ruddell and Mrs. Gordon Kidney. Quite a number have won medals at festivals and Christmas concerts were well worth attending.

Names of inspectors include Mr. Little, Mr. Deacon, Mr. J. M. Deives, Mr. L. L. Skuce, Mr. R. E. McNeil, Mr. G. Jordan, Mr. R. F. Barnhill and Mr. O. G. McDowell.

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Twisting Twosome Television Tops

Karin Schubert and Gerry Ockenden just may be crowned "King and Queen of the Twist!" They were chosen winners of the Twist contest on Channel 11's Club Dance Party last Saturday afternoon and they go back Friday night, August 31, to take part in a "twistathon."

Gerry, who is 14, and Karin, 15, are next-door neighbors on Churchill Road. Like other young people, they had done the twist a little for fun.

Gerry wrote months ago for tickets to the show and the trip was arranged. Mr. and Mrs. Ockenden went down with them, and Mrs. Ockenden's niece from Bramalea and a friend.

They were all astonished and then thrilled to realize the Acton couple had won the contest. The master of ceremonies asked them if they could come back for

the "twistathon." They assured him they could.

Karin won two sweaters and Gerry two long playing records. Actually, the program shown on television Saturday was taped on Tuesday. This arrangement is just for the summer months, and the show will be "live" again in the fall.

—Merchants are beginning their back-to-school sales this week.

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