

# Reunion planned June 21



**Siloam Public School, (S.S. No. 8), Uxbridge Twp.— 1909**

On Sat., June 21, former students and teachers of Siloam Public School, (S.S. No. 8), Uxbridge Twp., will gather for a reunion at the original site. This photo, provided by Dean Alcock of Uxbridge, dates back to 1909. The pupils and teacher are: Front Row (left to right) Reta Alcock, Cecil Wallace, Charlotte Hockley, Earl Cook, Aulda Lee, John Wallace, Milton Cook, Harold Wallace, Miss Duwall, (teacher); Jessie Paisley, Mildred Toole, Garnet Pegg, Olive Williamson, Mabel Pegg, Ethel Wallace, Huet Chase, Brigit

Coffield, David Hockley. Middle Row (left to right) Floyd Dike, Howard Heckney, Bill Cosgrove, Nellie Paisley, Nettie Paxton, Nurie Williamson, Enid Widdifield, John Coffield, Clara Smalley, Cyrus Pegg, Sara Cook, Clifford Lee, Dean Alcock, Pat Coffield, Aggie Alcock. Rear Row (left to right) Jim Coffield, Tom Coffield, Mabel Wallace, Levi Hockley, Berika Toole, Roy Ellis, Mary Coffield, Erma Lee, Stan Paisley, Kate Cosgrove, Isaac Pegg and Ada Smalley.

## Rodeo criticized Calf-roping called cruel

Dear Editor:

Recently, a century-old 'sport' involving the tormenting of animals was once again celebrated under the guise of 'rodeo' at the International Equestrian Sports Services, Newmarket.

Along with the more innocuous events, such as cutting-horse demonstrations and barrel-racing, there were the so-called games that have evolved from the 'cowboys' kind of work that was done long ago.

Although modern ranchers would throw someone off the property who manhandled valuable stock this way today, these games continue. They include bronc and bull-riding, steer-wrestling and calf-roping.

Can you imagine a breeder of fine horses allowing them to be broken in by allowing roughnecks to sit on their backs and spur them to buck to near exhaustion or a broken leg? No dairy or beef farmer would allow any of their calves or steers to be jerked around at the end of a rope. Yet, to the sound of cheering children, these brutalities to livestock are perpetuated through the rodeo associations in the name of tradition. Some tradition!

We sicken at the sight of the slaughter at the fine, old Spanish tradition, the bullfight, and we are revolted when we read of the Mounties breaking up an illegal dog-fighting ring where it is traditional to encourage two dogs to tear each other to pieces. Yet, where is the outcry when calves, horses and bulls are tortured for the benefit of howling spectators, and the profits of the rodeo organizers?

As with other spectator sports, such as football or ice hockey, the game is getting rougher. The crowds seem to love the roughness these days. If grown men wish to tackle each other, or brawl on the ice, well and good. Let them go to it. It's their choice.

The rodeo victims, however, have no choice. So they spur the broncs a little harder and prod the calves and steers to run a little faster so they hit the dirt with a bang. If the animals are injured or killed, it's just their bad luck. And the little children cheer, and they call it a romantic old tradition. A fine old tradition that is growing in popularity as fast as the rodeo organizers are growing richer. The Ontario Rodeo Association has events scheduled throughout the coming summer all over the province.

The late Dr. Albert Schwietzer said you can tell how a country cares for its people by the way it treats its animals. What does the growing number of animal-abusing rodeos tell us about the path we may be taking?

Sincerely,  
D'Arcy Bryan,  
Ontario Humane Society,  
Newmarket

### Siloam student remembers

# Betty skied to school when roads at worst

By JIM THOMAS  
SILOAM — On Saturday, June 21, former teachers and students of Siloam Public School, (S.S. No. 8), Uxbridge Twp., will gather for an old-fashioned reunion.

One of the former pupils planning to attend is Mrs. Ivan DeGeer, (Betty Alcock), of R.R. 3, Mount Albert. Betty's the secretary of the Reunion Committee.

The family farm was then located on the 3rd Conc., north of the Uxbridge Road.

Betty remembers the time her parents, Wendell and Jennie Alcock gave her a pair of skis for Christmas. "That winter, I'd never made it to school without those skis," she recalls. The snow was deep and roads were blocked for days. Betty never took a shortcut. The distance was about 2 1/2 miles.

Betty's teacher was Mrs. Carlina Alcock, (later Mrs. Charlie Watson). She handled up to 45 children in all eight grades.

Betty's Uncle Carlina (Alcock) was the caretaker.

Mrs. DeGeer recalls many of her former school friends. Some still live in the area and some have moved miles away—Lulubelle Davis, Keith Wallace, Pauline Wallace, Gloria Chase, Betty Beach and more.

The school, now a Community Centre, is somewhat changed in appearance. It was frame, Betty remembers, with red and white trim around the windows. During the winter, a pan of water was always kept on top of the stove. This created steam and kept the interior from becoming too dry. During the winter, soup was mixed with the water at recess so it would be ready for lunch at noon.

While the hamlet has grown over the past 40 years, it then boasted a general store. Betty remembers stopping in there to buy pencils, scribbles and erasers.

Two important events are clearly etched on Betty's mind—Arbor Days and Christmas Concerts.

When the schoolyard was all cleaned up, the girls would walk to Cliff Lee's bush and pick wild flowers. The boys would go fishing.

The last day of school before summer holidays, was set aside for a community picnic. The parents were invited. "I remember the fresh lemonade," says Betty.

Christmas concerts were held in the afternoons until electric lights were installed. The programs were then switched to evenings. "They were great fun," Betty says.

Never once during her time spent at Siloam School did she ever receive the strap. "Maybe I should of," she claims. Betty admits that, despite the hardships of getting there, she enjoyed those years.

And she's looking forward to June 21 as well, a return (in memory) to the good old days.

The school has changed, the teachers have changed and the students have changed, but the memories remain.



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