

School Children Transportation. (Milwaukee Journal Feb. 1939)

Listen to the rumble of the passenger coaches, the screech of the brakes. Ed Murray is your train conductor as he punches your student train ticket. Funds for the ticket are appropriated by the Stanton Township School Board.

Ed nurses you sometimes too if you need sympathetic attention or feel ill. You went to your local school (if you live in Freda, Beacon Hill, Edgemere, Stanwood, Redridge, Obenhoff) until you graduated from 8th grade. Now as a High Schooler you ride the Copper Range Company School Train to Painesdale High School.

The railroad station in Painesdale at the foot of the big hill below the high school is probably the busiest railroad station in the Copper Country at 3:45 P. M. as the students bustle to get on (or off in the morning) the train.

The time is 1909 to 1942.

Transportation to Painesdale or Houghton High is difficult. Picture snowy roads, muddy roads, horse teams pulling a sleigh or buggy. And high school "far" away. The Copper Range railroad goes into your community. Adams township school board desires students from isolated communities to attend their high school. They work with Stanton school board. So they boast the one consolidated high school when both agree with Copper Range Company to provide coach service for the high schoolers. The train runs the 33 mile run twice a day 5 days a week for 250 isolated students.

The train also picks up Adams township students in Atlantic Mine, Mill Mine Junction, South Range and Baltic.

Two teachers at Painesdale High School were Fred and Cora Jeffers. Later the high school is named after them.

Adults would sometimes ride the school train to get to one of the communities. Winona Mine and McKeever area adults would ride the train into "town".

It is said that 4 Koepel brothers took care of tickets and discipline. (Beacon Hill residents- Louis Koepel born in 1909.)

Coach #60 was one coach used. It took 8 years of volunteers to renovate it in North Freedom Wisconsin. (Train museum).

Names riding the train: Ann Marcheschi of Painesdale graduated in 1927.

The north south train track thru Painesdale now (2009) is called the Bill Nichols snowmobile trail for Copper Range Company employee.

