

Oskar School. 1882- Closed the end of school year 1958.
Near Eilola's property. It stood on T55N R34W NE1/4 of SW ¼ of Section 8.



Jack Ruohonen in his history of Oskar document shares: When the logging operations grew, the population grew with children needing to learn to read and write. But because the settlement still belonged to the city of Hancock, (Hancock Township until 1902 when Stanton Township separated) people met with Hancock City officials and in this way the matters progressed so that a school was started in 1881. In a Weber family there were only 12 twelve children who were taught by Miss Donna Hoe. By the next year 1882 a schoolroom had been built. The first teacher was Mr. J. Salven, (Sullivan) a man with one arm. The school has operated ever since, sometimes enlarged or refurbished. It has been used for other purposes as well, both religious and for community. Also there was a lower meeting room that was used for such things as voting.

- Lee Burkman states: It (Oscar School) stood on the South side of today's Ruohonen Road, East of today Jukari home. Now Markham's home.

History of Finns book says: In 1881 Oskar Eliassen got a teacher for the local children. The first teacher was J. Salven. The school was also used for church services and secular (community) activities.

Teachers: **Polk Directory** has these teachers for the Oskar School:

1897 Belle Fitzpatrick;

1901-1903 Nettie Treadwell (she boarded with Nels Burkman),

1903-4 was Rose C. Gaffney,

1905 Mary Peck,

1906 was Genevieve Bogan. Asst was Mary Peck.

The 1910 Census for Stanton Township in Oskar community has Edith Lindquist as a teacher in public school, boarding with Nels Burkman. (Probably the Oskar School though we know she taught at the Heinola School).

1916-1917 Ruth Peltier from Hancock,

1930 Becky Eilola, Rebecca (Anna) Eilola was a school teacher in Oskar. On document in MTU Archives Qualified teachers October 1 1930 was Rebecca with lifetime qualification. Also in that document was Ada Anderson Jones.

1950 Mrs. Marguerite Letto from Hancock,

1953 one of last teachers was Stella Eilola.

School Board minutes:

1939- Dec. – Okay'd repairs to Oskar basement not to exceed \$100.

1940 - - approved concrete floor @ Oskar and install furnace and water June mains, toilets and cesspools.

1940 July – Township to pay \$100 to School Board on Oskar School project - - approved boiled linseed oil for floors at Liminga and Oskar.

1940 Sept. Discussion of closing Oskar School – tabled.

1941 July. - Sect'y advised to order 6 Tons coal to Oskar, 15 T for Liminga. And write Matt Puuri about Canal School needing wood or coal.

1944 August 30, - Septic tank and sewerage disposal concrete tank @ Oskar School.

1947 Sept. 19, - build a garage for Oskar School bus.

- remove florescent lights at Freda Beacon Hill (it closed) and put at Toivola, Liminga, and Oskar.

1950 May – Playground equipment ordered for \$1250 to be divided between 4 schools in proportion to attendance.

1950 Sept. – Shades installed for Liminga and Oskar Schools.

1953 Oct. - Oskar school painted and sided for \$625. Township to pay ½.

1956 August - Painted Oskar and Liminga Schools.

1958 Feb. – Discussion to close Oskar School next fall. Tabled.

1958 March – Discuss to close Oskar School tabled.

1958 April 8 – Hannah Romppainen moved that Stanton Township School Board close Oskar School for 1958-59 school year. Carried.

Norm Ruuhonen's father William owned the local school bus. When Norm was in 10th grade /1944 Redridge only went to 9th grade. Norm drove the school bus and picked up children in Redridge, North Superior, and Oskar. Left the bus at Houghton High school. Norm attended classes and drove the kids back home.

Lee Burkman shares: When she was in 10th grade she went to Hancock High School instead of Houghton as her friends were going there also. In fall and spring she would hitchhike to school. In winter she stayed in town during the week and came home on weekends. She graduated in 1939. She recalls that William Ruuhonen took care of the Canal School as custodian.

Son to Aleksi Garnell, Henry, shares on his 1977 WMPL Heritage line interview: I went to the Oskar School thru 6th grade only. (Approx 1905-1911). We had to speak English in the school but we spoke Finnish at home. Even the Germans like Schmidts learned Finnish.

Once the Oskar School was closed (guess in 1949-50), Ken and Noni Ruuhonen bought it and raised family there. Today it belongs to Markham.



Canal School in 1912. Can you help identify any students. The only one known is Henry Garnell in back row on right between door and window. Contact Webmaster if you know names of others.

Robert Knuuttila is interviewed for an EB Holman School 2001 class project:

I attended the Oskar School from Kindergarten to 5th grade in the 1940's. Then Redridge for 6th -8th grade, then Liminga for 9th and 10th, then Houghton High, graduating in 1958.

I recall there were other schools too like Obenhoff, Heinola.

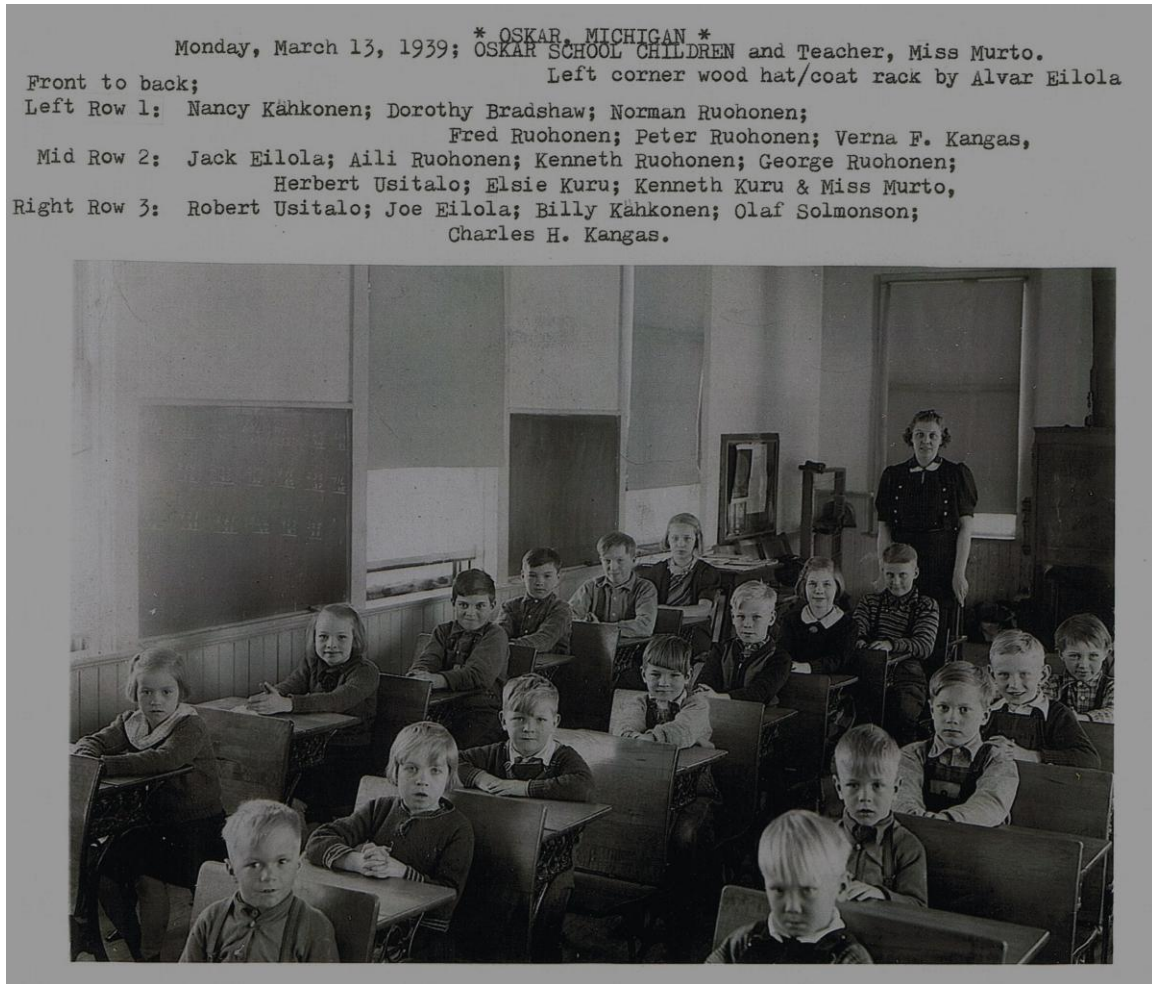
The canal school closed in the early 40's.

At recess we played ball, soccer, kick the can, cops and robbers on the cemetery hill. In winter we slid down the hill with cardboard. We took a sleigh/horse to school.

Punishment would be a slap on hand with ruler or sit in corner. Friday when I did not do well on spelling test I had to stay indoors at recess.

We'd march around the inside of school as it was maybe 40' to get warm waiting for the furnace to get warm.

My sister attended school with me.. she was 2 years younger.



Becky Eilola Teacher.

Row on left, front to back:

Nancy Kahkonen, Dorothy Bradshaw Ranta, Norm Ruohonen, Fred Ruohonen, Pete Ruohonen, Verna Kangas

Middle Row, front to back:

Jackie Eilola, Elie Ruohonen Dunstan, Kenner Ruohonen, George Ruohonen, Herbie Usitala, ? Kuru, Kenny Kuru, Teacher - Becky Eilola

Row on right, front to back:

Bobby Usitalo, Joe Eilola, Billy Kahkonen, Olivia Salmonson, Charlie (Sully) Kangas,

Frank Eilola, Paul (Bobby) Ruohonen.

Some of the last students at Oskar School were:

James Bradshaw,
Fred Garnell
Linda Hermanson. Deceased. Parents Martha and Harold.
Danny Eilola, Clara Ann Eilola, Lynnel Eilola
Gloria Kangas
Regina Knuuttila,
Lois Lantto, John Lantto, Sarah Lantto, James Lantto
George Mattson,
Dana Nakkula
Russell Rintala, Dennis Rintala
Dennis Riutta, Michael Riutta, Irving Riutta
Mae Ylitalo

The Gazette shared in Oskar 100 years old article in 1995-50 years ago page: The Oskar School... has running water, inside lav, floor lights, playroom in and playground outside.



The Oscar School remodeled to be home of Todd Markham family.

Researched by Barb Koski. Osma Plat Road. Houghton, MI 49931 in 2009.
Submitted in 2011.

Barb welcomes more information on the Oskar School. Contact the webmaster.