

## Stanton Township Schools Through the Years.

E. B. Holman  
1973-  
Edgemere  
1902-1913  
Freda-Beacon Hill School  
1902-1913  
Heinola School  
1910 - Sold March 9<sup>th</sup> 1940. Closed before then.  
Houghton Canal School  
1911- August 1942  
Liminga School  
1911- July 14, 1958  
Obenhoff School  
1908 - 1920  
Onnela School  
1910 - August 1942.  
Oskar School  
1882 - June 1958  
Rauhala School  
1910-1936 Sold in 1940  
Redridge School  
1898-1972  
Toivola/Heikkinen School  
1880's-1915 or 1917,  
Rebuilt after fire 1919 to 1999.  
Toivola Trasti/ Sampson  
1902-1917  
Perala School  
1917-1943  
Bohemia/Misery Bay School (in Ontonagon Co.)  
1905-1923? New school 1924-1953

### Stanton Schools time line.

1882 Oskar School opens.  
1880's Heikkinen School opens.  
1898 Redridge School opens.  
1902 Freda- Beacon Hill School opens.  
1902 Edgemere School opens.  
1902 Toivola Trasti/Sampson opens.  
1905 Misery Bay School / Ontonagon Co. opens.  
1908 Obenhoff School opens  
1910 Heinola School opens.  
1910 Onnela School opens.

- 1911 Houghton Canal School opens.
- 1911 Liminga School opens.
- 1913 Freda- Beacon Hill School closes.
- 1913 Edgemere School closes.
- 1917 Toivola Trasti/Sampson School closes.
- 1917 Toivola Perala School opens.
- 1913 Rauhala School is open. Not sure of exact date built.
- 1920 Obenhoff closes. Was then a community building.
- 1940 Heinola School closed when? Sold March 9<sup>th</sup> 1940 to Art Lantto for his home.
- 1940 Rauhala School closed before this sale date but when?
- 1942 Houghton Canal School closes in August. Olson bought for salvage.
- 1942 Onnela School closes August.
- 1943 Toivola Perala School closes.
- 1953 Misery Bay School closes.
- 1958 Liminga School closes July 14.
- 1958 Oskar School closes. It becomes a home.
- 1972 Redridge School closes in Dec. Sold when? Private ownership now.
- 1973 Earle Bree Holman School opens.
- 1999 Heikkinen School closes.

**Notes of Stanton Township School Board minutes** taken by Barb Koski 2009.

1936

- Dr. Johnson elected as one director.
- Frank Eilola is treasurer.

1937

- Annual Meeting Andrew Engels director
- June 23, met in Engels plant office
  - Frank Eilola, Chas Alaniva, Andrew Engels, EB Holman
  - discussed possibility of 2 new heating stoves for Oskar and Canal.
- July 12, held in Freda-BH School
  - Teacher salaries were raised from \$75 to \$85 per month
  - Supt. Salary rose from \$170-185/month
  - A bus driver is Jacob Kempainen
- Held 3 special meetings in past 2 months to give consideration on Toivola Central School question. (Barb has no clue what this means. Toivola School or Heikkinen?)

1938-39

- Teachers will be:
  - @ Freda: Martilla, M. Bessalo, R. Heltation sp?, E. Harscher
  - @ Liminga: Bernice Pusa
  - @ Canal: Eleanore Olson
  - @ Oskar: C. Murto
  - @ Redridge: Wm. Brinkman, Alva Eilola, Irene Jackola
  - @ Onnela: Ellen Koskela, Emelia Jampsa

@Obenhoff: Elizabeth Olson  
@Perala: Juo Wisti, Beatrice Strand  
@ Heikkinen: Armeda Koivonen, Hijia Pelligrine sp?

- December school board members elected were Wm. Lahnala for 3 year term as trustee, Juo Heikkinen for 2 year term, Frank Eilola elected for another term.. till 1941.

1939

- Feb. Discussion on Wm. Ruohonen route bus, shelters being put up at Puuri and Lahnala corners.
- June. Wood contracts for all schools \$5/cord. \$4 for kindling
  - Teachers and supt. Salary at \$5/month for school year
- August. Passed that all Toivola High school students attend Painesdale High School.
  - Passed that all other high school students (non train towns) be transported to Houghton and in no case allow more than 38 cents per day per student.
- Dec. – okay'd repairs to Oskar basement not to exceed \$100.
  - discussed shelter at Lahnala corner. No action.

1940

- Feb.14 – Verified the sale of Heinola and Junttonen (Rauhala) Schools which was voted on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Posted bids up to March 9. Highest bidders received sale. Heinola School Art Lantto for \$142.62 (others listed in minutes) and Junttonen (Rauhala) to Selma Lantto for \$82.58. (hummm.. stories go that Rauhala went to Zenner then to Ovist. Selma had property on the Osma Plat Road.. she sold it to Zenner later? Hummm)
- June 20, - agreed we do something about toilets @ Liminga. Engels to consult Saragosa State Sanitary Engineers if he could assist w/o cost to us.
  - Andrew Suksi bus driver @ Toivola ( I think the secretary means Heikkinen)
  - approved concrete floor @ Oskar and install furnace and water mains, toilets and cesspools.
- July – Township to pay \$100 to School Board on Oskar School project
  - Still working on toilets @ Liminga
  - J. Heikkinen to report on water situation @ Heikkinen School
  - School repairs @ Heikkinen and Perala (asphalt and boiled linseed oil for floors.
  - approved boiled linseed oil for floors at Liminga and Oskar.
  - Engels to check w/ Holman re: taking Perala students to Heikkinen and dispense w/ 1 teacher there.
- August – held at Copper Range Co. Office.
  - Lahnala and Holman to arrange transportation of all 24 Obenhoff school children to Onnela and Redridge w/ idea of closing Obenhoff and combining Onnela and Redridge eliminating teachers at Obenhoff and Onnela.
  - J Heikkinen and Holman to report on transportation of 18 Perala students

to Heikkinen eliminating 1 teacher at Perala.

- insured our schools w/ Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co. Inc. (of Oskar MI) due to lower rate.

Sept. Held at Copper Range Supt. Office.

- Salaries set for bus routes. Wm Ruohonen \$210/mo. for 21 days, Oscar Knuuttila \$50, Jno Martilla \$44, Jack Kempainen \$80, Toivo Mikkola \$45, Andrew Suksi \$110, Walter Haapapuro \$30, Eino Heikkinen 38 cents each student /day, and in Jan '41 Gus Alto \$30/month.
- Discussion of closing Oskar School – tabled.

1941

May. – Correspondence related to Rural Electrification Assoc. of Ont. for Toivola School.

- Mileage discussion for WPA workers at Liminga School
- Ok'd buying and installing toilets, wash bowls, and drink fountains @ Liminga
- Lahkala ok to buy lumber, cement, and drain lines for toilets and cloak room, septic tank, pump house.. He to supervise installation.

June – Copper Range Mill Supt Office.

- notify AA Johnson and son to repair furnace pipe at Heikkinen School

July – At Freda Beacon Hill School Chas. Alaniva, Pres.

- Engels Sect'y read letter received from Copper Range Railroad Co. through a personal interview w/ their Mr. Wm. Barth advising us to try to establish bus transportation and convey our high school students to Houghton instead of on train to Painesdale. School board named committee of 3 to investigate and formulate plans on this transportation situation. Then advise board and Mr. Schacht, Pres of Copper Range and Mr. Wescott of CR railroad Co.
- Sect'y advised to order 6 Ton coal to Oskar, 15 T for Liminga. And write Matt Puuri about Canal School needing wood or coal.

July Annual Meeting

- Matt Puuri elected to 3 yr. term, Alaniva (Redridge) to expire in 1943. Engels (Freda) to 1942. Eilola (Oskar) to 1944. John Heikkinen until 1943. And Matt Puuri until 1944.
- Voted to have school year be not less than 9 and not more than 10 months long. 2009 now about 2 weeks more than 10 months.

August 12, 1941

- Discussion on transportation of pupils to Houghton High School instead of Painesdale due to school train and railroad being in financial loss. Wm. Ruohonen will transport all High Schoolers to Houghton High School. Negotiate with Wm. Ruohonen for a 3 year contract so he can purchase a new 45 passenger bus. J. Martilla driver now \$44 /month.
- Obenhoff School. Get hinged doors for windows that can be opened when used as community hall.
- Discussion on closing school for potato digging left to Supt.

August 18. Special Meeting.

- Discussion contract of Eino Heikkinen hauling students to Painesdale HS from Toivola. District agreed to pay \$75/mo.

1942.

- January 5. – Discussion on request of Bohemia Township (Ont. Co) to have Stanton take Bohemia students. Committee and meet with Ont. Co. School Commission.
- May 8. – approved to have all monthly school board meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.
- increase salary of Supt from \$125 to \$135. Teachers from \$85 to \$95, 2 Principal teachers from \$85 to \$100. Raised bus drivers Ruohonen and Kempainen.
- June 8. – Holman to look into Onnela School and transportation problems
- Ok repairs to Oskar for \$100
  - ok Freda BH repairs
  - visit Redridge and Toivola on necessary repairs.
  - Inspect Oskar, Liminga Redridge and Freda heating and plumbing and install 2, 30 section radiators @Redridge and Freda BH.
  - obtain bookcases for Library and cupboards for Freda BH supplies.
- August 1942
- As no teachers now seem available for Onnela or Perala School it now appears that these students will be schooled at Redridge and Heikkinen.
  - Holman instructed to arrange transportation about Obenhoff and Onnela
  - Holman to investigate the possibility of getting a teacher for canal and if not successful to close same and come to Oskar.
- September 3 1942
- cut “juice” @ Onnela School. Close and board.
  - cut “juice” @Canal and not board up if Alex Olson is responsible for its well being.
  - close Perala School and board up.
  - There will be 2 weeks off for potato digging ending Oct. 12, 1942.
- November
- o.k.’s Onnela School be used for Election purposes.
- December – report on gas rationing. Holman stated for the present he had obtained gas for all school transportation.
- Discussion on teachers being off and no school due to heavy storms. Holman instructed to use efforts to hold school as much as possible.

1943

- Jan. 4 – Emil Rahko new Toivola bus driver
- Salary reduced for bus drivers due to not transporting due to storms.
  - Matt Puuri protested allowing Foresters to build any basement rooms in Freda - Beacon Hill on advice from county Pros. Attorney.
  - Discussion on employee checks to use to show deductions for Victory Tax and retirement.

Feb. 25 – new checks obtained to deduct Retirement and Victory Tax.  
(Tax taken monthly from staff: EB Holman, Margaret Waters,  
Mabel Walker, Bridget Sullivan, William Brinkman, Linda Lehto,  
Hulda Bettari, Gertrude Levanen, Sylvia Hiltunen, Ina Korpi,  
Ernest Wisti and John Wisti. )

March - lost days due to Potato digging and blizzards be made up on Saturdays.

July – Jno Heikkinen to look into Toilet requirements @ Heikkinen and what can  
be obtained from Perala to use at Heikkinen.

August – Toivola (Heikkinen?) gets 2 septic tanks 27 x 49”

- Discussion on vacant school buildings (Onnela, Obenhoff, Perala) to  
keep or sell.

Sept. - Schools get coal (Liminga 8Tons, Toivola (Heikkinen) 16T and 300#,  
Freda 33T 1400#, Redridge 39T 300# and Oskar 8T1000#

Dec. 23, 1943 – Obenhoff and Canal School meeting to decide if to be sold. Yes.  
Put in paper.

1944

January 17, 1944 – voted to dispose of Canal building and its heating plant by  
advertising in papers 5 times. Decided not to dispose of Obenhoff at this  
time.

Feb 14.- Highest bidder was OA Olson on Canal School heating.

June 9 – postponed mechanized water system or sewerage until after the war.

July 10, 1944. Frank Eilola resigned from School board.

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

- Bus drivers – Wm. Ruohonen, Abel Porka (Liminga), J Kempainen (to  
Redridge), Juno Harma (took students to Ruohonen bus), Ralph  
Johnson (Toivola), Andrew Maata (to Heikkinen) receiving 6 cents per  
mile.

- Janitors – Alfred Peters, Alex Hannula, Edwin Ruohonen, Walfred Pusa,  
Jno Wisti.

1946

Special Meeting August – Decided to purchase one 48 passenger bus Ford  
Superior for Toivola thru Ford Motor of Houghton deliver Sept 20, 1946  
\$3,360. (First school owned bus)

1947

July 21, 1947. Construct garage at Toivola

- close Freda Beacon Hill School

- accepted resignation of EB Holman (33 years). William Brinkman to  
succeed.

- Jack Kempainen will bus Freda Beacon Hill students to Redridge.

Sept. 19, 1947

- Garage for Oskar School bus.

- remove florescent lights at Freda Beacon Hill and put at Toivola,  
Liminga, and Oskar.

1948

July – Heikkinen got toilets

September – allow students to assist local farmers to harvest potato crop  
- Mr. Harma is bus driver for Onnela and Rauhala district  
- Teacher salary is \$180/month

November – approval of hot lunch and prep of dining room and kitchen at Redridge to be started immediately. 12 cents a meal.

December - Mrs. Kolehmainen and Mrs. Hyttynen are cooks.

1949

Feb. - On account of storms and other emergency calls Redridge should have a phone installed .

March – purchase heater for Heikkinen bus.

- State prep for lunch at Heikkinen means remodel

- Discussion of separate voting precinct for Toivola end. Heikkinen says to table till road between Freda and Toivola is passable.

May – motion passed to have school district to purchase own school buses to transport all students. Supt. Brinkman to tell Ruohonen and Kempainen. (Later the privately owned buses are sold to the district)

1950

January – Fire Exit created in basement of Redridge.

Feb. – contact township board for information regarding rerouting road in Redridge to allow for playground.

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

June – motion carried to purchase two 36 passenger busses from Siller.

July – Levi Laurilla on school board for 3 year term. Along with Charles Alaniva, Matt Puuri, Charles Paavo, Helen Hurley.

- Raphael Maki desires to purchase Perala School Property. Board looking onto procedure to do so. (Later he obtains lowest bid and he buys for \$200).

- School Bus insurance obtained thru State Farm.

August – Wm. Medlyn Supt for 1 year contract.

- purchase a 54 passenger bus from Siller Motors.

- Ormand Lampinen was qualified and lowest for Onnela Route

- Sam Lahti Canal to Redridge and Houghton High

-John Hietala operate Oskar School Bus

- Ted Puuri to continue feeder route in Liminga.

Sept. – shades installed for Liminga and Oskar Schools.

- Close school Oct. 2-6 for potato harvesting.

November – Pusa is paid to be janitor at Liminga.

- New windows for Heikkinen from Suomi Lumber Co.

1951

May – Library committee (Redridge?)

- PTO organized on suggestion of Helen Lantto.

July – created a school voting precinct in Toivola.

Sept. – no closing for potato harvest.

- 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> grade went to Liminga.

1952

- Jan. – Start Adult Education
- Feb. - bought library books.
- May – Medlyn resigns as Supt. Russell Fountain accepts after interview.
  - Liminga gets platform (Mel Anderson tells Barb it was for teacher's desk near Front door).
- July – Switched teachers – Mrs. Bingham to Liminga from Redridge and Mr. Mackie to Redridge from Liminga.

1953

- Feb. - discussion about moving some seats and stuff from Oskar School to Freda.
  - Oskar stays open.
  - New bus for Heikkinen
- August – cancel fire insurance with Farmers Mutual.
- Sept. - obtain 3 vises (shop class) for Heikkinen School.
- Oct. - Oskar school painted and sided for \$625. Township to pay ½.

1954

- July 12, 1954 - Wm. Heikkila elected Treasurer. Ken Simonson on board too.
- Sept. – Van Corl Korpela to be bus driver.
  - ok'd books for Heikkinen.

1955

- March.- Discussion on Bohemia School students coming to Heikkinen so add new room to H. School. Move Misery Bay school students to Heikkinen. Bohemia residents not in favor. Still discussing in Feb. 56.

1956

- June 12, - Discussion to close Liminga School and 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> grade go to Houghton. Vote Yes.
  - Still Operate Oskar School.
- August- painted Oskar and Liminga Schools.
  - decided to build new room onto Heikkinen with Yalmer Mattila Contracting. Done by Jan. 57
- Sept. - Heikkinen 9 and 10 stay at Heikkinen and not go to Painesdale.

1957

- June - Bohemia sending their children to Heikkinen up to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. (Does this mean Misery Bay closes?)
- July 8, 57 – Highest bid for Obenhoff School? is \$55 by August Marinelli from Houghton.
  - New board member for 3 years is Emil Hiltunen.
  - Special election vote to keep 9 and 10 at Heikkinen.
- October – music teaching via radio tabled.
- Dec. - no candy purchased w/ school funds for Christmas presents now or hereafter. (PTO buys when Barb's daughter was in school there.1990's)

1958

- Feb. – Discussion to close Oskar School next fall. Tabled.
- March – Discuss to close Oskar School tabled.
  - Bus Accident. State Farm paid to repair the car.
- April 8, 1958. – Hannah Romppainen moved that Stanton Township School



Board close Oskar School for 1958-59 school year. Carried.  
June – Discussion on maintaining 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> at Liminga and Heikkinen.  
July Annual Meeting – Votes cast on question: Shall 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Liminga and Heikkinen be closed and pupils be transported to nearest High School. Yes. 125. No 97. Liminga Closes.  
August – ok'd to hire 3<sup>rd</sup> teacher at Heikkinen.  
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade books sell to Houghton and Jeffers. Move what is useable from Liminga to Redridge.

### **Schools in the area....**

Before the formation the Stanton Township School Board (1902) there was the Oskar School in Section 8, which is Todd Markham property today 2008. The Oskar school operated from 1881-1950.

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, 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 home there were 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 social. Also there was a lower meeting room that was used for such things as voting.

When Stanton Township was formed in 1902, the board created a school district at that time. (We were in Hancock Township before that).

### **Superintendents:**

The first Superintendent was **John Erickson** from 1885 to 1900. This area was in Hancock Township until Stanton Township was formed in 1902. (Financial records have AG Erickson in the 1906 records found by Don Heikkila).

He was followed by **Thomas Caswell**. Don Heikkila found in financial records TJ Caswell listed as Superintendent on September 1909 up to December 1913.

According to Bill Brinkman:

“A serious fracas among the upper class students in October of 1911 had Mr. Caswell resign”. Discipline was severe and rigid. Due to the severity of the regimen, there was considerable objection to the school discipline. During the week before Halloween in 1911, 3 boys conspired to attack the superintendent Caswell and beat him up. The ringleader was an 8<sup>th</sup> grader by the name of Waino Jarvi. His cohort was Eino Besonen. The third is lost in memory.. but it was the sister of this person who tipped Caswell off to the coming attack. She gave the Superintendent the signal the boys were going to use. Jarvi started the attack. Caswell picked him up by the collar and the pants, lifted him bodily off the floor, and threw Jarvi over a row of seats. Jarvi’s head crashed into the edge of an upright steel support of the desk, cutting open his head and cheek. Caswell was as white as snow. He turned to face Besonen who was trying to attack Caswell, but who was stopped by two very husky youths, Matt Wisti and Carl Brinkman who had heard that an attack was eminent. Wisti guarded one aisle and Brinkman the other, stopping Besonen from getting through. Then Caswell rushed past Wisti to try to reach Besonen, who by

that time had turned and fled toward the stairway. When he got to the top of the stairs, he stumbled and went cartwheels all the way down the staircase. When Besonen got to the bottom, screaming with pain, he gradually got up and rushed to the double doorway. Still screaming, he smashed against a swinging glass paneled door, which crashed against the wall, splintering the glass panel and cutting Besonen on the arm. Besonen fled for home. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was nowhere in sight.

In the meantime, a youth ran next door to Dr. Grooms' house and notified Dr. of the fight. Taking his medicine kit and supplies, Dr. Grooms rushed to the school.

In the meantime, the youth notifying the Dr. ran to the horse barn, hitched up the horse and a four passenger buggy, and parked the rig in front of the school, ready to leave. Wisti and Brinkman carried Jarvi out of the school to the waiting rig, with the Dr. administering first aid. The horse, a coach horse, made the trip to St. Joseph Hospital in Hancock, a distance of 15 miles, in a little over 2 hours. Fortunately, it was a coach horse accustomed to speed. Jarvi was put under surgery and recovered weeks later.

Fearing litigation by the families involved, the news of the great fight was never revealed to the press. The Baltic Mining Company informed Jarvis parents that their presence was not wanted, and as a result, they were asked to leave Redridge within 30 days. Within in a month, Superintendent Caswell submitted his resignation to the Stanton Township School District. The school board exonerated Caswell of any wrongdoing and reluctantly accepted his resignation.

Besonen's family moved to Homestead in Washington State. Caswell took a position as principal of high school in Lower Michigan, where he remained until his retirement 40 years later. Matt Wisti became a mason craftsman, specializing in building fireplaces. Carl Brinkman became a lathe operator for Universal Tool and Die Co. until his retirement after 40 years.

In 1960, Bill Brinkman, Carl's brother, learned that Wisti was coming to the Copper Country for the summer after wintering with his son in Lower Michigan. Bill found out that his brother Carl was coming home from Tucson Arizona at the same time. Bill arranged a meeting of the tow buddies so as to get a final draft of the great fight.

Again the fight did not reach the Gazette with Bill working for the Gazette, but now faced with reality at age 84 and urged by archivist Theresa Spence to run the story, here it is."

**Earle Bree Holman** filled the vacancy January 1, 1914 (Don Heikkila found in financial records in Stanton Township Schools that EB Homan is listed as Superintendent on January 1914 and he resigns in July 1947 after 33 years, coming from being principal of the Baltic Elementary School in Baltic, Michigan. He served as superintendent of the 12 Stanton Township Schools as well as the one he was not paid for in Ontonagon Co, the Misery Bay School. He did the Misery Bay School on his own initiative as the school could not afford a Superintendent. He was repaid with farmer's produce. He remained superintendent until 1947.

In 1915 he visited schools on his motorcycle and later by auto in his first car in 1916, but relied on winter travel of trains or XC skis. Later he bought an Indian motorcycle and in 1929 moonlighted in the sale of Ford Cars.

Mr. Holman lived in the present day home of Rich and Jayne Johnson until 1952. This home was built for the Atlantic Mining Company doctor in 1895 until Holman moved in.

Also told by Bill Brinkman was that Earle and family (wife Sarah, son Earle Jr., and daughter Marilyn later to marry James Widder)lived across from Elias Messner family. (Also lived across from Nellie and Guy Smith in "South row of houses" Redridge)

Earl B. Holman served 13 schools and 1,100 students in Stanton Township. [Early photo of Mr. Holman on

Photo Courtesy Michigan Tech Archives



his Excelsior Autocycle.]

In a Gazette article of Richard Garnell's collection is a Bill Brinkman picture of Earl B. Holman on a motorcycle. The picture caption reads: "Sixty seven years ago (1916 would be the date) Earl B. Holman purchased this Excelsior motorcycle to make his rounds each week as Superintendent, visiting 930 students in 13 schools in Stanton Township. **The Schools were Freda/Beacon Hill, Redridge, Liminga, Oskar, Houghton Canal, Rauhala, Heinola, Edgemere, Obenhoff, Onnela, Toivola Heikkinen, Toivola Perala and Bohemia (Misery Bay).** The latter school was visited by Holman at the request of Bohemia Township (Ontonagon County) which only had one teacher for 40 students. Bohemia paid Holman through farmer's produce as there were no funds for such supervision. Prior to this time, Holman's visits were with horse and buggy during spring, summer and autumn and by ski's and trains in winter".



July 21, 1947 Stanton Township School Board accepted resignation of E.B. Holman as Superintendent.

In July 1947, **William H. Brinkman**, on his arrival home from the military, was made Superintendent of the Stanton Township schools, replacing EB Holman. EB Holman became county superintendent at that time. Bill had been a teacher in the Stanton schools for 27 years and loved teaching, but he hated the administrative work so in 1950, Bill resigned and took a position teaching in Kodiak, Alaska.

**Wm. Medlyn.** Was Supt. August 1950-1951

**Russell Fountain,** Accepts position in May 1952.

**Wisti.** The Daily Mining Gazette shares in April 11, 1989 article that **Ernest Wisti** was first a teacher and later Superintendent for 20 years. (A younger brother of Matt previously mentioned with Caswell).

Don Heikkila found records in School office that there was board discussion on August 9, 1960 to replace R. Fountain. Wisti and Brinkman are listed as principals in board minutes on Oct. 11, 1960. Did Brinkman come back after Alaska? E. Wisti was authorized to be Superintendent Feb. 11, 1964. Don also found W. Brinkman listed as principal Oct. 1964. May 11, 1965 Brinkman is going to leave the post. Mr. Hopala was hired as teacher principal July 13, 1965 (Redridge?).

**Clara Swagart** July 1978 – 1986 (Don Heikkila finds the board approved severance for E Wisti in July 1978).

**Bruce Evans** 1986- 1988

**Jeff Kangas**- 1988-1990.

**Lon McCollum** 1990-91.

**Again Jeff Kangas.** 1991- 1996

**Tom Klever** 96-97

**Paul Saaranen** 1997 to March 2011

The first janitor of the Redridge School was Chris Messner, the second was August Kaiser, and the third and last one was Earl Hiltunen.

In June of 1921 Bill Brinkman took a photo of the Obenhoff School for the Gazette. His caption said:

“Stanton Township under Superintendents AA Fredrickson, John Caswell, and Earl B. Holman once had 13 schools with a total population of 1,100 students.

Due to population shift and industrial hard times, people moved out, and a shift in the number of offspring of couples who opted for smaller family types is why schools closed.”

Don Heikkila shares: I have located and named all of the schools listed on my 1923 map of Stanton and Adams twp:

Edgemere is not on map but told it existed, near Beacon Hill.

Freda Beacon Hill School	Section 25	Near Beacon Hill
Heikkinen School	Section 35	Near Heikkinen family
Heinola School	Section 12	Near Sallinen family
Houghton Canal School	Section 33	Near the Olson farm on Canal Road.
Liminga School	Section 13	Near Heikkila family
Obenhoff School	Section 5	Near Rautio family
Onnela School	Section 25	Near Jampsa family
Oskar School	Section 8	Near Eilola
Perala School	Section 5	Near Larson

(The Perala School is a replacement for the Sampson School which was located across the road but destroyed by fire (Per Lou Ann Penny).

Rauhala School	Section 19	Near Anderson
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Redridge School	Section 21	Near Redridge
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Misery Bay School in Ontonagon Co. is another school that was covered by Stanton Township.

School Board:

Don Heikkila's father William was on the school board in the mid 50's.

Author of this document, Barb Koski, was on school board from 1998-2000.

1 YR. POLICY

9/10

NAME Stanton Township Schools

ADDRESS Freda, Mich.

AGENT *Send notice to Secy.*

CREDITS

DATE ISSUED

Date of Policy	Original and Renewal No.	Insurance	Rate	Premium
3-10-45	14752	81,200	.25	20.30
3-10-46	15292			
Sept 10 1947	15928			
1-15-48	ADD	2,500	.75	18.75
4-10-48	16573	23,800		221.10
7-10-49	17239		<del>80</del>	190.40
9-10-50	ADD	400	.80	3.20
	19585			
9-10-51	20228	24,200	.80	193.60
9-10-52	20881			

REMARKS

*351-W13*

HOUGHTON, BARAGA, AND ONTONAGON FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Oskar, Michigan

Inside of scan: Cancelled 9-10-1953.

9/10

UNIFORM STANDARD MICHIGAN

FORM NO. 166  
(Edition Jan. '43)

**SCHOOL FORM**

NAME OF INSURED Stanton Township Public Schools  
This policy being for \$ 24,200 covers its pro rata proportion of and on the following amounts:

ITEM	AMOUNT OF INSURANCE BUILDING	AMOUNT OF INSURANCE CONTENTS	NAME OF BUILDING	HEIGHT, CONSTRUCTION AND ROOF	LOCATION
1.	*\$ 2200:	*\$ 550:	Laminga	1 story, frame, comp. rf.	Sec. 14,
2.	*\$ 2000:	*\$ 400:	Oskar	1 story, fr. comp. roof,	sec. 8,
3.	*\$ 100:	*nil:	Obenhoff	1 story, fr, comp. roof,	sec. 1,
4.	*\$ 1000:	*\$ nil:	Onnela	1 story, fr. comp. roof,	sec. 25,
5.	*\$ 2000:	*\$ 400:	Toivola	1 story, fr. comp. roof	sec. 35,
6.	*\$ 500:	*\$ nil:	Perala	1 story, fr. comp. roof	sec. 5,
7.	*\$ 5000:	*\$ 100:	Ereda-Beacon hill	2 sty. fr. comp. rf.	sec. 25,
8.	*\$ 5500:	*\$ 1550:	Redridge	2 story, fr. comp. roof	sec. 21,
9.	*\$ 2000:	*\$ nil:	Toivola garage	1 sty. comp. roof, fr.	sec. 35,
10.	*\$ 200:	*\$ nil:	Oskar garage	1 story, fr. comp. roof	sec. 32,
11.	*\$ 400:	*\$ 100:	Redridge Garage	1 story, fr. comp. roof	sec. 21,
12.	*\$ 200:	*\$ nil:	Onnela garage	1 story, fr. comp. roof,	sec. Harma's
13.	*\$	*\$			
14.	*\$	*\$			
15.	*\$	*\$			
16.	*\$	*\$			
Totals	\$ 21,100:	\$ 3,100:			

Toivola, Michigan  
August 12, 1953

Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance CO.  
Houghton, Michigan

Dear Sirs;

Please Cancel our Fire Insurance Policy  
for the Stanton Township Schools, wich Expires  
Sept. 10, 1953

Yours Truly

*Lauri Laurila*  
-----  
Sec. of School Board

Mr. Laurila.

**Stanton Township School Facts** obtained from resources at MTU Archives:

- In 1865 tuition averaged 44 cents per student.
- EB Holman, past Superintendent of 13 schools made a cottage out of the Edgemere/Adventure Mine Co. Assay Office. It was down on Lake Superior Shore out on a little point of land. It had a cement floor, 2 rooms and ceilings paneled, a fireplace, with 3 sides wrapping around the outside walls for a porch. Edgemere obtained its name meaning "edge of the big sea" (mere)
- 1957 brought student enrollment decline. The number of children per woman was about

3.8, currently (1977) is 1.8 children per woman. In Stanton enrollment in 1975 was 203, in 1976 was 185.

- Spring of 1970 Board members Richard Chandler, Pres; Diana Johnson, Sect'y; Mel Anderson, Treas.; Emil Niemi, Niilo Make proposed to consolidate Adams Chassell Portage and Stanton. It failed with voters.
- A smorgasbord was held many years at EB Holman to raise money for PTO.  
In 1984 \$3, 100 was made.
- In 1998 Stanton School board members looked into consolidating South Stanton Heikkinen School with Winona School. It was considered not feasible. Board members then were Mike Benda, Pres; Ray Sharp, VP; Barb Koski, Secretary; Rebecca Hoekstra, Treas.; and Jack Dunstan. Heikkinen School built in 1919 closes at end of school year 1999.
- Superintendents:  
Bruce Evans 1987 and 1988 school years.  
Jeff Kangas 1988-1990, 2 school years, returned in 1991  
Ron McCollum July 1990 to summer 1991  
Tom Kleeveer 1997
- EB Holman Elementary School had addition (Wisti wing) put on for middle schoolers in 1989. First students used the new facility in January of 1990.

**Tech Corps Project with Don Heikkila, Ray Niemi, and Elsie Luoma on 3/12/01 by EB Holman School students.**

I was born in the home I grew up in. (Liminga Road near North Superior Rd)  
I attended: K - 8th I was at Liminga, then Redridge, then Houghton High, then college.

Differences:

- Clothing styles
- Had only 1 teacher for many grades. No aides
- We learned from each other.
- I recall a tooth ache when I was young. The teacher had me sit on her lap and rubbed my cheek till it was better.

Recess play:

- School yard - marbles, jump rope, cowboys and indians at Liminga.
- Redridge - played in the woods. We were not allowed to go near the dam or river or old foundations

Discipline:

- Did not have detention
- Verbal discipline.. that is all it took. told not to do and we didn't. At home got more discipline there.... anxiety on what mom and dad would say.

Likes:

- Know the students and when cross paths today have coffee



- Redridge - moving classroom for subjects and teachers
- Liminga in 9 and 10th then 11 and 12 in Houghton Hi with 6 families taken there by my dad.
- Loved school. Spent my life in it.

Dislikes:

- Kindergarten.. poor attendance. afraid of school, ran home from bus stop. (1949)

Changes:

- More and earlier exposure to music, wood shop, art.

Activities:

- Baseball diamond in Redridge, street hockey, soccer, swing
- Community ice rinks after school
- Fishing all the time in creek near home after school
- Redridge - rock pile or "hill" sliding down it in winter with cardboard.  
Older kids had bakery cookie cardboard as it had wax inside and it went faster when wax side was turned to snow. We got the box from store near by.
- field trips? None I remember
- Movies in school? Had them seldom.. if we did it was a big event.
- School bus bid. Dad was on school board. Here is the bid... \$5,622 in year 1954.  
It was smaller. .probably 48 passenger.
- Report cards. Teacher's name on back.
- hot lunch. Stanton was first in area to get hot lunch. We did not have at Liminga but did at Redridge. Favorite was Mac and Cheese and Salmon Loaf.
- We had a dentist visit us and pull teeth and fix teeth down in basement.  
(Redridge)
- We have reunions with classmates I started Kindergarten with: Ray Niemi and 2 others.

Ray Niemi  
Hancock MI

Date of Birth: 1/30/1943 in Hancock

I grew up on Rauhala Road off the Liminga Road.

Schools attended: Liminga K-1, Redridge 2-8, Houghton High, college.

Rode School bus.

Differences:

- Storms closed school many days.
- Roads were poorer condition. Spring breakup created conditions that the bus could not get through.
- Students made own fun.. road hockey. We would take pickets from old fences and use the sticks for hockey sticks. We were restricted to the play field. - - There was no supervision outside. School was locked during recess. We had

- snowball fights.
- No title teachers.
- No Art teacher except what teacher did.
- Now have gym room/multipurpose room.

Punishments given: I can't recall. One time I went to lake and got wet. I had to sit by radiator until I was dry. Teacher would call home to parents if not behaving and got twice as bad at home.

We were friends. We made up if we had fights. .. good life skills learned in making up.

I went on to college. Was in the Army, then taught School.

Elsie Eakin Luoma  
Dollar Bay, MI

Date of Birth 3/27/1929. Lived on the family farm.  
Married 1947 to Aaron Luoma  
Children: Fred 1961, Jacqueline 1963, Kenneth 1967

Schools attended: Heinola for 3 grades, Liminga 4 grades

Memories:

- Walked to school. Walked home from school. Sometimes the mailman would pick us up on a sled for a ride home.
- We used Sears Roebuck Catalogs for tissue in the "outhouse".
- Liminga School was by Sam Lahti's garage. We lived near the garage.

Differences:

- We gals wore pants under skirts in the winter, but had to take them off once at school.
- All the students were poor. Clothes had holes/patches.
- No pencils.
- We had pot belly stove to keep us warm.
- We would take a field trip to the field and pick violets with the teacher.
- Parents never blamed the teacher.
- My classmates were: Helen Koski and her brother Elden.
- Games played: hopscotch, swing, ball, anti over, marbles, jump rope.
- We had a wooden desk with seat of person ahead of me attached to my desk. We had ink wells but did not use the ink. The desk had a shelf under the table top.

Punishment:

- Teacher would hit our open hand with a ruler.
- If we said bad words... children got soap in mouth for a length of time and then washed out.
- Redridge School had 2 classrooms upstairs and 2 classrooms downstairs. In the

basement was the kitchen and toilets. Kitchen was small.. regular size stove/oven. Breakfast was served in later years. We had long lunch tables and benches. We had 2 people to cook. Maybe 100 kids.

-I Cooked at Redridge and EB Holman Schools for 22 years. Retired in 1993 (she thinks). On Saturday we cooks came in to make/bake bread. We baked pies on cookie sheet. Cost of lunch was 75 cents per week.

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

Submitted 2011 to webmaster.

Contact Webmaster with other information.