



FIVE MILE SCHOOL SITE

IN MEMORY OF THE EARLY
SETTLERS OF THE FIVE MILE
COMMUNITY WHO'S HARD WORK
AND PERSONAL SACRIFICE CON-
TRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE FIVE MILE AREA AND THE
PEACE COUNTRY.
THEY WORKED AND PLAYED TO-
GETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF
COMMUNITY LIVING.
SCHOOL WAS TAUGHT 1925-1956

The following from:

A Grande Education:

One Hundred Schools in the
County of Grande Prairie, 1910-1960

Produced by South Peace Regional Archives

FIVE MILE CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3287

Five Mile Creek School District No. 3287, directly east of the newly-incorporated Village of Grande Prairie, was organized August 10, 1915. A log schoolhouse was built on Jack Axon's land, the SE 4-72-5-W6. That first year all the pupils were Blimkes, from the Gustaf and John Blimke families, with Miss Moody as the teacher. The school term began in August, with July and January being the holiday months, a practice that continued for more than ten years.

By 1925, most of the children of the district were beyond school age. There was, however, a new settlement with 25 to 30 children south of Five Mile Creek, so the district was extended to Bear Creek and the school buildings moved two miles south, to the SE of 28-71-5-6.

The school in its new location



Above, the Five Mile Creek School and its accompanying teacherage. Below, the students. All photographs on these two pages taken from the 1948-1949 Five Mile Creek school yearbook compiled by teacher Phyllis Stewart. SPRA fonds 059.



was opened the first Monday in August, 1925. That year Miss Phyllis Lamb was the teacher with a record enrollment in grade one, some of them 16 years old. Enrollment was consistently around 33-34 students during the early 1930s, but in 1934 a momentous meeting was held to propose Five Mile Creek add another room for a high school. Consequently, on July 19th, 1934, the Northern Tribune advertised, "Tenders will be received by the board of trustees of the Five Mile school District for the erection of a new room and alterations to the old log school building." By September that year the schools were ready, with Miss Gertrude Brightwell to teach the elementary grades, and Brian Percy as teacher in the senior room. The high school students, which numbered 18 in 1936, included those from nearby districts such as Twilight and Crystal Creek. There were 27 children in the elementary room. During the years which followed, student numbers fluctuated, determining which grades would be taught in which years. With the shortage of qualified teachers during the war years, in 1941 the decision was made to send the high school students to Grande Prairie; the second room was then used for the junior high.

To visit Five Mile Creek School site, take Twp Rd 714 east from Grande Prairie to Rge Rd 53. The school site, marked by a stone cairn and still surrounded by a caragana hedge, is on the north-west corner of that intersection.

The Five Mile Creek school site also contained a one-room teacherage and a school barn which provoked numerous quarrels over who could use it and who would clean it. The school, barn and teacherage were heavily used for community celebrations, and when the school closed under consolidation in 1956, the site and buildings were sold to the Five Mile Community Association for \$1.00. A cairn on the Five Mile Creek school yard tells the story.



Top, students in the school yard. Above, the Five Mile Creek softball team. The caption reads: "Our 1949 ball team in their white shirts and blue slacks have been successful and otherwise." The team included Marjorie Blimkie (catcher), Nancy Hutt (pitcher), Anne Blimkie (first base), Gus Blimkie (short stop), Joyce Hutt (second base), Joan Blimkie (third base), Jean Fortier (left field), Alfred Richards (centre field) and Irene Blimkie (right field).

Resources: Smoky River to Grande Prairie
SPRA: Phyllis Stewart fonds (includes 1949 Yearbook)
School Division correspondence files, 1930-1963
GPPL: Isabel Campbell files, Schools—Five Mile School

