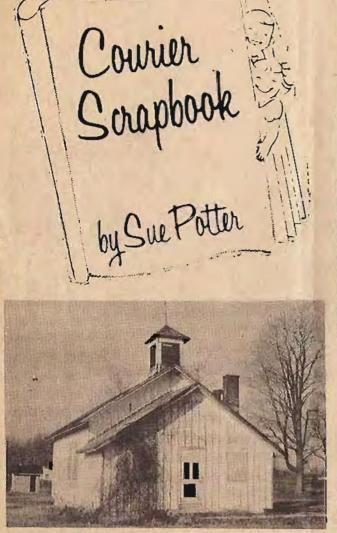
Courier & Monroe Ad-Venture 'The Little French School By The Wayside'



French Wayside School

Nearly a hundred years ago children hurried to the summons of the French School bell and the words they used to greet their teacher were not "good morning" but "bonjour." The early history of the board member and other families prominent in the early days of the school were LaPointe, Cousino, Peatie, Montrie, Lewis, Forgate and Hackman. Among the first teachers

were Grace Kerstetter

Wayside School is gone now, but hundreds of Bedford residents attended the little one room building which stood on the northwest corner of Crabb and Substation Roads. Clarence Lange, now of Harrison, Michigan, sent this Photograph of the Wayside students of 1915

His letter reads, "The Wayside Schuoi has been iorn down and a park has been made in memory of Ralph Hiller, deceased son of Ida and Erwin Millor of Crabb Load. He was the husband of Noreen Miller."

during her first stint as the teacher of French School (1921-25) she began to call the building "The Little French School by the Wayside." As years went by it became simply Wayside School.

In 1928 the enrollment had grown and a portable classroom was added. According to Mrs. Stratton after several years "a strong wind blew it down."

"there was no school when that occurre

The building was last used in 1952 and must appropriately the twacher who locked the door for the last time was Grace Kerstettor Stratton. On Nov. 15, 1967 the Bedford Fire Dept. No. 1 burned the French-Wayside School o the ground and the site became the Ralph Miller Park, named for a descendant of the family who "Fortunately," she added, had A mated the land.

The students are identified as (First row, 1 to r) Ormond Fosgale, Howard Meinhart, Robert Fosgale, Richard Mills, Clarence Lang, Clarence Blair, (Second row ! to r) Ted Fosgate, Albert Lewis, Forrest Kinney, Ruby Dull, Leona Mills, Beulah Lewis, Eina Meinhart, Goldie Lewis, Ralph Fosgale, Roada Dull, (Third row, i to r) Milford Dull, Elmer Roberts, John Lang, Leon Montrie, Lucille Hackman, Rodolph Roperts, Heien Meinhart, Witbur Meinhart. The teacher was Harry Eisenmann.



school is centered around the French families whose children walked to the frame building on the corner of Crabb and Substation Roads. Several generations of the Welti family attended the school and served on its' board. According to Grace Stratton last teacher George Welti served on the board for fifteen years, and John Welti, the first school graduate, for twenty years. Jim Kinney was another

later Stratton), Rosanne La
ointe, Elma Hubble, Alta
lalt, June Black, Harry Ei-
enmann, Chris Rooh, and
Ferne Mealy.
Grace Kerstetter was of
poetic turn of mind and
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