

# CALEDONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 3

Preserving Caledonia's past for the future

June 2010

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Mary Mittlesteadt presented the program at the last meeting about the 1960's and Caledonia Graded School's 50th birthday. She tied in the culture of the 60's with the establishment of the school. The women teachers wore dresses and skirts while the male teachers wore suits and ties. The girls wore dresses and the boys could not wear blue jeans. The office used a mimeograph machine to make copies. Remember the smell and the ink stains on fingers and clothes? This was the time of Elvis, hippies, and men walking on the moon. Mary had lots of pictures covering the school's beginning.

*Editors note:* My memories of the Caledonia School. I was in the only class that went all 8 grades. The students helped to plant the evergreen trees that form the windbreak on the property. Chocolate milk was served on Thursdays as a treat. The best class chore was to clean the erasers. They were not supposed to be hit on the bricks, but they sometimes were. They were not to be thrown at each other, but sometimes you did. The best holiday was Halloween. Each room (there were 2 classes per room) had it's own party and then all the kids went to the gym. There we had a parade so we could see each others costumes. The majority of the costumes were hand made. It was fun to see how creative everyone was. Deb J.

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Due to a conflict with the Sept 14th primary election it was decided to hold the meeting at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 78 instead of the town hall.

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Does anyone have any pictures or information about any of the 3 Caledonia Post Offices? If you do, contact any member of the Caledonia Historical Society.

## Do you know?

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Why did the citizens of Caledonia write to the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington DC in 1891 asking for dynamite?

*see the answer in the next issue*

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday July 13th** at 7pm at the Caledonia Town Hall N5479 Beich Road. The program will be about how roads got their names. For more information contact Jennifer Blau at 608-697-0279 or jenablau@hotmail.com

## Officers:

President: Jennifer Blau

Secretary: Susan Jensen

Treasure: Al Hamele

Program Secretary: Mary Mittlesteadt

## Library Committee:

Jennifer Blau, Chris Blau, Kay MacLeish, Nancy Wehlage

The CHS newsletter is now available on the Town of Caledonia web site:

[www.townofcaledonia.org](http://www.townofcaledonia.org)

## Caledonia History Corner

Caledonia School opened in Sept of 1960. The first and second grade teacher was Helen Suda. She had previously taught at the Indian Farm School. The other teachers were: Lois Pfeil grades 3 & 4, Priscilla Mueller grades 5 & 6 and Leo Regnold for grades 7 & 8 as well as principal. The first cooks were Ruth Ramsay and Birdie Lehmann and the custodian was Melvin Shanks. The bus drivers were Bill Mueller on the north side and Don Allen on the south side. Happy 50th birthday to the Caledonia School from one of the original first graders. You have served the families and students of Caledonia well.

Source: Book: Caledonia Scrapebook by Mary Mittlesteadt, memories of Debra Jensen