

# Jug City School - District 11

by Lynne Belluscio

The Jug City School was located southwest of LeRoy, near the corner of Bernd Road and Covell Road. It was known as District #11. I haven't been able to determine when it was formed. The photograph of the school was taken in 1913, but the note on the back indicates that the school building burned in 1929 and a new school was built. After the LeRoy Central School was formed and the rural schools closed, the Jug City School was sold to the Jones family who refurbished it as a home. It is still standing.

Gloria Jackson Grohs filled out one of our school questionnaires and sent it in with some additional comment by her brother, Charles Jackson. I have also talked with June Dusen who attended Jug City for a very short time. Gloria attended between 1940 and 1947. She walked to school. It was a ½ mile walk and took 15 to 20 minutes. In the good weather they walked cross lots. Even in the winter, they walked home for lunch. (Charles remembered taking mustard and butter sandwiches to school.)

The school day started at 9:00 am and the students were called to class with a hand bell. The bell was especially handy when the teacher had to call the students in from recess. Gloria remembered playing kick the can, and hide and seek. In the bad winter weather they sometimes played in the basement, in the room next to the furnace room. Charles remembered a pretty



**Pictured: Marie Jackson, Grace Burrell, Leslie Sandles, Charles Jackson, Victor Klinkbeil; Wm. Klinkbeil, Roy Burrell, Charlie Stoddard, Donald Stoddard, Donald Wright, Allen Day; Bobby Heaman, Donald Stoddard, Elmer Waite.**

rough game the boys played outside. The small boys would sit on the shoulders of the large boys and try to knock the other boys off.

The school had chemical toilets and no running water or a pump. Drinking water had to be hauled from a house nearby and was kept in a crock with a spigot at the bottom. When Charles was in 8th grade he was the janitor and hauled the water and tended the coal-burning furnace. He earned \$68.

The Christmas program was the main event of the year. Everyone had a part or a recitation. Charles wrote: "I got mixed up with my recitation. The teacher was behind the curtain trying to prompt me. The more she said the worse it

got. I finally turned and told her if she would be quiet I think I could do it. It brought down the house and my mom nearly died. Dad just laughed."

Gloria remembered making valentines and other gifts for their parents. Her brother remembered making mittens that the kids wore to school. They memorized the presidents of the United States in order and the multiplication tables. They also diagramed sentences and every year they had a spelling bee. One year her sister won the spelling bee and received a Webster's Dictionary which they had for years.

Every day the students said the *Pledge of Allegiance* and sang a patriotic song. There was a piano in the back of the room near the basement door. When Gloria was 9, she accompanied the songs on the piano. She remembers well

"*Little Brown Church in the Vale*", "*My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*," and "*Sweet Afton*." The teacher's desk was in front of the room on a raised platform. Facing the teacher's desk was a row of recitation benches and then the desks for the younger students. In the back were the large desks for the older students.

During the 1940s there were only 10 to 15 students at the Jug City School. When asked what she wore to school, Gloria wrote: "Cotton dresses, heavily starched, and long stockings in winter. I had lots of fun. I loved school and everything about it. I only have happy memories! The teacher was boss. Everyone did what she said." Some of teachers that Gloria and Charles remember were Mrs. Stroble, Miss Mary Welsh, Miss Clara Rudolph, and Miss Starr.



Jug City School c1913 before the 1929 fire.

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