

HAYLAND

Country School Reunion

June 30th ~ 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Reineke Park, at the north side of Milaca




Beth Bork Penned History: Beth penned the [history of many of the farms](#) in North Hayland. She dated her history, June 1988. Beth wrote of social news in Hayland for the Mille Lacs County Times for several decades. The [Milaca Historical Society](#) has historical copies of the Times.

Hayland Reunion like an Earlier Reunion: [Ruth and Norma Bolz were Augusta Swalboski's grandchildren](#). They both graduated from District 25. Caroline Bolz was Augusta's daughter and Norma, Ruth and Chuckie's mother. About 1980, Augusta sat in the Milaca North Park, now called Reineke Park, with a reunion of her Swalboski family. She just sat there shaking her head. She was asked: "What are you thinking?". She replied "to think I started all of this". That was about 90 years after her birth in 1890. Now in 2012, about 110 years after the Hayland school was established by our first classmates parents, we can say "to think they started all of this."

Memories of Hayland school by Chuck Bolz

I remember my first day of school at age 5 and how scared I was but I had an in! My big sister Ruth was also there but she was 12 and in the big room, that did not matter cause if I hollered, she was right there to make sure I was OK. Lucky me, Norma at home and Ruth at school, God I loved my sisters!

Mrs. Dorothy Gause was my first teacher and I did not know if I should love her for what she taught me or if I should hate her cause she was so strict? In my later years, I was able to tell her how very much I appreciated all the care she took in giving me a healthy start in school. Dick and Jane reading was fun but I would rather have our teacher read to us from the Laura Ingalls Wilder books (Little House on the Prairie). My imagination would run wild as I tried to put myself in the days she wrote about. Another part of the school day I liked was when we would sing and could pick out our favorite songs. I always liked, The Bear Went Over The Mountain which to me was always a classic.

Seemed like the younger boys were always getting in trouble cause when we played hide and seek the best place to hide was in the coal shed BUT we always came out with coal on our clothes which ended up in the classroom. This did not make for a happy teacher!

I only spent one year in the big room before we moved but having Nat Sahlstrom as a teacher left me always looking at the ground, hoping to find the biggest Agate the world had ever seen. No, really, I still to this day look at the ground when I walk, but to date have never found the stone of my dreams. Thank you Nate for those memories.

Memories of Fires (John Oss)



The Fort Collins Colorado fire brings fires from Hayland to memory. There was a fire in the peat bog just to the west of our home. There was a fire that burned down the Fisher home. There was a fire that burned the Anderson barn. Another fire burned down the Nelsons barn. And finally there was a fire that ran from the Rassmussen's road across the back of the Samuelson's farm all away down to Phil Anderson. These fires brought out and demonstrated both good and bad. The peat

bog fire, the Anderson barn fire, and the Samuelson grass fire all had a suspicion of arson. No one was ever caught and it was never proven that there had been arson involved. I remember the Anderson fire and the fear that was in the air concerning an arsonist being on the loose. Who would be the next one to get burned out. The peat bog fire was different. The peat bog fire ran for a month and then another month and then on into the winter. During the course of that fire in the mid-40s there was the belief that there was an arsonist who was moving from place to place and creating jobs for the people. What a terrible thought.

So much for the bad. The rebuilding of the Barnes was a great demonstration of the goodwill of the farmers. In the case of the Nelson barn the thought was that lightning had generated the fire. Whatever the cause of the fire was not important. The main concern was getting a roof back over the heads of the dairy herd. Farmers from all around the area came and worked on that barn. The same experience took place at the Anderson farm. I remember being in the yard and seeing so many cars and wondering where these men all found time to be able to work on that barn. I marveled at how the neighborhood all came together. Even though I was afraid there was an arsonist who was getting ready to burn down some other farm again, I was proud to be part of the community that worked so well together.

I had already experienced the goodwill that came after the Fisher family fire. The fire was the result of the wishes of Dora Fisher's brother to help warm her. He built a fire under her chair.

That ended up burning down the house. It was only the beginning. It was only the beginning of one of the most wonderful things that I have witnessed in Hayland. Following that fire there was a party at Cy Hatch's house. Farmers came from all around the area. There was plenty of music and plenty of libation. After everyone was comfortable the music came to a stop. The way I remember it there was a big Stetson that someone had. That big Stetson was passed around. Then the contents were carefully counted. And then there was really a party. There was a roof put over that families heads. The community had come together. They came together properly and brought on shelter for a family that was completely burned out of their home. In a previous issue I commented about how Raymond Peterson had distinguished himself in carrying on teaching Dora. Dora had been burned to the point that she could no longer speak. She was traumatized so badly that Raymond gave her lessons to do in writing. She continued that way until she recovered her speech. I understand that Dora is planning on being here for this reunion. She can correct or add to what I have reported above. That one experience with that fire has had lasting impact on me. I've told the story to grade school groups around the city of Denver. The kids are spellbound. They wonder if they can have the spirit that the Haylanders had. I wonder and pray that I can have that spirit to the end of my days. We can all be thankful for our heritage.



The Fort Collins, Colorado fire brings out the best. These guys can very well be sitting in the next office one day and on the line the next. The spirit of the Hayland families continues.

The Wisdom of the Hayland Farmers: I exchanged thoughts with my son Hans Oss who graduated from CSU in Fort Collins with a forestry major a bit over a decade ago. Our exchange: Hans, Hasn't the Forest Service been pushed into a political correct place. They know the wisdom of little fires, but have been politically prevented from going there. Of course we don't want random picnic fires to do the little fire job, but there certainly must be a lot of muffled professional thought about what proactive stuff could have been and can be done.

The farmers of my youth burned the grass around the home steads in the spring. They took careful note of the conditions, and used back fires to keep things confined. That seemed a fire management type of thing. Dad; Dad, I would say your recollection of the farmers of your

youth represents a much wiser approach to fire mitigation than what I witness the forest service doing from a private citizens perspective today. I'm not plugged in enough to know why they are operating the way they are, but I can tell you from an educated layman's perspective that they seem to be making some serious fundamental mistakes.

As I write this email my nose is filled with smoke from the Sand Creek fire, which has been burning about 20 miles south of Pagosa (Springs, Colorado) for the past month now.

When people come to recognize that forest fires are as inevitable and as valuable as rainstorms we will have a chance of developing a truly workable wildfire management strategy. I'm just not sure if that day will ever come... Hans

The master minds of our time are burning the place down. It's time to apply the wisdom of our fathers (the guys and gals before us).

Hayland Expatriates Returned for Duty

by John Oss

Claire and Dorothy Severeign lived just south of the peat bog that had caught on fire. They moved from Minnesota to West Virginia. We visited them there in West Virginia.

They had a very comfortable life. Claire and Dorothy Severeign learned of my mother's ill health. My mother was declining with cancer. Dorothy and Claire moved away from Dorothy's home. They moved back to their old home in Hayland. They moved in with my father and mother. For two years they took care of my mother. Can you imagine. Can you imagine how that brings tears to my eyes. They were retired and living comfortably. But, when they heard of my parents situation, they came halfway across the country to help. There are other stories of other families and other friends helping one another. Those stories are very precious. Let's share them with one another as we come for this reunion. There will be opportunity to exchange contact information. There'll be opportunities to share stories and pictures. Hopefully many of those stories and pictures can find their way into print.



Ellen Oss

The class of 1930-31

of bylaws which are right there on the front page of their website.



1930-31 Esther Arnquist (teacher); Back row: Glen Cooper, Mark Cooper, John Deming, Avis Van Arnam, Oscar Ausdahl, Maurice Wills, Mildred Smiley; Front row: Floriene Doughty, Jeanette Swanson, Dorothy Cooper, Beulah Smiley, Mable Johnson, Wes Phillips, June Swanson, Willard Hardy (per LeVern Swanson annotation note to Ra Anderson)

I bet if you wanted to go to one of their board meetings you'd be welcome and I also bet if you went to one of their board meetings you'd find they were using Roberts rules of order. Those same rules of order that we used back in 4-H in Hayland.

The pictures and history that we are finding in the course of this reunion should be kept at the historical Society. I'm sure they'll be happy to preserve them carefully. It's also true that we can use advice from them in collecting information.

The [new Milaca library](#) is also a resource for the members of the community. Both the historical Society and the library have computer terminals available. I'm sure there are cross generation trips that can be of great interest. Not having used a computer until now doesn't mean you'll never use a computer.

This remembering is a team effort. Kala Kolkind did the techie stuff to bring these pictures to us. Her mom, Betty Anderson, asked her to send these scanned pictures in for the news letter. The collaboration of Kala and her mother Betty was deeper than just the two of them. The work of Laverne Swanson annotating the picture and sending a note to Ray Anderson was central to making this happen. The bottom picture also took the efforts of Eleanor Odegard.

The Milaca historical society has a lot of records. They are open in the afternoons as shown on [their website](#). The records are located in the old Milaca library. It is a beautiful historical building. The efforts of Julia and Wally Swalboski were central to forming this historical Society. As you open the website you'll see history in the words that are there. The history is a bit unwitting. You see there are people who don't necessarily believe that a constitution is of value. There are people who say they are transparent but are anything but. Now the society as a set



1931-32 Lenner Lundberg (teacher); Back row: John Deming, Sally Ausdahl, Ersel Shaffer, Francis Hardy, Mildred Smiley, Wilda Swanson, Bernice Johnson, Avis VanArnam; Middle row: Floreine Doughty, E Wills, Dorothy Cooper, Bette Ann, Marten Ausdahl, Wes Phillips, Bonnie Baker, Kearney Baker, Willard Hardy, Beulah Smiley, Phyllis Baker, Maurice Wills, Laurence Ausdahl, Mable Johnson; Front row: Rueben Swanson, Ray, Mark, Glen Cooper, Oscar Ausdahl, Phil Anderson, LeVern Swanson (29 students, perhaps 17 have passed on? – but, we have the memories! Eleanor Wills Odegard)

Curriculum in 1931 Strict

The Washington Post ran an [article about the detail used in testing the students for 8th grade graduation](#). I remember that there was a test for graduation. I do not remember it being even close to this strict. One of the Geography questions read: "In one or two paragraphs each discuss the major and minor industries of your county and explain how the climate, natural regions and natural resources have influenced their development." Another question reads: "What influence has the Nile River on Egypt? The Congo basin is smaller than the Amazon. Why is it more important?"

Is this a bogus article? Have our standards changed? Was it wise to give up local control of our children's elementary education?"

Class of 1918-1919, Little Room

Ruth Samuelson Lee presented this picture. She believes she has identified her mother. Anyone able to present more identifications?



Little Room, 1918-1919: Grace Tonander Samuelson is the 3rd from left in the back standing row.

Class of 1918-1919, Big Room

Another picture was also found. For the big room. The number of the children gives a sense for how many people lived on the farms in the area. The proportion of girls to boys also gives a message about who was working on the farms.

Donald Stark Properly Recognized by John Oss: Donald was my classmate, best friend, and best man. We had many adventures together. We had hunted big game



Big Room, 1918-1919: Ruth Samuelson's aunt, Margaret Tonander Anderson is on the far right in the back standing row

together as I discussed earlier. We had played softball together. He bought back a set of China from the auction sale of our farm. That China was a treasure of my mother. Donald was sensitive and knew how I would treasure that. We have That China to this day. It has been the special China that has come out for Christmas and Easter.

Then I was overcome with the need to be there. When I arrived at the funeral home it was filled. I did a quick survey of who was there. I believe every single farm in North Hayland was represented. Donald may have

We visited at intervals through the years. Donald became depressed and reclusive. In the last years of his life he lived up north of Bill Kretchie's place. He and Bill had been friends. Donald had a soft heart and was a generous man. The entire community knew of his character. When I learned of his passing I didn't decide immediately to come from Colorado back to Minnesota

for the funeral. Then I was overcome with the need to be there. When I arrived at the funeral home it was filled. I did a quick survey of who was there. I believe every single farm in North Hayland was represented. Donald may have been a recluse but the community was there to recognize his loving spirit. In so doing Hayland demonstrated its love. How many communities would come out to recognize a man who had been a recluse for a couple of decades? Not many! We have all been blessed by being part of this community.

We see this respect for the individual played out in many ways. I have seen Lewisa Stark at the

Elim home. She visited Beth Severeign many times. Beth visited my father there many times. I met Hjalmer Stromberg at the door of the Elim home. Hjalmer was there to visit the old people. Hjalmer was in his 90s. Hjalmer had thrashed grain for many of the people who lived there. He did not forget them. The community that lived when farmers went from farm to farm for the harvest was still alive. Hjalmer's spirit shined upon those he visited. That same spirit shined back upon him.

The class of 1960s—Anyone know the year?

Dr. James Millam, [who teaches at the University of California, Davis](#), adds to our picture trove. He wrote:

I wish I could make it (I went there for only two years, 1st and 2nd

grade), but our annual trip back to Minnesota will be too late this year. I really like the old pictures in the newsletters; here is one you might add. Just a few months ago, my sister, Nina (Bobenmeyer) McDermott sent me a picture of my 2nd grade class. I don't know where she got, or if Nina has the original (I'm copying her to check). Our teacher was Mrs.

Lee Gause. I think I can remember almost everyone in the photo. Here are my best guesses (all spelling is approximate!). (As editor I am responsible to keep the spelling standards high. I failed on the Larson/Larsen issue at the very beginning. Please know Karen, Jim, ... were Larsens.)

Students pictured here were there at that point in time.

Ruth Samuelson Lee's Mother Kept a well organized collection of the many pictures that Ruth brought home from school. So, we get to enjoy the treasure..



Left-most row, front-to-back: Gene Iverson, Cynthia Ryg, _____ Gardener?, _____ Wills; Middle row, front-to-back: Jim Millam, Donald Wills, Ricky Larsen, Butch Broberg, Jerry Larsen (standing); Right-most row, front-to-back: Gene Gardener; Lloyd Iverson; Rodney Larsen; ?; Bobby Larsen?; Chuck Bolz

They are also together at this point in time. Chucky Bolz and Jimmy Milliam share parents at the heritage house. Yes the Milliams and Caroline Bolz are both at the heritage house. The friendships that they formed way back in those school days are still strong today. They enjoy the musical

presentations of Roy Billmark. Roy is in his 80s and comes to play for the old people. Are these people really old? They are young in spirit and enjoying the memories.



Carol Gause



Cindy Gardner

Eugene Gardner

Gene Iverson



Violet Johnson

Bobby Larsen

Bruce Hakes

Kathy Hakes

Lloyd Iverson

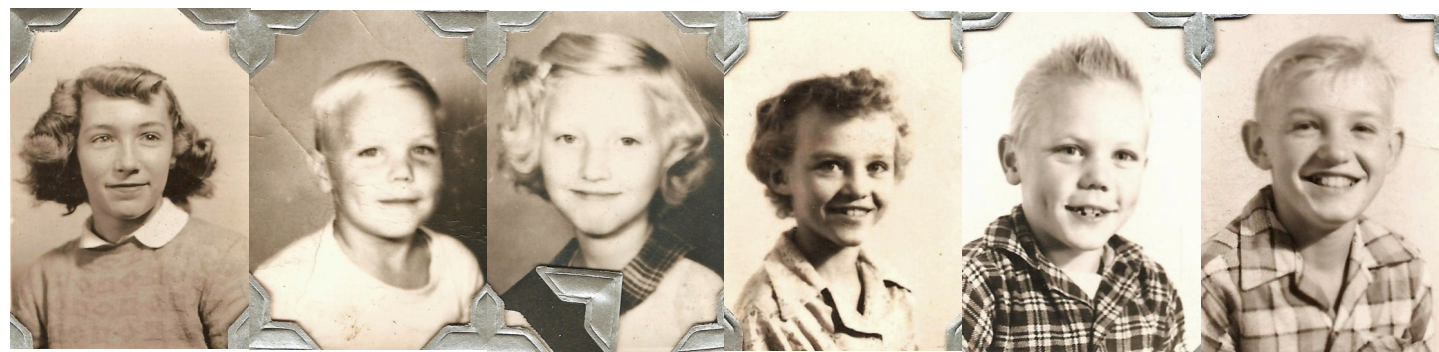
Maxine Anderson



Allen Samuelson Arlyss Girard Arlyss Girard Ruth Bolz Ruth Samuelson Arlyss Girard



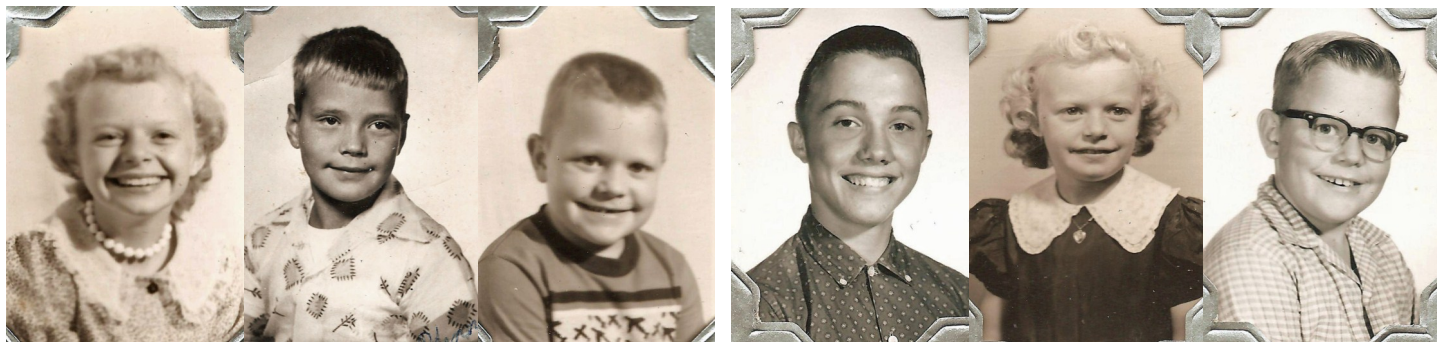
Bobby Larsen Bruce Hakes Chucky Bolz Darla Baker Judy Broberg Judy Broberg



Georgia Dranselka Lloyd Iverson Maxine Anderson Laree Baker Lloyd Iverson Wayne Stark



Maxine Anderson Merrill Iverson Roger Girard Cynthia Ryg Eugene Gardner Jerry Larsen



Judy Broberg

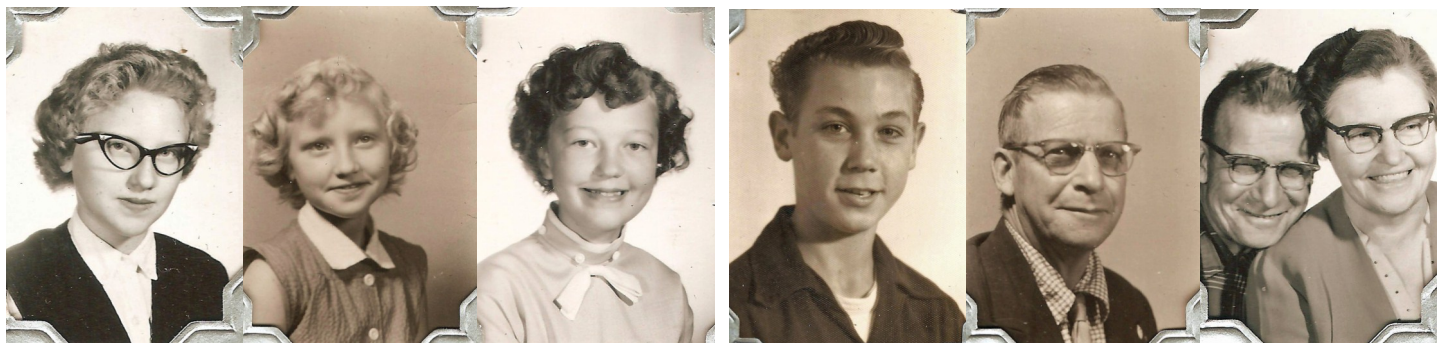
Kenny Larsen

LeRoy (Butch) Broberg

Edward Eisenzimmer

Judy Broberg

LeRoy (Butch) Broberg



Maxine Anderson

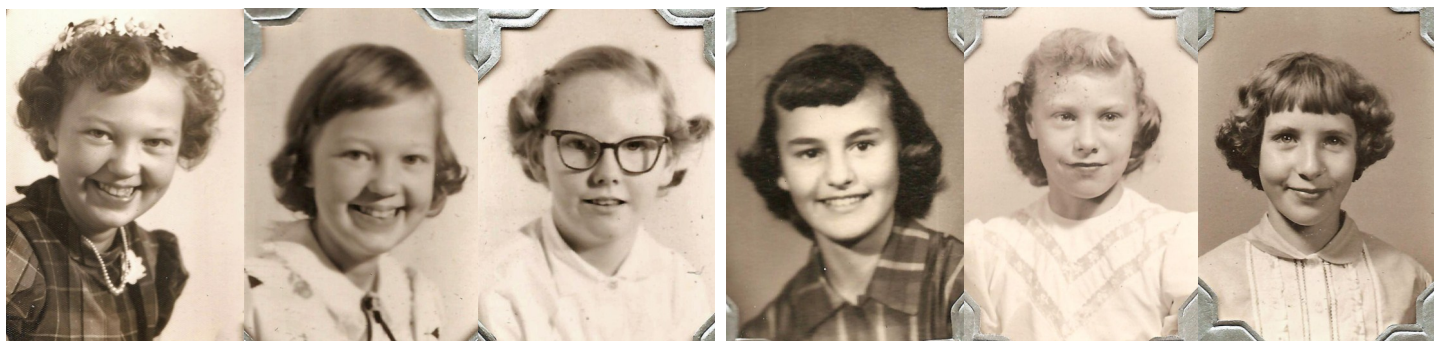
Maxine Anderson

Ruth Samuelson

Merrill Iverson

Nate Sahlstrom

Nate and his Bride



Ruth Samuelson

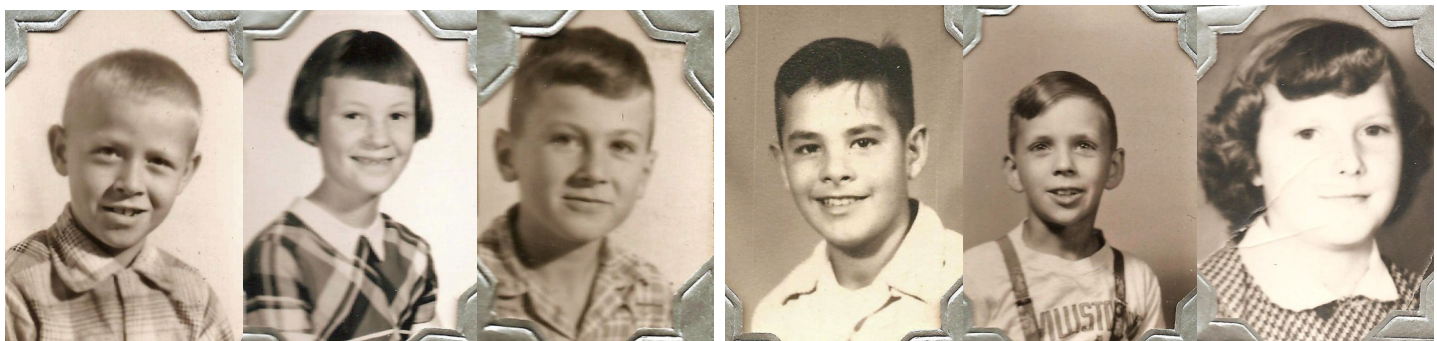
Ruth Samuelson

Arlyss Girard

Carol Gause

Dorothy Johnson

Kathy Hakes



Chucky Bolz

Cindy Gardner

Donald Wills

Lowell Gause

Philip Hakes

Violet Johnson

Hayland Country School Reunion
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HAYLAND



Country School Reunion

June 30th ~ 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Reineke Park, at the north side of Milaca

If you went to school in Hayland, in either of the country schools, please join your classmates in a fun time at our reunion. If you know of anyone who went to Hayland, please tell them about this! *Let's all get together* and share our memories, pictures, writings, and memorabilia. *Oh, and please bring your lawn chairs!*

There will be pie, ice cream, coffee, lemonade, and water served, but if you would like to bring another dessert to share (remember those days way back when with all the yummy goodies we shared?), please feel free to do so, but it's not necessary.



If you have any questions, please call
 Laurel (Laurie Anderson) Fladmoe at:
320-266-6550
(If you didn't go to school there, but would like to join us, please come!)

Hayland Country School Reunion, June 30, 2012 Newsletter

Editor: John Oss (720-210-8056)
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Assistant Editors are welcome. The web site <http://oss4us.com/dist25.46.2012Reunion/> lists published, corrected, and draft news letters. You can jump in during the drafting of a newsletter with emailed suggestions, and material.

Distribution List: "Fladmoe, Laurel Anderson" <laaf@windstream.net>
 Interval: Weekly until memories stop arriving.
 Publication: First addition of paper for free, and via email.
 Subsequent additions by email, and by request with printing and postage charges.
Memories Departments: School, Community, Biography

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We are collecting Hayland memories. The first will be in newsletter form at the reunion. Three types of memories are obvious. School memories, community, and biographical memories.

1. **School Memories:** Teachers, students, activities, help from friends and family
2. **Community Memories:** Ladies Aid, 4H, Saw mills, fires and rebuilding, harvest time, elections, feelings about keeping country schools open.
3. **Biographical Memories:**

Impact of the school and community, occupations, faith, families, and service in military, plus what you want to share.

Mail, or give your memories to John Oss. Typed, written, recorded, or video are all OK. They will be gathered and shared with whoever wishes a copy. Downloads from the internet will be free. Postage and publishing costs will be known and advertised once the materials are assembled. This news letter and following letters will form the main input to the assembling of the memories.