

DO YOU REMEMBER . . .

Pump, pump, and pull away?

Pie socials?

**Sticking your tongue on a
pump in winter?**

Dusting blackboard erasers?

Spelling bees?

Dick, Jane & Spot?

Fox and Geese?

The coal bin?

THANK YOU

for taking time to visit the
Valley Grove School

at

**THE ROCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY COMPLEX**

**Interested in membership
to support the Historical
Society?**

Contact

Rock County Historical Society

P. O. Box 32

Bassett, NE 68714

402-684-3327

Individual & Family

\$25.00 / year

Business & Organization

\$50.00 / year

Valley Grove School



**Rock County
Historical Society**

**West Highway 20
Bassett, Nebraska**

ABOUT THE VALLEY GROVE SCHOOL

1973 saw the addition of Valley Grove School; District No. 17, to the Historical Society complex along with the pump that stands in its typical spot near the door. The school was organized in 1890 and held classes until 1968-69.



The first teacher received a salary of \$32.50 a month.

Along with teaching duties the teacher started the fire, carried in the wood or coal, emptied the ashes, primed the pump (sometimes thawing it first) carried the water and did all the cleaning.

In 1908 there were 66 school districts in Rock county. In 2007 there are only four.

SCHOOLS OF ROCK COUNTY

Education began in the homes of early settlers, sometimes several families joined together in one room of a family home until a school could be built. Most of the early schools were sod or log structures they were heated with a fire place, topsy or pot bellied stove.

Black boards were almost non-existent and books, slates and other supplies were scarce and always shared. In the early 1950's state regulations mandated that schools install running water and they replace the pot-bellied stove with fuel oil or gas. In the mid to late 1960's the state required the installation of a rest room to replace the outhouse.

The schools were often the



center of the community social life. Church services, box socials, dances and sometimes weddings and funerals. Christmas was usually celebrated with a program presented by the students, followed by a gift exchange and was attended by parents, grandparents, family and friends and usually even Santa Claus who had a gift and a bag of candy for each child. The school year usually ended with a community picnic. This gave the ladies a chance to show off their culinary skills.



In the spring of 1883, the first school term was held in Bassett, in the home of Louis Canenburg, with a Mrs. Rahlt as the teacher.

On display in the school are desks, blackboards, flags, pictures and numerous items from the 1970's and before.