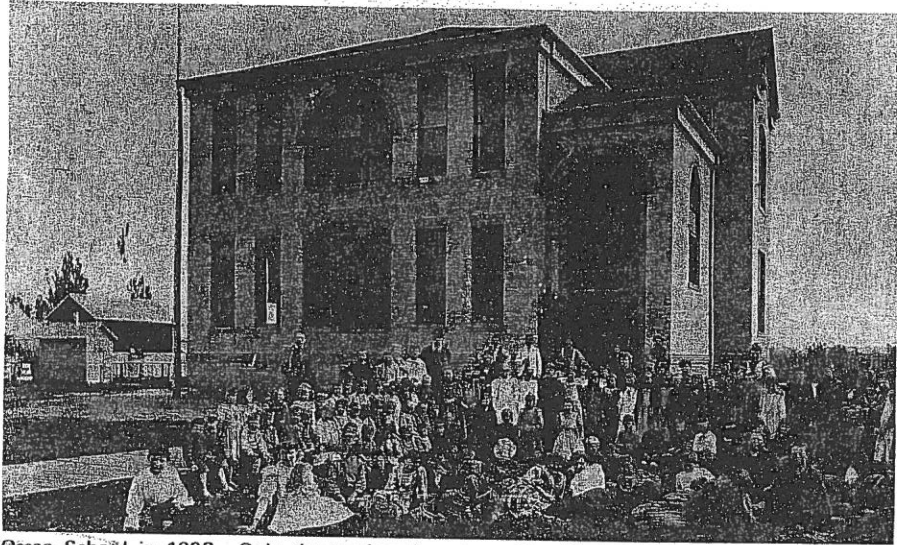


100 YEAR HISTORY OF THE CITY OF OSSEO



Souvenir Edition

Part 2 of 5: Education, Pioneer Society (pp. 13-16)



Osseo School in 1893. Only the teachers have been identified. The children have not been, except that they were from the Normandin, Heesen, Potvin, Hechtman, Haslach, and other families. The teachers are Mary Brown standing on the right, Lydia Weishaar standing rear center in dark dress, Isabell Curtis (Mrs. Otto Setzler) standing far left, and Supt. Pribble with the beard.

This building burned down in 1902 and school was held in the still unfinished Village hall built the same year. A frame building was built on the same foundation and used until 1924 when a new school was built on 3rd Avenue West. Students helped move into the new building by carrying books and things during the Christmas holiday of 1924 season. The 1924 building at this time is under consideration for removal.

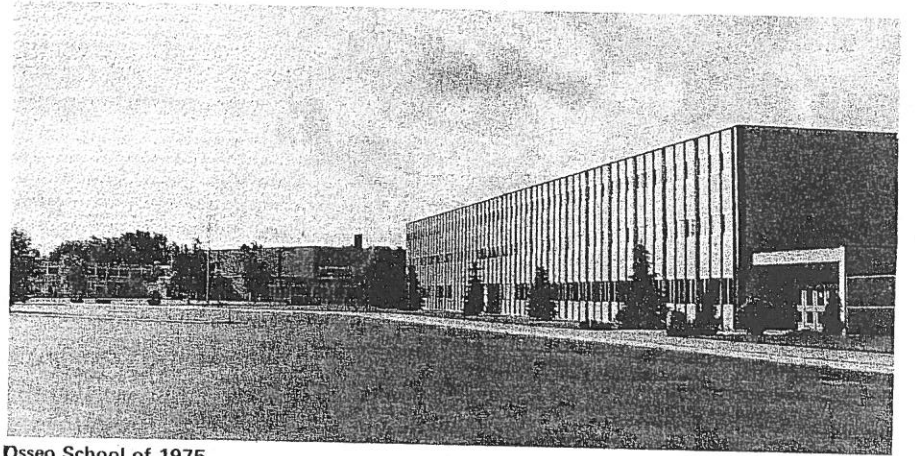
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The first school was held in the summer of 1856 in the hall erected by the Society of Spiritualists and taught by Miss Sylvia Rowe. In 1858 the Spiritualists disbanded, sold the building to the school district, which then embraced a large section on each side of the village. The hall was used for school purposes for about six years, during which time it was moved twice, and then burned. After this, another hall, Sampson's, was used for educational purposes for the next six years, at which time a two story frame building was erected. This structure served the educational needs until it became overcrowded and a two story brick building was erected at third street and second avenue west in 1924. The school was known as District 43, which covered 6½ square miles including the village and environs.

In the late forties and early fifties consolidation was taking place throughout Minnesota. By 1953, thirteen North Hennepin rural school districts had been dissolved and assigned to District 43. The last consolidation, Hennessy Hill, took place in 1964, bringing the total district size to 66½ square miles. District 43 became new District 279 in the fall of 1957. It is presently the largest land-area school district in Hennepin County.



Osseo School of 1924, with the 1935 addition.



Osseo School of 1975

District 279's present seventeen schools house nearly 14,000 students. Two high schools, three junior high schools, twelve elementary schools and a central warehouse compose the facility assets of the District. At the completion of consolidation in June of 1954 the population was put at 1,220 students. By June of 1962 the district had grown to 5,569 students. In the decade from 1962-1972 the student population more than doubled to 13,500. Present population trends project continued growth, at a much slower rate. More than two-thirds of the District's land area is yet to be developed.

In the growth years of the sixties and early seventies, District 279 people constructed twelve new buildings in a ten year period. The largest bond issue, \$11,000,000 was passed in the fall of 1968. It provided the construction of Park Center Senior High, North View Junior High, Cedar Island Elementary School, the three district swimming pools and the central warehouse.



A class room of 1915.



Osseo High School's first Basketball Team. Left to Right: Reed Gray, Coach, Bob Seibert, Morris Smith, Donald MacJunkin, Marvin Hartkopf, Robert Larsen, Vernon Charest, LeRoy Gervais, Harry Biederman, and Alvin Opetz.



This interior view of a one-room school was typical of those that dotted the Osseo countryside before consolidation with the city schools.



Seated is Mrs. Lydia Krienke Zebarth, teacher, 1897. Standing left to right: Mrs. Elsie Roehlke Schendel, Mr. Walter Roehlke, and Mrs. Emma Roehlke Pagenkopf (pupils). Inside Burschville School.

In 1975 the voters approved yet another addition to the fifty-year old Osseo Senior High. Construction of a new gymnasium and auditorium has now begun. Osseo Senior High opened its doors in the fall of 1924 and graduated its first class, one student, in the spring of 1925. That student, Lily Lucht Ziebarth, now of St. James, Minnesota, returned to speak to Osseo Senior High's 1975 graduating class. In 1975, District 279 graduated nearly 850 seniors, 358 at Osseo Senior High, another 465 at Park Center.

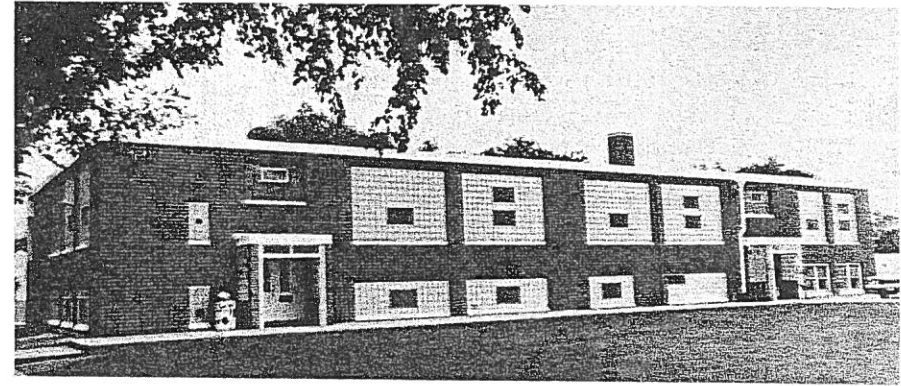
In 1975 major District growth took place in Maple Grove and some northern sections of Brooklyn Park, while significant decline was taking place in other more settled areas.

With the new construction at Osseo Senior High, the fifty-year-old original building will be demolished to make room for the gynasium addition.

April 11, 1948, proved to be a memorable date in the history of the Catholic parish. It was at the occasion of the Holy Name Society meeting that the group of men present expressed their desire and willingness to cooperate with Father Henry J. Boerboom in gathering the necessary funds to obtain a parochial school. The rapid growth of the parish, to total about 200 families, thus the need of a Catholic school as required by the law of the Church whenever possible, was keenly felt here.

After much planning and collecting of funds the contract for construction of a school was awarded on June 28, 1951. The attractive, functional brick building, located at First Avenue West and Sixth Street North, became a reality. The building was finished and accepted by the architect and committee on April 16, 1952. The building was dedicated on June 8, 1952.

The school has served the educational needs of its many former students and the needs of its present students in grades one through eight.



Osseo Roman Catholic Parochial School as seen in 1975.

HISTORY OF THE OSSEO PRESS

The first issue of the Osseo Press (Vol. I No. 1) was printed Nov. 29, 1923. It was 12 pages — four covering local news; a four-page supplement, and the other four pages consisted of a Patent section. In it was features, cartoons, recipes and advertising from the Patent Medicine Company.

Cost of the issue was 5 cents. Editor and Publisher of the first newspaper was Lester D. Wilcox. The original building of the Osseo Press was located where the Masonic Hall is today.

Otto M. Bohling took over the paper sometime in 1925. H. W. Schultz purchased the newspaper in May, 1926. Werner Schultz became editor of the newspaper in 1938.

When the original building burned down in August, 1932 the Press was moved to the Killmer building. In 1936 the building which today houses the Osseo Printing Co. was built and the paper moved.

In January, 1966 Schultz sold the Osseo Press to Don R. Larson, who with his wife Carole operate the newspaper today. They converted it to the offset printing process.

When Larson took over the operation of the Press, he solicited the help of the Osseo American Legion. The Legion needed a new roof on the basement facilities they had at the time. The drive was so successful they also constructed a full legion hall.

The Larsons started in a small area in back of the Osseo Press building at 240 Central Ave. Schultz went into partnership with his son, Werner, in the printing business which took up most of the building.

In June, 1966 the Larsons moved to 5 Second St. N.E. where Dr. Dick had his dentist's office for many years and which, prior to that, was the Osseo Post Office. The rest of the building housed apartments upstairs and the Osseo Surplus Center, owned by Jacob Silver. 20 years earlier, it was a drug store and originally was a bank.

The Larsons operated on Second St. until 1968 when they purchased the building. They published the Osseo Press, & Crow River News, in the same office. Today the Press serves as the legal newspaper for the city of Osseo, city of Maple Grove and the Independent School Dist. 279. Its offices are at 200 Central Ave.



OSSEO-BROOKLYN SCHOOL BUS COMPANY

200 2ND AVENUE N.W. • OSSEO, MINNESOTA 55369
TELEPHONE 425-2542

Robert Regan in 1963 purchased the Tasler Bus Company from Jack & Ivy Tasler who started their company with 1 bus some 11 years prior. At the time of purchase the company was renamed the Osseo/Brooklyn School Bus Company to include the area the company services.

Since 1963 the school district needs have increased from 23 routes to more than 170 routes. 72 buses are needed to move over 18,300 students daily to and from school plus extra field trips.

The Osseo/Brooklyn School Bus Company employees 81 area residents as drivers and support personnel. Eighteen of those employees are full time. The average length of employment is 5.5 years. In 1963 the average cost of a new bus was approximately \$5,000.00, today the average cost has risen to approximately \$14,500.00. The average age of our buses is 4 years old.

All the buses travel more than 1,000,000 miles each year. Each bus must pass two rigid state inspections each year. The school bus system in the United States provide the public with the safest of all transportation when compared on a passenger mile basis.

Prior to moving to Osseo Robert Regan was in partnership with his brother Donald Regan in LeRoy, Minnesota where they operated a Ford Dealership. In 1962 they sold the dealership and moved to St. Paul where they started the St. Paul and Sub. Bus Co. and Top of the National Transit, which at that time was the largest mail contract between Chicago, Ill. and the West Coast. We move 27% of the mail out of the Twin Cities.

The management and employees of the Osseo/Brooklyn School Bus Company are proud of their association with the people of Osseo and the North Hennepin communities. We pledge our every effort to the safe and efficient transportation of your school children. My wife, Mary, and our 7 children would like to thank all of you for 12 wonderful years here in this fine community.

Thank you,



osseo/maple grove area chamber of commerce

During the 100 year history of the business community of Osseo a number of organizations of businessmen were in operation. If one became defunct there was always a new business stimulant started. Most all of the men of the business section at one time or another headed up these organizations such as the Osseo Commercial Club, the Osseo Business Men's Association, etc. The Osseo Chamber of Commerce (an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce) became active and several years later became inactive. It has now been replaced by the Osseo/Maple Grove Chamber of Commerce. The new organization is in its third year and at the present time is headed by James Heig, president of the Northwestern State Bank of Osseo.

The Osseo/Maple Grove Chamber of Commerce is striving to update the Osseo Main Street business section with its "Project Proud". Recently they had printed a brochure for the area and at present they are spark plugging the Centennial program. Their interests are not only for the City of Osseo but the Osseo/Maple Grove community as a whole. Cooperation between the two cities is pertinent for the success of the business places of this area.

OSSEO FEED MILL AND FEED STORE

After working on a well digging and threshing crew, Arnold Emholtz — Arnie as he was known to his friends — decided there was a need for a feed mill in the community of Osseo. In 1925, he purchased the vacated Maple Grove railroad depot and moved it to Osseo near what is now the lot in back of Heinens. At first grinding feed was the main service along with the sale of whole grain, hay and straw. During the drought of the 30's, he traveled all over the state trying to find hay and grain for the cattle.

One of the highlights of each year to his children was the fall threshing season when Arnie readied the steam engine and threshing machine while his wife, Hattie, helped at the mill. The first job was always at Bill Engels and the kids could ride with him through town on the steam engine to the Engel farm.

As the need for more services became apparent, he added equipment for mixing feeds, shelling corn and cleaning grain. Before the days of packaged feeds, the Osseo Feed Mill registered and marketed their own brand of laying mash, chick starter, horse feed and cow feed. It was truly as advertised "custom grinding and mixing" as many of the customers had their own formulas or recipes for animal feed.

In the 40's State highway plans were drawn and they included the feed mill so the present block structure was built near the railroad with more grain storage, a truck scale and other new and faster equipment.

In the meantime the Bergsengs Store and warehouse on Main Street was purchased to meet the growing demands for lawn and garden seeds and fertilizer and pet foods. The Store is now managed by Virgil Siebert and services gardeners and hobby farmers along with the grain and cattle interests of earlier years. The Feed Mill mixed its last batch of feed and cleaned its last load of oats on April 15, 1975 when it was sold and the contents auctioned.

Over the last 50 years many tales were told when the farmers came to town to get their feed and their wives did the weekly grocery shopping.

UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY

In attempting to reconstruct the history for the United Telephone Company in the Osseo exchange, we have used the knowledge of several people who have worked for the company for a number of years.

Roman Barthel, who started with the company around 1933, is one to whom we turned. Also, Ed Follett, who has worked in the area since 1956.

Prior to 1933, the telephone company was known as the Rural Telephone Company and was owned by a group of farmers of the area.

In 1933, the properties were purchased by Paul Glaeser and Leo Fischer, who operated the company under the name of Pioneer Telephone Company. In that same year, wages paid to linemen were \$.28 per hour. It was decided that St. Michael at that time would be converted to a dial telephone system. This was one of the first systems in the state.

Osseo operated on a magneto basis for a number of years. For those who don't remember, this was the crank type system. This was later converted to common battery, and in 1958, the first dial unit was installed in Osseo.

In the early years, the farm people worked off their telephone bills by helping the local telephone company set poles, string wire, etc. Only 2 or 3 regular employees maintained Osseo, St. Michael, and Rogers for a number of years.

In 1939, in the Spring, and later Fall, sleet storms raised havoc with most of the lines which were open wire at that time. Months were spent putting these facilities back in order.

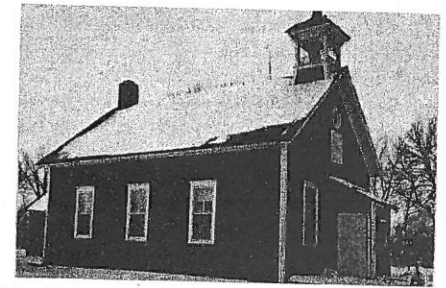
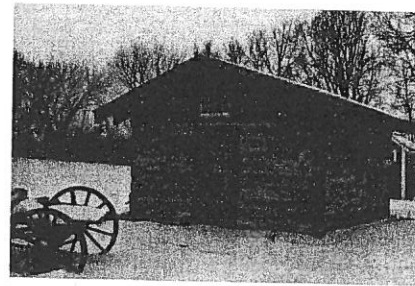
In 1954, there were 1,320 telephones in the Osseo, St. Michael, and Rogers exchanges compared to 12,394 today. This indicates some of the growth which has occurred in the 21-year period.

In 1958, Osseo was converted to dial, and with it came toll free dialing to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

In 1968, the Osseo dial-switching unit was again changed, due to the high growth rate. In this same year, United Telecommunications and the Pioneer System were merged. The name changed once again to United Telephone Company of Minn.

Since 1933, ten managers have been assigned to the area, and of that number, six are still employed with United Telephone Company in some capacity, including Roger Herdt, who is the present manager.

Thirty-six employees are now employed in the Osseo district who are responsible for the service and maintenance of the plant which has a value of \$6,563,000.



North Hennepin Pioneer Society

For many years whenever those, both young and old, who hated to see the artifacts of the pioneer days disappear got together, they always had the same strong desire to do something about the problem while they still could.

In the fall of 1966, a few people gathered and started the momentum that became the North Hennepin Pioneer Society. They elected Mrs. Victoria Krienke Joyner, President; Mr. Frennd Wadsworth, Vice President; Mr. Dean Tripp, Secretary; and Mr. George Reinking, Treasurer. The society was incorporated November 18, 1966, with Victoria Joyner, Frennd Wadsworth, Baldwin Hartkopf Sr., and Mrs. W. R. Stevens as incorporators.

The Society's first project was the preservation of the Potter log cabin located south of Osseo, which was destined for wreckers because it was in the path of a highway. The Pioneers planned to take it apart and reconstruct it log by log as soon as a suitable site could be purchased. A short time later, a one-room school known as Burschville 107 was acquired only days after its last class had left on May 31, 1967. This purchase not only gave the Society a fine example of a one-room school, but also provided on the same site the needed ground for the reconstruction of the Potter log cabin.

The Burschville school, located on County Road 10 West of Osseo, has been the scene of many tours by school children and individuals.

OSSEO SHOE STORE

We opened our doors for business March 1, 1946 in what the old timers called "The Glass Block". The building is now gone, but was next to the old Osseo Theater. Our first customer was Ted Zatic, who wanted a patch put on his pants, and heels on his shoes. After four years, the building was sold and we had to find a new place. There were no buildings available, so the town moved the kids' warming house up to Central Avenue where we operated for six months. We moved into our new building August of 1950. We have enjoyed almost thirty years of dealing with the people of Osseo and the surrounding area.

Don and Irene Francis