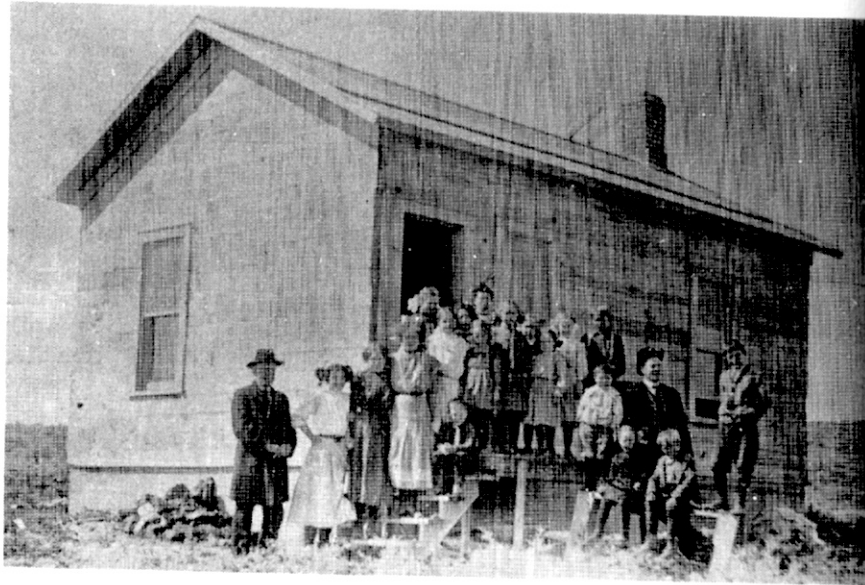


Chapter 7

A Series of Schools

So far in Melstone's history, we have had four schools. Our first school was located south of the Ivory Robinson's house. This small school started on April 25, 1909. Eighteen students attended school everyday until July third. The school house was composed of three rooms. Each desk was handmade and had two seats. The district couldn't furnish supplies so each student was issued a variety of books.



Brother Van Arsdale (standing at left), Teacher, Lucy Collier (at top) as Melstone's first teacher. Mrs. Lucy Collier received \$50.00 a month.

The school house was bought by Earnest Atkinson in the spring of 1910 and then used as a home.

Melstone's second school was built in the spring of 1910 at the site across the street from Mr. John Stevens' trailer and across the street from the old school. In those days it sat on the corner of Fergus Street and Fourth Avenue.

In the year 1914 there were forty-four students enrolled in the grade school. As a few years went by and the need for a bigger school became urgent, the enrollment increased to seventy.

The school was used until 1916. It was then bought by William H. (Butch) Herron. He moved it one block east for \$650.00 on June 25, 1916.

Mr. Herron used it for several years and then leased it to Doctor

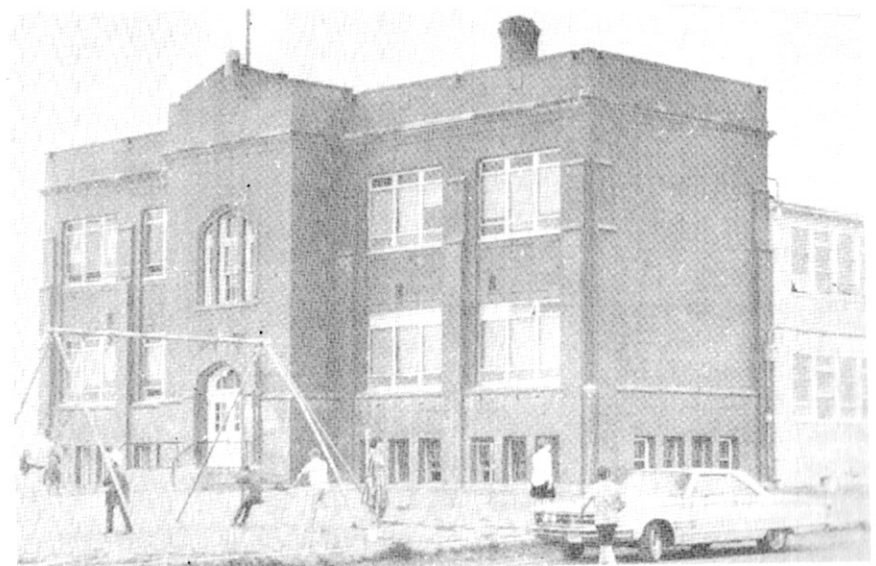
Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton used it as a home for maternity cases.

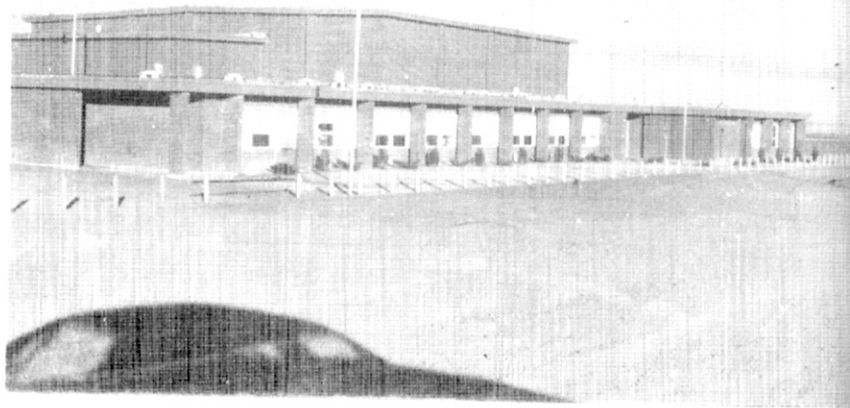
It is the same building that the Robert Eikes recently lived in and the James Moores live in today.



Melstone Public School, 1910

The third school of Melstone was erected in the year 1916. It cost the public \$12,000.00 dollars and was finished on Friday, December 1, 1916. The interior and heating were finished after the school was occupied in early 1917. The gymnasium and kitchen were also added later.





Melstone's present school, finished and ready for use.

Our fourth and present school was finished in 1968. The cost of our school was \$388,000.00 dollars. The class rooms are approximately twenty feet by twenty-six feet.

The dedication program was held on August 24, 1968. The dedication statement was as follows:

"It is with great pride that we present to the patrons of School District Number 64J, Melstone, Montana, this beautiful new Elementary and High School".

"There is probably no better expression of faith in the futhre of a community that can be found in the attitude of it's citizens toward their school".

"We welcome you to this dedication program and sincerely hope that you will be pleased and proud of your new school building".

There were many small country schools located around Melstone. So many, in fact, that they couldn't be traced to their origin and location. A few of the largest are listed below:

(1) Pine View, (2) Lost Horse, (3) Keggie Koulee, (4) Pleasant Valley, (5) Bascom School, (6) McBanies Weed School, (7) Carpenter Creek, (8) Absher School, (9) Cabin Creek, (10) Weeks School House, (11) Geneva Elementary School, (12) Star Mine School, (13) Rattlesnake School, and (14) Pegg School.

Most of these schools had an enrollment between twenty-five and seventy-five students.