

Name _____

Laughter at Logan

A lonely set of swings was the only equipment on the playground at Logan Elementary School. There wasn't a slide or a table for lunchtime. The boys usually sat on the prairie grass in the spring and fall and the girls sat on the front steps of the school or ate at their desks in the classroom.

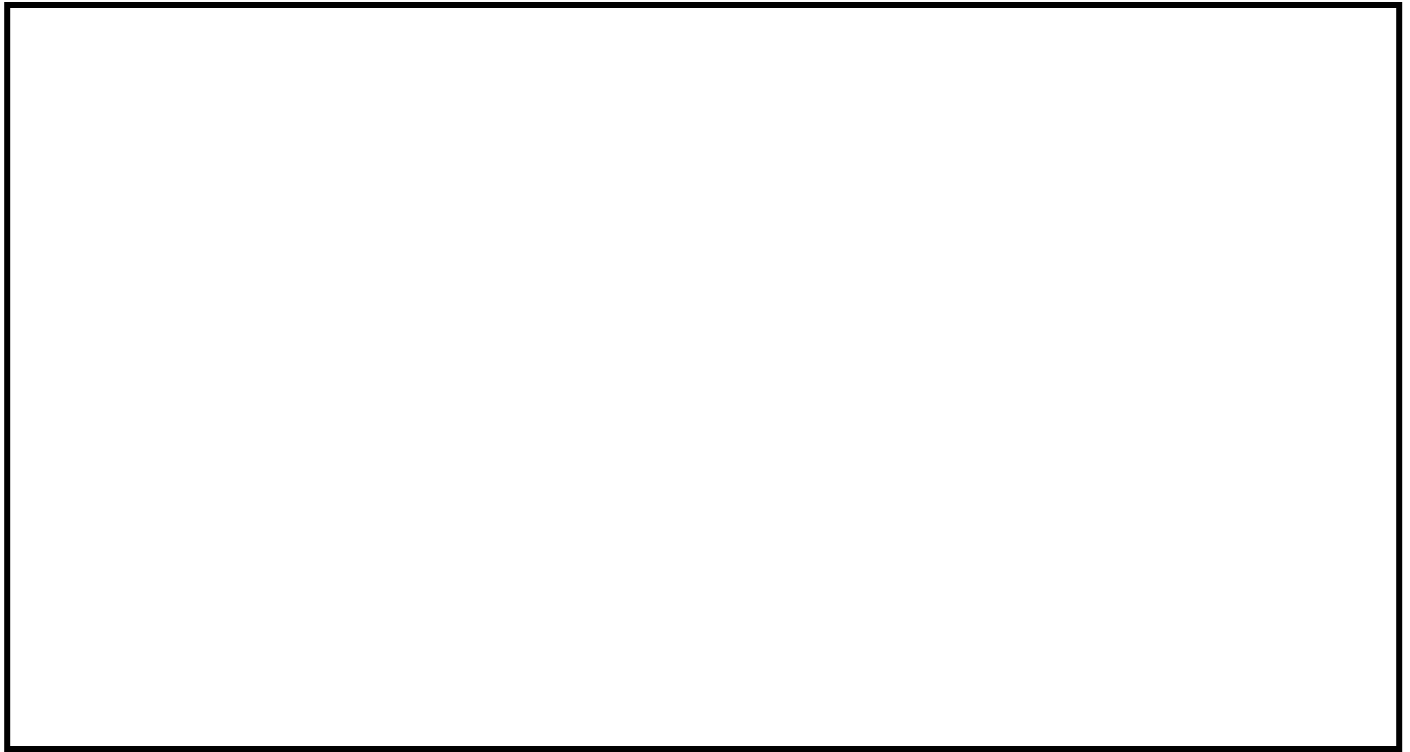
The children didn't need special equipment to have a good time. Since they lived miles away from their nearest neighbors, they were happy to be at school with their friends. Norm says that the girls wiggled and jiggled and giggled during recess. When the weather was nice, the teacher played softball with her class. The boys made lariats out of soft rope and practiced roping each other since they were usually too young to try it on a cow or a horse. It wasn't a very safe game to play since they took many tumbles and had lots of skinned knees and elbows.

One of Norm's favorite things to do in the spring was snaring gophers. A friend had brought some old parachute line to school and Norm and Gerald made a loop around the top of a gopher hole. A well practiced whistle would bring the gopher up and if the boys were quick, they had a gopher to play with. One day Norm snared a young gopher and put it inside his shirt. After recess when everyone was back in class and hard at work, Norm opened his shirt. The curious gopher crawled down his leg and waddled up to the front of the room. The teacher and the girls screamed and all of the boys acted surprised to see the gopher. It took half an hour to capture the gopher and put him back outside and the teacher never did find out who pulled that trick! Naughty boy!

Does life at Logan Elementary School sound like a little bit like Little House on the Prairie? It was. The school was the place where the farmers and their families could get together for meetings, potluck suppers and square dances. The men would move all of the desks to the side of the room and the dancing would begin.

Nobody at Logan had homework. All of the children had farm chores before and after school and they were usually too tired from a long day to even think about homework. How do I know that all of this is true? I know because my husband was there. The little boy named Norm grew up, moved away from North Dakota and married me!

Draw a picture to illustrate your favorite part of the story.



Fill in the Blanks

Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. Norm wanted to _____

_____ a gopher into the classroom.
bring bright

2. Logan _____

_____ sound like Little House on the Prairie.
do does

3. The boys made lariats out of soft _____

_____ rope.
white with

Yes or No?

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|
| 1. | Was there a slide on the playground? | yes | no |
| 2. | Did the teacher play softball? | yes | no |
| 3. | Were the children happy to see each other? | yes | no |
| 4. | Did the boys trap gophers? | yes | no |
| 5. | Was the teacher happy about the gopher? | yes | no |

It's a Match!

Draw a line to connect the naming part of the sentence with the action part of the sentence. Read them to yourself to make sure that they make sense.

A set of swings sat on the prairie grass to eat lunch.

The boys was the only playground equipment.

The girls had square dances at the school.

Norm and Gerald ate on the steps or at their desks.

The families had homework because of their chores.

Nobody caught a gopher to bring inside.

What play equipment did the school have?

What did the boys make with rope?

Where did Norm put the gopher?

Who screamed?

What did the families like to do at the school?



Same or Different?

