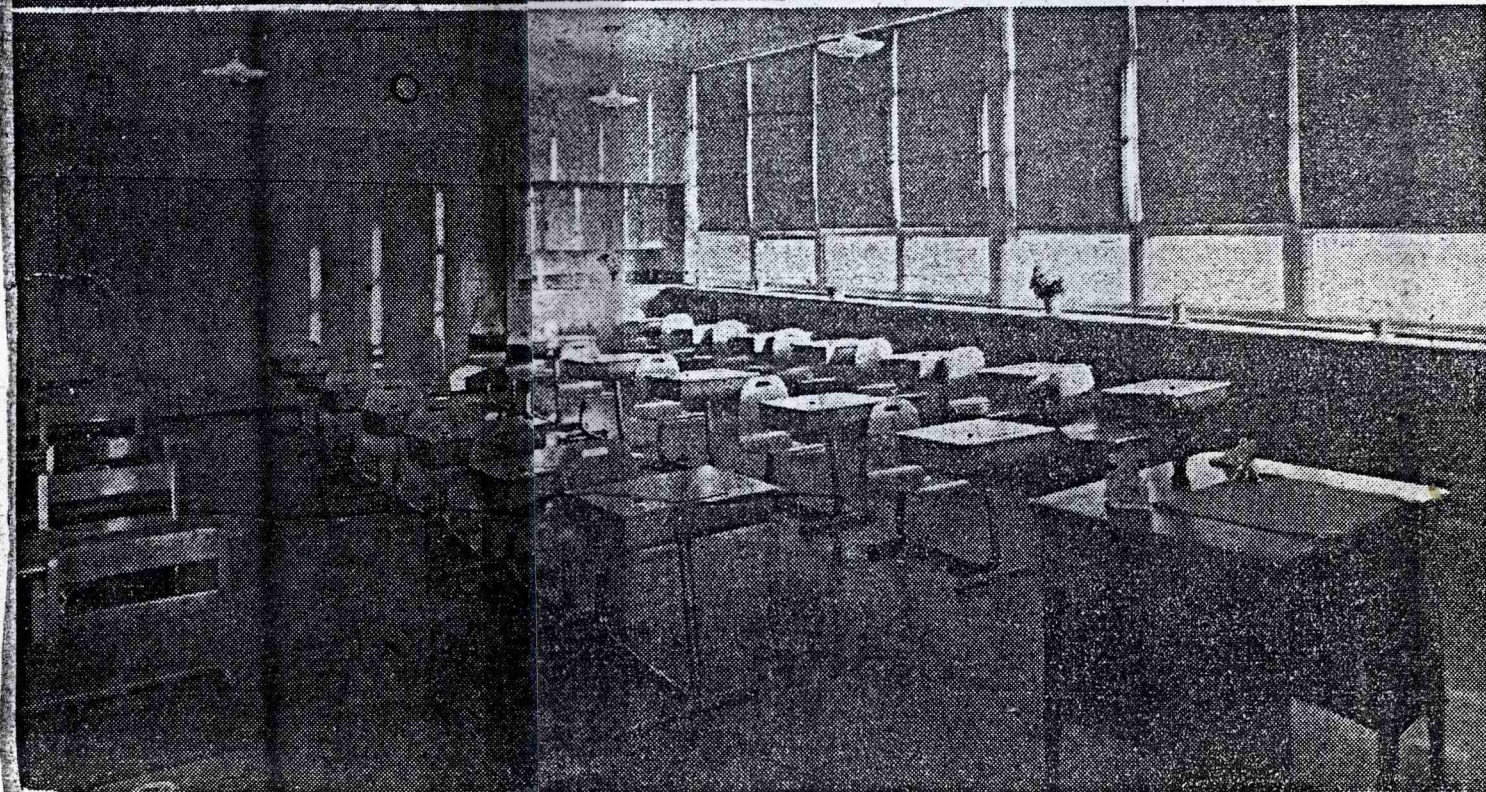
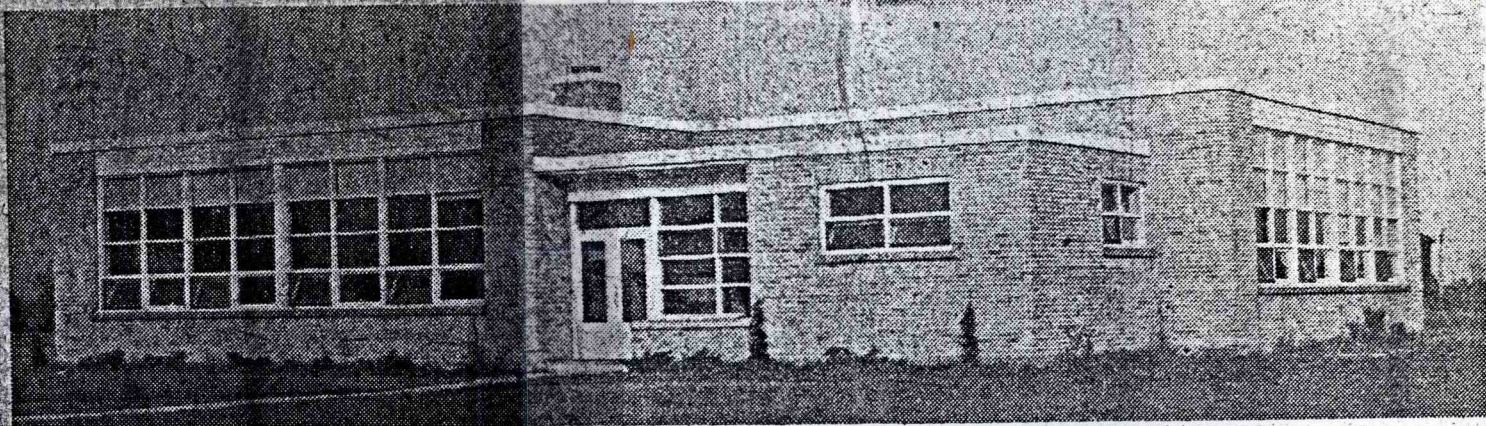


# Calton Pioneers' Children Had



From scrap book of Mrs. Murray Wolfe compiled from clippings saved by her mother.

The main door facing west is fitted with spacious glass panels that provide plenty of outside light for the entrance lobby inside. From this lobby doors lead directly to every part of the school. To the left of the entrance its windows fronting the building is the junior

Attractive inside and out, these pictures show the modern two-room union public school at Calton in East Elgin. Constructed of buff brick at a cost of \$42,000, it opened for use at the beginning of the

school term in September and serves the joint needs of S.S. 7, Malahide, and S.S. 6, Bayham. Open house will be held in the new school Friday evening.

## Fine New School Reflects Progressive Nature of the People of Calton District

Down at Calton, that small, but still no less significant settlement toward the southern end of the Malahide-Bayham township like in East Elgin, the little red schoolhouse, long used for the primary education of those in the district, has given way to a larger, more modern building erected to serve the joint needs of S.S. 6, Bayham.

This attractive new two-room union public school on the Bayham side of the road, and between the general store and the Calton Baptist Church, has been in use since the beginning of the new term in September. This Friday night, its staff of two teachers, and members of the union school board who erected it on the authority of the ratepayers at a cost of \$42,000, are holding Open House. This will enable those in the community to inspect the fine quarters that have been provided for the more than 60 pupils who are enrolled.

Building schools, and keeping abreast, even ahead of more progressive educational methods, isn't new to the people of this section of the County. Pioneers who came to the district well over a century ago, built a small school of hand-hewn timber that stood on the site of the garage now directly across from the new school on the Malahide side of the road.

Two Former Schools  
Some old timers claim that the first school was erected as long ago as 140 years. Whatever the merits of this contention, it is definitely known that it was replaced by another one-room structure, built further north along the road in Malahide, in 1860. Proof of the date when this second school was erected is contained on an old metal plate with the year marked on it. It is vouched for by the chairman of the present school board, Charles Phillips, who has seen it.

This was the building that was vacated only last June to make way for the fine new school a short distance away. Originally, the older school was of frame construction, but in 1915 it was given a coat of red brick veneer, and even yet is in a good state of preservation. It is understood that in time this older building will be turned into a community hall and continue to serve the citizens of the area.

Progressive in Administration  
The move in 1915 to brick over the old building may have been progressive. But in another and more vital sense, there were indications, even at that time, that the people charged with the education of the young in that community had considerable foresight. This was in the matter of administration. The wording on a stone over the entrance that was placed there in 1915, proclaims that it was a "union school" — an idea that didn't gain ground generally till some years later. More recently, it was this willingness of the people of the Calton area to work together that resulted in the planning and erection of the present school.

Perhaps the idea of united effort is more natural to people who live along the borders of two townships and whose isolation from larger centres throws them together in many ways. Yet even in the new two-room school there is further evidence of the foresight on the part of those responsible for its erection.

Description of New School  
To begin with the new school building is surrounded by plenty of open space that will provide ample room for extension as well as adequate grounds for recreation and other purposes. It is also built in the shape of an "L" with provision made that should expansion be required at a later date it can be done with a minimum of inconvenience to those using the school and be quite in keeping with its present design.

classroom for pupils from Grades 1 to 4. This is in charge of Miss Barbara Brazill, of Toronto, who joined the staff this fall. To the right rear of the lobby a door leads to the senior room, whose windows have a southern exposure.

Many New Features  
The senior room is presided over by Mrs. Jean Laemers, of Vienna, who has been teaching at Calton for the past four or five years. While its design and fittings are similar to the junior room, it has one special feature. These are several new modern-type desks, with seat and desk joined together by a single bar of metal that spreads out at the front end to form the leg support of the desk itself.

Gone are the old-style "blackboards". These have been replaced by boards that are of the same consistency, but which have been finished in green, as it is believed by those concerned with such details that the new color wipes out the glare that frequently made it difficult for pupils a generation ago to see everything on the board with ease. Coupled with the green boards for the use of chalk are "golden boards" where the work of pupils done on paper may be pinned up, along with any other feature that coincides with the lessons. A Times-Journal representative noted in one of the rooms several photographs of the royal couple under the general caption "Our Princess Visits Canada".

Science Adds Conveniences  
Modern science has added many conveniences to the new school at Calton. For example, modern illumination fixtures combine with spacious windows to provide adequate light at all times. Along the rear wall of at least one room there is a sink and running water, in the spot known as the "project corner".

Running water is also provided in the two washrooms that are entered from the front lobby. And, would you believe it, a room toward the rear is fitted with a modern oil furnace which provides heat to all parts of this modern country school. Cloak room doors that open and close as a unit like a venetian blind, at one moment form a seemingly solid wall of varnished wood across the rear of each classroom. However, the manipulation of a single knob at one end, swings them inward to reveal about half a dozen compartments, fitted with coat hooks. What a joy such a structure must be, not only to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whaley, the caretaking staff, but the community as a whole!

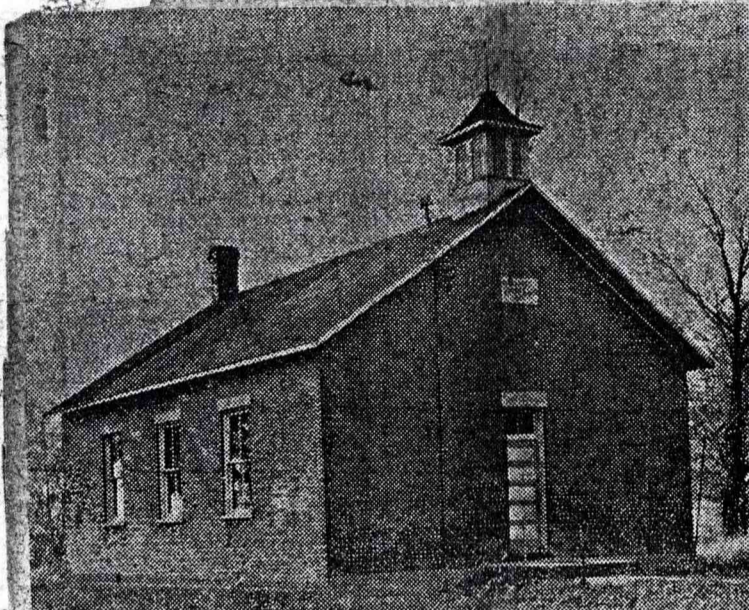
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# Nothing As Fine As This



This is the old school, across the road from the new school, in Malahide Township, which was built in 1880, bricked over in 1915, and vacated last June. It had one room, and its one teacher in recent years had her hands full with approximately 60 pupils. The new school has a staff of two teachers. It is proposed to convert this building into a community hall.



Still in use, although now as a henhouse, is Calton's first frame schoolhouse erected about 140 years ago. Since 1860, when a second building was erected, this building has stood on the farm of 94-year-old John Timpany, farther up the road. It was once on the site of his fine brick home, but for some time now has served as a henhouse in the barnyard.

Special credit for planning the new school is due Frank Mott and Robert Kennedy, who were on the building committee, with Charles Phillips, chairman of the trustee board York Phillimore and Hugh Matthews, trustees; and Harold Halditch, secretary-treasurer.

Directly across the entrance lobby from the main door there is a staff room, and off it, again, is a small room that houses the oil furnace. School officials point out that in case of further expansion at a later date the far wall of the staff room can be knocked out, and the staff room made the first unit of a corridor that would continue to the rear. Off this corridor other classrooms could be built.

In the meantime, the building is adequate for the present needs of the district. The use of wood has been kept to a minimum, and even the floors are overlaid with mastic tile of varying shades. It is something which the people of the Calton vicinity can justly hold up with pride as a model not only for rural communities, but for larger centres to copy.

The first move to procure the new school building was begun in 1949 when congestion became evident with virtually 60 pupils being crowded into a single room under one teacher. After the matter had been approved by the ratepayers in 1950 plans were drawn up by Charles H. Gillin, London, Ont., architect, and the general contract awarded Roy James, also of London. It has been under construction since last autumn.

What a contrast to the first schoolhouse in the distant past! That structure is still in existence, and now houses chickens on the farm of John Timpany, some distance north of the present school site. Its boards were hand hewn from virgin timber, and fastened together by square nails and other means common a century ago. These are still in evidence.

According to Mr. Timpany, who is 94 years old and, to use his own words, "quite a boy yet," the first school building has been on his property as long as he can remember, being first on the site of the present fine brick residence. He himself received his schooling in the old frame structure that followed it, which was later bricked over, and which has now stepped aside for a fine new school. His mental alertness, even at 94, should be a symbol of the progressive educational policies of the community.



—Photos by Stollery.  
Two teachers, in place of the single teacher in the old school, divide the work required for over 60 pupils enrolled in the new school. They are Mrs. Jean Laemers, of Vienna (left), teacher, room, and Miss Barbara Brazill, in charge of the junior room. Mrs. Laemers taught in the old school for four years. Miss Brazill joined the staff this year. Here they stand in front of the main entrance discussing possible contents for the special flower box by the door that has yet to be filled.

## SALE OF CALTON PUBLIC SCHOOL AND CONTENTS

APRIL 24, 1976 - 10:00 A.M.

The Elgin County Board of Education will offer the above property for sale by public auction without reserve bid. The property is located at the junction of Elgin County Roads No. 43 and No. 45 in the Village of Calton and consists of a brick 2 room school situated on approximately 1.8 acres of land. Contents include students' and teachers' desks, pianos and numerous other items. The school will be open for inspection by the public on April 17th from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. A detailed list of the contents of the school may be obtained by writing or phoning The Elgin County Board of Education, 400 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, (519) 633-2700.

**Terms of Sale**—A deposit of 10% of the purchase price of the school must be paid on the day of the sale and the balance on closing which will be 30 days thereafter. Vacant possession will be given on closing.

**Contents**—Cash on day of sale.

B. E. MacGregor,  
Superintendent of Business Affairs.

2, 14c

*The school + grounds sold for 32,000 to the Charles Phillips Corporation*



**FAMILY TREE**  
**HISTORY OF THE**  
**SUMMERS FAMILY**

Donated by:

MRS. HUGH MATTHEWS.