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## History of the Chetek School

In 1859 the territory that is now Barron County was detached from Polk County, by a special act of the legislature, and was named Dallas County, in honor of George Dallas, Vice-President of the United States, at that time.

In 1869 Dallas County was organized for judicial purposes, and the name of the County was changed to Barron in honor of Henry D. Barron, judge of the eighth judicial circuit, in which this county was included.

At that time the County Superintendent was Mr. S. Finley, who was appointed by the Governor. There were three school trustees for the County. Mr. Tuller, who was trustee for this part of the County, had the power to hire all the teachers and authorize the building of all school houses in his jurisdiction.

In 1871 Mr. Tuller authorized the people of Chetek to build their first school house, which was a log structure, located at the foot of what is now known as the Dunsmoor hill. Mrs. D. Plato was the first teacher in this building.

About 1878 a new frame building was constructed some distance east of the log building. It is now known as the Catholic Church. Mrs. Cholerton was the first teacher in this building. It was used for all the grades until 1883; then it became too small and Moore's hall was rented during the years of 1883 and 1884 for the upper classes with Mr. N. E. Carver as teacher.

In 1884 a four-room frame building was erected on the site of the present school house. The two lower rooms were finished and used the first year, then were added the high and grammar rooms as they were needed. Mr. J. Leidenberg, the first principal, taught for two years; he was followed by Mr. Fish, and then Mr. Thomas. Mr. Leidenberg returned in 1889 and thus graduated the first class from Chetek High in 1890. The members of this class were Bennie Museus, Joseph Gilbert, and Byron Carter.

A two room addition was built to the North side of this building in 1902 but after using it a few weeks, fire, caused by a defective chimney, destroyed the entire building.

Soon after the destruction of this building, plans were made for a new fireproof school house, and during its completion, school was conducted in various places; the high school in the Presbyterian Church under Mr. L. P. Charles as principal, grammar grades in the Methodist Church, and the lower grades in the Knapp, Stout & Co.'s building.

In 1903 the present brick school house, which cost \$16,500, was completed. It contained six rooms and several class rooms in the beginning, but has been remodeled until the high room now occupies two rooms instead of one and the basement has been made into two grade rooms. During 1917 the building became so crowded that Mr. Capener's store room across the street was leased for the eighth grade. During 1919, 1920, and 1921, the Capener building has housed both the seventh and eighth grades, while the barracks, erected in 1920, houses the fifth and sixth grades still leaving the fourth grade in the basement and the other room is used for hot lunches.

The present plans are to build another large brick building on the western part of the present school site, estimated at costing \$60,000 and consisting of a Junior high on the first floor and the high school proper on the second floor.

"Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and speed the good cause."

AMOS B. CARTER.