



*Children at District 69 about 1936.*

This school building, District #69, the Wanous School, originally was located east of Pine City and Cross Lake. It was part of the Pine County school system that at one time consisted of 125 districts. The school was moved into town on August 4, 1971 and is typical of many country schools.



*A 1946 diploma from District 69.*

Visit the Rural School Museum  
Open Sundays  
12 - 3 pm  
June - August

*The museum is also open by weekday appointment.*

### Directions to the Museum



*From the North: Take I35 south to Pine City exit 169.  
Go left, turn left onto 7th St. Museum is on the right.*

*From the South: Take I35 north to Pine City exit 169.  
Go right, turn left onto 7th St. Museum is on the right.*

RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM  
860 7th St. SW, Pine City, Minnesota 55063  
Phone 320-629-3285, or 320 629-2810  
Web: <http://pinecoruralschool.webs.com/>



# RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM



## The One-Room Schoolhouse

Pine City, Minnesota



*The Pine City Rural School Museum is one of the few operating rural schools in Minnesota.*

Yes, we do hold school here -- presently for one-week sessions in the summer. All eight grades are offered. The children study reading, writing and arithmetic from textbooks dating back to the 1890's.

Each year's study follows a theme as various as "Ethnic Groups in Pine County," "Cowboys, Indians and Buffalo," and Vikings. Often, special guests come in to give a talk or



demonstration. These subjects may vary from a "Voyageur" from the nearby North West Company Fur Post, a Chippewa chief in full regalia, a talk on raising bees (complete with honey samples), a demonstration on playing marbles, a button collector's



presentation, a spinning and weaving

Those one-room schools that once dotted the Minnesota landscape have gone out of business. The reorganization act of 1947 set up procedures for consolidating districts within a county. At that time, the districts numbered 7,601. Some districts got busy at once while others dragged their feet. The mandatory dissolution act of 1967 stated that any district that did not offer instruction through grade 12 had until July 1, 1970 to consolidate with a high school district. The Minnesota Association of Public Schools fought the law for years but lost its final appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court.



demonstration, a wood carving demonstration, and a talk on spool knitting (with each child receiving a knitting spool).

The school bell rings and the children line up. The day opens with the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" and a song. Anyone who ever attended a rural school would feel completely at home with the flow of activities.



There is a recess with games such as Pum-Pum-Pullaway and Hide-and-Seek. Lunchtime comes and tin pails or baskets filled with jelly sandwiches and homemade cookies are opened. No fancy lunch boxes with thermos jugs and prepackaged store bought food here.



At the end of the week, tests are given, report cards are handed out, and if there is an eighth grader, there may be a graduation. Many children return year after year.



Children and helpers are encouraged to dress in old-fashioned clothing and visitors are warmly welcomed.

One week school sessions take place in June and are open to children in grades one to eight.

