

NAMING LARAWAY SCHOOL

I remember flying off the school van on a warm autumn day shouting, "I won! I won!" My essay had been chosen for naming the new community grade school. I was in the second grade at Offerman, a one-room school house. At the start of the school year, my brother, Bob, and sisters, Janice and Nita, and I all sat around the kitchen table to write our essays with an eye towards winning the prize--a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond.

And though it has been many years since that fall day, as I write about it now I'm smiling and a part of me, again, is that seven-year-old girl racing to tell her mom the big news.

"I have thought of lots of names but I think Laraway is the best," is how I started my essay. When the school was dedicated, I had a seat on the stage. The Joliet American Legion Band, under the direction of Archibald McCallister, performed and parents and children from the district filled the gym. I remember thinking what a big school it was with 12 classrooms, the gym and a cafeteria. Although I had loved the warmth of Offerman School, where I knew everyone, I was excited about attending this big, new school.

Looking back, I can see that my enthusiasm was justified. Our studies were often demanding, but we were given the tools by our teachers to master new subjects. It was

expected that we respect our school as a place of learning and to show each other kindness. Harsh rhetoric was simply not allowed.

There was a fun and laughter, too. For many of us, gym class was the first time we jumped on a trampoline and we even progressed to doing flips. Friday nights the gym was filled with fans cheering on our boy's basketball team. In the spring, it was the girl's volleyball team that hit the courts. Archibald McCallister was our music teacher and band director. Like scenes from *The Music Man*, the band brought the community together for parades and Christmas programs.

I still think that Laraway is a good name for a school. My wish and prayer for the students who will attend the new school is that they, like so many before them, will find that their time at Laraway School will be filled with learning, growth and good times.



NAMES NEW SCHOOL—Because seven-year-old Margene Whitler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitler, of 1815 Brandon Road, submitted the most reasons why the new school being proposed for school district 70-C, south of Joliet, should be named the Laraway school, she was declared the winner of the contest to name the school. The 12-room building and gym is to be erected on Laraway road. Margene was presented with a \$25 U. S. savings bond for winning the contest. The presentation is being made by Milton Jensen, secretary of the 70-C board who was one of the judges. Other judges are shown looking on: Dan Albrecht, second from left, of the Herald-News; and Verne E. Crackel, county superintendent of schools at the right. (Herald-News photo.)

LITTLE GIRL WINS PRIZE

Names New School: Laraway

(Picture on Page 2)

When the new 12-room school and gym for district No. 70-C south of Joliet is completed it will be known as the Laraway school.

The winning name for the school and accompanying essay was submitted by seven-year-old Margene Whittier, one of five children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whittier, of 1815 Brandon road. Because the judges declared her entry to be the winning one, Margene

was presented with a \$25 U. S. Savings bond by the school district.

THERE WERE 51 entries. Judges were: Verne E. Cackel, county superintendent of schools; Dan Albrecht, managing editor of the Joliet Herald-News; and Milton Jensen, secretary of the 70-C school board.

The judges announced that there were eight contestants who suggested the name of Laraway school for the new building. However, they disclosed that four gave only one reason why it should be so named; three had two reasons and Margene had three reasons.

RULES OF the contest provided that in the case of ties, the winning name would be selected on the basis of the accompanying essay. The essay was to be of 100 words or less and was to explain why a certain name was suggested. The contest was open only to residents of the school district No. 70-C and to students attending classes in the district. Margene is a second grade pupil in the district.

Her essay reads: "I have thought of lots of names but I think Laraway is the best. I like to pronounce it as it soundsmann,

pretty and the school will be on Laraway road so everyone will be able to find it easily. I don't know who Laraway road was named after but I'm sure he must have been a good man to have a road named after him so I think it would be nice to have a school named for him, too."

PLANS AND specifications for the new school to be erected on Laraway road now are in the hands of contractors. On Jan. 26, general contractors are being asked to meet with the school board and to submit bids. The school board hopes to break ground for the district sometime in February.

A \$465,000 bond issue for the project was approved several months ago.

The district was consolidated last year and is comprised of three former primary districts: Wilhelmi, Eaton and Offer-