

Leone Hoffman: Loper School Days

Leone Hoffman (1904-2005) was born on May 22, 1904 on a farm in the City of Ripon. She was one of 7 children. She was a graduate of Ripon High School in 1922 and Ripon College in 1926. She also attended University of Michigan Ann Arbor and received a master's degree in ancient history in 1927. She was a teacher, a librarian, and a natural and organic foods advocate. She lived in Ripon most of her life.

As a child, she attended Loper School, a one room school, along with her siblings Orville, Vera, and Gladys. Pupils started school when they reached their 6th birthday, around 1910 for Leona. All grade levels were in an open classroom, through to the 8th grade.

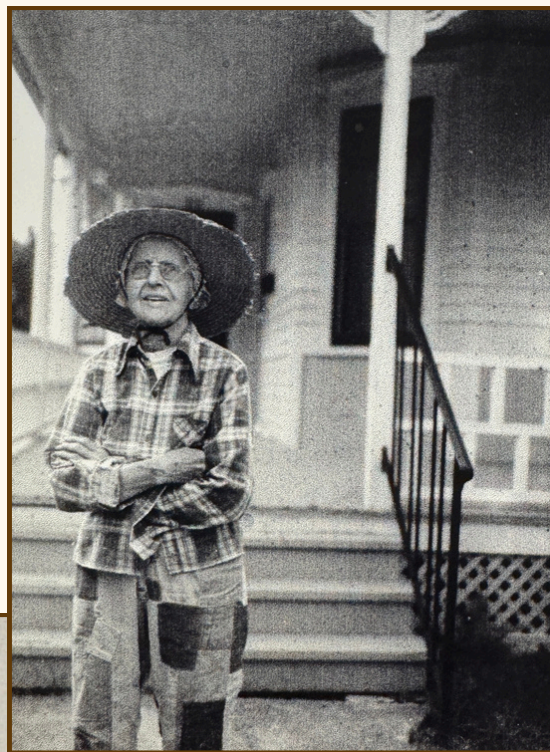
In a book written by Leone Hoffman and Ann Marie Godfrey titled, "Our Wisconsin Farm," Leone describes what the school was like inside:

"At the front of the room stood a fat black pot-bellied heater...A wooden blackboard ran across the north wall with the teacher's desk and chair placed near it. Under foot were wide worn floor boards while overhead yellow painted tongue and groove boards covered the walls and ceiling." – Leone

Leone also wrote about one particular cold winter day when her father picked her and her siblings up from school:

Another bitter, sleety January afternoon, Papa dressed in his great buffalo overcoat, drove up to the schoolyard in the bobsled...Leona remembers the cruel sting of the wind driven sleet needles. Papa stood with his back to them, his heavy cap pulled well over his ears, the thick fur collar turned up with only his blue eyes and red nose showing. The horses ducked their heads into the stinging storm as they slowly drew us home, sheltered under horse blankets in the strawy wagon bed." – Leone

Right: Leone, 1990



Left: Loper School 1916

Front row, second from left is Gladys Hoffman. Front row, fourth from the left is Leone Hoffman. Brother, Orville Hoffman is front row, third from the right. Teacher, Edith Guell, is back row, center.