they went west to the Red River and hid in the woods, because the pony and cart returned home from that direction. The robbers were never found but the loss was fully covered by insurance.

The Farmers Elevator and Trading Company was organized in February, 1917 with Mr. Tosten Johnson and Mr. B. E. Bredlie instrumental in its organization. A salesman from Fargo had come to Eldred trying to sell stock in a Farmers Equity Exchange. Mr. Bredlie told him “What we need is a farmers elevator,” so the salesman returned at a later date and helped them to organize the elevator.

The present building was built from the ground and finished in 1918. On July 3, 1935 the elevator was extensively damaged by a tornado. In July, 1938 the elevator was reorganized and the name was changed to The Farmers Elevator Company. A 100,000 bushel annex was added in 1948. The Girard elevator was purchased March 15, 1954 and in August of 1958 the board authorized another 100,000 bushel annex. In 1972 they purchased the G.T.A. Elevator in Eldred and continue to operate both at this date.

John Nyberg was the first manager, serving from 1917-1926. T. P. Smidesang served from 1926-1938; J. J. Johnson from 1938-1943; T. P. Smidesang from 1943-1949; Hillard Mykleby from 1949 to date. Past presidents of the Farmers Elevator include: Ole Bruin, John Thoresen, Helmer Glaserud, Art Arness, Clarence Charais, Elmer Bredlie and Alton Arness.


**SCHOOLS OF ROOME TOWNSHIP**

It is interesting to note that the early settlers were deeply concerned with the education of their children, because within a very short time country schools sprang up all over the county. Six of these were located in Roome Township. Later district 281 of Eldred was organized and became the second consolidated school in the State of Minnesota. It can also be noted that as modern roads and transportation came into being, the school districts gradually joined with the larger schools, and at this writing there are no longer any rural school in operation in Polk County. The office of county superintendent was abolished as of July 1, 1970. Superintendent Myrtle Paulson was acting superintendent at that time, and Mr. Martin Vanseth was appointed in charge of all existing records.

A brief history, together with a few pictures of some of the school districts in Roome Township follows. Space does not permit changes that took place over the years as the residents found it more convenient to transfer their land into other districts.

School district number 18 was organized in 1879 and contained sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of Roome Township. The district paid a sum of $10.00 to Mr. A. B. Anderson for one acre of land on which the school was built. The location was along the south edge of section 35, Fisher Township. Minutes of the meeting of July 1, 1885 show that it was voted to have five months of school during the following term — 2½ months in winter commencing on the first day of November, and 2½ months in summer, commencing on the first day of May. Later this was increased by one month, a practice which continued several years. Ole Knudson was treasurer, and Peter Larson was clerk. The minutes of a school meeting on July 1, 1891 show that it was decided to put a brick foundation under the schoolhouse, which up to this time had been sitting on wood blocks. It was also decided at this time to dig a well.

Some of the other officers were H. B. Christenson, Peter Larson, A. M. Malmberg, P. B. Anderson, Jens Aune.

Some of the early teachers were Nellie Aldrich, Emma Johnson, Emma Hope, Ella Wollin, Martha Crookshanks, Kirke Davis, P. J. Christianson, H. A. Urseth, and S. A. Gooler.

There was a large attendance at this school for many years. Church services were also held in the school before the Bardo church was built. The school was closed, and in February 1955 the district was dissolved. All of the school’s territory was