

Bernard Huls

Bernard Huls (1923-1996) was born and raised on a farm in St. Wendel, MN along with 6 siblings. He attended a 1-room school through the 8th grade. Bernard shared some memories with a 5th grade class years ago which included: filling wood boxes for heating the 2 wood stoves in the house, 1 in the milk-house, and 1 in the chicken coop; doing everything with a horse; getting to St. Cloud only 3-4 times a year, and that took a long time on the dirt roads; how his mom was a good cook, and that the men at thrashing time ate her meals like they were the last ones; though there wasn't a lot of money he felt fortunate. He wanted to be a steam engineer. At a very young age, he went to work on his uncle's farm in Salem, SD to help support his parent's family. He had a lot of respect for his Uncle Tony. At the age of 17 he went into the Civilian Conservation Corp for an opportunity to learn about other things, and a chance to figure out life. He later enlisted in the Navy. He and his wife, Lucille ("Topsy") raised 7 children, with 18 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren. He was a blade operator for 27 years and also farmed. An experience Bernard often talked about was of working on the airstrip at Thule Air Base in Greenland (Operation Blue Jay) when it was being built and being delayed in route when the ship they were on got hung up on an iceberg.

Bernard served on the Holdingford School Board for over 13 years (1969-1983 and 1986-1987). He chose to donate some of his board compensation for the purchase of new marching band uniforms. He was a huge advocate of the new jr.-sr. high school when it was built. In 1996 he was member of the Community Advisory Committee for the process of planning and

building the new elementary school. In 1994 he volunteered as the project supervisor for the new elementary playground. For 2 summers he was very involved with numerous improvements on the district's buildings & grounds and obtained help through the Stearns County Community Corrections Dept. This extended to helping with jobs for the city's maintenance dept. and raking leaves for the senior citizens. During the second semester of 1994-95 he was asked to assist with the Industrial Arts Dept. with many responsibilities, he also built an extra work table for students and modified an old fridge for use as a sandblasting unit. In 1996 Bernard received the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for the accomplishments in service to the school district and community. He loved children, believed in good education, and in lending a hand when and where it was needed.