



Record Photo

PEDAGOGICAL FAMILY—William Seltzer (extreme right) was the only one of the six children of Mrs. Elizabeth Seltzer, Tavistock, who did not become a school teacher. In this family group are (left to right) Carl, principal of Tavistock Continuation School; Jacob A., principal of Tavistock Public School; Mrs. Seltzer; Ernest, principal of Harmony School, and William. Two married sisters in London, Ont., were former teachers.

TEACHING IS A SELTZER TRADITION

Only One of Six Children Decided Against Three Rs Profession

By Record Staff Writer

TAVISTOCK — When school re-opens in Tavistock Tuesday, Sept. 2, two brothers will enter their 20th year of teaching in adjoining rooms. Both are principals.

This comes about as Jacob A. Seltzer is principal of the public school and Carl Seltzer is principal of the continuation school in the same building.

TEACHING FAMILY

Another Seltzer will be resuming classes at Harmony, six miles west of Tavistock. He is brother Ernest. And still another will be starting a new term as teacher in Orangeville District High School. He is Russell Seltzer, son of Jacob.

The record of this pedagogical family would not be complete without mention of two sisters, the former Lovina and Christene Seltzer, now married, who started out as school teachers.

The family story begins with Mrs. Elizabeth Seltzer, 84, who lives in Tavistock with her son, Carl and still helps her daughter-in-law with daily household tasks. She was born Elizabeth Wilker, the eldest of a family of 11, who all live in the Tavistock district.

Her home was on the 14th concession of East Zorra and she attended a "little red schoolhouse," SS No. 13, on the 15th concession.

The extent of her education was her attendance at this county school. She would have liked to go on but circumstances wouldn't permit.

When she married Jacob Seltzer, Sr., she vowed that no matter what happened, she would see to it that all her children received all the education she missed. She was successful in giving five of her six children the education required to make them school teachers.

She was almost thwarted in her desire when her husband, a masonry contractor, became a wheelchair invalid when the oldest of the family was 15 and just ready to proceed to higher education. But with an iron determination, she carried on and pushed the first through Stratford Normal School and as he went to work, he in turn assisted the others through normal.

TEACHING 33 YEARS

Ernest, the eldest, has been teaching the longest, 33 years. He taught 24 years at the same country school his mother attended, then transferred to Harmony. He is leader of the Tavistock Citizens Band.

Jacob's first school was SS No. 8, East Zorra, where he taught three years. His next school was SS No. 7., South Easthope, known as Pork St. School. The road became known

as Pork St. after a farmer in the district took it into his head that a famine was about to come and he stored away a barrel of salt pork for some years.

After a year at Pork St. School, Jacob went to teach in the senior room at Shakespeare for seven years. In 1931 he went to Tavistock Public School as principal. Miss Erma Loth who teaches grade one has been longer on the staff there than he. Other teachers are Miss Ethel Rudy of Tavistock, Miss Belle Currah of Bright, and Miss Joan Eby of Southampton.

TAUGHT AT WATERLOO

The year after Jacob became principal of the public school, brother Carl came to teach at the continuation school. After graduating from normal school, he came to Waterloo College to complete his degree for University of Western Ontario. He taught at Waterloo College after receiving the degree, then moved back to Tavistock. Altogether he has 24 years in the profession.

Christene's teaching career was 12 years at Sebastopol. She then took a business college course and went into the business world for a time. She married Bert King and now lives in London, Ont.

Lovina Seltzer is now Mrs. Albert Brunsdon, also of London. She taught in the junior room at Shake-

spere when brother Jacob was there and on the year at Pork St. School before her marriage.

ONE ENTERED BUSINESS

The only one of the family who had no desire for schooling was William. He went to work at Peeper brother store at age 14. He, in partnership with Carl, now owns a dry goods store in Tavistock.

The Seltzer brothers are now teaching pupils in the second generation. They have had students go from their classes into almost every profession—teachers, dentists, farmers, undertakers, doctors and bankers. The one who went farthest away is Rudy Martens, a former pupil of Jacobs', who is a missionary in the Belgian Congo. Some died in the Second World War.

Their teaching methods are based on moderation. "We don't go off the deep end of anything new," said Jacob. "And we never neglect the 'three R's.'" To keep in touch with newer methods and courses, each attends summer school in the holidays.

Discipline is never much of a problem. It takes care of itself if the students are kept gainfully employed and interested in their work. Making pupils want to learn is the criterion of a good teacher. Everyone agrees the Seltzer brothers rate high in that respect.