

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS TO MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAPTER

Peggy Smith Guthrie Harris, Class of 1962, who not only provided her own memories but passed on memories from her cousins and others, or helped me to connect with them myself

Jim Harris, for his memories as the first football coach in this addition

Dennis Toews, Class of 1965, for his memories

Ellis Toews, Class of 1966, for his memories

Eldon Toews, Class of 1971, for his many emails and memories

Russell Lloyd, Class of 1969, for his memories and fun stories

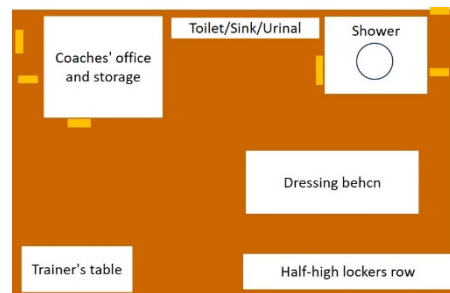
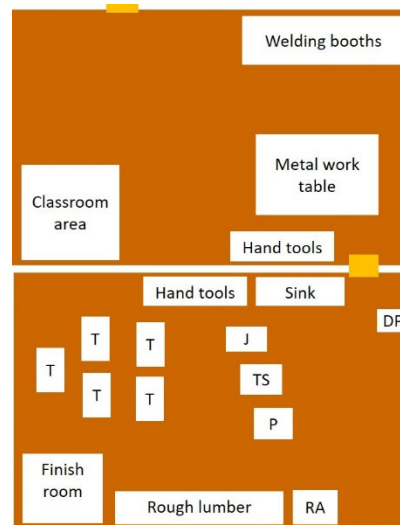
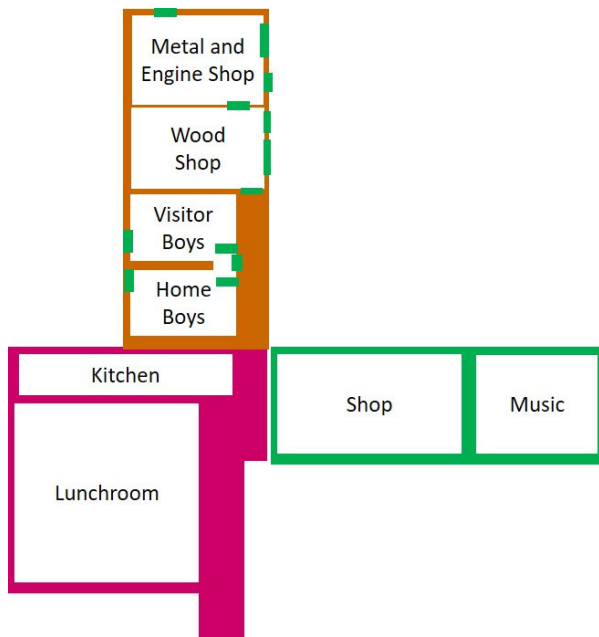
My brother Arrel Toews, Class of 1966, for help with places where my own memory was fuzzy, and for ongoing help with editing and style issues

Chapter 7. The Football Lockers and New Shops Addition, 1966

The next addition was a long metal building extending east from the connecting point of the existing shop and the kitchen/lunchroom and hallway. It included two football locker rooms, one for the home team and one for visitors, and two new shop rooms, one for woodworking and one for metal work and small engines, and a long hallway connecting these new rooms to the rest of the school. There were at least 3 important reasons for this addition. First, 1966 was the first year that Kremlin played football, so of course larger locker rooms were needed, and with direct access to the football field, east of the existing baseball field, so that football cleats would not be worn through the existing hallways. Second, welding and some other metal work had been added to the shop classes a few years earlier; this proved popular and likely more useful to the average Kremlin student than woodworking, which required so many specialized tools. So, a shop facility dedicated to metal work and small engine repair was needed. Third, Kremlin began kindergarten for the first time (since the days of the first white wooden school prior to 1933!), and space for a kindergarten classroom was needed. This new addition helped meet all those needs.

This addition was completed during the 1965-66 school year; several former students clearly remember starting their Shop projects in the room near the music room and kitchen/cafeteria but finishing those projects in the new shop. This includes my own memories from my freshman year Shop 1 class and memories of Arrel and Ellis and others of having part of their senior year Shop 2 class in the previous shop room and then finishing them in the new shop. Whether the move was over the winter break between semesters or sometime later in the spring semester is not a clear memory for any.

The general location of this addition is shown on the left below. Enlarged diagrams of the home boys' locker room and the shops are shown to the right. [Corrections or additional details appreciated, as always!](#)



To the left below is a photo of the bulk of this addition, taken to the south-east from the foyer area between the previous shop and music rooms a few days prior to demolition of all these buildings in 2015. The long blank wall to the left (west) is the hallway, with the football locker rooms to the north of that hallway. The overhead doors and people doors into the two shops are nicely shown here. The right photo below shows another view of the east end of this addition, from the 1968 yearbook.



7.1. Football locker rooms

The hallway was on the south side of this addition, running in front of the locker rooms and to the woodworking shop. The home team boys' locker room was the first room east of the previous buildings, on the north side of the hallway, and the visiting team boys' locker room was the next room to the east. I believe there was a shared entryway into both of these rooms, with a water fountain, [but perhaps there were two separate doors from the hallway](#). I will need a photo or someone else's memory to establish whether there was a shared exit to the north from these two rooms, or whether there were two separate doors on the north side.



Here are the only yearbook photos ([through 1969, more welcome!](#)) inside the boys' locker rooms. The left photo (1967 yearbook) shows the south-west corner double-high open-front lockers; the right photo (1968) shows the visiting boys' locker room, doubling as the wrestling room at this time. This room may have later become a weight training room.



Inside the home team room was a storage room and “office” for the coaches (no photos), at the north end of the east wall. I believe there were some lockers on the south side of the south wall of that storage room. A tower shower with perhaps 6 spigots was next on the east wall, a mostly separate room, with a door on the north side. There was space for drying off between the storage room and the shower room. Covering half to two-thirds of the west wall, starting at the south end, was a row of lockers, I believe stacked two-high. At the north end of the west wall was a trainer’s table for athletes to sit or lie on while getting ankles and knees and other body parts taped or massaged.

This training table and the equipment storage room were my personal areas – I was the manager-trainer for all of the sports teams for my sophomore through senior years. Shop teacher Dwayne Janzen and I built this custom training table; it could be tilted up to various degrees at the head end, was padded and upholstered with red vinyl, and had a shelf underneath for supplies. I set out towels for each practice and game and collected the used towels when done. I took care of getting uniforms ready for the cleaners and then re-distributed for the next practice and games. And I did lots of taping, having taken the “Cramer Student Trainer” correspondence class. It was also my job to get everything onto the bus for away games and to keep many of the records and stats for all sports and to call in game results to the newspaper. I felt very important and was proud of my letter jacket.

I think that the visiting boys’ locker room was largely a mirror image of the home team locker room, though I do not remember whether it had a storeroom and coach’s office or not.

My brother Arrel was the first student trainer for the first year of football, and he is no doubt responsible for me deciding to carry on that role. I was clearly not built to be a football player. First year players remember the football team using the previous boys’ locker room at the north end under the west bleachers for their first season in the fall of 1965. Below are two photos from the 1966 yearbook of Kremlin’s first football team.



The photo to the right, from the 1967 yearbook, shows the football goal post at the south end of the field and the west bleachers. For the first season, fall 1966, there were no bleachers; people parked their cars on both the east and west sides of the field and watched the games from there, usually standing or in lawn chairs and often walking from end to end of the field. By the 1968 season, there were similar bleachers on the east side of the field, likely built in the new metal shop. People walked to the new lunchroom west door to get concessions – popcorn, sodas, hot chocolate, candy bars – and to get to the restrooms in the main north-south hallway west of the gym. In later years, a concession stand was added beneath the west bleachers, and an announcer’s booth was added at the top. West bleachers were the home team, east bleachers for visitors.



7.2. The new wood shop

The door at the east end of the hallway went into the wood shop, just east of the visiting boys' locker room. On the south wall of the shop were a wide roll-up garage door for getting large items in and out, and then a people door to the east of that, just before the entrance to the metal shop further east. The radial arm saw was at the south end on the west wall; then large racks for the various boards used for projects; and then a vented and clean finishing room in the northwest corner. Much of the north end was benches for working on projects. To the south of the benches were the table saw and the jointer, with a planer added after a year or two. On the east wall, north of the entrance to the metal shop, was a wide sink for multiple students to clean up from their shopwork. The cabinet with hand tools was on the east wall and north of the sink. The drill press was located between the garage door and the people door on the south wall.

The photo to the right is the only yearbook photo of this room, up to and including the 1969 yearbook; [more and later photos needed and welcome!](#). The photo shows the hand tool cabinet on the east wall, the jigsaw, the sink, and the door into the metal shop to the east.



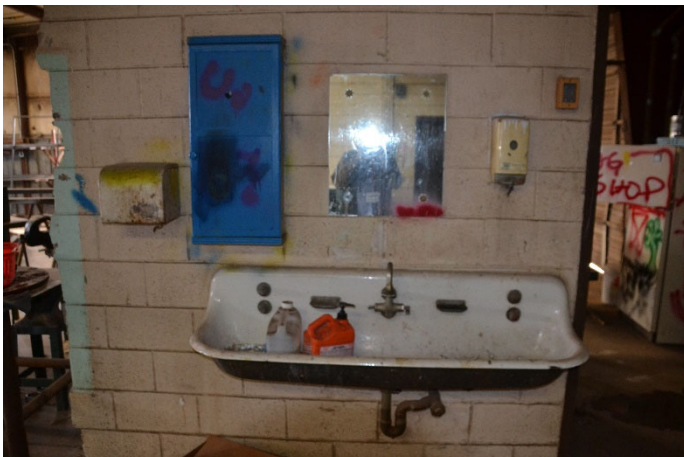
7.3. The new metal and engine shop

The entry to the metal shop was at the south-east corner of the wood shop, as in the photo to the right, and the metal shop also had both an overhead garage door and a people door on its south wall. Welding booths were at the south end of the east wall; some other metal-work tools and equipment were farther north on the east side. At the south end and near the west wall were one or two large metal tables for working on projects; there may have been one specifically for small engine work and another for cutting and welding projects. I believe that tools hung on the west wall; I do not remember whether there was another sink in the metal shop. On the west side toward the north end was the classroom area, with a blackboard and projector screen on the west wall. This is where I had Drivers' Ed, perhaps mainly because Dwayne Janzen was both the Shop teacher and the Drivers' Ed teacher.

The left photo below, from the 1967 yearbook, shows the welding booths at the back, now with strong canvas curtains, and the metal-work table at the front. A window to the east is apparent to the north of the welding booths. The right photo below, of the football team from 1969, shows a nice view of the east end of the metal shop, with a door and another window. This east exit may have been for convenience, but may perhaps have been a requirement of a second safe exit from the metal shop because of the danger of fire inside. [As always, more photos are welcome, from later yearbooks or other sources.](#)



The photos below are of the remains of the two shops a few days before demolition of this (and all) buildings in 2015. The left photo shows the sink, moved from the previous wood shop to east of the door to the metal shop, with the north end of the east wall apparently having been removed to “open up” the shop. The right photo gives a broad view of the former two shops, now both open with most of the original dividing wall removed, and both areas mainly dedicated to metal shop equipment and projects. The north end of the remains of the original dividing wall, as shown in the left photo, is seen to the right in the right photo.



7.4. Corresponding changes in other parts of the school.

When the new shops were completed, music classes moved from the former music room on the south side of that addition into the former shop room to the north. The piano was usually located near the north entrance doors. The photo to the right shows the men's quartet from 1968 at the piano in the north-west corner of the former shop.



At the same time, the former music room became the new dedicated kindergarten classroom. The first kindergarten class pictures appear in the 1966 yearbook – a large class of 18 students, shown in two groups, but not clearly indicated as morning and afternoon classes, as in some subsequent years. There is also a page of candid photos of students and the classroom, including the photo to the right. In addition to desks or tables, the kindergarten room had stackable cots for the students to take naps, as shown in the lower photo to the right, from the 1967 yearbook. I do not remember whether the kindergarten students found their way through the various hallways to use the playground area north of the school or whether they did not have “recess” with only half-day classes; or perhaps they had some playground equipment of their own to the south of the kindergarten room. They would have had access to the gym and stage through their south door and up the steps and through the door into the south-east corner of the gym.



What had been the boys' locker room previously, at the north end under the west bleachers, now became the janitors' work and storage area. Peggy remembers a fire in this area one year, I believe from a space heater ?? being left on and catching fire during the night; the year is not known, but likely around 1970-75. When the janitors' equipment was moved out of the original stage area between what were then the 3-4 and 7-8 grade classrooms, that area became somewhat of a teachers' lounge, and the place for the mimeograph or xerox machine, paper supplies, and other teaching materials.

7.5. Changes in other parts of the school.

The only other significant change that I noted in yearbook photos from these years is that the basketball goals were replaced with glass backboards rather than the former steel backboards; I believe this is when the stage goal became ceiling mounted rather than stage-mounted. Likely this is also when a new scoreboard was added. The first yearbook photo showing these new backboards, to the right, is from the 1966 yearbook; still old backboards in 1965 yearbook. Eldon Toews credits Superintendent Jack Gordon with all of the many changes in these years, him using newly available oil tax revenues coming into the school budget to bring about all of these major changes during his years as Superintendent.

