

Lumber Co., Inc. in 1954.

Briggs Highway was served by District No. 21, whose property was sold to Emil and Isidor Buchholtz in 1955. District No. 22's property history was interesting because the 1865 deed from Isaac Hill contained a reversion clause that the centralized district's attorney determined was invalid. The 1958 meeting notice to approve the disposition of the property stipulated that the meeting would actually be held in the **Lackawack Post Office** because of the poor condition of the school house. The Yagerville (deed spelling) property was transferred to George and Elizabeth Hinzman in 1959.

The original *South Hill School* was on land purchased from James and Eve Clark in 1868. A note on the type-script of that deed indicates that the school house built on this parcel burned. An 1889 deed from John Decker to James Galbraith, sole trustee of School District No. 23, provided the property that was sold to Charles R. Crist in 1959.

The *Stangel Hill Schoolhouse* was District No. 25's building on land from Francis and Katharine Staugh, deeded in 1867. According to Town Historian John Unverzagt, the last teacher at this school was Margaret McDole (Mrs. Ben McDole), which may have inspired the successful bid by Benjamin McDole to purchase the property in 1956.

Port Ben School District No. 28's property from Jonathan and Mary Brundage was transferred to Johann Owe in 1962.

The *Ulster Heights Schoolhouse* (District No. 30) described in the *Alumni Association* Newsletter is on a lot mentioned in related deeds dated 1842, 1919, and 1946, and became the property of the Town of Wawarsing by quit claim deed dated 2001.

*Union Free School District No. 29* was the village district that provided the base for the current **Ellenville School District's** major property holdings. The **Maple Avenue** complex includes "the Academy" site, purchases from the Polly French estate, Emma LeFever, the **Ulster County Fair Grounds, Bartlett Street** deeds and others. It is further enhanced by the Leipold property (used for school athletics and Little League) and the **Church Street** property, which had housed two classrooms to provide much needed space for some years. *The Pine Grove School*, completed in 1867, provided the educational home for generations of primary grade students. (photo below; building still standing)

Note that the July 2, 1867, special vote approving the erection of a second Ellenville school, across the **D&H Canal**, specified that the building was to be sufficiently large to accommodate two hundred scholars and not to



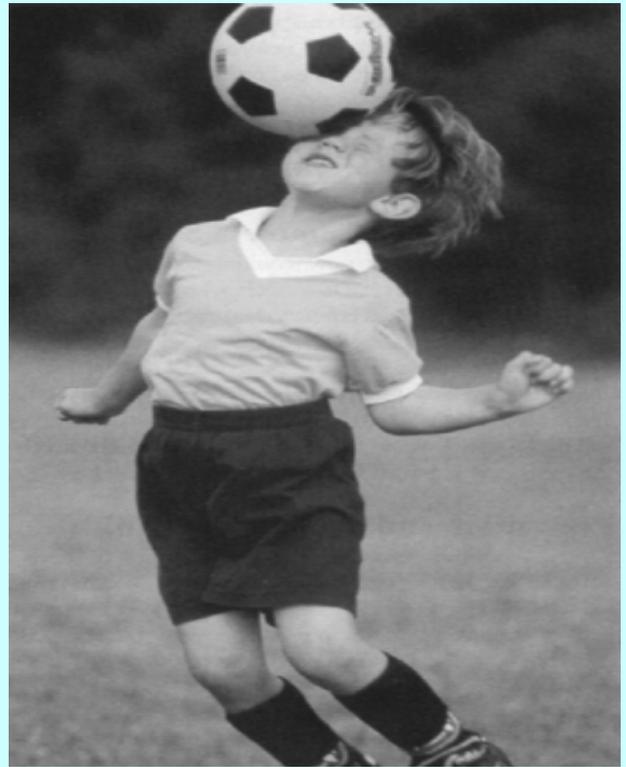
cost over \$3,000. The next hundred years of use as a school saw many modifications and it is difficult for 2003 parents to visualize the *Pine Grove School* accommodating 200 students of any age or size! *Pine Grove* was sold to the Village of Ellenville when its use by the school district was determined no longer appropriate.

Microfilm copies of both the *Ellenville Journal* and the *Ellenville Press*, especially a March 1950 article in the *Journal*, "Story of Centralization As It Pertains To the Town of Wawarsing Is Outlined," Katharine Terwilliger's books and columns in the local papers; minutes of the annual school meetings and Board of Education meetings; all provide more information than could possibly be condensed in one article, but offer a wealth of history. Any reader who can provide current information about the properties of the former common school districts, their records, current owners and uses, is invited to send it to Neumanngrand@aol.com or to Marion M. Dumond, c/o *Wawarsing.Net*. 

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