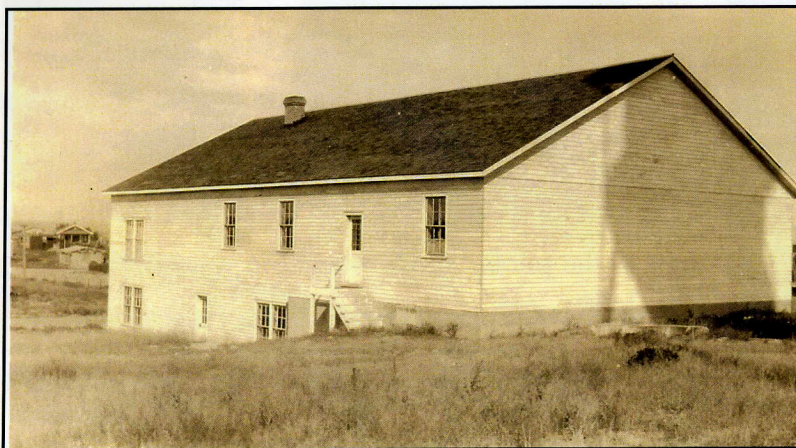


outdoors and was under the bedroom window. We did not know he was there or that he could hear what we were discussing. Evelyn wanted to be out in the beautiful weather-not cleaning house. She said, "I wish the old man was down town so I could do as I pleased." Dad looked into the window and said, "I'm not the "old man" and get your room clean, NOW." Undoubtedly, that ended the conversation.

As I mentioned the bathroom in the house was very small. One particular day Mom and Dad went into town. Evelyn and I "took" a cigarette from Tom Lym's cigarette package. We closed the bathroom door and lighted it and I suppose we thought we enjoyed our "smoke", but we were so dumb that when we finished it, we flushed it away in the toilet but didn't have sense enough to open the window to air out the room. Of course, the blue smoke followed us into the rest of the house. For some time we were "blackmailed" by our brothers. We had to do everything they said, or "We'll tell Mom and Dad you smoked in the bathroom!" Our time of slavery was not too long. With five kids around someone was always committing a "crime" that could be used to "tell Mom and Dad." There was never a dull moment.

Any family has its share of accidents, bumps and bruises. As you came down the stairs from the attic there was a shelf. One night Ed was swinging on it and fell. He cut his chin and Mom and Dad had to take him to Hanna to have it stitched, as there wasn't a doctor in Medicine Bow. He was quite the hero for many days after that.

On November 11th of every year, on Armistice Day, a dance was held at the Community Hall in Medicine Bow. (Photo 25) We had all been at the Hall, but because there was school the next day, Dad brought us home early. It had been storming and the roads were icy. He hit an icy spot and we overturned. Evelyn was the only one of us who was hurt as she received a deep cut on her head. Either the Lynch or the Struble family, from Laramie, who were



also at the dance, had to take Evelyn and Mom back down to Laramie with them so that Evelyn could get stitches. On their way back to Medicine Bow a

Photo 25: The Community Hall in Medicine Bow.