Pictured above is perhaps the oldest school house in Colorado that is still standing and in good condition. It has stood the rigor of 92 winters or since 1873. Known as the Old Pinewood School House by the folks around this country, it was built by Amos Penoyer, father of Andy Penoyer. For many years it was a very busy school.

Up until about 1900 most all travel to Estes Park went over this road, up over Bald Mountain, and past the school house.

Many families lived along its winding way at the old Middleton Place or Halfway Place as it was called. Transients were kept, and the place even boasted a telephone in the last years of its prosperity.

The Middleton Place is entirely gone and so is the Haukauffer home, where the post office was for many years. The school house is now in the possession of Cliff Pittington (who has signed the petition for the change of the name from Rattlesnake Lake to Pinewood).

The above quotations were taken from "Over Hill and Dale" In the evening shadows of Colorado's Long Peak. by Harold Marion Dunning, Historian of Northern Colorado. Copyrighted 1956

The second Pinewood School now stands on the north shore of Rattlesnake Lake (Abandoned) - owned by Limon Linger, who has signed the petition.

Seek to Restore Old Name

A petition has been signed to restore the original name of what is perhaps the oldest school in Colorado still standing and in fairly good condition. Known as the Old Pinewood school by residents of this area, the little log structure has become known in recent years by the name of "Rattlesnake Lake" school. Don Edmonds, in the accompanying picture, was a signer of the petition to restore the original name. The petition carries all the signatures of residents of the area around the school. Edmonds and Bessie Neff, also in the picture, were students at the little mountain school soon after it was built in 1876.

The school is in the possession of Cliff Pittington, rancher on the Bald Mountain road. Until about 1900, most of the travel to Estes Park was over the winding Bald Mountain road and past the school. The school was built by Amos Penoyer, father of Andy Penoyer, and for many years, served the ranching area of Bald Mountain.

A second Pinewood school, also abandoned, is on the north shore of Rattlesnake lake.