

# WILLIE DRENCHES THE DROUGHT

*by Sara Achen (Grade 6)*

A long time ago in a town called Baudette, a legend was born – the legend of Willie Walleye.

My name is Oly Hasbargen. I was only knee high to my pa's John Deere when the trouble started. Ya see there was a horrible drought in the summer of '27. People's crops were witherin' down to nuttin'! Uff da, what a darn sad sight it was. Nobody knew what to do.

Little did the people know they had some friends in the river by the names of Willie and Bobby. Matter of fact, I named them myself! One of them is this here giant fish, Willie! Bobby was a little speck of a guy, a Sauger!

Now Willie and Bobby felt bad for the people of Baudette. Here they were enjoying this nice cool river water while the poor farmers didn't have a speck of it for their crops. They wanted to help!

Bobby, bein' a smart little bugger, came up with the idea. Willie should use his huge tail to splash river water over the farmer's fields. So, that's just what they did. Bobby told Willie where to splash. It was just like it was raining cats and dogs! They had saved the farmers!

Now the mayor of Baudette, Horace McFarlane, was so dang happy he wanted to put a statue up of Willie. So, that's just what they did. They also named the park after him, Willie Walleye Park.

Willie knew his work was done in Baudette. He wondered if other towns could use his help. So, he swam away forever, lookin' for new droughts to drench.

As for me, I was never much for farmin' anyways. I grew up and started a motel in town ...less to worry about if you ask me! But, I always remember Willie and Bobby savin' farmers in the summer of '27.