

BACK IN TIME

Workday at Beaver Creek School

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

When I look at the wonderful old photographs that I have collected over the years, I find myself reminiscing about the people and places captured in those pictures. One such photo transports me back to one of my favorite places, the Beaver Creek School, and memories of the friends and family gathered there.

This 1930 photo from Lee Port Jr. was taken in back of the newer Beaver Creek School just before school started in September. I think everyone brought a lunch, or it could have been a potluck. My father, John Byrne, is there along with cousins, uncles, and my sister Gladys, who is standing in the middle of the picture.

As you can see, the workday was well attended for that small school. The women swept and mopped the floors, cleaned windows inside and out. The desks were cleaned, and the seats were checked underneath for any hidden chewing gum. Some students were privileged to have that luxury (gum) while others made due with “pitch gum” found on pine trees. Still, both could be found stuck to the furniture and required some elbow grease to remove.

When the school building was spick-and-span, the cleaning chores moved to the outside privies. The boys’ was behind the woodshed to the far left, and the girls’ was at the far right behind a large pine tree. A broom with a bucket of soapy water took care of the seats,

and then a sack of lime was held over the hole to drop in about one quarter of its contents for sanitation. I think there were old catalogs instead of toilet paper. It was so much cheaper, and kids were used to the catalog bit.

The men either cut wood there



Workday at Beaver Creek School. Front row, left to right: My dad John Byrne, my cousin Virgil O’Brien (visiting from Pinole, CA), Floyd Rippey, Albert Anderson (boy), Cary Culy, and Edward Finley. Second row: Wesley Ritchey(?), my uncle Floyd McKee, unknown, my aunt Eva McKee with son Richard, my sister Gladys Byrne (who recently passed away at age 97), and Lester Anderson. Back row: Unknown, unknown, unknown, Mamie Winningham. Behind fence: unknown, Maude Pool, George Peck, unknown, Louis Straube.

or brought some for the old potbelly heating stove. It took a lot to keep the school warm during the winter because there was no insulation in the building. The woodshed was at the right of the photo, and I remember it being filled with wood. The children were not allowed to play in there, but the older boys could carry wood in for the stove. They seemed to like that task, even when the snow was often a foot or two deep. I remember how the teacher would let us sit near the stove during the winter when we got too cold for comfort at our desks.

One of the other things I remember is the small room inside the back door on the south side of the building where there was a coat closet for the boys and drinking water was piped in from a nearby spring to a faucet and sink. That was such a luxury for those who did not have running water in their homes.

It was sad when, after 47 years, there were not enough students for the school to continue operating; it closed in 1945. A few students left to attend Uniontown School, and then consolidation with Ruch took place in the summer of 1946.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre • 541-899-1443
For more information about the Beaver Creek School District, see the fall 2015 Applegater online at www.applegater.org.

DONOMORE CABIN

FROM PAGE 1

leave their horses and visit the cabin to move salt licks, check on the cattle, and relax. Families would gather at roundup to camp there.

The Freshour Cabin collapsed late in the 20th century into a barely visible pile of rubble. The range permit is currently held by a descendent of these early families whose cattle roam in the meadow. Visitors continue the tradition of leaving initials, art, and sentiments on the walls and supports of the interior. Hunters maintain a camp area. PCT hikers pass through regularly in summer.

During the months of research to learn the history and discover what private citizens could do, Mark Hocken, range management specialist at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and Brian Long, recreation manager for the Siskiyou Mountains and Wild River Ranger Districts, provided access to records, advice, and suggestions for the project. With limited budget and manpower, the US Forest Service, which owns the land on which the cabin sits, is unable to maintain the cabin.

The initial work in July included new support poles in the interior, repair of corner boards, repair and replacement of the metal roofing, wall stabilization, and removal of debris. A recent trip added covering to the window openings and staged materials recovered from the demolition of the 1928 Godward garage in Jacksonville for the next repair. Planned work includes a roof ridge cap, more permanent covering for the windows, a new door, floor repair, and installation of the ladder to the loft.

The goal is to preserve the Donomore Cabin for everyone to enjoy and to maintain it to encourage respect for this very special place. The next work event to continue the project of saving the cabin is scheduled for July 23, 2016. Anyone with an interest is invited to participate.

For more information about the project, contact me or go to the Donomore Cabin Facebook page.

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Voices of the Applegate

Hopefully you didn’t miss the fall Voices of the Applegate concerts held on November 20 in Jacksonville at the old Presbyterian Church on California Street and November 22 at the Applegate River Lodge. The diversified offerings included “Workin’ for the Dawn of Peace,” “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” and “Ashokan Farewell” from the PBS series, *The Civil War*. Two numbers from *Guys and Dolls* as well as several sea chanties, a West Indies calypso piece, and a Zambian celebration song ended the concerts with a rocking beat.

Voices of the Applegate is a local community choir led by Blake Weller and consists of about 22 participants. We are always looking for new members, so if you are inspired, especially after hearing the last concert, we would welcome you into the spring session beginning the first week of January, with Wednesday rehearsals at Ruch Library from 7 to 8:30 pm. The concerts will be held during the second week of April with times and exact dates to be announced.

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

Simply Autumn

by Beate Foit

when colorful leaves disconnect
from branches,
letting go, dancing in the wind,
tumbling, twirling,
not resting until they touch the ground

when temperatures drop overnight
to freezing,
holding the grass in rigid suspense
until the sun melts the cover of clear ice

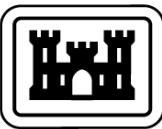
when listening within to a new and
quiet song

soothes our souls
after the cacophony of summer

contentment in knowing
that the harvest was brought in
while the days were getting shorter

when the wood is stacked,
the chimney cleaned,
and family and friends gather to share
in the abundance of the season

~ that, to me, is autumn.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Portland District

Residents and business owners along
the Rogue and Applegate rivers

TAKE A LOOK

Lost Creek and Applegate Dam
Failure Inundation Maps

January
21

Applegate Valley Fire Department
New Training Building

1095 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, Oregon

Inundation maps show flooding from highly unlikely, worst-case dam failure scenarios. Your property may be at risk in such an event if you live within one mile of the Rogue or Applegate rivers. Dam safety specialists with the Corps of Engineers will help you understand the consequences and likelihood of such an event. County Emergency Managers also will be available to discuss personal preparedness measures you can take to keep your family safe.

Admission by advance reservation only

Small groups allow a better exchange of information.
RSVP for your preferred time on January 21 by visiting
<http://roguemapmeetings.eventbrite.com> after December 7.

Session choices:

1 3 - 4 p.m. 2 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. 3 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
If you have any questions, please contact the Portland District Public Affairs
Office at 503-808-4510 or cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil.