

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Historical notes from Big Butte Historical Society
Recollections of Charleen Brown

REMEMBER WHEN?

On the corner across the street from the Elementary School was a church known as "the little Brown Church." Today it has been remodeled beautifully but back then, it was a little, dark brown building, trimmed in white. The main building was a small chapel that seated 50 or so people. As you faced the front of the chapel, there were 3 or 4 steps up to a raised platform for the pulpit and in the back wall, a door led to several small rooms used for Sunday School classes. This was the only church in town at that time and we didn't have a minister so only Sunday School was held. The church had a bell tower and every Sunday morning the bell would announce the start of Sunday School. This church was the center of many special ceremonies including high school Baccalaureate, weddings and funerals.

The business district on the north and west sides of the park underwent a major change when the wooden sidewalks were replaced with concrete. Some will recall that on the corner where the Post Office is now, Walker's store and service station was located. A second station occupied the corner just across the street where it is today. The Whistle Stop was a vacant building that had been a store in earlier days but in the late 40's and early 50's it was only used for movies once a week or so. This was big entertainment and well attended by both children and adults. We sat on wooden benches and munched homemade popcorn.

Two vacant lots stood between that building and the Butte Falls General Store. Over the years, the owners have built additions onto both buildings so that today they almost touch each other. There was another vacant store where the City Hall is now. It was used for the Assembly of God Church until the new church was completed on the corner. After the church moved, the building was used for group activities such as dances or parties. We had a "teen club" that used it frequently. Continuing east, a small house stood on the lot that is now occupied by the Fire Hall. The Butte Falls Café looked much the same on the outside with the exception of the addition of the ramp and new paint. Next to the Café, an apartment complex was added to the old Bank building.

On the west side of the park, next to the service station was a store that has been replaced by the satellite building. Then came Stoddard's Hardware Store/Post Office which is now the Butte Falls Lounge. The rest of that building complex housed a hotel, barbershop and tavern. Continuing south along Fir Avenue, there were vacant lots and then another Café, known as "Scotties". There were only vacant lots filled with weeds where the library and caboose are located but across the street, the high school looked much as it does today.

On the east side of the park, was a jail and a small office building used as the City Hall. These were both demolished to build the new Community Hall. According to an article in the Mail Tribune in 1961, the Community Hall had been built at practically no cost. Local residents bought a small tract of Federal timber. Then volunteers fell the timber and sold the logs to Medco. The profits were used to finance the materials and volunteer labor built the building. Over the years, many dances, pot lucks and bazaars have been held in this building not to mention Wedding receptions, Christmas visits from Santa Claus and at one time, weekly roller skating sessions.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - \$5.00 per household

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Send to: **BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
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