

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Historical notes from the Big Butte Historical Society  
Recollections of Charleen Brown

School activities were the center of our social lives. By 1954 the high school had shrunk to about 45 students. Basketball was the big sports attraction because our high school was even too small for 8 man football. In the late 40's we had participated in 6 man football but by the fifties, all the other smaller schools had moved into 8 man squads.

A big fall event was the annual bonfire which had been a football tradition for homecoming. Since we no longer participated in football this event became the traditional ceremony for initiating the freshman class into high school. The sophomore class was in charge of seeing that the incoming freshmen were properly inducted. This usually included wearing funny clothes and completing such tasks as scrubbing the school steps with a toothbrush and carrying the books of upper classmates.



Pictures courtesy of Robert & Gene Cupples (teachers) taken between 1955 & 1959  
Do you recognize yourself or any classmates?  
Names omitted to protect the innocent.

Students would work after school every afternoon for a week, gathering old railroad ties, logs and tires (before DEQ). We would build a huge pile in the middle of the football field, the bigger the better. The final initiation ceremony always took place on the night of the bonfire. The whole town would turn out for the big blaze which would burn late into the night. Of course the next few days were devoted to clean-up which wasn't as much fun as building the bonfire.



If you have been enjoying my recollections, I would like to personally encourage you to join Big Butte Historical Society. You can help us preserve the heritage of our area as well as learn how to preserve your family history. Big Butte Historical Society operates two museums which are dedicated to the preservation of the early Butte Falls history. Membership is only \$5.00 per household. What a bargain! Send dues to Big Butte Historical Society, PO Box 379, Butte Falls, OR 97522.