

Pioneer Days

By LILLIAN TEN EYCK

When the comfortable yellow school bus passes my home each week day on its way to the modern Sandy School, my thoughts in retrospect turn back fifty years or more.

My early home was in a northern county of Illinois not far from what was called "Four Corners." A mile east of the four corners was a small one room school; a mile west of the corners was an equally small school. Since our house was on the west side of the road, I went to the west school. I can recall plowing my way through deep sand in the road but that is all the hardships I can remember. I evidently didn't go to school in the winter months and we moved to town when I eight. But the sand was nothing compared to the difficulty of securing an education back in the 70's in this section.

The nearest school was the log one built on the old Revenue Donation land claim on the banks of the Sandy River a short distance west from the present Sandy Bridge.

When Mr. Hoffman and his family arrived here from Nebraska in the 70's his children for a year walked the six miles to the Sandy School.

However, Mr. Hoffman thought and rightly that the Marmot children deserved better educational opportunities so in 1877, he took around a petition and the Marmot school district was organized. It extended from Government Camp to a mile west of the Hoffman farm. Before a school house was built, an upstairs room in the Hoffman home was turned into a school. A teacher was hired for \$25 a month and her board.

The first school was built of split logs with three windows on each side. The floor was unplanned, one by twelve boards with at least an inch crack between each board, a handy place to lose slate pencils if one didn't feel like doing sums. There were two rows of double

desks, most of them home made by a Mr. Emery. The boys sat on one side of the room and the girls on the other. We had the set up in Illinois and I can still remember how disgraced I felt one year when there were more girls than boys and my big sister and I had to sit on the boy's side. In the Marmot school some students came from Brightwood and beyond, horse back or on slank's mare.

Sometimes there were twenty five or thirty pupils often three sitting at one double desk. There was of course an old box stove which roasted and froze its victims by turns. In the back of the room hung the traditional black board, made of some kind of soft material which could be rolled up when not in use.

At first there were just three months in the term, June, July August but later it was lengthened to six months. There were several teachers in the old log school, one a Miss May Maxwell whose sisters, Miss Louise Maxwell taught the first year of the new frame school which was built after the old log one had served its time.

Louise Maxwell, now Mrs. Nelson is living in Otis, Oregon. She taught many years and enjoyed every minute of those years. Her greatest pleasure now is writing letters to her former pupils. She particularly enjoys her letter from her former Marmot pupils.

Those were the days when the social life of the community centered around the little school. The young blades of the neighborhood went dashing by on their fiery steeds straining their necks to get a glimpse of the "new school marm". I had a red skirt which I wore when I started to teach in Marmot. One smart aleck rode by the school several times yelling "Fire Fire" It wasn't a bright red either.

Another time one of the directors stopped by before



Applying finishing touches to signs and pricing "White Elephants" keeps Bill Swan busy during the last frantic minutes before the big event—Welches Grade School Carnival—this Saturday at the school.

school took up and asked if I would like a ride on his horse. Well, that was one reason I had come west. My head was full of cowboy romances and I figured I would have to learn to ride if I expected to be a part of such a tale. So, I got on the tall steed. He seemed gentle enough and paced along at a slow speed as long as we were going away from the school but when I decided I had left my pupils long enough and turned the horse around, there since he was homeward bound, off he went at a furious gallop, while I like John Gilpin hung on for dear life. The owner of the horse when I finally got the animal stopped laughed and laughed and declared he could see daylight between me and the horse at every jump. He also handed me a handful of hairpins he had picked up in my wake.

Such entertainments we had and such box socials and how the bids were run up on some love sick swain. He simply had to get his fair one's box. All sort of subterfuges were resorted to in order to throw the offending parties off the track. Looking back on those times they seem charming but I suppose to this generation they would seem very dull but nevertheless they all helped to make our country great.

When All Else Fails Read Instructions

By actual count 40 per cent of the service calls made by appliance men are caused by customers not following instructions. You can save yourself money by reading the instruction book which comes with your washer, range, dishwasher and other equipment suggests Mrs. Helen McDowall.

Many of these booklets tell you points to check before calling a service man. You'll find, too, that after you

have used an appliance for a while, many of the instructions will have new meaning for you in light of some of your experiences. By the way, do you know where your book is? Why not get it out, you may be missing out on some good short-cut ideas.

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