

Att. Gen. Renders Decision In Student Residence Status

District No. 17 school board has just received a copy of an opinion from the district attorney of Curry County, dated on June 29, addressed to Mrs. Georgia Fromm, Curry County school superintendent. This letter and opinion was sent to the local board in response to a letter, asking to be advised concerning the residence of the Johnson children. The opinion of the district attorney:

"It is my opinion the residence of the children here is the residence of their parents, who have an undisputed residence within Curry county, Oregon. Therefore the children are entitled to free tuition in the Brookings school district, and should be counted as residing in said district for the purpose of establishing the number of resident pupils within said district for purpose of school assistance aid."

This opinion should clearly answer a number of articles and letters to the effect that Brookings school board should not have allowed the Johnson children to attend the Brookings school without tuition.

Among the numerous protests might be cited, the following:

1. Article in the Curry County Reporter, Thursday, May 25: "While it may make the enrollment look a bit more rosy to include these five children from California, nevertheless it is and decidedly so, a misuse of the state basic school support fund as well as a misuse of the local taxpayers money to accept children from another state and not collect tuition."

2. Letter from Milton DeMartin to Rex Putnam under date of April 6, 1950 asking that Supt. Putnam discourage the authorities of the Brookings school from accepting or enrolling children from California.

3. Letter from Mrs. Donald Crockett to Earl Newbry, sec-

retary of state, stating misuse of basic school support fund by reason of bringing five school children who reside in California with their parents into the Brookings school and collecting no tuition.

4. Oral question at annual school meeting asking when this tuition would be collected.

The foregoing opinion from the district attorney answers the questions raised above.

There, therefore, is no tuition due since the children "are entitled to free tuition in the Brookings school district."

There has been no misuse of basic school support fund since the children "should be counted as residing in said district for the purpose of establishing the number of resident pupils within said district for the purposes of school assistance aid."

The school authorities would have no right to not accept or enroll these children since they are entitled to "free tuition in the Brookings school district."

It might be further stated that the local school board investigated this matter in 1947, and upon the basis of the investigation admitted these children to school privileges. It is indeed gratifying that the opinion of the school board and school administration has been sustained by the district attorney, concluded Lynn Hampton, Wednesday.

SMITH RIVER

Mrs. Eddie Westbrook and Mrs. Agnes Westbrook were co-hostesses for a group of friends one recent afternoon at Westbrook home, honoring Mrs. Ford Wood and Mrs. Viola Allen, who are visiting friends. Other guests were Mrs. Ella Plaisted, Mrs. Ada Hursh and Mrs. Henrietta Woodruff.

Smith River residents and the business houses have the dial telephone service now. New and shiny equipment was installed in the back room of the Smith River postoffice building. This will be a big improvement over the old telephone system which will include 24-hour service.

Mr. and Mrs. James Curley

have purchased the property of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Durham and are making plans to move to their new home. Mr. Curley is proprietor of Curley's Welding Shop, and garage. The Durhams have purchased a home at Bandon, Ore.

Among the young folks who are leaving this week-end to attend Youth Institute of the Methodist church at Woodland, near Fort Bragg, are Misses Dorothy owley, Joane McClish, Shiela Mathews and Marilyn Naill.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton Tyler of State Line Motel, purchased the property in Smith River from the Crag Lumber Co., former lumber yard owned by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Foote. Tylers plant to make improvements on the building, which will include apartments.

Mr. and Mrs. Marland Rice and three sons of Albany arrived in Smith River the Fourth to visit parents of Mrs. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Will Morrison and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Horn and two children of Klamath Falls spent the week-end visiting the mother of Mrs. Horn, Mrs. Mabel Browne.

Weather Report

for the past week ending on	Max	Min	Rain
Sunday:			
June 26	67	47
June 27	65	51
June 28	64	53
June 29	70	51
June 30	70	54
July 1	81	52
July 2	84	58
Rain for June			1.75

Historical Bits Of Coos, Curry Cos.

range throughout the year; very little feeding is required, except to cows and calves at times. The steers are marketed usually at the age of three years, being rounded up in July and August, when they are loaded into trucks and taken to the Portland market. In addition to the home-crop of calves, some feeders are bought when available. Cows that are not to be kept for breeding purposes are sold in the usual manner along with the steers.

The east portion of the Eckley country, on the Coos county side of the divide, commonly known as the Deer Park area, now belongs to Albert Powers, who carries on a cattle business similar to that of the Dements.

Since the coming of the whites, there have been, we might say, three epochs in the history of the Eckley country.

With the discovery of gold in the Johnson Creek area in the early fifties, miners rushed in, many of them, with nothing but what they could pack on their backs. Some few had horses. All were so busy staking out claims and hunting for gold that there was little time for other work, except to kill an occasional deer or elk or to catch a mess of trout in the streams.

Flour, potatoes, bacon, tobacco, an occasional change of overalls, shirts, and flannel underwear, and tools—these must be packed in. Horses and mules were needed.

So other men came with pack animals. Gradually these teams, or pack trains as they were called, increased with the growing demand until some of the in-

dividual owners had as many as 20, or even up to 30 pack animals—in some cases a man with his sons might operate the train; or the owner hired extra men to help. Horses must be fed, must be kept shod; saddles had to be kept in repair. Feed and shelter and pasture must be provided for the animals. The Eckley country with its natural prairies, was almost an ideal location where forage and pasture were available almost throughout the year; and hay could be produced locally.

There was an abundance of excellent timber for the building quarters, barns and fences. There was plenty of good rich soil for the growing of gardens: vegetable, small fruits and orchards. Here was an ideal stopping point between Port Orford and the gold mines further to the east and the south. Ships from San Francisco and Portland made regular stops at Port Orford when weather conditions permitted. From there pack trains radiated out, loaded with supplies, tools, equipment for the miners.

From the 1850's to the nineties practically all the supplies for the mines and the Johnson Crk. and Salmon Mountain district were jacked in from Port Orford by way of Eckley. So men then brought their families and settled in this "Little Switzerland" in the mountains from which the Sixes river springs. Among the early settler were the Haines family, the Guerins, the Greenes, the Gibbs, the Bigelows. Others came and went with the passing years. But those listed here are names long associated with the Eckley country. The home of the

Haines family, that of the Guerins, and of the Greenes became stopping places for the miners and for others going to and from the mines. Many a pleasant evening was spent before a fire place, binging news from the outside or spinning yarns of adventure.

Travel increased when people began coming in from the Coquille side, up the South Fork, over the divide, adding another spoke in the wheel of which Eckley was the hub. When mail service was established, a carrier started from Myrtle Point at the same time that another one started from Port Orford. Each one would reach Eckley in the evening, stay over night, returning to his starting place the following day. Thus Eckley became a stopping place between Myrtle Point and Port Orford as well as from the latter place to the mines. A road was built in from Coquille side in 1895, enabling residents to go and come in style—in buggies.

Came the second period, or epoch, when the mines began to peter out. Gone were the days of the old pack trains. Men turned to other fields. The settlers who had provided the pack animals, and who had provided the miners with butter, cheese, eggs, bacon, vegetables, fruits and the other necessities, must now look to other means of supporting their families, educating their children. There were large families: ten children in the Guerin home, twelve in the Gibbs, fourteen grew up in the home of Joseph Haines. There were many Greenes and Bigelows, but I do not know just how many.

To Be Continued

ANNOUNCING

A BROOKINGS-HARBOR AGENCY

Since so many of our old customers have asked us to restore our service route to the Brookings-Harbor area, we have complied by establishing an agency at

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