

HAS ANYONE SEEN ECKLEY?

BY EMIL R. PETERSON, Historian

Coos County Pioneer and Historical Association

FOURTH INSTALLMENT

Coming back to the earlier period, when the Eckley country was populated by several families with many children, schools for the community were a real problem. I reported earlier that Joseph A. Haines had told about hiring Miss Ellen Tichenor of Port Orford for three terms of three months each at \$25 per month and board; and that later they had a man teacher from San Francisco on the same terms. Whether other families shared in that school, I do not know. Mr. Haines reported that in 1874 he bought a home at Wilbur near Roseburg, where he moved his family and kept the children in school there for 13 years, moving back to their Eckley home in 1887.

I have been unable to learn just when the first public school was organized or established at Eckley. A small building used there sometime in the early history of the community has been referred to as the "Chicken House" school, having had a lean-to shed on one side to shelter a few hens. Surely there must have been more to the schooling, but available information appears meager. Five of the Guerin boys were given two years each in the Bishop Scott school at Portland, and their sister, Annie, went to St. Helens Hall for three years. The five Guerin brothers who went to the Bishop Scott School were William, Harry, Thomas, George and James.

Alfred B. Green, commonly known as "Tim" Greene, or "Uncle Tim," has been previously mentioned in this story. "Tim" had an older brother, James, who was born in Ohio in 1819. James grew up, married, moved to Iowa, and later to California—there were seven children in the James Green family when the mother died.

After some correspondence with "Uncle Tim," three of the older boys came to visit and try their hands at mining. The rough and rugged Eckley country seemed to appeal to them, so they remained and took up homesteads and became permanent residents. Those brothers were Barton M., a carpenter; Charles A. and Thomas J., each a mill-wright. Thomas was accompanied by his wife and two

sons. Some years after the arrival of those three Greene brothers, "Uncle Tim" died and was buried on the hill back of his house in Deer Park. Reports do not reveal whether "Uncle Tim" had made any arrangements for the disposal of his property. However, the nephews arranged for their father, James B. Green, to join them. He was Tim's brother. He came and brought along the rest of the family: Frank, Alfred and Alma; also an older married daughter, Emma, with her husband, Edwin J. Bigelow, and their six children. Six weeks after their arrival in the Eckley country, their seventh child was born. They named her Dora. (Do keep this name, Dora, in mind; for she grew up, married J. N. Gearhart, present county assessor of Coos county; and it is this same Dora who is supplying most of the information for this series of stories about the Eckley country).

The two families, Greens and Bigelows, came with their teams and wagons, up the Sacramento valley, over the Siskiyou, via Ashland, Grants Pass, Roseburg, over the old Coos Bay wagon road to Dora, then down to Myrtle Point, up the South Fork to the Bill Warner place, where most of the party rested. Two of the boys went on with saddle horses to notify the "home folks" of the arrival of the new contingent. Edwin C. Greene came down with all his 14 saddle and pack animals to bring the family in. There were no roads then, only trails, till 1895, when the first road reached the Eckley country.

The three brothers who had come earlier had not seen their father and other members of the family for a number of years. I must leave the scene of their re-union to your imagination; so their trip with the 14 pack horses over the winding mountain trail.

In a recent report from Mrs. Gearhart, she wrote: "Within a few weeks each family had a house—boards 12 to 14 feet long were easily split from Port Orford cedar. Floors made from this white wood were the pride of the women. Very thin strips were split for slats in the beds on which were placed mattresses of straw and wool. And good beds they were, too.

"An organ and a rug loom had been left in California, to be shipped by steamer to Empire; then up Coos Bay to the head of Isthmus Inlet; hauled over the Isthmus, down Beaver Slough, up the river to Myrtle Point—from there it was hauled to the John Wagner place at Rural—now Powers." From here on the mode of transportation was rather unique. I'll let Mrs. Gearhart tell: "The organ was hauled

up Salmon Creek on a narrow sled, with handles behind to help it keep it upright, while it was pulled by one horse. Ropes were tied to the top of the organ and an extra man went on the upper side of the trail to keep the organ from rolling over.

"Within a few months a school district was organized, using Uncle Bart's homestead cabin as a school house. Desks and seats were home-made and boards painted black were used for writing. The school was named Deer Park, after the name of Uncle Tim's ranch. The first teacher was Miss Sophia Tillman of Coquille; the next was Miss Florence von der Green of Curry county (She is now Mrs. Chapman, retired, residing in North Bend). Miss Birdie Walker was the third teacher; she later married Frank Tichenor. Then came Miss Edna Hill of Remote. The teachers boarded round, staying at the different homes according to the number of children from each family."

To Be Concluded

Along Azalea Row

By B. Miller

A new year began for Azalea Garden Club, Thursday, July 13. Mrs. Clara Kerns was installed as president, Mrs. Erskine Miller as vice-president and Mrs. Chas. Grayshel as secretary-treasurer.

There were brief reports of interest only to garden club mem-

bers. Mrs. Kerns announced the appointment of committee chairmen. Hostesses were Mrs. Ruth Bathiany, chairman, Mrs. Alice Perkins and Mrs. Viola Hanscam.

Mrs. Kerns gave a comprehensive report of the recent Oregon State Garden Club Federation meeting at Klamath Falls. This three-day convention was attended by about 300 women from all over the state.

Azalea Garden Club was complimented for outstanding work in conservation. Two resolutions introduced by this club were passed unanimously.

The first resolution called for establishment of chairs in Human Ecology at the University of Oregon and Oregon State.

The second was that the Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs support the National Resources Legislative Interim Committee report of the state legislature.

Between business meetings, the delegates were taken on a lake cruise, a trip through the Oregon Technical Institute and on garden tours.

A trip to Southern Klamath county gardens and a tour thru Malin Park were particularly interesting in view of our own landscaping project.

Malin park was literally hewn out of the desert. Lawns planted and thousands of shrubs put out under the constant supervision

of a landscape gardner. Most of the planting as well as the supervisory work were contributed. Malin park has a fine swimming pool, bath house bleachers and plans for other improvements as well as the money is raised. This is a \$170,000 project and was first started six years ago. The community raised \$44,000 for the park before it was put on the tax rolls, a year later.

Mrs. George Eisenhauer of Beaverton is president of the Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs. She was chosen for her two years of office: Fellowship and Community service.

In a brief speech to members of Azalea Garden Club last week Mrs. Clara Kerns stated that horticulture would be stressed this year in club's program. "After all," she said, "we are interested in our own gardens, and in each others. We enjoy meeting together in a sociable exchange of ideas and in acquiring new knowledge as an aid to our gardening endeavors."

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Burmeister who accompanied their son and daughter-in-law to Bend after the Fourth, to visit another son, returned home late Saturday by bus. They enjoyed the trip immensely, and also the side trip to Tulelake, Calif., where Mr. Burmeister said: "I never saw such barley crops in my life."



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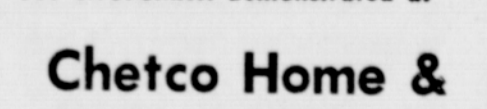
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THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

AVOID NEW GROUPS

DON'T GET OVERTIRED

DON'T GET CHILLED

KEEP CLEAN

WHEN POLIO IS AROUND, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis recommends these simple precautions: Keep children with their own friends and away from people they have not been with right along. Don't become exhausted through work or hard play. Don't stay too long in cold water or sit around in wet clothes. And always wash hands before eating. Watch for feverishness, sore throat, headache, upset stomach or sore muscles. They may—or may not—mean polio. Call your doctor and then, if help is needed contact the National Foundation Chapter in your area.

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