

# LANE COUNTY DISTRICT HAS WOMAN SUPERVISOR

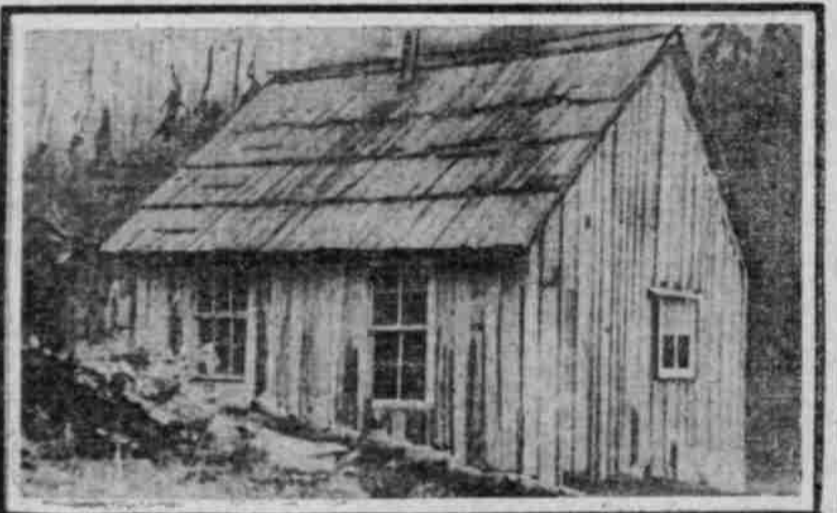
Miss Goldie Van Bibber Finds Health and Adventure in Caring for Hardest School District in Lane County.



Florence High School.



Glenda School House



Heceta School House Side and Rear View

BY ALFRED POWERS  
**F**LORENCE, Or., April 20.—(Special.)—Lane County is divided into five supervisory districts. District No. 5, which is the most difficult of the quintet, was assigned to a little mite of a woman. In justice to the other supervisors, who are big husky men, it ought to be said that the mountainous, roadless, stream-cut, schools-far-between district was not palmed off on Miss Goldie Van Bibber, the mite of a woman, through any lack of gallantry on their part. Miss Van Bibber chose the district herself and when she chose it had, besides her work, two things in mind, health and adventure. The way she likes around in shine and rain with perfect impunity, would indicate she is enjoying the first; and to hear her relate her experiences you would conclude she has been successful in her quest of the second.

Miss Van Bibber has about 100 pounds of weight and about 200 horsepower of energy. A man from one of the outlying districts said he wondered at first why a woman had been chosen for this region of all regions, but "he reckoned if they were going to get a woman, they could not have got a better one. A good many people thought last Fall that it was foolish for a woman to undertake supervision

of the coast district. Now, however, there remains not the least vestige of prejudice against her gender.

As a matter of fact her being a woman has helped rather than hindered her in the work. She has more tact in dealing with fractious patrons and school boards than a man would probably have. In school misunderstandings she is a veritable trouble doctor. School boards, parents, teachers, children, all look upon her as their confessor and so she is not long in a district before she knows everything that has happened there, from every point of view. She appraises this gratuitous testimony, most of which you may be sure needs but little judicial reflection, then smilingly but firmly makes her decision.

Miss Van Bibber tries to make her work affirmative rather than negative in character. The teachers do not dread her visits as hostile espionage, but look forward to her coming for inspiration and sympathetic counsel. She realizes the difficulties rural teachers have to work against, especially in the coast district, where school houses are often wretched excuses and the furniture meager and of ancient pattern. In her own words, "there is not a single teacher who is not buckling down to her share of the work."

In difficulties between the teacher and the community, if the teacher is not too obviously in the wrong, she stands up for the teacher. In one school a teacher of militant methods "licked" the boys in succession. Subsequently, across the flesh of one boy an incandescence streak was found. The trouble doctor was hastily summoned. Corporal punishment, before the coming of the teacher, had just about fallen into desuetude in this school; "licking" and "larnin'" had not been concomitants for years. As a result the boys had become extremely liberty-loving. Miss Van Bibber knew this and told the teacher to use a paddle next time instead of a switch; that while blood streaks are illegal, blisters are not, or words to this broad effect. If a teacher is having trouble any time to bring about a much-needed reform that is unpopular in the community, she takes charge of the movement and assumes the responsibility. "I'll be way off yonder when the storm breaks," she explains to the teacher; "I can run away from trouble but you can't." Miss Van Bibber likes to make the crooked straight.

**Visiting Is Hard Work.**  
 Miss Van Bibber's supervisory district includes 23 regular districts. One-third of these districts have never been visited by a superintendent, and one-third have not been visited by a superintendent in 12 years. Miss Van Bibber therefore found plenty to do. The system of grading was in a chaotic condition. One teacher has said she found every child over 15 years old was in the eighth grade. Some teachers had as many as 40 or 50 classes a day. In the majority of cases, teachers were eighth-grade graduates of the school where they were teaching. When they married, they handed over the position to one of their own eighth-grade graduates. Unlike the gossip, knowledge cannot be transmitted without diminution, and this custom of employing pupils continually lowered the standard of the early teachers. This evil has been remedied by state examinations. Of the 23 teachers employed in the coast district this year, three are new to the region. New blood and better blood is being infused into the schools. These are graduates of the University of Oregon, nine are high school graduates, and many of the others have had some high school work. This increased efficiency on the part of teachers is telling. Unanimously, parents agree that their children are learning more. Higher wages are paid. There is a temporary disadvantage in that this year it has not always been possible to get teachers, but this disadvantage is only the early reaction of an ultimate advantage. In every way, the schools of the coast district have made phenomenal progress this year. Miss Van Bibber says the people themselves deserve a large share of the praise for this. As a general thing she has found them enthusiastic, progressive and willing to co-operate in educational matters. She has, however, found some exceptions.

In one district most of the taxpayers are bachelors, grouchy and hostile to taxes. School houses are in private houses, where 15 pupils are taught in a room 12 by 14 feet. There are five windows, of four different styles. The seats are not suited to comfort nor straight backs, and are about as nondescript as the windows.

At one school Miss Van Bibber suggested that the children get drawing material. In the evening a woman called up on the telephone and told her very frankly what she thought of such "tomfoolery": "Is this Miss Van Bibber? You tell Johnnie and Mary that they had to get colored pencils and drawin' paper? They don't have to. I ain't sendin' my children to school to play. Colored pencils and them things don't do nobody no good. I want my children to learn readin' and 'rithmetick'."

Also she has found both teachers and patrons little in sympathy with the introduction of agriculture in the schools. Although Miss Van Bibber is enthusiastic about agricultural work, she realizes there is something in what the rural districts claim. They say that in the rural schools there is no time for an adequate study of agriculture. Moreover, the children in rural districts usually know more about farming than the teachers. The knowledge of agriculture a child would get under these conditions would never be worth 15 cents to him. Besides, he serves an apprenticeship at agriculture mornings, evenings, Saturdays and Summers. Miss Van Bibber's schools are scattered and difficult to reach. Every time she visits all the schools in her district she travels 254 miles. Most of this distance she makes on horseback. Twenty miles she can make by boat. Sometimes she is compelled to walk. Once she timed herself to reach a certain school at 11 o'clock, but when she arrived found her horse had died. The idea was in. There was no other way across; there was nothing to do but wade, and wade she did. Once dark came and found her about four or five miles from her destination and no houses near. During midwinter she visited one of her most distant schools up in the mountains. For five miles, over a high pass, the snow was ten



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### RURAL MAILCARRIERS OF MARION AND CLACKAMAS COUNTIES WHOSE ORGANIZATIONS AMALGAMATED AT RECENT MEETING



AURORA, Or., April 20.—(Special.)—The joint meeting here this week of the rural mail carriers of Marion and Clackamas counties resulted in an amalgamation of the two county organizations with a membership of nearly 100.

The two associations have been holding joint meetings at times heretofore, but at the annual meeting this week it was voted to consolidate and the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, James W. Cox, of Salem; vice-president, Charles A. Andrews, of Oregon City; secretary, Otto C. Buff, of Silverton; treasurer, Jarvis E. Cutsforth, of Gervais.

Telegrams were read from Senator Bourne and Representative Hawley concerning the progress of the postoffice appropriation bill, which carries an increase for rural carriers on standard routes of 24 miles from \$1900 per year to \$1974 per year, with an additional compensation of \$20 per year for each mile over 24 miles.

Delegates were present from Oregon City, Salem, Canby, Gervais, Molalla, Silverton, Beaverton, Aurora, and several visiting delegates came over from Washington County, nearly 50 being present in all. Among these were the president of the State Rural Carriers' Association, Francis Kraxberger, and the state secretary, W. H. Boyd, of Beaverton.

The address of welcome was delivered by the Aurora postmistress, Mrs. Diana Snyder, and State President Kraxberger welcomed the carriers to Aurora in the absence of the Mayor. The next meeting will be held at Oregon City, upon the call of the president, the last week in June.

the man's collar. Whatever task Miss Van Bibber has in hand, from settling a quarrel to making a stage journey, humor and sympathy. She is a woman as well as a supervisor.

# Dover Street

## Where Is It?

### What Has It Got to Do With Ladies' Cloaks and Suits?

We will tell you we're going to put Dover Street "on the map." Don't suppose you know where it is. This Dover Street is not in Delaware or England, but right here in Portland. We never knew there was a Dover Street in Portland—just stumbled onto it. But there are lots of people around Dover Street. In fact, if it doesn't rain there will be more people around Dover Street today than any other spot in Portland. We'll let



you hunt for Dover Street. We had to. But it has this to do with Ladies' Suits: Mr. Acheson has purchased a lot on Dover Street and will have a building on it, and the Acheson Cloak & Suit Co. is going to occupy it and manufacture Cloaks and Suits for the trade. This means that the Acheson Cloak & Suit Co. is going to retire from the retail trade—and the splendid stock of garments must be closed out as soon as possible.

## Monday Morning This Closing-Out Sale Opens

See the Bargains in Our Windows West Park and Morrison Sts.

# Acheson Cloak & Suit Co.