

OLD CENTRAL SCHOOL WAS LOCATED WHERE PORTLAND HOTEL IS

Many of City's Business Men Boast of Having Been Pupils in This School.

WAS IN USE MANY YEARS

Old High School on Fourteenth Street Built With Money It Was Sold For.

By Henry E. Reed.

Portland's first free public school to be built with money derived from taxation was opened May 17, 1853, and stood on the site now occupied by the Hotel Portland. It was known as the Central school. Mainly because it was in the middle section of the west side, which was then about all there was to Portland. In later years this name served to distinguish it from the Harrison school, or Southern school built in 1855, and the North school built 1857. For 25 years, the Central school was a conspicuous landmark in the educational history of the Pacific northwest. Its great glory departed in 1853, when the general sold for hotel purposes and the building itself divided into sections and moved to the block north of Hotel Portland. The last traces of the school disappeared five or six years ago with the erection of the Selling and Maegly-Tichner buildings.

The Central school is dear to the memory of old Portlanders. It occupies an eminent position in school annals, but was not the beginning of education here. It is recorded that the first day school of any kind in Portland was opened in the fall of 1847. It was located at the northeast corner of First and Taylor streets in a building owned by Job McNamee. Dr. Ralph Wiley was the teacher. He conducted a private school for about three months.

People Build Own School. Free public education in Portland, saw its dawn on lot 2, block 29, on the west side of First street, 50 feet north of Oak street. On May 22, 1849, when Portland was a straggling village of 19 to 20 houses and perhaps 100 people, some public spirited citizens conceived the idea of erecting a school and meeting house. They signed up \$1000. Ought the lot from Townsland and Coffin for \$300 and started the building. The structure was completed in the fall and Rev. Horace Lyman opened a private school in it in December, 1849.

The building was known as the School House and was used for public meetings—religious and secular—and for school. Among the teachers other than Dr. Lyman, who held school in the building were Cyrus A. Reed, Deion Jefferson and Rev. N. Doane. All these conducted a private school and charged from \$2.50 to \$10 per pupil per quarter.

Free public education began with the opening of the school. The school was opened on December 15, 1851. John T. Outhouse was principal and he began with 20 pupils. What arrangements the school district made for the use of the school House is not known, but it is presumed that rent was paid.

Records Are Gone. Even the date of the organization of the school district cannot be proved from any records now extant, and can only be approximated. The territorial legislature in September, 1849, passed a law establishing a system of common schools in the territory. It required the people of any town or neighborhood to form school districts, directed the school commissioners, as the territory school superintendent is now called, to divide the counties into school districts before January 1, 1851, and provided for school district meetings on the first Friday of November, annually. Portland, which was at that time in Washington county, was incorporated in April, 1851.

It is quite likely that the organization of the school district post-dated the incorporation of the city and that school directors were elected for the first time in November, 1851. This followed on December 6, the board of notice of intention to open a "free school" and, a little later, the actual opening of the school under the charge of Mr. Outhouse.

Free schools were not established in Portland without opposition. There were people here who did not have children and they were opposed to being taxed for education. Then there was a considerable element which was satisfied with the private schools. A contemporary view of the experiment is afforded by the following from a Portland paper of July 3, 1852:

Paper Opposed Free School. "Out of the taxes levied by our city council, elected April 1851 (when municipal government began in Portland), there was collected something over \$1000 for city purposes. There convened another council November 1, 1851, known as the common school

council, but more familiarly as the pie-and-ginger-cake council, self-called, self-elected, that voted \$1000 additional to be paid for pedagoging some dozen or two children."

On November 4, 1852, the directors of school district No. 1 leased the schoolhouse for one year at \$10 per month, and on December 4, reopened it as a free school, with Mr. Outhouse as principal. The primary pupils were taught by Miss A. M. Clarke in a building on the west side of First street, just south of Taylor. A short time previously \$1600 had been raised by taxation for the support of the schools. It was calculated that this fund, together with the receipts from the county apportionment, would employ Mr. Outhouse and Miss Clarke for 19 months.

Just when sentiment in favor of a publicly owned free school began to form is not known. After the close of school in the summer of 1853, the public school question lagged and did not take on new life until the two Portland districts were consolidated in April, 1856. The need of a school building was apparent and the new organization set about to provide it.

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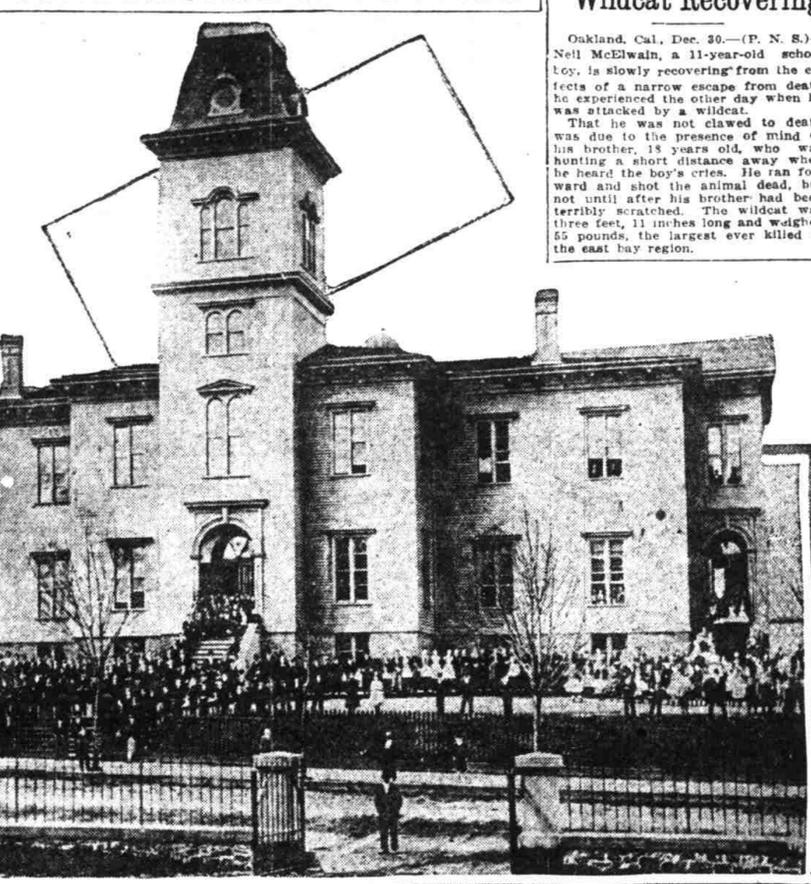
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SCHOOL ONCE CITY'S PRIDE



Old central school, located where Portland hotel now stands. Many of Portland's foremost citizens received their learning here. The small building at the left is the Unitarian chapel and it was located where the First Unitarian church now stands.

Boy Attacked by Wildcat Recovering

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 30.—(P. N. S.)—Neil McElwain, a 11-year-old school boy, is slowly recovering from the effects of a narrow escape from death he experienced the other day when he was attacked by a wildcat. That he was not clawed to death was due to the presence of ming of his brother, 18 years old, who was hunting a short distance away when he heard the boy's cries. He ran forward and shot the animal dead, but not until after his brother had been terribly scratched. The wildcat was three feet, 11 inches long and weighed 55 pounds, the largest ever killed in the east bay region.

EIGHT HOUR DAY FOR WOMEN WORKERS IS DEMONSTRATED NEED

Five States Now in Line and Supreme Court Decision Adds Momentum.

CONFERENCES ARE HELD

National Women's Trade Union League Foster Series of Meetings to Promote the Idea.

By Florence L. Savville.

(Copyright, 1916, by Florence L. Savville.) Within the last few months—more recently even than the enactment of that still unfinished piece of federal legislation, the Adamson law—a force for a wholly different application of the eight-hour working day has been quietly gathering momentum. The working women of the nation are concentrating efforts to secure an eight-hour day through legislation for themselves.

This movement is based on nothing less sound than a decision of the supreme court of the United States, which in February, 1915, upheld the California statute limiting the hours of work for women in virtually all industries and occupations to eight in a day and 48 in a week. Its latest manifestation has been the series of interstate conferences of working women, held by the National Women's Trade Union League, the latest of which took place recently in New York city.

New Chapter Is Begun.

Here begins a new chapter in the history of industrial conditions for women. Through the chapters that close the dominion of the law, the demonstration of the need and justification of legally limiting women's working hours. In state after state where these hours were virtually unrestricted by law, the various legislatures were slow to be convinced that they were allowing unregulated industry to sap the very sources of vitality in their commonwealths. It needed the historic decision in 1907 of the United States supreme court in upholding the Oregon 10-hour law to set the seal of the nation's approval upon the conservation of its womanhood. Then one after another the states fell into line, until there are only 10 states at this time which do not recognize at least a 10-hour limit for the daily labor of its girls and women.

Thus in each case the much revered hand of the federal supreme court points the way. Shall we as a nation be as prompt to follow to the eight-hour day as we were to the 10, and is there an equal need?

One must indeed be enmeshed in an impenetrable armor of self-interest or skepticism if, after studying the facts of industry today, or hearing spontaneous testimony such as filled the sessions of the Women's Trade Union League conferences, he can doubt that each hour—in some cases each minute—over the eight hours of work a day robs a woman of her heritage of well-being and a nation of its strength.

Perinatal Questions.

The Woman's Trade Union League has just issued a leaflet which asks the following questions: DO YOU KNOW? That a telephone operator answers about 225 calls per hour (in some exchanges 257 per hour), and that each call requires six different operations? DO YOU KNOW? That many girls in the sewing trades sit for long hours in a room reeking with machinery, watching a machine that carries 12 needles or one that sets 4000 stitches a minute? DO YOU KNOW? That in mills where women formerly tended two looms they now are expected to look after 12 to 16? DO YOU KNOW? That in canneries the women sorters must work steadily with their eyes and attention fixed on moving conveyors, and the "cappers" are expected to cap from 54 to 80 cans per minute? Must we combine the strain of speed, monotony, piecework with that of long hours?

It has been, moreover, estimated that

NEW HOMESTEAD LAW OPENS FOR GRAZING THOUSANDS OF ACRES

Register Campbell Says Applications Can Be Entered as Soon as Classified.

The United States commissioner of the general land office has telegraphed to N. Campbell, register, and George I. Smith, receiver of the land office in Portland, under date of December 29, as follows: "Receive and suspend applications with petitions for designation under grazing homestead law approved yesterday. Clay Tallman, commissioner."

"There are approximately 49,000 acres of public lands in the Portland district subject to entry under the new law," said Mr. Campbell. "I suppose much of it can be taken as grazing lands, and as soon as classified the applications be entered to run as homesteads. Many will be able to add to their holdings portions adjacent that can only be used for grazing."

Information as to whether a particular tract or plot of land is subject to entry may be obtained from the register or receiver of the land district in which it may be located. Plans and diagrams of any township can be secured for \$1 to \$4 from such officers, showing the entered land, and if more information is wanted a large amount of detail for the larger sum.

In the Portland district are 49,245 acres classed as subject to entry. Much of it is mountain and hill tops of little value.

List of Vacant Lands.

The following is the official list of vacant lands subject to entry in the Portland district:

Table with 2 columns: Counties and Acres. Rows include Benton (2,710), Clatsop (1,118), Lincoln (12,450), Multnomah (880), Marion (825), Tillamook (19,898), Washington (309), Yamhill (410).

All the lands in this district are surveyed. In the Burns district, comprising Crook, Grant, Harney and Wheeler counties, there are 3,914,629 acres, most of it surveyed. In the La Grande district, comprising Baker, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Walla Walla counties, there are 599,968 acres, all but 16,000 of which has been surveyed. The Lakeview district has 2,911,824 acres, with all but 369,256 acres surveyed in Crook, Klamath and Lake counties.

May Be Rushing Business.

The new law allows homesteads of as much as 640 acres of grazing lands. It is expected that some entries will be made under it for Clackamas county, where there are lands that could not be utilized except by adjoining homesteaders. The largest body of land unfiled upon in Clackamas county is 4751 acres, and the smallest is 40 acres.

Should the O. & C. grant be thrown open to entry there would be a rushing business done at the land office in the Worcester building. The grazing homestead law is not expected to swell receipts at the Portland office very much and most of what is entered upon will be sold for \$1.25 an acre.

Congress Heroes Remembered.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 30.—The Pacific Coast company today forwarded, as a present in recognition of their heroic services in rescuing the passengers and crew of the burning steamship Congress, a \$250 talking machine to the officers and members of the crew of the government dredge, Col. S. P. Mitchell.

Young Church Folks Have Evening Club

Plans are being made by the First Presbyterian church of this city for the organization of a Monday evening club, with the idea of providing some educational opportunities for the young people of the church and others of the congregation who are interested. The plan, so far as it is formulated, will be to use the church house every Monday evening during January, February and March for the study of history, literature and current events. The management of the courses will be under James P. Ewing, educational director of the church. There will be a variety of courses offered, with competent leadership each Monday evening from 7:45 to 9 o'clock, with the following subjects: "Shakespeare's Tragedies," "The Historical Roots of the Great War," "Present Day Poetry," "Current Events Week by Week," and such other topics as may be added from time to time. At 9 o'clock all classes will gather in a central room for the enjoyment of travel talks by Dr. Boyd. These talks for the present will follow the general subject "Capital of the Great War," and will be illustrated with the stereopticon.

The first meeting will be held on Monday evening, January 8. This initial meeting is for the purpose of explaining the plan of the Monday evening club, and of hearing the leaders of the different courses give a statement of the ground to be covered. An hour of special entertainment is also being planned for this first meeting, the details of which are not yet completed. Announcement will be made at a later date of the nature of this part of the evening's program. All young people interested in registering for

Harley Will Give Inaugural Ball

Astoria, Or., Dec. 30.—Mayor-elect F. C. Harley has mailed invitations to all mayors in Oregon and some mayors in Washington towns to attend the inaugural ball to be given in the east wing of the port docks Monday night, January 1. Mr. Harley distinctly wants it understood that the affair will be informal. A special decorator from Seattle has been secured to decorate the interior of the dock for the big ball.

Klamath Postoffice Experiences Rush

Klamath Falls, Or., Dec. 30.—More than 21 tons of incoming mail were received in Klamath Falls from December 17 to 26 according to a report of Postmaster W. A. Delzell. This amount of mail, 1200 sacks at an average of 50 pounds per sack did not all remain in the city, as a considerable part was distributed through the five star routes which head here. These are Lakeview, 110 miles; Merrill and Tule Lake, 40 miles; Fort Klamath, 40 miles; Swan Lake, 12 miles and Odessa, 28 miles.

When writing or calling on advertisers, please mention The Journal. (Adv.)

FOR everyone, no matter what his faith or flag, I wish happiness and prosperity throughout the whole new year. For all the citizens of your Portland and my Portland I wish renewed devotion to the highest civic and business ideals, to the end that our city may abundantly sustain a cheerful and a thriving people.

Ben Selling

NEW Marguerite Clark pictures in Portland only at the Peoples—here is her greatest. No advance in prices.



MARGUERITE CLARK IN "SNOW WHITE" FAMOUS PLAYERS-PARAMOUNT

One week starting this morning

Daniel Frohman Presents the Magnetic, Captivating Favorite

Marguerite Clark

In an entrancing six-act picturization of her greatest stage success

"Snow White"

In which she appeared for two years at Winthrop Ames' Little Theatre, New York. No need to use superlatives in describing this offering—it's one hundred per cent pleasing.

Daily from 11 a. m. to 11 p. m., with special Midnight "High Jinks" at 11:30 o'clock Tonight, at Portland's favorite, The

Peoples

Alder Street at West Park Marshall 880—A-2087

Advertisement for 1917 New Year wishes, featuring the text 'Wishing One and All a Happy, Prosperous New Year' and 'For 1917--The New Year'. It includes a decorative border with the year '1917' and the 'Robert's Bros. Third & Morrison' logo.