

### 50-Year-Old School Develops Into Fine, Modern Institution

By MRS. JESSIE MILLAR.  
School Dist. No. 7 has been in existence over 50 years. The first school building was a log one which was erected a short distance north of the site of the present building. When the right of way for the O. W. R. & N. was surveyed in 1880, it was discovered that the log schoolhouse was on the right of way so the board of directors decided to build a one-room frame building.

In 1881 Hiram Wilkes and Sarah Ann Wilkes deeded one acre of land to School Dist. No. 7, to be used for school purposes only. The members of the board at this time were Jacob Zimmerman, Peter Erpelding and Frederick Hamilton. The building that was erected to replace the log one served for a number of years. In 1913 the first unit of the present building was erected, which was thoroughly modern; in 1922 another room was added and a second teacher employed. In 1926 this was enlarged and at present the building contains three large class rooms, an auditorium and the principal's office.

Three acres of land adjoining the original acre have been purchased, which provides adequate playground for the pupils.

For the past six years the district has transported the pupils to and from school. W. P. Bell is the present bus driver.

The teaching staff is as follows: Lois Gray, principal; Edna R. Carlyle, intermediate, and Lucile Plunkett, primary.

The school work this year has been more extensive than ever before, due to many improvements and added facilities. The monthly visits of Miss Eva Campbell, the supervisor of schools for Multnomah county have proved very beneficial. Among the added facilities are wall clocks and library tables in each of the rooms, and a new set of maps in the upper grade room. Each of the rooms has been carrying out a series of campaigns of activity work.

During Indian summer a quite extensive Indian project was carried out in the primary room. It included an Indian village constructed on the sand table, as well as booklets in which the Indian home, dress, food and life in general were illustrated. The art work during the project consisted of free hand cutting of wigwams, canoes, etc. Indian posters were also made.

A device, in the form of an airplane race, to obtain better number work was carried out in the second grade. The pupils chose sides, and raced to New York. The planes, placed in the chalk tray and moved to the next station each day by the winning side, made the race more exciting. The results showed favorable progress.

To obtain speed and accuracy and at the same time encourage a taste for good reading, the primary teacher has offered a prize to all second graders who read and understand seven library books during the school year. The pupils have already qualified for prizes this term.

First and second grades are working hard to obtain the standard in Palmer penmanship, due to the fact that specimens of penmanship are to be sent in for awards soon. All but five pupils received their awards last year.

Several ideas in health have been portrayed by the second grade through posters and compositions. A campaign for better teeth was carried out during which samples of tooth paste was obtained for the children and a record kept at school.

Intense interest was noted in the Pilgrim Project worked out in November. The story of the Pilgrims was worked out on the sand table and also dramatized by the first and second grades in language class. Spelling booklets were made representing turkeys and also booklets of Pilgrim life and customs. The most interesting part of the project was the building of a modern house and a Pilgrim house showing the difference and changes in mode of living. All furniture was made and arranged by the children. Dry goods boxes formed the walls of the houses.

November brought with it a wealth of project material to the intermediate grade room. The fourth and third grades made Pilgrim booklets which contained original composition by the pupils. Each story was illustrated with pictures made and colored by the class. The entire room participated in the study of the life of the Pilgrims in this country. The children depicted the home life by furnishing a shoe box with the austere Pilgrim furniture made from paper. The third grade pupils have made booklets of each poem they have memorized, and drawn pictures which they thought would best illustrate the poem. The fourth and fifth grades cut from magazines a picture to use on the cover of their poetry books. These books are to contain the entire work of the year.

The fifth grade illustrated in posters three well balanced meals for one day. The other grades have been taking up health habits and making free hand posters for each rule. The penmanship periods have been spent in writing for Palmer awards. The fifth grade class is preparing a ghost party. The ghosts to assemble at this party are characters from history which they have studied. All upper grades have increased their speed and accuracy in arithmetic by standardized tests and drills. The pupils of the Oregon history class have worked at individual projects representing various epochs of Oregon history such as Fort Vancouver, Fort Astoria, the fur brigades, etc. During the winter months the reading classes read and report in class upon the library books read during the campaign. At the close of the year these reports are given to the county librarian who issues reading certificates. For the past two years each pupil in this room has earned a reading certificate, making the room 100 per cent.

During the last year there have

been many health improvements carried out in the school, under the direction of Mrs. Ellen Post, Multnomah county health nurse. Dr. J. Earl Else, a goiter specialist from Portland, examined the pupils of Wilkes school for possible goiter.

Every year the school has given one evening program in the fall, an afternoon program with a tree at Christmas, a cantata and graduation exercises at the end of the school year. Special weeks, as Children's Book week, Fire Protection week, etc., and special days as Columbus day, Frances E. Willard day, Armistice day, etc., were observed in each room.

Wilkes school has made great strides towards being a first-class district in the last three years. This includes building improvements, enrollment of pupils and the addition of an extra teacher. The increased attendance has caused cramped playing conditions on rainy days. This has been alleviated by half hour noons and supervised gymnastic and play work in the auditorium. Wilkes school is looking forward to the time when a play shed will relieve this cramped condition.

The Louise Home Aids Many. The Louise Home for girls, situated on the Barker road, is one of the institutions of the Pacific Protective society.

In the early days of the war the present location of the Home with two buildings was purchased, and with additions and improvements have grown into four large, well equipped structures on the 29 acres of land owned.

The smaller of the two original buildings was very much enlarged and converted into a hospital for the girls.

A county school building was soon erected where school, under the direction of two excellent teachers, is held for the entire school year, and all girls attend unless incapacitated by illness.

The grades above the third are taught and the girls who are in high school can earn credits by taking the prescribed business course of typing, bookkeeping, commercial arithmetic and English.

Of the 15 girls who took the eighth grade examinations last spring all passed the county test, which speaks well for both teachers and pupils.

The new juvenile hospital was opened the 28th of September and is already overflowing, and more are seeking entrance weekly. The old cottage, which was used for the hospital, before this was opened, has been thoroughly renovated and is nearly ready for the maternity cases.

At present there are 90 girls in the home, and the tragedy is that three-fourths of all are from broken homes, broken by death of one or both parents or by divorce, the latter being the largest in number.

The girls, under the direction of the workers, assist in the general work and in the laundry. Their allotted task is changed from time to time, and thus they get a good knowledge of general housework. Many of them go from here at the expiration of their time, into homes where a goodly number give satisfaction.

Preaching services and Sunday school are held every Sunday in the home, and regular Bible classes through the week. The new hospital is thoroughly up to date in every particular, with a trained nurse in constant attendance and a physician who comes two or three times weekly.

For the money needed to carry on the work the state and the Portland Community Chest furnish a part and the remainder comes from voluntary offerings.

The self-sacrificing work of the founder, W. G. MacLaren, cannot be too highly commended. He started the first unit of this work 22 years ago in Portland at what is known as "Portland Commons" and through all these years he has given himself untiringly to the task, with no compensation save a bare support for his family as recompense. His worth is known nationally among reformers, and a few months ago he was elected president of the National Prison association.

The Oasis Tea Room. The Oasis is situated at the intersection of Sandy and Barker roads. The architecture is semi-Moorish.

The large tea room is cozy with the very large fireplace, the tall palms and oriental decorations. A Brunswick Panatrophe furnishes music for dancing. The smaller dining rooms make ideal places for luncheons or banquets and there is also a complete fountain service.

The highest standards of good taste are maintained and an orchestra furnishes music on Saturday nights and on special occasions. Dr. and Mrs. Emil Nelson are the host and hostess.

The Oasis Service station is an attractive stucco building near the tea room.

The B & B garage, the Ascot Acre store and garage located on the Base Line road are also in this district.

### Some Observations on the Rural Schools of Multnomah County

By EVA L. CAMPBELL, Supervisor Multnomah County Schools

A school is the resultant of a certain group of interacting factors—pupils, teachers, educational objectives, curriculum, buildings, equipment, time available for education, and environmental conditions.

With respect to a number of these it would be easy to show that rural schools have definite handicapping deficiencies and needs. We probably find fewer of these deficiencies and needs in Multnomah county schools than in many because of environmental conditions. All of our schools are located on good highways easily accessible to the city with its cultural advantages. Because of this, Multnomah county is able to secure better trained and more experienced teachers, and, after all, it is the personnel of the teaching force more than any other one thing that makes for successful schools.

As supervisor of the schools in this county I find most of the teachers willing to cooperate in any measure which will increase the efficiency of their work. Because of this cooperation, scientific tests and measurements have found a permanent place in many of our schools. Principals and teachers are becoming interested in the results of these tests as they apply to concrete cases, in the relationships among the results of many tests given to the same individual pupil, and in what ought to be done for this individual pupil when these facts and their inter-relationships have been discovered.

The reading and arithmetic work of all teachers has been observed and many teachers have been led to see that they were working without clearly defined objectives, and are endeavoring to correct those conditions.

A special condition to be met in rural education is that of the one- and two-teacher schools. Until we have a specially adapted form of curriculum made to the specifications of these schools, it is practically impossible for them to cope with the full elementary educational problem.

But modern educational ideals are realizable even in one-teacher and two-teacher schools, given appropriate curricula, equipment and teachers. It takes a good teacher to utilize a good curriculum—the poor teachers merely repeat the type of education which produced them.

This year there will be no state examinations given in the county, but objective tests will be used as

a basis for promotion. The typical eighth grade examination turns the time of teacher and children away from true education to focus it upon memorizing more or less isolated facts.

Until we have much more reliable information than at present of which curriculum is of most worth for rural children, any formal imposed requirement like this is a ball and chain to progress. The objective test can far better serve the purposes sought by eighth grade examination with much less danger of time-wasting cramming.

We have taken long strides in the past 20 years toward making teaching a profession, but we need to keep in mind some of the characteristics of a true profession. Freedom and growth are two of them. Every member has a voice and an opportunity to make an individual contribution, however great or small it may be, to the sum total of the truth known to the profession.

I desire to express my apprecia-

tion to the principals and teachers of Multnomah county for their cooperation the past three months and to wish them a happy and prosperous New Year.

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