History of Table Rock School District No. 44

By V. A. DAVIS

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Ever since the early pioneer days, education has been fostered, and has held a prominent place in the rise and progress of the county. From this circumstance has come the county's present progressive, public-spirited, and cultured citizenship.

When the county's foundations were laid, the founders, with prophetic vision, made provision for the laying out of school districts and the maintenance of schools. The Jacksonville school district, number one, was the parent of all the others. On July 19th, 1854, seventy-nine years ago, this district was organized, with T. F. Royal as the first county school superintendent.

Owing to the scattered population, the early school districts were very large in area, their boundaries irregular, and oft-times imaginary. As the population increased, business developed, and transportation improved, the districts were reduced in size, re-arranged and re-organized, in order to meet the demands of the rapidly developing commonwealth.

The story of the school districts would make an interesting chapter in Jackson county history; for, many of the historical events recorded in southern Oregon history took place within the boundaries of some of the present school districts. One of these is the Table Rock district, located in the most charming, picturesque, and fertile spot in the county. It was here that the treaty that ended the Rogue River Indian war in 1853 was signed on the west slope of Upper Table Rock. The Daughters of the American Revolution, and associate organizations, have placed a marker, commemorating the event, in the plain between the two Table Rocks.

Among the early children of the mother district was Antioch, number eighteen. This district, originally known as the Mountain District, was set off on Oct. 31st, 1860. The specified boundary began in the center of Lower Table Rock; thence north to Evans Creek; thence East to the center of Rogue river; thence down the center of said river to the place of beginning. This was a region thinly populated, of a varied surface configuration, consisting of hill and valley, forest and plain, lake and stream, with an area greater than the present state of Rhode Island.

For several years after the formation of this district, but little interest was shown in education, no district officials being elected and no school being maintained by taxation. But interest in the necessity of educating the growing up boys and girls being revived, in 1867, J. A. Burns taught a subscription school in an old log cabin that stood near the site of the present Antioch school house. Three years later, Mr. Burns taught a similar school in an old log cabin that stood on the knoll near the site of Mrs. Schafer's residence in the present Table Rock district. During the two succeeding years, Mr. John Potter and Miss Mary McCabe, respectively, taught subscription schools in the same old cabin. It had not been built for school purposes; but had probably been built by some settler and afterward abandoned by him. The old cabin becoming delapidated and unsanitary, the school directors prohibited its use for school purposes in the future.

About this time, either an epidemic of sleeping-sickness fell upon the people, or a moratorium was declared in the school business, for no school was held in the district for a period of nearly two years. At last, interest having been revived in school matters, it was decided to establish two schools in the district, both to be supported by taxation. One of the schools was to be located in the southern part of the district to accommodate the settlers in the vicinity of Table Rock. From this circumstance dates the record of an organized school, supported by taxation, in the Table Rock district.

In the spring of 1874 Miss Lou Houston taught the first three months term in the district under the new dispensation. The school was held in a small, unpainted house, built on the Jim Collins farm. Mr. S. M. Nealon afterward bought this farm, and the first public school house in the present Table Rock district stood near the twin oaks or near the site now occupied by the residence of Mr. C. W. Sage. Miss Houston enrolled thirteen pupils, "boarded round," and received a salary of $33 1-3 a month.

Thereafter, a spring term of school was regularly held in the little, rough lumber building, which served its purpose well until replaced, in later years, with a more imposing structure.

Population having increased, and the citizens having expressed a desire to manage their own school affairs, in March, 1879, the present Table Rock school district No. 44, was detached, by petition, from the Antioch district No. 18. At that time, J. D. Fountain was county superintendent of schools; and E. P. Pickens, B. Vincent, and J. W. O. Gregory became the directors and J. S. March clerk of the new district. At the first school election, seventeen votes were cast; the census showed thirty-two children of school age; and the treasury swelled with $96 cash on hand. In 1879 Miss Maude Tuffs taught the first spring term of school in the newly organized district; and in 1886 Jenny Oaks taught the first fall term in the history of the district.

On March 25th, ten years after the formation of the district, a portion of its northern part was detached by petition and added to the Chapparral district, No. 52. At that time H. H. Mitchell, who formerly taught in the Table Rock district, was county school superintendent.

In the spring of 1892, Mr. Fred Hansen, a patron of the school, deeded one acre of land to the district for school purposes. He was a public spirited citizen and much interested in education. A new school house was built upon the tract by Mr. March. It was completed in the fall just in time to hold the Community Christmas tree program in it. In 1893, Miss Emma Ruth taught the first spring term in the new school house.

In 1885, Mary Newbury, 1893, Armenta Burch, 1896, Miss Cotter, each taught a private school in the district during the fall and winter; but owing to the small attendance and lack of interest in such schools, they were discontinued in the future.

From the subscription school that John Burns taught in the old log cabin, and for twenty years thereafter, the teachers with but few exceptions, "boarded round." Beginning about the year 1890, the practice was established of having them board in some certain home or place in the district. When the teachers "boarded round," the patrons, pupils and teacher, all experienced the delights, and diversions incident to that friendly old custom, for those were the pioneer days, the halcyon days of old, whose memory will ever remain green in song and story.

To keep pace with the march of progress, it was decreed that the old building should be replaced with a new one. Accordingly during the summer vacation of 1910, the present building was built upon the site of the old one, erected in 1892. Mr. V. A. Davis taught the first school held in the present building.

From the little old log cabin, on the knoll, to the present commodious building, under the eye of Table Rock, is a span of sixty-three years of time. During the course of those stirring, formative years, Table Rock school district has kept pace with the march of progress, and has ever been prominent in promoting the educational, social, and religious culture of the district and county. When the district was officially organized, fifty-four years ago, it maintained but three months school during the year, employed one teacher, enrolled thirty-two census children, and had but $96 in the treasury; today, nine months school are maintained, two teachers are employed, seventy-four census children are enrolled, and the assessed valuation of its property is rated at $280,767.80.

The geographical location of Table Rock district lies in two Ranges, 1 and 2, W. W. M., and Townships 35 and 36 S. It embraces about eleven sections, and its area is approximately 7040 acres. The school house is located in the southern part of Section 10, Range 2, W. W. M., and Township 36 S.

The district's present official organization consists of Frank Hensley, Sam Newman and Floyd Hamlin, directors, and Mary B. Meyers, clerk. The teaching staff consists of Roy Parr, principal, and teacher of the upper grades, and Winnifred May, assistant principal, and teacher of the lower grades. The school ranks high in efficiency and scholarship, and bids fair to rise to greater heights in the future.

A roster of the teachers in the order of their term of service shows a list of seventy-one names: John Burns, John Potter, Mary McCabe, Lou Houston, Jane Nichols, W. J. Stanley, Mary Berry, O. W. Gregory, Maude Tuffs, H. H. Mitchell, Maggie Howell, W. H. Gore, M. Vina Gore, May Griffith, Sarah Knowels, Henry Cryder, Mary Newbury, Amanda Goodyear, Jenny Oaks, Lottie Reed, Fanny Knowles, Rose Griffith, Charley Griffith, Annie Harvy, Laura Colton, Ella Griffith, Arthur Walker, Lutie Burch, Emma Ruth, Armenta Burch, L. A. Simons, Anna Clemons, Libby Pendleton, Miss Cotter, Maude Downing, Olive Gregory, Nellie Towne, Lizzie Ferguson, Mae Sutton, Wick Easter, Stella Stidham, Dolly Badger, Mae McIntyre, Flora Smith, Flossie Briscoe, H. B. Leach, Ida Stewart, Lorena Shuck, V. A. Davis, Myrtle Corum, Alice French, Cy. Watkins, Louise Ward, Gladys Miller, C. E. Johnson, Hattie B. Lester, Josephine Kincaid, Eva Beebe, Helen Parker, Verda Lynch, June Dunlap, Mae Johnson, Mrs. Voorhies, Mrs. Burdeen Meyers, Irene Franks, Mrs. Ina Purcell, Mary Martha Sweeney, Betty Brown, Nellie Egan, Winifred May and Roy Parr.

Nearly all the teachers have departed, leaving behind their footprints in the field of their endeavor. A few have passed over the divide into the mystic realm of the Great Beyond; others remain among the living, all busily chasing their favorite phantoms along their pathways of life.

The boys and girls who assembled here in the past, all have passed out of this school into life's greater school of stern experience. Flushed with life's bright dreams, they assumed their responsibilities of citizenship, and began to play their respective parts on the stage of life's grand realities. All have been weavers, both teachers and pupils, weaving their fabrics at the loom of life. And as their shuttles have fitted swiftly to and fro, they have laid their wraps in the schemes of the dreams they have dreamed.

Society and Clubs

St. Ann's Altar Society to Meet

The regular meeting of St. Ann's altar society will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Parish hall.

Lady Elks Enjoy Cards Tuesday.

Lady Elks will meet at the temple Tuesday afternoon for the usual round of cards and pool. Mrs. Edith Bundy will be hostess for the occasion.

Miss Williams Feted at Party

Miss Helen Williams was honor guest at a birthday party held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hess, on May 5th. Bridge was enjoyed during the evening and prizes awarded. Arthur Lainge and Harold Larson. Refreshments were served to ten guests at a table attractively decorated with spring flowers and a birthday cake.

Presbyterian Class To Honor Mothers

The Women's Bible class of the First Presbyterian church will devote the opening exercises Sunday to honoring mothers.

Special music will be contributed to the program by Mrs. B. L. Sanderson, Mrs. Doran and Miss Doran. The rest of the period will be spent in study of Joshua, conducted by the teachers. All persons interested in Bible study are cordially invited to the class meeting.

Neighbor Parker, Hostess To Thimble Club Thursday

Thimble club of Chrysanthemum circle, No. 84, Neighbors of Woodcraft, met Thursday afternoon with Neighbor Etta Parker. Following the short business meeting the remainder of the afternoon was devoted to social interests and perfection of plans for the district convention May 15 and 16 in Roseburg.

The following members of Chrysanthemum circle will attend: Sadie Gill, Ruth Jones, Clara Fisher, Florence Lattourette, Prue Angle Platt, Fay Flynn and Hilda Hansen. Lona Bergman is district magician. At the close of the afternoon Mrs. Parker served refreshments.

The next meeting will be held May 25 with Neighbor Martha Gall, 4 South Orange.

Enjoy Delightful Mothers Day Program

At the W. C. T. U. meeting, May 11th, some twenty women enjoyed a specially prepared Mother's Day program with Rev. (Mrs.) Long giving a very fine address on "We Mothers," pointing out the "privilege, responsibility, power and problems of motherhood" from Biblical times to the present. Mrs. Jenkins very graciously gave an appropriate reading by Edmond Vance Cook and this was enhanced by a vocal duet "My Mother's Eyes," sung beautifully by the Misses Florence Neumann and Joyce Banish. Mesdames Lyman and Hill gave in duet "Tell Mother I'll Be There." The Union is indebted to Mrs. Lyman for this enjoyable program.

The four dry candidates filing for the coming election were announced as follows: S. W. Hall and Homer Billings of Ashland and Col. W. H. Paine and O. C. Hoover of Medford. We are asking that the friends of prohibition rally to the support of these candidates.

At the close of the program, Mrs. W. T. Berry, chairman of flower mission department, presented each one present with corsages of mixed blossoms from Mother's garden including wild hyacinths, cat ears, poppies, tulips, for-get-me-nots, lilacs and bleeding hearts. Mrs. Long, the speaker, was presented with a large bouquet of the hyacinths in appreciation of her address.

The next regular meeting of the Union is Thursday, June 8th, to which everyone is cordially invited whether a member or not. Visitors are always welcome. The regular place of meeting is the "Y."

D. A. R. News

Mrs. Wilson Wait will be hostess to Crater Lake Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, on Saturday, May 20, at 2 o'clock, at her home, 220 Vancouver avenue. The annual election of officers and reports of committees will occupy the business meeting and a magazine review will be the principal feature of the program.

Mesdames M. M. Morris, E. A. Moore, Don Newbury and R. E. McElhose will assist Mrs. Wait.

One feature of the D. A. R. work about which comparatively little has been said is newspaper publicity. Throughout the country, newspapers generally, have been most generous and helpful and with few exceptions, have shown a fine spirit of cooperation with national, state and local societies. Locally, the Medford Mail Tribune and the Medford News have given freely all of the space desired and their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. The courtesies shown have made the work of the publicity committee a pleasure.

Lady Kiwanians To Enjoy Luncheon.

Luncheon at the Hotel Medford will be enjoyed by Lady Kiwanians Monday. Luncheon will be served at 1 o'clock and will be followed by bridge.

Weekly Bible Class

Miss Wallace to Play Chopin Program Monday

Miss Imogene Wallace, well known local pianist, will entertain at the Southern Oregon Normal school assembly Monday morning at 10:40 with an all Chopin program.

Mrs. Williams Honored at Dinner

Mrs. A. B. Williams was guest at her home on King street May 8th, at a lovely dinner held in honor of her birthday. Those present were her children and grandchildren.

Hostess Club Meets Tuesday.

The Hostess club will meet on Tuesday afternoon, May 16, at 2:00 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Clara Eldridge, near Voorhies Crossing.

P.-T. A. Hears Fine Program

Dr. L. D. Inskeep, city health officer, gave a talk on "Adolescent Health of the Boy and Girl," at the Parent-Teachers association meeting at the junior high school Friday night.

Dr. Inskeep developed the subject in its two phases, psychology and physical health. The mothers present expressed appreciation for the timely thoughts on the health of this most mysterious and least understood age.

The girls of Miss Marjorie Kelly's gym classes gave a wand drill and aroused much enthusiasm by two relay races. Ray Henderson's 7-B and 7-A boys displayed training in six setting-up exercises and coordination in team work by a three-inning swat ball game.

Mrs. C. H. Paske, retiring president, installed the new officers who are Mrs. H. E. Rinabarger, president, Mrs. Wayne Keesee, vice-president, Mrs. O. O. Horner, secretary and Mrs. J. S. Gill, treasurer.

A social hour was enjoyed by parents and teachers when the outgoing corps of officers presided at tea.

The association, by Mrs. N. C. Chaney, program chairman for the day, presented Mrs. Paske with a lovely old fashioned bouquet in honor of her past service. The manual training department has a display which attracted much attention.

Rogue River Ladies Enjoy Pleasant Day

ROGUE RIVER, May 13.(Spl)—Ladies met Friday at Mrs. C. T. Bakers on highway north of Rogue River. A covered dish luncheon was served at noon to 28. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Johnston presented the aid with a gift of $5. The next meeting is to be held at Mrs. Ray Moore's May 19. Those present were Mrs. O. C. Palmer, Mrs. W. A. Johnston, Mrs. Bedford Biles, Mrs. Effie and Victor Birdseye, Mrs. Ray Moore, Mrs. Pauline Wahl, Mrs. Marion Lance, Mrs. Geo. Bradley, Mrs. Sam Sandry, Mrs. Elizabeth Fowler, Mrs. Albert McIlvain, Mrs. Carlos Magerle, Miss Tillie Anderson, Miss Ethel Simpson, Mrs. I. T. Galligar, Mrs. Charles La Cross, Mrs. Reesebeck, Mrs. Geo. McKellum, Mrs. J. F. Julian, Mrs. Florence Taylor, Mrs. W. F. Wright and the hostess, Mrs. Baker.

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BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Cook of 604 Clark street are the parents of a daughter, weighing seven pounds, four ounces. The little miss was born Friday at the Sacred Heart hospital, on "hospital day."

RECREATION CLUB TO HOL DANNUAL PICNIC

The Recreation club party at Dead Indian Springs, which has become an annual event with the Jackson county organization, will be held in July this year.

Committee to make arrangements for the party has already been appointed by Dr. B. R. Elliott and includes: Henry Copper of Jacksonville, Arden Tyrrell of Central Point, Claus Charley of Lake Creek, Mrs. George Andrews of Bellview and Miss York of Independence.

INTER-CITY ROTARY SESSION WEDNESDAY

An inter-city Rotary meeting will be held here next Wednesday, May 17, at which time R. Murray Hill, director of Rotary International, will address Rotarians of Medford, Grants Pass, Ashland, Klamath Falls and possibly Roseburg.

Dinner will be served at 7 o'clock at the Hotel Medford, with program following. Mr. Hill will arrive here en route to Vancouver, B. C., from his home in Kentucky.

HENRY FORD DISPOSES OF CREDIT DEPARTMENT

DETROIT, May 13—(UP)—Henry Ford's interest in the Universal Credit corporation has been sold to the Commercial Investment Trust corporation for approximately $30,000,000, the billionaire automobile manufacturer announced today.

WIFE OF BANKS MAY NOT TAKE DEFENSE STAND

EUGENE, May 12—Whether or not Edith Robertine Banks, jointly on trial with her husband L. A. Banks, for first degree murder, will take the stand, is still undecided by the defense.

Attorney W. E. Phipps said Friday night, that "it is problematical so far." With the interposing of an insanity plea for her mate, more of the burden of the trial is shifted to her bowed shoulders, and the defense as a "matter of policy," may withhold her from the stand, while a battle of alienists rages.

Attorney Phipps predicted that the trial would be over by Tuesday. "Most of our witnesses will be brief," he said.

The heavy oratorical guns of both state and defense thundered Friday, for and against a defense motion for a dismissal of Mrs. Banks. The court overruled the motion, holding, "the state has introduced sufficient evidence to warrant consideration by the jury."

In one of his masterly and dramatic appeals, Assistant Attorney General Moody, painted Banks as "a coward hiding behind his wife's skirts, who stood out of range, while his wife under his orders, opened the door."

"Why didn't Banks open the door," asked Attorney Moody. "Because if he did he couldn't use the rifle. He told Phil Lowd, he used the rifle, because 'I couldn't trust the pistol.'

"Mrs. Banks knew the murder plan of her husband. She typed the letters that he dictated. She knew the house was an arsenal. The letters were an alibi, in my opinion, written after the officer had been murdered.

"Why didn't they use the telephone, instead of writing letters? It was in working order. It had been used that morning. They both had their voices. They could have phoned the content of the letters. They were an after-thought—the seed of an alibi." Mrs. Banks not only aided, but participated in the murder, the state contends.

During the course of Attorney Moody's argument, Mrs. Banks, changed from his usual bowed head position, to gaze coldly and intently at the prosecutor.

Attorney Lonergran made a brief final argument for the defense, citing a number of authorities at law, in support of his claims.

"Counsel for the state, has cited the case of a Chinaman, whose paramour watched a murder, as similar to this case," declared Attorney Lonergran, his Irish wrath rising. "Mrs. Banks should not be subjected to the humiliation of even vague comparison to the paramour of a Chinaman. In this cited case, tong men entered a room, cut the throat of a Chinaman with a razor, hit him in the head with a hatchet, and placed the body in a trunk, and formed the paramour to accompany it to The Dalles. Any comparison is illy taken."

Attorney Lonergran declared the case against Mrs. Banks, "was based upon inference upon inference upon inference, and leaves the jury to enter the field of conjecture and speculation."

The court in overruling the motion, which was a bitter disappointment to Mrs. Banks, held "that inferential evidence, and the evidence on a whole, and the facts and circumstances, are matters exclusively for the consideration of the jury."

Mrs. Banks came to court wearing a new checkered skirt, and a black veiled hat. While Banks was on the stand, she never removed her eyes from him, and at times smiled comfortingly to him.

Don't extend credit to Mr. New Customer until you find out from the Southern Oregon Credit Bureau how he paid the other fellows.

ACTOR NOT BANKRUPT IS FINDING OF COURT

LOS ANGELES, May 13.—(UP)—Gregory Ratoff, screen character actor and husband of Eugenie Leontovitch, was refused bankruptcy today on a ruling of Referee R. B. Turnbull that he failed to "comply with the letter or spirit of the bankruptcy act."

Ratoff listed $30,000 in debts and $10,900 assets but Turnbull charged that he gave his wife a valuable diamond ring after he filed bankruptcy proceedings and allegedly concealed other assets. At that time he was earning $1,000 weekly and his wife $750 weekly.

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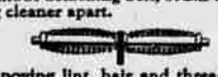

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See! Sand "dance" and embedded, grimy dirt storm and "boil" out of the rug inches ahead of the Eureka nozzle.

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