

Hand-Written Record Tells of Early Schools

Boundaries Were Flexible, Numbers Changed Often

By MAUDE ZIEGLER

It is a little difficult to visualize the Applegate valley without schools, but an old book at the county superintendent's office, where the record is written by hand, tells some of the story of more than a century ago.

"Shall we organize a system of free schools," was the first proclamation of Joseph Lane, governor of the Oregon territory. The Rev. George H. Atkins prepared a message to the first territorial legislature July 17, 1849. He brought with him \$200 worth of school books of latest and best authors, the record states.

It appears that district boundaries and names were flexible in those early days, as well as district numbers, and the first record shows Upper Applegate or Uniontown district No. 24 with G. W. Starr as clerk. M. A. Williams was county superintendent of schools at that time, April, 1863.

In December the district was changed into Log Town-Uniontown No. 27. A year later, William A. Jones was clerk, with 27 children attending and 40 legal voters in the district. It is not recorded where a building was located.

Two quarters of school were held with three months in the spring, and three in the fall. The teachers salary averaged about \$100 for a three-month period. This included room and board, and the teachers would board with three or four families. The entire school fund appropriated to the district was \$98.78.

Theodore Cameron, Uniontown store keeper, was clerk in 1865. There were no school buses for those days, and Miles, Jim, and Omar Cantrell, living on the Preston place, crossed the river by rowboat to get to Uniontown school in 1872, when Miles was four years old, members of the family say. A few teachers of the 1880s were John Gore, Verlinda Buck Cantrell, and Bernice Cameron.

Serve Ruch Area
These districts also served the present Ruch area, and sometimes only a quarter term was taught. B. F. Irvine, once blind editor of Portland Journal, attended school at Log Town. In 1876 a building was erected at the site of the present Ruch school, and any connection with Log Town was dropped at this time.

The school was called "the Drake school." The Drake family living at the site of the present Hibbs or Osennbrugge place. Since Drake was instrumental in establishing a school, it was given the family name.

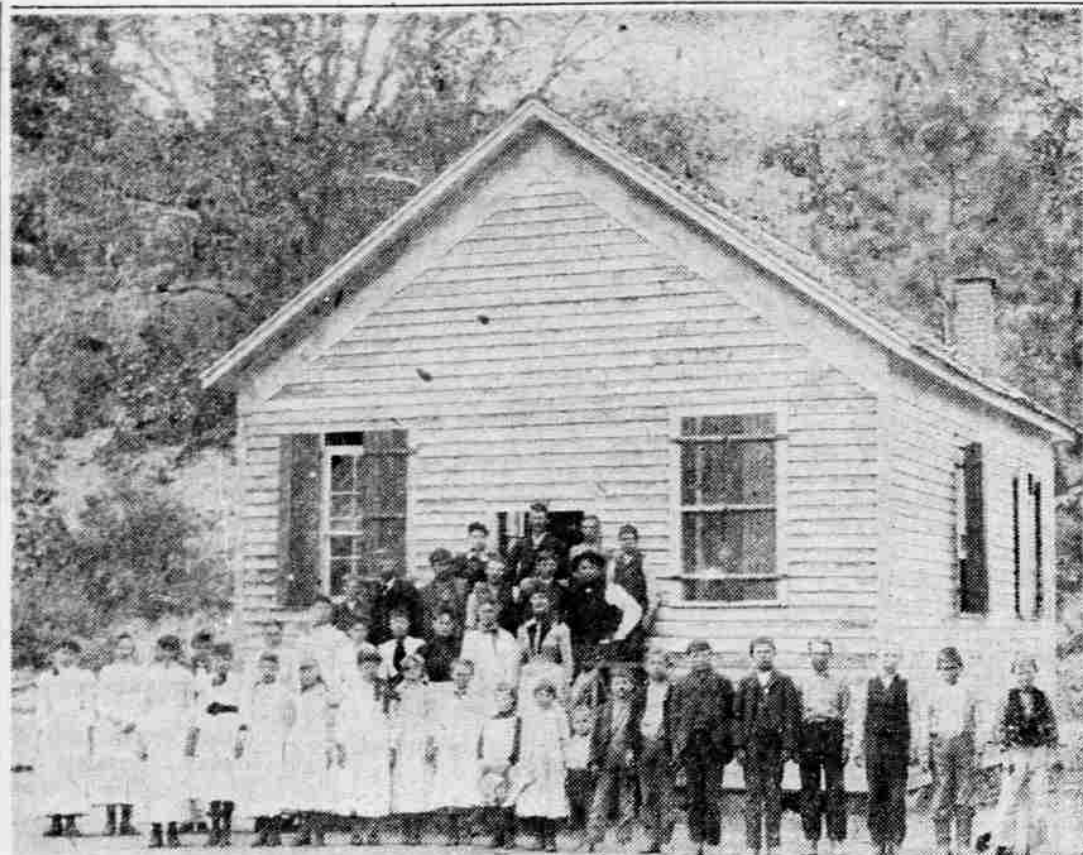
The "No. 3" may not indicate its position of organization, for the old record shows there was a general shifting of numbers over the southern Oregon area; when the Col. Ross district No. 3 was absorbed into Central Point district, the "No. 3" was left free, and was adopted by the Drake school.

51 Pupils
In 1872 this district had 51 pupils and 42 voters. William Ray was clerk until 1876, and J. D. Buckley served until 1872. According to Jim Buckley, he and other pupils of Drake district went to Uniontown part of the time, and vice versa, for there was not always money to maintain the schools even for six months out of the year.

Buckley said the school water supply came by carrying it from neighboring houses, and that it was considered a privilege to carry water to evade lessons.

Early teachers as remembered by Jim Buckley were J. B. Farley, who also taught the youthful miners at Sterling; Kate Herriott Hyde, mother of Mrs. Boyd Hamilton; Emma Ulrich, aunt of the late Mrs. Jim Buckley; Jennie Moore, who married Professor J. T. Merritt of Jacksonville; Stella Stidham; Frances Donnegan; Miles Cantrell, father of Harlan Cantrell, who also taught at Ruch in late 1920s, Dorothy Day, and John Jeffrey.

Recalls Recreation
Buckley recalls that for recreation the children played "Black-Man" and "Town-Ball." Desks were home made and the benches were boards nailed full length of the wall. The building was studied on the outside, with bare walls on the inside, and children could observe the outdoors through the knot holes. The



APPLEGATE SCHOOL—Shown above is the Applegate school class in the 1880s. The teacher, standing in the back row left to right was Kate Herriott (Hyde). Among students at the school include those of the Herriott, Clute and Pernolls families.

stove in the building was a long iron stove which stood in the center of the room and took wood in four foot lengths.

The name was changed from Drake to Ruch in 1897, when the Ruch post office was established by C. M. Ruch. Jackson, the District No. 1, and Ashland, established in 1860, was No. 2.

Ages of pupils in those days ranged from five to 20 years, and most children attended school, although there was no compulsory school law.

Addition Built
In 1893, an addition was built to the Drake building, and it was used until 1914, when the present block building was constructed by Fred Fick, Jacksonville hardware store owner. A second block room was added in 1916, and high school was held for two years.

The next earliest school in the community was Sterling No. 33. R. S. Armstrong was clerk when the school was first recorded in 1870. There were 36 children of school age, and George Yandes was clerk for 10 years.

The district lapsed in 1919, and was reestablished in 1923. It was consolidated with Ruch in 1937. Early day board members at Sterling were Claus Kleinhammer, Josiah Crump, and Joe Saltmarsh.

Thompson Creek
Another early school was Thompson creek, No. 34 with Thomas H. Lowden as clerk, and 24 children were in the district which was formed from part of Missouri Flat. Early day clerks from 1872 were Thomas Mee, A. Darnelle, James Mee, and Jasper Darnelle. The first building was of logs, and about 20 years later a school house was built of lumber with Effie Green the first teacher.

This was where Dick Hoffman went to school, and he recalls that the late Gus Newbury was county school superintendent.

Books were scarce, Hoffman said, and when school opened in the fall the children brought the books they had, and classes were held. Foot races and tearing up wood rats' nests Hoffman says was no fountain in the room in those days, and Mr. Hoffman said many times they drank from the irrigation ditch.

Chief Sports
The chief sports were baseball and rock throwing contests across the river. The baseball was made with string from a raveled sock wound on a piece of rubber,

according to stories told to Christine Beaver Harr, early day teacher there. The ball was finished up with hand stitching to hold the string in place. The bat was hand made, too.

The children forming this early school besides the Watkins and Collings children were those of William Dorn and Arrasmith's. The teacher boarded with the families until 1911, when she had to take part of her \$30 per month to pay board.

In 1923, the shake roof began to leak, and a new building was erected on property bought from Bert Harr, but the old logs were in good condition, and were utilized by Cary Culy in building a garage. John Jeffrey, member of a Ruch family, was the first teacher. He was a surveyor, and later a Portland attorney. Watkin school was discontinued in 1942, owing to shortage of teachers.

A school which many today have never known about was Steamboat No. 58, recorded in 1889, located on Carbury creek, where a mining village once flourished after a quartz "pocket" of \$250,000 was discovered in 1869. A building of squared logs was built on part of the old Al Shearer place below mouth of Steve and Sturgis creeks, according to A. B. Culy, of Medford, who attended school there.

Named After Mine
Culy says there never was a creek by the name of "Steamboat," but the name applied to the mine. A publication on Oregon Geographic names says that when mines do not come up to expectations either naturally or by fraud they are said to be "steamed," so Culy says that when men in Jacksonville heard of the "strike" on Carbury, they went in search of it, and failing to find it, named the place "Steamboat." The school was discontinued about 1912, a later school organized, but one with a picturesque story, was Beaver Creek No. 82, in 1898. The first building was located on the west side of the river, and pupils and teacher crossed the river in a trolley, pupils pulling each other across.

Teachers who still talk about riding in the trolley are Miss Kate Buckley and Ina Stoker Pursel. Children who attended school at that time were those of Amos and Adelbert McKee, Newton Lewis, and Charles Buck.

Recalls Fall
Leonard McKee, now of Jacksonville, recalls that Bessie Lewis Dorn fell from a 10-foot pier supporting the trolley cables, and fractures several ribs. Early board members were Charles Pursel, Newton Lewis, and James Dews. The first teacher was Daisy Walker. The first building was used for 16 years, and one other was built to serve until the school was discontinued in 1942.

The last school to be organized was Little Applegate in 1904, according to Nelson Pursel, whose father's sawmill, operated by Charles Pursel on Little Applegate supplied the lumber for the school house in 1906.

For two years before the building was attained, private school was held in a vacant cabin at the Frank Crump ranch. The first teacher was Ramona Bissel. Miss Ella Parks taught in 1905, and Mrs. Nelson Pursel in 1906. Some early pupils there were Osie Saltmarsh, Lee Saltmarsh, Tiny, Hugh and Melissa Combett, and children of the Harley Hall and Eldon Jennings families.

Serve Miners' Children
Early schools served miners' children for the most part, for agriculture as a chief livelihood was not developed until the late 80s. Ruch school has a present enrollment of over 100 pupils and Applegate has an enrollment of 90.

Teachers listed from 1899 to 1916-1917: Uniontown: Bernice Cameron, Josephine Donegan, Ella Parks, Maud Prim, Maud Harr (Ditsworth), Lillie Payne, Gay Webb, Eva Couch, Mae Lawrence, Irene Plotner, Mrs. E. E. Sams, Maybell Daniels (Offenbacher), Mabel Hanson (Wertz). Ruch: Anna Jeffrey (1897), Frances Donnegan, Dorothy Day, Maud Prim, Mabel Mickey, Mary B. Underwood, Benjamin Collins, George Henry, T. D. Goodpasture, Helen Wait, Gertrude Deierlein, Grace Hullinger, Mina Magness, Robert Main, John Nealon, Anna Boylan, Nellie Collins, Bes Colvin, Robert Peachey, Lucy Kruger, Marguerite Morrisey, and N. A. Frost.

Sterling Teachers
Sterling: George McCune, Martha Lee, Ollie Huffer, Olaf Mickey, May Rose, Myrtle Corum, Beulah Freeman, Minnie Thompson, Abbie Henry, M. P. Scott, Faye Bur-

chell, Ella Parks, Mary A. Gore, Hazel Dalzell, Reva E. Arnold.

Thompson Creek: Naomi E. Crocker, Katherine Buckley, Eunice Corum, Kate Broad, Maud O'Brien, Luria Chapman, Kate Herriott Hyde, Maud Prim, Grace Rayfoltz, Gay Webb, Cora March (Hoffman), Verna Praler, Mildred Hicks, Inez M. Drive, Eunice Davis, Mamie F. Clark, Kay Kincaid, Helen Mee (Brown), Bessie Halsey.

Applegate: Abbie Stites, Cora B. Lemon, Ollie Huffer, W. C. Whitlock, Dorothy Day, Josephine Donegan, Maud O'Brien, Kate Hyde, Beulah Huebner, Nell E. Callahan, Lora Couch (Pernoll), Emma Wendt (Chase), Bessie Colvin, Charles A. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Wheeler, Irene Manning, Lillian Page, H. S. O'Hara, B. F. Nibert, Ella Rawlings, Charles Brown.

Forest Creek Teachers
Forest Creek: Elsie Wiley, Nellie Towne, Thora Smith, Nellie Anderson, R. H. Jones, Flora Thompson, Ada C. Ditsworth, George Henry, Bertha Prim, Maud Peachey (Port.), Mina J. Hall, Ella Parks, John C. Hart, Nettie M. Abbott (Armstrong), Pearl L. Gould, Mrs. Ella D. Tyrell, Maud Miller, A. F. Alder, Mamie F. Clark, Ada D. East.

Watkins: Nora Shaerer, Lillie Anderson, Alma Wilson, Armada Burch, Daisy Walker, Margaret Byrne, Flora Thompson, N. T. Boughman, Ina Stoker (Pursel), Edith M. McCune, Emma Wendt (Chase), Evelyn Merrill, Christine Beaver (Harr), Florence Crippen, Eunice L. Smith, Grace Rayfoltz, Eleanor M. Hay, Olive A. Hogan, Helen James.

Steamboat Teachers
Steamboat: Dotty Day, Nettie Lewis (Thompson), Mary Childers, Armetta Birch, Mabel Mickey, Mrs. I. M. Hoge, Nina Karne, Maude Harr, Clara Elmer, Bertha Daily (Culy), Minnie Ring, Gertrude Hedrick, Esther M. Perry, Ruth York (Hood), J. J. Allen, Kate Hyde.

Beaver Creek: Kate Buckley, Daisy Walker, Ella Parks, Ethel Florey, Dora Hurley, Lucia Chapman, Susie Boyd, Maud Herr, Abby Henry, Ina Stoker (Pursel) Cyneth Lee, Gay Webb, Mary Bigham, Bertha Daily (Culy), Gladys Shaw, Bertha Peachey (McKinney), Bertha Smith, Minnie Larson, Mildred Hicks, Mabel Thomas, Ruth York (Hood), Lucille Barber, Ella Rawlings, March Brown, Mary A. Gore, Olive Hogan.

Little Applegate: (record incomplete) Ramona Bissel, Ella Parks, Ina Stoker, Alice Palmer, Harold Ager, Maud Miller.

60 Per Cent of Cancer Monies Used in Research, Education

National statistics recently released by the American Cancer Society show that 60 per cent of all money collected in the crusade goes for cancer research and education, another 23 per cent is allocated for service to cancer patients, and the remaining 17 per cent pays expenses incurred in administration which includes printed materials and film showings, and fund raising, according to local Cancer Society officials.

Last year, \$266,318.81 was spent in Oregon but only \$249,288.27 was collected. Two grants were given to the University of Oregon medical school to study radiation exposure, and investigation of the metabolic pathway of red hair pigment. In addition, two continuing research projects are being financed at Good Samaritan hospital and Reed college.

The American Cancer Society contributed \$30,000 for

research on bio-chemistry of cell growth at Oregon State college, and approved a clinical pathology fellowship at Providence hospital, Portland. Financial assistance was also given to the University of Oregon dental school, Portland Veneer Disease clinic, the University of Oregon medical school Smear Laboratory and several other groups.

Supports Registries
In addition to presenting films and literature concerning cancer diagnosis and treatment to groups of doctors, dentists and nurses, the Oregon division supports nine cancer registries and clinics. One of these is located in Medford.

Every doctor in the state receives bi-monthly the Cancer association publication, a bulletin of cancer progress to keep them informed on the latest advances against the disease, and a pamphlet specializing in studies concerning early recognition of cancer in

specific sites, officials said.

Public information is carried on throughout the year to stress the two goals of the association, financing research until cures and preventions are discovered, and promoting the need for routine medical examination and early diagnosis to help eliminate the fatality.

More than twice as many pamphlets on cancer, were distributed this year compared to the previous year. In addition 292,600 pieces of Crusade educational materials were distributed.

Film Showings
In Oregon film showings proved popular, and secondary schools and colleges cooperated in using cancer information in their studies. Every county reported a great demand for representatives of their speakers' bureau with 383 speakers, which included 173 physicians and 210 laymen, addressing 610 audiences.

Most people are now aware of the seven danger signals which may indicate cancer, unusual bleeding or discharge, a lump or thickening in breast or elsewhere, a sore that does not heal, persistent change in bowel or bladder habits, persistent hoarseness or cough, persistent indigestion or difficulty in swallowing, and change in wart or mole.

Recent Statistics
Recent statistics show that one cancer in three is now being saved, where only a few years ago one in four could hope to be alive and free of symptoms five years after diagnosis. This gain in lives amounts to some 38,000 patients each year.

Lung cancer, the chief cause of cancer death in men, killed 28,000 men and 5,000 women last year. Since 1949, more men than women die annually of cancer, the proportion being about 53 to 47. About 75,000 cancer patients will probably die in 1959, who might have been saved by earlier and better treatment, according to the society.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States among women aged 36 to 54, and last year the disease took the lives of more than 4,000 children under 15 years old. About half of them died of leukemia.

The annual hospital bill for cancer is estimated at about \$300,000,000, or 10 times what the public gave the American Cancer Society to fight cancer in 1958.

The society is helping to support research by about 1,000 scientists working in 117 hospitals, universities, and laboratories. In the last 13 years \$67,380,000 has been devoted to research.

ISSUES ROADS REPORT
Washington—UPI—A record \$7,185,000,000 worth of construction was under way on federal-aid highways at the end of March, the Bureau of Public Roads reported Friday.

RETIRED OFFICER DIES
Montclair, N.J.—UPI—Robert Douglas, 83, retired vice president of Tiffany & Co., New York jeweler, died Wednesday.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Little 'Music Masters' Lost Their Home

Even though the cost had been considerable, the whole garden did look more complete now that the pool was finished.

As an added measure of artistic beauty a statue was placed in the center of the pool; a cold lifeless goddess of concrete with a cement shawl, her earthly feet in the water, her outstretched right arm holding a stony rose from the center of which spouted a stream of water that tinkled merrily into the quiet waters of the pool.

In the late evening it was very pleasant for the owners of the pool to hear the monotonous but musical splash of water.

Like a Song

Pleasanter still was the sound of the falling waters after the family retired, for then in the quietness of late evening the splashing water at the feet of the goddess had the measured cadence of a song.

Then suddenly one night there was a discord. The song of the fountain turned sour. Pandemonium broke loose. A group of uninvited guest musicians came to the garden pool and their combined voices swelled to a crashing crescendo of creaks, chirps and grunts. The frog-chorus drowned completely the musical splash of the fountain.

The next day, at the home

owner's insistence, the yardman went to work. By day's end he had captured 21 frogs. He carried them all down to the nearby river and threw them, one by one, far out into the very middle of the stream.

Preferred Pool

But the little fellows naturally preferred the still waters of the pool to the moving waters of the river. Besides in the pool there were no large fish or other predators that might gobble down a frog.

So the misplaced frogs all swam back to shore, hopped across the will kept lawn, wriggled through the flower beds and joyously leaped into the cool, refreshing waters of the garden pool.

Didn't Sleep

The family never slept a wink that night for the frogs were so happy to be back they redoubled their croaking. "Oh night of wrath, what will be thy ending?"

The frogs are all gone now. Gone, too, is all the water from the little garden pool. Now flowers are growing in the irregular cement-lined depression in the beautiful yard and the gracefully posed concrete goddess stands with her finely sculptured feet in the dirt.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

FLOOD EXPERT DIES
New York—UPI—Gerard H. Matthes, 85, retired flood-control expert, died Wednesday.

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