

Antioch District Included Large Section

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Phoenix Country Store Was Center of Area Activity During Early Years

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

A group of men in rough-cut clothing stamp the mud off their shoes and enter a tall wood-frame building, move through bales of merchandise, bins and barrels and enter a smoke-filled back room dominated by a large wood stove.

The building is the general store of Frank Towne, owned by him from about 1882 to 1901. This was one of the first such stores erected in Phoenix founded on donation claim donated by Sam Colver. The old New England style country store was the supply center for the farm community of that day, contained a fourth class post office and its back room was perhaps the social center for the farmers when they visited town.

This is the way it was described by Miss Marian Towne and her sister, Mrs. Anna Smith, whose father operated the first general merchandise store in Phoenix. Their father purchased the store from Conrad (Coony) Sergeant, who built it.

Store Passes Owners
About 1901, Towne sold it to Will Coleman who in turn sold it to Bert Hearn, then it passed through a number of hands. It was located where the Truax market is on the corner of Second and Main sts.

The little post office didn't contain many boxes. The town and country residents usually got their mail by general delivery. Miss Towne remembers standing on a box and handing the mail over the counter to the customers when she was a little girl.

Frank Towne came from Maine where the general store was a community institution for the easterners. He modeled his store after those of Maine. Around the store were the barrels, bins and shelves containing the staples of the day. On the other side would be the drygoods, bolts of calico, clothing items and shoes.

Coffee was purchased by the pound green, then roasted at home and ground. Tobacco was sold by the plug and was cut on a machine attached to which was a cleaver-like arm which would be pulled down to cut off each tobacco chunk as it was measured off.

Women Smoke Pipes
Women of those days also smoked pipes, using small clay ones, or corncobs and carrying their cut tobacco in small Bull Durham-like sacks. Sometimes, like the men, they would whistle on plugs to fill their pipes. Mrs. Smith remembers one woman who would come to their house on Second st. in Phoenix, (which is still standing much as it was in the older days) puff on her small clay pipe and tell ghost stories.

Mrs. Smith said after one of those ghost-story telling sessions, she became so scared she ran out in the street in front of the house and waited for her mother to come home from the store.

Crackers came in boxes about two feet long and almost as deep. These could be purchased by the pound or by the nickel's worth. Calico then sold either 10 or 15 cents a yard.

"We considered 15 cent calico as very fine stuff, believe you me!" Miss Towne commented.

There were also a few dishes and the hardware used then. Tea came in large ornate lacquered boxes that have since become collector's items. No body then bought flour in less than 50-pound sacks. Families were large and women did their own baking, Miss Towne said.

Shipped to Portland
Farmers bought their butter and eggs to the Towne store and these were shipped off to Portland. It was in Portland also where Towne purchased his supplies.

The farm women made their own "old Oregon cheese" which was produced in large rounds. Mrs. Sam Furry, wife of one of the prominent Phoenix pioneers, was one of the famous cheese makers of the area and time.

One of the prominent pioneers who came to the general store was Hub Coleman, who Mrs. Smith described as having a bushy white beard which came far down on his chest. He was gruff, but good hearted and a good neighbor, she said.

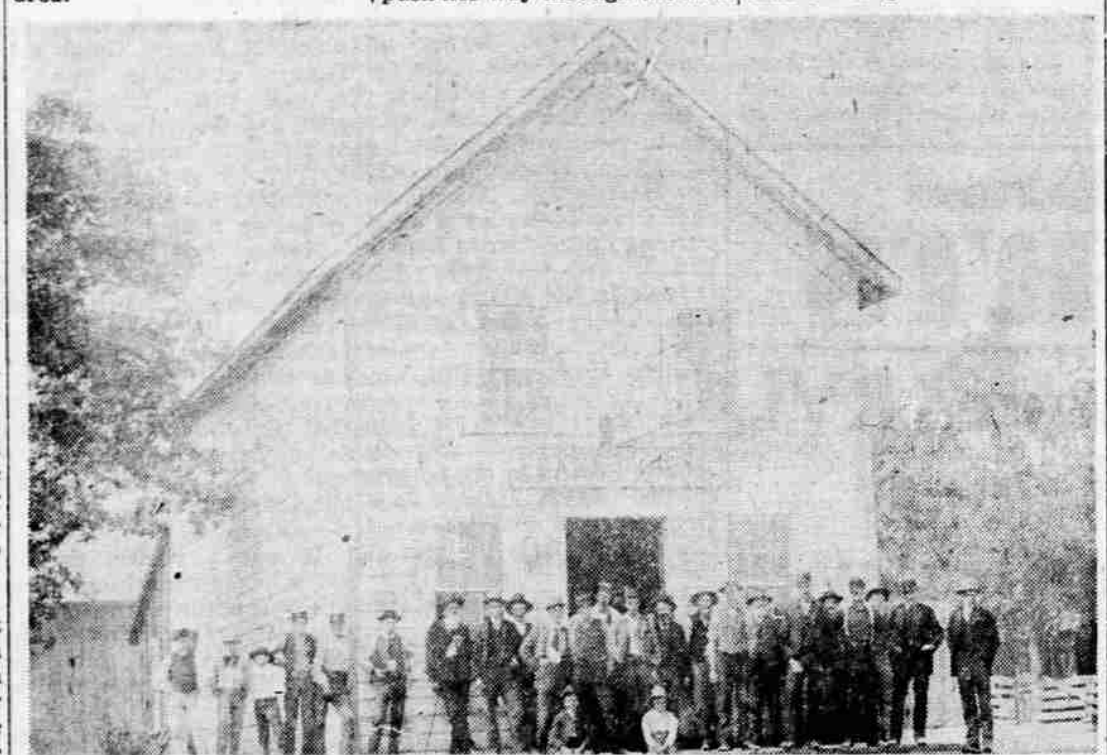
"Uncle Hub Coleman was a good man. They had to be good men in those days to survive the hardships," Mrs. Smith noted.

Butter Maker
Mrs. Hub Coleman was also one of the noted butter makers of the day. Hub Coleman was the father-in-law of Mrs. Lilly Coleman, who now lives

in Phoenix near the Colver house. Other well-known men of the day who visited the store were John Mills, Emerson Gore, Quentin Anderson, Jack Anderson and Dr. George Kahler, one of the first horse and buggy doctors of that area.

Many of the townsfolk and farmers used to gather around the old stove in the general store's back room. There the men would argue about politics and current events of the day. So many men would gather around the stove that Miss Towne said she had to push her way through the men assembled there. It was there the nails were kept in small kegs.

It was probably from listening to the political arguments in the backroom of her father's store that Miss Towne became interested in politics and public affairs. She later became the first woman legislator in Oregon.



PHOENIX GENERAL STORE - One of the first stores in Phoenix was operated by Frank Towne from approximately 1882 to 1901. The building was erected by Conrad (Coony) Sergeant who sold it to Towne. A group of the old timers of that day are shown gathered in front of the old general store where it was located where the Truax market is now at Second and Main sts. in Phoenix. The man standing in the doorway and wearing a straw hat is the owner and proprietor, Frank Towne.



EASTER PROGRAM - The building shown above replaced the one constructed in 1892. It was built during the summer vacation period of 1912, and completed in time for fall classes. V. A. Davis taught the first school in the building. The picture was taken at Easter Sunday program in 1912.

Ceremony Held to Dedicate Flag Pole in Phoenix

Phoenix - A flag-raising ceremony in front of the Phoenix city hall Friday evening led off the Memorial Day week end festivities for Jackson county.

About 5:30 p.m. Friday a group of the townsfolk, the mayor and members of the city council participated in ceremonies to dedicate the new flag pole erected in front of the building on Second st.

Mayor Arthur MacIntosh made a short speech. The Rev. William Saladin, Phoenix Presbyterian church, gave the benediction. E. R. Claffin, Phoenix, presented a U. S. Marine Corps flag in behalf of his son, Lynn, who was killed on Iwo Jima in World War II. Following Claffin's brief address, two other sons, Vincent and Cecil Claffin attached the flag to the halcyons of the new pole. Then Vincent Claffin slowly raised the colors as Harry Kannasto, Phoenix High school music instructor, blew taps.

Lynn Claffin had served in the Third Marines in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. He was one of four survivors in his company from that action. Following treatment for his wounds Sgt. Claffin was sent to Iwo Jima with the Fifth Marines. After his death the E. R. Claffins received on his behalf the bronze star. His unit received the U. S. Navy unit citation and the Presidential citation.

A recent Agriculture Department survey revealed that most homemakers would choose oranges if they could have only one fruit or fruit juice for a month.



FIRST HOUSE - The first school house, shown above, was built by Jim Collins on the site of C. W. Sage's present residence. Miss Lou Houston taught the first school, supported by taxation, in this building in the spring of 1874.

New Officers Are Named at School

Anthony Marshall, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall, was elected president of the student body at St. Mary's High school for next year.

Other student body officers are Jere Randolph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Randolph, vice president; Mary Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Batzer, secretary; and John Snider, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Snider, treasurer.

Senior class president for next year is Thomas Tomjack, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Tomjack. Fred Burich, son of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Burich, was named junior A class president, and Anne Manno, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony R. Manno, junior B class president.

SLOW BUT SURE
Prairie Du Chien, Wis. - Terry Seeley received a reply this week to a message he put in a bottle in July, 1955, and tossed in the Wisconsin river. Donna Olsen, 12, of Alma, wrote that she found it - at a point 100 miles, six sets of river locks - and nearly four years - down stream.

Little Interest Was Shown in Education During Early Years

(Editor's note: The following article about the history of the Table Rock school district was given at a meeting of the Table Rock Community club April 28, 1933. Information in the article was compiled April 1, 1933, by V. A. Davis, one of the teachers of the early school. Excerpts from the history follow.)

By V. A. DAVIS
Ever since the early pioneer days, education has been fostered and has held a prominent place in the rise and progress of the county.

When the county's foundations were laid, the founders, with prophetic vision, made provision for the laying out of school districts and maintenance of schools. Jacksonville school district No. 1 was the parent of all the others.

On July 19, 1854, this district was organized with T. F. Royal the first county school superintendent. Owing to the scattered population, the district was at first very large with boundaries irregular and oft-times imaginary. As the population increased, business developed and transportation improved, districts were reduced in size, re-arranged and reorganized.

Historical Events
Many 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. Among early children of the mother district was Antioch, No. 18. This district, originally known as the Mountain district, was set off Oct. 31, 1860.

The specified boundary began in the center of Lower Table Rock, thence north to Evans creek, east to the center of Rogue river, down the center of the river to the place of beginning.

Little Interest Shown
This was a thinly populated region of a varied surface, with a great area. For several years after formation of the district, little interest was shown in education; no district officials elected; and no school maintained by taxation.

But interest in the necessity of educating growing boys and girls was revived and 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.

Afterward, Burns taught several such schools in the district and at Phoenix and later became one of the leading educators in the county.

In 1870 he taught a spring term subscription school in an old log cabin that stood on the knoll near the Schaffer residence. John Potter taught a similar school for three months in 1871 and Mary McCabe taught a spring term in an old cabin in 1872. That was the last school ever held in the old cabin.

No School
About that time school was not held in the district for a period of nearly two years.

At last Antioch directors decided to establish two schools in the district, both to be supported by taxation. One was to be in the southern part of the district to accommodate settlers in the Table Rock vicinity.

Miss Lou Houston, who later became Mrs. Jasper Rogers of Medford, taught the first school under the new dispensation in 1874. It was a spring term and school was held in a small house built on the Jim Collins farm. S. M. Nealon afterward bought the farm and the first public school in the present Table Rock district stood near the twin oaks on or near the site occupied by the residence of C. W. Sage.

Collins had built the house first as a residence for his mother. It was of rough lumber, about 16 by 20, and unpainted both inside and out. A typical pioneer schoolhouse, it was furnished and equipped according to primitive method in vogue in those good old days.

Enrolled 13 Pupils
Miss Houston enrolled 13 pupils, received \$33½ a month, taught a three-month

term and "boarded round." Jane Nichols taught the term in 1875; W. J. Stanley, 1876; Mary Berry, 1877; and O. W. Gregory, 1878.

Population having increased, the citizens became more independent and expressed a desire to manage their own school affairs. In March, 1879, Table Rock school district 44 was detached by petition from Antioch district 18.

Boundaries of the new district were "Commencing at the southwest corner of Jacob Conley's land, thence running in a southeast direction along the base of Upper Table Rock, thence in the same direction to Donnegan ford on Rogue River, thence down along the north bank of said river to the southwest corner of W. W. Wilson's land, thence in a northeast direction along the base of Lower Table Rock, thence in a northeast direction, running west of the residence of Dennis Donnegan to the place of beginning."

Fountain Superintendent
J. D. Fountain was superintendent of county schools at that time. E. P. Pickens, B. Vincent and J. W. O. Gregory were directors and J. S. Marsh was clerk of the new district.

At the first school election, 17 votes were cast. The census showed 32 children of school age and the treasury swelled to \$96 cash on hand.

Maude Tuffs taught from April 21 to July 11 in 1879, the first spring term of the district. In 1880 H. H. Mitchell taught and afterward became county school superintendent.

Receives \$25 Per Term
Maggie Howell taught in 1881, receiving \$25 for the term. W. H. Gore taught from June to August in 1881 for \$33.33 a month. He later became a prominent farmer and banker in Medford.

M. Vina Gore taught in 1882 and Sarah Knowles in 1884. In 1885 Mary Newbury, sister of the late Gus Newbury, Medford attorney, taught a private school during the fall and winter.

In 1885 Henry Cryder taught and in 1886, Amanda Goodyear. Jenny Oaks taught the first fall term in the district's history in 1886.

When fall term was added, six months of school was held each year. Two different teachers frequently taught in the district during the same year.

K. Fall Term Set
Lottie Reed and Fanny Knowles taught in 1887; Miss Reed taught spring term in 1888 but no fall term was held that year due to an epidemic of malaria.

March 25, 1889, a portion of 1904, District 44 was detached by petition and added to district 52, the old Chaparral district. At that time H. H. Mitchell, who formerly taught in the Table Rock district, was county superintendent.

Rose Griffith taught the spring term and Charley Griffith the fall term in 1889. Annie Harvey and Laura Colton taught in 1890.

Teachers Board Around
From the first term that John Burns taught in the old log cabin, and for 20 years after that, teachers "boarded around." Beginning about 1890, the practice of having them board in some certain home in the district was established.

Ella Griffith, who later married a Mr. Patrick of Gold Hill taught in 1891, and Arthur Walker, now a resident of Portland, taught the spring term of 1892, and Lottie Burch the fall term. Miss Burch later became Mrs. Pat Daily, who served for several years as county school superintendent.

In the spring of 1892, Fred Hansen deeded one acre of land to the school district for school purposes. A new school house was built upon the tract by Mr. March. It was completed in the fall just in



ON DEEDED LAND - In 1892, Fred Hansen deeded one acre of land to the district for school purposes, and the above building was constructed by Mr. March. The building was completed in time to hold the community Christmas tree program in it that year.

Teach in New School

Emma Ruth taught the first spring term in the new school house in 1893. And Armenta Burch taught a private school in the new school house during the fall and winter.

John Potter taught a spring term in 1894, and L. A. Simons, now a resident of Yamhill county, and Anna Clemens, taught during the fall and winter of 1895.

Libby Pendleton taught a spring term in 1896. She was a sister of the late J. C. Pendleton and is now Mrs. Holmes of Standish, Calif.

During the fall and winter of 1896, a Miss Cotter of California taught a private school in the new school house. Owing to the small attendance and lack of interest in such schools, they were discontinued in the future.

In 1897, Libby Pendleton and Maude Downing taught the spring and fall terms. Miss Downing later became Mrs. Joe Boswell, formerly of Central Point.

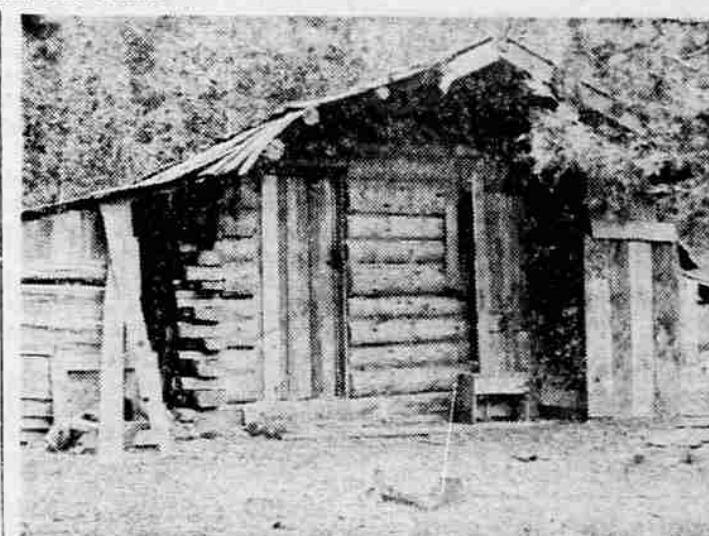
Spring, Fall Terms
Maude Downing and Olive spring and fall of 1898. Miss Gregory afterwards married George Yeo, an insurance man of Ashland.

In 1899, Nellie Town and Lizzie Ferguson taught during the spring and fall. Miss Town married a farmer and Miss Ferguson, now a Medford, is the first teacher whose name appears on the systemized record in the county superintendent's office.

Beginning with the school year 1899 and 1900, the records began to be systemized, and from time to time, have been improved.

Teachers at the school included: 1899, Lizzie Ferguson, Medford; 1900, Mae Sutton, Wick Easter and Stella Stidham, who later became Mrs. Jay Purkeypile, now residing in British Columbia; 1901, Dolly Badger and Mae McIntyre, who is now Mrs. Wycoff of Walsenburg, Colo.; 1902, Flora Smith, now Mrs. J. Laurens, Medford; 1903, Flossie Briscoe and H. B. Leach; 1904, Ida Stewart and Lorena Shuck.

In 1905-06, V. A. Davis; 1906-07, Myrtle Corum, a sister of Mrs. Victor Bursell; 1907-08, Alice French, now Mrs. Amos Willets; 1908-09, Cy Watkins and Miss Louise Ward, who became Mrs. Stewart.



FIRST SCHOOL - The first school in the Table Rock district was held in this log cabin. J. A. Burns taught a three months term subscription in the cabin in the spring of 1870. The cabin stood at the site of Mrs. Schaffer's present residence.

art Porter, a prominent farmer in the county and also one of the school directors in the Independence district; and 1909 through 1912, V. A. Davis.

Old Building Replaced
The march of progress decreed that the old building should be replaced. Accordingly, during the summer vacation, the present building was built upon the site of the old one, erected in 1892. Davis taught the first school held in the present building.

Other teachers: 1912-14, Gladys Miller, who became Mrs. Henry Payne of Harbor, Curry county; 1914-15, C. E. Johnson, now in Douglas county; 1915-17, Hattie B. Lester, who married Stanley Lydiard, a farmer and orchardist; 1917, Josephine Kincaid, now Mrs. Mayfield, Redmond; 1917-18, Eva Beebe, now Mrs. Floyd McKee; 1918-19, Helen Parker, now Mrs. Brophy; and 1919-20, Verda Lynch, now Mrs. Carl Quackenbush.

Teachers between 1920 and 1933 included June Dunlap, now teaching in Portland; Mae Johnson, Mrs. Voorheis and Mrs. Burdeen Meyers; Irene Franks, now Mrs. Blaine Shirley, Medford; Mrs. Ina Purcell, now teaching in the Applegate; Miss Mary Martha Sweney, Miss Betty Brown, Nellie Egan, Elizabeth Brown, V. A. Davis, Miss Winifred May, and Roy Parr.

Officially Organized
When the district was officially organized, 54 years ago, it maintained but three months school during the

year, employed one teacher, enrolled 32 census children, and had \$96 in the treasury. Today, nine months school are maintained, two teachers are employed, 74 census children are enrolled, and the assessed valuation of its property is rated at \$280,767.80.

The district's present official organization consists of Frank Hensley, Sam Newman and Floyd Hamlin, directors, and Mrs. Mary B. Myers, clerk. The teaching staff consists of Roy Parr, principal, and teacher of the upper grades, and Miss Winifred 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.

Student Officers Named at Gold Hill
Gold Hill - Student body officers for Hanby school were elected recently. They are Bob Turner, president; Barbara Schatz, vice president; Loraine Hixson, secretary; and Penny Flenner, treasurer. All are seventh graders.

Yell leaders named are Susan Post, Ronda Rosecrans, and Darlene White, all fifth graders.

Toni Morrow, who is now in the seventh grade, was elected queen for the varsity yell leaders. Others elected are Judie Post, seventh grade; and Pamela Freeman and Linda Walker, sixth graders.

Veterans Memorials

One for each branch of the Armed Forces soon to be dedicated in honor of those who have served.

ILLCREST Memorial PARK

Bill Driscoll, manager North Phoenix Road
Phone SP 3-6162 or SP 2-7111