

Old Districts Are Joined by Consolidation

Early-Day Travel Kept Schools in County Smaller

(Editor's note: Clarence Davies, English and journalism instructor at Eagle Point High school, recently compiled a history of the Eagle Point district in connection with Oregon's Centennial.)

(Excerpts of the history, which is in detail about the various districts since 1854 to the recent consolidation, are included in the following article.)

By CLARENCE DAVIES Eagle Point Instructor

The recent consolidation of the Elk-Trail, Shady Cove and Eagle Point school districts brought together some of the oldest school units into one of the largest districts in Jackson county.

The consolidation into district 9 is the reverse of the practice in earlier days when the few original districts tended to break up into fragments. Settlements then followed river bottom or foothills, and when a community became large enough to feel the need for a school, a new district reaching into the hinterland would be organized.

Small districts were necessary because it was not possible to travel far over the poor roads and sticky mud. In fact, schools were rarely held in the winter and common practice was to run two short terms spring and autumn.

Teaching Tough
Teaching must have been a tough business in the pioneer atmosphere as rarely did the same teacher remain for a second term.

Records show early enrollments in the Eagle Point area were extremely large, sometimes reaching 100. Against this is the moderate average daily attendance of 15 or 20 students.

The first district in the area was formed in 1854, the same year as Jacksonville school district No. 1, under the name of Butte Creek school. It was designed to embrace the regions north of Butte creek from the Rogue river east to a point a mile past the meridian line, and it extended as far north as the mouth of Trail creek.

The town of Eagle Point did not exist and that name was not applied to the school district for many years. All the present town site lying southeast of Butte creek was a part of the Antelope, including the region where the school now stands.

Petitioned Bank.
In 1877, these parcels of land, known as the Fryer and Emery donated land claims, were petitioned back to Eagle Point. The petitions seeking the transfers came out of Butte creek and the Antelope districts and contain many names famous in the region's history, such as Inlow, Boothby, Daley, Matthews, Tankham, Taylor, Potter, Rader, Lewis, Hurst, Culbertson and Mayhams.

Data in the county school office indicate that the first school house was up Little Butte about three miles from the present site of Eagle Point.

The earliest certain information places one building where the logging railroad tracks of Medford Corporation crosses the Crater Lake highway near Eagle Point. Later a rough-hewn structure was built just south of the present city square.

Lottie Van Scoy, a member of the Brown family, tells of attending this school where the building was set up on blocks with hogs dwelling beneath. She recalls that fleas which inhabited the hogs occasionally left their abode and came through cracks in the floor, assailing the urchins within.

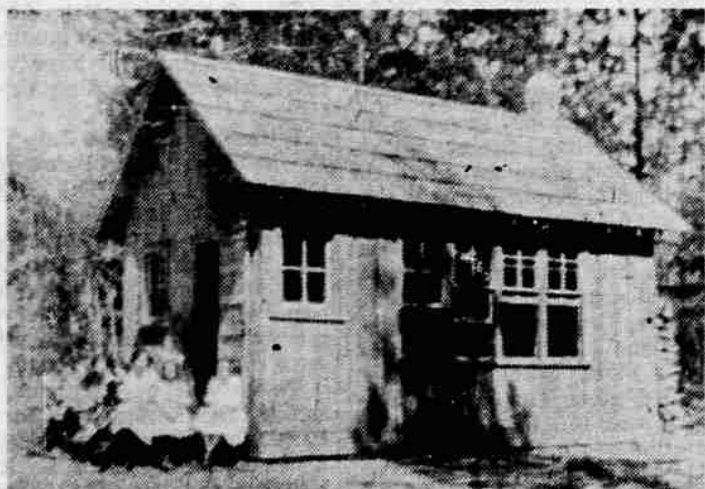
Four-Room Structure

In 1898, a four-room structure was erected on the south side of the creek just above the bridge. It served all the school purposes for 25 years, housing both elementary and high schools until the first stucco building was completed beside it in 1926.

On the teaching roster are many familiar local names including the late Gus Newberry, Medford attorney who once served as county school superintendent, and A. L. Hazelton.

A crisis arose in the district in the mid 1940s when state aid to schools gave control of standards to the state department of education and the old red school houses were reminded of their deficiencies.

In 1945 some large mergers took place, though not without strong opposition from



PRESIST SCHOOL - The area in which Presist school, above, was organized from the Trail district in the northern part of the Butte Creek watershed along with several other small districts. Many of the buildings in the small districts in the late 1890s and early 1900s still remain, but the Presist school building has been torn down, after the district joined Elk Creek in 1930.



EAGLE POINT SCHOOL - The first floor of the Eagle Point school building shown above still stands. It was constructed in 1900. The history of the Eagle Point consolidated district starts at the same time the Jacksonville district was organized, in 1854.



BROWNSBORO SCHOOL - Boundaries of the Brownsboro school were drawn in 1873, when the district was organized as the Bethlehem school. Three years later it was recorded as Brownsborough. It is now a part of the consolidated Eagle Point district.

some quarters. It was at this time that Glen Hale was employed as superintendent and he was largely responsible for acquisition of buildings from disbanded Camp White.

Growing Pains
Growing pains were severe, but as the White City industrial area has developed, valuations mounted so that by gradual steps a school plant of 21 elementary and 15 high school rooms has been developed, along with a gymnasium, cafeteria, shop and vocational agriculture building. Eight buses now serve the district.

Incorporated in the present Eagle Point district are five distinct areas. They include the upper portions of Little Butte creek, Antelope creek basin, the desert area centered by White City, Elk and Trail creek regions and the Shady Cove area, a section along both sides of Rogue river between Elk-Trail and Eagle Point.

The former district No. 12, known as the Antelope school lay in the lower part of the creek basin. From 1854 to 1869 it was part of the present Eagle Point district, but when the enrollment reached 100, that area set up a school for itself.

Considerable Agitation
Considerable agitation at the move resulted, for the next year Butte Creek (Eagle Point) failed to open its doors and Antelope showed an enrollment of 76.

Carl von der Hellen, an old timer in the area, gives the location of at least four buildings used for school.

The first layout on the desert a short distance from the present Meridian rd. The next site was up the creek about a fourth of a mile from the present von der Hellen residence. Nothing remains there now but an indentation indicating a former well.

A school was then built on the John Rader place where Harvey Stanley now lives. This was later torn down and re-erected at the site of the present school, where the present structure was built in 1910.

School was held there until 1945 when a large block of the district was petitioned into Eagle Point and the remaining students were transported to Medford for a time. Later, however, the remain-

the name of Lost Creek No. 13.

When Camp White reached deeply up Antelope for its maneuvering range, the population ebbed and it became a part of Eagle Point schools. In the early days, school was usually held there in the summer because the elevation moderated the heat.

Just when and by whom the first school house was built, no one seems to know, but the ruins of a little log building can still be seen near the Thompson place. The wreck of another built over 70 years ago by Alfred Rummel lies just below the present road.

District Formed
Another area that has become a part of district 9 is that lying in the upper basin of Little Butte creek. That unit, district 15, was formed when a school was needed in the area. Enormous by district standards, No. 15 began at the southeast corner of No. 9, which lay along the north border of township 38 south, ran to the Cascades as far north as Mt. Pitt and followed the South fork of the Rogue to the meridian which was its western boundary.

This was later divided by following down the ridge, dividing Little Butte from Big Butte. About 1870, Lake Creek school came into existence. Among early teachers were the familiar names of Swingle, Rybee and Grigsby.

In 1816 there were so many students that it was necessary to employ two teachers for the same room. About five buildings have been used for school purposes since its beginning. The last, which was abandoned in 1945, lay far out on the desert on the hill near the Lake Creek highway.

Boundaries Defined
The boundaries of the Brownsboro school were definitely drawn in 1873 and its east boundary coincided with the west one of Lake Creek. It was organized as Bethlehem school, but three years later the name of Brownsborough was recorded.

The original clerk, Joseph Clift, was still serving in 1888. This district would have no part of the consolidation movement in 1945 when other schools in the area joined with Eagle Point.

Later, however, the district capitulated and is now a part of the consolidated system.

The most distant of the districts in the Little Butte watershed was Lost Creek No. 42, which lay up the south fork of Little Butte at the mouth of Lost creek. Established in 1880, a log school was built by donated labor the same year, with lumber for the interior carried by burro for several miles.

First Frame Structure
The first frame structure was built in 1893 and the last in 1911. Attendance was never large.

Little Butte district No. 65 was formed of parts of Lake Creek and Brownsboro. It operated school until 1938, when it began transporting students to Eagle Point.

When the consolidation movement was afoot, the district joined the others. The building, which was built on land donated for school purposes, is now gone.

An attempt to consolidate the three eastern districts was rejected by Lost Creek.

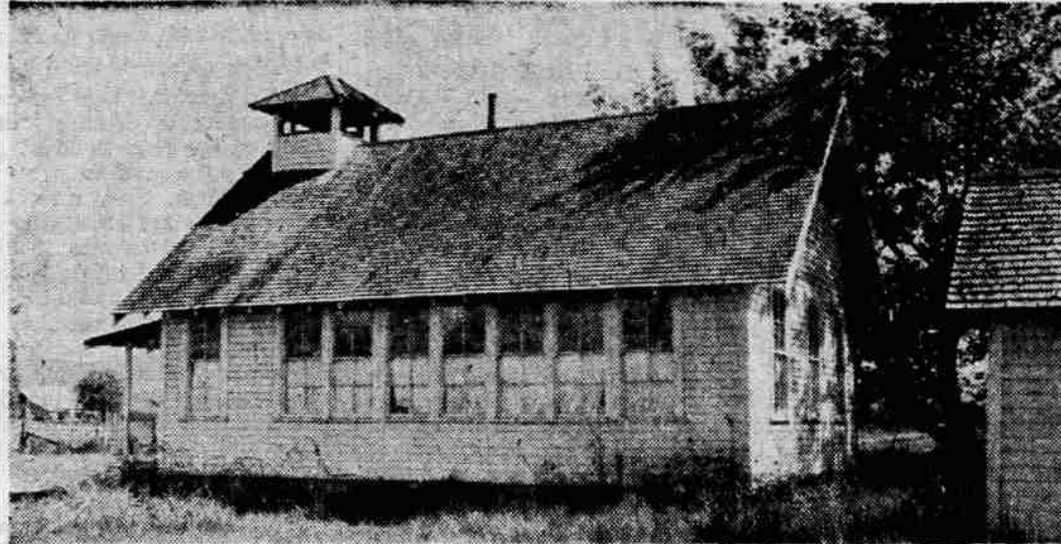
Oldest, Largest
Of the northern districts now in the large consolidation, Trail No. 45 was the oldest and largest. It covered an area out of which Persist, Elk Creek, North Trail and Hatchery districts were later formed.

The first school was of logs and lay on donated land. In 1894 a frame building was constructed near the log one, but both were destroyed by fire shortly after. Another frame house was built in 1896 by donated labor and was used until 1928 when the present structure appeared.

After the consolidation with Elk Creek, Laurelhurst and Hatchery, the building was sold to Trail Community church. North Trail, farther up Trail creek, became defunct. It was a small district cut out of district 45 in 1887. The last school house was built in 1913, five years before the district was abandoned and reverted back to Trail.

Attempts to Consolidate
Unsuccessful attempts were made to consolidate the schools in this locality until 1936, when Laurelhurst, Trail, Elk Creek and Hatchery all gave approval. The affair was largely a compromise between Trail and Elk Creek with both names incorporated in the district name along with the larger unit's number 76.

By 1937 the new district had a two-room school situated about one mile from the Elk Creek junction. The new board carried the names of Ditsworth, Sandox and Zim-



ANTELOPE SCHOOL - The above building locations before the building was built in 1910 in the Antelope district until 1945, when a large section of the district in 1889. School was held in several

merlee, all families well established in that locality.

The little district of Persist lying upstream toward Prospect, joined Elk Creek in 1930.

Lakehurst, No. 66, another district entering this consolidation, was unique. It lay entirely on the southeast side of the Rogue river from McCloud upward. The first school was said to be a 9 by 9 room built on a Sunday by men of the neighborhood, and school was held there the next day by Miss Myra Bedford.

The unusual thing about the district was its operation of a high school for a number of years. Although information conflicts, it is certain that the high school operated a four-year program over a number of years. It finally closed in 1928 when the single teacher left. The high school building later burned.

Elementary System

The other elementary system up the Rogue which has become a part of the consolidated system was that of Shady Cove. The first district existing in the area was Black (Laurel Hill) district 63 lying between the meridian and the Rogue river north of Reese creek.

Next was Long Branch 64, lying north of Long Branch and west of Rogue river. The first school, of logs, was near the Peile place. It was followed by a frame building farther up the creek somewhere on the Houston homestead, which served until 1907 when Central school, Shady Cove, came into being.

In 1924, the Long Branch closed its doors to become a part of Shady Cove and the building was destroyed when a forest fire swept through the region.

Mark's Spot

Nothing but an apple tree marks the spot of the Laurel Hill district school house which stood near the present Crater Lake highway immediately north of the Black and Conover places.

When Shady Cove was formed in 1907 it took the name of "Central" and was composed of portions of Trail, Long Branch and the north part of Debenger Gap. The school, of itself, situated down the Rogue about a mile from the present site of Shady Cove, was built of rough boards vertically placed.

A two-room structure was erected in 1927 in Shady Cove. At one time near the end of its service, the roof is said to have caught fire and Mrs. Eula Minter, the teacher, succeeded in extinguishing the flames with the help of students, although she burned her hands badly.

Joins Shady Cove
In 1924 Laurel Hill (Black school) joined Shady Cove, and since that time the plant has continued to grow to the present well-equipped school with eight classrooms, gymnasium, library and cafeteria.

The fifth region to become a part of Eagle Point is that lying south and embracing the Camp White industrial area and the farm land lying south of Little Butte creek. This was simply attached to Eagle Point because its lines had been destroyed and much of its territory absorbed by Camp White.

In 1869 mound district 16 was created. At one time it extended from Bear Creek east as far as the Camp White rifle range and its southern boundary was indefinite.

It was first divided by the section line that runs through the center of the industrial area, which forms Long Mountain rd. To the east a new Prairie district 29 was formed, a change which was promoted by the Rev. M. A. Williams, who later became county school superintendent and was for a time associated with Jacksonville schools.

The southern part of Prairie was incorporated into Deway and students attending school from this area were transported to Medford until the military camp destroyed the district.

Eight Students Attending JESSI Programs in State

Seven Medford High school boys are attending the Junior Engineers' and Scientists' Summer Institute at Oregon State college, Corvallis, this week.

Miss Linda Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Miller, 322 South Riverside ave., Medford, is the only girl from Medford High school attending the JESSI for Girls at Linfield college, McMinnville. She left today.

Attending the Corvallis sessions are John Shaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw, 919 Kenyon ave., Medford; Glenn Marin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Marin, 1868 Myers lane, Medford; Jim Spoerl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Spoerl, 1558 Ross lane, Medford; Bob Sheldon, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Sheldon, 521 South Grape st., Medford; Lauren Stayton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stayton, 123 Elm st., Medford; Henry Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Olson, 1430 Euclid ave., Medford; and Stephen Drew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Drew, route 3, box 69D, Medford.

Head-On Crash Takes Seven Lives

Tuscola, Ill. - (UPI) - A fiery head-on collision that shot flames "50 feet into the air" Thursday night killed seven persons, four of them young girls.

Leor Gale, a Douglas county deputy sheriff, said he was driving about 150 feet away on narrow U.S. 36 three miles east of here when he "saw headlights swing around. Then a ball of fire shot 50 feet into the air."

According to sheriff's deputies, the eastbound car, driven by Rosalee Ann Bragg, 21, Atwood, Ill., swerved back suddenly from a muddy shoulder and collided with a car driven by Joseph Bode Harmon, 38, Forsyth, Ill.

The dead included both drivers and all five passengers in the cars. Police identified the other victims as Mrs. Ester Harmon, 52; the Harmons' daughter, Greta, 15; two friends of the Harmons, Agnes Pistorius, 59, and Connie Bean, both of Blue Mount, Ill., and Evelyn Louise Smith, 22, Atwood, a passenger in Miss Bragg's vehicle.

Instructors Course Planned at Pool

A Red Cross water safety instructors course will be conducted at Hawthorne park pool June 22 through July 3, Dr. William Roberts, Red Cross water safety chairman, has announced.

Anyone 18 years old or older with a Red Cross life saving certificate or equivalent may enroll, he said.

The course will be conducted between 9 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday during the two-week period.

The first week will be devoted to swimming and life saving skills under the direction of Mrs. Helen Tweedy. The second week will cover teaching techniques under the direction of Ed Stocking, Red Cross area representative.

Those successfully completing the course will be certified as Red Cross water safety instructors. Persons wishing to enroll may do so by Friday, June 19, by telephoning the city recreation office, SPring 2-7105; the Red Cross office, SPring 2-4405; or Hawthorne pool, SPring 2-4005.



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Oregon Candidates Get Degrees Today

Eugene - Baccalaureate and advanced degrees will be conferred on the third largest graduating class in the history of the University of Oregon during the 82nd annual commencement exercises here today.

More than 1,500 graduates and undergraduate students were candidates for degrees from the college of liberal arts, the graduate school and the professional schools.

President O. Meredith Wilson gave the "Cherith to the Graduating Class" and conferred degrees on candidates who had successfully fulfilled the requirements for their degrees.

Candidates from Medford included: bachelor of arts - Carolyn Mae Clogston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Clogston, 2138 Main st.; Alexia Marsolais Hibbard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd M. Hibbard, 23 Lincoln st.; Sandra Rae Hubbard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Hubbard, 2451 Lyman ave.; Richard Haviland Johnson, son of Rev. and Mrs. Perry M. Johnson, 819 West 11th st.; Jack K. Masson, 1112 West Eighth st.; Dorothy Rhymes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Rhymes, 1715 Crown ave.; Robert Wilfred Shepherd III, 132 Greenwood; Terry Grey Sherwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Sherwood, 1020 Jasper st.

Bachelor of business administration - W. Keith Bates Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Edith Bates, 1714 East Main st.; Jacqueline Anne Callan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Callan, 6 Keeneway dr.; J. Bradley Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Morris, 128 Mistletoe st.

Bachelor of science - Marjorie Helen Blind, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Blind, 127 Valley View; Norman Lloyd Chapman, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. U. Chapman;

Bachelor of science - Justin Leroy Dyrud, 413 Oregon terrace.

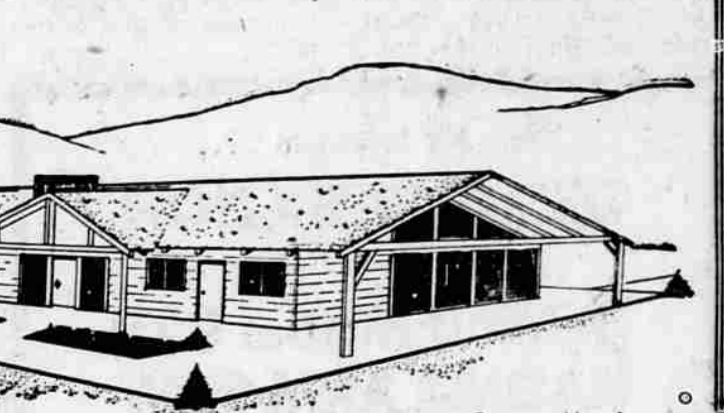
Other candidates included: Bernice Aletta Bigham, bachelor of science, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Bigham, Rt. 1, box 122, Eagle Point; bachelor of business administration, Thomas Jefferson Andrews, son of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Andrews, Camp White; bachelor of science, Dave W. Newland, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Newland, 1119 Fourth ave., Gold Hill.



AFTER LUNCH - U. S. Secy. of State Christian Herter (right) shakes hands with West Berlin's mayor Willy Brandt following a luncheon at Herter's villa in Geneva. Also at the luncheon were the German, French, and British foreign ministers. On the same day, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko publicly disclaimed any new ultimatum on Berlin, but said Russia "would never sign any document which would mean perpetuation of the occupation of West Berlin."

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