

1914 Fair Exhibit Of Schools Stirred Up The Natives



KLAMATH school buildings — and those of the entire Midland empire — have come a long way since the pictures on this page were taken.

The big view is a subject of some controversy among old-timers. It is from the Maude Baldwin collection and was provided by Hal Ogle, who doesn't know just where the little, scrawny building was located.

Fred Peterson, the ex-county school superintendent, whose name has been given to one of the buildings pictured on the opposite page, thinks the picture shows the old White Lake school. White Lake was a community that started with big ideas at the edge of a branch of Lower Klamath lake west of Merrill, along about 1905 and 1906. It got big enough to have a store or two, a bank, and a small population, and then blew out like an old tire.

Fred thinks that the picture shows the old original school, and he doubts if it was actually in use when the view was made. After school was held in a small building, it moved over into a larger structure which had been built for the White Lake bank. Fred opines that this picture must have been taken on a day when the kids went back to visit the abandoned one-room shack, and notes that doors, windows and chimney are gone. Schools were bad in those days, he says, but not that bad.

But he isn't entirely sure this is a picture of the White Lake school. If others have opinions on the question, The Herald and News would be glad to hear from them.

There isn't any question about the other school pictured on this page. It is the old Upper Langell school, which was located near the present Malone dam site. The picture was taken by Peterson himself, about 1913. There's a story about that, too.

Fred took pictures of all of the school buildings in the county and made a display of them at a county fair held in 1914. The display was put up on Main street at about Fourth and Main. There was a lot of difference in the appearance of the various schools, and local pride was stirred by the comparisons that were made.



People from districts with poorer schools got their tails in the air and wanted to do something, while those from the better-equipped districts took on a supercilious air.

The result: A wave of school building in the next year or two, with substantial general improvement.

The Upper Langell school was one of those so replaced. The old building in the picture was abandoned for a better one, and along about 1930, the better one was abandoned as better transportation made it possible for kids from there to go to Bonanza to school.

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