

County Unit Bigger Than Connecticut

Klamath District Wealthiest in Oregon; Its History Is Told Here

Editor's Note: Following is another of a series of articles on Klamath's educational system arranged by the League of Women Voters. This story was prepared by the assistance of County School Superintendent Fred Peterson, and is strongly recommended in view of the need for a fuller public understanding of the operations of the successful county unit system.

THE first school district in what is now Klamath County was organized early in the 80's or the late 70's. The first district was located in Klamath Falls. Then followed Bonanza, which was of considerable importance in the early history of the county. The third district was on Topsy Grade.

From that time on, the territory that now comprises Klamath County was cut up into numerous districts, many of them having large areas and also many of them having great wealth. Others were very poor. It was a county of extremes. There were districts that had as much as \$100,000 per school pupil in valuation. There were others that had as little as \$1000 per child. A mill of tax in the wealthy districts raised as much as \$1500. In the poorer ones, one mill would raise as little as \$15.

A system organized upon the district basis, such as that of early Klamath county, would operate with some satisfaction when school needs were small and the communities were located where wealth might be available. However, when the industrial centers grew up and especially when settlement began in suburban areas where there was little value and many people, naturally hardships were invoked upon the areas of little wealth. One of the principal reasons for the adoption of the county unit was to equalize assessed values between the wealthy districts and the poor districts of the county.

At the time of the adoption of the county unit, people were becoming transportation minded, and a school bus system cannot operate successfully where district lines impose meaningless and difficult limitations. The administration of a school system as it becomes larger makes the matter of selection, placement and supervision of teachers too difficult and involved for the district system. The type and character of buildings, their erection, operation and maintenance also need trained supervision.

In May, 1922, the people of Klamath county organized the territory outside of the Klamath Falls city school district into a county district. The county district contained at that time approximately 1000 pupils. It had a school census of children between the ages of four and twenty of 1844. In the nineteen years since the adoption of the county school district, the school population has grown to 4941, and the census is 7379.

Klamath county school district is the largest school district in Oregon, and also the wealthiest, outside of the city of Portland.

The maximum length of the district is 112 miles; the maximum width is 72 miles. It contains approximately 6500 square miles of territory. It is thus larger than the state of Connecticut, and almost twice the combined areas of Rhode Island and

Delaware. The population is approximately 24,000. The settlements are centered more or less in a few valleys, and industrial centers. Lumbering is the only industry, outside of farming and stock raising. The population is somewhat equally divided between farms and the industrial centers.

The district has within its borders 228.7 miles of main line railroad and 84.73 miles of side track. The valuation of Klamath county school district is somewhat in excess of \$20,000,000. About two-thirds of this valuation is public service property and timber lands. The other one-third is farm property, personal property, and city lots. It is, therefore, readily seen that the large values of Klamath county school district are timber and public service property. Under the county school district plan, these values contribute equally with all other property to the support of all the schools. There have been organized in Klamath county 72 school districts of which 28 are now operating as sub-districts. The others have been discontinued. The larger school centers are as follows:

Name	Av. Daily Membership
Bonanza	379
Keno	179
Bly	179
Fairhaven	267
Shasta	302
Malin	257
Merrill	268
Gilchrist	215
Summers	124
Henley	358
Chiloquin	480
Sprague River	162
Altamont	730

Smaller centers are located at Weyerhaeuser Camp No. 4, Fort Klamath, Hildebrand, Lamm's Camp, Crystal, Swan Lake, Algoma, Beatty, Modoc Point, Kirk, Crescent Lake, Chemult, Odessa, and Pelican Bay Camp. The average daily membership of these smaller centers would run all the way from that of five at Crystal to a membership of approximately fifty at Algoma. Klamath county school district employs a teaching force of 181. In each of the larger centers there is a local school superintendent.

The general administrative control of the school system is vested in a superintendent, an elementary supervisor, a music supervisor, and an attendance supervisor. The legal control of the district is vested in a county school board of five members. In each sub-district there is elected a local school committee of three members. The members of the local school committee act as the advisers of the superintendent, and have local control of certain matters, but to a large extent their function is advisory. The matter of hiring teachers, erecting school buildings, purchasing buses, routing of buses, and the other things that go to operate a school system are under the control of the county school board.

ADDED HAZARD

CHICAGO (AP) — Herbert Holmes and Earl Peterson were cruising at 1000 feet in a rented airplane when a cylinder head blew off.

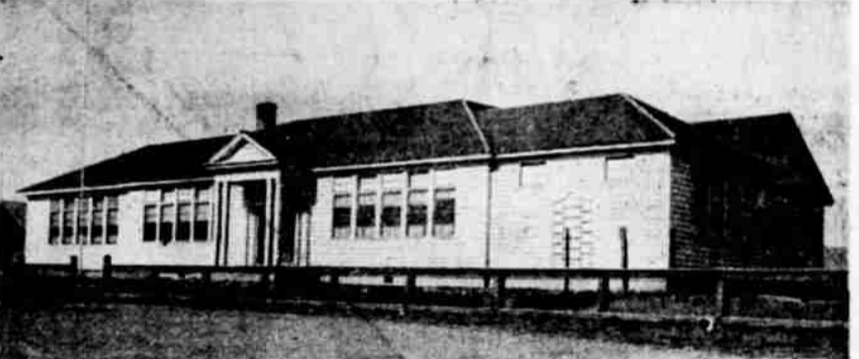
Holmes cut the ignition and peered around for a place to land. He put his ship into a glide and headed for a golf course, alive with 300 players. The ship made a perfect landing on the fourteenth fairway, just an easy No. 7 iron shot from the green.



IN WONDER TOWN—This is the new school at Gilchrist, northern Klamath county "wonder town," a part of the county unit system.



RURAL HIGH—This is a front view of the Keno high school.



FOR BLY YOUTH—This is the comparatively new school building at Bly in eastern Klamath county.



IN SUBURBS—The Klamath suburban elementary schools are in the county unit. This is a interior view of the library at Altamont junior high school.



THE CONTRAST!—Typical of the old fashioned, one-room schools of earlier days was the Vinson school in Langell valley, shown here. It was in operation until about 1915. Compare it with the modern buildings shown on this page. Some counties still have schools similar to this.

The Battle of the Giants

Here Are Thrilling Eye-Witness Accounts Of the Sinking of Bismarck and Hood, World's Greatest Battleships

By J. R. N. NIXON Reuters Special Correspondent With the Royal Navy

Did Bismarck Have 50,000 Tons?

LONDON, May 31, (AP)—The Bismarck was a 50,000-ton vessel instead of the 35,000 ton carried in official registers, a British naval officer who participated in the German battleship's destruction declared Friday. Such a tonnage would have made the Bismarck world's largest warship. The 42,000-ton battle cruiser Hood, which the Bismarck destroyed, had long been classed as the world's largest.

"The Bismarck was undoubtedly far above anything we had thought of," said the officer. "It was the last shot fired. The Bismarck stood up for a few seconds and gradually keeled over towards the port side.

No Rafts

"Then she turned right over, showing her keel, and slid back. As she disappeared she seemed to break up. There were a lot of Jerries in the water and there was nothing for them to hold onto—not even a raft—although some of them were wearing Japanese lifebelts. "If they had had rafts or boats more of them would have been saved. "We steamed up to the survivors and started picking them up. "There were roughly about eight (in one group) and they were punch drunk with gunfire and didn't know whether they were coming or going. "German submarines and aircraft were reported and this caused rescue work to be stopped. We beat it. "There were no casualties on our ship. "I couldn't understand a ship of the type of the Bismarck not having rafts. The biggest thing I saw afloat in the water was a piece of timber about six feet long. "On the run back to this country one of the survivors died and was buried at sea. "We didn't have the Nazi ensign to use at the burial so an old German imperial ensign was used. "All Nazi officers and men on deck gave the Nazi salute as the remains went over the side. Full naval honors were carried out by the British officers and men. "A former Nazi naval attaché in London who was one of those saved gave short thanks to the British officers. He said, "It is a bad policy to pick up any survivors in wartime. That Nazi seemed very indifferent whether he was rescued or not."

AN ENGLISH PORT, May 31 (AP)—The chief petty officer of a British warship which brought in survivors of the 35,000-ton German battleship Bismarck told today how British shells "banged hell out of her" before three "steel fish"—torpedoes—sent the pride of the German navy to the bottom. Approximately 100 officers and men were rescued from the Bismarck, sunk in a flaming sea battle last Tuesday morning. The petty officer L. R. Crocker, gave the following eye-witness account of the Bismarck's last bitter hour:

"We sighted the Bismarck about 9 a. m. Tuesday. She was then engaged and doing barely 10 knots.

"She fired a number of salvoes which came over the top. We gave her three salvoes for'ard. The Bismarck had to be destroyed and we were out to do it.

Fires at Rodney

"I could see explosions bursting aboard the German, which was concentrating her fire mainly on the Rodney (British battleship). I guess the Nazis were surprised to see us. It's my belief, anyway, that they didn't spot us until our salvoes crashed into them.

"Now the Bismarck was afire, but her guns were still roaring. "At the end of an hour's action, the Bismarck stopped moving altogether. The Rodney and another British battleship were banging hell out of her.

"As Crocker gave his dramatic description of the battle, British officials said the rescue of the Bismarck's survivors had to be halted because of the persistence of German bombers attacking British warships while the drowning men were being dragged from the water.

"Continuing his story, Crocker declared: "As we went in closer to do our stuff, I saw our shells knock the brains out of the Bismarck. We smashed her after-control and the fire aboard her was spreading.

"But the Nazis had guts. "The Rodney knocked her after-turret clean out until it was hanging over the side. The Bismarck was now ablaze from stem to stern, and her guns at last were silent."

"The order came to sink the Bismarck, and we banged her like the devil with our guns giving her roughly 40 salvoes.

"After that, we put two steel fish into the starboard side. I saw many of the Nazis waving coats as the Bismarck's stern was awash. The weather was blowing hard by this time and visibility was low. That's how we surprised her.

"The torpedoes lifted her bodily out of the water. What a sight! Then a cruiser from port side slammed a third torpedo into her, and that finished her.

Faith in America and Coast Expressed by Phone Chief

By BOB LEONARD

A marked faith in the future of America and particularly of the Pacific coast was expressed here this week by N. R. Powley, president of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

Powley, on a stopover inspection tour of the new Klamath Falls telephone building, said he was gratified by the reception the city has given the new structure and the recently installed dial system. The wire leader was on his way back to San Francisco after greeting Oregon members of the Bell system's Pioneer club in Eugene.

It is a mistake, he said in response to a reporter's inquiry, to predict a given future for America or any part thereof on the basis of unknown factors. Although one phase of economic activity may falter, Powley indicated, others yet unborn will take its place.

A deep-seated conviction in the unity of America was evident in the veteran telephone man's remarks. The unity is there, he asserted, although the country may have different opinions on how best to achieve its goal.

For Americans as individuals, Powley maintained, there lies a need for a greater crusading faith with service as its object,—for the world, a renewal of the attributes of decency, honor and respect between men.

Apparent through a half-hour conversation with the telephone executive, was his lasting belief in man's spiritual values. The world, Powley said, cannot afford to destroy those values in favor of material things. Material gain is but an expression of spiritual ideals, he stated. "No society," according to Pow-



N. R. Powley

Save My Dog



Our Nellie, here, isn't so little, but she's a real heroine. The 8-year-old German police dog smelled smoke, barked an alarm until she collapsed from the fumes and exhaustion, then was dramatically, if ungraciously, rescued from blazing Washington, D. C., apartment building by fireman.

Civilian pilot training courses are given in approximately 709 colleges and 211 non-college units.