

Early History of Nyssa Public Schools Shows Formation of District 26 in 1892

(Editorial Note: The following is an early history of the Nyssa school by Olin Arthur Mergorden, taken from the pages of the Gate City Journal published in 1904. The resume was presented at the PTA meeting last Thursday evening, designated as Founder's Day.)

In the Twelve Years Since District Was First Organized It Has Made Rapid Strides for the Advancement of Education

By OLIN ARTHUR MERGORDEN

The following history of the Nyssa school will, I am sure, prove of interest to the readers of this paper. There is nothing that shows the growth of a country to better advantage or the spirit of the people who occupy it, so much as the growth and advancement of the public schools. We do not believe there is in Malheur county another school that has made better progress than this school of ours.

District No. 26 was organized in the spring of 1892, from territory originally belonging to the Vale district. The original boundaries included an area of about 10 miles in length and from three to five miles in width. Since that time, however, this district has furnished territory for the district of Arcadia on the north and a part of the Owyhee on the south, but the best section of the country in the center we have retained and our school population is more than twice as great as both of the other districts.

Board Members Named

The first directors of the district were W. W. Emison, J. F. Lackey and James Whalen; Buel J. Clement was the clerk.

W. W. Emison, the chairman of the board, was an old pioneer of this country and was at that time engaged in stock raising. He also owned two large tracts of land in the lower part of the valley, about midway between Nyssa and Ontario.

J. F. Lackey was also an old pioneer. He first lived at Riverside ferry, but later moved to Nyssa where his family still resides. The first year of school here he furnished the greater part of the school population, the enrollment being only nine. Five of these scholars were Mr. Lackey's children.

School Population Increases

Buel J. Clement, still another of the pioneers, was the first district clerk. He lived in the lower part of the district but as the school population increased he was set off into the Arcadia district.

All three of these old pioneers have long since passed away, but their children are prosperous and respected citizens of this section of the state.

James Whalen, another of the first directors, was a sectional foreman at Nyssa before the district was organized. He selected a claim at the time this valley was first settled. He still owns this land but is now living at Payette, Idaho.

School Held During Summer

Mr. John Doran was the first teacher. This school was taught in an old house about two miles north of Nyssa and belonging to Mr. Span. It had done service in holding the claim and now it was a shelter from the burning rays of the sun, while the school was held during three months of early summer.

Mrs. Cora McDowell was the next teacher. The enrollment for her school was 21, more than double that of the preceding year; the average attendance was 13. The next teacher was Rufus M. Brooks, who taught a three-month term; the average attendance was 16.

'Nothing But Ventilation'

We had moved our old blue seats from the first residence across the railroad to a house which Robert Minton had abandoned and kindly gave us permission to use during the summer. In making out his report in answer to the question, What means of ventilation, Good or Bad? Mr. Brooks replied: "Nothing but ventilation."

But during the year a special tax was voted for the purpose of

raising money with which to build a school house. This money was raised and one of the best school houses in the valley was built without bonding the district.

Term Increased to Six Months

The next teacher was Miss Lulu Smith. We now had six months of school, instead of three, with an average attendance of 22 for the school term commencing Sept. 2, 1893, and ending Feb. 23, 1896. The next term of six months was taught by the same teacher, ending March 12, 1897, with an average attendance of 25.

G. G. Brown's name appears as chairman to succeed J. F. Lackey. Mr. Brown is one of the solid citizens of our district and has always taken great interest in the school. He is now serving his third term.

J. M. Duncan, a retired school teacher, was the next district clerk and he has held the office up until the present time.

J. L. Rush 'Wields the Birch'

J. L. Rush wielded the birch for the next six months, and I tell you, we larger boys had to walk straight. The term closed Feb. 4, 1898, with an average attendance of 31.

Miss Sallie Tuggle taught the next six months, the term ending March 16, 1899, with an average attendance of 30. D. F. Warner succeeded Miss Tuggle but he taught but a short time before being discharged for a number of disgraceful acts. His term began Sept. 4, 1899, and ended Jan. 26, 1900. The rest of the term was taught by C. E. Oliver, ending March 30, 1900, with an average attendance of 28.

Other Teachers Named

Miss Helena Wassela, a lady from Washington, taught the next term, ending March 1, 1901; average attendance was 29. Just after her term was out a spring term was taught by R. H. Evans; this term ended July 5, 1901, and the following winter the school was also taught by him.

Miss Lulu M. Molthan of Willow Creek, Ore., next assumed charge of the school. Her term ended Feb. 21, 1902, with an average attendance of 30, and just after her term, Mr. Patterson taught a spring term.

Now the school district makes another good move, perhaps the most noticeable of all, and that is the building of our present school house; it being a two-room house made it a great benefit, as the attendance had increased so much during the last two years of the school as to make it necessary to employ two teachers.

Seating Capacity for 90

We are proud of the new school. It is large, roomy, well-ventilated and has a seating capacity for about 90 pupils.

Professor J. T. Smith and Miss Crandle were the teachers at the beginning of the school in the new building. We had nine months of school at this time. The term began Sept. 29, 1902, and closed June 19, 1903, with an average attendance of 38.

The next term was also taught by Prof. Smith, but the assistant teacher was Miss Jennie Greenwood. This last term began in September 1903 and closed May 20, 1904, with average attendance of 43 pupils. The last two years of our school have been the "advancing years" for it has been more successful in everything it has undertaken.

Homemaking Girls Buy, Prepare Meat; Note Tips on Cooking

By JOAN HEWETT

"Purchasing and preparing economical cuts of meats" is present topic of study for homemaking II students under direction of Virginia Steffens, Nyssa high school homemaking instructor.

In keeping with this, a field trip was taken Feb. 12 to the meat department of Wilson's Market for the purpose of viewing meat before it is packaged for consumers.

With \$10 donated to the class by the Malheur County Cowbells the girls selected various economical cuts of meat for preparation in the classroom, employing reci-

ATTEND PORTLAND MEET

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Haburchak returned last Thursday from Portland where they attended a meeting of Coast-to-Coast store owners. The session was held in the Multnomah hotel with 500 in attendance. Barry Goldwater was one of the speakers during the session.

pes also provided by the Cowbells.

The girls learned various tips on meat cooking and found that high heat always toughens protein; therefore, meats should always be cooked at a low temperature which also decreases shrinkage and gives more servings per pound.

M. A. McDonald, Pioneer of Community, Dies at Age 101

By Mrs. Waldo Smalley
APPLE VALLEY—The many friends of M. A. McDonald were saddened to hear that he succumbed the middle of January. Mr. McDonald was 101 years old and was a pioneer resident of the Apple Valley community.

Mrs. Thelma Fox and son of Caldwell were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson. Mrs. Fox also called at the Jim Correll home in the afternoon.

Feted With Birthday Party

Mrs. Lloyd Dibble surprised her daughter, Sue, with a birthday anniversary party Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Alva Hill and Mrs. Jim Correll visited Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Banta and Sara Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Whitton of Boise were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Correll.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Fritts, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Ostermeier of Fruitland called on Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tuning of Roswell Sunday afternoon. Tuning is quite ill and confined to bed. Mrs. Fritts remained overnight.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Betts of Payette called Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson.

Mrs. Donna Ruse and Darla were Feb. 12 guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Campbell and children from Eagle have purchased the John King place and moved in last week.

Attend Wrestling Tourney

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Mason attended the Idaho state wrestling meet held at Rupert Thursday through Saturday, Dean and Mark Mason, Tom Pett and Butch Guthrie were participants in the meet from Parma high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schultz of Payette were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Schultz.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Blake of Emmett were house guests last week of Mr. and Mrs. Monte Leveaux.

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