

PO Box 163
Dayton, WA 99328

Blue Mountain Heritage Society
Dedicated to preserving the diverse history of southeastern Washington

Spring • 2023

Newsletter

Smith Hollow Schoolmarm

Presented by Miss Edwards, our special-occasion schoolmarm at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse

May 1923

Good afternoon, students. I trust you had a good lunch and some fresh air and are ready to focus on your afternoon lessons.

I'm sure you have all been keeping track of how many days we have to go before school is out for the summer. Today, we will do an art project that will be displayed on the evening of our end-of-the-school-year celebration. It has to do with a special ceremony held in Dayton last month. Does anyone recall what that event was?

Elsie and Jess, you are both correct. It was the laying of the cornerstone for the new high school. It will be called the Pietrzycki High School.

Does anyone know why the school will have this name? Yes, Calvin, that's correct! Although Dr. Marcel Pietrzycki died nearly 13 years ago, he left instructions that half his money be used to build a school for Dayton. That is why the plaque placed above the cornerstone reads:

DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH OF
COLUMBIA COUNTY

The school, you see, is dedicated to each one of you—to help you as you build your future. And I agree with your comments: Pietrzycki is not a common name for us to say or spell!

So that you can copy the correct spelling down, I will write out Pietrzycki here on the blackboard.

Now, if you say *Pit rus kee*, you will come very close to pronouncing the name correctly. It will just be without the accent someone from Galicia, a Polish province in Austria, would have. That's where Dr. Pietrzycki came from. When he was 23 years old, he "immigrated" or went to the United States of America to live permanently.

Seventh Graders, about this time next year, you will be taking your Eighth Grade Exit Exams, along with all of the other eighth-grade students across the state. If you pass, you can attend Pietrzycki High School in the fall of 1924 as part of the graduating Class of 1928.

Ninth Graders are called "freshmen." Why do you suppose they are called that? Lorena, you are very close. It is a word dating back to 1550 in England. It means "newcomer" or "novice."

Sophomores are 10th graders. This word comes from Greek and means wise fool! These two words—freshman and sophomore, along with their definitions and the spelling of the Pietrzycki name—will be included in the spelling bee at our year-end celebration.

What I am now putting up next to the blackboard is an artist's "rendition" of what this new school will look like. To create this rendition,

the artist studied the builder's drawings. He gathered information about the size and design of what would be built and what materials would be used. Putting that information together, the artist then created a picture of what the finished building would look like. So a rendition allows us to see the finished building before it is built.

As you might be able to tell, this illustration was done using watercolors, the very medium you will use in today's art lesson. Jack has passed out the special watercolor paper. It is thicker than drawing paper, so it can handle watercolors. When you are ready to start, sign your name on the bottom corner, just like artists do. Then centered at the bottom, write the new high school's name. Using a pencil, lightly sketch the high school as you see it. Don't worry if your picture doesn't look like someone else's. All artists have their own individual views of the world.

Then use a black crayon and go over the pencil lines. Finally, use watercolor paints to color your work. As part of our End of Year Celebration, we will display your finished pictures around our classroom for your parents to view. So do your best.



This is an artist's rendition of the Pietrzycki High School, which is currently under construction. It will be finished for the 1923-1924 school year.

- 2023 BMHS Officers**
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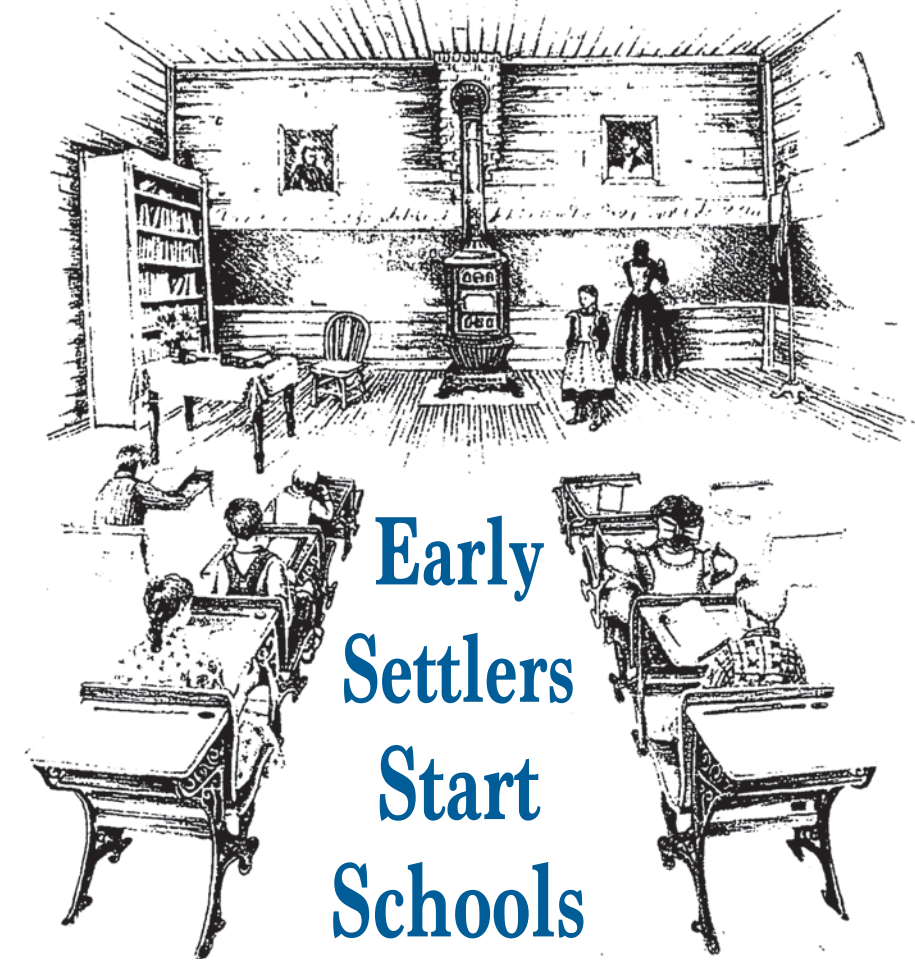
The Palus Museum
Summer Hours: Saturdays 2 - 4 pm

426 East Main Street
Dayton, Washington

Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse
Summer Hours: Saturdays Noon - 2 pm

113 North Front Street
Dayton, Washington

Blue Mountain Heritage Society
— Board Meets Monthly —
2nd Wednesday - 4:00 pm
Delany Building
111 South Third Street
Dayton, Washington
Everyone is Welcome!



Early Settlers Start Schools

In the summer of 1859, Samuel and Margaret Gilbreath took up a homestead claim in Washington Territory, three miles west of what would become the town of Dayton. A small cabin was built. When a larger one was finished in 1862, the original cabin became an informal school—the first school in what was to become Columbia County.

In 1865, the area's first school taxing district was organized. Its public schoolhouse sat a mile and a half east of Dayton beside the Nez Perce Trail. A typical pioneer structure, it was built of logs with a fireplace at one end and greased paper for windows. Hewed log benches served as seats. Planks placed atop pegs driven into the wall functioned as desks.

On November 11, 1875, the Washington Territorial Legislature carved Columbia County out of the eastern two-thirds of Walla Walla County. Initially, the new county had few schools. As more settlers arrived, however,

the number of districts and schools multiplied. Then in 1878, the Washington Territorial Board of Education recommended schools be graded or divided into primary, intermediate, grammar, and high school. Seeking to improve the local education system for their children, many citizens supported investing in a quality graded school for Dayton.

But the general population did not favor being taxed to build a structure large enough to accommodate a graded school. At the polls in 1878, the school tax issue was defeated.

The push to obtain a graded school, however, did not go away. Finally, as people realized how a graded school could benefit Dayton, some minds changed. At the town's March 12, 1879, school meeting, "it was decided to build a good house, and properly grade the school."

By June, a contract for a \$4,239 two-story, wood-frame schoolhouse was agreed upon.

President's Message

Projects For All — Join In!

Glorious spring is here! Fruit trees and flowers are in full bloom, and gardeners everywhere are preparing to plant their favorite flowers and vegetables. The Blue Mountain Heritage Society has also been preparing for the warmer weather.

Spring cleaning at the Palus Museum and the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse is complete. The large bell from the Palus is now at the Schoolhouse for part of the bell garden. Everyone has been busily preparing for our role in the May 6th city-wide yard sales. If you missed that one, watch for another BMHS yard sale later this summer. There will be treasures for everyone!

Now that the ground has thawed, we look forward to some of our warmer-weather projects. We can recommence work on the bell garden at the Schoolhouse and perhaps even dabble with constructing a brick pathway between the 1898 Dodge Quarantine Cabin and the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse.

Before too long, the Sacajawea statue will need her annual wash and wax. Following a season of hosting visitors to our museums, we will participate in the Columbia County Fair.

In the background, other things are happening; local history is being compiled, and individuals are interviewing (and being interviewed) as we continue to paint a picture of our county's colorful past. There's something for everyone as we all enjoy the comradery and time spent in constructive service to our community.

If you would like to take part in preserving, restoring, or creating history, I invite you to join us. You are sure to find projects to match your interests and passions!

Monte Fulbright, President
bluemountainheritage@gmail.com

Blue Mountain Heritage Society
<https://bluemountainheritage.org>

Schools - Continued from Page 1



Early-day members of Dayton's Ladies' Educational Aid Society

Standing, left to right: Stella Bowen, Ellen Rainwater, Leora Day, Anna Hunter, Ella Frary. Middle row: Alice Rainwater, Alma Smith, Lou Dorr, Cera Wilson. First row: Allie Carson, Belle Mustard, Nora Smith.

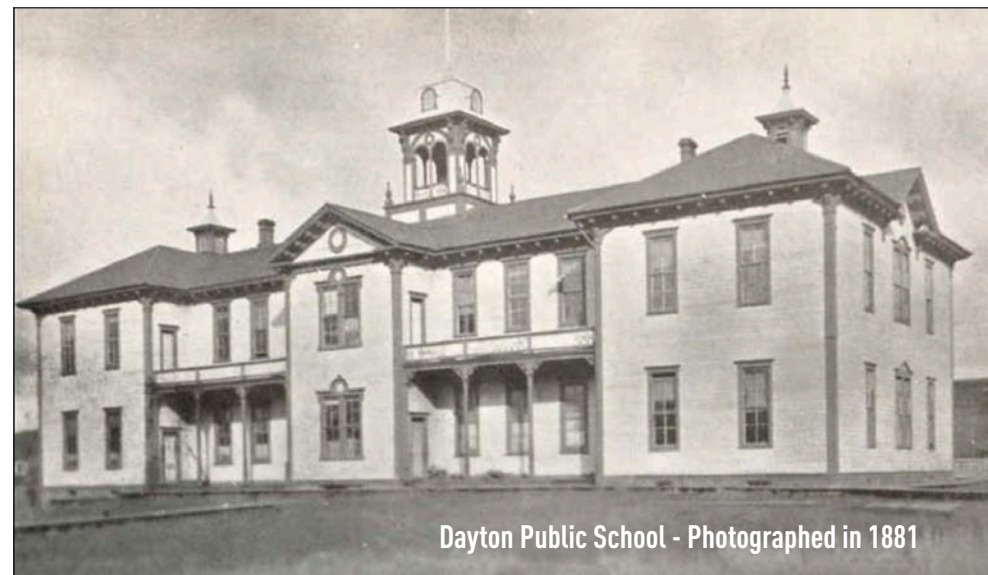
To furnish the classrooms, the women of Dayton organized the Ladies' Educational Aid Society—they then went to work. By hosting social events, festivals, and parties, the aid society “collected a large sum of money” to properly outfit the school.

In October 1880, the two-story 36-foot x 80-foot \$8,000 Dayton Public School was finished—and furnished. It was the first graded public school in Washington Territory, east of the Cascade Mountains. In 1881, a high school program was included, giving Dayton the added acknowledged

honor of having the first public high school in Washington Territory.

At the start of the high school's 1881-1882 inaugural year, 44 students enrolled. A winter smallpox epidemic, however, interrupted schooling. Only five students completed that first year.

Over the next few school years, additional setbacks, including a lack of funds, intermittently halted classes. By March of 1886, however, three students, Will H. Fouts, B. D. Matthews, and James Robertson, had completed the full high school course and received diplomas of graduation. ■



Dayton Public School - Photographed in 1881

1860 Newton G. Curl, an army veteran of the recent Indian uprisings, arrived from the Willamette Valley. He settled on the Touchet River west of Dayton and later relocated to Whetstone Hollow.

1861 The first 50-acre crop of grain was grown by George Miller and Elisha Ping (on leased land now part of Dayton). The harvest was sold to George Ives for his pack mules, but payment was never made. Ives went to Montana, where vigilantes hung him along with Bill Bunton and Clubfoot George. The three men had a bad reputation; their fates were viewed as being well deserved.

1861-1862 During the exceptionally severe winter of 1861-1862, the cold, wind, and blizzards took a heavy toll on livestock east of the Cascades. Temperatures of -29° F were recorded at Fort Walla Walla. The snow and cold temperatures continued for three months. In the Touchet, Patit, and Tucannon areas, large numbers of livestock died. (The winter of 1861-1862 remains the most severe to date (2023) in state history.)

1862 In 1862, a school was started in a cabin on the Gilbreath place. A couple of years later, a cabin belonging to Jack Forrest was turned into a schoolhouse—the sign reading “Saloon” still present over the doorway. Mr. John Harmon taught John Gilbreath, John Dill, and the children of the Day and Yenny families.

1862 Settlers arriving in 1862 included “Pop” Messenger, John Abel, Bob Elwell, Andrew White, and Alex Montgomery. They all settled on Johnson Hollow between the homesteads of Jonathan Buzzard and Ambrose Johnson.

1864 The area's first post office was established in 1864 in the home of G. W. Miller, postmaster. Mail was dropped off/picked up by Bill and Tom King, brothers who drove the stagecoach from Walla Walla to Lewiston. The post office was registered with the U.S. Post Office Department as Touchet. Once the town of Dayton was platted, the name was changed, in 1872, to Dayton.

1864 The first sawmill in the area was built by Mark Baker in 1864 and was located on Eckler Mountain, near the Van Lew House. The mill was

known as the Baker and Bailey Sawmill. Simon Critchfield owned it.

1865 School District #15 was organized in 1865. The schoolhouse was located about 1½ miles east of Dayton on the Nez Perce Trail. W. H. Elliott taught 24 students who ranged in age from 5 to 23.

1865 During 1865, more wheat growers arrived. Settlers included Alexander Bundy, who settled between Hogeeye and Whiskey Creek in Bundy Hollow along with Mathew McCauley, A. L. McCauley, Sanford Bramlett, Solomon Livengood, and Alexander Baldwin.

1866 By 1866, the volume of grain farming in the area warranted a flouring mill. One was built on the Touchet River near Long's Station. Legal disputes shut the mill down in 1879.

1869 Completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, fueled settlement growth in the West. As a result, the number and quality of public schools improved. However, while urban schools begin dividing children into grades, rural schools remain mostly ungraded.

1871 Jesse Day and his wife Elizabeth Day filed the town site plat for Dayton on November 23, 1871. The town was named after Jesse Day.

1871 To help attract settlers to his new town, Jesse Day decided Dayton needed a flouring mill. He hired Sylvester M. Wait and William O. Matzger to build the mill along the south side of Main Street by the Touchet River. He gave land to Wait for a home on 2nd and Clay and to Matzger for a home on Washington and 2nd. (A hospital was later built on this corner lot in 1937.)

1872 By the end of 1872, Dayton had 30 buildings and about 500 residents.

1875 On November 11, 1875, the territorial legislature formed **Columbia County** out of the eastern two-thirds of Walla Walla County, with Dayton named the temporary county seat. (For the next six years, until Garfield County was carved off, Columbia County would extend east to the Territory of Idaho boundary on the Snake.)

1876 In the November 1876 Columbia County election, Marengo lost out to Dayton (300 to 418), and Dayton became the permanent county seat.

1877 The Washington Territorial Board of Education was established and charged with oversight of the territory's education system.

1877 To connect Dayton with the outside world, the Dayton & Walla Walla Telegraph Company was established. The first line was to Walla Walla; it was finished in July 1877. A line to Lewiston was built in 1879.

1878 Division of graded schools into primary, intermediate, grammar, and high schools is recommended by the Washington Territorial Board of Education.

1881 Garfield County was carved out of the east part of Columbia County on November 29, 1881.

1881 The 1881 city directory states that Dayton “now contains about 1,200 inhabitants.” It lists five churches, five lodges, two newspapers, the Dayton Public School (a sought-after “graded school”), and an impressive variety of businesses.

1881 The first public high school in Washington Territory was established in Dayton.

1881 The Dayton Public School enrollment for 1881-1882 was 350 students. However, a winter smallpox epidemic would disrupt attendance.

1881 The railroad arrived in Columbia County, and the first passenger train left Dayton for Walla Walla on July 19, 1881.

1883 Asotin County was carved out of the eastern portion of Garfield County and officially came into being on November 12, 1883.

1889 After 36 years as a territory, on November 11, 1889, U.S. President Benjamin Harrison signed the proclamation making **Washington State** the 42nd state in the United States of America.

Resources: *Early Years of Columbia County and Dayton*, compiled by Liz Carson; *Columbia County Dispatch* - Volume 20, Dayton WA Thursday June 8, 1922 No. 78; Mrs. A.M. Van Nice, *History of Columbia County*; F. T. Gilbert, *Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory* (Portland, Oregon: A. G. Walling, 1882); KIRO News Radio interview of Larry Schick, scientist, Army Corps of Engineers, “The worst atmospheric river of all was winter 1861-1862,” (January 12, 2023).

THE SETTLING OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY'S COLUMBIA COUNTY

Prior to the 1850s, the area that would become Columbia County, Washington Territory, was exclusively "Indian Country," used jointly by Native Americans of the Walla Walla, Palus, Cayuse, and Umatilla tribes. The Tucannon was the dividing line between those tribes and the Nez Perce to the east.

Land around the confluence of Patit Creek and the Touchet River was the common-ground summer meeting place for regional tribes. They camped and pastured their horses in the area's lush grass valleys, held pony races (on what was to become Dayton's Main Street), gambled, and traded with other tribes.

However, the grassland's grazing potential soon became a magnet for pioneer ranchers and later grain farmers. As settlers began arriving, events leading to the formation of Washington Territory and Columbia County were set in motion.

1805 On the 1805 westward-bound leg of their journey to the Pacific Ocean, the Lewis & Clark Expedition canoed along the Snake River. The night of October 12, they camped on the river's north bank.

(The river separates two counties: Whitman to the north and Columbia to the south.)



Jefferson Peace and Friendship Medal

1806 For their return trip east to St. Louis, Lewis & Clark took the Nez Perce Trail, passing through what is now Dayton. They spent the night of May 2, 1806, camped on Patit Creek at a spot about two-and-a-half miles east of town. A roadside display of life-size metal silhouettes now memorializes the site and each party member.

1836 Missionaries Dr. Marcus Whitman and Reverend Henry Spalding established a school for Indian children near present-day Walla Walla.

1836 Mrs. Eliza Spalding was the first non-Native woman to set foot in what is now Columbia County. The Reverend Henry Spalding, Mrs. Spalding, and Dr. Marcus Whitman were on their way to set up the Spalding Mission near Lapwai, Idaho.

1847 The Whitman massacre took place.

1848 In March of 1848, Colonel Cornelius Gilliam and a group of volunteer soldiers were attacked by 300 Palouse (Palus) warriors at the crossing on the Touchet near the confluence of Patit Creek.

1848 Congress created Oregon Territory on August 14, 1848. This new territory took in what is now Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming.

1849 The territorial legislature created the first free public school system in Oregon Territory.

1852 Lloyd Brooke, George C. Bumford, and John Noble located claims on the Touchet River between present-day Waitsburg and Huntsville. They raised stock and set up a trading store. (However, all three men left the county when the 1855 Indian uprising began.)

1853 On March 2, 1853, Washington Territory was created out of the northern part of Oregon Territory. (The new territory took in the present state of Washington, the northern panhandle of Idaho, and the northwest corner of Montana.)

1853 Louis "Marengo" Raboin settled on the Tucannon, near where the Nez Perce Trail crossed the river, and Marengo would later be located.

1853 Henry Chase built a log house near the Touchet River in what later would become part of Dayton. (For reference, the location was where the town's old high school football stadium used to be. The "new" gym, built in the mid-1960s, now occupies that spot.)

1854 On April 25, 1854, the first legislature of Washington Territory created Walla Walla County. It took in what is now eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and part of western Montana. The officials designated to temporary control and organize the county were Dominique Pamburn (Walla Walla), George C. Bumford (near Waitsburg), and Major John Owens (Fort Owens, Montana).

1854 At their first legislative session, Washington

Territory lawmakers passed a basic school law similar to Oregon Territory's, creating a common free public school system.

1855 An Indian uprising caused the few settlers in the area to leave. One man who stayed was a bachelor named Israel Davis. Known as "Hogeye," he settled close to Huntsville near Hogeye Creek. In 1855, he raised a small crop of grain. Two years later, Hogeye was killed—not by Indians—but by his cook's jealous husband.

1858 A stone corral was built and made into Fort Taylor by Colonel George Wright to supply soldiers fighting across the Snake River in the Cayuse War. The fort was closed in October of the same year.

1859 On February 14, 1859, Oregon became a state.

1859 With the Indian difficulties in Washington Territory having been ended by treaty, the Touchet Valley area was declared safe for settlers.

1859 More "stock-raisers" arrived from the Willamette Valley, Oregon. While serving in the military, several had been through the country during the Indian difficulties. They liked the grassland and were returning. At the time, it was

implicitly believed that "only along river bottom lands was there arable



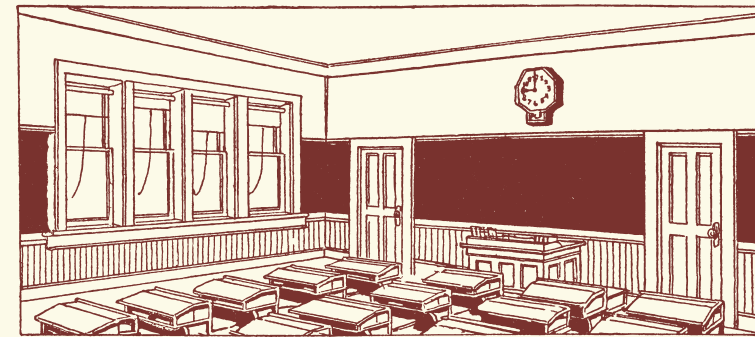
Old Homestead, built in 1859

soil in this country." So, they claimed homestead sites along the Touchet, Patit, and Tucannon. After laying out four poles on the ground in a square, a notice was posted on a pole stating: "This is my claim; I have gone to the [Willamette] Valley for my stock and will be back in three months."

1859 In August 1859, Samuel and Margaret Gilbreath took up a homestead claim three miles west of what would become Dayton. Margaret, 16, was the first non-Native woman to settle in the area. In March 1860, she gave birth to a girl, the first non-Native child born there.

1859 Jesse N. Day arrived in March of 1859 looking for land. He filed a claim and returned to the Willamette Valley. The following year, Jesse moved his family and herd of cattle north to a spot on the Touchet River in the vicinity of today's (2023) town site of Dayton.

The Dreaded Eighth-Grade Exit Exam



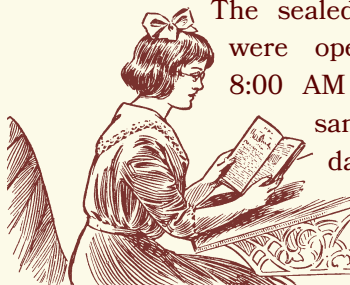
In May 1910 in Washington State, every eighth-grader took and passed the standardized tests—or he/she did not pass to the ninth grade. If a student failed one or more subjects, a second chance was offered in August. The subjects tested were:

grammar,
orthography,
history and civics,
geography,
arithmetic,
reading,
physiology,
and writing a book review
from memory from a previously
selected group of books.



For a passing grade in grammar and arithmetic, the minimum score was 80% for each of the two subjects. Passing grades in other subjects could be as low as 60%, as long as the average for all subjects combined was at least 80%.

The sealed exams were opened at 8:00 AM on the same May day in all eighth grade



classrooms throughout the state. After passing out the papers, the teacher left the room for the duration of the testing period. The test room was monitored by the principal, superintendent, or another teacher. No talking was allowed. No questions asked nor answered. At the end of the testing period, the papers were collected, put in an envelope, sealed, and mailed to the County Superintendent. The papers were graded by the County Board of Education.

The students had to be able to understand the questions without help. There were no true/false questions. Students were graded on ability to write as well as answer correctly. Penmanship was also graded. All students were made aware that the "STATE TESTS" were coming at the end of the eighth grade and we had better learn enough to pass.

I took and passed the tests in Pateros, Washington. All my classmates passed the tests, too.

Vincent J. Doran



How Well Might You Do?

Here are questions from the 80-question exit exam given to eighth-graders in all Washington State public schools in 1910. Can you answer (most of) these questions?

Grammar

1. Give sentences containing noun, adjective, and adverbial clauses. 2. Write a sentence containing a verb in the active voice, change it to the passive, and explain how this is done.

Orthography (the study of spelling)

1. Write sentences showing the correct use of the following words: beat, beet; great, grate; lain, lane; seam, seem; the, thee. 2. Form words using the following affixes, and tell the meaning of the words thus formed: ary, less, er, ous, dom.

History and Civics

1. How did the Colonies of the North and South differ as to social life, education, industries, and customs, prior to the Revolution? 2. Give an account of the framing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Geography

1. What causes the difference in climate between Eastern Washington and Western Washington? 2. Sketch a map of South America, locating three rivers and five capital cities.

Arithmetic

1. Find the sum of 5/9, 5/6, 3/4, 11/36. 2. What is the cost of enough lumber to floor a room 24 feet long and 16 feet wide, at a cost of \$32 per thousand feet?

Reading

1. Name five American poets, and give a quotation from each. 2. Quote two stanzas of "America."

Physiology

1. Describe the composition of the blood. 2. What do you understand about the germ theory of disease?

1923-2023

100 Years

Pietrzycki High School

Popularly known as
Dayton High School

A doctor's buggy, pulled by a single horse, approached from the west. It crossed the wooden bridge and onto the town's main street, the surface of which varied—from dust to mud—with the seasons.

Alone at the reins sat a neatly-dressed, fully-bearded man in his late thirties. He had brown hair and dark brown eyes. He had never been seen in Dayton before.

It was 1880. The pioneer community of Dayton was progressing. The town was platted in 1871, Columbia County created in 1875, and Dayton selected as the permanent county seat in 1876. In 43 years—the wooden bridge replaced and Main Street paved—this stranger's difficult-to-pronounce (or spell) name will appear carved in stone across the entryway of Dayton's new two-story brick high school building.

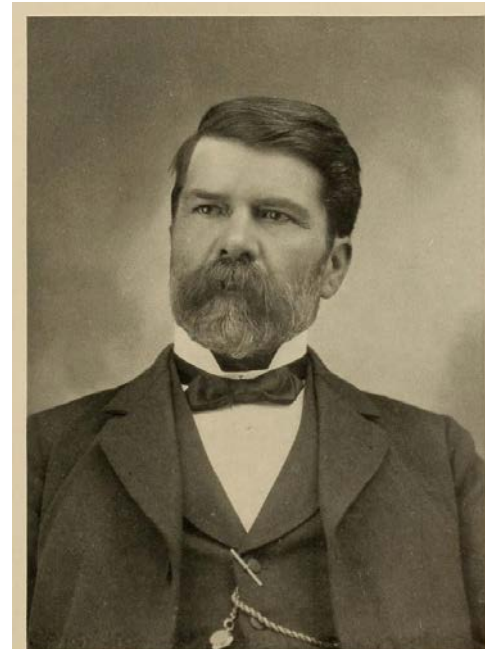
Two months earlier, on Tuesday, March 23, 1880, in Portland, Oregon, Dr. Marcel Pietrzycki watched from the dock as his wife Mary, 26, with their four-week-old son and two-year-old daughter, boarded the *Oregon*. Mary's mother, Mrs. James H. Warren, accompanied them. Disappointed with Portland, the family group was returning to the Warren home in San Francisco, California.

With household belongings packed and placed in storage, Dr. Pietrzycki took the horse and buggy he had brought with him from California and set out from Portland on an expedition of his own. By the time he crossed the bridge into Dayton that day, he had

been weeks traveling, evaluating, and comparing towns in northern Oregon and southern Washington Territory.

On June 26, 1880, his presence was recorded as part of the 1880 U.S. Census for Dayton, Washington Territory. Amongst the other hotel guests and staff, he is listed as "boarder," occupation "physician," place of birth "Galicia, Austria." Austria is also where his search for the right place to make his home began.

He was born on April 25, 1843, in Galicia, a Polish province of Austria



Dr. Marcel M. Pietrzycki
1843-1910

In 1880, after searching both abroad and within the United States, Dr. Pietrzycki discovered Columbia County, W. T., and selected it as his home.

with a volatile history. During the 1846 peasant uprising against serfdom, Marcel's father, Ignatius Pietrzycki, a landowner and district judge, was killed, and most of his property was destroyed. Marcel, age three, survived.

In Galicia, Marcel studied chemistry and apothecary (pharmacy). However, tensions in his country were again building. By 1866, just before the outbreak of the Austro-Prussian war, Marcel, now 23, left Austria. He made his way to Le Havre, France, and boarded the *Frothingham*, a three-masted sailing ship bound for the United States. Upon landing in New York, he went to Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and studied medicine with Dr. Christian Arnold for nearly a year.

In the fall of 1867, Marcel moved to San Francisco, California, and filled the apothecary position at the German Hospital while also attending Pacific Medical College (later Cooper, then Stanford) part-time. He graduated in 1872 with a medical degree.

From 1873 to 1879, Dr. Pietrzycki practiced medicine in California, first in Stockton and then in Rio Vista, where he married Mary Warren on June 29, 1876. Twice elected School Trustee and Clerk of the Board, he was also a key force in getting a telegraph line connected to the town. But he needed a place that offered more.

In the fall of 1879, Dr. Pietrzycki relocated to Portland, Oregon, with his wife and young daughter. The city, however, was a poor fit. Plans



Dr. Marcel M. Pietrzycki shortly after his 1880 arrival in Dayton, W. T.

for leaving were made and soon carried out: Four weeks after their son was born, Mary and the children returned to California; Dr. Pietrzycki began his touring expedition of towns in northern Oregon and southern Washington Territory.

In Dayton, he liked what he saw. The location, the fertility of the soil, and the surrounding countryside all pleased him. Here would be home. His family joined him, and he set up his medical practice. A hidden challenge, however, awaited just ahead.

In 1881, what other physicians had diagnosed as chickenpox Dr. Pietrzycki diagnosed as smallpox. Given his experience with the disease, he knew prompt measures were required to prevent its spread, and he repeatedly requested that controls be put in place. Since other physicians continued to insist it was only chickenpox, his requests, and pleadings were ignored.

In the following two weeks, other doctors confirmed more smallpox cases. The rush was then on to put the control measures Dr. Pietrzycki had pleaded for into place. Under his



On the stone beam atop the columns of the school's entryway is carved: PIETRZYCKI HIGH SCHOOL

guidance, Dayton's Board of Health quarantined the town. The spread of the disease slowed. By January 1882, Columbia County had emerged from the epidemic. The Board of Health's final tally was 167 cases and 21 deaths.

Sadly, between 1882 and 1883, the doctor and his wife lost their son and daughter. They had no other children. Their grief pushed them to help others. Over the years, Pietrzycki became involved in serving and improving the community. In addition, twice he tried to bring people from Austria to settle on Lubla Ranch, a 5,500-acre collective farm he had assembled near Starbuck.

In the spring of 1910, he bequeathed money and land to Dayton for a city park. He died on September 13, 1910.

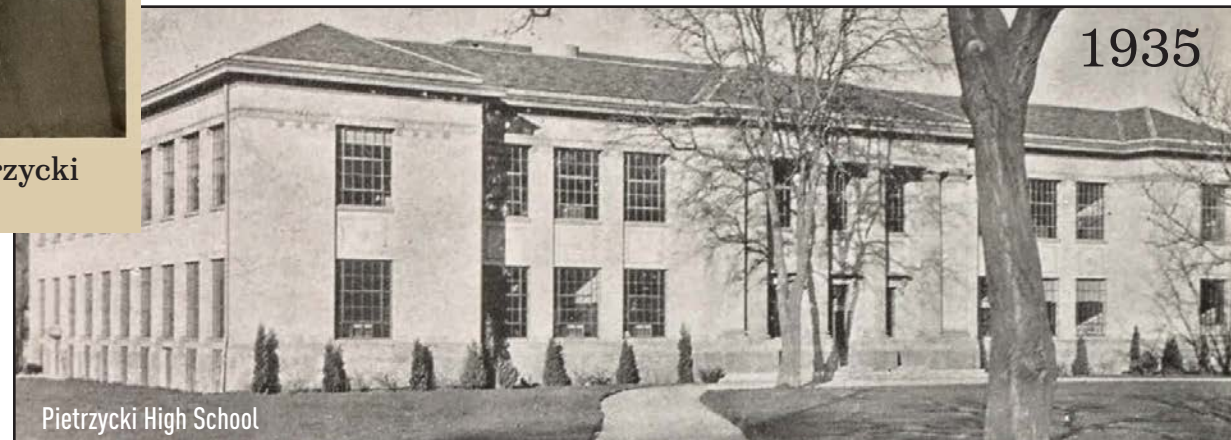
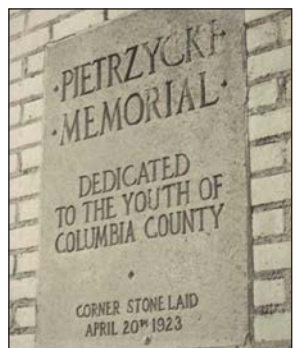
So widely known were his many and varied accomplishments that newspapers in several states reported on his passing. *The Call*, a San Francisco newspaper, noted that in the 1870s, Dr. Pietrzycki had "enjoyed a lucrative practice in California" before moving to Dayton, where he "became prominent in his profession... acquired large land holdings...and was known as one of the grain kings of the northwest."

In his will, Pietrzycki bequeathed land and what ended up being about \$140,000 (nearly \$3.5 million today) to the Dayton school district "for the establishment of a Trade School." On April 20, 1923, the cornerstone was laid. Pietrzycki High School was finished and in use by that fall.

In stemming the spread of smallpox in 1881, Dr. Pietrzycki helped save community members' lives. In turn, for the past 100 years, many descendants of those individuals have benefited from attending Pietrzycki High School, a school he helped make possible.

A stranger who arrived overland via horse and buggy is a stranger no more. With the high school and city park, Dr. Marcel M. Pietrzycki continues to benefit our/his community now—and into the future. ■

A plaque memorializes placement of the cornerstone and dedicates the new high school building to the county's youth.



Pietrzycki High School