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Early Columbia County Schools

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

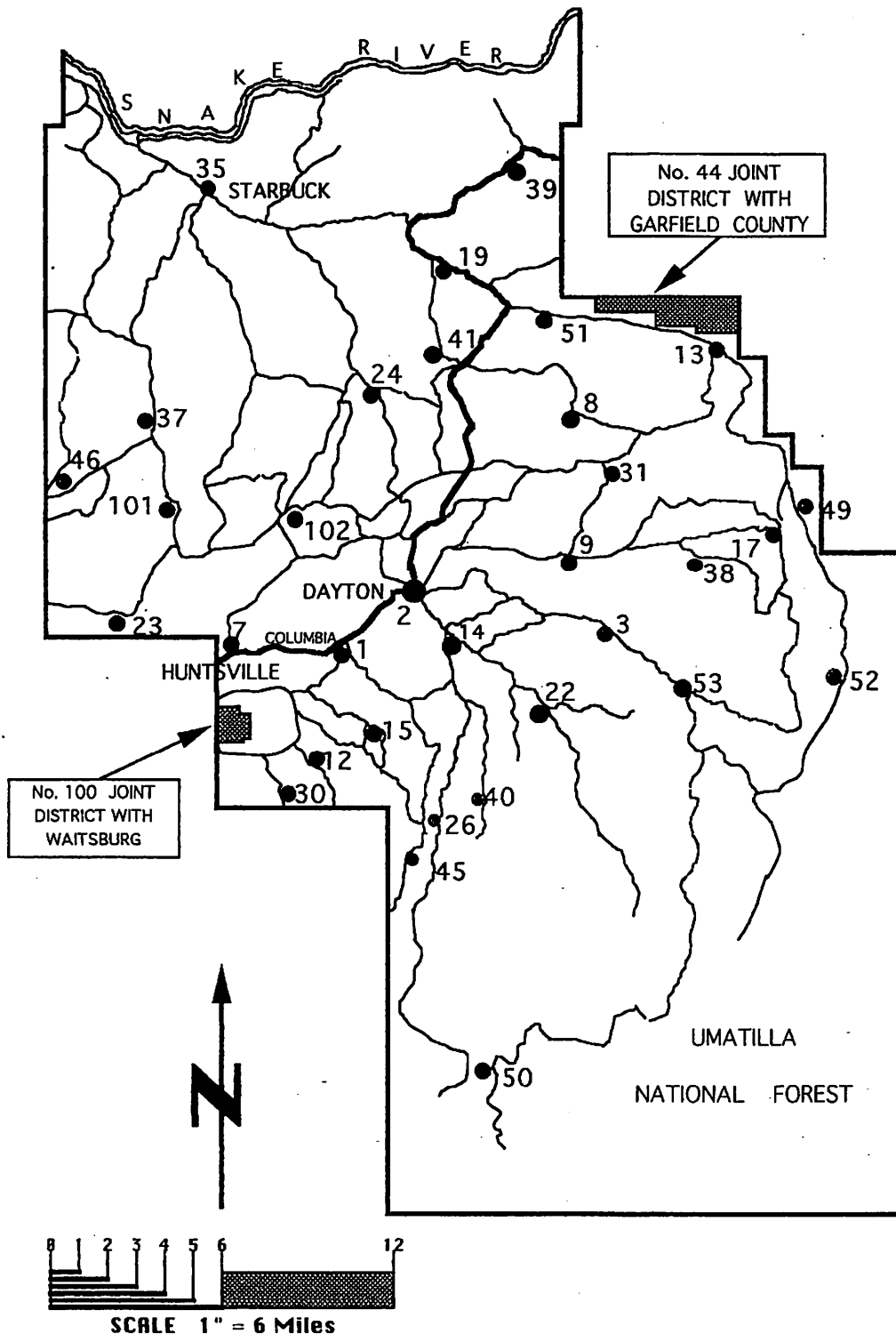
Thanks to everyone who so willingly shared experiences and remembrances of these early schools with me. Special thanks to Mr. Coulter and Mr. Moore and his students for their splendid help. Also thanks to Audrey Albee, Alice Williams, all my family and friends for their encouragement.

Compiled By
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COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

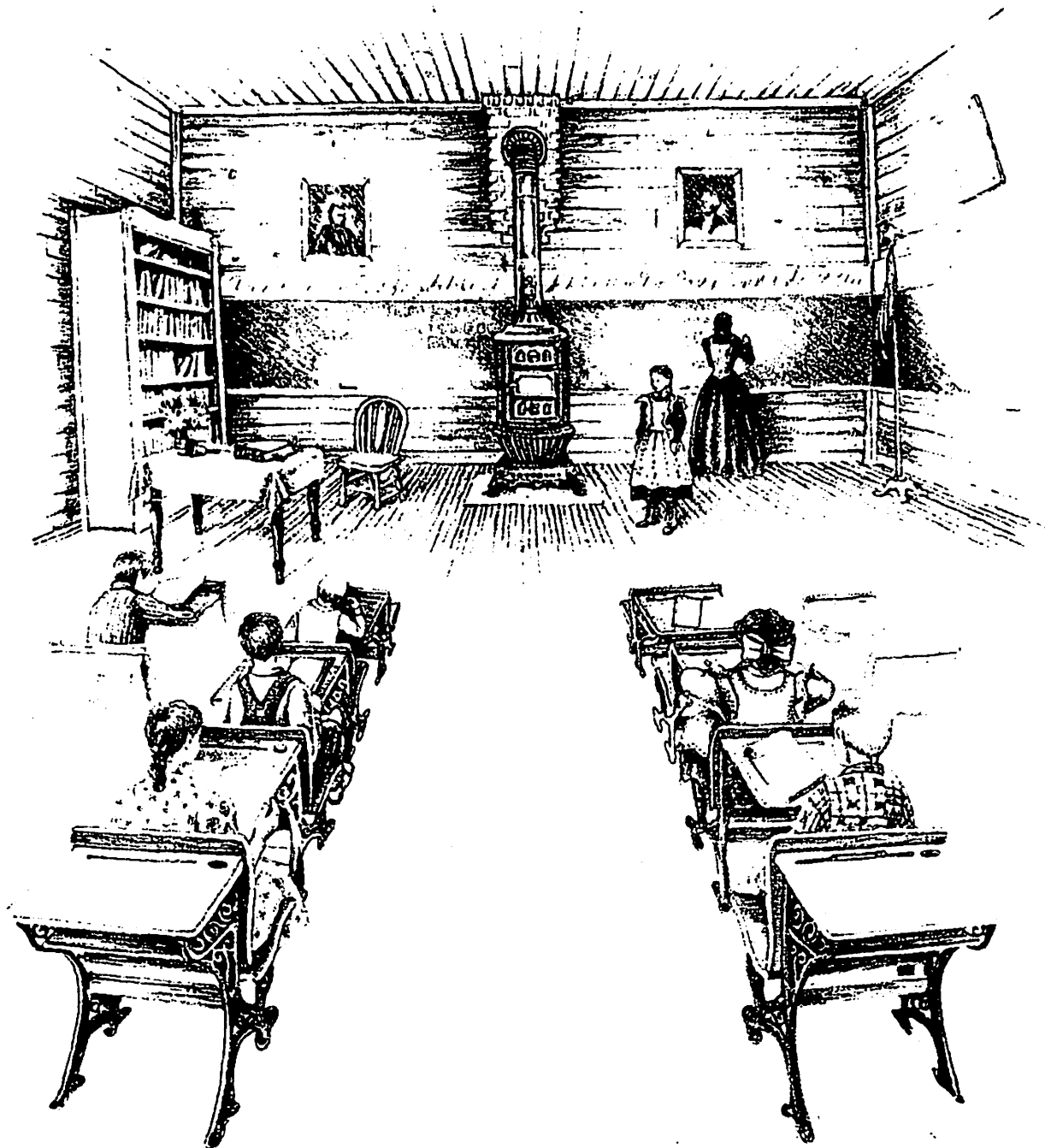
1929



NUMBER	NAME
1 *	Columbia
2 *	Dayton
3 *	Mt. Vernon
4 *	Winnett
5	Barkersville
6	Copper
7 *	Huntsville
8 *	Turner-Wilson
9 *	Dittmore-Armstrong
10	Enterprise
11(101) *	McKay
12 *	Bundy
13 *	Marengo
14 *	Star
15 *	Baldwin
16	Highland
17 *	Fairview
18	Sargent-Rivers
19 *	White Bird-"Tukanon"
20	Delaney
21	Mountain Home
22 *	Pine Grove
23 *	Menoken
24 *	Smith Hollow
25	Doggett
26 *	Tate-Spackman
27	James
28	Watrous
29	Touchet-Jim Creek
30 *	Whiskey Creek
31 *	Covello
32	Thorn Hollow
33(34,35) *	Starbuck
36	Wright
37 *	Lost Springs
38 *	Glen Grove
39 *	Chard-Pataha
40 *	Robinette Mt.
41 *	New Hope
45 *	Mt. Pleasant
46 *	Colville Springs
47	Alto
48	Blue Mountain
49 *	Russell-Tucannon
50 *	Franklin
51 *	Jackson
52 *	Waterman
53 *	Grupe
54	Gross Dollarhide
60	Blessinger
101(11) *	Alto
102 *	Whetstone

* = Site indicated on map

*Added on Super Map
images on Super Map*



This picture shows the interior of a typical rural school. Some were more rustic with handmade seats and desks, but most schools were similar to this picture with "store bought" desks, bookcases, blackboards, pictures, tables, chairs and heating stove.

NOW & THEN

by L. J. Williams from County Pleasures

This is "Back to School" month and the stores are showing off great and wondrous supplies meant to enhance the education of students of all ages. Examining the aisles of pink pearl-encrusted peechies, alligator erasers, sets of 100 color markers, new Crayola colors, recycled paper, sequined book bags and revolving crystal-topped pens, it's a good time to compare the necessities of education today with those of the 1900's when early settlers were struggling to open the first schools.

These schools controlled by the church, were very simple in concept. The student's classroom problems were zero compared to his problem of getting there, by foot or by horse, in all kinds of weather. The teacher had to be a multi-talented individual who, because he was hired by the church, also found himself assisting in the church, at weddings and funerals and, if needed, digging graves.

But back to school supplies. A quill pen and ink with a book of foolscap and the early students were ready to go. What is foolscap? Of British origin, it was a pile of untrimmed paper sewed into book shape, ruled by hand, and so called because of a watermark of a fool's cap originally used on such paper. Because paper was scarce and highly prized, some students used birch bark, more than plentiful, for their books. Many young people became adults without ever seeing a lead pencil. Instead, they would use

lead plummet. What is a plummet? Simply a melted lead stick cast in a wooden mold, tied to a wooden ruler. It was the mid 1700's before pencils, as well as slates, became readily available.

Even at the very beginning, when parents and Colony leaders were striving for the education of their children, much controversy existed. Some political leaders advocated no free schools at all. Fortunately, everyone did not agree and field schools popped up, soon followed by regular schoolhouses.

Field Schools educated children who came together from great distances. A field school was a small shed, likely a discarded farm building, set on some exhausted tobacco field, and the neighbors for miles around would get together to hire a teacher for a short term of education. George Washington received most of his education in such a school, riding his horse ten miles each way across a river (could it have been the Delaware?) and finally ending this exhausting education at the age of 13. His mother probably said to him, just like mothers say today, "George, now don't lie to me, did you do your sums?" Whatever his answer, we all know that George could not tell a lie.

The early schoolhouses were built of rough logs and featured dirt floors, which could be a lot of fun for a restless student kicking up his feet. The teacher sat in the middle, and around the exterior walls pegs were driven into the logs at appropriate heights, boards put on the pegs, and presto...you had desks.

These early schools, while public, were not free and were supported at the expense of the parents. Parents also supported the fireplace which kept the schoolhouse warm. Students were

expected to bring their share of logs to keep the fire going. It is said that some teachers would save the coldest corner of the room for the student whose parents had not sent their proper share of wood.

Free schools, paid for entirely by town taxes, did finally come into being during the late 1700's, circa the Revolution. These taxes could be paid in any varied of exchanges, known as "truck", which could be any country crop such as corn, wheat, peas, animal skins or produce. When the "truck" piled up, one of the students would sit by an open window, doing his schoolwork while he sold the country products out the window to passerby. This was possibly the birth of the Drive In.

From the beginning, the education of the sons of the towns was fostered while that of the daughters was only tolerated. While it was deemed agreeable that the girls learn reading and writing, ciphering (math, in those days) was another matter altogether. If fathers wanted their daughters to cipher, they had to teach them themselves, providing they knew how.

Getting back to school supplies, if you should be shopping with your daughter and she excitedly exclaims, "Wow, feast your eyes on this totally cool neon Ninja Turtles solar state digital miniature compact-sized computer! Hey, if I had this it would really help me in math, and it's only \$29.95!" ...perhaps you'd better dig deep in your purse, not only on the chance that it really will help her, but also because she does, today, really have to learn to cipher.

SALARY ABOUT 1881

The rural schools did not maintain a definite salary schedule. Some increases were given but in most cases, these are not a regular scale. The Dayton schools had a definite salary schedule. The minimum elementary salary was \$1,080. A yearly increase of \$45 was given up to a maximum of \$1,260. The principal and music supervisor were not on the regular schedule.

The teacher was the most important factor as far as classroom instruction is concerned. The larger graded schools were able to secure better teachers than the rural schools. This is possible for three reasons. The first was better salaries and a regular schedule of increases. This was an incentive for good work. The second was better living conditions and social opportunities offered by the larger centers. The third reason was the method of selection. In the larger graded schools the Board of Education employed a City Superintendent of Schools. He was given the power to receive the applications of all teachers, investigate their records, decide on the qualifications needed for the particular job, and finally make a definite recommendation. He also had the power to make recommendations for dismissal of teachers. Very few school boards in the larger centers ever hired a teacher without the approval of the Superintendent.

The County Superintendent had very little authority in the matter of hiring or firing rural teachers. Some School Boards consulted with him and some did not. Hence it was often possible for a poorly qualified teacher to secure a position in the rural schools.

This is a good discription of how a rural child got ready to go to school on a winter morning of the early thirties.

THE ONE ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL

by Laura McCauley Hill

There was a time when I didn't think so but now I feel that I was a fortunate child to have attended the old one room country school where readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic were taught to the tune of a hickory stick.

I lovingly remember my first teacher, Miss Kathleen McGuire, a lovely young colleen with black curling hair, flashing dark eyes and a smile constantly lurking about her pretty mouth. When she smiled her teeth were even and white. Her laugh was merry and infectious but when she was displeased with a naughty child, her dark brows grew together in a frown and her eyes turned black in anger. Those angry black eyes plus her hickory stick (really a willow switch) were the only disciplinary measures she ever needed. Every one of the dozen or fifteen pupils in the old Dittemore School adored Miss McGuire. When we did good work and she favored us with her sweet smile we would all have gladly walked through fire for her. Regardless of the weather, every school morning was bright with the thought of seeing Miss McGuire and the hope of reciting well enough to earn one of her lovely smiles and her warm hug of approval.

School mornings were always hectic, what with chores, breakfast, school lunch to be packed in my little peanut butter bucket and getting washed up, hair brushed and dressed. But somehow I always made it; sometimes Miss McGuire rang the bell

before I got over the last rise but when I reached the top of that, it was a down hill run all the rest of the way and I always made the school yard gate in time.

Miss McGuire, in winter, spent a good part of her day helping children remove and put back on all the assorted coats, caps, rubbers, overshoes, mittens ect. that children in snow country had to wear. The great potbellied stove in the corner of the school room was always busy drying snow soaked socks, mittens and other wet articles of clothing draped over the wood box while bare footed children sat as close as possible to the stove's friendly warmth as they recited their lessons.

We were all so proud of our tablets and long new yellow lead pencils. There was a constant line at the pencil sharpener to keep our pencils pin point sharp, We little ones studied our readers and spellers and laboriously drew our numbers and letters of the alphabet on our tablets until it was our turn to recite, all the while lending half an ear to the older pupils reciting their lessons in geography, English, history, mathematics, hygiene ect. We learned a mighty lot just listening to the older students answering the teacher's questions.

One wall of the school room was lined with windows, the other with a long blackboard and above the blackboard were affixed several roll down charts imprinted with maps of the world, pictures of the mysterious inner organs of the human body multiplication tables, weights and measures and numbers, letters of the alphabet and phonic drills for the primary pupils. there was an anteroom where the coats and lunch pails were kept and where Miss McGuire

occasionally meted out effective punishment to an offending student.

At the front of the school room stood the teacher's desks, a dictionary stand, a big revolving globe of the world, a bookcase to hold our small library and in the right hand corner stood the American flag which we faced each morning as we solemnly repeated the pledge of allegiance.

At noon we sat around the stove and ate our lunch. Mine usually consisted of a sandwich made of left over breakfast biscuits with bacon, a boiled egg and perhaps cookies or a slice of cake from the oven of old Majestic. Miss McGuire ate her lunch from a lunch pail along with us and usually held one of the youngest on her lap while she ate. When school saw out at three she helped us all with overshoes and coats, saw to it that no one forgot his or her lunch pail or homework and then set about preparing the next day's lessons before she swept the floor, banked the fire in the potbellied stove and walked home herself.

After all these years I still vividly remember her slender figure framed in the doorway of the old Dittemore School as she waved to us as we scattered up and ^down the country road when school was out. I wish I knew where she went after she left our little school and I wonder if her life was filled with the happiness she so truly deserved.

OLD RULES FOR TEACHERS

Rules for elementary school teachers in 1872. Among the admonitions:

Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal daily.

Men teachers may take one evening a week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.

After 10 hours of school the teacher should spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.

Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be discharged.

Any teacher who uses liquor in any form, frequents pool halls, taverns, or gets shaved in a barbershop gives cause to suspect his character.

The teacher who performs his labors faithfully and without fault for five years will be given a pay increase of 25 cents per week, providing the board of education approves.

Each teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings of his declining years, so that he will not become a burden to society.

Second Monthly Report of Dayton Public Schools.
Vol. 20 - 1888

DEPARTMENTS.	Enrollment	Tardiness.	Per cent of Attendance
Railroad Primary.....	58	12	81
Upper Primary.....	45	7	96
Brooklyn Primary.....	52	5	90
Central Primary "B".....	61	1	97
Primary "A".....	52	10	90
Intermediate "C".....	53	17	83
Intermediate "B".....	49	10	93
Intermediate "A".....	42	14	86
Grammar Department.....	44	13	89
High Department.....	26	1	92
Total.....	482	90	91

Respectfully, W. A. PAYNE, Prin.,

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Following the signing of the peace treaty with the Northwest Indian tribes, in the year 1858, eastern Washington territory was thrown open for settlement. When, with the Oregon Mountain volunteers, Samuel L. Gilbreath, had seen the bunch grass covered hills of the Touchet Valley looking as he said, "Like immense hay stacks as far as the eye could see," and had decided then to homestead there when peace was declared.

Samuel L. Gilbreath and Margaret Fanning, who had crossed the plains in the same large wagon train from St. Joseph, Missouri to the Willamette Valley in the year 1852, were married in Albany, Oregon on March 16, 1859. Immediately after the wedding, they left for the Touchet Valley.

Their equipment for the trip included a provision wagon and team, several saddle horses, three herders, and three hundred head of cattle. The previous winter had been a hard one with deep snow drifts and much fallen timber with no cross roads through the Cascade Mountains so they were compelled almost literally to shovel and hew their way through. In the mountains they encountered two single men, John Wills with Tom Davis with their wagons and cattle, who joined them. They were all spring and most of the summer in reaching their first settlement which was Fort Walla Walla. Captain Dent of the fort, a brother-in-law of General U.S. Grant, wanted them to settle near the fort, but the post was a cavalry post and the horses had grazed off the entire surrounding area, so they decided to move on up to the Touchet Valley.

From Fort Walla Walla, they followed the old Lewis and Clark Trail which crosses the Coppei Creek at about present Railway Station. Leaving the trail, they came down the Touchet Valley through a narrow gulch now known as Sudderth Gulch, north inside of the former Dumas Orchard. They then turned up the valley, camped their first night near a fine spring of cold, clear water. These were the first wagons ever to enter the Touchet Valley. That first night in the Touchet Valley, the Gilbreath caravan had a welcoming committee composed of hundreds of indians on horseback yelling and firing their guns. The new arrivals so out-matched in numbers naturally never expected to see the light of another day. But as it turned out, no doubt these Indians had recently come into possession of too much fire water, and were having a bit of fun at the expense of the newcomers. After an hour or two of such fun, they disappeared as noisily as they had appeared.

The next day, the caravan pushed on up the Touchet Valley to the present sight of Dayton which they reached on August 26, 1859. Dayton was then known as The Crossing because it was the central meeting grounds of all the local indian tribes, (Cayuses, Umatillas, Walla Walla's, Spokane's, and Nez Percés). This is where they held their councils, wedding celebrations, and sports competitions. Nature had provided The Crossing for them ready made as it were, with plenty of water and bunch grass for their horses, and unlimited wild game for themselves. On their arrival at The Crossing, the Gilbreath's found the soul inhabitants of the place, a white man known as Stubbs, and his squaw wife, who lived in a small hut by the riverside. Stubbs real name was Theodore Snebley.

His business was cattle-rustling and bootlegging firearms and fire water to the Indians.

The day following the arrival at The Crossing, the men of the caravan started to build a corral for their cattle but encountered so many dens of rattlesnakes (it was just rattlesnake time in weather) that the Gilbreath's decided to retrace their steps back down the river to the springs, where they had camped the night before. Here the Gilbreath family settled and homesteaded its 160 acres covering level farm land, a hillside for pasture, a creek for water, and a adjoining timber for fuel. They constituted the first family to settle in the old Walla Walla county, outside the Whitman Mission, Fort Walla Walla and the village of Walla Walla itself.

Three months later, Lambert Hern and family arrived and homesteaded about a mile above them, approximately where the former Columbia School now stands. It should be remembered that the Walla Walla County of that day included Columbia, Garfield and Asotin Counties as well.

Later that fall, Jesse N. Day and his two brothers-in-law, Jack and Newton Forest, arrived from the Willamette Valley, staked plains in and below Dayton, then returned to the Willamette Valley for the winter. Several bachelors staked claims near the present site of Huntsville; Bennett on the Bateman Place, Fudge, Lloyd and the Whitaker brothers. George Pollard was one of those bachelors who built his cabin and stayed through the winter, being married the following year. There were three or four occupied cabins in the Touchet Valley that first winter of 1859 and 1860.

Reverend Berry, a Methodist Circuit Rider, held regular

meetings every other week at the Gilbreath cabin in the winter where the Gilbreath, Hern, and Stubbs family as a congregation. Sometimes including single men who might be in the neighborhood.

On March 18, 1860, a daughter, Sarah Jane, was born to the Gilbreath's. She was the first white child born in the old Walla Walla County outside of the Whitman Mission, and the town of Walla Walla itself. In spring of 1860, Mr. Gilbert was plowing with a yoke of oxen alongside the Lewis and Clark Trail when a traveler to the Orofino Mines in Idaho drew in his horse to watch the operation. Finally he asked Mr. Gilbeath what he expected to grow in this dry country. Mr. Gilbert explained that he expected to grow some vegetables and some small fruits for the family table, and some seed grains to plant more land the next year. But the traveler could stand it no longer, as he moved on he shouted, "I'll tell you what you'll raise here, you'll raise a hell of a dust, and that's all." And he was still laughing at his own joke as he passed out of sight.

Jesse N. Day returned to his claim with his family about May of that year, but the Forest brothers did not return with him. They sold their claims to others. J.H. Newland bought one of the claims they had intended to prove up on. This year homesteaders began to arrive in a steady stream. In the spring of 1861, Israel Davis raised the first commercial crop of wheat in what is now Columbia County. Davis then went to the Willamette Valley to buy sheep, leaving Mr. Gilbreath in charge of the crop, which was cut with old fashion "cradles" and separated from the straw by piling it on the ground and trampled on by horses, then winnowed from a ladder in a

stiff breeze to a canvas on the ground. A thousand bushels of wheat was a net result as proof enough that this was destined to be a great wheat country. It was stored carefully to be kept for neighboring land seeding the next year.

In December of the year 1861, Mr. Gilbert took a string of packhorses to the head of the navigation on the Columbia river known as old Fort Walla Walla, and later Wallula, and packed them with stapled groceries; flour, sugar, bacon, coffee, and so forth. He intended to sell them to the newly opened Oro^sphino mines in Idaho. He had returned as far as his cabin heaven on the Touchet on Christmas Day. It began snowing and did not stop until there were four feet of packed snow on the level. The weather turned bitterly cold. This trip to the mines was abandoned and all efforts were directed to keeping men and animals from freezing or starving to death.

Cattle, trying to find shelter in the lee sides of the hills, became hopelessly lost, stuck in snow drifts, and froze to death standing up. Those who made it to the shelter of the trees on the other side of the hillsides were attacked by roving bands of wolves, and were destroyed by the dozens. As for the men and women in the cabins, they dared not even step out side the door without covering their faces with whatever was available. A butchered beef side hanging outside the cabin was frozen stiff, and an ax was necessary to cut it, which were like oak chips. Mr. Gilbreath's grocery supplies, originally intended for the Idaho miners, were sold to the neighbors at cost, and were means of saving the lives of many of the neighboring families, which were about 15 in the

neighborhood. As soon as the top of the snow developed a crust sufficiently hard to walk on, they could come to these cabins for supplies. No one was prepared for such a calamity. Not even the oldest Indians had a tradition of such a winter.

Even then, before the coming of spring, these supplies were exhausted and the community was forced to resort to grinding the precious seed wheat in old fashion coffee mills, then cooking it into a kind of porridge on which they existed. Through succeeding pioneer days this winter was referred to as a hard winter of 1862. Mr. Gilbreath lost his entire herd of cattle, with the exception of a cow and two calves, which he managed to pull through. Cold was not the only enemy, as the bands of wolves attacked and killed most of the bands that were caught on the lee side of the hills and could not escape because of the deep drifts by which they were surrounded.

With the coming of spring, a Pony Express began operating between Walla Walla and Orofino mines in Idaho, with the Gilbreath cabin as the local stop for meals, rest, and a change of horses. This express was operated by Miller and Mossman. Joaquin Miller later became the poet of the Sierra's. Like other travellers of that day, Joaquin Miller wore buckskin clothing, and slept on the floor of the cabin. On return trips, they often carried pouches of gold dust from the mines, and every station had its gold dust scales, for gold dust was the soul currency of the times. Undaunted in the spring of 1862, Gilbreath built a new cabin nearer the highway. And the old cabin was occupied by a school, which occupied with half a dozen neighboring children as pupils, and a

Englishmen named Hardin as the teacher. Though but a privately supported school, this was doubtless the first attempt at real education in the county. Walla Walla County was reorganized in 1862 with the boundaries set at the Snake river on the north, Columbia river on the west, and the Oregon line as the southern boundary.

In the first election held in this reorganized Walla Walla County, held on July 14, 1862, James Van Dyke, John Sheets, and Samuel L. Gilbreath were elected to the first board of County Commissioners. In this election, Walla Walla county pulled four times as many votes as did King county on the Sound.

The first crop of wheat grown on the Israel Davis homestead together with a few grown near Fort Walla Walla proved at this early date that this Northwest Territory was destined to become the great grain growing area to be followed in due time by great industry areas as well. The first industrial step to be appear logically in this pioneer land was the building of flouring mills to grind wheat into flour for the families themselves, and other grains to be grown following wheat to feed the stock of the pioneer families. The first flouring mill on the Touchet River was built by Wait in the year 1865 near the town which now bears his name Waitsburg.

The following year of 1866, a second mill on the Touchet River was built on the Newt-^{Curl}~~Herl~~ homestead about three miles down river by Gilbreath, Lock, and Long. The timbers for this mill were hewn from tamarack Logs in the Blue Mountains, and then hauled across the foothills and down the steep sides of the valley, then to the

chosen site by ox teams. The burrs and machinery for the mill were shipped around the Horn from Boston, then shipped up the Columbia river to Wallula, then to the site by oxen.

It soon became evident that the local population could not consume the output of these mills and the only outside outlet for their products was distant, and the only mode of transportation was horse-drawn wagon. Flour and feed were thus transported by wagon-drawn trains as far east as the mining districts of Colorado. Drivers returned with payment for their loads in gold dust. The Gilbreath's Locke and Long mills became known as Milton mills and a small settlement began to develop around it consisting of a post office, a store, a blacksmith shop, and the inevitable saloon.

With the normal expansion of the settlement at Milton mills the need for a school became apparent. Mr. Gilbreath donated a acre from his homestead for school purposes. The saloon not proving the success it's owner had anticipated the building it had occupied was sold to the school authorities and moved on to the acre Mr. Gilbreath had provided. The mill had been built in the year 1866. It was probably a year or two later before the school was ready for occupancy. At any rate, the children of Milton mills, including two of the Gilbreath's oldest, began attending the first public school in what is now Columbia county, with the word "SALOON" still above the door. The seats in this first school were logs hewn on one side with pegs driven in the bottom. The desks were planks laid on top of pegs driven into the wall. Unfortunately, to the best of our knowledge, no photograph exists of this school. There having been another school started near

Walla Walla, called Walla Walla County District #1, the school at Milton mills was called Walla Walla County District #2. Mark Witt was the first teacher at this school, and Cushing Eels was Walla Walla's county superintendent in school followed later by Reverend A. W. Sweeney in 1872.

On November 11, 1875 the Washington Territorial legislature established that county Columbia by division by Walla Walla county. Columbia as organized then, comprised not only the present area of Columbia county, but also are now Garfield and Asotin counties. On separation of Columbia from Walla Walla the school district at Milton mills was changed to Columbia School District #1. And its name was changed to Columbia School, and a new site selected near the crossroads as a more suitable and convenient situation for the school. The first school superintendent of Columbia county was T. S. Leonard, and W. F. McLaren was the first teacher in the new building at the crossroads. Other teachers about that time were W. T. Stott, who children named Washington Territory Stott. A. J. Strum was the most musical of all the early teachers. J. H. Windell, and J. H. Wilt were other teachers.

The new school building was simply constructed in rectangular shape, a one room classroom with a stove in the floor center, three windows in each side, and two doors: one in front for boys, and one for girls, and beware of making a mistake. There were also two small outhouses in their respective corners of the lot, and quite a good sized playfield. H. B. Richery had been a professional baseball player, turned teacher. He introduced the boys into the intricacies of the curving ball, base running, a steady mind, and

surer arms before the home plate. As a result, "Hez" Brown became pitcher of the Whitman College team when he attended that institution later after finishing Dayton High School. Likewise, Leo Thompson of Southpaw pitched for the nine at Pullman, while James Gilbreath played center on Whitman's football squad.

In the earlier days of school, the teacher would let the children out to watch the passing of immense herds of sheep on their way to or from their Blue Mountain grazing grounds. Or perhaps it would be a large band of Indians dressed in war regalia, or a squad of cavalry from the Walla Walla post as they jogged by on their routine travels.

During the 1930's organized baseball was played on Friday afternoons; they would play other schools. Mr. Monty Leighty would come after school and coach the Columbia team.

Around 1926 the road was changed from where it was to the present location. Columbia School was the center for community meetings which always included a large potluck dinner. Community plays were presented to standing room audiences only. These plays traveled to the different country school houses, and other communities brought their plays to Columbia. These were very popular during the 1930's.

An interesting point brought out by the superintendent was that many years ago the census was taken each year by having the teacher write down the children's names. This was sent home and signed by the parents. These census are accepted by the United States Social Security system, and numerous requests have been received to prove ages of persons attending this school at that

time.

The hot lunch program had begun in 1952. Darrel Roderick remodeled the kitchen by installing the sink, and building a counter. The stove was already in place as it had been used by the Farm Bureau. Mrs. Rayburn was the first cook, Mrs. Floyd McCauley and she purchased the cooking utensils, dishes, cutlery, trays and so forth. Jean Hatfield succeeded Mrs. Rayburn in 1955 and cooked for one year. Then Mrs. Ernest Smith came in 1956 and was still with the school when it closed. The government had helped every year with commodities such as flour, rice, beans, milk, canned fruit, cheese, frozen chicken, turkey, and hamburger.

Prior to 1955, the janitor work was done by teachers. But in January of that year Darrel Newby became the janitor. Successive janitors have been Jay Rayburn, Ernest Smith, Oral Winnett, and Don Stoops, who taught school, drove the bus, and did the janitor work.

These are many recollections by former pupils. Here is one; The teacher was a tall, very slender woman who had only two dresses, one brown, and one black, and that was all she ever wore. To punish one boy she made him sit on her lap. When he returned to his playmates he said that her knee was so bony that it almost cut him in half.

Another recollection; The Lewis family lived on Bowman Hill with two boys. One boy scratched himself badly on his arm on the way to school, probably while going through a barbed wire fence. Upon arriving at school, he told everyone that he had been attacked by a cougar. Everyone immediately became excited so Mr. McCauley and a neighbor came with a gun, as did many other parents, and

school was dismissed for the day. Finally, people realized the boy had made up the story.

Programs were held in connection with basket socials given by the school.

Mr. Harry Kennedy, the teacher, assigned a boy to learn some famous lines from Shakespeare, but the boy didn't want to do so, so Mr. Kennedy told him he had to learn those lines. At the program the boy got up and gave this poem, "Here I am all ragged and dirty, the girls try to kiss me and I run like a turkey." Mr. Kennedy said nothing that night, but the next day when he arrived to school the boy was paddled with Mr. Kennedy's paddle, which was a wide board with holes bored in it. He paddled so hard that the spots where the holes were became blood blisters.

The following are remembrances of Cora Brown Tweedy, who attended Columbia school many, many years ago:

My father, Leroy C. Brown, sold the district land on which the school now stands. Most of his adult life he was director of this school. His wife Francis served as school clerk. During the summer she would take her horse and buggy and drive over the district and register all the children four and five years of age. All this was turned in to the county superintendent for his records. Francis Brown passed away in 1913, and Leroy in 1922.

When my brother, Wendell, started school, Mrs. Turpenning taught in a one room school. She turned the wood shed into living quarters and lived there during her term. I believe Harry Kennedy taught next. Then the primary room was built, and Mr. and Mrs. ^{Dumas} Demus taught the school. Mr. and Mrs. Letterman taught next. Mrs.

Letterman wanted to start the pre-schoolers in March. Mona Clague Ward, Audrey Harsh, and I started. My younger sister, Elpha, cried all day at home so at four years of age, Mrs. Letterman told her to come along with me. She did and did a better job in school than I did.

When Alpha and I reached the third grade, Miss B. Richmond and Kathryn Sharp began teaching. This was the year 1909-1910. Miss Richmond did a great deal to build up the community and the school.

She and my father were married at the close of her fourth year of teaching at Columbia school. The adults called her Miss B. She was a good teacher, but all business. She was very strict and expected the students to work to the very best of his ability.

One of her first projects was a noon hot lunch. She brought a sack of dry, white beans, picked them over, washed them, and put them in a big kettle of water to cook. The kettle was placed over the top of the big furnace to cook slowly. The beans began to swell until she had to put some into another kettle, they continued until she had a dishpan full of swelled beans. Finally, the right amount was determined and they were left to cook. We filled our granite bowls with beans but alas we couldn't eat them, so we put them back in the kettle again. She asked Mary Booth to find out from her mother what to put in the beans to season them. When Mary came back and told her to put salt in them, then the beans tasted very good to all of us. Many of the children had only cold biscuits spread with gravy to eat for their lunches. When Mary Booth and her mother Mrs. Booth's help, Miss B. tried to have something hot everyday.

In about 1912, the school district built on to the north side of the big room and installed the big windows.

With money raised from basket suppers, she taught the boys manual training. Tools and benches were installed. Not to be left out, she got two or three oil stoves and we girls were taught domestic science. Everyday food was cooked and used for hot lunches. After Miss B. stopped teaching, other teachers continued to have something hot at noon, even if it was only cocoa.

One thing I enjoyed was the craft she would teach. One cold winter, part of our time was spent inside at noon. The girls in the upper grades each made a calico apron for her mother. The entire apron was made by hand. One time, each brought sugar sacks, and she taught us how to draw threads and do hem stitch. Most of the girls made dresser scarves. After the new addition was added to the north, sidewalks were also put around the school house to the wood shed.

Miss B. said that we needed shade trees so locus trees were planted around the entire yard. Each summer she paid Alfred Bade to water the trees once a week. Most of them grew but in the fall before school started, the tall grass was burned off and many of the trees on the east and north side of the building were destroyed. When the cement walks were added, the stair styles were removed at the north entrance and posts set in cement.

We had lots of families who liked to read, so Miss B. added new books until at one time there were over 500 books in the library.

One summer playground equipment was added. Teeter boards were

put up on the south of the primary room. A flying dutchman was made north of the wood shed and a merry-go-round was made near the barn. The flying dutchman was a wheel mounted high up on a poll with handle bars attached to ropes. It also had a bar for someone to push and you had to hold on, your feet flying through the air. This was for the older children, but when it fell down I do not think it was ever replaced.

In the springtime, about time for school to be out, Miss B. would invite other schools down for a field day. A potluck dinner was served at noon. The day would be spent in games, races, stunts of all kinds, and a ball game. Sometime during the day there was a spelling bee or an arithmetic contest. There was a lot of fun.

For drinking water, there was a barrel-like container with a faucet. The outdoor toilets, one for boys and one for girls, were used until Mrs. Tucker had the chemical toilets added. When I visited the school at Christmas time about 1916 I thought they were the smelliest addition that ever could have been added. Our outdoor privies never were as smelly as these. I surely hope they got something better later.

The barns burned down and were replaced about three times. The east section was for the carriage, and outer part for the horses. I wish that I was artist enough to sketch the cart the Booth children used to ride to school. Papa used to say that at least they wouldn't turn over.

Now I want to tell you about some of the program and basket suppers. It took weeks of practicing to get a program ready to present. For those who found it hard to speak a piece the teacher

would have them a tableau. The lights were turned down low at the front of the stage, light it and it would pop up. It would produce different colors according to the picture it portrayed. Mrs. Elva Hutchenson would pump the old organ and play "Marching through Georgia" and the children would do all sorts of marching and drills.

When we were in the fourth grade one of the biggest socials was given. There were lots of young people there, young men and women. Everyone vied to have the prettiest basket. There was a basket made to represent a miniature stove, a white cross with lilies, red hearts draped over waxy red roses, and some with decorations of crepe paper, ribbon, and tinsel. One of the baskets sold for as much as \$14 and many went for \$7.

In November of 1916, Mr. Hooper was teaching the school so we decided to have a basket social on Halloween to raise money for our Christmas, and to buy more books for the library. My sister Alpha and I decided to use pumpkins and made jack-o-lanterns for our baskets. We had lots of fun making them, but nobody would buy them so we never tried that again.

It is interesting to note that so many children that have gone through this school have made fine records for themselves in business, politics, teaching, and other fields. They are listed in the Who's Who and we are justly proud of Ewen Clague and many others.



Recognizable in the above photo Lee, Joe, Charles, Sue, and Rose Gilbreath; Martha and George Ellis; George Brown; Oscar and Maude Long, who lived in what was known as "Pie-plant Gulch." John, Ella, and Frank Windust whose father bought the Long place near Milton Mills. This photograph was taken about the year 1893, which was the year the Great Depression was rampant and made their lives difficult.

Early teachers were J.L. Mohundro, JO Mathoon, Johnny Woods, and OC White.

In 1881 the County Superintendent of Schools published the following report:

No. of school districts_____	61
No. of school houses_____	54
No. of children of school age_____	3286
No. of children attending school____	2005
No. of teachers employed_____	49

Shortest term_____3 mo.
Highest wages paid to teachers_____ \$80
Highest wages paid female teacher_____ \$60
Lowest wages paid male teacher_____ \$33
Lowest wages paid female teacher_____ \$25
No, male teachers in county_____ 22
No, female teachers in county_____ 28
Value of school property_____ \$19,488
No. Children school age_____ 2,000
No. Children under school age_____ 525
No. pupils enrolled in public school_____ 223
No. pupils enrolled in private school_____ 38
Average daily attendance_____ 824

This was the year of the small pox epidemic, so it was considered a good record.

In 1916-17 County Superentendent W W Hendron gave the following report:

Total number of districts_____ 43
Total number of teachers_____ 83
Total number of pupils enrolled_____ 1,721
Value of school property_____ \$146,500

In 1902 the present site of former Columbia School was purchased from Leroy C. Brown for \$25.00. Originally the Lambert-Hearon family homesteaded the site out sold it to Payne in 1861. Mr. Brown bought the land from Payne.

The school grounds consisted of the school building itself, a barn, and two outhouses, which were chemical. The barn burned down

at least twice and was rebuilt. Everyone suspected that the fires were caused by older boys smoking. The teachers boarded with families near the school.

In 1930 the value of Columbia School building was \$5,000, value of equipment was \$600, and insurance was \$3,000. In that year the following were noted:

No. days taught	172.5
No. pupils in grade 1	5
No. pupils in grade 2	3
No. pupils in grade 3	7
No. pupils in grade 4	2
No. pupils in grade 5	4
No. pupils in grade 6	3
No. pupils in grade 7	6
No. pupils in grade 8	4
District evaluation	\$467,668
Tax rate	4 million

In 1936 the addition to the building on the west side was built by Lowell Burchell.

These school districts consolidated with District #1

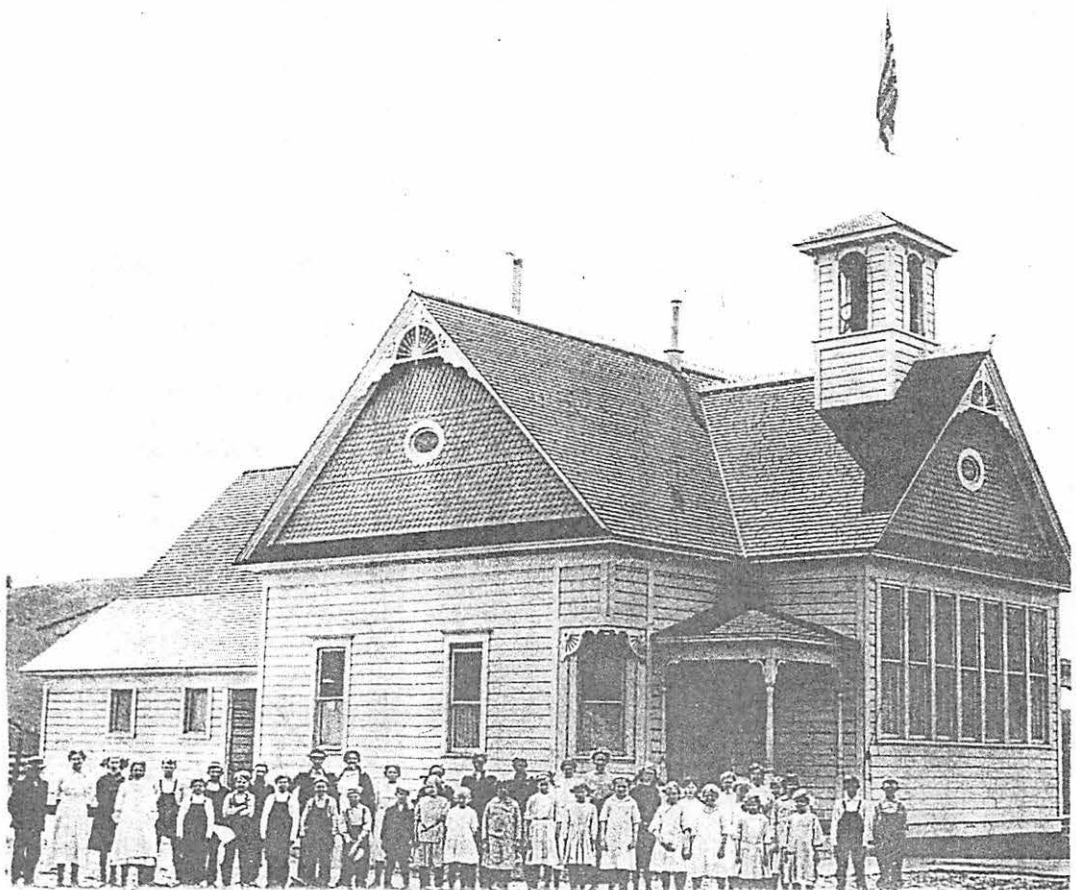
#15-Baldwin School 1926

#12-Bundy School 1931

#5-Mt Pleasant School 1945



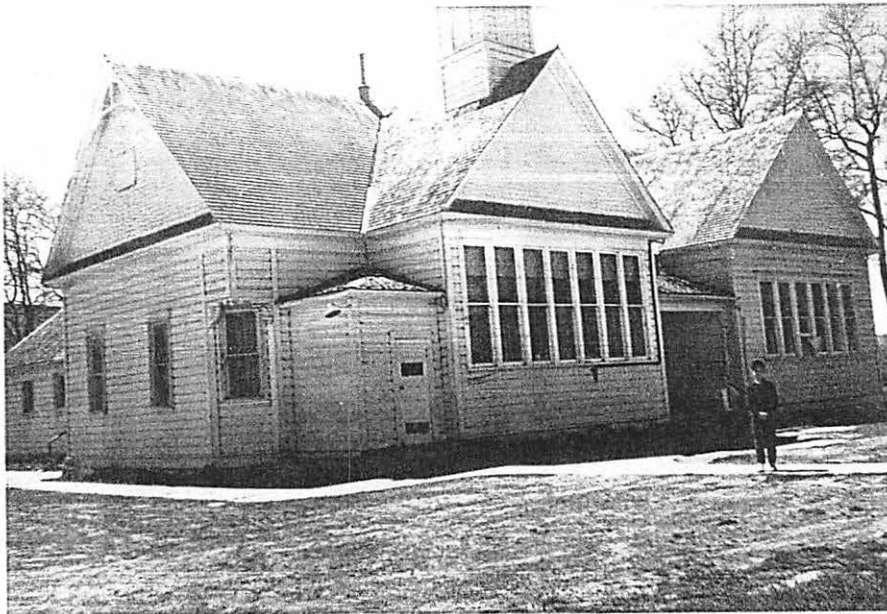
First Columbia School



Columbia School 1913



Columbia School 1929



Columbia School 1968

ORGANIZATION OF THE DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

The high school was regularly organized and recognized in the fall of 1881. This was the first high school, as far as is now known, in the State of Washington. The course of study was for three years, and offered special inducements to young men and women preparing for the teachers profession. Professor Burdick was in charge of the high school and also assisted in the work of the public school. Professor McCully remained as principal of the public school.

The salaries of the high school department were paid by the school board from public funds combined with some tuition money collected from non-resident pupils. The first salary paid was \$80 a month for the school year beginning September 1, 1881.

The first year of the high school closed on Friday June 9, 1882. All of the Seniors had left before examination -- for one reason or another. There were 44 different pupils enrolled in the high school during the year. Only five of those who entered at the beginning of the year continued until the close.

The first class to graduate from the high school should have graduated in 1885. However, the school was forced to close a few months early in the spring due to a shortage of funds, and official diplomas were not issued. However, the next year school continued the full term and official diplomas were issued in 1886. The class consisted of B.C. Matthews, Will H. Fouts and James Robertson. Mr.

Fouts was one who would have finished in 1885, but returned to graduate in 1886. He was presented his diploma to the high school, and it may be seen in the front hall of the present high school building.

Dayton High School remained a three year school until 1900, when it was changed to a four year school. Courses offered at that time were history, mathematics, stenography, typewriting, bookkeeping, botany, geography, physics, Latin, English gammer, higher English and civil government.

Housing of Dayton High School

The high school was first housed along with a part of the elementary school in the building erected in 1880. It remained in this building until 1903, when the old Central School was built. Central School housed the high school and a part of the elementary school until the fall of 1923 when the present high school building was built. The building erected in 1922-23 has an interesting history.

In 1900 when the Central School Building was built the high school has an enrollment to 96 students. In 1922-23 the enrollment was 205. Thus with the growth of the enrollment also came the adding of subjects to the curriculum. So a two-fold expansion caused a need for a new and separate high school building.

Dr. Marcel Pietrzycki, a prominent medical physician of Columbia County. Born in Galacia, Poland on April 25, 1843, he immigrated to the United States in 1866, just prior to the outbreak of the Astro-Prussian War. He arrived in San Francisco with a degree in pharmacy from a University in Poland. In 1872 he

received a medical degree from Pacific Medical College. In 1873, he set up a practice in Portland, Oregon Territory. He traveled to eastern Oregon and Washington and in 1880 moved his wife to Dayton, Washington Territory to establish a practice. He was considered something of an eccentric because of his ideas. He bought a quarter section of land for \$800 in 1882 and began developing it by drilling wells, fencing the land, erecting buildings and making roads. He then turned it over to Columbia County as a Communal farm experiment known as Lubla Farm. It failed and the land was sold. He donated large sums as a trust for Dayton High School to construct a building which bears his name. It was built in 1923 with funds from the Pietrzychi estate. It is still being used but was remodeled in 1984. However, it still bears his name.

Dr. Marcel Pietrzychi passed away in September 1910. His will helped pave the way for the erection of a new high school building. He tried to will nearly all of his property to the Dayton School District for the purpose of establishing a trade school. After all of the legal tangles were unravelled there was left at the disposal of the trustees of this estate, a sum valued at about \$140,000. It was Dr. Pietrzychi's intention that only part of the money was to be used for the building and the balance was to be used as a permanent endowment.

In the year 1922, the Dayton Board of Education and the trustees of the Pietrzycki estate worked together on the proposition of a new high school building. The trustees decided not to build a separate trade school but to cooperate with the school board and build a new high school. The school board, on the

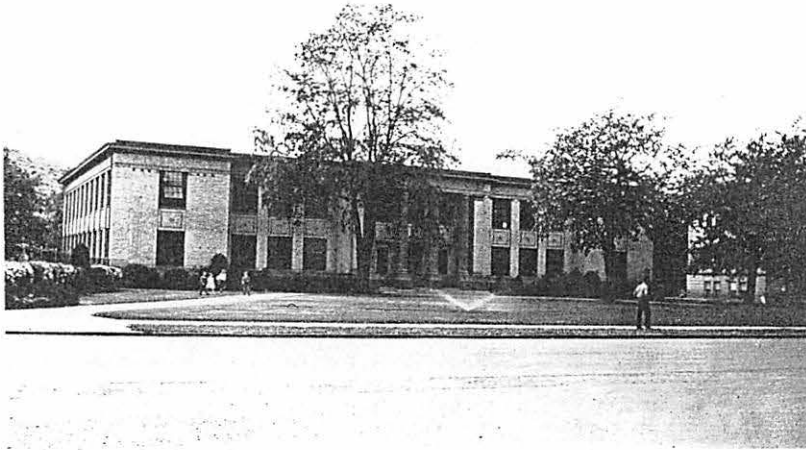
other hand, had to agree to add such vocational subjects to the curriculum as necessary to comply with the terms of the will. The building was completed in time for the school year 1923-24 at a cost of \$120,000. The Pietrzycki Estate contributed a total of \$60,000 toward the project, with the balance being paid by the bond issue.

After the building was completed it was necessary to equip it gradually from the general fund as the bond issue did not supply and money for equipment. The auditorium was equipped with opera chairs in a unique way. The citizens of Dayton put on a "buy a chair" campaign. Different organizations and individuals bought chairs. The committee in charge placed a plate on the back of each chair showing the name of the donor. Thus, the auditorium was seated without any cost to the school district. The rest of the equipment was added, some each year, over a period of five years, from the general budget.

In 1953 the Pietrzycki Fund contributed \$60,000 toward the new vocational building. The court approved this contribution, with the stipulation that annual payments to the General Fund for the support of the vocational departments be withheld until the fund again reaches \$100,000.

1966 was a big year for the expansion of the school's facilities with the completion of a \$695,000 building program. In that year a new \$425,000 equipped gymnasium and developed a new athletic field at the cost of \$30,000. The same building program included a new shop structure containing auto shop, drafting room; and industrial arts shop and equipment for \$125,000. The

remodeling of the High School and investment in equipment came to \$115,000. The new facilities were shown to the public during an open house held September 18, 1966.



Teachers who taught in the Dayton High School and Grade School when I did include Carl A. Nelson, superintendent, Virgil Purnell, Ray Foster, Principals. Also Ernestine Fox, Faith Perringer, Eva Kittelson, Betty Davis, Olive Holmes, Ward Johnson, Waite Matzger, Mr. Nick, Clarence McNair, Margaret Van Hoff, Irene Sigurdson, Dorothy Lee, Cleo Knight, Dora Fox, Cleo Miller, Mary Oliver, Mona Ward, Ruth Knight, Beatrice McNeally, Georgia Engelson, Pearl Blize, and Virginia Robinson.

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In 1964, the four-classroom supplemental building was completed and being used by the fifth graders and special education.

In 1965, the High School was remodeled extensively to house the new Home Economics department and Library. Also, the new football field was underway and would be ready for use next football season. Construction of the new gymnasium was started.

In 1966, the gymnasium was completed and the new shop was in use that year.

In 1967, the football scoreboard was installed at the North end of the football field by Dayton High School athletes under the supervision of their coaches. In addition, volunteers make the mill area into a baseball field.

In 1968, some renovation had to be done after a fire gutted out room 104 in the south-east wing of the high school. The flag pole was added to the lawn in front of the gym.

In 1977, light for the athletic field were put up.

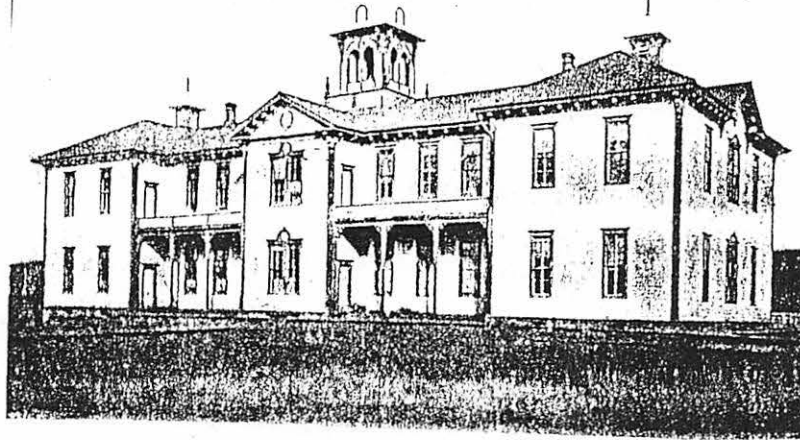
In 1982, Elementary School roof was repaired to rid teachers of their drip-pans by early October.

In 1983, the asphalt strip was laid for the long jump.

In 1984, the Big Toy was added to the Elementary playground equipment. Renovation was started on the Ag. Shop. The walkway between the gymnasium and the Wood Shop was put in by the Senior students.

In 1985, the Elementary and High Schools were completely renovated. A new reader board was put up in the front lawn of the gym. The floor of the gym was completely resurfaced. The old superintendent's building was torn down and a completely new building was built.

In 1986, the sign officially designating the special education and superintendent's office building was put in.



Organization of Grade School in Columbia County

The historical record of educational affairs in Dayton begins in the autumn of 1864. The establishment of the first school in the territory comprising Columbia County was due mainly to the energies of George W. Miller and William Sherry. These men had claims a short distance east of where the city of Dayton now stands. With the help of neighbors they erected a building. This was a private school.

In 1865, School District No. 15, Walla Walla County (Columbia County was then a part of Walla Walla County), Washington Territory, was created. The building was located about 1 1/2 miles east of Dayton. The school house was built of logs, with a chimney in one end and greased paper for windows. The seats were logs hewed on one side with pegs driven in the bottom. The desks were planks laid on top of pegs driven into the wall.

The Dayton city schools probably began in 1869, when the above school was evidently moved to Dayton. In 1875 Columbia County was organized, and part of Walla Walla District #15 became Columbia County District #2. T.S. Leonard was elected the first County Superintendent of Schools on December 23, 1875. At the time of the creation of Columbia County there were 15 or 20 school districts with 900 or 1,000 children of school age.

By January 1879 there were 39 school districts in the county, with 5/7ths of the 2,399 children in the county attending school. The average amount paid teachers was about \$112.00 per quarter. The average amount of school kept in each district was a fraction over four months.

Mr. J.E. Edmiston, the second County Superintendent of Schools published his report for 1878 in the Columbia Chronicle. He complained that there were two principal mistakes made by the school officers in this county. First, they generally employed the cheapest teachers they could get, regardless of the ability of the teacher; and second, the poorest and most uncomfortable house in each district was the school house. He concludes his report with the charge, "Go, directors, and make your school house the most pleasant in the district, then employ none but first class teachers."

Apparently his advice was taken seriously, because in the School Journal of May, 1884, Mrs. J.N. Crawford, County Superintendent, writes: "There are at present 41 school districts in Columbia County. Including the primary school building of Dayton there are now 39 school houses, many of them neat and comfortable. Last year the average salary of teachers was \$45.00. The average length of school in 1883 was seven months. No county in Washington Territory, except Pierce, has a better average."

Grade Schools in the City of Dayton

By 1878 the Dayton schools were in need of new buildings. The lack of public educational facilities led to the establishment of a number of private institutions. In 1880 there were no less than

five private schools employing six teachers. For several years prior to 1880, when a new school building was built, educational matters at the county seat commented upon quite freely as being disgraceful. In 1880 a new building was erected at a cost of \$4,312. It stood on the site of the present grade school.

F.M. McCully was in charge of the school at that time. The new building made it possible for the school to be graded. The school opened October 4th, with an attendance of 203 pupils; 40 in the high department, 50 in the grammar department, 56 in intermediate department and 57 in the primary department.

However, within twelve years time, the new building was already inadequate. by January 1892 Dayton was badly in need of improved school facilities. There were 640 pupils enrolled in the district. Every effort was made to accommodate the pupils applying for admission, but it was impossible to do so under the conditions then existing. In one schoolroom 93 children were crowded, in another 81. Applications for admission were listed and applicants were compelled to wait their turn. Scholars, who from sickness, or from any other cause, were absent from school three days were dropped and their places filled by others. No pupils residing out of the district were received or listed.

Several special elections were held in the Dayton District to vote on the proposition to issue \$30,000 in bonds to erect a new school building. Each time the bonds were voted down, until 1903, when the bonds carried and a splendid brick building costing \$55,000 was erected. The building was well built and was used as the Central Grade School Building until the summer of 1954.

At one time there were as many as four primary schools in Dayton. When the new school house was built in 1880 the old building was salvaged and 1/2 put in Brooklyn and the other half in the Upper Primary District. There was also a primary school in the Railroad District. The Brooklyn Primary was used as late as the spring of 1925.

Since 1900 the Dayton City Schools have shown decided growth. This is due entirely to the consolidation of the county schools. As late as 1903 there were 49 school districts in the county, with 2085 children attending school. But in 50 years time the county has consolidated until there are only four districts left. They are Columbia, Starbuck, Marnego, and Dayton. In 1990 there are no rural schools.

With county consolidation and an increase in the birth rate following World War II, Dayton again found its school building inadequate. In 1947 a special election on a bond issue was held, and work for a new building was continued until 1953 when the final election passed. The new grade school building was built in two wings. The first was constructed in 1953 and was used for one year, along with the old Central School Building. Then in 1954 the second wing was completed, the Central School was torn down.



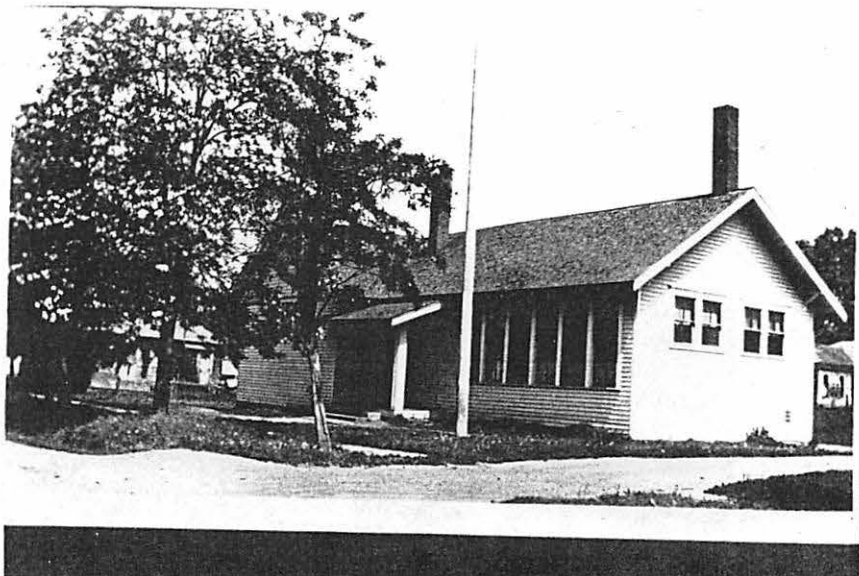
UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of District #2

This school was located on South Fourth Street where the Jim Munden residence is located. There were two rooms in this school, one for the first grade and the other for the second grade pupils. First and second graders from that area within the city limits attended this school. Children went to Central School when they reached the third grade.

When the new School was built in 1880 the old building was salvaged and half was put in Brooklyn for a Primary school and the other half became the Upper Primary School. Brooklyn Primary was used as late as 1925 Brooklyn School was on Dayton Avenue.

Teachers who taught there included Miss Pattie, Miss Shaw, and Mabel Rinker.



RAILROAD SCHOOL - A PART OF DAYTON SCHOOL SYSTEM.

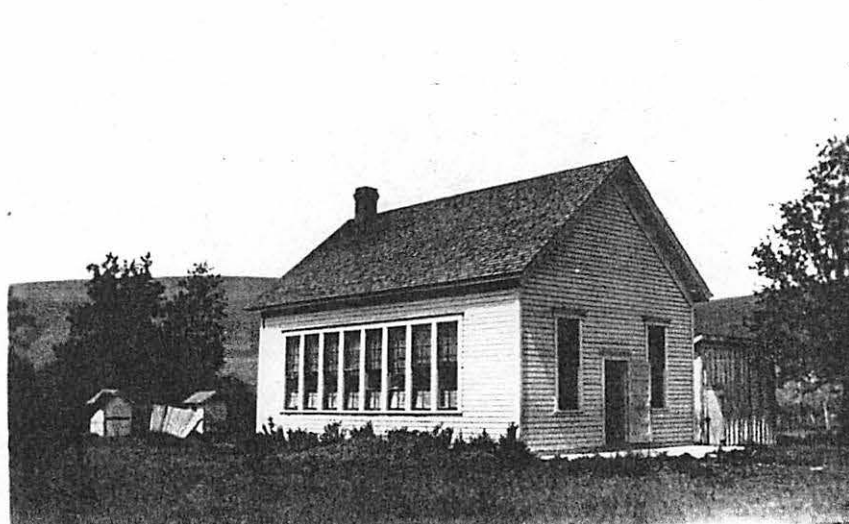
As Dayton grew larger and spread out the school board decided that it was too far for first and second graders walk to Central School. Railroad School had one room for first and second grades. When they reached the third grade they attended Central School.

This school was located in the west part of Dayton along the railroad tracks near the Fair grounds.

A former teacher said the school closed in 1928 and the pupils went to Central School.

One teacher remembers - during prohibition days bootleggers hid their bottles in some rose bushes near the school. Frequently the children would find these bottles, sometimes empty and sometimes full. This teacher took the full bottles up to the sheriff's office, trembling all the while lest she should be seen or drop a bottle.

Ruth Lemon Knight taught at this school.



MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

In 1880 there were two school districts #17 with 45 pupils and 20 with 60 pupils. These districts continued until 1906 when the building of School District 20 burned. Instead of building a new one in its place, the people decided to consolidate. The building that remained were moved to where District B stood as it was more centrally located. Eventually it became District 3 at the time.

In 1923 it was decided that a new building was needed. A special election was held in June, 1923, funds were raised and work begun. It was completed and ready for use in September. It was one of the newest and most modern in the county at that time. It was composed of three rooms- the study room which was 20 feet by 24 feet, the teacher's room where she lived and made her home, and a cloak room.

The school was heated by a jacketed stove and the lighting from windows on the left side of the pupils.

This district like most other rural districts suffered because people moved away and out of the district so in 1928 there were only 10 pupils.

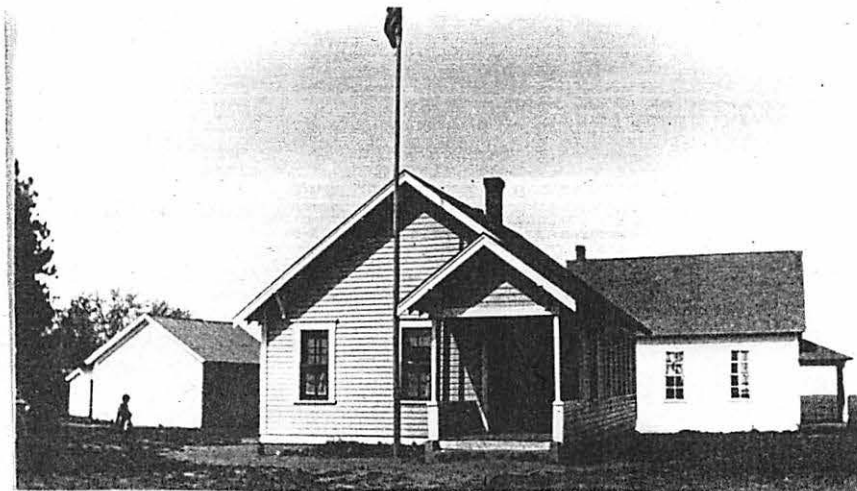
Dances were held at the old school quite often. As long as the roads unimproved and travel was limited, the dances were fun for all. As the roads were improved and automobiles became used more, people attended these dances from farther away and brought booze with them. Then the dances were no longer any fun so were discontinued.

At Christmas time, the Grupe School joined with Mt. Vernon school for a program and party. In addition to a program staged by the pupils, there were treats of candy, nuts, gum, and oranges for everyone, both children and adults.

Some teachers who taught at this school were Melly Hanner, Esther Pence Bowen, TA Rogers, Harry Kennedy, Barbara Schmedt, Isabelle Douglas, Mattie Elwell, and Leah Rainwater.

This school district consolidated with District No. 2 in Dayton in 1939.

Leah Rainwater married George Balding during the year she taught there. One night, probably a Friday or Saturday, the people of the community decided to "shivaree" (charivari) them. A shivaree is a noisy mock serenade to a nearly married couple. The vehicles of those who took part in the sheveree were left about 1/4 mile from the Mc Cubbins home, where Leah and George were staying. The participants walked to the house and surrounded it making lots of noise with anything that rang, banged, clanged, or made noise. Leah and George crawled out of a window of the house and joined the revelers. Later everyone went up to the school house for refreshment and dancing until the early morning hours.



HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #7

"In the winter of 1879, \$10,000 was raised by subscription by the members of the United Brethren denomination for the purpose of creating an endowment fund for a University. J. B. Hunt was managing the enterprise. He and John Fudge donated ninety acres of land on the Touchet River for a town site. Mr. Pollard gave a mill site, the land donations being valued at \$5,000. Forty acres were laid off into a town, and named Huntsville, six acres being reserved in the center for a college. A seminary building was erected, a flouring mill, also, and quite a town sprung up that consisted of the mill, college, store, market, post office, black smith shop, and a number of residences", says Frank Gilbert in his book Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties, N.T. published in 1882.

The seminary was opened November 24, 1879 with W. J. Jones as principal. The faculty consisted of Professor J. B. Horner; principal and professor of mathematics; R. D. Hawks, professor of book keeping, penmanship and phonography. Mrs. Belle Horner was preceptress of the ladies department.

The seminary closed in 1890 and remained so until 1897 when it was re opened by Professor U. P. Waldrip.

The June 17, 1899 issue of the Dayton Chronicle said, "This closed the second year since reopening. While the success achieved is below what is desired, yet in more particulars than one, there is room for modest congratulations on the part of the Seminary. The average attendance for the year just closed, not counting those

in the music department, was 45; but the quality of the work done was the most satisfactory feature. U. P. Waldrip was the principal.

During the years that the Academy was in existence, many famous people came to perform at the school. Among those who appeared in concert at the school was Madam Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a famous German Concert singer.

At the same time that the academy was in session for older students there was a grade where the Kenneth Bicklehaup residence is now located.

In about 1911 the Seminary building was no longer used as such so the grade school was moved into the larger building. The first two stories were used to house a two year high school and all eight grades. Classes were held in the two lower levels of the building and the upper story was a gymnasium and play room. Eventually the high school was dropped and the students sent to Dayton.

One unique feature about the building were the hardwood floors through out.

Many local talent plays and community meetings were held at the school.

Sometime before 1938 the two upper stories were removed and the remaining part of the building was used for classes. There were two large classrooms; one for grades one through four and the other for grades five through eight.

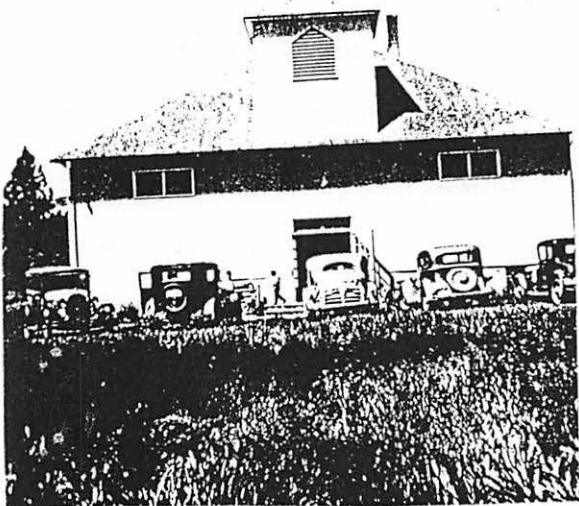
There was a large auditorium with a stage at the rear of the building. The basement walls were rock covered with concrete and was used as a playroom, kitchen-lunchroom combination and also for

storage. Mrs. Tom Groom was the cook for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Frick (Kathryn McCully) taught at Huntsville while earning money for his medical education. Other teachers were Chris Baily, Arthur Irwin, Mrs. Combs, Juanita Hubbs Harting, Leah Rainwater Balding, Margaret Keve Jenson, Isabelle Douglas, Stella Hutchens, Flaves Brooks and Mr. Watts.

The school closed in 1955 and consolidated with Dayton School District #2. The property was sold to Percy Huwe. He tore the building down and now farms the area where the school stood. I am told that the Huwe home was built with wood from the dormitory.

An item in the November 10, 1888 issue of the Columbia Chronicle states as follows:

A few of our literary inclined young people met at the seminary last week and organized the Philopsonian Literary Society. Officers were elected and a regular program ^{the} for last Saturday was held. No visitors without a pass!



Huntsville School as it looked when it closed in 1955.

TURNER SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

Turner Consolidated School District was formed from District #35 and #54, (Gross, Dollerhide) in 1903.

There is not much known about District #54 but District #35 was one of the oldest in Columbia County and was known as the Willow Creek District.

For many years O. E. Mack served as district clerk when there were as many as 33 pupils in attendance, almost as many as in the consolidated district of 1924.

The school was located in the village of Turner and was called the Turner School. The town was named Turner in honor of Mr. B. M. Turner, one of the five earliest homesteaders in Columbia County. Five Turners are listed as homesteaders in the government land register. Mr. B. M. Turner was the first to receive a patent. He filed his claim in 1874.

After consolidation the site was chosen and bonds voted for building a new school building consisting of two rooms. The first principal was C. J. Strupp who taught a six month term.

In 1914 it was decided to teach high school grades so a third room was built to accommodate the eleven pupils who were ready for high school. After 1917 the high school work was dropped for a few years for lack of students, but began again in 1922.

In 1924 there were eleven high school pupils.

Several years later the high school classes were dropped permanently and two rooms were used to house the eight grades and

the third room was used as a playroom.

Pupils either walked to school or rode horseback. One former pupil remembers stopping sometimes at a house along the way home for cookies or, in season, strawberries. Another lady on the way to school would sometimes send flowers from her garden to the teacher.

Teachers who taught at this school include Ralph Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Berry, Loris Auet, Aleta Balch Talbott, Mrs. Wiley, Marg Jorgensen, Cora Paradus, Louise Jackson Hinchcliff, Mildred Hubbard Thronseon, J. F. Clancy, Daisy Rockhill, Lucilla Brill, H. J. Alway, J. L. Jonson, and M. G. Elwill, and Genevieve Curl Geitzen.

The school closed in the spring of 1941. Lawrence Turner finished the eighth grade at Whetestone School.

After the school was closed the building was moved and became part of the Turner Grange Hall. The land was sold to Mr. Werhan who raised potatoes. Later this property was sold to Mr. Brill.



DITTEMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT #9

The Dittmore School District is next to the oldest in the county. It was formed in 1867 when Columbia County was part of Walla Walla County. The first school in the district was located on land owned by Mr. Alfred McCauley. In 1880 a new building was built nearer the center of the district on land given to the district by the Dunning family - grandfather of Rolland Dunning.

The first teacher was Loren Dittmore so it is presumed that the school was named Dittmore School in his honor. In later years a Lewis Dittmore was on the school board. Other teachers were Earnest Hopkins, Hames Bradford, and Harry Kennedy.

About 1880 there were from 40 to 60 pupils enrolled and the property of the district was valued at \$400. A male teacher received \$35 per month for his services. Women teachers received less money.

The district added improvements from time to time, keeping the building as modern as possible. The windows were changed so that the light came from only one direction. A new floor was added, and a wood house built near the school, all before 1924. There already was a barn on the premises.

The district furnished all the books and supplies for the pupils. At that time it was considered one of the best equipped rural schools in the county.

In 1924 a Literary Society was organized to provide good, clean entertainment. Also to draw the people of the community

together and to keep them interested in their school. Meetings were held every two weeks.

At some of the early rural schools big, husky boys attended the school only during the winter months when there was no farm work to be done. Some kept coming until they finished the eighth grade and in some cases were physically larger than the teacher and sometimes just as old or older. Often times the only reason they attended school was to cause trouble for the teacher and upset the school routine.

One time one of these boys was causing much trouble. The teacher, a large, husky lady, called him to the front of the room and gave him a thorough trouncing. Needless to say - no more trouble.

The children took turns carrying pails of water to the school for drinking from the Melcum place located across the bridge from the school.

On the last day of school one year a Martin girl went to gather wild flowers that grew near by. She fell on a board with a rusty nail in it. The boys tried to pull the nail out but couldn't. A man working in a field near by came and pulled the nail out. The wound didn't bleed at all and the girl's leg became badly infected. The neighbors took turns helping the family by sitting with her at night to apply compresses on the sore leg. She recovered. This was before the time of "miracle drugs."

Isabelle Douglas, a teacher, recalls a story she heard about an early teacher - Pansy Harris who punished a small child, then an older brother and some of his friends attacked the teacher with a

jack knife. He was sawing away at her throat but the blouse she wore had a stiff buckram collar which was all that saved her life. Some of the older girls and boys pulled that attacker off. The smaller children were huddled in a corner screaming and crying. Isabelle says three of her sisters and an older brother were attending the school at the time.

Dittemore school closed in 1931 and consolidated with Dayton School District #2. The building still stands on the same spot. The Glen Grove School building was moved to the site in 1937 and these two buildings house the Patit Valley Grange.

Teachers include Martha Veatch, Hazel Simmerman, and Mrs. Fair.

Three generations of the Dunning family attended this school - Rolland Dunning, his father Roy Dunning and his grandfather.

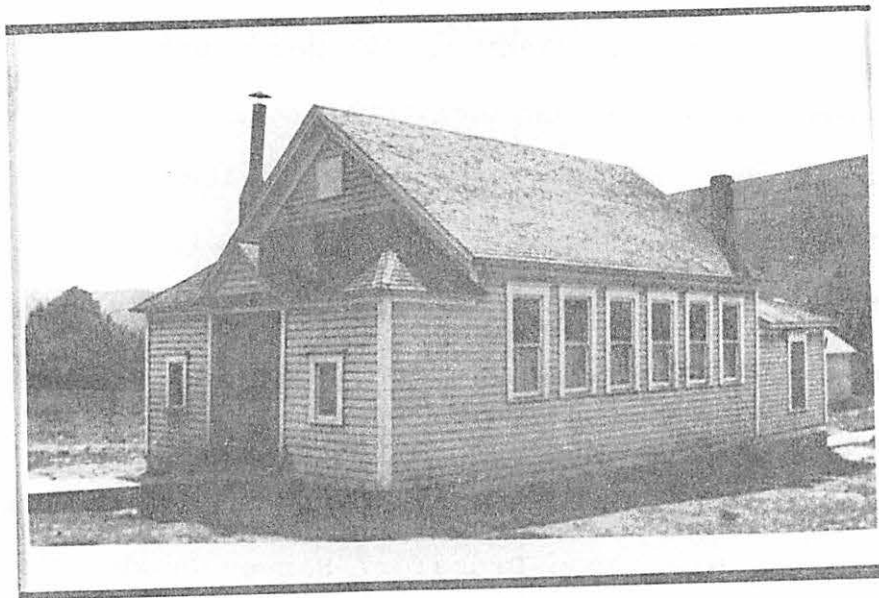


McKAY SCHOOL DISTRICT #11 OR ALTO 101

This school must have been started in the 1870's because Menoken was separated from it in 1890. Some teachers are Miss Johnson, Miss Crall, Helen Brooksbank, Aletha Talbot.

The school was consolidated with Waitsburg in 1941. The land was sold to Ed Lawrence and the building was sold to the Nazarene Church and made into a church in Dayton.

Families who had children in School - Gagnons, Shaffers, and Cockburns.



BUNDY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 12

Bundy School District #12 was organized in 1870 at a site on the Bundy homestead. Before the school was built some of the pupils from this area walked three and a half miles to the Winnett School. While the school house was being built, Miss Betty Bramlet taught in a small cabin built by George Phelps.

In 1871 the school year was made up of two terms of three months each, one in the spring and one in the fall. Miss Glen taught the spring term and Mr. Norman Hendricks taught the fall term. The enrollment was from forty to fifty pupils and the teacher received a salary of \$45 per month.

The community grew until the small school was not large enough to accommodate all the children. In 1883 a large frame building was constructed. This served as a school, precinct polling place, theater; and was used for debating contests, spelling bees, an occasional magic lantern show, a funeral chapel and a church.

Among those families who were enrolled for the term were McCauleys, Marlatts, Musgraves, Sampsons, F. M. Weatherford, Mrs. Alex Price, Mrs. John Crossler, Harvey Bundy, Mr. Alfred Bennett (he later became judge of Oregon's Supreme Court).

The school was carried on continuously excepting in 1920-21 when there were not enough pupils to make it advisable to have

school. However, that was just for one year and then school was resumed.

In 1924 free textbooks were obtained by the district, the interior of the school was redecorated, and a new flag was purchased. The teacher that year, Miss Pearl Martin, was the daughter of one of the pupils of the pioneer days.

According to tests made by the Columbia County Health Department, Bundy Hollow is one the two schools having a very pure water supply - a deep well.

On the school grounds there was a wood shed, two outhouses and a barn to house the horses of the children who rode horseback to school.

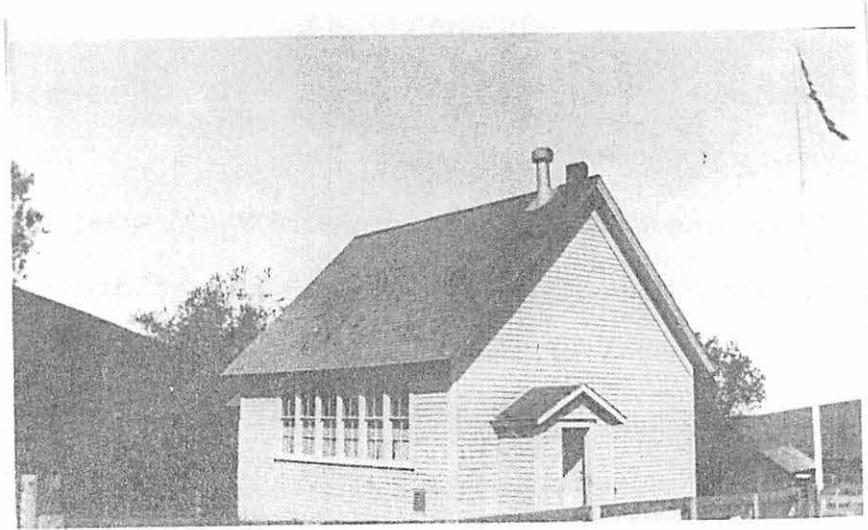
Sometimes the teacher lived in the back part of the school room. Her quarters were partitioned off from the children's area.

The children had a lot of fun during recess and noon hour, which was one hour long. Sometimes they played under a big tree in the cemetery, which was near by. Other times those who rode horseback to school would race between two stakes placed quite a distance apart similar to barrel races these days.

Two former pupils remember one especially cold winter when there was too much snow to ride horseback. Their mother wrapped their feet in gunny sacks (burlap bags) over their shoes and overshoes so their feet would stay warm.

Teachers include Pearl Martin, who rode horseback from her room in town, a distance of many miles; Laura Long, Miss Golen, Norman Hendricks, Betty Bramlett, Mrs. Dillon, and Mrs. Leak.

Bundy merged with Columbia School District #1 in 1931 where a bus carried the elementary age students to Columbia and high school age students to Dayton. Claude Brodhead drove the bus for many years.



Marengo School District #13

Louis Raboin was from Illinois, of French descent who married a Flathead Indian woman. He was a small active man with a lively disposition. He was called by the Indians "Maringouin", which is the French word for mosquito. Later he became known among the pioneers as Louis Marengo. That is where the town got its name of Marengo. Later when the school was established it was known as the Marengo School. The settlement of Marengo was begun about 1855.

The school district was formed on January 21, 1880 with Thomas Throssell and John Wells as directors and John Gowen as clerk. The next fall there were 71 children enrolled with only 32 on average daily attendance. The compulsory education law was evidential not in force at that time.

There was quite a large settlement at Marengo at that time and considerable trading was done there. A store and a post office had been established; also a flour mill, a furniture factory, a saloon, two feed stables, a hotel and several homes.

A stage coach made daily trips through Marengo going from Walla Walla to Lewiston, through Dayton and Pomeroy. The stage coach drivers watered their horses at Marengo in the Tucannon river.

County records show that in 1883 the value of the school property was only \$3.50 so one can imagine how little equipment there was in the building.

In 1880 the school district was a "Union" district with a district in Garfield County. Later the district boundaries were changed so that the Marengo district was in Columbia County only.

Early day clerks who served the district for the longest period of time were J.H. Agee, A.C. Short and Frank Gowen.

From a one room school the district grew to include two rooms. The addition to the building was built by the Fanning brothers of Pomeroy. In addition to the two classrooms the enlarged building had a porch and a hall. It was furnished with running water, and light was furnished from many windows on one side of each room. The rooms were heated by jacketed stoves. Also there were two out houses and a barn.

In 1924 there were 18 pupils with two teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Berry. The people of the community realized so much better services could be given to the children by hiring two teachers, that they were willing to tax themselves to see that they gave the best possible education to the children of the district.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's Fourth of July celebrations were held at Marengo and Tum-a-lum (Tum-a-lum was a camp ground located at the foot of the Hardsock grade). People attending these celebrations spent the days visiting with each other and just having a relaxing time. A race track was located down the Tucannon River from the school house where horse races were held. Both horses and riders were people from the area. In the evening dances were held at an improvised pavilion, with music furnished by the people who attended. Instruments used to provide

this music were violin, banjo or guitar, and sometimes an accordion.

In 1921 perhaps the saddest event happened when two children were drowned. A boy and two or three girls came from Pomeroy to gather ferns to be used to decorate for graduation. They knew Miss Leslie Adams, lower grade teacher, and asked her and her pupils to help them gather ferns. They came to a power plant located on the Tucannon River which furnished electricity for Marengo and Pomeroy and they wanted to see how it worked. To reach the power plant they had to cross the river on a swinging foot bridge. The bridge collapsed under the weight of so many children and most of the children dropped into the swiftly flowing river. Two children who drowned were Ivan Hovrud, son of Mr. and Mrs. I.O. Hovrud and Hattie Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Howard. Some of the other children on the excursion were Harold and Emma McFall, Zella Bosely, Delbert Howard, Gene Carter, Mary Carter Bosley, Nila Howard, Spalinger, Ralph Bloomfield. Delbert Howard rescued Emma McFall, who later became his wife.

One teacher reported that it was a large school, after Russell School consolidated with it, where the youngsters were well behaved. This school when she taught there had "store-bought" playground equipment which lessened the discipline problems. They played baseball, basketball, volleyball, and even did some wrestling. Coasting down the surrounding hills was the chief form of recreation in the winter time. Most of the children had home made sleds.

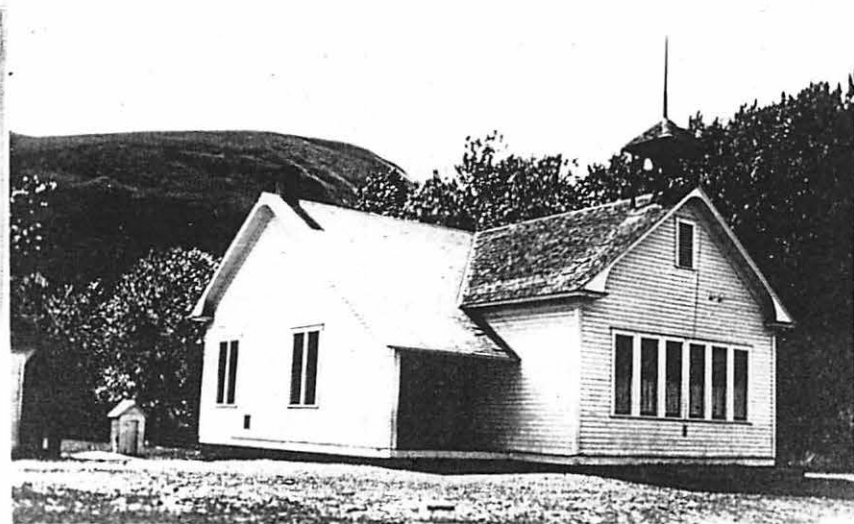
One boy had a commercially made sled. At noon one day he was hurrying back to school from a nearby hill when the school bell rang. He hit a tree and hurt his head badly. He was kept at home for several days but finally was taken to the hospital where the found he had a concussion.

One winter there was so much snow that the three bottom panes of a four pane window of the school were covered with snow. They used lights all day. In order to reach the teachers cottage they had to dig a trench. At Easter time they hid eggs in the snow and in the spring when the snow melted the found eggs the children hadn't found at Easter time.

This school was one of the last rural schools in the county to consolidate with Dayton School District. This occurred in 1964. After that the building was used as a church called the Marengo Community Church served by a Villago Mission pastor from Starbuck. The church ceased and the building is now used as a store house and is owned by the Hovrud family.

In 1885 Ernest Hopkins was a teacher. In the 1890's J.L. Dumas taught there as did W.V. Frick, before he went to medical school. Other teachers include - T.W. McAdams, Edward Mullinix, Virgil Kimball, Harry Alway, Mrs. Carpenter, N.B. Kuykendall, Miss Stedmen, Mrs. Stone, Miss Bayles, Mrs. Channing, Flora Bratcher, Mr. Jay Gerelle, Mildred Warner Trump, Blanch Thompson, Eva Vogel, Lilly Mae Kuykendall, Annabelle Dickenson, Myrtle McMillen, Alra Ryan, Grace Helgedahl, Eleanor Ruchert, Isabelle Douglas, Luella Babbitt, Estella Powers, Blanche Sheeley, Lenore Phelps, Agnes Henderson, Louise Kimble, Lydia Allen and the last teacher Rae

Polumsky.



STAR SCHOOL DISTRICT # 14

A former teacher Isabelle Douglas gives us a lot of history of the Star School. She states that some of the teachers at that time taught with only a high school education and three months of summer school. Some teachers started right out of high school if they were A-students and passed all examinations.

The parents had to buy all of the books and supplies for all of their children in all of the elementary grades. On the first day of school the mother came with flour sacks full of books from the year before. If she didn't have a child in the grade to use her books, she swapped with another mother, until she found someone who could use her book, and one who had a book her child could use. Sometimes she might have to swap with two or three mothers to get what she needed. If she couldn't get all of the books she needed for her flock, she must try to swap with another school, if they had what she needed. Sometime she would end up at the County Superintendent's office. As a last resort, she would have to buy new books at the drug stores in Dayton. Sometimes if she had newer books she would swap two for one. The first day of school was quite a day!

Slates were used quite a bit, and paper tablets were at a premium, also pencils. In those days, kids didn't waste paper like they do now because they didn't have any to waste.

The teachers of the rural schools had other jobs besides just

teaching. They got up early in the morning and got to school before the children to act as janitor. The teachers would clean the building when needed and start a fire in the cold weather to get the school room warm for the beginning of classes. the teachers also had to act as a principal and take of discipline.

Isabelle Douglas remembers one time during a spelling bee some parents were invited to watch. The children would get into a row and try and spell words. If the child got a word correct they then would move up in the line. There were only two or three mothers for a room full of kids and most of them were all related. The teacher gave the word, "Potato". Several tried it, spelling, "tater", "pertater", "potater", etc. Finally one boy who sparked a little better than the rest, spelled the word correctly. One of the mothers was heard to tee-hee: "Listen to that little idiot spelling "tater" with a "p"."

Another incident that happened at the Star school was one day a young girl stood up in the classroom and wet her pants. It ran down to the front of the room. She did this because of the rule that anyone to leave the room had to stay fifteen minutes after school, apparently she didn't want to stay an extra fifteen minutes.

As near as I can tell the school was started around 1874 because a copy of the Dayton Chronicle Dispatch of November 18, 1924 stated that it was organized over half a century before, by Charles Allen, Jerome Bailey, And Mr. Gibson.

It was located southwest of the present site and across the Touchet River. Later it was moved across the river, on the east

side as most of the pupils lived on that side and there was no bridge across the river.

Mr. Gibson donated one acre of land, provided the district buy one acre more from him to complete the school site. A new school was erected and several years later another room was added on. At one time seventy pupils were enrolled.

Some information states that the land on which the school was located was originally owned by the Starr family. The last "r" of the family name was omitted from the name chosen for the school.

When another room was added grades one through four met in one room and grades five through eight met in another. This school was considered to be a very well equipped school.

Isabelle Banks Douglas attended the school as a child and she states the following: "It has been said that youngsters who couldn't "get along" in the school in Dayton were sometimes sent out to the Star school where they were taught to behave.

In later years a large community building was erected on the school grounds. This was used for Farm Bureau meetings and other community gatherings. Many home talent plays were performed in that building. Also community dances were held there.

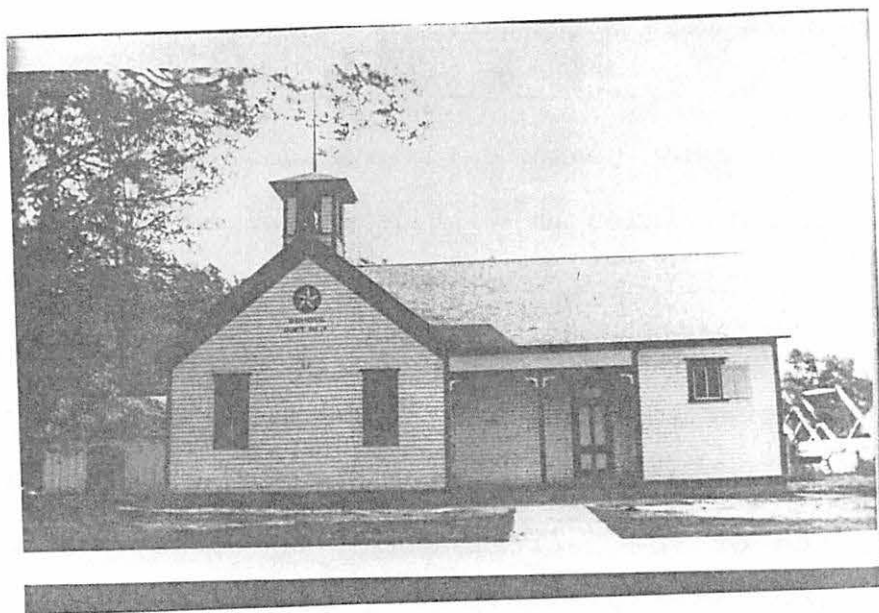
Some teachers who taught at the school were; Harry Kennedy, Levi Gibson, Mrs. Terpening, Miss Dunn, Miss Bade, Mr. Elwell, Miss Ralston, D.L. Hale, Dorothy Hatley, Doris Wiley, Isabelle Douglas, Grace Johnson, and Ruth Knight. Mr. Moffett, Mrs. Brown, Mona Ward, Clarabelle Manton.

The boys of the upper took turns splitting wood and carrying it into the two rooms as each room had its own heating stove. They

also helped by sweeping the floors and cleaning the blackboards. Sometimes if it were cold enough there was chunk coal to the used to heat the school. On especially cold days benches were placed around the stove for the children to sit an as it was hard to heat the farther corners of each room.

Some Children rode horses to school and were kept in a barn. Hay and grain was furnished by parents to feed the horses.

Baseball was a favorite game and during spring and fall the boys played in competition with Whetstone, Columbia, Marengo, Mt. Vernon. Sometimes the games were played on the school grounds and sometimes at the ball diamond at Scott's mill where the garbage station is now.



BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #15

The land on which the first school stood was donated in 1871 by Alec Baldwin with the understanding that the district would pay for the recording of the deed. (This was never done). The school was built, however, with men of the district contributing time, labor, and necessary material. The lumber came from the nearest sawmill.

The home-made furniture consisted of long benches and desks, each of which could accommodate several of the 40 students who attended daily. In 1882 there were 69 pupils.

The first teacher was Norman Hendrix. Some of the early directors were A. Baldwin, J. S. Turner, W. M. Church, and W. E. Ayres. Mr. Ayres served as clerk for over 20 years.

For many years Baldwin School was the center for various social activities as well as religious services on Sunday.

In 1924 a new, modern building was constructed on land bought from Mrs. Houtchens with indoor toilets and a modern heating and ventilating system. All light came from the north. A small stage was separated from the school room by sliding doors. The district was one of the wealthiest in the county and very proud of its building.

The Board of Directors in 1924 was composed of Harry Yenney, Bert Sanford, and Andy Danielson. They deserve credit for their efforts in improving the school that began 53 years earlier.

Mona Ward taught at Baldwin School and remembers "One morning

a neighbor's dog came barking loudly, my horse shied, and I went sailing through the air. I picked myself up, climbed back in the saddle, and went to school. There was no sick leave in those days." Another teacher was Mrs. Della Riggs.

Baldwin School consolidated with Columbia School District #1 in 1931.



HIGHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #17

This district was organized in 1912. The school house stood on a dividing line between what was then the Fairview and Highland Districts. These districts were consolidated because there were too few pupils in either district to maintain a school. For the first few months of 1912 there was no buildings in which to hold school, so school was held at the home of Mr. S. McCauley. This was because his children were the only ones attending at the time. The first building to be completed that spring was the wood shed. Miss Verna Hopkins taught in it until the school building was finished.

The first teacher to teach a complete term in the new building was Miss Hazel Larned of Port Townsend.

The building was lighted on one side by large windows. The other three sides has blackboards. The capacity of the school was around 30 pupils but in 1924 there were 14 pupils.

A large barn afforded protection for the horses the children rode. As a whole, the school was modern and well equipped.

People I have talked to remember it as a school where the pupils learned much, enjoyed each other, and were thankful for the years they attended a rural school.

Some of the teachers were Lee Bailey (Baileysburg named after his family), Miss Bea Lipton, Helen Miley, and Pearl Martin.

The school had declamation and spelling contests with neighboring schools of Turner, Covello, and Dittemore.

The teachers boarded and roomed with families who lived near

the school, the Startins, Donohues, and Hopkins.

Most of the children rode horseback, so there was a barn to house the horses.

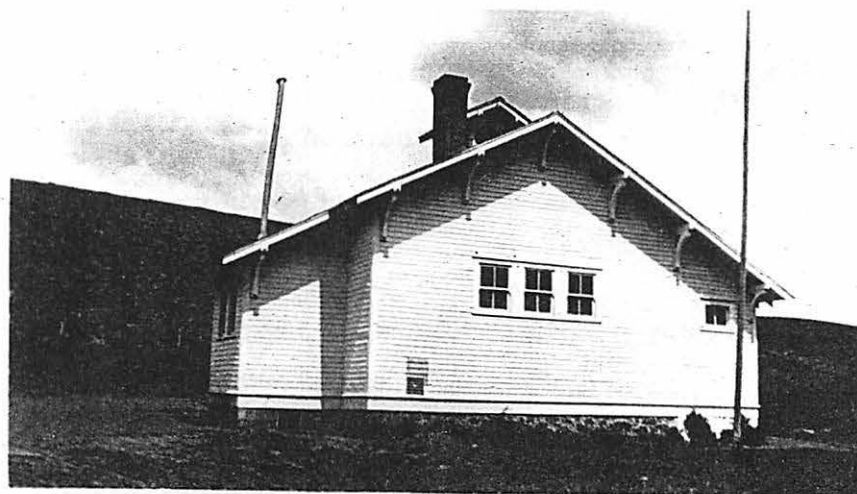
Water was piped to the school from the Donohue farm about one-fourth mile away. Then it was carried to the school in a pail. All the children drank from a common cup.

The county Superintendent visited the school twice a year. In addition to listening to class work, the Superintendent also weighed and measured the children.

All eighth graders from rural schools had to pass special examinations in all subjects before they could enter high school. These examinations were given at the County Superintendent's office.

The school closed in 1934 when it consolidated with Dayton School District #2.

The building was moved to the Lafayette Walker Farm where it was made into a home. More recently the house was moved to the Haase place. Don Jackson and family lives in the house now - 1992.



WHITE BIRD SCHOOL DISTRICT #19

From the earliest records on file, District 19 was organized and had a school as far back as 1879. The school had probably been in session several years before this, but no records had been kept. The old school house stood near the Tucannon River just below where the Bert Delaney farm was located. In later years it was moved to a field by the state highway. In 1879 there were 45 pupils in attendance. Mr. W.H. Watson was clerk on the district.

In 1882 when Garfield County was formed from part of Columbia County, District 19 was what was called a union district consisting of all of District 59 and portions of 51. D.M. Greevy was clerk. Clerks following him up to 1891 were C.A. Phipps, Frank Howes, G.T. Rayburn, Mrs. Amanda Delaney, and W.P. McGlothlin. The district at that time was so large that many of the pupils has long distances to go to attend school.

In 1892 the teacher was paid \$40 per month. Teachers were rarely hired for more than a three month term. The number of pupils ranged from ten to thirty-five. Wages continued to be the same until 1904 when they were raised ten dollars. In 1905 they were raised to sixty-five dollars. In 1907 the first nine month term was taught by Miss E. Benson. Mr. P.L. Winnett was clerk. From this time until it closed the term continued to be a nine month term.

In 1903 the old building was abandoned and a new one built on the land purchased from Ferdinand Lyons for the sum of \$70. The lumber bill for the new school came to \$221.50, Mr. Rittenhouse

received \$88 for the labor of building it, and paint cost \$10. Charles Lane taught the first term in the new school. A.D. Getty, J.A. Atcheson, and Curtis Shingler were directors.

About this time District 39 and portions of 51 were taken away from Dist. 19.

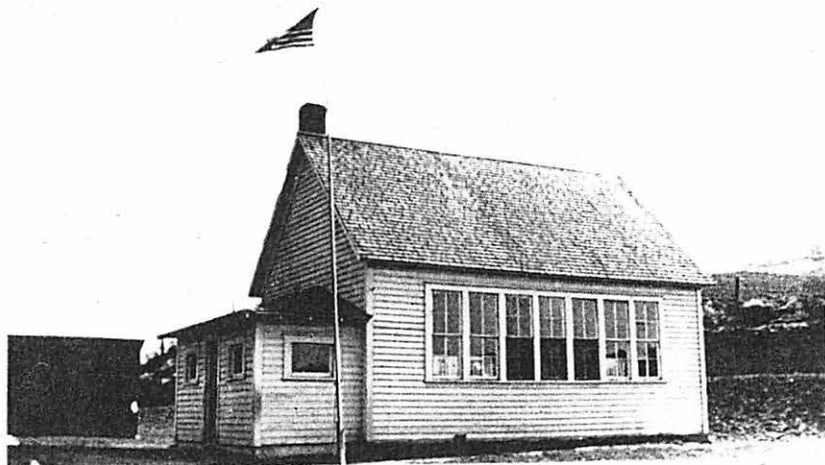
The new school house gradually became known as the "White Bird School." This name was chosen by a literary society which met in the building, and soon was used to designate the school itself.

Miss Alice Gentry taught in 1904, Miss Frances Hukill, Miss Flora Morgan were also early teachers. Miss Morgan also became County Superintendent in later years.

In 1924 District 18 was given to District 19. There was much agitation for a consolidation of schools whose land bordered Dist. 19. This proposed consolidation would include District number 51, 41, 39, and 19. Then transportation of pupils would be provided by the district. However this was never done.

The water at White Bird has been found in 1924 by test to be the purest of any school in the county. The well is drilled down 60 feet where it strikes an underground river. It is cased in rock, making it impossible for surface water to seep in.

The school closed about 1946 and consolidated with District #2 in Dayton. Other teachers, Mrs. Bertha Schiester, Jessie Church, Mona Ward, Leona McCauley.





PINE GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT #22

Some say the school was started about 1906. Others say earlier but we really do not know the exact year.

It continued until 1952. Then it did consolidate with Star District #14. The school house was moved by Glen Davidson to Dayton where he made a house by adding more rooms. The house is currently located at 1202 S. Third Street in Dayton.

Children living in rural areas in those days were very shy and had problems facing the other children and the teacher. One person says his aunt had to take him to school each day and then returned for him after school, all on horseback. At recess he also would run into the bushy area near the school and hide until the bell rang. His first grade teacher, Miss Fox gave him lots of special help and attention. As he said, she was his "buddy".

Another teacher lived in Dayton and rode horseback to school each morning and home each evening, a distance of 6 miles.

This school was located on the Touchet River so the older boys would slip down to the river during the noon hour. One time they looked up and discovered their teacher standing on the bank. The students had been forbidden to do this by the school board. She made them march out of the water and get dressed, one at a time, and then march back to school. Absolute humiliation!

Many rode horseback to school. These horses were tied in a barn on the grounds. When school was out and the children were ready to go home these horses were tired of being tied up so long. Those children had a fast ride home. In the winter some pupils would ski to school, down the mountain side, making the 3 mile trip in a short time. Going home was more difficult.

Often times the children played pranks on each other. One former pupil recalls that another pupil was assigned the task of putting wood in the heater. He was poking around in the stove and broke a piece of cast iron off the interior of the stove. He quickly picked up the piece and dropped it down the back of a friend who jumped up and ran yelling around the room. The culprit was severely punished.

Another time some of the older boys caught a neighbor lady's chickens who frequently strayed into the school yard. They cleaned the bird, cooked it, and ate it for lunch. One of the boys who helped said it was one of the best chickens he ever ate. They ended up having to pay the owner of the chicken, \$.75 for each chicken.

The County Superintendent visited the schools periodically. Superintendent Mr. W. W. Hendron, drove a Model A Ford with a license plate number 2002. He was a short man with bushy white hair and eyebrows. Both pupils and teacher were frightened when he appeared and everyone was on his/her best behavior. Often Mr. Hendron would sit with a pupil and ask questions about the work he/she was doing which really made the child uneasy.

One man remembers the time he chewed a big wad of paper, called a spit wad, he threw it and it hit the black board and splattered near where the teacher was writing. The teacher turned around and said, "I saw you throw that wad through the reflection in my spectacles". He was punished and never did that again.

Winter was fun in the rural schools as there was lots of snow. They made snow-men, igloos, snow forts, and snow balls. One teacher made a sled of barrel staves and put an apple box on the staves. There was a hill near the school so the teacher pushed the smaller children down the hill. When they reached the bottom it gently dumped them in the soft snow.

A teacher remembers the following: "One morning we were playing baseball before school, when up the road came the Crabb children's horse and buggy on a dead run. We caught the horse and put an older child in charge. Then I jumped into my Ford and raced off to find the kids who should have been in the buggy. First I met Raymond, he had been driving with the line around his thumb. He had been jerked out of the buggy, nearly pulling his thumb off. I picked him up and went to find Francis and Maxine who rode with him. Francis wasn't hurt, just scared. Maxine had been thrown out of the buggy and a wheel went over her abdomen. We took her to a neighbor who called Maxine's grandmother. Another event in the life of a young teacher."

Some of the teachers of this school were as follows. Carmen Israel Gaines, Lena Fox, Walena Moton Laughery, Ruth Martin Bacon, Isabelle Banks Douglas, Matty Elwell Cochran, Mrs. Noe, Mrs. Knuff, Grace Johnson, Uva Hubbard, Cleo Knight, Mr. Duff, Kathryn McCully Frick, and Goldie Hatfield.

MENOKEN SCHOOL DISTRICT # 23

In 1890 Menoken District was separated from McKay Dist. 11. Miss Mary Dixon was the first teacher. During the first few years school was held in the Will Harris Residence. Home made desks were used. Later a new school house was built about 1/2 mile from the Harris residence. In 1904 the school was moved closer to the Menoken railroad siding - thus.. the name Menoken.

A barn was built and a well dug on the school grounds. In 1922 a partition was constructed at the back part of the school room which could be used for a lunch room. A new floor was laid. In 1924 a new fence was put around the yard. Also new black boards and a new stove were installed in the school room. There was also a drilled well on the grounds.

The people in the community were loyal boosters and were trying to make this school a permanent institution. It was located in a rich farming area. Each year the board of directors made improvements.

The school term was nine months but as the years passed it was difficult to find five pupils to have school.

One farmer went so far as to hire help who had a family of children to increase the number of pupils and thus be able to keep the school in operation.

The school continued untill 1927 when it was consolidated with the Prescott District in Walla Walla County.

Some teachers were Fannie Weller (a Stanford Graduate), Ruth

Cole, and Minnie Wiley, Mary Dixon, Mildred Carlson, K.C. Murphy.

The school was located near the railroad where there were three section houses. These house were homes of workers who kept the railroad tracks well repaired. The train stopped for people who wanted to board the train.

Some families who attended the school were - Abbey, Harris, Lama, Archer families.



SMITH HOLLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT # 24

This district was organized in 1875 and built on Goodwin Property. It continued until 1933 when it consolidated with Dayton School District #2. The present building was built in 1900. It is still standing.

The pupils walked or rode horseback. The horses were housed in a shed on the property, also there were two outdoor toilets.

The building was heated by large pot bellied stove. Water was carried by older children about a mile and a half from school. Dippers were used for all to drink from.

This was one of the wealthier districts in the county so teachers were considered well paid -\$90 to \$114 per month.

There were many programs during the year celebrating or commemorating Armistice Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, also spelling bees were county wide each spring. The teachers boarded with families who lived nearest the school.

The school was named for the well traveled road that passed by the school. The building still stands empty. After 1933 when it closed it was used for community gatherings like Home Economic Club meetings, Farm Bureau meetings. Easter Sunday gatherings were popular for many years with Easter egg hunts for the youngsters.

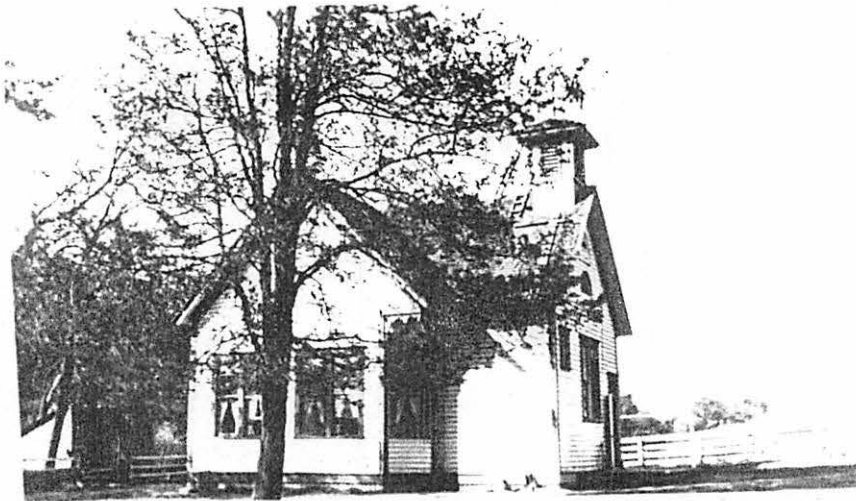
When Pearl Martin taught here she rode horseback from her parents home in Dayton to Smith Hollow school everyday, a distance of 8 1/4 miles. When the weather became too cold she boarded at

Frank Pooles - right near the school.

The community spirit was excellent and the people were all behind the school, supporting it enthusiastically. During its use, 90% of those attending went on to graduate from high school.

Other teachers include Dorathy McCully Hatley, Agnes Finlay, Kathleen Lowe, Charles Gilbreath, Vera Burlingame, Mattie Cochran, and Georgea Colver.

Some families whose children attended Smith Hollow School are Dick Abraham, Jim Eslick, Lee Gritman, Ed Schaffer, Frank Pool, Criders, and the Prater families.



TATE SCHOOL DISTRICT #26

Two schools were situated in this district. In early days the district consisted of land lying up in the hills southwest of Dayton. There was a school building known as either the Redford or Spackman School on Jasper Mountain. It served a large area with lots of boys and girls. The report shows the D. B. Pettyjohn was clerk and upon his resignation J. B. Redford replaced him. Others who served on the school board were Thomas Throssel, Wesley Manning, D. J. Kaufman, E. J. Morris, and Able Shaw.

In 1880 there were as many as 49 pupils attending this school.

Later a school was built on land donated by the Redfords and it was still standing in 1924 with excellent equipment in the way on lighting, seats, maps, etc. But vacant of children, for three years after the children had all moved away. Marvin Elwell taught the last school there.

As time went on, district lines were changed and land in the valley added to the district. Probably the school was moved to two acres given buy Mr. Tate and maintained after 1924 - maybe even as late as 1929. It was located in a beautiful grove of trees. In 1921 a teacher's cottage was built.

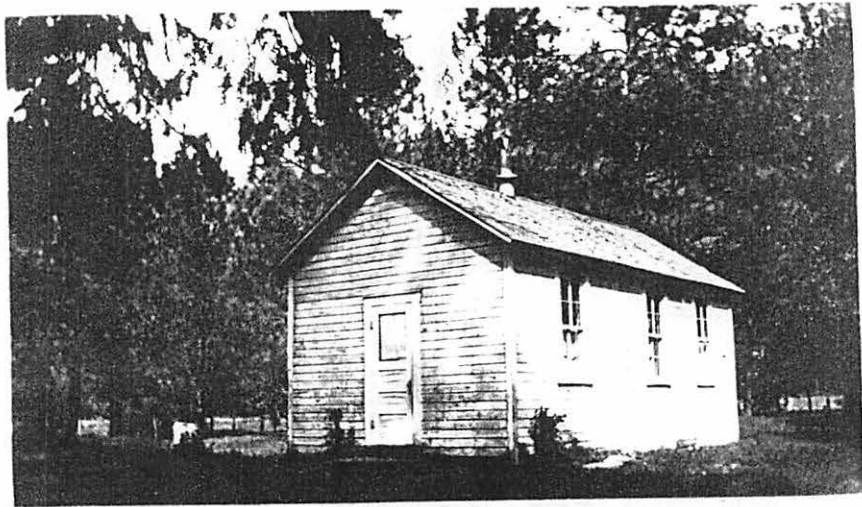
Many good times were centered about the school in the district and it played an important part in the lives of the people of the community.

Wood to heat the building was furnished by parents of the children attending the school.

Some of the time school was held for three months in the fall and three months in the spring. The winter months were just too cold and there was too much snow for pupils to get to school.

The Tate children, Harrison, Ted, and Esther, attended the school. Also the Cone Johnson children and the children of Harry Fletcher.

The Building was eventually used as a bunkhouse by the Rainwater family. Later it became the woodshed at the Nancy Lee Cabin, owned by the Campfire Girls and now by the Kiwanis Club of Dayton.



WHISKEY CREEK DISTRICT #30

In the summer of 1878, on the site of an old Indian camp, the district was organized. It was continued until 1933 when the building was torn down by High School boys.

The school was formed by Nathan Evans and supported by surrounding patrons, among whom were Zack Haddock, J. A. Danielson, I. N. E. Rayburn, Isaac Knight, and Levi Danielson.

It was given the name of Whiskey Creek because the area was the hide out of a gang of "bad men" who made whiskey and sold it to the Indians.

As the homesteaders increased, so did the "bad men" who included Theodore "Stubbs" Snebley, Clubfoot George Ives, Bill Beenting, John Cooper, Bill Skinner, and many others. In addition to making whiskey, they rustled cattle and horses from the homesteaders and used the area as a rendezvous where they kept their stolen goods.

This thieving became so bold that it was decided to hold a public meeting for all good citizens to attend. Of course all the "bad men" attended for fear of disclosing their lawlessness.

Father McGhee, a tall, slow speaking Methodist preacher was chosen as chairman. He wasted no time in coming to the point for which the meeting was called. Speaking directly to the rascals he said in a slow drawling voice "Boys we want you to leave this country and be gone for a l-o-n-g t-i-m-e." They left the following day. Later Ives and his gang were hung by the Vigilantes

in Montana.

The finished school building was a 12' x 16' log cabin, furnished with home made benches and desks. From 25 to 40 children were seated in the space. Seven years later, in 1885 a wooden building was constructed for 11 children.

Early teachers were Annie Bangs, Alta Price, Gwendolyn Robinson, and Ella Hubbell.



COVELLO SCHOOL DISTRICT #31

Wolzen and Schroder, businessmen from San Francisco who prospered in the Mother Lode activities, came north in 1882 and settled in what was know as Prairie Section. They built a large store building and changed the name to Covello, possibly from a town in the Mother Lode District of California.

The school was started in 1894 with 60 pupils enrolled.

In 1906 a commodious two room school building was erected. Time passed, farms were consolidated, families moved away, and a little group of nine children made up the school.

A large roll down wooden partition divided the building into two rooms. The larger part was used as a school room but when the partition was rolled up it made one very large room that was used for programs, dances, literary societies, and other community gatherings.

The school room was properly lighted, equipped with a piano, adjustable desks and seats, and a jacketed stove. In the early days, water was carried in a bucket from the store and the pupils all used one dipper. In later years, a sanitary water cooler, paper towels, and individual drinking cups were used. A small library was used by the pupils with much pleasure.

An attractive feature of the Covello school was a large play ground bordered on one side by a row of fir trees.

A fine community spirit pervaded in the district. This was expressed in a generous and hospitable way. In 1924, on opening

day, the parents met with the teacher and pupils and at noon served a beautiful dinner to an appreciative group. Plans were made for future parent-teacher and student meetings.

In the picture of the school one sees a ladder leaning against the front of the school. It was an honor to be allowed to raise the flag. The lucky student would climb the ladder and the teacher or another student would then hand the flag to the one on the ladder. The flag must never be allowed to touch the ground. In the case of smaller children, the teacher or older student would climb the ladder and the chosen student would hand the flag to the one on the ladder.

The ante room at the front was a cloak room where coats, caps, galoshes, and sack lunches were kept.

Ilene Low Nelson remembers the time she pumped the swing so high it nearly went over the top of the metal framework. She fell and the heavy wooden swing board hit her on the back of her head. Another time two of her front teeth were cracked and chipped from her activity in a baseball game. She also remembers on cold days they would push their chairs almost against the asbestos wrapped sides of the huge coal stove to keep warm and try to dry their cold, and wet feet.

Literary societies that met in the school enjoyed debates, programs and plays, games like charades, and whatever other games were popular at the time.

Some teachers were Anna B. Ely, Cora M. Fitzgerald, and Geneva Long.

This is a copy of a gift folder the teacher presented to the

puplis at the end of the school term in 1896-1897.



School District No. 10

Covello

Columbia Co., Wash.

1896-1897.

PRESENTED BY

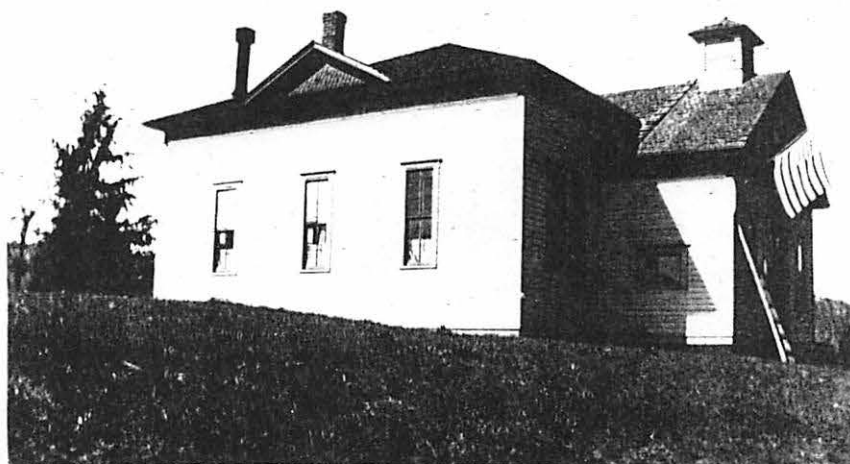
Genevieve Long,

TEACHER.

Pupils.

Sue Weatherford	Dora Wood	Wilson Sanford
Ada Stovall	Orilla Fryatt	Cleveland Kelly
Samuel Kelly	Rena Stovall	Freda Wood
Matt Parker	Daisy Wood	Enoch Kelly
Zoe Brouillet	Lester Griner	Clyde Weatherford
Grace Nichols	Alphretta Wood	Leila Nichols
Bertie Sanford	Osa Brouillet	Carrie Kelly
Clara Weatherford	Bert English	Minnie Carter
Jessie Lowry	Minnie Nichols	Fred Sparks
Ray Brouillet	Willie Carter	Ralph Hewitt
Stella English	Gertrude Hewitt	James Lowry
Arthur Weatherford	Minnie Teel	Charlie Griner
Willie Weatherford	Mable English	Cora English
Via Turner	Bessie Stovall	May Prater

TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT CO., DANVILLE, N. Y.



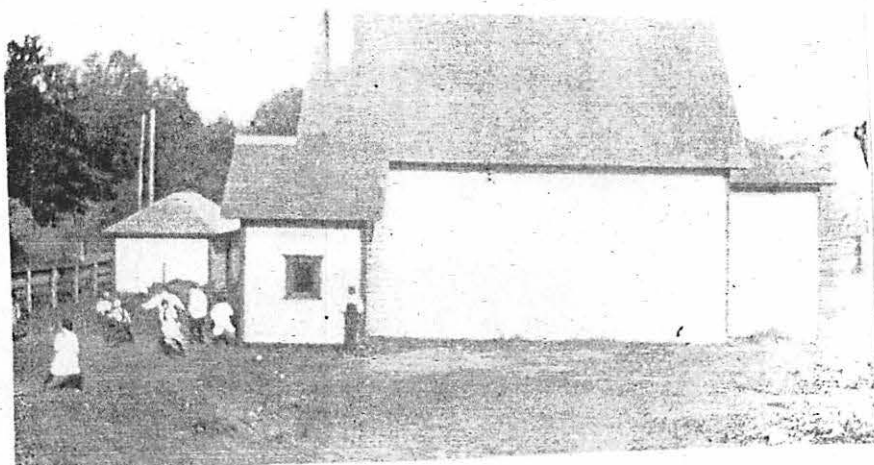
THORN HOLLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT #32

I cannot find much about this school; as to when it started or when it closed.

Water for the school came from the Woods' Farm. The pupils took turns going to the Woods' Farm for pails of water. Often Mrs. Woods gave them divinity she had made. No trouble getting enough water for the children! Also, the teacher boarded and roomed at the Woods' house.

One man remembers someone caught pigeons and let them loose in the school house. Another person remembers putting a bull snake in the teacher's desk drawer. The teacher almost fainted. Some teachers include Nancy Ayers, Edith Webster, Georgia Practor, Aaron Rogers, and Ellen Story.

The school eventually consolidated with Whetstone School District #102.



STARBUCK DISTRICT #35

The name Starbuck has favored the town and school for a very long time. Mr. N. H. Starbuck of New York City, an official of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, donated to the town a bell for the first church. Thus came the name of the town and also the school. The railroad passed through Starbuck from Bolles Junction on to Riparia on the Snake River.

The Starbuck School District was organized first as District #31. The members of the first board were Messrs. Johnson, Smith and Pearson. Mr. H. A. Johnson was clerk of the board. The first teacher was Miss Martha Marks, and there were 13 pupils. School was held in a log cabin about a mile west of town, near the Tucannon River.

The boundaries of this district were changed many times, and when part of District #5 was added it became District #35.

About a year later a small building was erected just north of the depot, and a short time later a larger building was built on a site near where the former Methodist Church. This building was later moved and occupied as a telephone office. In 1892 the town was experiencing phenomenal growth so a two story, four room wooden structure was built.

This was used until 1911 when a modern two story brick building was erected with eight classrooms, a library, and an office. In 1922 an addition was built housing a gymnasium-auditorium, a stage, a dressing room, manual training and home

economics departments. In 1924 there were 135 students and eight teachers; four teachers in high school and four teachers in grade school. There was a library with 1500 books.

The extra curricular activities consisted of both boys and girls basketball, and orchestra and a drama department. Many school plays and entertainments were given by both the High School pupils and Grade School pupils.

Mr. George Calendar was an early superintendent of the Starbuck High School. Marie Stack also was superintendent.

Probably the year 1916 the attendance at the Starbuck Schools reached its peak with 217 pupils.

In 1924 two auto busses brought twenty children from outlying parts of the district. Also in the above year the district was in excellent financial condition, owing to good management and economy of the school boards who have served through the years. The assessed valuation of the district in 1924 was \$929,175. In that year board members were Mr. George Barnhart, Mr. William Longgood, and Mrs. M. Wenderath was clerk.

In 1968 Starbuck experienced a temporary growth due to the construction of Little Goose Dam on the Snake River so a new school building was erected with four adequate classrooms, an office, multipurpose room, a kitchen where hot lunches are prepared, a library, teachers room, rest rooms and storage space at a cost of \$181,000. It was first used in the fall of 1969 with an enrollment of 75 students. A kindergarten and pre-school classes have been added.

With the completion of the Little Goose Dam people moved away

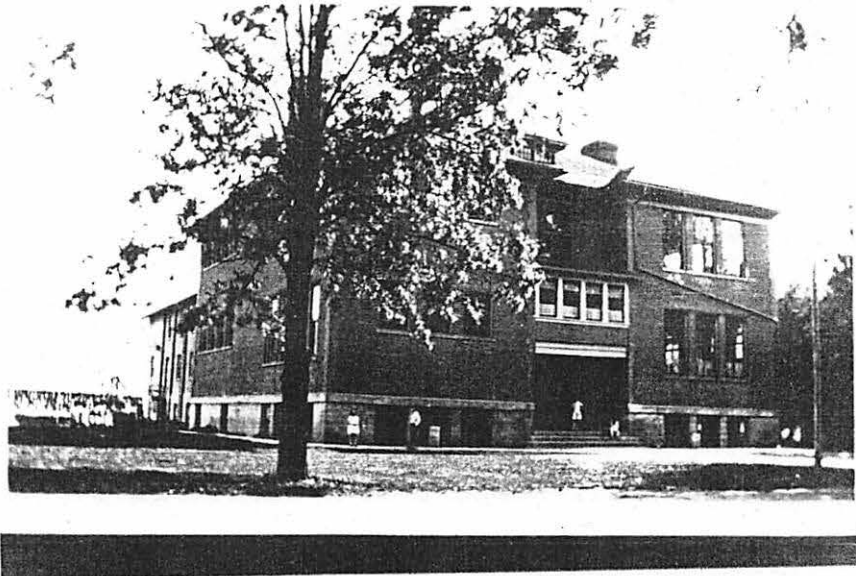
and the enrollment fell.

The community is very supportive of the activities of the school and of the school administration. The community and school are a very closely knit unit.

The high school continued until 1955 when it was consolidated with Dayton School District #2. A bus is operated daily to bring high school students to Dayton.

The old brick building was sold to Mr. Jones who uses it as a residence and a church.

Some early teachers were Mr. McCullough, Daisy , Marie Stack.



LOST SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT #37

This school was begun in 1883 with Addie Riddle as the first teacher. It was managed by one director, William Anderson, and a clerk, Clark Struthers. It had an enrollment of 6 pupils. By 1924 enrollment had increased to 16 pupils. The school house was a small, one room building and was fairly well equipped.

In 1919 the old building was removed and a modern building erected. It had a large general schoolroom with seating capacity of 18. There was also a smaller primary room used when there were enough children to employ two teachers. In addition there were three smaller rooms, one was equipped as a kitchen while the other two rooms were used as lunch rooms. Other features were well water that was piped into the building and a concrete basement where fuel was stored. In 1924 and a number of preceding years the hot lunch system was a distinctive feature.

At one time, I have been told, there was a two year high school that was held in addition to the eight grades.

This was a wealthy community and one of the most active and untiring in their support of their schools. Lost Springs was the community center for McKay, Menoken, and Colville Springs districts.

Teachers included Evelyn Hugh, Pauling Love, and Addie Riddle.

This school closed in 1927 and consolidated with Prescott School District.

The school building and the barn were torn down and made into

a house by J. B. Witt. The Jay Penner family lives in the house now.



GLEN GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT #38

This district, about 10 miles northeast of Dayton, was organized in about 1885. The school was housed three of the years it was in session in three different buildings. The last building is the one in the picture above.

The first teacher was Cephas Morgan and Frances Martin was district clerk. Mr. R. O. Hawks was County Superintendent.

Among the 19 students who attended the first school were Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Startin and Mr. Ed Thomas. Mr. Startin served as director for 25 years. He had ten children who also attended this school.

Sometime before 1924 a modern rural school house was constructed at a more convenient location than the old one on the South Patit.

In 1924 Miss Blanche Parman, an early teacher, wrote the following; "An excellent community spirit exists in the community, they supported the school and all its activities and are willing to do what they can to help in any way. They are willing to pay a 20 Mill levy on their property in order that they may maintain a school.

"I think rural schools are just as essential as town or city schools. Thousands of children in the United States are educated in rural schools. Some of them would have no education at all were there no schools near their homes. These children are entitled to an education close to home, as well as town children. Sometimes

the pupils learn more and do their work more thoroughly in rural schools, because the teacher has more time for individual work. In fact, some people prefer to send their children to a good rural school. I think it's best for smaller rural schools to consolidate. That way pupils have more advantages by way of larger buildings and more equipment. In some cases, consolidation is impossible because of bad roads, distance to school, and a means of conveyance for the children."

Glen Grove got its name because it was located in a glen or clearing surrounded by a grove of trees.

Families whose children attended Glen Grove School were the Joe Dolish, Earl Startin, Joe Startin, Bob Pugh, and Glen Hutchens families.

It is interesting to note that three grandchildren of the first teacher, Cephas Morgan, attended this school. Also, his daughter Flora Morgan was County Superintendent.

Teachers who taught at Glen Grove include Marge Whitmore, Dorathy Hatley, Blanche Parman.

The school closed in 1935. In 1937 the school building was moved to the site of the Dittemore School. These two buildings were joined together and became the Patit Valley Grange Hall.



CHARD OR PATAHA DISTRICT #39

On April 29, 1882 District #39 was formed from a portion of District #19, known as the Whitebird District. This was a union district, as it was called in 1882. That means part of the district was in one county and part in another county. In this case, part of the Chard district was in Columbia County and part in Garfield County.

The first school board consisted of Samuel Malcolm, who had been one of the directors of the Whitebird school board, Alex Logan, and William Buckley. Mr. C. C. Griffith acted as clerk. Other early directors were Mrs. Henry Day, Mrs. A. M. D. Day, and Elizabeth Costin. They all received their mail at Tucannon, a post office long ago discontinued.

The school was called by both the Chard and Pataha names. It was located across the creek from the Chard Railway Station and was named for the William Chard family on whose property it was located.

The building was of moderate size, but in every way a model building. It was well equipped with everything necessary to maintain a good school. It was lighted when necessary with reflection kerosene lamps. Pictures of Lincoln and Washington hung on the walls. There were two outhouses and a barn on the grounds.

There was a well on the grounds with a pitcher pump. The children kept the water cooler filled with water. Each child had

his or her own cup to drink from.

Near the school was a railroad trestle. One day as the train was coming down the track from Starbuck, the bridge collapsed, and the train fell into the Pataha Creek. Lots of excitement for the school children.

One teacher, Mrs. Hood, played the trumpet and drums. She taught three children to play the trumpet and another to play the saxophone. Someone else learned to play the drums. As a result they had a fine band.

Later Mrs. Hood was hurt when the chair in which she was sitting fell backwards over a raised area in the front of the building. She was hurt so badly she could no longer teach. Her sister, Mrs. Bolton replaced her. Occasionally her husband, Mr. Bolton, had to help maintain discipline.

Families who attended the school were the Bishop, Cresswell, McDowell, Polumsky, Lloyd Trosper Ruchert, and Kimball families.

These school children liked to play baseball so they played in competition with neighboring schools.

Just before the school was permanently closed, Chard School, and Oliphant School held school on alternating years. Jake Kimball in later years took the children to school in his car.

Finally in 1939 the school was discontinued. The building stood on the site until about 1945 or 1946 when it was moved to the Calkins farm near by. Mr. Cox who lived at the Calkins place moved the building. Mr. Calkins took the bell to Spokane.

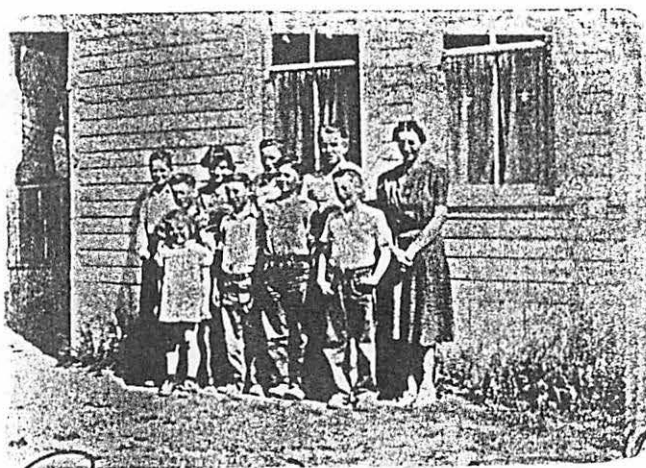
Teachers included Mary Ayres, and Miss Lillian Griffith.

1939

PICTURE - Back Row Left Right: Claude Morgan - he farms on the other side of Dodge hill towards Central Ferry, Juanita Eastly - lives on the coast, Allen Polumsky, Orville Webster, the teacher may have been Miss Rogers.

Second Row Left to Right: Kenneth Price - He lives on highway towards Pomeroy by an abandoned school, Richard Polumsky, Lloyd Otey, Rodney Kimball.

Front Row: Aggie Polumsky VonCadow.



ROBINETTE MOUNTIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 40

The school house was built in 1883. It was built by John Morris and his father. John was also the first teacher. In 1889 the public road was changed leaving the school house about a quarter of a mile from the main road. A few years later the school board decided to move the school house nearer to the public road and nearer to the center of the district. It seemed quite a challenge in those days but the directors were sure it could be accomplished. They hired six yoke of oxen from Charles Grupe, and two drivers, John Billups and John Griffin. It was a slow process, with lots of loud, strong language, but finally it arrived at the proper location. The work of moving and finishing the school was all volunteer labor. A small room was added to be used as a cloak room. Also a long building was built near the school to be used for both a woodshed and a barn. Two outhouses were constructed. Some early teachers were Ed Fouts, who later became a prominent lawyer in Dayton. Other early teachers were, W.W. Hendron, John Woods, and Mrs Ella Terpening.

When the district was first organized they had only 5 months of school but as the years progressed the term was lengthened to nine months.

Ida Abbott, a teacher in 1924 says that she feel sure that as a neighborhood they had their share of community spirit. All felt that they want to have the best school possible in the way of education, so the boys and girls would not be sorry they lived way

up in the "sticks".

Mrs. Wanda (Greiner) Walker remembers that they lived about four and one half miles from school, and walked to school when the weather permitted. Otherwise her father took them in a wagon, or a sled in winter. One night they were in the sled going to an entertainment when the sled tipped over and was righted again but when she arrived at the school she had lost a shoe and overshoe. They found them on their way home, in the place where the sled had tipped over.

She remembers at one time, there were only girls in the school so she took the part of a boy in a play. Her mother always cut her hair and for the play she even cut Wanda's hair to look like a boy's hair cut, much to Wanda's dislike. Two of her sisters Maxine (now Mrs. Earl Marll) and Velma (Mrs. Gates) also attended the school. The school was heated by a stove, with a metal jacket around it in the front of the room.

Janice Geitzen Ward remembers the following: the school was ten or twelve mile from town. She lived three miles from the school and rode her horse as did many of the children. Everyday two pupils were selected to go about one half of a mile to a well for a bucket of water.

The winters were very severe and sometimes it was so cold that the big jacketed stove would scarcely keep the room warm. Sometimes the students brought potatoes from home and baked them in the ashes of the stove.

During the years activities consisted of Christmas programs, basket socials and spelling bees. Most social gatherings in the

community were held at the school. Two or three times a year the County Superintendent visited to see how the children were progressing, and to weigh and measure the pupils.

The school was a small one so the pupils were more like a family and got along very well together. Some later teachers were Rose Tweedy, W.P. Hopkins, Rachel Cochran, Matte Cochran, Lucille (Bunny) Dale, and Eva Vogel.

Finally the school closed about 1935 or 1936 and consolidated with School District Number Two in Dayton.



ROBENETTE MT. SCHOOL 1933-34

Front row: Marjorie Hatch, Maxine Greiner, Velma Greiner.

Back row: Janice Geitzen, Sofia Mitchel, Mary Mitchel and Teacher, Bunnie Dale.



NEW HOPE - DISTRICT #41

New Hope District #41 was formed in 1884. School was maintained there until 1930, then it consolidated with White Bird District #19. The first ten years the average enrollment was 25 pupils. For several years the enrollment was over 30 pupils. In 1924 there were seven pupils. It housed all eight grades. Mr. John Page had been on the school board for over 24 years. Also Mr. Walter Jones and Mr. Knud Poulsen were long time school directors.

It is interesting to note that three generations of one family have attended this school. First was Mr. B. Piatt, then his children Ethel Jones, Vernice Bowman and later Mrs. Jones' children, Doris Jones Amen, Lois Jones Charlton, and Elleen Jones Blessinger. Mr. Walter Jones, husband of Ethel and father of Lois, Doris, and Elleen, also attended the school.

The school house was a community center and served as a church building and meeting place for clubs and other organization. It was located on what is now Highway 12, just a little north of where the Messner Grade leaves the highway. (Nine miles north of Dayton).

The students brought their lunches from home and each child had his own cup that hung on designated nails. Water was carried for the Oren Jones place which later was known as Enrich place. Students carried the water pails.

There were programs for special days with music provided by an

old pump organ. All school singing was part of the daily routine. The students participated in the county declamation and spelling contests. W.W. Hendron, County Superintendent came to make awards and visit the school. Mrs. Amen remembers that the boys dug big caves in the hillside behind the school at noon and recess. Girls were not allowed in much to their disgust.

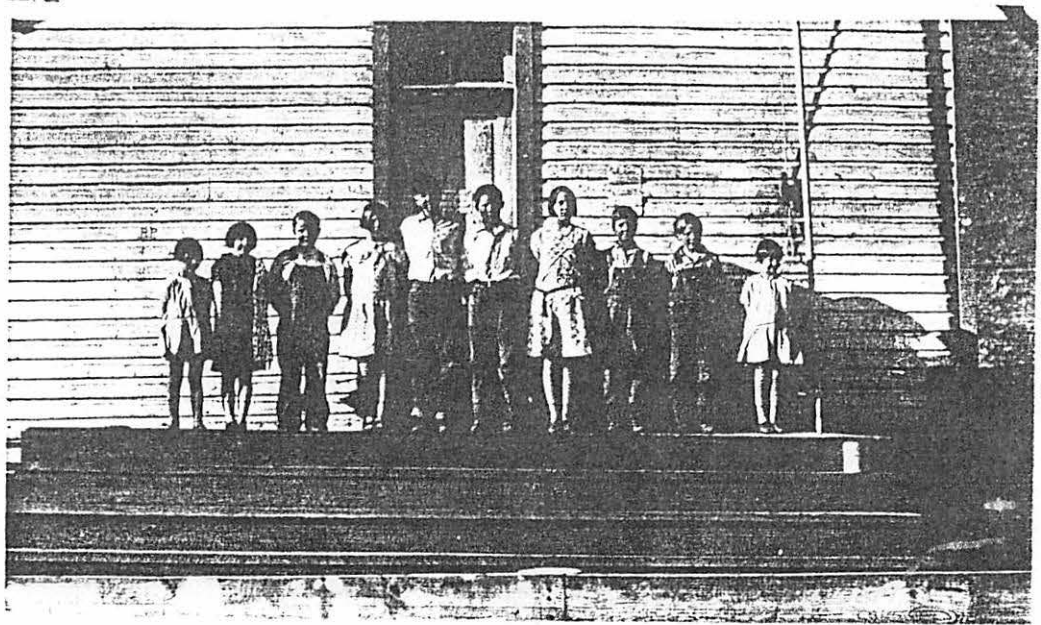
During the winter pupils enjoyed sliding down hills on their barrel stave sleds and in the spring and fall they used their sleds to slide down the grassy hillsides. Clothes became very dirty, and mothers were sometimes a little upset.

The teachers lived with families nearest the school. Some teachers people have remembered are James Bradford, Valeria Schmit, Kathryn McCully (Frick), Cleo Knight, Uva Kennedy Hubbard, Isabelle Banks Douglas, and G.S. Livengood.

The building on the campus were school building, a woodshed, barn, and two toilets.

Harold Poulsen remembers he rode horseback and his dad, Knud, took hay and grain to the school to store in the barn. They watered the horses at noon at Enrich's, across the road. Sometimes during the noon hour the boys raced their horses up and down the Willow Creek Road, a short distance from the school.

Uva Kennedy Hubbard McCall remembers that she started teaching at New Hope for \$100.00 a month. \$900.00 was what she paid for a new Pontiac Coupe she bought that year to get to school.



Odetta Mae Knight
Eileen Jones
Malvern Patton
Helen Poulsen
Pete Harris
Leonard Patton
Doris Jones
James Poulsen
Marion Jones
Olive Rae Knight



MT. PLEASANT DISTRICT #45

(Joint with Walla Walla School Dist. #46)

The school probably was started before 1894 and was held in a rude building but in 1895 (July) the directors (L. B. Rayburn, C. W. Sanders, George Chapman, J. F. Bamford, J. E. Stepheson) ordered that a new building be erected for \$47.00. It was to be 20'x30'. This building was to be completed by September 1, 1895 so school could be held.

During this time the mountain was thickly populated with homes, therefore there was a remarkably large school attendance. Old records show that between 30 to 40 pupils were enrolled.

In 1921 there were only three pupils attending but in 1924 the enrollment was increased to 18.

The severe winter weather was a great drawback; so when the first school began the term was only three months. Later school was held for three months in the fall and three months in the spring. Gradually the term was lengthened to nine months.

The snow in winter on Mt. Pleasant averaged two feet but the spirit of the community was undaunted and everyone turned out to school and community activities.

This was an area of beautiful mountain scenery, especially in fall and winter. On clear days the Cascade Range, Mt. Hood, Mt. Rainier, Lewis Peak, and the Oregon Buttes were clearly visible.

One interesting sidelight- Mr L. B. Rayburn was a school board member when the district was organized. His son, Delos Rayburn,

attended school there and a grandson, Jay Rayburn, was a board member when it closed in 1944.

Mrs. Uva Hubbard McCall remembers her mother, Grace Reis, who attended Field's Gulch School, saying about boarding around at various homes was that she learned pine squirrels were good eating.

The school closed in 1944 and the land the school was built on is now owned by Mr. Jay Rayburn - grandson of the original owner.

Mona Ward remembers that two boys were appointed each week to carry water from a spring on the hillside. Each child had his own cup.

Often teachers lived some distance from the school and the only way to get there was on horseback. When Mona Ward taught here the snow was so deep her horse could not flounder through the drifts, so she had to give up very pleasant living conditions and move into an already crowded home which was nearer the school.

Isabelle Douglas taught here in about 1929, the pupils were Ben, Augusta, Fanny and John Sutton, Ruth and Jay Rayburn, Roberta and Joe Woods, Elsie and Delbert Davis, and Beatrice Swanson. Two families rolled up in their sheep camp wagons, in which they lived that winter. Beatrice Boyle a little Indian girl lived in one wagon and attended school.

Probably one of the most memorable events was when Mrs. Davis shoveled a trail for the horse so her children, Elsie and Delbert, could get to school. It took lots of strength and love for your children to dig snow with a scoop shovel for miles and miles. Finally the children stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Summers when the snow was too deep. The teacher didn't get to town for months at a time.

She says for entertainment during play periods and weekends were coasting, skiing, and playing "Fox and Geese". Also they took two home made sleds, bolted a 2x12 board to the back sled. The front sled had a big bolt through the plank. They nailed cleats about every 18" apart to put feet on. The one in front guided the bob sled and the rest sat lightly packed together with arms around the person in front, feet on the cleats and knees bent. The one on the back was on his knees with hands on the shoulders of the person in front of him. By leaning he helped guide the "toboggan" down the hill. It was great fun.

A few years later Isabelle Douglas taught again and by that time they had built a teacher's cottage.

Other teachers who taught at Mt. Pleasant through the years were Agnes Calwell, Eunice Oales, Gertruce Pennly, Georgia Proctor, D. J. Ingrahm, W. D. Fox, Cleo Hutchinson Knight, A. R. Sherwood, Dalla Mierhead, Ruth Martin, Uva Hubbard McCall, Lillian Pounds, Juanita Hubbs Harting, Sandy Frigitt, and Isabelle Banks Douglas.

Mt. Pleasant consolidated with Columbia about 1945. The teacher's cottage became part of the Ketcherside home and the school building was torn down by Will Pryor.



COLVILLE SPRINGS DISTRICT #46

Colville Springs School was named for a very fine, cold spring of water that furnished an abundant supply for the school.

In the early days when the stage coach traveled the Mullan Road, which passed very near these springs, the drivers stopped to refresh both travelers and horses with cool, delicious water.

Water from this spring was carried in a pail daily by the pupils. They drank from one dipper for all the children.

The building had two entrances, one for girls and the other for boys. In addition there were two outhouses, a barn, and a small teacher's cottage. It was heated by a pot-bellied stove.

The noon recess was one hour long so the children a lot of time to play. The games they played were Pump, Pump, Pull Away; Kick the Can; Run, Sheep, Run; and in winter they played Fox and Geese.

In winter there was always plenty of snow. They even removed a door from the school room and used it as a sled to slide down many of the surrounding hills. What fun!! One winter there was so much snow the school was closed for six weeks.

One former pupil remembers taking an old buggy and putting a flat bed on it and fastening a rope on the front wheels to guide it and then racing down the hills. It was a lot of fun to ride down those hills until one day he hit a tree and broke his arm. That was the end of his fun.

Another pupil remembers that he put a rifle cartridge on top

of the stove and it exploded with a loud noise. The teacher happened to be standing near the stove. The culprit was very severely punished.

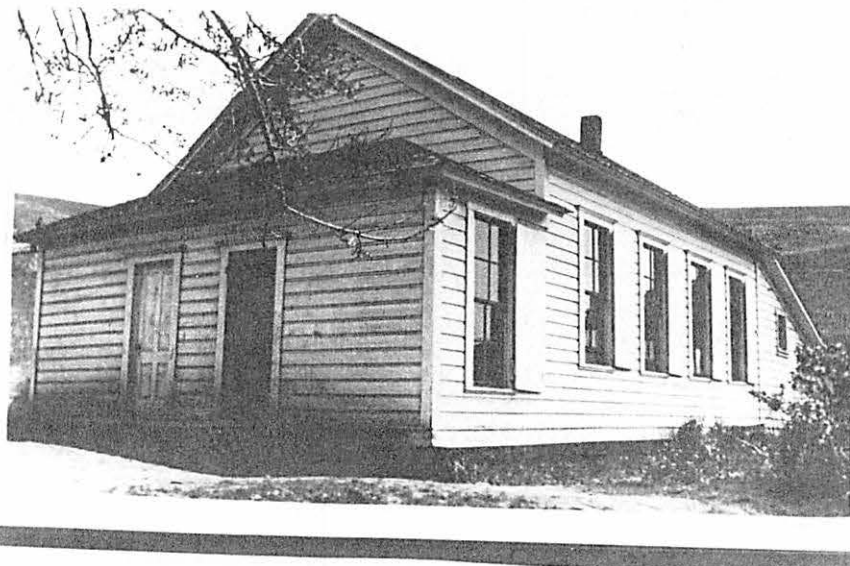
There were school programs at holiday times throughout the year and most especially at Christmas when there were sacks of candy and sometimes nuts for everyone.

Families whose children attended the school included Malloy, Wood, Campbell Wolf, Tull, Jensen, Barger, Walden, Shea, and Johnson.

Sadie Brew, Blanche Morgan Hudson, Mrs. Bunch, A. R. Sherwood, Marian Burich, Nellie Lee, and Mrs. Parks were all teachers who taught at Colville Springs.

Pupils in the eighth grade had to go to Prescott to take state examinations that were required for all rural school eighth graders to take and pass before they could enter high school. This practice continued until 1973 when standard tests were given.

In about 1933 the school closed and the district consolidated with the Prescott School District in Walla Walla County.



This is a picture of the pupils who attended Colville Spring School is 1913.

Seated on the ground - Mayme Wood

First row (left to right) Don Davis, Jennie Wood, Wesley Jensen, Mike Shea, Francis Wood (father of County Commissioner Geo. Wood), Eva Johnson, Mary Johnson.

Back row Cora Wood, Ida Jensen, Lois Shea, Mabel Jensen, Minnie Jensen, Miss Nellie Lee, teacher.



RUSSELL SCHOOL DISTRICT #49

This school was organized in 1890 and held in a small building no one seems to know where.

In 1895 a new building was constructed on land given to the district by James A. Russell, a pioneer who came to the area in a covered wagon from Coffee County, Kansas in 1878. The school was therefore called the Russell school. A member of that family, Murphy Russell, still lives on the property. One teacher Kathrine Frey married Jack Russell, son of James A., and father of Murphy Russell.

The setting of the school was a very beautiful one, along the Tucannon River with lots of trees and very high hills surrounding it.

The new building was a large one with 12 foot ceilings. It was heated with a large iron stove that burned wood and had a wide strip of tin encircling it. The stove was located in the center of the room. Other buildings on the grounds were a wood shed and barn for horses of those who rode horseback to school and two outhouses.

Teachers usually boarded and roomed with the family nearest to the school.

All the schools in the area went up to Waterman School for programs and dances as that school had a stage and was large enough to accommodate more people.

Margaret (Maggie) Jackson who was 95 years old in 1990 attended Russell School as a child. She says the water supply came from the Tucannon River.

Each day two pupils from the school took the pail and went to the river for water. She and Dewey Donohue would go for water together and sing as they walked along. If they were to have a program Maggie and Dewy would practice the songs they were to sing for the Literary Society. Katie Frey played the organ and taught her pupils to sing.

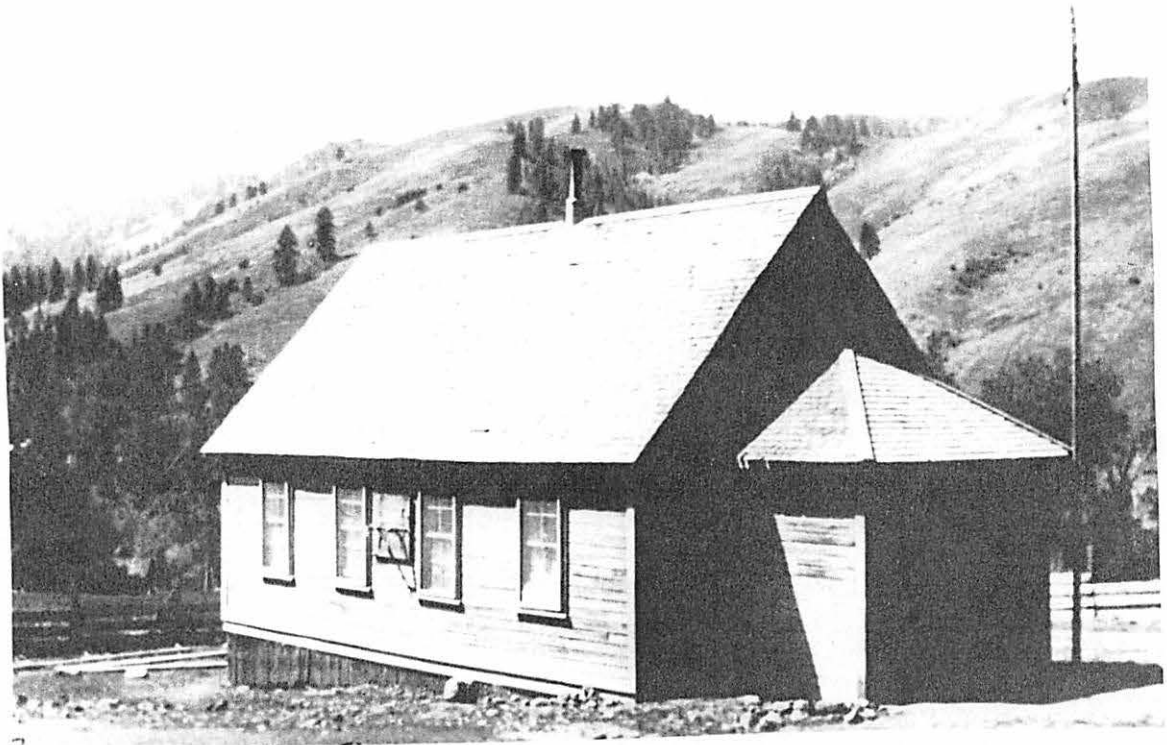
Winter was lots of fun, the children built barrels staves sleds, and would slide down the many hills in the area. Sometimes they would pack the snow down hard and even pour water on the snow so they would have a smooth surface to skate on. They even did square dances on it. One boy could play the harmonica so as he would play while the rest danced. Sometimes there were enough students to have two or even three sets. Maggie was the caller. They always had a lot of fun.

Some of the teachers who taught there were - Mildred Minnick, Mildred Warner Trump, Carolyn Oliver, Ara Burkhart, Alice Ryan, Mr. Olmstead, Jack griffin, Nelson McGride, Louise Hermes, Mary Flynn, Edna Hogberg, Christine Carter, Kate Hathaway, Mary Bayliss, and Ash Oliver.

Frequently the Indians camped in the area. They fished and hunted and dried the meat and hides which was interesting for the children to see.

Someone tells an story about a teacher, Mr. Shaffer, who had a peg leg. One day he found a snake that a youngster had put in his desk drawer. If frightened him so bad, he fell back and his peg leg flew off. What a surprise for the children.

The school continued until 1943 when it consolidated with Marengo School District. It was then moved to the foot of the Blind Grade by the government trapper Merle Hooshagen who built one more room and used it as a residence.





WATERMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #52

This district was organized in 1897. Mr. C. H. Waterman donated the land for building a school house. Everyone willingly donated work, and by fall a new building was ready for use.

Miss Ethel Waterman began the first school term with an enrollment of 18 pupils. This enrollment decreased until the year 1918 when only three were left.

In November 1921, the building burned, but still this did not deter the plucky little neighborhood from continuing school. It was held in a vacant house and later in an old school house out of the district.

Mr. Frank Robinson then donated the land for a new log cabin school house. It was a great improvement over the old building, being larger, better lighted, and had a stage. It was located on land that is now owned by the State Game Department.

Gradually the people added new fixtures and equipment by giving entertainment and dances in the school until in 1924 it was a well equipped school with 14 pupils in all 8 grades.

Much of the success of the school was due to the untiring efforts on Mrs. G. S. Watson who was on the school board for many years. Because she was such an willing worker, the school was sometimes known as the Watson School.

The school was the social center of the community as well as a place to educate the children. The community was a close knit group of people.

Many dances and box socials were held in the school building. Music was furnished by Mr. Pettichord who played the fiddle, Harrison Ogden played the banjo, and the Pettichord sisters, Florence and Bernice, chorded on the pump organ. In later years Ollie Clark and Albert Martin played for the dances. At these dances the women made cakes and sandwiches to serve about midnight and the coffee was made in a boiler on top of the pot bellied stove that heated the building.

The community exchanged dances with Russell School and Black Hawk School that was located in Garfield County.

Early families in the area who had children who attended school at Waterman were- Waldo Hoffeditz, Cormier, Pettichord, Watson, Farley, Warner, Hines, Oliver, Sevanzig.

Teachers roomed and boarded with families of the district, one month with each family.

There was no barn at this school, just two outhouses. The children all walked to school.

Russell and Waterman Schools joined each other for their Christmas programs because Waterman had a stage.

Early teachers were Ella Morrish and Ethel Waterman, Mrs. M. E. Miller, Mary Flynn, Edna Hogberg, Christine Carter, Kate Hathaway, Mary Bayliss, Myrtle Mc Millan.

The school closed about 1941. It was consolidated with Russell School District. About 1940 the building was torn down log by log and rebuilt on Echler Mountain as a cabin. It is still in use. I have heard the cabin is owned by Inez Longen.

GRUPE SCHOOL DISTRICT #53

The Grupe was opened about 1902 on an acre of ground given to the district by Mrs. C. E. Grupe. The name Grupe School was given to the school in her honor.

It was located on Eckler Mountain on a road that used to be known as Cougar Canyon Road.

The land was given to the district by the Grupe family with the provision no dances be held in the building. If ever dances were held in the building, the school would be closed and the land given back to the Grupe family.

In addition to farming, the Grupe family owned a sawmill that was located on part of their property.

Grupe School taught all eight grades. One early teacher, Miss Drysdale was fired during her first term because she was so cruel to the pupils. A Miss Byrd started one term but couldn't control the children, especially the older boys. Her brother, Lester Byrd, attempted to teach the school but he too failed. A Miss Littlejohn finished the term with no trouble at all.

At Christmas time the Grupe School and Mt. Vernon School had their programs together at the Mt. Vernon school because it was larger. In addition to the program, both children and adults were given treats of candy, nuts, and oranges. In some cases this was the only Christmas celebration these families had.

Other teachers included Miss Nelson, Louise Meyers, Pearl Spragg Eaton, Mabel Bennett, Vera Burlingame, Frances Lowder,

Margaret McDonald, Ernestine Evans, Nora Wait, Mattie Elwell Cochran, Rachel Cochran, and Uva Kennedy McCall.

Isabelle Banks Douglas taught the last term the school was open, 1949-1950. It was one of the last rural schools to be consolidated with Dayton School District #2.

The building was moved to the Russell Fletcher Farm, located on the Patit Creek.



JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT #57

On June 26, 1893, C. S. Terpening, who was then County Superintendent of Schools established a district on the Tucannon River, largely from Whitebird District #19. The first directors were R. A. Jackson, H. W. King, and R. B. Gentry with George W. Ross as clerk.

Like all schools in the Tucannon River area, the matter of finances was rather hard but the district was always able to maintain eight months of school, although it caused some sacrifice on the part of the people.

The school was named for R. A. Jackson on whose property the school was located. Mr. Jackson had a family of 12 children - 8 boys and 4 girls. Their home was large with three stories. The attic was equipped as a play room or gym and was often used as a boxing arena. The boys really enjoyed this. One of the boys went on and had a semi-professional boxing career.

About 1934 the school was consolidated with the Whitebird District.

Among the teachers who taught at the school are Maude Drysdale, Louis Vaughn, Edna Atwood, Margaret Ogden Jackson, and Della Ogden Hoskins.



WHETSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT #102

Whetstone School was named for Mr. Thomas Whetstone who came to the area in 1860 and filed on a homestead in 1867. He was the first one in Columbia County to receive his patent from the government in 1872.

In 1924 the district consisted of 2 former districts known as Wright School and Lyman School.

The Lyman School was organized in 1878 by Jack R. Harmon, William Walsh, Archie Bishop with Oscar Young as Clerk. A few years later in 1880 the names of Corneluis Lyman, Live Watrous, and John Knox appeared on the board and their service was long. When organized there were 27 pupils.

The teachers of the first Whetstone School can testify that the little bungalow type school house was none too large with a single row of seats along each side with an aisle between and a 4' by 5' blackboard. Later a larger blackboard was built across one end of the building.

During Mrs. Terpening's term as County Superintendent a modern school house was built with ample room, good lighting, and an adequate heating stove.

In 1920 three districts were consolidated; Whetstone, Lyman, and Wright. They then became known as the Whetstone School District. The building was then moved to a site about a mile away on land owned by Archie Bishop, one of the first directors. It housed all 8 grades.

Some time later the old Thorn Hollow School building was moved on to the property and used as a meeting place for the Whetstone Farm Bureau and Home Economic Club.

Harry Kennedy was an early teacher also Nola Jones. In later years Mrs. Lenora Phelps, Mattie Cochran, Cleo Hutcheson Knight, Dorothy Rennewanz, and Aleta Balch Talbott taught there.

The school continued until 1944 when it was consolidated with Dayton School District #2.

For several years after it closed the building was used as a meeting place for the Whetstone Farm Bureau and the Home Economic Club.

Finally it was torn down and Guy Wiles built a home in Dayton from the material.



FIELDS GULCH SCHOOL DISTRICT 31

This was an early school located eight miles north of Prescott, near Starbuck.

This picture was taken in 1897 standing left to right:

Doll Bickelhaupt, Alma Whiting, Cora Whiting,
Bernie Whiting, teacher Lana Balch, Fred
Brown, Moelis Brown, Mae Brown, Grace Reis,
Myrth Reis.

Middle row:

Miss Winderoth, Bertha Lukinbeal (Mrs. Tom
Shea)

Front row:

Fred Winderoth, Ralph Lukinbeal, Fred Hofer,
Paul Hofer, Percy Hofer, William Wallace.

Helen Brooksbank, whose mother-in-law Alma Whiting attended the school, taught at Field's Gulch in the late 1930's.

Bernie Whiting's father had a ranch in the area and later owned a drugstore in Starbuck, WA.



AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

Autograph books, or memory books as they were sometimes called, were usually brought to school the last week of the term. In these books friends and teachers wrote appropriate verses - some were funny, some sentimental, and some gave advice.

These were small books, usually about five inches by seven inches in size. The covers were made of a stiff sort of cardboard, simulated leather, or sometimes velvet. The covers were decorated with pictures of sprays of flowers or anything very ornate. The pages of some books were of varicolored paper of just plain white paper.

The first page of the book was usually reserved for the teacher who usually wrote a few lines wishing its owner good luck at whatever he or she did in later life. Then the book was passed from person to person. It took much concentration from each child to write just in the right verse or sentiment that would suit the owner of the book.

The writers used their very best penmanship, complete with many flourishes; and maybe even a drawing or two.

Both boys and girls owned these autograph books and wrote in each others books. Young men and women who were in no longer going to school also circulated these books among their friends and relatives.

These books have been passed down to succeeding generations who have enjoyed reading them and prize them highly as remembrances of long ago times.

Here are some samples of the rhymes written in these books-

This writer got right to the point - As sure as grass grows
'round a stump, You are my darling sugar lump.

One boy wrote - Five things observe with care

Of whom you speak,

To whom you speak,

And how and when and where

Someone who was interested in manners wrote -

There are five little words I'll have you to know

They are Pardon Me, Thank You,, and Please.

Oh, use them quite often wherever you go

There are few words more useful than these.

Trying to be funny someone wrote -

Sauerkraut smells and so do you

Your feet smell and the rest of you does too.

A dear friend might write -

When another day is ending

And the sun sets in the west,

Think a little thought of me-

Your friend who loves you best.

Following are copies of pages of autograph books from Lila Frost and Hattie Bloomfield.

Pullman, Wash.

May happiness be thy lot,
And peace thy steps attend,
Accept this tribute of regard,
From one who is thy friend.

June, 14th '95.

Your Schoolmate.
Lee Smith.

Dear Lila,

Enjoy the spring of love
and youth.

For Time, will teach thee soon
the Truth.

There are no birds in last
year's nest.

Sincerely,
Dayton, November thirtieth '08. Freda Socie Turner.

Dayton December
26-1908

Dear Lila,

May happiness ever
be thy lot. Wherever thou shalt be,
and joy and pleasure light the
spot, that may be home to thee.

Your Friend.

Anna McCauley

Molalla Oregon
my Dear friend Lila, nov, 13. 1910.

Roses are red violets are blue
Honey is sweet and so are you.

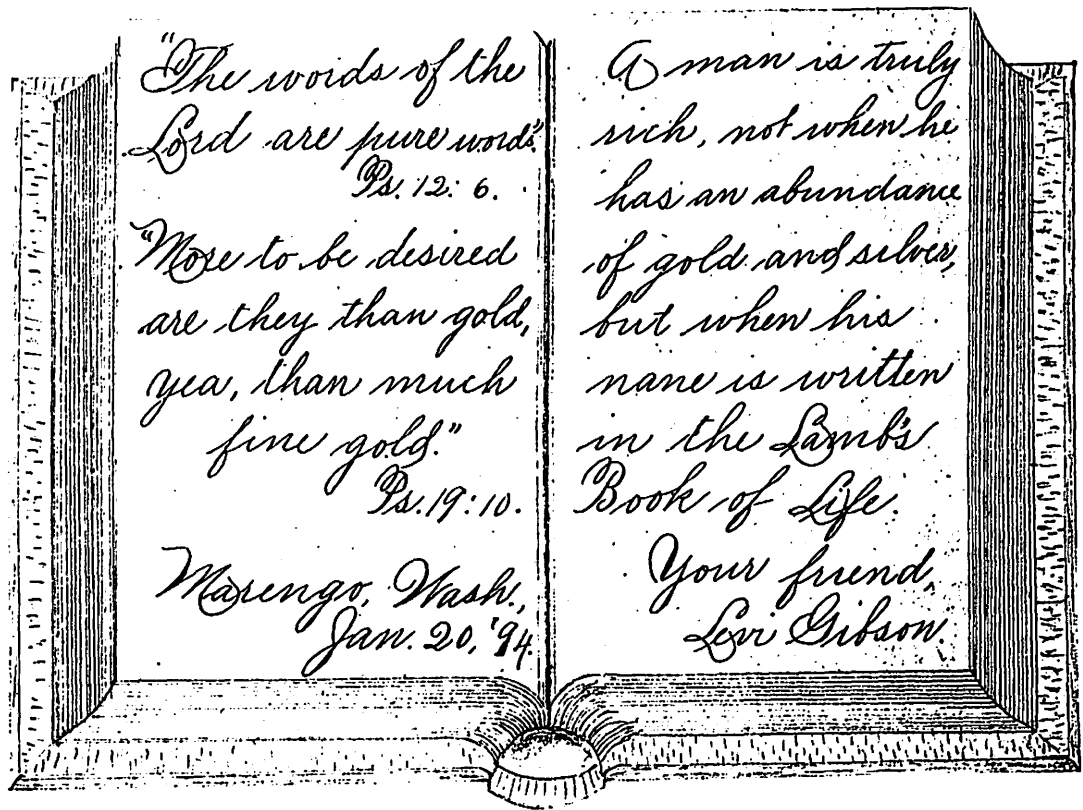
with love Ellen

Hazara.

Waukegan Wash
Feb 2. 1894.

Dear Friend! Hattie.
Tho' the world smiles on you
blandly. Let your friends be
choice. and few, choose your
way pursue it grandly. And
achieve what you pursue.

Your true Friend.
Andrew H. Harris.



"We search the world for truth, we cull
The good, the pure, the beautiful
From graven stone and written scroll,
From the old flower fields of the soul;
And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from our quest,
To find that all the sages said,
Is in the book our mothers read."

Your friend & teacher
W. A. Philips.

Junction School
May 26, 1894.

Waitsburg, Wash.

Carl Arthur Nelson
1900 - 1985
Superintendent of Dayton School District No. 2 1926 - 1962

Carl Nelson was born in Washington's Skagit County near the town of Mount Vernon. His elementary schooling was in rural schools of the area and he attended Mt. Vernon's High School. Patriotism interrupted his senior year when he enlisted in the Tank Corp. He was trained at the Army's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Tank Center and served until the Armistice. He returned to Mt Vernon High School and finished his senior year with the class of 1919.

He spent the next four years at Pullman's Washington State College and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree with the class of 1923. He probably did not visit Dayton to make his application as this was seldom a requisite for teaching positions, but his excellent scholastic record was sufficient to impress any school board. He was elected to teach science, mathematics and coach the baseball team for the 1923-24 school term. The Principal's position became vacant the following year and this man that exuded a quiet, no nonsense firmness that commanded the respect of all that met him was chosen by the Board to assume this responsibility for the 1924-25 school term.

The position of Superintendent became vacant in the Spring of 1926 and Carl was among the candidates that were interviewed and considered by the Board of Directors. Their selection of Carl Nelson was announced at the regular meeting in April. Carl used to reflect that he, "became the Superintendent at the age of 26 in 1926". It was during these first years as the Superintendent of Dayton's Schools that a vacancy was created by the loss of the County Superintendent of Schools. The Commissioners approached Carl Nelson, who accepted once arrangements were agreed upon between the Dayton School Board and the County Commissioners, to fill this temporary vacancy until the next election. This exposed him to many of the records of the early schools in Columbia County and influenced his eventual decision on a topic for his graduate study thesis.

Mr. Nelson had set himself the goal of a Master's Degree and to that end he was in attendance at Washington State College during several summers. The thesis he prepared was a study of the schools of Columbia County. The thesis was prepared and submitted in 1929, at the culmination of his summers of study, and the Master's Degree was granted in 1930.

Miss Emma Ferris of LaCrosse was the teacher of Home Economics in Dayton's High School when she and Carl Nelson met and they married in her home town in 1927. They raised two fine children, Catherine and William. Upon completion of her education, Catherine became a instructor at the University of South Dakota where she met and married Dr. Donald Dunlap, a professor in the Biology Department. William got a degree in police science before serving a tour as a United States Naval officer. He continued in federal service as a Treasury Agent and later transferred to the Secret Service. Catherine and her husband are enjoying their retirement with a residence in Arizona while Bill and his wife, Janet, have chosen to remain in the Northwest where they are sharing retirement with their family. Mrs. Emma Nelson passed away after a brief illness in 1953.

A Board of Directors is the final authority in a School District, but their success depends upon the Superintendent they employ to keep them informed of needs, provide them with options and to administer the district according to their directions. Dayton has been very fortunate to have chosen so many board members with a respect for one another that made meetings efficient exchanges that could adjourn with the confidence that their decisions would be wisely administered by Superintendent Carl A. Nelson whom they trusted and respected.

The careful handling of financial affairs in the late 1920's made Dayton's progress through the Depression of the 1930's unique in at least three respects. Dayton never had to cut the salaries, they continued annual raises although so small that they were hardly perceptible within any one pay check and third, they were never in a deficit situation that required payments being made by interest bearing warrants.

The Pietrzycki endowment, despite the restrictions on its use, certainly enhanced the financial situation of the Dayton Schools and permitted their joint funding of two Work's Progress Administration projects: the football stadium and adjacent field house, and the bus garage with the vocational agriculture facilities located at its east end.

The Depression was also characterized by a general disenchantment with authority from the top federal level to the local. Carl was keenly aware of the need for public relations and was very fortunate in the choice of coaches who produced many athletic competitions that became a source of public pride and championed the patron's support of the schools.

Carl served a total of 39 years in the Dayton Schools, the last 36 were as the Superintendent. This was a mile stone recognized in the educational circles of the entire state. Carl probably thought he was bringing it to a end when he officially announced to a January Board Meeting that he was retiring with the conclusion of the 1961-62 term. In his own words he was, "Retiring at the age of 62 in 1962." In response to friends and reporters questions about his future plans, Carl replied, that he planned, "To remain in Dayton, "A bit of travel", and the possibility of "going into business".

Shortly after he left the schools, Carl married Mrs. Naomi Danielson, a Waitsburg farmer's widow. Carl owned farm land on Mt. Pleasant and the couple had planned upon a retirement life in the Touchet Valley where they could watch after their respective farming interests.

Retirement from education was not to be as Carl's availability prompted at least two invitations. The first was from the State's Superintendent who reportedly asked him to consider joining the Olympia staff in the capacity of advisor. The second invitation came from Whit Allen, Yakima County Superintendent, who was in need of a knowledgeable expert on school finance. Mr. Allen later reported that no one was more surprised than he at Carl's acceptance. Mr. Allen was in dire need and often invited retiring administrators, but to be accepted by the unofficial "Dean of Superintendents" was one of his most gratifying moments. Carl and Naomi bought a home in Yakima and Carl worked at the Yakima County Courthouse until his official retirement in 1972. Whit Allen reported that Carl had confided in him that he never considered the State's offer because. "it was too far away from the Touchet Valley." Apparently Carl and Naomi felt that Yakima was in the neighborhood and both continued to think of the valley as home. They continued a very active life in their Yakima church and a variety senior citizen affairs until Naomi's passing in January 1985. Carl remained in a retirement apartment and kept up a active life until he passed away in September 1985.

Many have expressed the sentiment that knowing Mr. Nelson was a great honor. I can personally attest to this because I knew him as my Dayton teacher in higher math, he continued to teach during much of his career, as the Superintendent in Dayton and again in Yakima County as the financial advisor to our co-operative instructional materials library and lastly as a family friend. I cherish his memory.

Carl Arthur Nelson's biographical information prepared for Charlotte Ostroot Hutchens' Second Printing of "Early Columbia County Schools" by Richard H. Gaines, Dayton High School Class of '49.

NOTE: The pictures of the schools in this book were carefully removed from a copy of Mr. Nelson's thesis and negatives made from these pictures. Then the pictures were returned to their proper places in the thesis. Many people have enjoyed prints of these pictures and I am very happy to share them with you in this book.

Charlotte

In 1902 these were the districts where school was held and some of the teachers.

<u>District</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
1	Columbia	
2	Dayton	
3	Mt. Vernon	Harry Kennedy, T.A. Rogers
4	Winnett	Mabel Jones
5	Barkersville	Ed Fry
6	Copper	
7	Huntsville	Stella Houtchens, Flavis Brooks
8	Turner-Wilson	
9	Dittemore-Armstrong	Rose Tweedy
10	Enterprise	
11	McKay	Kate Murphy
12	Bundy	Laura Long
13	Marengo	Irene Sanford
14	Star	Ella Terpenning
15	Baldwin	
16	Highland	Burnelle Choate
17	Fairview	G. S. Livengood
18	Sargent-Riviera	Mary Ayres
19	White Bird-Tukanon	Frank Davis
20	Delaney	Mary E. Miles
21	Mountain Home	Gertrude Hilbert
22	Pine Grove	Bea Richmond
23	Menoken	K. C. Murphy
24	Smith Hollow	Agnes Finlay
25	Daggett	Ethel Demon
26	Tate-Spackman	Laura Long
27	James	Lila Bigelow

28	Watrous	Mary Ingram
29	Touchet-Jim Creek	C. L. Whitanack
30	Whiskey Creek	Ella Hubbell
31	Covello	Cora M. Fitzgerald
32	Thorn Hollow	Nancy Ayers
33, 34, 35	Starbuck	Clyde Simmons, Alberta Gerkeny, Nola Davis
36	Wright	Myrtle Hutcheon
37	Lost Springs	Pauline Love
38	Glen Grove-Storhn Ridge	Marge Whittemore
39	Chard-Pataha	Mary Ayers
40	Robinette Mountain	Rose Tweedy
41	New Hope	G. S. Livengood
45	Mt. Pleasant	A. R. Sherwood
46	Colville Springs	
47	Alto	Ada Bickelhaupt
48	Blue Mountain	Cora Desmond
49	Russell-Tucannon	Wilson McBride
50	Franklin	Edna Heston
51	Jackson	Nora Davis
52	Waterman	
53	Eckler - Grupe	Ethel Waterman
54	Gross Dollarhide	
60	Blessinger	
101	Alto	
102	Whetstone	