

Indians--Schools

Children at the Indian school at Fort Simcoe had a very pleasant Thanksgiving according to Superintendent Don M. Carr of the Yakima reservation, who was in the city yesterday.

In the morning there were services and these were followed by a dinner.

There are now 131 children in the Indian school at the fort where the first instruction covers the first four grades. The agency has arrangements with four school districts, those at White Swan, Toppenish, Lapato and Ranger under which pupils are accepted in schools there on payment of the tuition and last year the enrollment showed 200 of these, many of them receiving instruction in the higher grade. This 200 with the 131 at the Fort makes a respectable showing of Indian children--The Yakima Herald, Dec. 4, 1912.

Ray Lynch takes charge of the Yakima boarding school on July 1 as superintendent.

Superintendent Wakestraw is sending his family to Portland. They will leave about July 1. Mr. Wakestraw has not yet been notified whether he will be appointed assistant superintendent or principal teacher at this school.

Miss Bessie F. Ball, kindergartner leaves for her home in Salt Lake City Utah. The position of kindergartner was abolished for the coming year and the Indian office tendered Miss Ball a position in another school, but for the present she prefers to be at home awhile. Miss Ball has held this position here for the past four years and by her winning ways and very efficient work has won the hearts of the little ones.

The departure of both Miss Mackay and Miss Ball will be a great loss to the school as they are both most excellent employees.

Miss Maggie Mackay who has been such an efficient matron of this school for the past three years has resigned and will go to her home in Oregon for a rest. Miss Mackay is pronounced one of the best matrons in the service by the inspecting officials and others who are familiar with the duties of the position-
Yakima Herald, July 1, 1902.

Serious financial difficulties will surely beset those school districts that have Indian children in them when the government relinquishes the educational program unless the states are willing to fill the breach, is the keynote of a talk given by Miss Mae Mark, county superintendent of schools at the National Indian conference held at Spokane last week.

The majority of the speakers at the convention also stressed this view as an alarming situation.

"You see under the present system the government allows each school district in which there are Indian children \$ 40 cents a day for each Indian pupil. At the present time there are laws in the various states which prevent the state or the county helping the district financially in this matter. The government is planning to eventually stop its contribution to the support of the Indians' education.

"Take for example the case of White Swan. The district there is composed of non-taxable Indian land. If the government support is withdrawn and no more state aid is forthcoming, White Swan will be faced with the problem of educating 123 Indian children with absolutely no funds contributed toward the education. It has been estimated that it requires about 55 cents a day to educate each child. That means that there would be a daily loss of \$67.65 to the district.

"As the district would be unable to stand this loss for any length of time, you can see how important it is for the state to pass some legislation which would allow the state or county to eventually take up the burden of the Indian education," said Miss Mark--The Yakima Republic, Nov. 9, 1925.

Fort Simcoe

The following is the corps of teachers at the Wilbur boarding school at Fort Simcoe: Rev. Maxwell Phillips, superintendent; Mrs. Margaret Evans, matron; Misses Alice Simpson and Minnie Cooley, teachers; George L. Mattoon, industrial branches and T.P. Robbins, assistant. -Yakima Herald, Oct. 29, 1891.

Editor Herald-The Indian Industrial school closed on the 28th inst. with exercises which included examination of the scholars, declamations, singing and calisthenics. The examination of the children was the most satisfactory, they solving the problems of fractions with apparent ease and composing and writing well worded sentences.

Children who entered school ten months ago without a particle of knowledge of English can now read quite well and write a fair hand. The excellent showing that ~~can~~ they made reflected much credit to their superintendent, Mrs. Florence Kilgour and her assistant, Miss Mamie W. Priestly. The agent and a number of influential Indians were present and expressed themselves greatly pleased with the progress made by the pupils.

At the close of the exercises the patrons, Indian children and the employees repaired to the agency dining room and enjoyed an excellent dinner prepared for them by the matron and cook. Speeches were made by Agent Priestly, Mrs. Kilgour, superintendent, Rev. Thos. Pearne and Joe Stwire. The addresses were happy efforts and directed to the encouragement of the children and the older people too, to cultivate their minds and mingle thought with their work.

The Fourth was celebrated in good style at Fort Simcoe. The parade under the direction of Joe Stwire, White Swan, was a great success. The Indian horsemanship was here displayed with telling effect. They were dressed for the occasion and presented a fine appearance. After the parade the crowd assembled in a lovely grove and were treated to patriotic songs and addresses. Miss Helen Helm presided at the organ. Rev. Waters led in prayer and Rev. Gascoigne, Dr. A. Wilgus, Capt. Thos. Priestly, White Swan; Rev. Thos. Pearne and Eneas made short and stirring speeches.

A song was sung, another parade, and then all present sat down to a bountiful dinner. After dinner dancing, baseball playing and other

games engaged the attention until evening when all quietly separated for their homes. The order was excellent.

There was not a fight or a drunken man to be seen. The Indians remained a few days at Stwireville, engaged in horse-racing and some of their old time sports and on Saturday White Swan gave a splendid dinner to hundreds of his people at which time he related the history of his family of which there were 46 members present representing six generations. The occasion was enjoyed by a number of whites from Yakima, Goldendale and other places--A. Wilgus--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, July 11, 1889.

Indians

The Indian school maintained at Yakima by the Catholics closed on Saturday last for a v cation of two months. Father Garrand and a couple of the sisters escorted twenty-two of the scholars to their homes in Kittitas county Monday--Yakima Herald, August 2, 1889.

Dear Editor: it gives me pleasure to comply with your request for a sketch of our work here.

This fort was built in 1856 , near the close of the Indian war.

Since 1861 it has been the residence of the Indian agent. It is beautifully situated near the foothills of the Cascade range and surrounded by large oak trees. The house occupied by the agent is a fine dwelling. During the Indian trouble it was occupied by General , then Lieutenant, Philip Sheridan; in fact it with many others was built for United States army officers.

In 1860 Father Wilbur , as the Indian call him, began work among the Indians; he was appointed superintendent of instruction and at once opened a school, gathering in the children.

His wife, without making a cent of pay, immediately began the process of cleaning, training, teaching and winning them. A year later Mr. Wilbur was appointed agent. As he assumed the entire administration of the agency, his aim was to bring the wards to the point of self-support.

For twenty-two years the Wilburs remained at their post, bringing the Indians up to a higher level of thrift and prosperity.

The school here is now maintained by the government; there are about one hundred and fifty pupils in attendance. There are two large buildings, the one used for the boys is comparatively new as it was finished about a year ago, their old dormitory having been destroyed by fire. One can stand in front of the girls' building and command a view of the surrounding country for miles, dotted here and there with Indian farms.

The school house is quite an old affair, much too small for the number of pupils it has to accommodate.

The superintendent, three teachers, one of whom has charge of the

kindergarten , girls' matron, boys' matron, seamstress, assistant seamstress, cooking teacher, industrial teacher and farmer all reside at the school

The children, except the very small ones, attend school only a half day; those attending in the morning are detained to work in the mornings and vice versa.

The boys plough, hoe , make hay, saw and chop wood for work in the blacksmith shop.

The girls are taught to make clothing, to cook, wash dishes, make beds and do laundry work; in fact they are taught to be housekeepers. Each girl is detailed for one month to her department; they are quite fond of changes; if they are in the kitchen, they are glad to go to the sewing room and from the sewing room to the laundry.

Everything from morning until night is begun and ended by the tap of a bell. They rise at six, breakfast at seven, go to dinner at 12, to supper at five and retire at half past eight.

Before each meal the girls gather in their sitting room and the boys in front of the dining room, and at a given signal march in to the tap of the drum; they stand behind their chairs until a signal is given by the superintendent or matron, then sit and ask a blessing in concert on the food before them.

At the tap of a bell the large girl or boy at the end of each table begin to serve. Two girls are detailed to pass the bread and see that the pitchers are filled with water or milk.

It is interesting to watch the Indian children. So many different faces , some dark and stolid, others bright and happy; but take them all together they are as well behaved and as easily controlled as the same number of whites and have quite as good table manners. This speaks well for the superintendent and employes.

On the last day of school, which occurs early in July, they have an

entertainment. Sometimes they give a play or a little cantata. Some of them have very good voices.

In their studies they excel in United States history, being very fond of the early portion, probably on account of the stories told of the Indians.

But the day of days is the first day of vacation, when the parents or friends come to take them home. They generally come in the morning, eat a big dinner, then take their children and ride away, some to good homes, some to miserable tepees, where they are kept until the opening of the school in October--Yakima Herald, Feb. 17, 1898--(AB)

Indians

Tuition on about 518 Indian children enrolled in the public schools is being paid this year through the Indian agency according to the report made by Major Evan Estep, Indian agent.

The White Swan district gets the greatest lump sum, \$8,147 for the year 1924. Toppenish receives \$4,499 and Wapato is given \$1,454.

It is expected that the total payment for the current year will be close to \$20,000 at the average rate of 40 cents for each day of attendance. A school inspector is employed by the agency to see that the youngsters are in school regularly and properly attentive to their lessons--The Yakima Republic, April 11, 1925.

Owing to the efforts of County School Superintendent Busch the department of the interior signed a contract yesterday afternoon with the boards of trustees of the schools of "apato, "oppenish and White Swan in which the United States agreed to pay the sum of \$10 per quarter for every Indian child who attends the county schools.

There are a number of Indian children in the schools of Yakima county and the agreement made with the government will mean that the county will be relieved of the burden of educating the Indians.

Mr. SBusch stated yesterday that contract would also mean a saving to the government as it costs the United States about \$200 each a year for each Indian who is cared for in the government schools. Supt. Busch has been working for the last year to get the government to bear the expense of the Indians and feels much elated at his success.

His efforts were ably seconded by the agent at Fort Smith and Sen. Jones who have backed him in every move (Copy) Ft Smith.--
The Yakima Republic, Oct. 28, 1910.

On Monday last a sudden and alarming sickness took possession of five of the boys at the Indian Training school.

Dr. W.G. Coe was summoned and found two of the children in convulsions. An investigation showed that they had been out on a picnic and had eaten wild parsnips which are very poisonous.

Three of the boys had barely tasted the vegetable and they were not seriously eggecte (copy) but the other two were past aid.

Dr. Doe (copy) gave them a hypodermic injection of apomophia, which would relieve a strong man's stomach in less than two minutes but it had no effect and they died that night. Yakima Herald, Thursday, March 31, 1892.

The general appearance of the Fort Simcoe schools is not what it should be, some of the buildings are in need of repair.

A school house should be built and either an electric light plant or a gas plant should be installed says John Charles, inspector in the Indian service of Uncle Sam.

Mr. Charles recommends the erection of a new school with an assembly hall provided and suggests that the present school building be removed to a different location and fitted out for commissary program.

The boys' dormitory building requires extensive repairs, especially to the foundation and the plastering. The same complaint is made of the girls' building.

Like Puyallup the Yakima school is now lighted entirely by oil lamps. There is in consequence great danger from fire. Mr. Charles very strongly urges the installation of either an electric light plant or an acetylene gas plant to replace the lamps.

Notwithstanding the considerable number of children attending the Yakima school there is no hospital building provided for the accommodation of the sick. The erection of such a building is recommended. Up to the present time there has been but little shop work for the Indian boys principally because of the lack of facilities. Inasmuch as the shop industries are very essential Mr. Charles recommends the construction of a shop to accommodate the carpentry, blacksmithing and other classes. The principal industrial work at the present time is in connection with the gardens which are reported as exceptionally creditable.

He recommends removal of scattering small buildings and erection of a fence enclosing the school grounds to keep out stray Indian ponies.