

Education

Ellensburg Academy, Ellensburg, W.T. Opened September 10th, 1884. Unsurpassed in location, healthful; instruction thorough; expenses moderate; influence Christian. The training school or intermediate department, half rates. For particulars apply to Rev. Jas. A. Laurie, principal, Ellensburg, Washington Territory..Yakima Signal, Nov. 8, 1884.

Changing modes of the times are in no way better illustrated than by a comparison of the public schools and school facilities of 35 years ago with those of today.

School teachers of the present day might well throw up their hands in horror were they obliged to face such conditions as Mrs. Hilda Meystre, one of the territorial county school superintendents, experienced during her term of office from 1888 to 1890.

In recalling her pioneer experiences in the teaching profession which are of special interest at this time when the county is observing National Education week the things which stand out most clearly in Mrs. Meystre's mind are the events leading up to her election as superintendent of Yakima county.

Mrs. Meystre arrived in Yakima July 10, 1886 with a first grade teaching certificate from Minnesota. Her first school was in the "htanum and was given to her on the strength of her Minnesota certificate by Prof. W.F. Jones, then county superintendent who told her she would not need to take the Yakima examinations for a license. Later he informed her that she must appear before the examining board. In this examination an ~~addition~~ arithmetic problem which she had worked correctly but not according to the examiner's method was marked wrong.

She was given only a second grade certificate. This was something of a blow as she wished to secure a territorial certificate and to be eligible to take the examination she must have a first grade county license.

Shortly after this Mrs. Meystre met the Kittitas county superintendent who advised her to go to Ellensburg and take the county examinations under her. She did this and won first grade

certificate, Then she went to Olympia and secured a territorial certificate from J.H. Morgan, then territorial superintendent, now Ellensburg teacher.

This had all taken place during the summer. During all this time she had been working with the idea of entering the race for county superintendent. The election was held in fall of 1888 and Mrs. Meystre, then Miss Hilda Engdahl, won on the Democratic ticket over two competitors. Her majority was five votes.

It was during the next two years as county superintendent that her real experiences came. Many of the incidents that were real hardships in those days bring smiles as she recalls them now. Yakima county then was much larger than now, including most of Benton county. There were 28 school districts, as compared with about 60 now. It was the duty of the superintendent to visit these schools regularly.

For the most part she made her trips on a little black pony and frequently they were so long that she had to change horses half way. She remembers one trip to Prosser which was made at night to the music of coyotes. Her hardest trip was to a school in a district called the "Glades" near the Klickitat county line made in the winter when the ground was covered with ice. She traveled all the way in the fear that her pony might slip and fall at any time. Even the trips she took on the railroad, newly built, were not without danger. While going to Kennewick on one of her visits the car ahead of the one she was riding in was derailed.

For her services as county superintendent she received the munificent salary of \$100 per year. She also taught her home school for which she received \$25 per month. In the early days the county superintendent always found it necessary to teach on the side in order to exist. The usual school term was 3 months, although a few ran an extra month.

Even though Washington was in the territorial stage in those days Mrs. Meystre found the country schools much better than in Minnesota where she had been teaching. Often in Minnesota reading was about the only subject taught but in Washington she found capable teachers and instructions in all the common branches.

School houses were crude and the equipment was almost nil but the students were there for business and no time was wasted. The floor of her Watanum school was covered with burlap and three rough boards served as a blackboard. Benches were home made and built for service rather than comfort. It frequently got so hot students had to pour water on the floor and sometimes had to go outside.

After her term as superintendent ended in 1890 Mrs. Meystre quite teaching until 1920 when she filled in for a term at the valley school. She sometimes thinks she would like to enter the game again but decides to devote her time to her famous dahlias--The Yakima Republic, Nov. 16, 1925.

School lands

Washington, Millions of acres belonging to western states being lands granted to the states by the federal government for school purposes are today tied up in forest reserves where they are unavailable, unsalable and virtually useless so far as the states are concerned.

Title to many of these school sections in forest reserves has never passed to the states though the equity exists and until the reserves are surveyed there is no way under existing law whereby the states can reap any profit or benefit from their extensive property rights within forest reserves.

Congress granted to the various public states sections 16 and 36 in every township, with the understanding that the states would dispose of these lands and apply the money so raised to establishment and maintenance of public schools and other educational institutions....

The list is not complete but embraces only a few of the states of the Northwest, Oregon, 16,221,368 acres in reserve, 900,000 school lands in the reserve.

Washington 12,065,500 acres in forest reserve, 700,000 in school reserve; Idaho 20,099,020 and 1,000,000; Montana 20,389,696 and 1,000,000; Wyoming 8,998,723 and 450,000.

...Rep. Hamer of Idaho, the first man to take hold of the subject, introduced a bill last session (special session spring) and his bill with all others will be considered by the committee. Representative Humphrey of Washington has a bill applicable to Washington.

On February 5 between the hours of 10 in the forenoon and 4 in the afternoon at the court house County Auditor Wilbur Crocker

will sell several tracts of school lands in Yakima county

Under the terms of the sale one tenth of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the sale and one tenth annually thereafter on the first day of March in each year with accrued interest at 6 per cent, provided however that any purchaser may make full payment at any time and secured a deed.

On the same date school lands in all the counties of the state will be sold. Tracts listed in Yakima, Benton, Kittitas and Klickitat counties.

Typical: Application No. 6615, NE 1-4 of NW 1-4 and lot 1 of section 18, township 15 north range 16 east WM containing 73 acres appraised at \$10 per acre or \$753.30 subject to an easement for a right of way for state road 60 feet in width over and across lot 1 as surveyed and platted and improvements approximating \$8. The Yakima Republic, January 21, 1910,

A new school district to be classified as No. 56 has been organized under the new ditch on the Moxee. Bonds will be voted to build a five-room school house.

County Superintendent Dickey says the large influx of new residents into that section has rendered the formation of the new district imperative as the number of children will make a big school--The Yakima Democrat, Sept. 28, 1901.

The Democrat scribe on Tuesday accepted the invitation of Senator Lesh and took a drive with that gentleman on his daily tour of inspection over the Moxee company's big ranch.

The first stop was made at the new hop house located on the company's land recently built by the Seattle Brewing & Malting co. . Here Senator Hembich of that corporation was found in the person busily superintending the dehydration drying of hops on the Bohemian plan.

That gentleman feels sanguine that he is producing a finished product that will compare favorably with the celebrated Bohemian hop. The Brewing Co. grow hops but have made a contract with the Moxee co. to supply them with the amount they desire to cure, a contract having been made for a period of five years.

The Moxee company have this year grown 110 acres of hops and the yield for this year is estimated at but little less than 100 ~~000~~ tons, the yield being about 20 per cent less than last year.

The Moxee corporation is by long odds the largest producer of alfalfa hay in the valley, about 800 acres of this great feeding crop being grown on the big ranch. A conservative estimate of this year's crop being 4,000 tons

The Moxee ranch will this year make a good showing in the production of fruit. A trip through the orchard where toothsome apples and pears on every hand were taxing to the utmost the capacity trees convinced the scribe of this. Particularly fine samples of Wolf River, King, Baldwin and other apples were secured..Sept. 28, 1901.

Moxee-Schools

The new French colonists in the Moxee want a school house near them that the ir children may be instructed in the language of the English.

County Superintendent Dickey has been petitioned to establish a district in the Moxee in which they reside. There are about 30 children of legal school age in that locality which will be materially increased when a new lot of immigrants arrive from the east within the next few days--Yakima Herald, Nov. 12, 1901.

Sunnyside

At the regular annual school election held for the Sunnyside district March 5, the question of bonding the district for erection of a high school building will be settled by the verdict of the voters.

Plans for the erection of a fine two-story pressed brick structure to cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000 have already been considered by the present board and the details will be laid before the voters.

The new building will be located on the public school lot on Mayhew street back of the site of the present public school building...Yakima Republic March 11, 1910.

Sunnyside voted for the new school building at the election Saturday, Yakima Republic, March 11, 1910.

Sunnyside

Sunnyside, Aug. 16, 1909—Sunnyside is to erect a modern brick high school building, the other high school building being full to overflowing.

A \$30,000 bond issue will cover all warranted indebtedness for the improvement.

The new cement-block city hall is being pushed along as rapidly as possible, so also is the electric plant which will be entirely of cement.

The Sunnyside high school building is now completed.

It is a two-story frame structure, 55 x 72 feet with an east wing 18 x 45 and a west wing 18 x 55.

There is a double entrance at the front and back. A large corridor extends the whole length of the building. On the first floor are four school rooms, 28 x 37 feet with two entrances to each.

Each room in the building is lighted from one side only, has its own cloak room and two sets of ventilators. All the rooms are connected with electric call bells.

The building was planned by George W. Ballard of Tacoma, the contractor, C. Hibager of Sunnyside. The school board, Lee A. Johnson, J.B. George and F.B. Noble. Modern and up to date furniture has been ordered by Rev. A.H. Lyons.

The old school building contained five rooms and until two years ago was ample for the schools. The last census enrolled 500 pupils in this district with 60 pupils for the high school or assembly room, we have 440 left for the eleven rooms or 40 each.

Two typewriters have been ordered for the business department. A drilled well, 150 feet deep will furnish the pupils with pure soft water. The schools will open September 12 with Miss L.K. Brown superintendent--Sunnyside Sun, August 25, 1904.

Wapato

C.K. Bidwell, who is now acting as night clerk at the Hotel Washington has been elected principal of schools at Wapato and will have charge of all the school work in that town during the next year.

The new principal was engaged as school teacher at Blackrock during the last year and made a record which indicates that his promotion is one of which he is worthy.

The Wapato schools have a term of nine months and there is a salary of \$100 a month in the position to which the North Yakima man has been elected-The Yakima Herald, July 1, 1910 1908.

Wapato

Wapato, April 24-- An \$85,000 union high school will be erected in Wapato by the Harrah, Parker, East Parker, Parker Heights and Wapato school districts if a movement in this district, which is to be launched here at a meeting of the directors of the three districts on May 4, is approved.

The matter has been considered at two preliminary meetings this week. A survey disclosed a 2 per cent tax levy would raise the money.

Under present plans the districts use the Wapato high school, paying tuition per pupil.--Yakima Republic, April 24, 1925.

Wapato

The new high school building was opened auspiciously at Wapato this morning. There was a large attendance of patrons, the members of the school board, County Superintendent S.S. Bush and others.

The new high school building has eight rooms and is modern in every respect.

The formal opening of the new high school building at Grandview will be held on Friday evening this week.

Yakima Republic, March 18, 1910.

The teachers' institute is now in session. The attendance has been large. R.B. Bryan of Olympia, state superintendent of public instruction and ex state Superintendent J.H. Morgan, principal of the schools of Chehalis, are present and taking an active part. 8-28-40