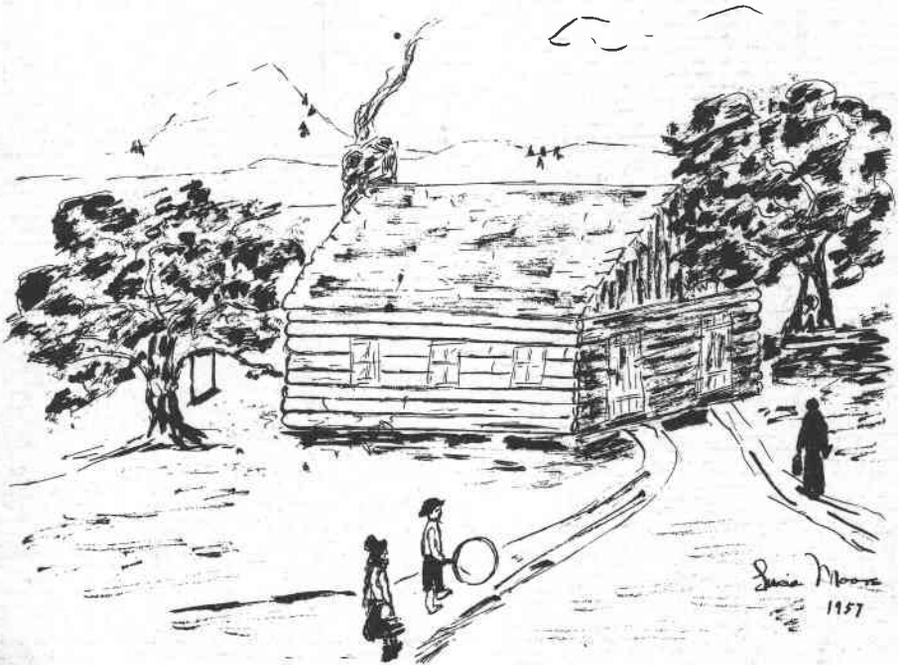


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Lane County HISTORIAN



Artist's conception of Eugene's first public school.

LANE COUNTY PIONEER ~ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 1 No. 3

EUGENE, OREGON

December 1956

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LANE COUNTY PIONEER ~ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2161 MADISON STREET, EUGENE, OREGON

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Board meeting, Lane County Pioneer - Historical Society. Held at the home of Daye M. Hulin (Mrs. Wilbur S.) Left to Right: Mrs. Frederica B. Coons, Elmo B. Chase, Mrs. Lucia W. Moore, P. M. Morse, Treas., Merle S. Moore, Pres., Claire Parks, V. Pres., (sitting), Mrs. Hulin, Membership Secy., Miss Pauline Walton, Rec. Cor. Secy., Robert E. Dodge and Ronald W. Husk, not in picture.

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No. 2 — June, 1956

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First Public School in Eugene, 1856.

—by Ruth Ellsworth Richardson

In Eugene the private school had an exceedingly firm hold, owing doubtless to the fact that a large proportion of the early settlers came from states where public education was not greatly developed. In fact to many of these people who came from good families in the southern border states — Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri — it seemed a bit degrading to send their children to a public school.

For the first twenty years after the white settlers came to Eugene, there were a great many private schools, ranging all the way from a college to a kindergarten taught by a woman in her home. Probably the very first school in Eugene was a private school "at the point of the hills" located near the present site of the Masonic Cemetery. It was a small one room log cabin heated by a fireplace. This first school was built about 1853 and was taught by Miss Sarah Ann Moore, a sister of Mrs. John D. Hampton (Mary Moore). Sarah and Mary were the daughters of William and Eleanor (Limerick) Moore whose donation land claim was about four miles southwest of the school. Sarah rode horseback to her school.

In the 60's and early 70's there were five or six private schools with an average attendance of about 135. The most select of these was the Seminary on the east end of Skinner Butte facing south. This was taught by Mr. Chapman and attended by the children of Eugene's "first families".

On November 3, 1856 the new Columbia College, established by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, opened its doors. This was built in the middle of the block fac-

ing north on Nineteen Street between Olive and Charnelton. A marker has been placed at that location by the Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers. Columbia College had been open only three days when it burned to the ground. Beginning November 8, with the loss of one day, school was opened in an old tavern. Columbia was rebuilt at once. Within a year the second building was destroyed by fire. A third building, this time of sandstone was built.

The only thing we have to remind us of this first college in Eugene is the name College Hill. The district one mile southwest of College Hill is called College Crest. This is all very confusing to newcomers to the city because there hasn't been a college in that district for more than a hundred years.

About the time that Columbia began registering students, the first public school was opened in the new district schoolhouse on the south side of Eleventh Street near Olive.

In September 1849 the Territorial Legislature passed the first general school law providing for a system of common schools. This act was elaborated by the acts of January 31, 1853 and January 12, 1854. Under this revised school law, public schools began in Eugene. The counties of the state were districted by the state school superintendent and a tax of two mills levied by the commissioners of each county for the support of the schools. Such a tax was to be collected in the same manner as other taxes and to be distributed among the districts (together with the proceeds of a prospective state

fund) in proportion to the number of children between four and twenty-one years of age.

In April 1856 the Lane County Court passed an order transferring to the directors of school district No. 4 two lots (No. 2 and fractional No. 3) in Block 21 of the town-site. The conditions were that they pay to the County Treasurer \$10 and erect a building within two years. The building was erected that summer and the deed executed September 9. Lots No. 2 and No. 3, Block 21, Mulligan Donation, are located at the southeast corner of Eleventh and Olive Streets. This property, now a used car lot, is the site of the first public school in Eugene. A marker has been erected by the children of the American Revolution on the site.

That schoolhouse erected during the summer of 1856 was the first public school in Eugene and the fourth in Lane County. Until very recently the Eugene City Schools were known as Lane County District No. 4. After a great many outlying schools were consolidated with the Eugene Public School System it was necessary to change the number according to state law. The Eugene Public Schools are now known as Lane County District No. 504C.

Pleasant Hill where Elijah Bristow settled had the first public school in Lane County and is still called District No. 1. Cloverdale was District No. 2 but it has been consolidated. It is interesting to note here that the Cascade Academy at Cloverdale was opened in 1853 and was the first institution of higher learning in Lane County. It was taught by Martin Blanding, a Yale graduate. Trent was District No. 3 but it is also consolidated.

The first public school building in Eugene was a one room log

building 45'x30' with a dirt floor. It was heated by a fireplace. A horse was used to drag large logs in for the fire. There were two doors on the north and one large door on the south. There were three windows on the east and three on the west. The pupils had benches but no desks. The teacher had a home-made desk. A shelf for books and writing ran along one side under the windows. There were few books and most of the work was oral.

There were wooden pegs driven into the logs on which to hang the children's wraps. A bench held a wooden pail and a gourd for drinking water.

The boys usually went to school barefoot until eight or ten years old as all shoes worn in the early days either had to be shipped around the Horn or made at home. The girls wore heavy copper-toed shoes. The shoe strings were made of buckskin by the fathers of the children. These were narrow strips of buckskin soaked in water until they could be stretched small enough to use. While still wet the ends were rolled between the fingers to make points so they could be easily laced.

The boys wore homespun trousers and home-made caps, the patterns for which were passed around town. Until they were about twelve years old the girls wore short dresses. After that the dresses were lengthened a few inches each year until they reached the shoe tops when the girls were about sixteen. The girls frequently wore sunbonnets or shakers.

The early public schools in Eugene were ungraded. On Friday afternoons programs and spelldowns were held. Instead of a report card, an award such as a small book was given for excellence in school work.

Some of the early textbooks used were: The Blueback Speller, Wilson's Reader, Webster's Speller, Sander's Reader, Ray's Arithmetic, Thompson's Arithmetic, Montieth's Geography, and Smith's and Clark's Grammar.

Dr. Andrew W. Patterson, a young man who had graduated with an MD degree in Pennsylvania in 1841, taught writing and music in the new public school. With Samuel Simpson he wrote three school readers and compiled a speller. For the years 1882-86 he was County Superintendent. His daughter, Miss Ida Patterson, was for many years an elementary principal in the city schools. On Alder Street near Thirteenth Avenue facing east, the Patterson School stood as a memorial to the family for many years until it was torn down because it was considered unsafe to use. At the present time a new elementary school is being constructed on Taylor Street to be called the Ida Patterson School.

The district was quite fortunate in selecting Mr. J. H. Rogers for its first teacher. He was a college man from Connecticut. He was prepared to teach Latin in addition to the common branches so pupils came to him from the country round about, making his school a rival of Columbia College.

The Oregon State Journal of 1862 mentions Miss Elisabeth Boise who closed the term of the district school on January 28, 1862 and immediately opened a select school for the summer at the same place. Some of the early public school teachers were: Nathan Hull who was teaching in 1864-65; John Gilbert who taught 1866-69 and was remembered as a popular and capable schoolmaster; Miss Joanna Medly who was his assistant and later his wife. Robert Robe was the

first county superintendent 1851-55.

For the year 1865 we have the clerk's report. It shows that the district had 159 voters (male); there were 110 females and 124 males over four years and under twenty years of age. The public schools had an average attendance of 80 pupils.

In 1868 the school grew rapidly and there was much public interest over the election of a school director. In 1869, before election the Journal remarked editorially "Let all interested in having our schools conducted as they should be, come out and elect such men as will carry out the wishes of those who feel an interest in the education of our youth". Mr. E. L. Bristow was chosen director. A vote prevailed in favor of levying a 5 mill tax "for the purpose of repairing the present building and putting on an addition."

Two wings 36' x 16' were added to the original building; the logs were covered with siding and painted white. Later when this building was replaced by the new Central School in 1878 one of these wings was moved on Charnelton to the east side of the street between Eighth and Broadway. It was torn down when the Bon Marche was built on that property.

The Journal of April, 1869, states that the wings were soon added. A year later February 26, 1870 the Journal states that the attendance "was so large as to make it necessary to have three teachers."

The years 1870-72 were a period of transition when the attitude of the people changed and the public school clearly became the most important school in town. In the years 1872-74 the struggle for a state university to be located in Eugene took first place.

In 1878 the new Central School was opened on the school property at Eleventh and Olive. At first Central School was one story high with four rooms. Later a second story of four rooms was added. This eight room wooden building stood until it was torn down in 1942, although it had not been used as a school for many years. The brick high school which we now know as the City Hall was built in 1903 on the east end of the same half block.

The state school fund appears to have contributed little until 1874. In 1860 the district received from the county the sum of \$440.39. The school year lasted six months. In 1878 the directors asked the patrons to pay a rate of 50c per quarter for each pupil. By this time the school had been thoroughly graded under the supervision of Professor T. G. Bell.

A few of the old settlers who are still living remember the Old Red Top Tavern which was located at the present site of the Osburn Hotel. This was first a private school owned by Reverend Enoch Pinkney Henderson. He had been president of Columbia College and was familiarly called "Pinky". In 1875 Old Red Top was used as an annex to the public schools. Mr. Frank Grub was the principal in charge. Miss Emma Fisher taught the older children downstairs and Miss Molly Bushnell taught the little children upstairs.

All the early school records were destroyed by fire in 1910 so it is necessary to depend on material published before that date or the anecdotes of early residents.

A partial list of early public school pupils. Many of these people attended the Eugene Public School a year or two and then went to a private academy in Eugene or a neighboring town.

Ashley, Ella (Mrs. Campbell)
 Belshaw, Edith (Mrs. Linton)
 " Mary (Mrs. George Kinsey)
 " William
 Blair, Robert
 Bristow, Darwin
 " Edith
 " Iola
 Brown, Ella
 " John
 " Sophrona
 Brumley, Addis (Mrs. Gill)
 " Ed
 " Laura (Mrs. Whitney)
 Bushnell, Helen
 " Molly (Mrs. M.M. Davis)
 Campbell, Ira
 " John
 " William
 Castleman, George
 " Stephen
 Christian, John
 " William
 Dorris, Ed
 " George
 Dunn, Irena (Mrs. C. S. Williams)
 " Laura (Mrs. G. O. Yoran)
 " Luella (Mrs. G. A. Dorris)
 Ellsworth, Hattie (Mrs. McDonald)
 Emmons, Samantha (Mrs. Dillard)
 Gray, Ella
 " John
 " Maggie (Mrs. Miller)
 " Walter
 Henderson, Dora (Mrs. Peters)
 Hill, Mary (Mrs. Cox)
 Huddleston, Henry
 Humphrey, Clay
 " Norris
 " William
 Iles, Alice
 " Ellen
 " Laura
 Jones, Wesley
 Killingsworth, William
 Kincaid, Elizabeth (Mrs. Jos. Gale)
 " George
 " Mary Alice
 " John
 Locke, Elsie

Luckey, George
 " Joseph
 " Mollie
 McCornack, Eugene
 " Edward
 " Helen (Mrs. Stevenson)
 " Herbert
 " Nettie (Mrs. Collier)
 " Walter
 " William
 McMurry, Emma
 " Scott
 " Zattuck
 Mulholland, Kitty (Mrs. Milliron)
 Osburn, Agnes (Mrs. Harding)
 " Augusta (Mrs. McDonald)
 " Currin
 " Della (Mrs. Whipple)
 " Frank
 " William
 Risdon, Ella
 " Gus
 Scott, Matilda
 " Rose
 Skinner, Leonora
 " Mary Elizabeth
 " Phoebe (Mrs. J. D. Kinsey)
 Smith, Hulda (Mrs. McClanahan)
 Spencer, Jefferson
 " Steven
 Stevens, Jasper
 " Nellie
 Wallis, Smead
 Walker, Maggie (Mrs. Harlow)
 " Mary (Mrs. Eakin)
 White, Sarah (Mrs. Taylor)
 Whiteaker, Charles
 Snodgras, Pliny
 " Ada
 " Nellie

Early Teachers in Eugene Private and Public Schools*

1853—Miss Sarah Ann Moore, supposed to be the very first school teacher in Eugene; taught in a one room log cabin in the southeast section of Eugene.
1856—J. H. Rogers, well educated, middle-aged man from Connecti-

cut; taught first public school in Eugene City.

185 —Professor Bernard Cornelius, graduate of Trinity College, Dublin taught an exclusive private school at the east end of Skinners Butte called the Eugene Academy; Rev. Johnson McCormac, assistant.
185 —Miss Mosse taught a private school at the corner of 11th and Pearl.

1856—Enoch Pinkney Henderson, M.A., Waynesville College, Pennsylvania, was president of Columbia College on 19th near Olive.

1862-63—Miss Lizzie Boise taught in the first Eugene Public School.

1864-65—Nathan Hull taught in the first Eugene Public School.

1865-69—John Gilbert taught in the first Eugene Public School.

1865—Mrs. Belden had a private school for little children.

Miss Anna Underwood (married 1867 Colin T. Finlayson) had a select private school in the small Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner of 8th and Lincoln at the present location of the W O W Hall.

Miss Rebecca Elizabeth (Lizzie) taught with Miss Underwood. She later became the first wife of Judge J. J. Walton.

186 —Mrs. William Odell taught a private school on the Butte.

1865-69—John Gilber, taught in the first Eugene Public School. Joanna Medley, assistant, sister-in-law, and later wife of John Gilbert.

1868—Miss Kate Andrews had a private school.

Miss Leona Iles, assistant.
1871—Miss Leonora Goltra (married John Williams) had a private school in Red Top Tavern

1870—Marietta Henderson opened a private school in Red Top.

1870-73—John C. Arnold taught a select academy on the Butte, 48 students.

Mrs. John C. Arnold (Effie), assistant.

Robert Veatch, assistant.

1871—I. Allen McCrum started a private business school and college preparatory academy on the Butte which lasted one term.

1872—Prof. Blake opened a private school (probably a business school) in the Butte Academy.

1873—Miss Maggie Patton had a private school.

1874—Rev. D. McManus opened the St. John High School in a building known as the Butte Academy.

1875—Red Top Tavern was used as an annex to Eugene's First Public School. Mr. Frank Grub, principal (married a daughter of Jason Lee). Miss Emma Fisher (second wife of Judge J. J. Walton, a regent of the university). Miss Molly Bushnell (married Dr. M. M. Davis). Miss Lizzie Geary.

? —Mrs. Martin Blanding (Carrie) "taught in Mr. Henderson's school building".

? —Miss Cornelia Killingsworth taught a private school thought to have been in the back of the lot on Willamette Street where Miller's Store now stands.

Early Lane County School Superintendents

1851-55—Robert Robe

1855-56—R. H. Parsons

1856-57—D. M. Risdon

1858-60—J.H.D. Henderson

1860-62—Daniel Locke

1864-66—Nathan Hull

1868-70—J. W. Skaggs

1870-74—Thos. Grundy Hendricks

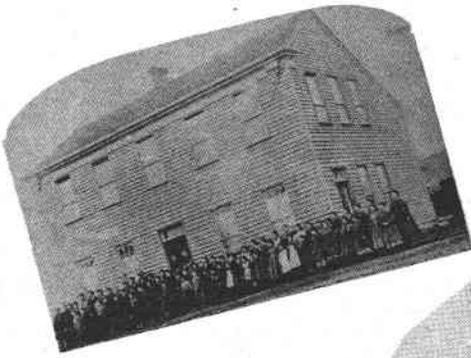
1875 —Rufus G. Callison

1862-64—Ben Underwood.....

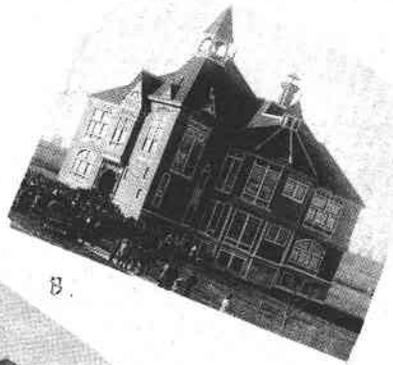
1882-86—A. W. Patterson

Eugene Public Schools, Board of Education and teachers, 1898-99. Left: Central School teachers — clockwise from upper left: Nettie Kress, Charlie Scott, Ida Patterson, Mrs. Humphreys, Emma Chase, unidentified, Ella Fisher (Day), Miss Wylie, Willa Hanna (Beattie). Right: Geary School teachers — clockwise from upper left: Miss Anderson, Edith Kerns (Chambers), Fannie Millican, Emma Wold, Olive Waller, Miss Norris (Johnson), E. E. Orton, Blanche Taylor (Thurston). School Board, lower left: Stewart B. Eakin, J. H. McClung, E. Swartzchild, George Crawford. Superintendent E. D. Ressler in center.

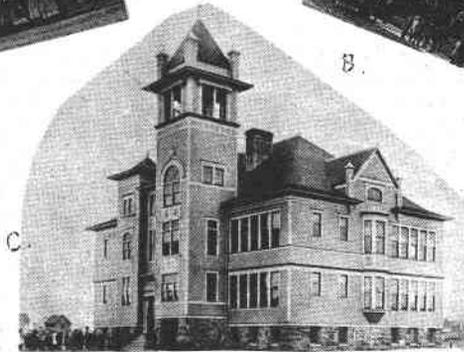




A.



B.



C.



D.



E.

A. RED TOP SCHOOL, 1860's and 70's, northwest corner 8th and Pearl Street — present Osburn Hotel site. Originally a private school operated by Rev. E. P. (Pinky) Henderson who was formerly president of Columbia College in Eugene. It was used in 1875 as an annex to the public school. Picture loaned through courtesy of Mrs. L. E. Bellman, grand-daughter of Rev. E.P.H.

B. GEARY SCHOOL, 1890 to 1933, north side West Fourth between Madison and Monroe Streets. Eugene's second elementary school, used since 1938 as a vocational school.

C. PATTERSON SCHOOL, west side Alder Street between 12th and 13th. Dedicated November 8, 1901 and closed in 1930. Named for Dr. A. W. Patterson, Lane County pioneer of 1851, it became Eugene's third grade school — along with Central and Geary.

D. CENTRAL SCHOOL, 1856 and 1878, south side of 11th between Willamette and Olive Streets. Was Eugene City's first public school — originally a dirt floor, log building, and later (in 1878) replaced by the above structure. Building sold in 1916 several years after discontinuance as a school, with the building of Condon and Lincoln.

E. EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL, the original Lane County Court House built in 1855 and moved back to the southeast corner of 7th and Oak Streets in 1897 to make room for the present Court House. Used as the first high school from 1898 to 1900.

Pleasant Hill School Reunion

—by Ruby Baughman Mathews (Mrs. Henry C.)

On a day last June, a group of old schoolmates of Pleasant Hill and adjoining districts got together at the Willamalane Memorial Building in Springfield, for a day of visiting and renewing of old acquaintances.

Following a pot-luck dinner there was a short program which had been arranged by Lelah Parks. The oldest persons present were William Wheeler, born Nov 16, 1865 and his wife Emma Bond Wheeler born July 25, 1866, both natives of Lane County. The next oldest was Ross Mathews, born Feb. 8, 1870. He was a teacher for many years in Lane County. His first term was taught at Dexter in 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler were presented with a plant and a corsage, honoring their coming 70th wedding anniversary Dec. 15, 1956.

A birthday card for George W. Milam was signed by several old pupils and friends to be sent to him for his 90th birthday, July 25th. He taught several terms at Pleasant Hill beginning about 1899.

A quilt made by the women of Pleasant Hill Church 55 years ago was on display. There were about 300 names of people living there, and of others, embroidered on it.

The group spent some time singing old hymns led by William Wheeler with Lera Baughman, pianist. The names of the older persons signing the guest book were:

Mrs. Myrtie Slayter Hamlin
Mrs. Fannie Cornelius Leggett
Mr. & Mrs. John Gilbert
Mrs. Ora Read Hemenway
Mrs. Vina Gilbert Smith
Mrs. Nancy Wooten Danstrom
Mrs. Malva Buckanan Drury

Mrs. Blanche Warbinton Allphin
Claire Parks
Pearl Ashby Parks (Mrs. Claire)
Harry Shelley
Myrtle Buckanan Shelley (Mrs. H)
Miss Lelah Parks
Mis Venice Callison
Fred Louk
Genevieve Howe Louk (Mrs. Fred)
Fred Papenfus
Linda Papenfus
Mrs. Dora Bringle Elliott
Mrs. Belle Keeney Williams
Robert Baughman
Lora Wheeler Baughman (Mr. R.)
Owan Thompson
Maggie Walsh Thompson (Mrs. O.)
Chill Walsh
Mrs. Lucy Mulkey Gutleben
Tom Parks
Althea Statzer Parks (Mrs. T.)
Mrs. Bert Beaver
Edward Swift
Henry C. Mathews
Ruby Baughman Mathews (Mrs.H)
Mrs. Bertha Sergent Meikle
Leta Buchanan Spencer
Mrs. Pearl Bridges Nixon
Mrs. Pearl Gilbert Mack
William L. Wheeler
Emma Bond Wheeler (Mrs. Wm.)
Ross Mathews
Alice Root Mathews (Mrs. R.)
Mrs. Lena Stockwell McFarland
Maggie Jacoby Logsdon
Mrs. Retta Smith Olson
Mrs. Leta Mathews Goff
Mrs. Ada Davis Hall
Mary Gray Mathews (Mrs. Bert)
Mrs. Frankie Mathews Drury
Miss Nellie Mathews
Oren C. Davis
Nellie Drury Davis (Mrs. O.)
Frank Cooper
Elsie Parks Cooper (Mrs. F.)
Alta Mulkey Fields

Gainey Jacoby
 Hattie Innis Jacoby (Mrs. G.)
 Lloyd Parks
 Mrs. Mary Gilbert Bishop
 Archie Cornelius
 Mrs. Ivy Beaver Lord
 Royce Jacobs
 Carrie Beaver (Mrs. R.)
 1857-58 Jas. W. Skaggs

The Pleasant Hill school was started in 1850 on a site donated by Elijah Bristow, but there was no regular organization or records kept until 1853 or '54. William W. Bristow, son of Elijah, Lane County's first settler, was the first teacher in 1850.

The old records list the teachers as follows:

1857-58 Jas. W. Skaggs
 1860-61 Joel Vail
 1861-62 Miss Nancy Henderson
 1861-62 J. H. Hill
 1862-63 James W. Skaggs
 1864- John Bell
 1864-65 Joseph Sharp
 1864-65 Martha McCall
 1866-67 Henry S. Ward
 1867 N. Hull
 1868 O. F. Knox
 1868 J. Brookshire
 1869 N. Hull
 1870 L. B. Mitchell
 1870 H. S. Ward
 1870 Mary Saflin
 1870 or 3 D. W. Bridges
 1872 or 3 Oscar Knox
 1874 Thomas J. Gill
 1878 S. T. Durkee
 1875-76 H. T. Bristow
 1876 T. J. Gill
 1876 Alma Reynolds
 1877 Miss S. J. Walker
 1877 J. M. Neville
 1878 S. T. Durkee
 1878 Jessie Martin
 1878 J. J. Bristow
 1878-79 Jessie Martin (Marlin)
 1878-79 Bertha Cook
 1878-79 Miss L. J. Walker

1880 Miss J. F. Adams
 1880-81 H. T. Bristow
 1881 A. S. Melcher
 1882-83 Mrs. A. Handsaker
 1883 Mrs. Alma Barbry
 1883 Maggie Whitney
 1883 Miss Ann Whitaker
 1883-84 B. F. Mulkey
 1885-86 B. Frank Mulkey
 1886 D. W. Bridges
 1886 Clide Barbry
 1887 Thomas Mulkey
 1888-89 William Sellers
 1899- G. W. Milam
 1900-01 G. W. Milam
 1901-02 Sadie Warbinton
 1902-03 L. Branden Gibson

Others who taught before 1900:

H. S. Hunt
 Mrs. H. S. Hunt
 Rufus Callison
 Ross Mathews
 Ellis R. Parker
 Gertrude Harwood
 Lizzie Baughman
 Ethel Taylor
 Hortense Parker
 James Donaldson
 After 1900:
 Julius McCready

After 1900:

Julius McCready
 George Norris
 Miss Pratt
 Mill Taylor
 Mrs. Howard
 Ruby Baughman
 Lelah Parks
 Faith Holdredge
 Mrs. Clark
 Mrs. Phelps
 Minerva Hemenway
 Edna Bristow

Some teachers in the neighboring Evenvale Dist. —

Before 1890

Effie Williams (Mrs. Fenton)
 Mary Drake (Mrs. Hill)
 Nellie Snodgrass (Mrs. Moore)

1890-1900

Oscar Eby
Alma Gardner
James Kelley
John J. Handsaker
Miss Lena Callison

Miss Maggie Callison
Miss Fannie Hayes
Moses Gum
Sadie Warbinton
Lena Blume



History of Lane County Public Square

—by Attorney Leon L. Ray, former President of the Oregon Trail Pageant Association

At the July, 1853 term of the Commissioner's Court for Lane County an order was made, directing that a survey be made of the donations given by Charnel Mulligan and E. F. Skinner for the use of Lane County as a donation for a Seat of Justice; and the order further provided that the Clerk proceed as soon as possible and employ workmen to build a Clerk's office fronting on the Public Square on the corner of said survey. This is the first mention of a Public Square in the records of Lane County. This order grew out of the following circumstances:

Skinner and Mulligan had each agreed to give the County 40 acres of land for the establishment of a County Seat. The Commissioners were ordering the survey and platting into town lots of this 80 acres. Although not expressly so stated in the record, nevertheless, on account of the reference to a Public Square in relationship to the proposed construction of a Clerk's office, it is evident that the County Commissioners contemplated the location of a Public Square somewhere within the 80 acre tract.

A survey of the property was made and the County sold certain lots out of the same by reference to lot and block numbers. There is competent evidence to show that a plat was drawn and filed with the County Clerk, showing the results of this survey which divided the

property into city blocks, streets and a public square. The plat, however, was not recorded and no copy of the same is now available.

In 1854 Skinner and Mulligan executed bonds to guarantee the execution of deeds conveying their respective 40 acres of land after their patents for the same had been received from the government. Deeds conveying the property, however, were not executed until 1856. It was not until after the execution of the Mulligan Deed that Commissioner's Court, at the April, 1856 term, ordered that the Clerk record, in his book for recording deeds, the townplat of Eugene, now in his office. This the Clerk did on the 5th day of May 1856. This plat covers the two donations and an Addition by Mulligan on the East and an Addition by Mulligan on the West. Lane County, being the owner of the land covered by the two donations, in filing this plat, which is called the Plan of Eugene City, was acting as a subdivider. The plat, as recorded, contains a Public Square not divided into lots or streets and the memorandum by the side of the plat refers, definitely, to the size of the lots surrounding the Public Square but no actual dedication of the Public Square appears on the plat.

At its September, 1854 term the Board of Commissioners had dedicated a Public Square, but the block numbers used in its order do

not conform to the block numbers of the Public Square on the Plat which was recorded. It is evident that either an error was made at the time of setting up the description or, and what is more probable, the description referred to an original and earlier plat; but, regardless of this discrepancy, at the April, 1855 term, the Commissioners authorized the Clerk to enter into a contract for the erection of a Courthouse in the center of the Public Square, as located by said Board on the 7th day of December, 1854, and both the order and the contract for the construction of the Courthouse refer to that location. It is known that this Courthouse was erected at the center of 8th and Oak Streets. There is, therefore, apparently no question but that the land referred to in the original order of dedication is the same land which was designated as a Public Square in the Plan of Eugene City as recorded. In view of these circumstances, there appears to be no question concerning the actual dedication of the Public Square by Court order and by the County Court later selling the remainder of the property in the two donations with reference to a map which clearly indicated the loca-

tion of a Public Square. To confirm this matter and to correct any discrepancies arising out of the two descriptions, the Board of County Commissioners, in 1896, ordered the County Surveyor to make a survey of the Public Square and to file the same. This resurvey was made and the actual effect of the same was to reaffirm the earlier dedications.

It is the theory of those who oppose the use of the present Park Blocks for City purposes or the sale of the same that this property is dedicated property and cannot be used for any other purpose than that covered by the dedication; that such dedication is irrevocable and that, while title to the property is vested in fee simple in the County, nevertheless, the County Court is required to recognize the public's interest in the property, as well as that of the lot owners in the Skinner and Mulligan Donations, who have purchased property on the representation of Lane County that these Park Blocks are a part of the Public Square, and that they have a right in addition to their rights as a part of the general public to insist upon the property being used for the purposes for which it was dedicated.

Coburg Glass Factory, 1907 - 1908

—by Lee H. Nelson

Just after the turn of the century, Eugene with the rest of Oregon emerged from the so-called 'Cleveland depression', and entered a period of general prosperity. The resulting economic, cultural and social amenities showed promise of adding a genuine urban flavor to the community.

In 1903 Eugene got her long awaited \$20,000 'Opera House' that became the local pride and evoked

envy even from distant Albany. Several more years of "progressive" debate settled the question of whether Eugene wanted and would support a \$10,000 Carnegie library. The Commercial Club was organized to promote "booster" activities and to proclaim the new found prosperity.

During 1907 the Eugene General Hospital was built and filled another gap in bringing Eugene to the

big city status. That same year streetcar tracks were laid down Willamette Street. Electric trolleys and a few autos marked the beginning of a new era.

People could boast, and did, of nearly every trade and business necessary for city living; livery stables were converted to automobile garages, excelsior factories and sawmills worked night and day; ice plants, foundries and new department stores coupled with the 'Opera House' and library attested to the completeness of the community—almost.

Taking advantage of the prosperous times and the local pride a Norwegian named Mathisen, on March 9, 1907, filed articles of incorporation at the Lane County court house and organized a glass blowing factory! Capital stock was to be \$10,000 at \$100.00 per share. The newly organized corporation purchased property at the neighboring town of Coburg, a bustling sawmill community. Many of the local residents purchased stock in this promising venture. To secure skilled glass blowers, the promoters imported workers from Scandinavia. A Eugene paper, watching the progress, noted the latest development:

Coburg's glass factory seems to be a sure go. The buildings have been started and eight families are expected to arrive from Sweden some time this month, all of whom have been connected with glass working all their lives. The sand will be shipped in from Pennsylvania or Indiana.

After the erection of the buildings, equipment was installed and the Frazer Iron Works of Eugene built a large hood for the glass furnace. Finally in September 1907 the

glass blowers arrived and commenced blowing:

The Norwegian glass blowers who lately came to Coburg to open a glass factory will soon be making lamp chimneys, fruit jars, and the like. They have already made some handsome paper weights. They are excellent musicians, and play almost every instrument you can name.

As an advertising stunt the blowers mass produced a round paper weight of colored glass full of bubbles. Whether the bubbles were intentional or not seems to be in doubt. At any rate these paper weights found their way into various Chamber of Commerce offices. One such paper weight produced such a sensation in Portland that the **Telegram** announced the 'first glass made in Oregon' as 'indicating the vast possibilities', all of which added up to the 1907 version of free advertising:

Secretary E. C. Giltner, of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, has received a specimen of the first glass made in Oregon, from the factory of D. Mathisen at Coburg. This specimen is in the form of a paper weight, and of the pale blue color of the insulators used on telegraph poles. It is considered quite a curiosity on account of its indicating the vast possibilities in the glass manufacturing industry of the state. The new glass factory was started without any flourish of trumpets, Mr. Giltner says, and it is now prepared to make all kinds of glass, including window panes, bottles, mirrors, etc. The owner of the new plant writes to E. M. Cedarbergh, of this city, in regard to obtaining some chemicals

used in the manufacture of glass in northern Europe. Mr. Cederbergh is vice-consul in this city for Norway and Sweden, and the new glass-maker is a Norwegian. The extent of the plant is not known here, but its importance is duly appreciated.

Coburg is a station on the Southern Pacific, in the north-eastern part of Lane County, where a good quality of sand for the making of glass is found, and where the facilities for obtaining salt are considered as good as in any portion of the state.

Another paper weight was given to a railroad conductor who displayed it to the Albany **Democrat**, which proudly noted that the Albany Iron Works had made the molds used in casting the Coburg glass fruit jars. They also called attention to that wonder of the 20th century, a glass blower who could blow two lamp chimneys at one time:

Conductor Jack Sellers this morning brought a glass paper weight with him down from Coburg, a present from the new glass works there, an ingenious affair. The new glass works at that place have been running several months and are doing a big business. The factory is working almost exclusively on fruit jars and lamp chimneys, having orders for several carloads of the former, a splendid quality of goods being made. The jars are molded, the Albany iron works having made the molds, while the chimneys are blown. The Coburg factory has the distinction of having a blower who can blow two chimneys at

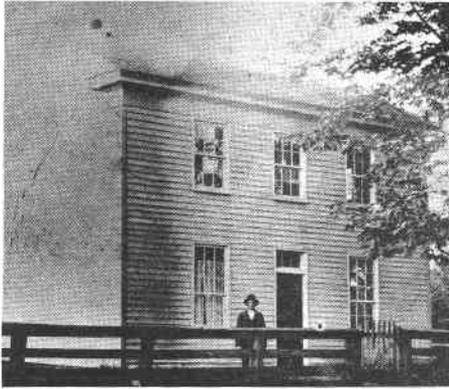
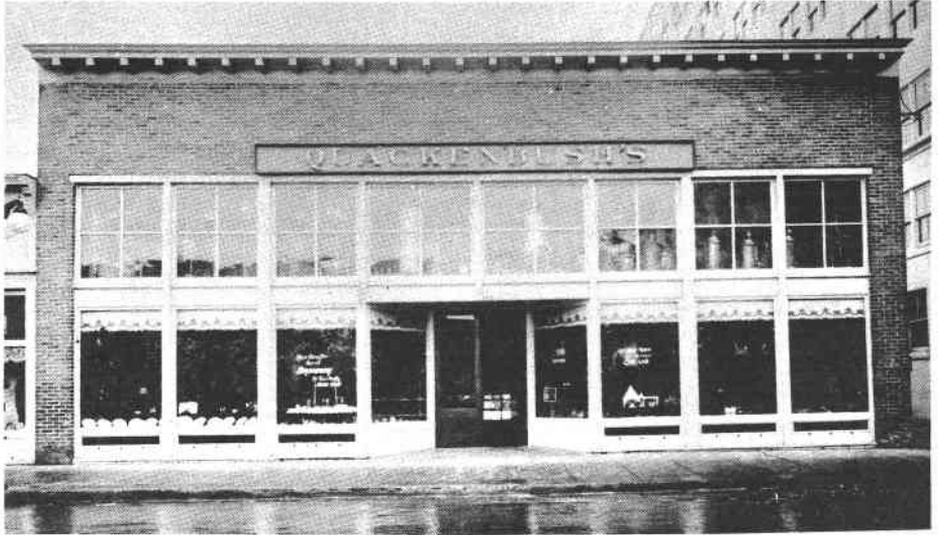
a time, said to be the only man in the United States who can do it. The works are an interesting place and a busy one now.

In spite of all the promotion it seems that snags developed. Blowing was one thing, but blowing without bubbles was another. Carload quantities of imported clear glass fruit jars gave stiff competition to local fruit jars with bubbles. The sale of lamp chimneys was not enough to sustain the business, and paper weights were merely a novelty, not a household necessity. Labor troubles created a further problem.

In one short year the unique craft of glass blowing had entered the scene and passed into the hands of receivers. The Eugene **Morning Register** reported in a matter-of-fact tone:

There is a large deposit of sand near Coburg, suitable for the making of the cheaper grades of glass, and some time ago a couple of glassmakers secured a bonus and created a glass factory at this place. They were practical workmen, but entirely unfitted as business managers, and domestic troubles coming up, the company went into the hands of a receiver and the plant is now idle.

The buildings were abandoned and later used for warehousing. One local resident used them for storing potatoes and maintained a winter fire to keep them from freezing. The buildings burned and remained so for many years. Finally the foundations and boiler footings were blasted out with dynamite and the property leveled for a baseball field.



QUACKENBUSH HARDWARE STORE

160 EAST BROADWAY

Since 1903

**Old Uncle Charlie Boren home—
(Now site of Quackenbush store)**

**Oldest retail store in Eugene
under same management for fifty-
four years.**

Mr. Arthur Quackenbush promoted the idea of changing the name of Ninth Street to Broadway, and in so doing hoped to make it the active shopping street it is now becoming.

Eugene Masonic Centennial, 1956

—from "Brief History of Eugene Lodge No. 11, A.F. & A.M."

On September 15, 1855, under the sponsorship of Salem Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M. a dispensation was issued to "Spencer Butte Lodge" A.F. & A.M. On September 29 the Lodge was organized in Eugene City, Oregon Territory, with L. S. Rogers, Worshipful Master, J.B. Alexander, Senior Warden, and S. O. Cox, Junior Warden. In 1856 a petition to the Grand Lodge requested a change in the name to "Eugene City Lodge No. 11, A. F. & A.M."

On July 20, 1856, the Lodge was dedicated to the Holy Saints John by Most Worshipful Grand Master, A. M. Belt, assisted by Bro. A.A. Smith, acting as Grand Marshall. The first officers were L.S. Rogers, Worshipful Master, S. A. Cox, (whose name was later changed to Samuel Ashley) Senior Warden, and W. W. Bristow, Junior Warden.

On its rolls at the time of dedication there were 16 members, 2 Fellowcraft Masons and 4 Entered Apprentice Masons, as follows; Lewis S. Rogers, W. M., Samuel A. Cox, S.W., W.W. Bristow, J. W., Hiram Smith, Treas., Avery A. Smith, Secy., J.S. Swearingen, Tyler, J. B. Alexander, N. Markham, A. A. McCully, D. W. Keith, G.W. Ward, S. H. Taylor, H. Bony, Alfred Orton, J. S. Hall. The FC.s were; Eugene F. Skinner and Samuel Hannah. The EA.s were; David McCully, E. E. Haft and John Bratton.

On April 2, 1859, after considerable investigation and consideration, the Lodge ordered the purchase of 6 acres of land on the farm of Fielden McMurry, Southeast of Eugene City for \$200.00 to be used

as a "burial ground" for Masons and the public. On October 8th of the same year 4 more acres were purchased adjoining, making 10 acres in all.

The plot is now known as the Masonic Cemetery in the Southeast part of Eugene and is entirely surrounded by a residential area. Many of the citizens prominently identified with the early history of the community and the Lodge have found their final resting place in this peaceful spot.

On July 11, 1894, upon petition, the Grand Lodge eliminated the word "City" from the title and the official name since that time has been "Eugene Lodge . . ." The Lodge's first home was a room rented from Avery A. Smith for an annual rental of \$162.50.

The first petition for degrees of Masonry was received from Eugene F. Skinner, the founder of the city and for whom it was named, who lived in a cabin on the West slope of Skinner's Butte. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 30, 1856.

On December 15, 1886 a committee consisting of R. S. Bean, J. B. Gray, F. B. Dunn, Charles Lauer and F. W. Osburn was appointed to proceed with plans for the erection of a lodge building. Under their supervision land was purchased and a brick building was erected on Eighth Ave., between Willamette and Olive Sts. (recently the Red Cross building).

On April 1, 1925, a building committee consisting of F. W. Hathaway, Chairman, A. E. Brigham, F. G. Stickles, S. R. Stevenson and C. B. Willoughby was given authority to draw plans and ask for bids

on the construction of a new (second) building. Under their direction a contract was let to A. Lombard and on September 8, 1925, ground was broken for the present Temple on the site previously purchased on the N.W. corner of Tenth and Olive Sts.—the former home-site of Silas M. Yoran. The cornerstone was laid with befitting ceremonies by Bro. Frederick S. Dunn, District Deputy Grand Master, on Friday, October 25, 1925. The Temple was dedicated by M. W. Bro. Edgar H. Sensennich, Grand Master of Oregon, on September 1, 1926. The cost of the building was \$91,835.75.

In the early years of the Lodge, it was not uncommon for a member to serve as Worshipful Master for more than one term, and the following were accorded that honor: Avery A. Smith, 6 years; J. G. Gray, 5 years; F. B. Dunn, 4 years; L. S. Rogers, 3 years; Martin Blanding, William Edris and J. L. Page, 2 years each. No Master has served more than one year since 1899, thus the Lodge has had 83 W. Masters to date.

During its first 100 years, Eugene Lodge No. 11 has had 5 members who have served as Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. Avery A. Smith, 1867-69; James F. Robinson, 1890-1891. He was Grand Secretary for 28 years and secretary of the Eugene Lodge for 22 years. John M. Hudson, 1899-1900; Silas M. Yoran, 1903-04; also secretary of Eugene Lodge for 9 years; Septimius S. Spencer, 1913-14 and secretary of Eugene Lodge for 3 years.

Christopher Taylor, Grand Master in 1889-90 was the first Mason raised on the Pacific Coast, September 11, 1848, and was an honorary member of every regular Masonic body in Oregon.

The Lodge rolls record the names of many eminent citizens of our state and locality and space here permits the naming of only a few:

John Whiteaker, the first governor of Oregon.

Eugene F. Skinner, previously mentioned, founder of the City of Eugene, who laid out the townsite.

John W. Johnson, Past Master, the first President of the University of Oregon.

A. W. Patterson, member of the Territorial and State Legislatures, surveyor of the Eugene City townsite and a prime mover in the establishment of the U. of O.

Prince L. Campbell, 4th President of the University, holding that important position for nearly a quarter century.

John Straub, first to join the original faculty of the University of Oregon, beloved advisor of each incoming freshman class for over 50 years.

W. W. Bristow, Past Master, member of State Constitutional Convention and State Senator.

John M. Thompson, Regent of the University of Oregon and speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Sam H. Friendly, Past Master, for many years Regent of the University, after whom Friendly Hall and Friendly Street are named.

F. S. Dunn, Past Master, D. D. G. M., Professor at the University for many years and an eminent Masonic student.

Darwin Bristow, Banker, and Treasurer of the Lodge for 35 years.

Among many distinguished members still serving their Country and Craft in public office is Bro. B. F. Heintzleman, Governor of Alaska. As in every Lodge, there are many who are distinguishing

themselves by their daily practices of the Masonic precepts and whose

names will remain hidden among those of their Brethren.



Pioneer Memorials

—by Pauline Walton

Eugene F. Skinner, the Second, grandson of the founder of Eugene, and who was the namesake of his grandfather, passed away May 23, 1956, at the age of 81. He was born in 1874 and so never knew his grandfather who died in 1864, and who had been clerk of the courts, and practiced law in Lane County. But he was a boy of seven when his grandmother who lived in the second Skinner home on 6th Street, passed away in 1881.

His father was St. John Skinner, the only son of the town's founder, and his mother was Amanda Walton Skinner. She was the sister of the late J. J. Walton, Junior. Eugene Skinner, the second, was born in his father's, St. John Skinner's home, that stood at the end of Monroe Street, and which was just recently torn down. He loved to go there, and just a few weeks before he passed away went into the room where he was born. The caretaker recently found on the place one of the horns with its brass tip of one of the vicious cattle that Eugene remembered as a boy.

Eugene often told the story of how when in 1888 the family moved to Rosalia, Washington, they had to ferry across the Columbia at The Dalles as the river was flooded, and how they took just part of the family over at a time so if they were drowned some of the family might be saved. The family later moved to Kellogg, Idaho, where Eugene married Emma Furbush in 1898.

Mr. Skinner had obtained most of his education in the Eugene schools when in the early 1890's he had lived with his Uncle, J. J. Walton, so, in 1936 he moved back to Eugene from Twin Falls, Idaho, where he had lived a number of years, to educate his younger children at the University of Oregon. He did so enjoy meeting the old pioneers and their descendants.

He was proud of his nine children, four of whom survive him, and five who preceded him in death. His eldest son, who was his name-sake, Eugene F., was in the service of his country in World War I and a few years later died as a result of being gassed. Mr. Skinner was also so proud of his nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. His wife, Emma, who he liked to call Mother, survives him.

Mr. Skinner, like his grandfather, was a kind husband, a fond parent, and a true friend. His grandfather from the time of his first settlement in Oregon in 1846 had freely helped many destitute emigrants. His grandmother, Mary Cook Skinner, who had the honor of naming our town after her husband, Eugene, was also kind and charitable, ever ready to help the needy.

Eugene remembered hearing how three times the Indians came to the Skinner cabin, which stood at the foot of the Butte which bears his name, to kill Mr. Skinner, the founder, and his family, and how he walked the front porch with an

old musket over his shoulder while his wife Mary in the house was moulding bullets. The Indians were terrified at the old musket and

Chief Tom was glad to smoke with Mr. Skinner "The Pipe of Peace", and the Indians did not bother the family again.

Miss Harriette Patterson from a well known pioneer family passed away March 11, 1956, in the home where she was born at 751 East 11th Avenue. She was born on September, 1878. She was educated in the Eugene schools and was graduated from the University of Oregon in 1903.

Her father, Dr. A. W. Patterson, came across the plains by horseback with a party of five in 1852. He surveyed the plot of the city of Eugene and laid out the town in 1854. In 1862 he began the practice of medicine in Eugene. In 1897 he retired from active practice.

Miss Patterson's mother, Amanda Olinger, crossed the plains by ox team in 1843 when only six years old. In 1859 she became the wife of Dr. Patterson, and eight children were born to them. Miss Harriette was the last to pass

away. Her sister, Ida, was the principal of the Patterson and Washington schools for many years, and died in 1944.

Harriette is survived by two nephews, Wallace P. Potter and Harold Potter, both of Eugene.

She was a member of the Unitarian Church, the Evangeline Chapter of the Eastern Star, the Willamette Court No. 2 Order of the Amaranth, the American Association of University Women and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Miss Patterson loved the beauties both of nature and of art. At one time she and her sister, Ida, had greenhouses and raised lovely plants and flowers. Their home was filled with art objects and antique furniture. Miss Harriette loved music and was especially fond of hearing her three canary birds sing.

Definition of an Oregon Pioneer

—by Mrs. Frank Cook

To Mrs. Frank Cook we are indebted for the following designation of a "Pioneer". She remembers hearing her grandfather, Patrick Dunn, who crossed the plains in 1850, say that anyone coming to Oregon before it was admitted to the Union in 1859 as the 33rd state, was classified as a "Pioneer". She has seen him with his buckskin

ribbon badge that he was entitled to wear at gatherings of the Pioneers.

Another test is whether arrival was before the coming of the railroads—in 1870. This would mean that the emigrant came to Oregon by other means than by rail—overland, Isthmus of Panama, or around Cape Horn by ship.

Lane County Pioneer—Historical Society
2161 Madison St. - Eugene, Oregon

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