

BACK IN TIME

Going, going, gone . . .

Some old buildings of the past are in that category

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

I was so very fortunate to have been associated with two wonderful teachers who after retiring wrote fabulous books about our local history. One was Marguerite Black's "Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley" (1990) and the other was Margaret Nesheim's "One Hundred Twenty-Three Years Search for Community" (1979). This last book is about the schools in Jackson County.

I was also doing my own search for photographs of old buildings and pioneers in the Applegate Valley as inspiration for oil paintings I was working on. (Evelyn, a well known local artist, owned the Lamplight Gallery in Jacksonville for many years.) Marquerite Black and I happily shared our collections as we canvassed the Applegate Valley. All this goes to the realization that there are very few old Applegate buildings left, some dating back as far as the late 1800's and early 1900's. Each of them has a story from the past to tell and hopefully a future, as Margaret Nesheim stated in her book, "Too many of the precious structures of the past have been destroyed, perhaps somehow, this one may survive."

As far as I know, the only old school building left from the 1800's, in the Applegate Valley, is the Forest Creek School. My dad started his first grade there. Fortunately it has been saved by becoming a private residence of the Meeds family. The school was organized in 1878, before that there was one at Logtown built in 1854. Margaret Nesheim had this to say about a famous student who went there. "Benjamin Franklin Irvine, the blind editor of the Oregon Journal, attended school at Logtown." His father was a miner on

Jackass Creek, now known as Forest Creek. (Photo 1.)

Not far from Forest Creek, on the way to Jacksonville, there is a little old cabin that at least five generations of my family have passed by these many years. It has been said that this 1800's building was the home of Mr. Pryor Eaton. My mother, who was born in 1894, said her father often stopped there to rest the horses pulling a loaded wagon of dried Mexican beans to sell in Jacksonville. It is amazing that this old building is still there and looking the same today as it did then. "Perhaps this one may survive."

The house built by Cap Ruch in 1912 is the only survivor of old buildings in Ruch. At one time, next to this house, there was a Ruch store with a post office and a dance hall which also served as a polling place. My parents attended a dance in that hall on their way home from their marriage in 1914.

Just past Hamilton Road, on Highway 238, there is an old house built in 1916 by William and Emma (Law) Smith. In later years, Emma built a second story on the house. Thankfully, the new owners built behind the old house leaving a piece of Applegate history standing.

On down Highway 238, about half way to Applegate from Ruch, another early 1900's house was built by Fred and Carrie (Cameron) Offenbacher. It was larger than most of the other homes being built in the Applegate. It is a two-story white house close to the road across from Long Gulch. The Offenbacher's were well-known, productive farmers and the house is still owned by some of their descendants.

(Photo 2.)

Then on Hamilton Road is the James and "Maggie" (Riley) Buckley house, built in the 1880's. The first house they built there was destroyed by fire. The wood framed antique water tower, nearby, is a classic that gives the house so much character. The couple had seven children, but few descendants followed to keep the land. They did, however, generously donate land for the Cantrall Buckley Park. Interestingly, an 1880's photograph taken near this house of baseball players and picnickers, was used as a clothing guide for the 1973 Universal Studios movie "The Great Minnesota Raid." A scene in the movie, of a baseball game and picnic, was even filmed on this ranch. (Photo 3.)

The only old Uniontown structure left is a house built by "Zack" Cameron in the 1870's. It is located on Upper Applegate Road fairly close to the entrance of Little Applegate Road. This house is close to the road but cannot be seen because of a high pole fence erected several years ago. Mr. Cameron's wife was Rena (Verena) Kubli of Missouri Flat. He did some farming and helped in the Uniontown store which was owned by a brother. Their one daughter had no children and so the house passed out of the Cameron's possession. (Photo 4.)

I'm sure there are some other old structures in our Applegate that I have missed, but I would hope those mentioned here will continued to be saved for future generations to see.

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with Janeen Sathre
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Tips on Summertime Sprinkling

with Bob Quinn

Dear Bob Quinn,

We have never had any problems with our well—plenty of water for our needs and more than enough to run a sprinkler for lawn and garden. A neighbor tells me that during warm weather we should run enough sprinklers to keep the pump running continuously. Why should that be?

The first reason is that if your pump is going on and off during sprinkling, the power demand is significantly greater. This increased demand to phase the pump in and out can be as much as 30-40%, according to the experts.

That translates into a real dollar cost and wasted power resources. Just as important is the fact that such on-off, on-off cycling also takes its toll on your pump, and over a period of time will shorten its life expectancy.

Both of these costly conditions can be avoided simply by turning on enough sprinkler heads to keep the pump in operation continually, or install cycle stop valve. Look for future article on cycle stop valves.



Would You Believe...
Water expands about
9% as it freezes!

Bob Quinn is the owner of **Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service** located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We provide well drilling, plus we install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. quinnswell.com

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PAT GORDON, LMT
Licensed Massage Therapist
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"These old buildings do not belong to us only...they have belonged to our forefathers and they will belong to our descendants unless we play them false. They are not...our property, to do as we like with. We are only trustees for those that come after us."

William Morris. 1889