One-room schools kindled memories

By Dale E. Shaffer

MEMORIES OF OUR
earily schoolimg seem to
be some of the most impor-
tant and lasting ones in our
lifetimes. When the school
building we attended is torn
down, it makes still another
mark on our memories, caus-
ing us to do some reflecting
on those "Good Old Days." That
is exactly what hap-
pended recently when the 1874
Fairview School on Salem-
Grange Road was dismantled.

Some of those who attended
this one room schoolhouse asked me to
meet with them last April to
record some of the history of
the old building. The group
included Anna Phillips Windle,
Thelma Clark and Gail Phil-
lis, along with David Crosser
who tore the structure down
with tender loving care.

The original school at
McCracken's Corners was a
log cabin and known as
Water Valley School. Used
prior to 1874, it was located
just east of Route 45 at the
forks of the lower roads, now
called Cunningham and
Salem-Grange Roads. Two
who taught there were A. G.
Phillips (1872) and Dr. Ralph
Hall (1869).

Builds new school
In 1874 a new schoolhouse
was built west of Route 45
on the Salem-Grange Road. It
was named Fairview school
and was used until 1941.

Anna and her late husband
Delbert bought the building
on September 8, 1951 and
allowed it to be used thereafter
for 4-H meetings and other
such functions. It stood until
November of 1994 when it was
dismantled by David Crosser.
He found the date "1874" in a
floor joint.

Both Anna and Delbert
attended Fairview for eight
years. She remembers every
detail about the school. The
entrance was originally on
the north side of the building.
Later it was moved to the
entrance was a rope for ringing
the bell. The teacher rang
four times a day — in the
morning to call the children
to class, after morning recess,
after lunch and at the end of
afternoon recess.

To the left of the entrance
was the girls cloakroom and
at the right was the boys.

Students and desks, two
sizes, faced the north and
there were blackboards on all
the walls. The furnace was
located on the west side of
the room. Thelma Clark
remembers when there were
potbellied stoves on each side
of the room, the library con-
sisted of a shelf of books on
the rear wall.

Lighted with kerosene
Before Ralph Huston
installed electricity, kerosene
oil lamps were used. They
were pumped up, lighted and
hung from the ceiling. On
days when it was dark, or
when the furnace smoked up
the room, the children were
sent home.

Pupils used a tin cup to
drink from the well located
on the west side of the
school grounds. Far in back
of the schoolhouse were sepa-
rate outhouses for the girls
and boys. In the early years,
before toilet facilities existed,
boys and girls were simply
sent home.

Preserves school bell
When Anna and Delbert
bought the schoolhouse in
1951 they preserved the large
bell atop the roof. This bell
may be even older than 1874,
since it possibly could have
been used in the original log

See Fairview, page 6
Lyle's sound systems were background for productions

By Lois Firestone

THE SOUND SYSTEMS he devised have taken him to cities and towns throughout the United States, providing the background for world-famous symphonies, national traveling ice shows, and NBC radio shows.

Frederic Charles Lyle is 85 today and retired, living in Temequa, a town south of Riverside, California. A Saloom boy, he grew up in a home along Saloom's Fourth Street with her parents, Homer and Helen Lyle. Homer owned the Quaker City Book Bindery. A close relative, James Lyle, published the Farm and Dairy.

The family later moved to Cleveland where his mother was a book seller at Brookly's Books. Through her friends, Fred met Dr. Charles P. Steinmeta, the chief of research for General Electric. That triggered Lyle's immersion in sound systems and telephonic transmission which continues today.

He got his start at the Cleveland Public Auditorium and Stadium in the late 1930s in the days Harry Walker was the announcer. Fred remembers bringing his microphones and other sound paraphernalia to a Salem football game in the early 1940s when Salem played Lisbon at Beatty Field - Salem won. That night was a homecoming for him because afterward he revisited his home town, ending the evening with a soda in a local ice cream store. A favorite place for him and his friends when they grew older.

Cleveland Stadium was a favorite of Eugene Ormandy and his Philadelphia orchestra in those days. Ormandy hired Sam Krauss, a Salem musician, to play in the orchestra. Fred knew Krauss well, and met him during airings of NBC's Firestone Hour programs.

His New York experience included print work for the New York Times, working equipment for CBS and sound work for the Metropolitan Opera.

During those years Fred was hired by the St. Paul Minnesota Symphony to install a sound system in a hall which held 15,000 people. He also set up sound for Shipstad and Johnson's Ice Capades tours and for the Ohio Bell Telephone Company.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Fred was at the Public Auditorium and Stadium, but later worked in military development with Adjutant General Curtis LeMay. That led to a lifetime friendship with the LeMays and after LeMay died Fred, at the general's request, looked after Mrs. LeMay at March Air Force Base in Riverside until her death.

Two memorable moments in his lengthy career have been watching Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig on the baseball diamond for the New York Yankees and meeting President Franklin Roosevelt. The most lasting memories are the music he's accumulated and developed a love for, recording for symphony groups he worked for over the decades.

Mitchell's tale appears

By Associated Press

PARIS (AP) - FOR THE 60th anniversary of "Gone With the Wind," Scribner's of New York will publish a romantic novella written by a teenage Margaret Mitchell, The New York Times reported today.

Scribner's bought the rights on May 31 to "Lost Laysen," the story of a secret love between a ship's first mate and a missionary in the South Pacific. The purchase price was not announced.

The 13,000-word novella was written in 1916 when Mitchell was 16. The manuscript was rediscovered last year in a cache of papers by Henry Mitchell Jr., 70, the son of Mitchell's lifelong friend, the late Love Angel.

Excerpts from "Lost Laysen" were published last month in the magazine Art & Antiques. Mitchell's first novel, "Gone With the Wind," was published last month in New York.

In his lengthy career have been watching Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig on the baseball diamond for the New York Yankees and meeting President Franklin Roosevelt. The most lasting memories are the music he's accumulated and developed a love for, recording for symphony groups he worked for over the decades.

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Today the bell is mounted at the Windle home, and has a nostalgic tone that is as beautiful today as when it was first rung in 1874, or before. The sound can be heard for miles.

Thelma Clark attended Fairview from 1924 to 1933. Her first-year teacher was Geneva Zimmerman. Up front by the teacher's desk was a long recess whistles in Salem played off for one minute. Students would stand, face the east and remain silent in honor of those who died in World War I.

Overseeing all Columbiana County schools in the 1920s was Superintendent H. C. Leonard and his assistant, Jack Lee Gray. Hasseller was the truant officer. The county school positions were terminated in 1934.

Readers will enjoy the following memories of the school and students from the last half of the 20th century.

The 1933 classes at Fairview School, taught by Phoebe Nye Foochast, gather for a photo. Students are Catherine, Rachel, Anna and John Phillips, Milo Adams, Richard and Marijorie McArtor, Thelma Clark, Blaine Hart, Delbert and Duane Thomas, Hazel Johns, Mary Glass, Marie Harris, Clyde Dawson, John and Russell Doyle, Fred and Russell Lottman, Paul Harris and Johnny Grubbs. (Photo: Anna Phillis Windle)
The Fairview School bell first tolled in 1874. Parents would bring potatoes, and heating them on top of the furnace. By noon the hot potatoes were a tasty treat. Vegetable soup and hot chocolate were also heated in this manner. In later years, parents often brought in sloppy joe sandwiches at noon-time. Families of children at Fairview were always a very close-knit group.

As in most other schools, childish pranks were quite common at Fairview. Discipline was strict, but not overly so. The teacher punished students mostly by shaking or paddling, but each teacher had his or her own methods. Gail remembers one mischievous boy being put under the teacher's desk. Teacher Phila Fields went without lunch that day because the boy ate it.

For many years at Fairview it was a common practice to hold an annual fair to earn money for the school. An interesting incident happened at the one on October 9, 1923. Fourteen Ku Klux Klansmen, eight of them masked, marched into the building and presented the teacher, Miss Ava Barnes, with an American flag. Miss Barnes thanked the donors, being especially appreciative because the school's flag had been stolen. The fair, incidentally, had a large attendance. Children brought in fruits, vegetables and needlework to sell.

Teacher is accused
Several years earlier, in March of 1918 during World War I, another interesting incident had happened. Mrs. William Marshall, teacher at Fairview, was accused by a number of older students of making pro-German statements. They claimed she was
Today in History

In 1888, Congress created the Department of Commerce and Labor.

In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

In 1944, President Roosevelt created the Office of War Information, and appointed radio news commentator Elmer Davis to be its head.

In 1967, President Johnson nominated Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Junkpile turns up rare Civil War treasures

S E C U R I T Y O F F I C I E R

James Bailey only went into the basement of the state's 125-year-old prison in Cranston, R.I., to clear out the piles of junk deemed a fire hazard.

What the history buff found as he cast his flashlight across scrawled names and piles of paper was a treasure trove of Civil War memorabilia — books containing battlefield maps, enlistment papers of volunteers, and orders written with quill and ink.

"I started working through the junk," Bailey said. "There were a lot of old prison commitment books from the early 20th century. Then I found this one book with little tables listing some 35 boys from old Water Valley School served in the Civil War. I think one of them was J. A. Dunlap.

"I think it's a good thing it was saved," Bailey said. "I think it's a good thing it was saved.

In 1993, Plans are to hold this one book with maps, log entries critical to the history of the Civil War. Now, having fulfilled its purpose over a period of 125 years, it was finally being laid to rest. Memories remain. Also, a border of flowers planted years ago, left to outlive the perimeter of where the schoolhouse once stood and served.

Today's years

Friday, June 13, 1980

Fairview

Continued from page 7

a radical Socialist, and had made statements to the effect that American soldiers had not tended to their own business when they went overseas, so they desisted to sink. It was also reported that she said the U.S. had caused the war and that she neither approved of the government's policies nor the execution of them.

When the County Probation Office considered of Schools confronted her with these accusations of disloyalty, she denied that she had said anything against the government. She claimed to be neutral in the war.

One parent threatened to withdraw his children from school if Lisbon's Judge Moore did not investigate the matter. Moore failed to comply, so the children were promptly withdrawn. The county superintendent then reported the matter to government officials, and a federal agent was sent to investigate. Apparently an agreement was eventually reached to end the dispute.

This incident shows just how strong the loyalty of Americans were in support of their doughboys overseas. They allowed no room for statements of disagreement, especially by a teacher in the classroom.

Lots of reunions

A number of reunions have been held at this school. Over 200 former pupils and teachers attended a first reunion on May 6, 1922. Among the reminiscences discussed was that 35 boys from old Water Valley School served in the Civil War, mostly in the 3rd of May was a bright day for the honor of the Second Regiment, R.I.V.

It was the hardcover handwritten orders of Elisha Hunt Rhodes and his Civil War regiment of Rhode Island volunteers. The book dated from May 30, 1865, to April 22, 1864.

Rhodes became a familiar figure to the 34 million viewers of Ken Burns's television documentary, "The Civil War." It is the story of a man who, wrote of "struggling" and liquor among enlisted men — while others were congratulatory.

"Comrades! Salem Heights might well be inscribed upon you(s) banners. Your bravery saved the New Jersey reg't in the woods from complete annihilation or certain capture. When other Reg'ts were being driven back in disorder, your bold and determined Advance and Your unfaltering pertinacity till Support could arrive completely checked an enemy well nigh victorious," read an entry.

"Though your loss was heavy, the 3rd of May was a bright day for the honor of the.