

LIFE IN BEAVER HOMES-SHILOH BASIN EARLY DAYS

BY MARY E. COLVIN

How well I remember that lovely day in the spring of 1915 when I first saw the Beaver Homes school house and the surrounding hillsides and small farms of Beaver Homes!

The district had need of a teacher and I went to apply for the position. A Miss Fullmer, a Methodist Deaconness from Chicago, and a close personal friend of the Holbrooks, had already been hired when I was interviewed by the school board. Mr. Holbrook and Mr. Truman persuaded me that I could handle the principalship, as Miss Fullmer preferred the primary grades. So in September I began my year in this two-room school west of Goble.

(Mrs. Cantwell has mentioned the school and many of the children, in her article following, so I will not dwell on my many experiences in the school.)

Of great value and inspiration to me in solving the many problems which arose during the year was a former teacher of mine, Mrs. John Archibald, who was living at Bide-A-Wee, the Archibald cottage on a pleasantly situated slope across a creek from the school. She and her husband, Jack, gave me many pleasant hours in their home. I taught their daughter, Helen, piano, a fact that has always amused me, as in later years Mrs. Archibald became one of our best known and beloved piano teachers herself! She must have thought me very amateurish — as I now realize I was. Camille, as her friends knew her, lived on Columbia Boulevard in St. Helens until her death.

Among the earliest settlers — pioneers in the Goble-Beaver Homes community — were the Archibalds. Several of their ancient buildings still may be seen from the road as one goes out to Beaver Homes from Goble or the Columbia River highway. Sons of this family included Jack or John Luther, previously mentioned; Lawrence, the oldest, I believe; George; Jay—J. P., who lived for many years on the old home place, and Reuben or Rube, a well known logging engineer for Clark-Wilson for many years. All are deceased. The girls were Grace, Mrs. James MacNaughton; Flora, Mrs. Harve Fowler, postmaster at Goble. Another daughter married Sam Fowler, leaving two daughters, Marcella and Vernice, when she died. These granddaughters of the Archibalds often visited the old homestead.

Later well known residents in a home near the school house were Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Mallaber and daughter Audrey, who married Harry Ingraham of Rainier. Both Mrs. Mallaber and Audrey were Columbia County school teachers. Mr. Mallaber was a member of

the Columbia County Fair Board, giving many hours to the success of the fair.

I stayed with the Judson Truman family. Mrs. Truman, Bessie, was a sister of Orville Malcolm of Deer Island.

The elder Malcolms were, in 1915, still living on their place adjoining the Jud Trumans. One delightful memory of that winter is the sleigh rides Mr. Truman gave us, both to school in the mornings and all over the countryside in the evenings. As long as the snow covered the ground the Gottlieb Anliker boys also "hitched old Dobbin to the sleigh" to give me and their sisters, Rose and Mary, thrilling rides!

The George Pearls purchased "the old Kennedy place" in the fall of 1921, according to the account by Mrs. Cantwell. That place and its first owners hold a special place in my memories of early days. There was a Mr. James Kennedy, Mrs. Kennedy and son Jimmie, a tall, dignified young man who never married. All are peacefully sleeping in Kinder Cemetery at Deer Island, their places marked by a tall marble shaft, the graves protected by a concrete slab.

The Kennedys made their money with their timber claims and other wise investments. Both men were proud to be members of the Masonic lodge. Mrs. Kennedy, like her husband, was of Scottish descent, and never gave up her accent. She often drove a spirited horse to Goble to shop and get her mail. The beautiful Kennedy buggy was referred to by her as "the machine." She and my mother, Jane Armstrong, who was also Scottish, often exchanged impressions of their new homeland and memories of beautiful European churches and cathedrals, large well-trained choirs, and the delightful countryside scenery "back in the old country." (Both agreed Oregon is much like Scotland, particularly the rolling hills near Corvallis.)

Perhaps the earliest settlers in the area includes the two Anliker families, the Jones, Clark and Koble families, the latter three living in Shiloh Basin.

The Gottlieb Anlikers lived at Shiloh Basin for many years and reared a large family, including Mary, Rose, Bill and Fred. Nothing left of their old home but an ancient orchard, a log cabin type building or two, and in the spring time old-fashioned vines and flowers that refuse to leave the place they love!

The better known Anliker family included Fritz, Jack and Rudie, all fine men and successful farmers. Their homes were pretentious—broad fields filled with cattle, horses and hogs spoke of the industrious nature of these early pioneers.

Fritz Anliker was for many years road supervisor for the Goble-Deer Island road district. All three families were members of the Beaver Homes Grange. Their cousins I knew only slightly, but enjoyed the young people during my stay in the community.



SHILOH BASIN SCHOOL IN 1886. MRS. WALKER, TEACHER;
LANGACHER, KOBLE AND ANLIKER CHILDREN

Then there were the Wasser families to whom the same industrious characteristics can be applied. Louis Wasser, county commissioner in the 1950s, called Beaver Homes "home".

Steve and Loyal Jones recall the early days of their grandparents, Enos (Deacon) Jones and wife, Anna. At the time the railroad was being built through Goble and later when the ferry, Tacoma, was in operation between Goble and Kalama, Wash., the Deacon Jones family drove over the rough roads in their farm wagon to supply vegetables and fruit, dairy products and meat for the ferry crews and the other railroad workers. The Jones family cemetery, which is on land donated by Enos Jones, is just across the road from the Shiloh Basin school.

The Koble sisters, Hattie and Freda, and their brother, Ernest, occupied the old Koble home for many years. The Koble cemetery is located in a scenic spot atop a high hill on property once owned by their parents.

Land for the Shiloh Basin school was donated by the C. C. Clarks, who owned and operated a farm and sawmill on their place just north. Children of Charles C. and Eunice Newell Clark included Charles, William E., Frank, George and Mary Clark, all of whom are deceased. Perhaps the best known of the Clarks was William E., who lived more than 50 years at Deer Island. He was a carpenter. Many houses in the Deer Island and Goble areas reflect his building skill.