

Hudson School, At 92, Becomes Part Of Rainier School System

1966

By MRS. ERVIN ABRAHAM

RAINIER — Hudson School District No. 4 as of last week is no more. It was consolidated with Rainier School District No. 13 following a recent vote.

According to Wendell Curry, Rainier school superintendent, this does not mean it will necessarily be closed. "Much," he said, "will depend upon community growth during the summer. Should there be sufficient growth, the school may have to be kept open and used for classes."

"It is the intent", Curry reported, "that the Hudson buildings and property be well maintained to be used as a school facility if needed, if enrollment continues, as it has during the past few months, it may well be needed, too", Curry concluded.

THREE school houses have served the Hudson community which was first settled in the year of 1860.

The first school was located on the Samuel E. Hudson property across the road from where the Beaver Valley Grange hall now stands. The school, which originated in 1874, appeared as District No. 4 in 1892. District No. 1 being Scappoose formed in 1892; District No. 2 St. Helens formed in 1890; District No. 3 Deer Island formed in 1888, and Hudson in 1892 ac-

ording to "Early Columbia County School Organization" written by Mrs. Lois Kent, former Columbia County School superintendent.

AS EARLY as 1876 some areas belonging to the Hudson School District No. 4 were divided to make school District No. 13 with Perrine slough that is now known as Rinearson slough as the dividing line.

Mrs. May Johnson, now past 90 years of age, a pupil attending the old rustic appearing school stated that the school terms usually lasted about three months. She does not remember really how they were financed.

The building served as a place for many social gatherings including temperance meetings and Sunday school. Spelling bees were very popular then. The building itself served a dual purpose.

Kids received their education on the top floor and hogs were housed on the lower level. Eventually the dual purpose building had to be discontinued.

THE SECOND and present school were built on property formerly belonging to Joe Adkins. This land as reported by Harold Richardson, Hudson pioneer, was a land donation claim of a James Craig, grandfather of Mrs. Grace Reid, well known Rainier pioneer now living in Portland. A water wheel pro-

pelled mill which produced cedar lumber was located near the present school site.

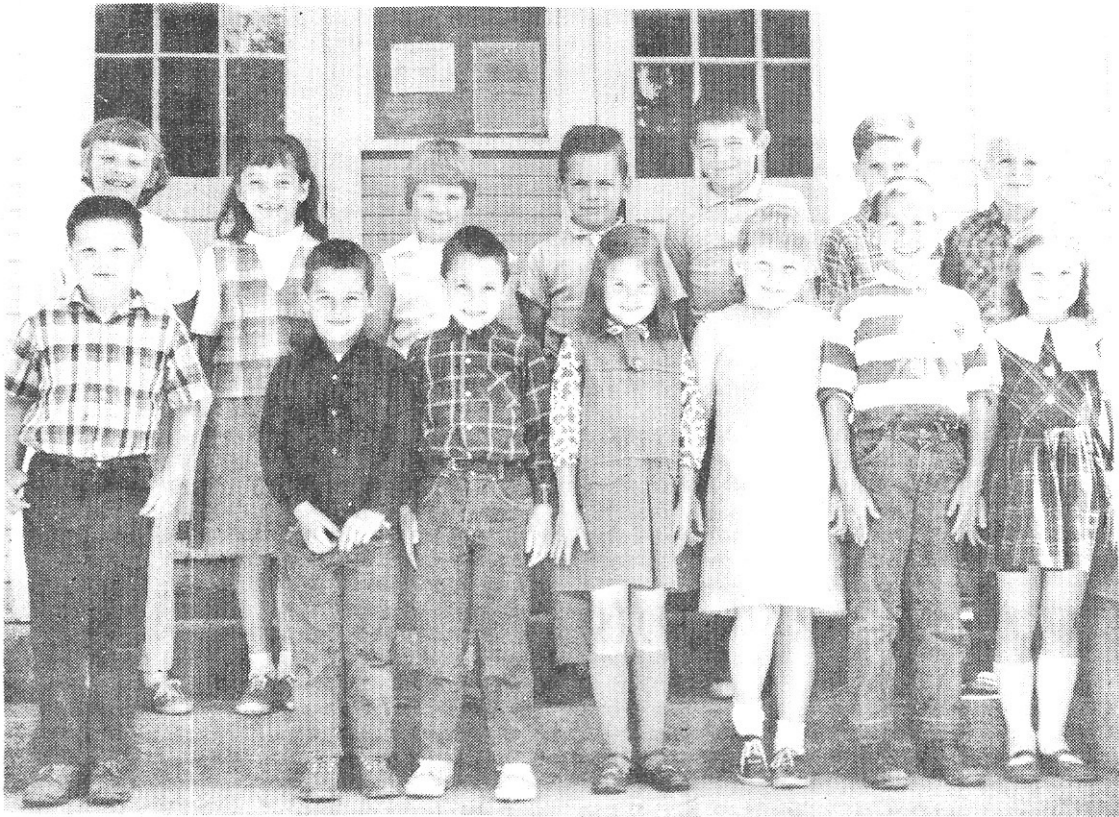
The second school, now used for a gymnasium, was built between 1895-96, by Charles Clark,

a Rainier carpenter. The school term was six months. One teacher was employed and the enrollment consisted of about 30 students.

Because of increased enrollment, the present building was built in about 1930-31. It has an enrollment of about 30 students up to and including the sixth grade. Seventh and eighth grade students have been transported to the Rainier elementary school during the past few years.

During the peak years about 60 to 70 students attended. Two teachers, Mrs. C.R. Lewis and Miss Margaret Hagedorn were employed. Serving on the school board were William Everman, Elton Gamble, Ivan Archibald, Leslie Bader, and John G. Curtis. Mrs. J.B. Lowe was school clerk.

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HUDSON SCHOOL closed its doors as an independent school this spring and on May 31 became part of the Rainier school district. Some of the last students at the school included from left to right (front) Marty Blunk, Robert Cameron, David Bader, Katherine Cur-

tis, Susan Archibald, John Montalvo, Christine Curtis. Back Row (left to right) Cathy Bernard, Edene Cameron, Cindy Bunker, Jim Usher, Bill Welke, Ron Vance, Terry Marsh.

Ervin Abraham Photo.



MORE OF the Hudson School students include from left to right (front row) Randy Norman, Reo McBride, Mike Sutherland, Dennis Bader, Sherry Taggart, Danny Miller, Carol Everman.

Back row (left to right) Wayne Hupp, Raul Montalvo, John Lowe, Bobby Usher, Bernie Blunk, Nancy Blunk, Charles Gamble, Delyla Wildfong.

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