

HISTORY NOOK



History of Orcas Schools

Part 9

By: PEGI GROUNDWATER

ROSARIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Rosario School District, District # 15, was formed in 1891, the same year that the Deer Harbor School District was formed. District # 15 served families in the Cascade and Newhall areas. The students from those areas had attended the East Sound and Olga schools previously. The first one room school house was built in the Cascade area. It was replaced in 1910 with a building in the Newhall area which continued to operate until 1925 when it was folded into the Consolidated Eastsound School District. Nothing remains of either school building today.

DOE BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Two years after the Rosario school District was formed, the parents at the far eastern end of the island formed School District # 14 serving the Doe Bay and Sea Acres area in 1893. Students in that area had previously attended school in the Olga School District. The Doe Bay school operated for 34 years before it was consolidated into the East Sound School District in 1927. A new school building was finished for the school district in 1921. Nothing remains of that school building today.

The accompanying photo of the school was taken in 1925. Helen Lind is the teacher shown in the photo and the students are identified on the back of the photo as Bill, Riley, Noma, Clara and Ed Moultray; Al, Charley and Helen Abrahamsen; Lyman Harlow; Einar and Harold Jensen; Helen (Padla) Smith; and Lester Myers.

WEST SOUND SCHOOL DISTRICT

In 1895, the West Sound School District was formed as District # 23 pulling students from the Orcas, Deer Harbor and Crow Valley Schools. The first classes were held in a purpose built one room school house (inset photo above). It was replaced about 15 years later by a larger two-room school house. Following consolidation in 1919, the second building

was converted into a private residence. No trace of the original one room schoolhouse remains.

TULLOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

In 1898, Orcas gained its 9th school district when residents created District # 27 serving students from the Highlands to Buck Mountain and Racoon Point. The petitioner for the formation of the school was James Francis Tullock. The school apparently only operated for a few years, as it does not show up on any school records after 1912. It is not known if the school building was demolished or incorporated into another structure after it ceased being used as a school.

DOLPHIN BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The trend toward smaller, more focused school districts continued with the formation of School District # 28, serving the Dolphin Bay area on the back side of Mt. Woolard in 1903. No trace of the one room schoolhouse remains today. The school district ceased operating in 1918 as part of the general consolidation of the schools into one large school district.

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The 11th, and last, independent school district formed on Orcas was created in 1913 to serve students on the East side of the Pleasant Valley (now known as Crow Valley) School District along Orcas Road. It only operated for six years before it was consolidated into the East Sound School District in 1919. The one room school house sat empty for many years, until it was purchased by the members of the Orcas Island Grange in 1938 for \$126. The old school house building now serves as the kitchen of the remodeled and expanded Grange building.

Much of the information in this series of articles comes from research done by Bud McBride and Richard Schneider when they putting together the information on the history of the Crow Valley School.

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