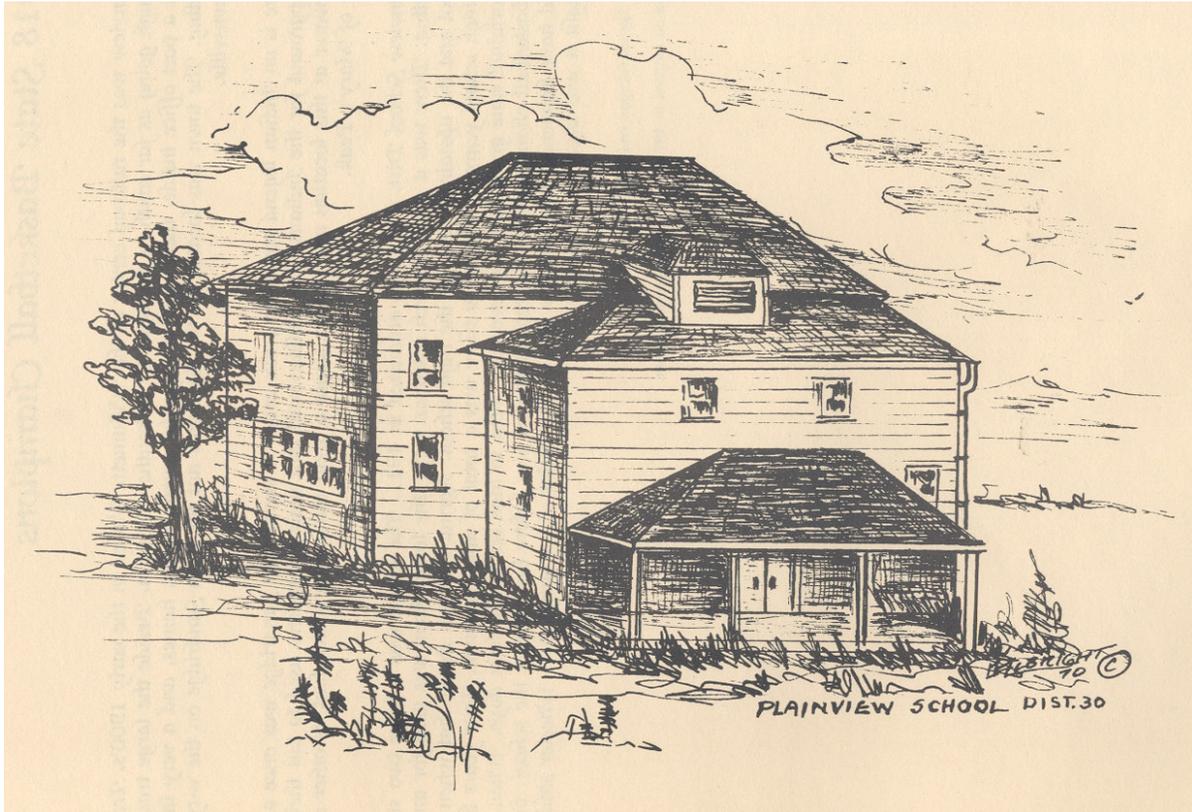


Plainview School

Plainview School
1918 State Basketball Champions
From When the Bells Rang



Plainview was the railroad center of the Willamette Valley in the early 1900's. Trains passed through going as far south as Jacksonville in southern Oregon. Beside the large train station with a post office inside, there were stockyards, several stores, homes, and a very large school building. The town was located on the flat lands not far from Sandridge on the way to Brownsville.

There is an Indian legend concerning this area. It seems that Sandridge was once a favorite campground for the Indians. The Indians said that their forefathers used to put their canoes in the water at this location and paddle across a great inland sea which had its other shore at the base of Marys Peak.

Plainview School Dist. #133 was organized in 1911. The school was a large two story frame building. There was a covered porch entrance way. The lower floor was used for an elementary school and the upstairs section for the high school. Norma Morgan stated that when she started her high school years at Plainview there was a total of nine freshmen. Four years later, four of the original nine graduated. Not everyone went to high school in those days. When asked about the basketball championship, she replied that it was before her time at the school, but that it could have happened as Plainview was a very active community Mr. Wheeler said that he thought it was the "B" league.

Ref: Norma Morgan and Mr. Wheeler. Drawn on location in 1972. It has since been torn

down.

Memories of Plainview School
By Angela Parker
From A Piece of the Past

Marge Parker had to find something about her students to keep them entertained, and for fourth grader Irvine Parker it was a View Master with cartoon films.

Throughout the years since Plain view School District 133 opened in 1911, students and teachers experienced memories to share. Plain view School was located in a country setting about five miles west of Lebanon in a community once known as Plainview.

Alta Ballew was a student at Plainview High School from 1931-35, then graduated from the twelfth grade at the end of the school year in 1935. Ballew and her two other classmates were the last to graduate from Plainview because of the closure of the high school in 1935.

The two-story building consisted of a grade school downstairs, which kept operating until 1965, at which time it consolidated with Sandridge Grade School. The upstairs included the high school, a library, a laboratory, and a stage which held many plays. Transportation to and from school was by foot (many walked along the railroad tracks because this was shorter), horse and buggy, bicycles, and for the lucky ones, by car. Ballew was one of the lucky ones who drove a car. She picked up her cousin and a few others along the way. Parking was alongside the road, but not many people drove so they didn't need to worry about it.

During the years Ballew was there, there was a concern for exercise at school for the students, so a "play shed" was built for learning to roller skate and for the boys' basketball games. Later on a new gymnasium was built and is still standing today, being used as a cabinet shop.

Classes taught at Plainview were the same as you would find today at a high school without the modern day technology. These included English, history, typing, bookkeeping, and others. After graduating from Plainview, Ballew went on to Lebanon High School to further her education in more specialized areas. There she took shorthand and another year of typing.

Being such a small school, Plainview did not receive enough money to hire a janitor, so one year Louise Wheeler, a student, volunteered to be the janitor. This included going to school early, getting firewood, building a fire if needed, washing the blackboards at the end of the day, and waxing the floors before the school year began and again during Christmas break. The boys' chores were to pump the water pressure pump before school, so there would be drinking water for the day.

While Plainview High School was around, the boys played a major role. The winter of 1934-35, the nine-man boys' basketball team won the D-league state basketball championships. Teams in the D-league included Shedd, Tangent, Scio, Brownsville, and Sweet Home. Charles Wheeler was a player at the time, but since he was only a sophomore he wasn't able to be a starter.

For Louise Wheeler, the boys' at Plainview treated her with respect. One afternoon, after it had just rained, Wheeler and her brother were walking home. They came upon about six inches of water across the road. At that time, some boys' from school came along on their bikes and offered Louise a ride across the puddle. Once across the puddle, she asked the boys' to go back and get her brother and bring him across the

puddle. They objected to that, so he had to walk across the puddle and then home with wet shoes.

For Marge Parker, teaching grade school in 1944-45 was exciting, yet dark and dreary. Mrs. Parker was a teacher the year before the electricity, the furnace, and the running water were in existence at Plainview. Getting ready for the Christmas program one winter evening, Mr. Dodge, the father of two students at Plainview, thought he would light things up for the students while they were getting dressed. To do this, he hung a Delko battery and a light bulb from the ceiling, but the kid playing Santa Claus still must not have been able to see. With the help of the audience, after the program, the kid playing Santa Claus found out his suit had been on backwards.

If you talked to June Parker about her school years, she would not tell you a funny story. June was in Mrs. Parker's class her second grade year. One day, she came to school mad about something. Mrs. Parker knew she was upset, but didn't make it an issue. Morning recess came along and June decided to walk home. No one could find her the rest of the morning. Mrs. Parker gave June a full page of arithmetic to do, which would take her awhile to do. Not expecting June to get it done before lunch, her discipline included staying in for the next recess to do it. Sure enough, by lunch time June had the arithmetic done, "Quick enough she didn't have time to think about what she had done wrong."

Although many fond memories of Plainview School are with people today, the ones from 1965 were the last to be made. In 1965, a nearby grade school known as Sandridge agreed to consolidate with Plainview. At that time, due to structural deterioration at Plainview, it was no longer used and all classes were moved to Sandridge, with the name Sandridge School District 30- C being adopted.

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