

# Federal Way Area School History By Dick Caster



Prepared for  
the Historical  
Society  
of Federal Way

Additional material relating to school  
history may be found at  
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To real historians everywhere  
who slog in the archives for nothing more than the hope of  
coming a little closer to knowing the truth.

# School History of the Federal Way Area

## Introduction

This monograph is intended to discuss the history of schools in the Federal Way area from the late 1800s to the present time. This basically led to the information being presented mostly in chronological order into three major groupings.

1. The five early school districts that formed starting in the late 1800s and the schools involved.
2. The formation of Consolidated School District 210 and the development of the elementary, junior high and high school up to about 1950.
3. The expansion of School District 210, starting with many new schools after 1950, up to the present.

This monograph is intended to document and reference all that is known about the Federal Way area schools so a wide variety of material and details are included with no effort made to select equally important matters or to try to overly organize or condense the material. A second version will attempt to make it more readable and concise. Sources in the form of footnotes are given for almost all the material used. The second version will also add much material that has not been used here (see the section on Future Work.) Obviously the goal to document all that is known about Federal Way area schools has not been met, as there is still much unused material in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way (HSFW) and in other potential sources.

The area covered is roughly the same as the current boundaries of the Federal Way School District but since the boundaries have changed over the years some discussion will also involve educational matters occurring slightly outside the present boundaries. It should also be noted that the present school district boundaries are about 30 percent larger than the city of Federal Way. Part of the Federal Way School District is in Kent, Auburn, Des Moines and some still unincorporated areas of King County..

Mostly, only documents in the files of the HSFW have been used. Many of the documents used for the period prior to 1930 are handwritten and somewhat difficult to read. If a name or other item is difficult to read I have made my best estimate concerning it, but I have indicated that I might not be correct if I had any doubt. Material from other sources is welcome and will be used in the second version.

Generally, a chronological format is followed for school districts and schools.

There is considerable information available on related items such as school boards, bond issues, PTAs, strikes, athletics and school activities. I hope these can be included in the future but for the purpose of getting started I had to make a decision to not include everything.

All public schools past and present have been included. The details available for different schools, particularly the current ones, vary widely since the material used is dependant on what information is in the files of the HSFW. Some schools have had considerable information presented in newspaper articles and others almost none. Also some schools are represented with a considerable amount of material donated to the HSFW, while others have no donated material at all.

The intent is to eventually include private as well as public schools, but only two private schools are included now.

Photos of the items covered will be added to the second version or possibly as a separate document.

The basic format used for organization and footnotes has been the Chicago Manual of Style.<sup>1</sup> Three exceptions should be noted. The symbol for page, p., is not required in footnotes. Only the page number needs to be used. I have found this confuses some people not familiar with this type of notation so I have used p. in front of the page number. For example, p. 1 is used rather than just 1. The second exception involves the use of web site references. Since this type of notation is still new there is not much consistency in published literature. I have used the Chicago Manual of Style recommendation but added the date accessed after the web site, as this is now fairly common in current usage. The third exception involves newspaper headlines. I have left capitals and punctuation the way they were used by the newspaper.

As with most computer-generated documents, words can be searched for with a find command on the web site version of this document.

## **Early School District Boundaries**

Early School District boundaries were continually changing so it is somewhat difficult to be specific. There was considerable consolidating and dividing of school districts and boundaries. Even today the exact boundary of Federal Way District 210 changes slightly from year to year.

## **Thurston County School District Number 5**

King County was formed on December 22, 1852. Prior to this the areas that are now King and Pierce County were part of Thurston County. In Olympia, on June 6, 1852, the commissioners of Thurston County, Oregon Territory established School District No. 5. This included all of the eastern shore of Puget Sound north of the Puyallup River. This area included the area now covered by the Federal Way School District. At that time there were no schools in the Federal Way area. The formation of King County nullified the Thurston County district.<sup>2</sup>

## **Historic Background for Early Schools**

### **Washington Territory Schools**

Early in Washington's history as a territory the legislature was interested in passing a school law. Judges Lander, Monroe and Strong framed a law and passed it on to the

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<sup>1</sup> *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> Angie Burt Bowden, *Early Schools of Washington Territory* (Seattle: Lowman and Hanford Company, 1935), p. 175. Bowden indicates she is quoting from Thomas W. Prosch, *Chronological History of Seattle*, unpublished manuscript in the Seattle Public Library.

legislature. The Territorial Legislature approved it in 1854. It stayed in place unchanged well into statehood (Washington became a state in 1889.)<sup>3</sup>

The first suggestion for financing schools was to set aside two sections of land, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup>, from each township, but this took several years to get implemented as the commissioner of the land-office had decided that the funds from this sale would not be available until the territory became a state. Another method of financing early schools was to use a tax annually levied, and by fines arising from a breach of the penal laws of the territory.<sup>4</sup>

Only county school superintendents were provided in the 1854 law. King County was one of the sixteen counties recognized at that time. In 1861, the legislature passed a bill authorizing a territorial superintendent of public instruction who would be chosen by the legislature. His duty would be to collect information necessary to supervise and finance the public schools. Rev. B. C. Lippincott, a Methodist minister, who was also principal of the Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute, was appointed as the first territorial school superintendent. Lippincott reported he could not prepare his reports because of the uncooperativeness of the county superintendents. One year later the office of Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction was rescinded and not revived until 1871.<sup>5</sup>

Under the 1871 law, the Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction was “to disseminate intelligence in relation to the methods and value of education, to issue certificates to teachers, call teachers’ conventions, consolidate the reports of county superintendents, recommend textbooks, and to report to the legislative assembly; for all of which he was to receive \$300 per year.”<sup>6</sup>

In 1860, there were only 35 teachers in all of Washington Territory and King County had no professional teachers.<sup>7</sup> Under the 1871 law, Dr. Nelson Rounds became the second Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1872. Rounds issued the first statistical report for the schools in Washington Territory. King County was shown to have eight schoolhouses with 213 pupils attending out of 556 potential students.<sup>8</sup> King County had 12 districts so apparently not all had provided schoolhouses by 1872.<sup>9</sup> Pierce County had five schoolhouses with 157 pupils attending out of 320 potential students.<sup>10</sup> None of these schools were in the Federal Way area. By 1885, King County schools had grown to 43 districts with 80 teachers.<sup>11</sup>

There was considerable interest in providing a free education for children living in King County and Washington Territory in the 1880s. In spite of rapid growth and improving transportation lines, rural areas remained independent and quite separate from

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<sup>3</sup> Bowden, p. 8. Bowden provides much detail including names for the organizing and running of the early schools in Washington, but nothing specifically about the Federal Way area schools, with the exception of three short paragraphs relating to St. George’s Indian School, p. 473.

<sup>4</sup> Bowden, pp. 5, 8.

<sup>5</sup> Bowden, pp. 8, 9.

<sup>6</sup> Bowden, p. 9.

<sup>7</sup> Rebecca Day, Cultural Resource Specialist, King County Landmarks Registration Form, *Harding School*, King County Historical Preservation Office, June 25, 1991, section 7, p. 1. (Note: This document starts the page numbering system at 1 for each section.)

<sup>8</sup> Bowden, p. 10. Bowden provides information on the remaining six persons to serve as Territorial Superintendents of Public Instruction and their continued improvement of the school system, pp. 10-12.

<sup>9</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> Bowden, p. 10. 12.

<sup>11</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

their urban neighbors. The public school was to become an important part of rural life that helped establish an identity and focus for the community.<sup>12</sup> Bowden quotes Mr. A. C. Voelker as saying, “The usual procedure for forming new districts or changing boundary lines was by means of a petition to the county superintendent on the part of the person interested, stating their prayer and its justification.”<sup>13</sup>

Early school district organization followed a common pattern. Interested settlers would call together the heads of families in the area, find a place to hold classes, elect directors, raise money by either taxing or collecting donations, employ a teacher and open a school. The group would then petition the county superintendent to form a district.

The Territorial School Superintendent would appropriate school funds to several counties and turn the money over to each county superintendent. The county superintendent then turned over a quota of funds to the clerk of each district. The directors and clerks hired the teachers, paid them and other expenses.<sup>14</sup>

“Boundaries were often designated by the corners of a man’s barn, by a large tree, hill, rock or stream.”<sup>15</sup>

After statehood in 1889, there was significant improvement in rural schools. Early primitive structures were gradually replaced with frame buildings and later brick, fire resistant buildings. After the turn of the century the progressive policies of State Superintendent Josephine Preston greatly improved the quality of county schools in Washington. Preston was superintendent from 1913-1928 and the new schools built during her tenure were larger, multi-classroom buildings with ample windows, indoor plumbing and modern features. Preston also included “teacherages” or teachers cottages in her rural school plans and hundreds were built during her administration.<sup>16</sup>

## **Additional Uses Found for School Houses**

During the early 1900s, the state legislature encouraged school districts to allow the community to use school facilities for general public functions. Schoolhouses across the state were made available to civic groups and social clubs for meetings and activities. Often these non-school groups were instrumental in developing other educational opportunities for the community such as libraries and study clubs.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Bowden, p. 12.

<sup>14</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1. Some of the material given by Day seems to be paraphrased from Bowden, p. 12, 13 and Bowden indicates she is quoting A. C. Voelker.

<sup>15</sup> Bowden, p. 13 again quoting A. C. Voelker.

<sup>16</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

## Early Federal Way Area School Background

Formal Federal Way area schools began in the late 1880s. The earliest European-American settlers in the Federal Way area prior to this had little interest in public schooling. Most of the early residents prior to 1880 were men. They were usually timber workers, trappers or sometimes ex-soldiers who drifted in after the Indian wars. Families usually settled nearer to Tacoma or Seattle. Some of the women in the area were concentrated in brothels. As a result young school age children were few and far between. If the few homesteading families did not teach their children themselves they received no education. By the early 1880s, emigrants were flocking to the Puget Sound in droves. While most settled in Seattle or Tacoma, a handful started to put up stakes around Poverty Bay [Redondo area] and along the ridge above Auburn [loosely from the current Pacific Highway and east.]<sup>18</sup>

## North Edgewood School District 42/43

### Formation of School District 42/43

The first county and state recognition of a school in what is now the Federal Way area was School District 42.<sup>19</sup> This school district was known under two numbers during its 35-year existence. It started out as District 42 but was changed later to District 43. School District 42, North Edgewood, was formed on November 8, 1884.<sup>20</sup> Originally this district included students in both south King County and north Pierce County. The part of District 42, North Edgewood, in Pierce County was combined with Pierce County School District 342 to form a joint district of Pierce County in 1917 with the King County portion becoming District 43.<sup>21</sup> The new Pierce County portion of the district was consolidated into District 193 on September 12, 1917.<sup>22</sup> Care needs to be observed when reading material about School Districts 42 and 43 as some references refer to School District 43 existing prior to 1917 not realizing that a change that took place in 1917. The opposite is also true where District 43 is still described as District 42.<sup>23</sup> I will try to be consistent and refer to the district as District 42 prior to September 12, 1917 and as District 43 after this date.

District 42 drew students from the rural areas of South King County around Auburn and from rural areas of Tacoma and Puyallup.<sup>24</sup> Marie Reed expanded on the comment

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<sup>18</sup> Scott Hammers, "School district celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> birthday," *Federal Way News*, May 12, 1999, p. 10.

<sup>19</sup> School districts are normally numbered based on their chronological establishment in King County. Some numbers were reused however when a school district closed.

<sup>20</sup> *Outline History of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington*, p. 2, no date (the latest date given in the report is 1954), in the files of the HSF. This history provides a summary of the organizations and annexation dates of the more than 200 King County school districts that had been consolidated into the twenty-four operating and non-operating school districts at the time of publication. The date is also confirmed in Day, section 7, p 1.

<sup>21</sup> *Outline history of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington*, p. 2.

<sup>22</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> This is often true in referring to the schools that consolidated in 1929.

<sup>24</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

about the area around Auburn and from rural areas of Tacoma and Puyallup by stating the correct wording should be:

Areas of South King County (on what is now the west hill of Auburn)... I don't think Auburn's city limits came up on the hill until much later.... I would substitute for 'Tacoma and Puyallup' what is now the west hill of Puyallup and north part of Milton.... The Tacoma city limits in 1884 were far removed from the other side of Puyallup.... And the large Puyallup Indian reservation was between Tacoma and the King County boundary – Even Milton was part of the Indian reservation until 1907 when Congress approved the selling of reservation lands by Indians. Although there had been a mill and store at Milton for 10-15 years, it was not incorporated until after 1907.<sup>25</sup>

A copy of what appears to be the original School District 42 boundaries shows the district to cover in King County, Township 21, Range 4, Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, half of 30, 32, and half of 33 and in Township 21, Range 3, most of Section 24. In Pierce County, District 42 originally covered Township 21, Range 4, the other half of Section 33 and Section 34 and in Township 20, Range 4, Section 3 and possibly a small portion of Section 2.<sup>26</sup> It was the Pierce County portion that was removed in 1917 when the King County portion became District 43.<sup>27</sup>

On June 10, 1895, persons living in School District 42 elected Eric B. Cheales as Clerk and Oliver Bounter and A. C. Biggs as Directors. A. T. Bude was appointed as a Director on August 5, 1895.<sup>28</sup> [It appears, based on other references to the clerk relating to early school boards, that the clerk was responsible for record keeping, correspondence and interfacing with other organizations, but did not have a decision making responsibility.] Alice Shoop remembered the names of three School Directors from her time as a student of North Edgewood and Harding School around 1915: Carl (?) Carlson, Sr., August Hinkle and R. M. Kirchner.<sup>29</sup>

A July 16, 1887 list of students for King County shows District 42 to have 30 students. This provided District 42 with \$20.99 as its share of King County's school district funds. Each school district in King County received about \$0.70 per student in this allocation.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Marie Reed, letter to Ms. Becky Day, King County Landmarks Commission, Seattle, Washington, undated, but since it is a response to Day it must have been shortly after Day's Landmarks Registration Form, *Harding School*, King County Historical Preservation Office, June 25, 1991, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>26</sup> Map of School District 42, November 8, 1884, recorded on page 187 of Co. Commissioners, Vol. 4.

<sup>27</sup> Map of School District 42, hand drawn changes indicating removal of the Pierce County portion to form School District 193. This is an example of the care that needs to be taken to not confuse references to early school districts as they were constantly consolidating and changing boundaries.

<sup>28</sup> Register of School District Officers and Appointments (for King County) --- District No. 42, p. 42, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>29</sup> Alice Shoop, *King County School District #42*, letter to Ilene Marckx, April 30, 1990, p. 2, in the files of the HSFW. The (?) was Shoop's.

<sup>30</sup> *Listing of funds received by the 55 school districts in King County for 1887*, signed Isaac P. Rich, King County School Superintendent, date not readable but apparently July 16, 1887, in the Daily Record King County School Superintendent 1874-1892, p. not known, in the files of the HSFW.

A June 1902 census of children between the ages of five and twenty-one years, residing in School District No. 42, indicated that 25 potential students lived in District 42. Fourteen of these were female and eleven male. The age distribution is shown in Table 1.

Table 1- Census of Children for District 42 in 1902 <sup>31</sup>					
Age (Years)	Number	Gender	Age (Years)	Number	Gender
6	3	Female	14	1	Female
8	1	Female	15	2	Female
9	1	Female	15	2	Male
9	2	Male	16	1	Female
10	1	Female	16	1	Male
10	1	Male	18	3	Female
11	2	Male	18	1	Male
12	1	Female	Total	25	
12	2	Male			

In 1918 there were 32 students in School District 43.<sup>32</sup>

### Schools in District 42/43

Only two schools are known for District 42/43, the North Edgewood School and the Harding School.<sup>33</sup> Care needs to be taken as there was an early Edgewood School farther south that was not included in district 42.<sup>34</sup>

### Anne (Anna) Campbell Calavan

Anne Calavan was born around 1893.<sup>35</sup> [I am not sure if the use of Campbell in several sources indicates this was her maiden name or just her middle name.] Mrs. Calavan was a teacher at North Edgewood School when it closed and she was also the main teacher for Harding School during its years of operation. Various sources show her name as Anne, Anna and Ann. I suspect Anna was the correct name. Anne was the version most often used in print, particularly in newspaper articles after 1970 and typed versions of presentations she made. It also sounds like Anne is the way she was addressed in available audio recordings of meetings where she spoke I will use Anne as the accepted version unless it is in a quote or title.

<sup>31</sup> State of Washington, King County, *Census of Children between the ages of five and twenty-one years, residing in School District No. 42*, signed James H. Duncan, School District Clerk and Ole S. Ostrem for School District No. 42, King County, Wash., June 14, 1902.

<sup>32</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>33</sup> See the section on North Edgewood School for a discussion concerning a possible forest fire destroying the first school in 1889 and another one built that lasted until 1920. At present I am discounting the forest fire story and assuming one school was in place from 1884 to around 1920.

<sup>34</sup> The true Edgewood School farther south should be researched further as depending on where it was and when it operated it may have been in the Pierce County portion of District 42.

<sup>35</sup> Comment by Mrs Calavan's daughter Elva Mae Snow, in Reed letter to Ms. Becky Day, p. 2.

Mrs. Calavan conducted several interviews in her later years that became newspaper articles and typed oral histories. These can be found in the files of the HSFW. Some of the material in these documents is discussed in sections on North Edgewood School and Harding School.

1. Anne Calavan interview as guest of a Poverty Bay Historical Society Meeting, PBHS.1, W0001-76, 1976, 6 pages. The audio version is available as well as the typed version. The format is a question and answer session involving Mrs. Calavan and former students of North Edgewood School and Harding School as well as the historical society.
2. Mrs. Calavan interview as guest of a Poverty Bay Historical Society Meeting, PBHS.13, W0012-79, March 1979, 16 pages. The audio version is available as well as the typed version. The format is a question and answer session between Mrs. Calavan and an unidentified member of the Poverty Bay Historical Society.
3. Interview with Mrs. Wade (Anna) Calvin [*sic*], interviewers: Mrs. Ilene Marckx and Mrs. Marie Reed, Federal Way Historical Society [*sic*], May 14, 1976, 1 page. This is a question and answer format. This appears to be rough typed notes and is somewhat incoherent.
4. Ann Hagen, "We were all just one big, happy family," *Federal Way News*, October 8, 1980, p A3. This article was based on Anne Calavan sharing her memories at the Federal Way Library on October 21, 1980.

Anne Calavan was still alive at 98 in 1991 and living in a nursing home.<sup>36</sup>

## North Edgewood School

Little is known about the North Edgewood School, and its location has been debated.

North Edgewood was built in 1884, the year the district was founded.<sup>37</sup> The HSFW has about 50 three foot x four foot panels with pictures and captions of buildings, people and early activities. One of these panels has a photo of this first North Edgewood School that states in the caption under the photo, "North Edgewood School – Circa 1888. First school in Federal Way. Built in 1885 at S. 360<sup>th</sup>. Destroyed by a forest fire in 1889."<sup>38</sup> Since there was a North Edgewood School in place until 1920 when Harding Elementary School was built for this district it is possible that if there was a forest fire the school was rebuilt.

Alice Shoop, who attended Harding School for eight years, stated that North Edgewood was built around 1890.<sup>39</sup> Mrs. Shoop apparently also attended North Edgewood School. Mrs. Shoop's comment about the school being built in 1890 would agree with a fire in 1889 and therefore the need for a new school to be built in 1890. On

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<sup>36</sup> Comment by Mrs. Calavan's daughter, p. 2.

<sup>37</sup> Barbara Butts, "Federal Way schools – then and now," *PROGRESS*, special issue of *Federal Way News*, August 1979, p. 22 and Dwayne F. Nikulla, *Harding School*, King County Historic Sites Survey, February 5, 1978, File No. 0251, p. 1.

<sup>38</sup> Panel titled, "Early Schools," containing photos of several early Federal Way area schools with brief captions describing each school, date prepared unknown but probably late 1980s. The panels were prepared by members of the HSFW and currently in the collection of the HSFW. It is not known who prepared this particular panel. The North Edgewood School photo is number 036b in the collection of the HSFW.

<sup>39</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

the other hand, Mrs. Shoop may have forgotten the exact date of the school being built since her comment was made in 1990 and the event had happened before she was born.

Since none of the other comments relating to the early school imply a fire, I am making the assumption there was only one North Edgewood School.<sup>40</sup>

Day indicates the original school for District 42 was located on Neal Road, about one-half mile east of where Harding School was later built.<sup>41</sup> Shoop indicates North Edgewood School was near Lake Killarney.<sup>42</sup> Anne Calavan stated that North Edgewood School was three miles from Five Mile Lake.<sup>43</sup> Neal Road is now S. 360<sup>th</sup> St.

During its later years North Edgewood was a two-room schoolhouse.<sup>44</sup> Anne Calavan implies North Edgewood started out as a one-room school, but had been added onto to make a two-room school before she arrived there.<sup>45</sup> Ed Sutherland made a comment during Anne Calavan's 1976 lecture that this school was originally referred to as Adelaide School as children from Adelaide Beach District 55 also attended classes while that district built its school.<sup>46</sup> Day evidently used this comment as she also indicates that this school was originally referred to as Adelaide School as children from the Adelaide Beach area attended classes while that district built its school.<sup>47</sup> Care needs to be taken to not confuse the reference to this school as Adelaide School with the better known school described later that was part of Adelaide School District 55. North Edgewood School and Adelaide Beach would have been about five to six miles apart.

Shoop provides the following about early teachers:

A teacher in 1913 was Miss M. E. Didrickson. One male teacher was forced to resign about then under the founded or unfounded rumor that he was a German sympathizer. Some of the older boys filled his buggy with horse manure and made threats.<sup>48</sup>

Anne Campbell Calavan started teaching at North Edgewood School when she was 21 [this would be about 1914].<sup>49</sup> Shoop places Anne and Wade Calavan's teaching start at

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<sup>40</sup> An additional newspaper clipping, with no date or source, has been found which also refers to the fire. The fire issue will need to be evaluated further.

<sup>41</sup> Day, Section 7, p.2.

<sup>42</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

<sup>43</sup> Ann Hagen, "We were all just one big, happy family," *Federal Way News*, October 8, 1980, p A3. This article was based on Anne Calavan sharing her memories with Hagen prior to a follow-up presentation at the Federal Way Library on October 21, 1980.

<sup>44</sup> Shoop, p. 1. Day, section 7, p. 1 also confirms that North Edgewood was a two-room schoolhouse. Day indicates much of her material for her King County Landmark Form was obtained from personal notes, interviews and oral histories provided by Marie Stowe Reed of the Federal Way Historical Society.

<sup>45</sup> Anne Calavan interview as guest of a Poverty Bay Historical Society Meeting, PBHS.1, W0001-76, 1976, p. 2.

<sup>46</sup> Anne Calavan interview as guest of a Poverty Bay Historical Society Meeting, PBHS.1, W0001-76, 1976, p. 2. Ilene Marckx credits the audience comment to Ed Sutherland in a hand written comment in Ilene Marckx, *Notes from interview about North Edgewood School*, no date, in file marked *Marie [Reed] and Ilene's [Marckx] Notes*, in the files of the HSF. This file contains approximately 100 pages of notes that were assembled to be a book about Federal Way area history. Only the comment about Ed Sutherland was used here.

<sup>47</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>48</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

<sup>49</sup> Hagen, p. A3.

North Edgewood at around 1915.<sup>50</sup> Anne Calavan implies that North Edgewood School was already in operation when she started teaching.<sup>51</sup>

Shoop indicates that,

Wade Calavan and his wife Anna Campbell Calavan ... were the entire staff for teaching, administrating [*sic*] & janitorial work for many years. On cold winter mornings they arrived at school in the dark hours of the morning to fire up the old potbellied stove in an attempt to have the two rooms warm by the time the pupils arrived. If necessary they had to thaw out the water pipes and see to it the balky old pump out in the pump house was in working order.<sup>52</sup>

Later teachers were Gertrude Tenzler [might be Fenzler as handwriting is difficult to read], Mamie Breidenback and Helen Johnson.<sup>53</sup>

Day indicates that, according to Anne Calavan, the school children had to help Mrs. Calavan and her husband Wade carry five-gallon water bottles to the school as it had no running water or other amenities.<sup>54</sup> Mrs. Calavan, in one of her interviews, stated:

You know when we bought it, we didn't have any water, they had organized a system underneath the school thinking that the drainage would supply, but it never did. It wasn't the answer ... And you know, you have to be without water to appreciate water. And up in the old school they'd bring us a couple of 10 gallon cans. On a hot day that would go just like lightning, you know. But, we had a big kind of a fountain for drinking. We could catch the water that was wasted from the drinking fountain for washing our hands. And there was down below the hill, you went down a little stream and we kept going down to that stream and got water, but it was pure and clean. Southerlands [*sic*] mostly. They were a real nice family.<sup>55</sup>

Wade Calavan also acted as the principal.<sup>56</sup> Hagen quotes Calavan as saying,

Like most schools of those days, there was no running water or electricity and the bathroom was a hike away. There were very few roads and [the] teacher walked to school, often in ankle-deep mud.

Oh, how it was muddy ...

But we didn't think much about walking. It was the only way we had to get around.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

<sup>51</sup> Calavan, 1976, p. 2.

<sup>52</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

<sup>53</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

<sup>54</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1

<sup>55</sup> Calavan, 1976, p. 2.

<sup>56</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>57</sup> Hagen, p. A3

We didn't have any electric lights of course, you know we had lamps and reflectors. I never can remember lighting those lamps for regular school sessions. I ... we just put up the blinds and hoped they could see.

Well when it got dark, you went home.<sup>58</sup>

Around 1915, Mr. Fred Breidenback Sr. drove a team of horses hitched to a long covered wagon to haul children in the west and north end of the school district to school and back.<sup>59</sup>

An anonymous member of the audience during Mrs. Calavan's 1976 presentation to the Poverty Bay Historical Society stated,

May I interject something here? Mrs. Calavan said awhile ago that we used to go to school with a horse and wagon. Well, I can't remember the horse and wagon trip, but Mr. Morgan used to take us over in that old tin buggy with the iron tires and we'd get stuck and have to jump off then. And then finally, Mrs. Calavan used to come to pick us up in the mornings. She'd come down through the Military Road and the Lake Road and start from there, the Olsens, and the Sutherland's clan and some of the Carlsons and we'd have the five-gallon milk can on the running board and that was the water we had for the day, or part of the day, and the girls, they would get in the car. I don't know how many kids were in that Model T Ford, but the fellows would stand on the side regardless of the weather ...<sup>60</sup>

Mrs. Shoop indicated some of the names of pupils were: Nina Poland, Rachel and Elizabeth Van Fossen, Mabel Harvey, Willa Parham, Albert Johnson, Vener and Irene Wilson, Viola and Fred Peirsoll [maybe Piersall], Charles and Edith Eddington, John Libo and Bruno Giuntoli.<sup>61</sup>

A literary society was organized and many programs were presented by the local people. These included musical numbers, dramas, skits, readings, social get-togethers including box socials and potluck suppers and picnics.<sup>62</sup>

In May, when the weather became warm, the older boys would sneak off to go skinny-dipping in Sweet Water Creek, which ran behind the school. Games played during recess and noon hour were as follows: baseball, catch, run sheep run, duck on a rock, tag, ring-around-the-rosy. They bring back many good memories<sup>63</sup>.

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<sup>58</sup> Calavan, 1976, pp. 2, 3.

<sup>59</sup> Shoop, p. 1.

<sup>60</sup> Calavan, 1976, p. 3. [In the informal style of this presentation there was some rambling and confusion of North Edgewood School and Harding School, but I believe this refers to North Edgewood School around 1917.]

<sup>61</sup> Shoop, p. 2.

<sup>62</sup> Shoop, pp. 1, 2.

<sup>63</sup> Shoop, p. 2.

I am not sure but the Sweet Water Creek mentioned may be the present East Hylebos Creek that flows out of Lake Killarney.

Calavan indicated that within three years of her coming, the boards of North Edgewood creaked for lack of space. The community decided to build a larger school.<sup>64</sup>

## Harding School

### Opening and Construction

As mentioned previously, in 1917, School District 42 was reorganized to become School District 43. Because the old North Edgewood School was no longer meeting needs and also, apparently, because it needed extensive remodeling, plans were made to provide School District 43 with a new school. In 1918, District 43 purchased land from Puget Sound Power and Light Company at the corner of Neal Road and the old Milton Road, now S. 359<sup>th</sup> St. and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue S., for the building of a new school.<sup>65</sup> The Harding School, located at 35905 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue S., was built in 1920.<sup>66</sup> It still stands in its original location. The outside retains much of its original appearance, but the inside has been almost completely remodeled. In 1922, the school was named Harding School in honor of the late president Warren G. Harding.<sup>67</sup> In 1991, the main building and outbuildings complex occupied 2.77 acres of land.<sup>68</sup>

### Architecture

The Colonial Revival building is in good condition and retains many of its original architectural elements and integrity of location and setting. The interior has been completely remodeled for use as a church, with a church hall and offices on the first floor and a sanctuary in the basement.<sup>69</sup>

The Harding School is a well-preserved example of Colonial Revival architecture, exhibiting the centered gable subtype of this style. During the first half of the twentieth century, Colonial Revival was the dominant style for domestic buildings throughout King County. In the case of Harding School, the center gable actually intersects with the cross gable.<sup>70</sup>

In 1991, Day described the schoolhouse building architecture as follows:

The schoolhouse is a large T-shaped two-story wood-frame building capped with a low-pitched intersecting gable roof. The foundation is poured concrete and there is a full basement. The building is sheathed in horizontal shiplap siding with decorative corner pilasters capped with modest capitals. Gable

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<sup>64</sup> Hagen, p. A3.

<sup>65</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>66</sup> Day, section 6, p. 1. Day indicates she obtained the date of construction from tax assessor records and newspaper accounts.

<sup>67</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>68</sup> Day, section 8, p. 1.

<sup>69</sup> Day, section 6, p. 1.

<sup>70</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

returns and a cornice further carry out the classical theme. The building is oriented to the east with the primary façade the gable end. A secondary entry is located in the basement on the south elevation. There are small palladian windows in the south and north gables and a modified palladian window in the east gable with a segmented center arch. Large double-hung windows provide ample light to the interior and are executed in a variety of pane configurations: eight-over-one, six-over-six, and three-over-three. The primary entrance is flanked by pairs of two double-hung sash windows divided by mullions. They retain the original six-over-six configuration. Small six-lighted windows on either side of the primary projecting gable volume have been changed to an elongated six-over-one configuration. All the windows have a strip of decorative molding under the sills. There are two sets of five six-paneled ribboned basement windows near ground level on the west elevation. Other basement windows have been boarded over. Molded vinyl shutters have been added to sash windows. Front double doors and all other doors are solid plane and not original. A large carport has been added on the north elevation. It has a low-pitched gable roof with decorative corner brackets that were either moved from or duplicated the brackets from the original front porch hood. The hood over the main entrance is not original.<sup>71</sup>

In 1991, Day wrote concerning the grounds and outer buildings:

In addition to the schoolhouse there are two other buildings on the 2.77-acre lot: a 25' by 29' frame and wood-sided building (teacherage) to the northwest of the schoolhouse and a 15' by 20' frame and wood-sided building (pump house) to the west. The surrounding area is a mix of residential and agricultural uses with open hay fields to the south and single-family residences across the street to the north and east and adjacent to the west and a large apartment complex to the northeast. An unpaved drive enters the property from the north near the northwest corner. It passes along the front of the school and leads to a gravel parking area on the south side of the building.<sup>72</sup>

Northwest of the schoolhouse is a small bungalow style building about 15' by 20' with front and back covered porches. This building was originally built as the teacher's cottage or teacherage. A steeple has been added to the east end over the main entrance. There are small porches at the main entrance on the east elevation and at the secondary entrance on the west elevation. The present porch hoods and railings are not original. This now houses the Sunday school classrooms for the church.

The west end, behind the schoolhouse, is the old pump house. It is a small 12' by 18' frame building still retaining some of its simple design elements: horizontal siding cornice trim, corner boards and Colonial Revival roof lines and returns. The original door and windows have been boarded up. There are no windows on the building now and a garage door has been added in the

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<sup>71</sup> Day, section 6, pp. 1,2.

<sup>72</sup> Day, section 6, p. 1.

south elevation.

The setting for Harding School retains a very rural feeling. The lot is open and meadow like with scattered trees and some shrubs and flowering bushes near the buildings. A small vegetable garden has been planted next to the Sunday school.<sup>73</sup>

## Teachers, Students, Schedules

Anne Calavan, who had previously taught at North Edgewood School, taught at Harding for essentially its entire existence as a school.<sup>74</sup>

In 1976, at the age of 83, Mrs. Calavan attended a Poverty Bay Historical Society Meeting and answered questions provided by some of her former students.<sup>75</sup> According to Anne Calavan, one of the most delightful features of the new school was a drinking fountain in the entrance foyer. The new Harding School was a modern, two-classroom frame building with a basement, library, kitchen facilities and restrooms. There were large sliding doors between the two classrooms that could be opened to make one big room. The eighth grade girls took turns cooking a hot lunch one day a week under the supervision of Mrs. Calavan.<sup>76</sup> The water came from an artesian well on the property.<sup>77</sup>

It had all the modern conveniences including faucets that worked, bathrooms off the classrooms, and electric lights.

It was really quite nice.... It even had a downstairs stage for community activities. All the citizens used it freely.<sup>78</sup>

The school also had a cottage for the teacher to live in, a “teacherage,” that later became the home of the school district’s first bus driver.<sup>79</sup>

Wade Calavan and Helen Johnson also taught at Harding School.<sup>80</sup>

A photo taken in about 1923 shows the entire staff and student body of Harding School. There are two teachers, Wade Calavan and Anna Calavan. There are 52 students shown, with only some named: Ester Debolt, Ruth Stacey, Minnie Moore, Doris Jerstad, Hannes Sutherland, Edith Clinkingbeard, Ruth Duncan, Lawrence Nelson, Violet Strom, Kenneth Stacey, Bruno Gentilli, Arthur Jerstad, Don Kirchener, Ruby Moore, Wadene Calavan (possibly the daughter of Anna and Wade Calavan), Sue Olsen, Agnes Olsen, Mildred Sutherland, Ruth Clinkingbeard, Bill Clinkingbeard, Harold O’Connor, Billy Wisherman, Charlotte Kirchener, Ernest Nelson and Lloyd Nelson.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Day, section 6, p.2.

<sup>74</sup> Comment by Mrs Calavan’s daughter Elva Mae Snow, in Reed letter to Ms. Becky Day, p. 2.

<sup>75</sup> Typed transcript of 1976 Poverty Bay Historical Society Meeting with Anne Calavan, North Edgewood School Teacher, 1976, no month or day listed, 6 pages, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way, W0001-76.

<sup>76</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>77</sup> Calavan, 1976, p. 2.

<sup>78</sup> Hagen, p. A3.

<sup>79</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

<sup>80</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

<sup>81</sup> “Good Old Golden Rule Days,” Newspaper photo with paper not known, date not known but probably around 1968 based on article on back side, page not known, in the files of the HSFW.

A photo taken in 1927 shows the entire eighth grade graduating class from Harding School. It pictures seven students, six girls and one boy.<sup>82</sup>

Mrs. Calavan told Ilene Marckx that Wade Calavan went back to night school at the University of Puget Sound to get more education as he intended to follow education as a career. The Sumner School District called him to be principal in the grade school so he did this while Mrs. Calavan stayed at Harding School. He did such a good job in his days as a grade school principal in Sumner that when that school was replaced it was named for him, the Wade Calavan School.<sup>83</sup>

## Closure of Harding School

When five local school districts closed in 1929, with the consolidation into School District 210, Harding School was closed. Day states that even after the Harding School became part of School District 210 in 1929, Harding School continued to operate through the 1930s and early 1940s with Mrs. Calavan as the teacher.<sup>84</sup> This comment by Day would not seem to be valid as all other information indicates that all the area schools were closed with the consolidation and classes moved to Federal Way Elementary School.

However, there is evidence that Harding School may have been used temporarily as a school during the Second World War. During the Second World War, it appears the old Steel Lake School was reopened temporarily, probably during 1943 and 1944 for use as a school again.<sup>85</sup> Another source would appear to support this statement not only for Steel Lake School but also for Harding School and Star Lake School.<sup>86</sup> The student population in School District 210 grew from 726 students in 1941 to 994 in 1942 and 1,103 in 1943.<sup>87</sup> This sudden growth would have caused a need for more classroom space on short notice. It is not known just how extensively or how the three old schools were used during the Second World War.

## Use of Harding School After School Closure

The Harding School underwent some remodeling in 1936. The Works Projects Administration (W. P. A.) was using the Harding School as an office for the many projects it had going on in the area. The School board was willing to transfer some of the lumber from the demolition of the Redondo School for this remodeling but there was concern about the legality of this transfer.<sup>88</sup>

Schoolhouses were often used for community activities. The Harding Improvement Club met at the Harding School for many years. This club later became the Lakeland

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<sup>82</sup> "Graduating Class, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, on the steps of Harding School, Edgewood School Dist. #42 of King County, C-102 Schools," Photo, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>83</sup> Typed note Anna Calavan to Ilene Marckx, signed as Anna Calavan to Ilene Marckx but it appears Ilene Marckx hand wrote the signature block (?), No title, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>84</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

<sup>85</sup> "Federal Way Schools Growing; New Build Soon Required, *Federal Way News*, May 4, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>86</sup> "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft 2", p.6, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>87</sup> "Federal Way School Population," Source King County Superintendent of Schools, *Federal Way Review*, November 5, 1954, p. 12, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>88</sup> Minutes of the regular meeting of the Federal Way School Board, October 10, 1936, p. 1.

Community Club and, in 1952, the club purchased the old school and grounds for \$3,000 for use as its clubhouse. The club later moved to larger facilities and became the Brooklake Community Club. The club sold the schoolhouse property to Clarence Barker in 1967 for \$14,000. Barker remodeled the main floor of the school into a private residence. In 1975, the Unity Church of Christianity purchased Harding School. The church remodeled the interior of all the buildings, but maintained the architectural integrity of the exteriors.<sup>89</sup>

### **Attempt to Make Harding School a Historical Landmark**

In 1991, the Historical Society of Federal Way began the process of making Harding School a county historic landmark. Historical Society president, Shirley Charnell, who had spent part of second grade at the school, said her group decided to push for landmark status after learning that the owner, Unity Church, had plans to expand and change the outer configuration of the main building. There was also concern that new owners might tear the building down.<sup>90</sup>

Church members were nervous about the proposed landmarking procedure, as they feared it would complicate their plans to double the building's size to make room for a growing congregation. The Rev. Carl Stouffer, pastor of the congregation that had purchased the building ten years before, indicated the church had been undergoing rapid growth in the past year. He stated,

No one can tell us what's involved in (the landmark process) . . .

Our church has a clear role in the Federal Way community and that is to expand the teaching. At some point it will be absolutely imperative for us to add to the building.<sup>91</sup>

Stouffer indicated that those interested in preservation did not need to worry about the congregation's plans for remodeling, as designs for a new sanctuary would use the same style and materials as the old schoolhouse. This decision had been made long before the historical society became involved. Besides, many years before, a carport had been added and stained glass around the doorway removed after the county had ordered a fire door be installed.<sup>92</sup>

In June 1991, Rebecca Day, Cultural Resource Specialist for the King County Preservation Office, put together a detailed *King County Landmark Registration Form* as a step in making the Harding School a King County Historic Landmark.<sup>93</sup> She emphasized that Harding School was a perfect example of the Colonial Revival architecture of the early 1900s especially as it was used for schoolhouses. Harding School has a definite domestic appearance to its design and scale.

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<sup>89</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

<sup>90</sup> Elizabeth Moore, "Landmark to some is headache to others," *Tacoma News Tribune*, exact date not known, 1991, p. B1.

<sup>91</sup> Moore, p. B1.

<sup>92</sup> Moore, p. B1.

<sup>93</sup> Rebecca Day, Cultural Resource Specialist, King County Landmarks Registration Form, *Harding School*, King County Historical Preservation Office, June 25, 1991, 9 pages.

While nationally the more popular style for educational buildings centered around Late Gothic Revival and brick and stone were used for building materials, small rural schools in King County and across Washington were mostly simple frame buildings and only occasionally brick, as funds permitted and the century progressed.

The Colonial Revival style had its origins in a renewed awareness of national heritage and interest in colonial architecture inspired by the Centennial of 1876. Architects studied original Georgian and Adam buildings throughout New England and renowned architects McKim, Mead, White and Bigelow took a widely publicized tour of New England in 1877. Their designs for landmark homes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island started a trend that would continue for the next 75 years. While early examples of Colonial Revival were rather free interpretations of the earlier style, after the turn of the century there was a shift to more carefully researched copies and a marked advance in architectural scholarship. The epitome of this interest in historic accuracy is the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, that was begun in 1927.

The growing popularity of the Colonial Revival style was due in part to improved methods of distributing information. Better methods and photographic reproduction made "*The American Architect and Building News*", and later the, "*White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs*" and other publications more readily available. Now the details and proportions of the style were more widely understood and Colonial Revival construction between 1915 and 1935 more closely resembled early colonial buildings that did earlier designs of the revival period.

The simple execution of the Colonial Revival style in Harding School reflects a popular style of the time and the simple utilitarian form of a country school....<sup>94</sup>

In 1991, the Landmarks Commission of the King County Cultural Resources Division of the Parks, Planning and Resources Department began the process of designating Harding School a King County Landmark. The Landmarks Commission made a positive preliminary determination of significance on July 18, 1991. The reason given for significance was that all the exterior features of the schoolhouse were preserved. The outer appearance was called "a rare example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouse in the Federal Way Planning Area and a good example of Colonial Revival style architecture articulated in a rural county schoolhouse."<sup>95</sup> A preliminary hearing was held on August 18, 1991 in the Executive Conference Room in the King County Courthouse, Seattle to

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<sup>94</sup> Day, section 7, pp. 2, 3.

<sup>95</sup> Notice of Preliminary Determination and Public Hearing, July 22, 1991, pp 1, 2, attachment to Letter by Julie Koler, Historic Preservation Officer, King County Cultural Resources Division of the Parks, Planning and Resources Department to Reverend Carl Stouffer, Unity Church of Christianity, 35905 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Federal Way, WA, RE: *Harding School*, July 22, 1991, in the files of the HSFW.

determine the next steps.<sup>96</sup> Federal Way did not have a Heritage Preservation Joint Agreement with the county to make landmarks inside the city limits part of the program operated by the county.<sup>97</sup> [Federal Way still does not have a Heritage Preservation Interagency Agreement with the county landmarks commission, so there are still no county landmarks within city limits.] It was determined that as the property lies within the corporate limits of the City of Federal Way, provisions outlined in KCC Chapter 20.62 are not applicable since the county and city do not have the required interagency agreement. Nothing further came of this endeavor.

## **Adelaide School District 55**

### **Early Beach Development**

During the period from 1880 to 1900 there were almost no roads into what is now Federal Way. What passed for roads could handle only a two-wheeled cart or a sled. The Adelaide-Buenna-Redondo area was, in the late 1880s to early 1900s, a major entry into the Federal Way area from the outside because of Poverty Bay and the easy access by water. Some of the first schools were, therefore, in this area. The Seattle-Tacoma Interurban, started in 1902, revitalized the west side community of the Federal Way area but had little effect on the Puget Sound side. A regularly scheduled fleet of small boats, called the mosquito fleet, served the eastern shore of Puget Sound providing reasonably good communication and transportation for both freight and people.<sup>98</sup>

### **French's Lake School**

Ilene Marckx believed that French's Lake School, built in the mid 1880s, was the oldest in the area.<sup>99</sup> Philip French operated a lumber mill on what was originally called French Lake. Possibly involved with this early school construction was Lamar Cheadle, an early settler, possibly the first at Dumas Bay.<sup>100</sup> French Lake is now known as Mirror Lake. There still is a French Lake Park in Federal Way, but it is located a few blocks east of the lake.

It seems likely that "French's Lake School" was the oldest school in the entire area, dating back to the middle 1880s. The little school up in the

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<sup>96</sup> Letter by Julie Koler. July 22, 1991.

<sup>97</sup> Moore, p. B2.

<sup>98</sup> Ilene Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," *Federal Way News Advertiser*, February 2, 1962, p. 2. The research for this article appears to have been collected on twenty-two typed and handwritten five by eight index cards. These cards contain most of the material used in the article plus much that was not used. Mrs. Marckx interviewed many of the early students of Buenna School and the article and the index cards should be considered an excellent source for Adelaide School District No. 55. These cards were apparently written by Ilene Marckx but are now stamped with the name Marie Stowe Reed, probably because they ended up in her files. These are available in the files of the HSFW. Also in the files of the HSFW is the typed draft copy of the article that was eventually printed.

<sup>99</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>100</sup> [Marie Reed], handwritten draft of letter to King County Historic Preservation Commission, no date, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW.

woods was centrally located between the home of the Charles Phillips family and other homes on the beach and the home of the Philip French family at the north end of what is now Mirror Lake.

Ray Rodgers Sr., while too young to then have attended it, recalls standing in the structure when much of its floor had been removed to build the Adelaide Beach School. Laura Phillips Schumann, born in 1880, recalls having attended “French’s” school in her first year of school.

Indications are that one or two of the oldest children from the Phillips, Elliot, Hanchett, Haagen, Barker and French families may have been students there.<sup>101</sup>

It was located in a small cabin up in the woods.

Mabel Alexander, a local pioneer, would later recall that the school would be in session about three months at a time, or as long as parents could afford books for the children. The first teachers name was a Mr. Olson<sup>102</sup> and he was paid \$25 per month.<sup>103</sup>

It should be noted that, while \$25.00 per month sounds like pretty good money for the time, the contracts for the early schools between the 1880s and early 1900s were usually for three months and often there were only one, two or three of these cycles per year leaving the teacher with several months of no pay. Often school districts could not raise the contracted amount and teachers ended up being paid in farm products, meals, or boarding.

## Formation of Adelaide School District

School District 55, Adelaide, was formed on February 12, 1887.<sup>104</sup> Occasionally, this school district is referred to as the Buenna District. Ray Rogers told Ilene Marckx that the first directors were Theophilus Elliot, H. Hanchet and L. F. Rogers. Later there were yearly changes. For example, Bickers replaced Hanchett.<sup>105</sup>

## Adelaide Beach School

A “little school” usually referred to as the Adelaide Beach School was built on the property of Theo Elliot on Poverty Bay in about 1887. The school was probably just a

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<sup>101</sup> Marckx, “ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS,” p. 2.

<sup>102</sup> Mr. Olson is spelled Olsen in some references. I have tried to be consistent and always used Olson for this person. Other people unrelated to him apparently had the last name spelled Olsen so I have left that as Olsen.

<sup>103</sup> Public Service Section, 20 pages, p. 4, attached to “Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2,” July 1, 1991, 28 pages, in the files of the HSFW. There is no author listed but it appears this was a manuscript being prepared by members of the HSFW and Jack R. Evans, SCW Publications, 1011 Boren Avenue #155, Seattle Wa 98104. The draft used here was being reviewed by members of the HSFW under the direction of Shirley Charnell and Marry Kay Barry. In essence, it represents 48 pages of a book about Federal Way that was never developed beyond the draft stage.

<sup>104</sup> Outline history of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington, p. 2.

<sup>105</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Directors*, #55, 5x8 typed index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

cabin. Most of the students came from around the small hamlet developing around Adelaide Beach.<sup>106</sup>

In a collection of notes [this one is typed – DC] used to write her published newspaper article,<sup>107</sup> Ilene Marckx had material from an unnamed person [although it appears from a handwritten comment, that it was Bob Kelsey] whom she had evidently interviewed. Bob Kelsey appeared in her article as one of the first students. Because of the flavor the notes present about going to school at Adelaide School, I have included the entire series of notes relating to Adelaide School. Kelsey speculates,

To the writer it seems that the Adelaide School was built about 1887 (I may – and doubtless am – wrong) - a small frame structure I envision as being of 1x12 boards (unsurfaced), perhaps with battens over the wall cracks. It was one-room of course, and was situated at the beach at the foot of the road running southward alongside the “Doc” Oliver property.

Facilities and conveniences were slight (except the physical convenience to and from our little “hamlet” of five houses (occupants of which – as concerned pupils- walked to it along the shore) maybe we didn’t go in periods of extreme high tides and strong winds from the North ----- I do not recall in this regard, but I do remember that, due to topography, fences and other factors, there was no crossing of property lines save between the Haagen and the Kelsey homes). [Note: The double sets of parenthesis are in original.]

.... [Outside of the school there were no structures, i.e. outhouses<sup>108</sup>] of the type in which Chick Sale later specialized,<sup>109</sup> and the only means for pupils and teachers to achieve a measure of privacy for the performance of certain requisite functions was to repair to the nearby woods.

The teacher at that first school attended by the writer was James A. Cathcart, then a young man who passed away in Seattle in recent years [this was written in 1958] after quite long service as Circulation Manager of the Post-Intelligencer and then many years in the insurance business in Seattle. The writer phoned Mr. Cathcart a decade or so ago. I was not remembered as one of Mr. Cathcart’s pupils, but he well-remembered his experience in teaching at the Adelaide school [*sic*] and said he never had in later years known just where it was located. I said I could show him the site, but we made no definite appointment and thus regrettably the situation ended with Mr. Cathcart never learning anew where he had reigned at a blackboard in trying to plant a trifle of knowledge into a group of children under somewhat primitive conditions.

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<sup>106</sup> Marckx, “ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS,” p. 2.

<sup>107</sup> Marckx, “ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS,” p. 2.

<sup>108</sup> The document available for use is a copy which was blurred in the copy machine so it is difficult to read so I have inserted what I think it said – DC.

<sup>109</sup> Charles (Chic) Sale, *The Specialist*, (St. Louis: Specialist Publishing Company, 1929), pp. 1 – 30. Chic Sale wrote this book as a tongue and cheek version of the development of the commercial outhouse. He describes himself on the title page as “America’s great rural character actor.” Apparently the name Chic Sale became associated with outhouse design either because of this book or because he may have actually been involved with aspects of the design.

Perhaps, oddly enough, I am not certain as to the number or names of those early-day pupils, with two exceptions – aside from the writer, but I believe they included children from the Charles Phillips, the Elliott, the Hanchett and possibly the Haagen households.

I do recall [some of rest of line is not readable] seatmate, because she would pinch me lustily in school (perhaps to test my stoicism [*sic*] --- and I withstood all temptation to let Mr. Cathcart know) and I recall definitely Glenn Hanchett, because he often threw stones at me on our ways [*sic*] home (but who won my regard a few years later when he responded to my cries for aid when I had an awkward and quite injurious fall.)

But I feel quite confident the other pupils included Bill, George, and Ed [Ed is handwritten in] and Bessie Phillips ... Izzy, Lyda and John Elliot, perhaps Andrew Haagen – and maybe his sister Mary – and Glenn Hanchett (as I have said). It may be that Glenn's sister (Ethel?) also was a pupil. I think that as the oldest of the Elliott youngsters, Myda or Mida, was possibly past the elementary school age back in 1891.

The Phillips youngsters were far the most remote to attend. Their only means of travel was along the beach (and not this at extremely high tide) or by a trail through the woods. Survivors would know, and I was told recently that Laura and Bessie (I of course don't know their last names now) – reside at Star Lake.<sup>110</sup>

In Ilene Marckcx's published article she listed the following as the early students,

The first teacher was James A. Cathcart, who was succeeded by Miss Lathrop. Attending were Ray and Will Rogers, Gerald Bucey, Will, George, Ed and Laura Phillips, Isreal Elliot, John, Lyda and Midal Elliot, Bob Kelsey and Andrew and Mary Haagen.<sup>111</sup>

It is interesting that students from the French family mentioned in the section on French's Lake School are not mention as having attended the Adelaide Beach School which was in the same area and only a year or two later.

The only means of travel to school was along the beach, and at high tide, a rough trail through the woods was a doubtful alternative from Redondo to Adelaide.<sup>112</sup>

This school was abandoned in 1890, when Buenna School was built on what is now 296<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest.<sup>113</sup> [See the discussion below about when Buenna School opened that implies Adelaide Beach School may have operated until 1893 or 1894.]

A July 16, 1887 list of students for King County shows District 55 to have 40 students. [I am not sure what classified one as a student – actually going to school or just being of school age.] This provided District 55 with \$27.98 as its share of King County's school district funds. Each school district in King County received about \$0.70 per

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<sup>110</sup> Ilene Marckcx, *Notes from interview with Bob Kelsey in 1958*, four unnumbered, typed, double spaced pages, in file marked *Marie [Reed] and Ilene's [Marckcx] Notes*, in the files of the HSF.. This file contains approximately 100 unnumbered pages of notes that were to be used to write a book about Federal Way area history. Only the pages pertaining to Adelaide School were used here.

<sup>111</sup> Marckcx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>112</sup> Marckcx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>113</sup> Butts, p. 22 and Marckcx, p. 2.

student in this allocation.<sup>114</sup> In addition, funds were transferred to School District 55 from two other school districts in King County. On July 16, 1887 the sum of \$49.06 was transferred from School District 3 to School District 55. This was determined based on a 11/113 ratio of \$504.01. On July 16, 1887 the sum of \$35.43 was transferred from School District 11 to School District 55. This was determined based on a 29/115 ratio of \$140.54. The total received by School District 55 for its opening in 1887 was therefore \$112.47 to provide operating funds for the new School District 55.<sup>115</sup> My assumption is that School District 55 was formed from areas previously covered by School Districts 3 and 11 although they had no schools in the area. I assume that the County grants were for the year.

School commenced in District 55 on June 17, 1887.<sup>116</sup> [Since this seems a strange time of year for school to start the June 17, 1887 date may refer to when District 55 was completely in place legally. As described under the section, Formation of Adelaide School District, it was formed on February 12, 1887. This might mean when it was first proposed. There seems to be some inconsistency in this information.] In 1887, School District 55, with 40 students, was the eighteenth largest in King County.<sup>117</sup>

## **Buenna School**

### **Buenna School Built and Opened**

When School District 55 was first approved in 1887, the School board asked for a donation of land. "Doc" Oliver donated land for a school to be built. At this time the proposed school was to be called Adelaide School. Mr. Oliver is credited with naming Adelaide Beach after his sister. He apparently was a doctor although he had only a limited practice. He did deliver Wills, a stepsister to Mr. Kelsey, the source of this information.<sup>118</sup>

The Buenna School began about 1892-1893.<sup>119</sup> An interview Ilene Marckx had with Ray Rogers, who attended the first year of Buenna School, indicated the school opened in 1893 or 1894.<sup>120</sup> [If this is true and the 1890 date cited above for the abandonment of Adelaide School is correct then there would be a year or two with no school. Probably all that can be said is that Adelaide School closed and Buenna School opened in the period around 1890-1894.] It was built on property donated by Henry Bucey. It was in the town site owned jointly by Bucey and L. F. Rogers.<sup>121</sup> The location was at Fifth Avenue

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<sup>114</sup> Listing of funds received by the 55 school districts in King County for 1887.

<sup>115</sup> Record of transactions, signed Isaac P. Rich, King County School Superintendent, July 16, 1887, in the Daily Record King County School Superintendent 1874-1892, p 83, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>116</sup> Record of transactions, signed Isaac P. Rich.

<sup>117</sup> Listing of funds received by the 55 school districts in King County for 1887.

<sup>118</sup> Mr. Kelsey (the first name is not known), Federal Way Oral History Guide, A Preliminary Document to the Federal Way Historical Society's "A Federal Way History," p. 5, 1962, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>119</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>120</sup> Ilene Marckx, "Pupils, Buenna School," typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>121</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

between Ash and Oak Street (now Southwest 296<sup>th</sup> St. and between 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.)<sup>122</sup>

Lumber for the school was cut at Steel Lake in the mill of the Johnson and Carlson Brothers. The lumber was hauled down what became known on the maps as Barker Road. This road still takes off from what is now S. 312<sup>th</sup> St. and 5<sup>th</sup> Way S. This road traveled about two miles before dropping into the Redondo-Buenna Beach area.<sup>123</sup>

The contract for the school was for \$5,400. Theophilus Elliot, H. Hanchett and L. F. Rodgers were the school directors.<sup>124</sup>

Buenna was then riding on a wave of real estate optimism so it was expected the student population would grow rapidly. It was expected that the Seattle-Tacoma Interurban Railroad would follow a route along the coast and the size of the school reflected this optimism.<sup>125</sup> [Unfortunately for Buenna the Interurban was built several miles inland.] The school was built with two large rooms on the first floor, two on the second, a large basement and several cloak rooms and closets.<sup>126</sup> Marckx's original notes, used to write the article, indicate there were three rooms on the first floor and the same on the top floor.<sup>127</sup> The first floor and the basement were the only rooms ever used. (This lack of use led some to predict, in 1929, when Federal Way School was built, that it would have empty rooms.)<sup>128</sup> In Ilene Marckx's research notes she indicated that the whole upper floor had been condemned and was limited to only a few persons at a time. Apparently the building had been built too heavy for its foundations.<sup>129</sup>

## Students

In its first year, the Buenna School is said to have had as large an enrollment as it ever had. Ilene Marckx interviewed Ray Rogers who provided a list of the first year class.

Included among its [first year] pupils were Will and Ray Rogers, John, George, Izzy, Lyda and Mida Elliot, Gerald and Harold Bucey, Elmer Lord, Glen Hanchett, Robert Kelsey, Ed, George, Bessie, Laura and Will Phillips, Mytrice, May and Claude Barker, Andrew and Mary Haagen, Fred Fredrickson, Frank Emmons, Carl and John Unbedacht, and possibly the Larsons.<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> "The Buenna School, 1892-1929," map of Buenna area and Henry Bucey Road, 1915, one of several items on a three foot x four foot panel prepared by members of HSFW around 1990.

<sup>123</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>124</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>125</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Optimism*, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>126</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>127</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Buenna School uses*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>128</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>129</sup> Ilene Marckx, "Schools, Dist. 55, Mollie Todd," typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW. Mollie Todd appears to be the source for this information.

<sup>130</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2. On a reference index card Ilene Marckx indicates she got the list of students from an interview with Ray Rogers. The index card is, Ilene Marckx, "*Pupils, Buenna Schools*," typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

## Teachers and Classes

Grade school classes occupied one room downstairs with other rooms being used periodically for high school work.<sup>131</sup> The school, at one time or another, operated grades from kindergarten through high school. Classes were not based on grade levels as such. The school year had two parts to the year, A and B. Some subjects were taught ahead of the ordinary level so that the 8Bs had algebra.<sup>132</sup>

Early residents remembered Frank Shaughnessy, the first and best-known teacher as,

... an unusual teacher. A Scotsman of the old school, by combined sternness with a dynamic way of presenting any subject. Many recall his carrying a ruler and whacking anybody who got out of line. At the same time he "had a way of making school work interesting," and, when he moved to the Des Moines school, one parent promptly moved his child to Des Moines. He later settled in Auburn as a businessman.<sup>133</sup>

Ray Rogers told Ilene Marckx that Frank W. Shaughnessy taught only one term before moving to the Des Moines School.<sup>134</sup> Another unidentified source told Ilene Marckx that Frank Shaughnessy taught two or three terms. This source also indicated he boarded with Mrs. L. F. Rogers.<sup>135</sup>

Hattie Dolloff was signed on as a teacher from August 11, 1895 to June 19, 1896 an unusual nine-month term. All the following teachers were hired for three-month terms which could be renewed. E. W. Reed appears, on official records, as a teacher from January 8, 1897 to July 1897. C. A. Morrill is listed for August 11, 1897 to March 1898, Susie L. Lister October 3, 1898 to March 24, 1899 and Joy L. Massey from September 7, 1900 to December 3, 1900. This pattern of new teachers once a year continued at least through 1904. Each of the previously named teachers was paid \$40.00 per month. District 55 started paying \$50.00 per month in 1904.<sup>136</sup> This listing of teachers would imply there was only one teacher at least through 1904.

Weston Betts started at Buenna School in 1900 and attended the first through ninth grades there. He remembers only two teachers being at the school during this time. Miss Nelson taught the first through fourth grades. She was from Nebraska. Miss Amanda Whiting taught the fifth through ninth grades.<sup>137</sup> Miss Whiting lived with the Buceys.<sup>138</sup>

Other early teachers were Mida Elliott, E. W. Reid, Joy Massey, Ida Gray,

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<sup>131</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>132</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Buenna School uses*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>133</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>134</sup> Ilene Marckx, Information provided by Ray Rogers, #55, *Teachers*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>135</sup> Ilene Marckx, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>136</sup> Register of School Teachers for District Number 55, King County Superintendent of Common Schools Records. Volume 1, date based on last entry September 6, 1904, p. 58.

<sup>137</sup> Ilene Marckx, *W. Betts*, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW. Amanda Whiting seems to be referred to as Philinda Whiting elsewhere.

<sup>138</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Bertha Todd Hofmeister, 1913-1914, Buenna School, Curriculum*, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

Hattie Dolloff, Daisie McClatchie, Grace Christie, Edith King and Miss Neil. Of all these teachers, the one who is remembered best by most people is Miss Philinda Whiting, who taught the longest. Miss Whiting went far out of her way to help many young people get as much schooling as possible under considerable difficulty.<sup>139</sup>

Ray Rogers also indicated that E. W. Reid taught in 1897-1898, C. A. Morrill taught in 1897 and possibly later. Other teachers he remembered were Mida G. Elliott, Joy L. Massey, Ida M. Gray, Hattie Dolloff, Daisy McClatchie and Grace Christie. He indicates the salary was \$50, but does not specify further exactly what this means.<sup>140</sup>

The second teacher, Professor Morrill, had a large family. He taught Latin and algebra.<sup>141</sup>

Daisie McClatchie taught at Buenna School in 1907.<sup>142</sup>

Two teachers had grown up and lived in the community before becoming teachers: Edith King and Lyda Elliott.<sup>143</sup>

Ray Rogers told Ilene Marckx, in 1958, that the terms were six months long and grades were issued once a month for each subject.<sup>144</sup>

Mollie Todd, who was a student at Buenna starting in 1914 and attended the sixth, seventh and eighth grade under Miss Philinda Whiting, provided the following information to Ilene Marckx. The Superintendent of Schools strictly checked the curriculum. "It was almost a case of having to be on page so and so by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and on another page by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December." State examinations were required in all subjects. Physiology and geography could be taken at the end of the seventh grade and if you passed, they could be eliminated from further study. Other subjects had to be taken at the end of the eighth grade. Considerable pressure weighed upon any teacher and a few teachers succumbed to the temptation to peek at the questions which came a few days early with the teacher taking an oath he would not open them until exam time. Even with extra coaching that followed, a passing grade did not always happen. "Buenna teachers, however, were of a uniformly high character."<sup>145</sup>

Buenna School was regarded as better than other local schools, such as Steel Lake School, since it offered a broader and tougher curriculum.<sup>146</sup>

Buenna School had the usual plumbing of the day – a water pail with a dipper nearby.<sup>147</sup> [Nothing is known about toilet facilities.]

A school nurse came around at long intervals and made rigorous inspections of the pupils.<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>140</sup> Ilene Marckx, Information provided by Ray Rogers, #55, *Teachers*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>141</sup> Ilene Marckx, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>142</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Families (Names)*, hand written 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>143</sup> Ilene Marckx, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW. This may or may not be the same as Mida Elliot mentioned above.

<sup>144</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Buenna School*, #55, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>145</sup> Ilene Marckx, Information provided by Mollie Todd, *Schools, Dist. 55, Mollie Todd*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>146</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Buenna School*, #55, typed 4x6 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>147</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>148</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

## High School

The district seems to have tried desperately to establish a high school, as transportation to other schools remained very difficult. Accreditation required at least two terms of a four-year high school course. Since families were inclined to remove their older children from school it is possible that there were never more than two years of high school offered.<sup>149</sup>

Two notable periods stand out, however, one when C. A. “Professor” Merrill taught high school subjects, and the second when Scott I. Wallace taught the high school from 1915 and after.

Wallace, a retired minister, taught manual training, French, Latin, algebra and other subjects, and left a strong imprint on his scholars. The cause of secondary education at Buenna was lost after he left, and it was never attempted again.<sup>150</sup>

Bertha Todd Hofmeister told Ilene Marckx that she had one year of high school in Seattle but it was too hard to get back and forth or to board there and so she could not go on further. Miss Whiting then gave her special high school work at Buenna in return for Hofmeister helping with teaching the younger students. Apparently this was around 1913-1914.<sup>151</sup>

Weston Betts told Ilene Marckx that,

Miss Whiting asked what three of us boys would do when we graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Lorenzo “Red” Crowell, Paul Betts, my second cousin, and [myself] Weston Betts –and she said [she] would teach the ninth grade in addition to the other grades if we would stay in school – 1909 – so she did.<sup>152</sup>

## Final Years of Buenna School

As was common with all the early schools, Buenna was the center of all the local community activities. Community elections took place there. Thanksgiving dinners were shared in its basement. It was the scene of almost all religious observances in the community, occasional non-denominational church services and regular Sunday School classes.<sup>153</sup> Glen Bandy was Sunday School Superintendent for a time and Irene [Bandy?]

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<sup>149</sup> Marckx, “ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS,” p. 2.

<sup>150</sup> Marckx, “ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS,” p. 2.

<sup>151</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Bertha Todd Hofmeister, 1913-1914, Buenna School, Curriculum, #55*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>152</sup> Ilene Marckx, *Notes from interview with Weston Bates, 1958*, One paragraph single spaced on unnumbered page, in file marked *Marie [Reed] and Ilene's [Marckx] Notes, in the files of the HSFW*. This file contains approximately 100 pages of notes that were assembled to write a book about Federal Way area history.

<sup>153</sup> Marckx, “ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS,” p. 2.

also taught. Mr. Wallace, a schoolteacher and an ex-minister who had lost his voice helped. Presbyterian material was used, at least at first.<sup>154</sup>

It still took many years for an inland road worthy of the name to connect families directly with Buenna School. Youngsters walked along the beach and then went up through the woods on various established trails. One climbed the hills through Hall's Ranch, one went through the Rogers-Bucey property in Buenna on through what later became the MacIntosh place and another, possibly the one spoken of as the "John Adelaide Trail," came up through Haagen's property. Those who lived up on top of the hill along what is now South 312<sup>th</sup> Street came down the Barker Trail or went the other direction to Steel Lake School.<sup>155</sup>

Once Adelaide School District 55 consolidated into District 210, in 1929, the students started using Federal Way School when it opened.

After Buenna was closed, it was left empty until funds could be raised to tear it down. Around 1935, during the depression, the WPA tore down the building.<sup>156</sup> Bricks began to disappear. At the September 23, 1936 District 210 School Board Meeting it was reported that the bricks were being stolen. The board indicated they would "make every effort to catch the thief."<sup>157</sup> In November 1936, the School board decided to sell the bricks at the Buenna School site. The bricks would be sold to anyone who would do five days carpenter work for the School District.<sup>158</sup> The large 36 to 40 foot long dimension timbers used for floor joists were sold to Steve Gray, the former mayor of Puyallup.<sup>159</sup> Much of the lumber was used for bus garages at Federal Way School. Clay Smith bought the leftover lumber for \$160. A considerable part of the lumber was lost by pilferage when the school was demolished.<sup>160</sup> The old bell that used to call students to Buenna School was moved to Federal Way School. No one knows where the bell originated.<sup>161</sup> [No one seems to know where this bell is now.]

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<sup>154</sup> Ilene Marckx, "Buenna School Use," typed and pasted 4x6 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>155</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>156</sup> Marckx, "ECHO OF THE PAST ... HISTORY OF BUENNA SCHOOLS," p. 2.

<sup>157</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, September 23, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>158</sup> Minutes of the regular meeting of the Federal Way School Board, November 18, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>159</sup> Ilene Marckx, Information provided by Mollie Todd, *Schools, Dist. 55, Mollie Todd*, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>160</sup> Ilene Marckx, "Buenna School #55," typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW. Betts is indicated as the source of this information.

<sup>161</sup> It's 'GWINE [*sic*] RING AGAIN' Place Found for old Buenna Bell," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, December 19, 1935, p. not known. The date is handwritten on a copy of the newspaper article. The newspaper article implies that Buenna School has just closed. Either the newspaper article is wrong about Buenna School just closing, or the date is wrong, or Buenna School stayed open after consolidation into District 210.

## St. George's Indian School

### Father Hylebos and Indian Education

Father Peter Hylebos played a major role in education in Tacoma and surrounding areas from the 1880s until his death in 1918.<sup>162</sup> Indians played a major role in the life of Father Hylebos and he took a great interest in their welfare. So popular was he with them that the Catholic Church put him on the Indian Commission of the Catholic Indian Bureau, Washington, D.C. A dispute was going on between the United States government and the Catholic bishops over the running of Indian schools. Father Hylebos was able to secure an amicable settlement of differences between the U.S. government and the Catholic bishops in charge of Indian schools around the country.<sup>163</sup> Under President Cleveland, Father Hylebos was named a commissioner to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C., going there to represent the Indians and their claims.<sup>164</sup> Father Hylebos even took the time to become a master of the Indian languages of the area.<sup>165</sup>

Thomas Plorg organized the first school on the Muckleshoot Reservation in 1879. It had 12 students.<sup>166</sup> There was also an Indian School located on the Puyallup Reservation at about East 27<sup>th</sup> Street near Portland Avenue in Tacoma. This institution operated by the United States government opened in 1860, was expanded in 1873 and again in 1898. Because Francis W. Cushman, a Republican congressman from Tacoma, fought to stave off closure when plans were made several times to close the school, this school was known as the Cushman School after 1927.<sup>167</sup>

In 1888, the Catholics believed there was a great need for a school in addition to the government school which was located on the Puyallup Reservation. The reservation school provided facilities for only 80 Indian school age children. The Catholics believed that training of a more religious nature was needed.<sup>168</sup> Collins gives an excellent discussion, summarizing Sicade's manuscript, on the inefficiency under which the Puyallup Reservation School operated. Depending on the constantly changing

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<sup>162</sup> An article on the life of Father Peter Hylebos, *Father Hylebos, St George's Indian School and Cemetery, and St. Claire's Mission Church*, by Dick Caster, June 8, 2004 can be found at <http://www.federalwayhistory.org>.

<sup>163</sup> "HYLEBOS, Man Behind the Name," *Federal Way St. Teresa's Parish News Letter*, September 22, 1985, pp. 2, 3.

<sup>164</sup> "Biography of the Rt. Rev. Father Hylebos V. G.," *The Tacoma Catholic Citizen*, February 11, 1911, p. 1. It is mentioned in the article that much of the material in the article is taken from *the Morning Ledger*, possibly a Tacoma paper of the time.

<sup>165</sup> "Biography of the Rt. Rev. Father Hylebos V. G.," p. 1.

<sup>166</sup> Patricia Slettvet Noel, *Muckleshoot Indian History* (Auburn: Auburn School District No. 408, 1980, revised 1985), p. 70.

<sup>167</sup> Cary C. Collins, "Hard Lessons in America: Henry Sicade's History of Puyallup Indian School, 1860 to 1920," *Columbia, The Magazine of Northwest History*, Winter 2000-01, pp. 6, 7. Collins indicates he is summarizing Henry Sicade's original manuscript, which is housed in the Eells Collection, Special Collections Division, at the Washington State Historical Society Research Center.

<sup>168</sup> Henry Sicade, *The Cushman Indian School, A Brief History* (unknown publication source: 1927) p. 26, and "The History of the Puyallup Indian Reservation," a master's thesis submitted by Elizabeth Shackelford (Tacoma: College of Puget Sound, 1918). Shackelford is also apparently summarizing Sicade's manuscript. The 1927 date for Sicade's book is written on the partial copy of Shackelford's thesis in the files of the HSFV.

representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the students got a good education or a poor one.<sup>169</sup>

Part of the difference between the Catholic Church and the United States government concerning schools mentioned above, was based on the violent resistance of Plains Tribes in the 1870s. This resistance had motivated President Grant to establish a “Peace Policy” which served to quarantine Indians to the reservations. This policy had also put most of the Indian Schools on the reservations under the control of Protestants.<sup>170</sup> The Puyallup tribe had come under Roman Catholic influence in the 1840s, but under the Puyallup Agency organized by the United States government they were supervised by Protestants.<sup>171</sup>

Yet school training had become just at that time, more necessary than ever before to the Indian, for it was in that very year that the Indians were first given the right to vote. The temptations and responsibilities involved in the exercise of this right were increased by the fact that the country was rapidly filling up, and the Indians were being more and more brought into contact with the white settlers, most frequently, unfortunately, with those of the lowest type. Many people felt that training more religious in nature than the government school could possibly give was needed to help the Indian overcome these increasing temptations.<sup>172</sup>

### **St. George’s Indian School Construction**

Father Hylebos was one of those believing in the need for more Indian schools. He was so convinced of the urgency of the need that in the summer of 1888, he made a trip east to seek help and money for such an undertaking. By a fortunate chance he met Miss Katherine Drexel, a wealthy Catholic woman of Torresdale, Pennsylvania, who offered to finance an Indian school. He also secured a promise of government help.<sup>173</sup> Father Hylebos scored a victory by obtaining a total appropriation of \$319,000 for support of Catholic Indian schools around the country, some of which was used for St. George’s School.<sup>174</sup>

Upon his return, Father Hylebos at once set about making preparations for St. George’s School. One hundred forty-two acres of land, only five or six of which had previously been cleared, were purchased from a family of Catholics named O’Lally. The land was deeded to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.<sup>175</sup> This land was just outside the northern border of the reservation. (It is now just north of the Pierce County–King County boundary and due east of Highway 99. It generally can be considered the same area as the present Gethsemane Cemetery and the plateau just east of the present cemetery. It is within the boundaries of Federal Way School District.)

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<sup>169</sup> Collins, pp. 7–11.

<sup>170</sup> Alexandra Harmon, *Indians in the Making* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998) p. 112.

<sup>171</sup> Robert H. Ruby and John A. Brown, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986) p. 168.

<sup>172</sup> Sicade, p. 26.

<sup>173</sup> Sicade, p. 26.

<sup>174</sup> Erna Beauce, “Why named Hylebos?,” *Tacoma News Tribune*, September 18, 1949, p. no. not known.

<sup>175</sup> Sicade, pp. 26, 27.

During August of 1888, a three-story frame structure was built on the property.<sup>176</sup> In addition to the one large building, several smaller buildings were erected on the elevated plateau on the land. The lumber for these buildings had to be brought from Tacoma. Over much of the way there was no road.<sup>177</sup>

## Opening of St. George's Indian School

The official name for the school was St. George's Industrial School, but it was normally just referred to as St. George's Indian School.<sup>178</sup>

The first occupation was October 19, 1888, when the first teachers arrived. At this time the buildings were complete except that the doors and windows were not in place and since winter was coming on, blankets were hung over the openings. The school officially opened on October 26, 1888.<sup>179</sup> With the start of school, "the first children were brought to the school to receive the rudiments of a secular education and the germs of true Christianity."<sup>180</sup>

There were six teachers available when the school opened.<sup>181</sup> Of these, four were sisters of the Order of St. Francis. They arrived directly from the Mother House of their order, Glen Riddle, near Philadelphia. The first superior was Sister Jerome.<sup>182</sup> Two of these died later at the school and were buried on the grounds (see the section relating to St. George's Cemetery). The other two, after serving for a few years, were transferred to other schools of their order. One of the lay teachers was Miss Esther Stevenson. Miss Drexel, as part of her contribution, sent Miss Stevensen. She taught into the 1920s.<sup>183</sup>

The first superintendent of the school was the Reverend Charles DeDecker,<sup>184</sup> a young Belgian priest. Charles DeDecker was born in St. Nicolas, Belgium. He started his studies in St. Nicolas and finished his studies at the American College of Louvain. He was ordained a priest in Ghent on June 19, 1886.<sup>185</sup> Father Hylebos had met Father DeDecker two to three years previously on a visit to the American College at Louvain, Belgium where Father DeDecker was being educated. Father DeDecker promised to request he would be sent to Washington when he received his final ordination.<sup>186</sup> Father DeDecker came to the Nisqually Diocese in 1886 and remained at Vancouver attending to missions in the area and helping in the Cathedral until being appointed to St. George's. Father De Decker was appointed as Superintendent of St. George's on September 28, 1888 by the

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<sup>176</sup> Wilfred P. Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, (Washington DC: The Paternal Press, 1987) p. 343. An excellent photo of this building with students and teachers standing in front can be found in Wilfred P. Schoenberg, SJ, *A Pictorial History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, (Portland: Knights of Columbus, 1996) p. 81.

<sup>177</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>178</sup> Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, p. 343.

<sup>179</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>180</sup> *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon, II*, 2 (February, 1898) p. 23 as quoted in Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, p. 344.

<sup>181</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>182</sup> Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, p. 343.

<sup>183</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>184</sup> The spelling of DeDecker is found both as DeDecker and De Decker in different sources. The spelling DeDecker is used in this paper.

<sup>185</sup> *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon*, p. 23.

<sup>186</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

Right Reverend Bishop Junger.<sup>187</sup> Father DeDecker supervised the school until the 1920s. Father DeDecker also assumed responsibility for fourteen churches including those on the Muckleshoot and Nisqually Reservations.<sup>188</sup>

The instruction given at St. George's School was modeled on that given in the government school so that students could transfer from one to the other. Industrial training was an important feature. The girls got domestic science training by doing the necessary cleaning and housework around the school. In the early days, the boys helped with clearing of land, erecting new buildings and making roads and bridges. This was the type of work that both the boys and girls would need once they left school. Later there was a small farm established in connection with the school where the boys were trained in farming procedures. Father DeDecker emphasized academic work such as writing and copying drawings. Religious instruction was also emphasized. Protestant students were accepted as well as Catholics.<sup>189</sup> The School accommodated both boarding students and day students.<sup>190</sup> In 1933, there were twenty-five orphans in the school.<sup>191</sup>

In its early years the school was mainly financed by Miss Drexel. Father DeDecker was also able to provide financial assistance using the money from the estate his wealthy parents in Belgium had left him. Father DeDecker also arranged support for the school from the members of the various church congregations he supervised. Once a year the ladies of the St. Leo's Altar Society from Tacoma visited the school and made gifts of such things as linens, carpets and clothes.

In 1933, the school was operated by Rev. John Govaert and six Catholic Sisters.<sup>192</sup>

### **Costs of Operating St. George's School**

The students were not required to pay anything although some did provide funds for their own support. The government paid for a part of the expense as part of their treaties with the Indians.<sup>193</sup> The first government subsidies were to be granted for only three years for 50 students, but the subsidies were continued and sometimes expanded on an ongoing basis during most of the school's operation.<sup>194</sup> Initially, the government paid \$27 per pupil per quarter if the school was teaching fifty Washington Indians.<sup>195</sup> On June 30, 1889, a second contract with the government reduced the number of students required to 25. A little later, it was required that all these twenty-five come from the Puyallup Consolidated Agency. During the first two years, the expenses of the school amounted to \$6,325, not including the cost of the land. The government paid \$4,099 of that amount.<sup>196</sup>

In 1891, however, the government Indian Office cancelled this contract, owing to agitation against the Catholics and the school received no government money after that

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<sup>187</sup> *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon*, p. 23. The source spells the name Junger as Yunger. Junger was the longtime bishop of the Nisqually Diocese.

<sup>188</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>189</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>190</sup> "Notes on Father Hylebos," from Ilene Marckx Archives, undated, p. 2, in the files of the HSFV.

<sup>191</sup> Bowden, p. 473.

<sup>192</sup> Bowden, p. 473.

<sup>193</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>194</sup> Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, p. 343.

<sup>195</sup> Sicade, p. 27.

<sup>196</sup> *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon*, p. 23 and Sicade, p. 27.

time.<sup>197</sup> It was claimed by the government that the Agency school on the Puyallup Reservation had ample accommodations for all the Indians.<sup>198</sup>

## Controversy over St. George's

When the school first opened there was bitter rivalry between it and the reservation boarding school. The first year St. George's had opened a few months after the reservation school. Some of the Indians who had already entered the reservation school were withdrawn by their parents and sent to St. George's. One Indian, Louis LeClair, was only allowed to transfer after an appeal was made to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.<sup>199</sup> Some Puyallup parents pleaded with the reservation schools to allow their children to attend non-reservation schools. In 1892, 104 Puyallup Reservation residents declared, "We are citizens of the United States . . . and we demand our rights as citizens" in this case to send their children to the school of their choice.<sup>200</sup>

At the turn of the century many Indian children attended school, but almost as many did not.<sup>201</sup> This was not that different from whites.

Another interesting series of events in the history of the school were the "Clearing Bees" that were held in the summers of 1894 and 1895. The general feeling against Catholics in the Tacoma area was bitter and many Catholic men were out of work. At the suggestion of the rector of St. Leo's Church, some of the out of work men donated their time to St. George's School to help clear the land. They received board and lodging at the school. Every Monday morning, at 7:30, a hired wagon left from in front of St. Leo's for the school. Normally the men would remain until Saturday. Some worked in this manner throughout the entire summer. Between twelve and twenty-four men would do this each week. Because they were dedicated to the cause, as well as getting room and board, it was believed they accomplished more than if they were just hired workers.<sup>202</sup>

## Additional Construction at St. George's

Even though the government was no longer helping with the costs by 1890, new construction was undertaken. The following quote was written in 1898 so uses present tense.

Toward the end of September 1890, a new building 62 x 16 feet, one story high was erected. It contains a laundry, a small room for strangers and a bakery with an additional shed containing the bake oven. In August 1892, a woodshed 60 x 18 feet was built. In September 1893, a 400 pound steel bell was placed in the little belfry which ornaments the top

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<sup>197</sup> Sicade, p. 27. While Sicade indicates 1891 was the date the contract was closed, *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon*, p. 23, states that the contract was ended in late 1889.

<sup>198</sup> *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon*, p. 23

<sup>199</sup> Sicade, p. 28 and Alexandra Harmon, *Indians in the Making* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998) p. 152.

<sup>200</sup> Harmon, p. 152.

<sup>201</sup> Harmon, p. 153.

<sup>202</sup> Sicade, p. 28.

of the roof.

Gradually the land is cleared of the heavy timber, about 20 acres being now under cultivation and two acres in orchard.<sup>203</sup>

## Closing of St. George's Indian School

For most of the life of the school, the capacity was eighty and it was always full. In 1890, laundry and a play hall were added for the girls. In 1905, a church was added. These buildings were financed with some of the estate money inherited by Father DeDecker.<sup>204</sup>

In addition to Indians, a few whites and Negroes were admitted from time to time. The age for initial admission was six to sixteen. Once admitted, a student could stay as long as he or she desired. As a rule they would leave at about nineteen when the boys went to work and the girls got married. The school was in operation long enough that many pupils were the children of former students.<sup>205</sup>

The mission school was closed in 1936 and the 142 acres fell into disuse and deterioration. Apparently, in the middle of the depression, the school found it hard to raise money for support. Beginning in 1915, local Indian children were allowed to attend regular public schools, but not many did.<sup>206</sup> Also in the late 1920s the Federal reservation schools around the country were being closed with the states taking over the education of all Indian children.<sup>207</sup> The Cushman government School had been closed in June 1920.<sup>208</sup> The last Indian Bureau School in Washington State was closed in 1932 with the students being put into public schools.<sup>209</sup> During the Second World War, the land was used to build St. George's apartments, which were intended to ease the postwar housing shortage.<sup>210</sup> The remainder of the school buildings were razed in 1971. The Catholic archdiocese, in 1971, plotted the acreage for a cemetery.<sup>211</sup> Today nothing remains of the school facilities. Only a small sign on the grounds of the present Gethsemane Cemetery marks the site of the former school.

The existence of the school demonstrated what the Catholic Church believed was a need to educate the Indians both in a secular way and into the Catholic faith. Similar schools had existed in other parts of Washington as well as Idaho and Montana. "It bore witness to the concern of the church for Indian children at a time and in a place where no one seemed to care."<sup>212</sup>

But there was something anachronistic about St. George's: it was too little too late. The Indians along the coast by this time had little or no tribal

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<sup>203</sup> *Reminiscences and Current Topics of the Ecclesiastical Province of Oregon*, p. 23. This reference was written in 1898 so the quote is in present tense.

<sup>204</sup> Sicade, p. 28.

<sup>205</sup> Sicade, p. 28.

<sup>206</sup> Noel, p. 72.

<sup>207</sup> Harmon, p. 318, n53.

<sup>208</sup> Collin, p. 11.

<sup>209</sup> Noel, p. 72.

<sup>210</sup> Ernie Olson, a member of the Historical Society of Federal Way, states that he lived in these apartments for a short time.

<sup>211</sup> Nathalie Weber, "A century of history," *Federal Way News*, 10 October 1979, p. A-3

<sup>212</sup> Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, p. 345.

identity. With rare exceptions, their collective existence in or near population centers of the West had ceased to be, at least temporarily. During this very decade, in fact, the Indian population of the United States reached its lowest point in history.<sup>213</sup>

## **Naming of Hylebos Creek**

The original Indian name for Hylebos Creek was haxtl'. This derived from an Indian fishing village, shaxtl'abc, located on the present Hylebos Waterway on the Tacoma tide flats.<sup>214</sup> It is interesting how Hylebos Creek got its name. It is said that a surveyor friend of Father Hylebos who was engaged in the mapping work around St. George's Indian School indicated the name Hylebos Creek on his maps. Previous to this the Indians around St George's School used "Koch Creek," as the name for the creek. The name Hylebos Creek thus became the name used for the creek.<sup>215</sup>

He [Father Hylebos] finished lunch and spread open the map. He studied it for a minute. Then he noticed the creek wound through a section of his parish which included the mining districts of Pierce and King County. The creek rose near the St. George's Indian Mission that he, Father Hylebos, had founded, and ran downward to empty into Commencement Bay.

This was the creek his Indian friends call "Koch." But what was written on the map in large letters alongside of the winding creek? The letters spelled out HYLEBOS CREEK. "It seemed our surveyor friend has given the creek that I know so well – my name now." Father Hylebos chuckled with satisfaction.

"Eh Bien! He would do such a thing!"<sup>216</sup>

This led to the arm of Commencement Bay, into which the creek flows, to be called Hylebos Waterway. When the bridge over this area was built, it became Hylebos Bridge. As a final development, the wetlands that contribute to the origin of the creek have now become a Federal Way city park, the West Hylebos Wetlands City Park.

## **Star Lake School District 64**

### **Formation and Boundaries**

School District 64, Star Lake, was formed on November 10, 1888.<sup>217</sup> The boundaries were described as follows.

Beginning at the South East corner of section 34 Tp. 22 N.R. 4 E. W.M.  
thence West 2 ¼ miles, thence North ¼ mile, thence West to the shore

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<sup>213</sup> Schoenberg, *A History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest*, p. 343.

<sup>214</sup> Marian W. Smith, *The Puyallup-Nisqually* (1940; New York: AMS Press, 1969) p. 10.

<sup>215</sup> "HYLEBOS, Man Behind the Name," p. 3.

<sup>216</sup> "Father Peter Francis Hylebos," *Tacoma News Tribune*, 15 August 1965, p. not known.

<sup>217</sup> J. L. Layhue, Superintendent of Common School, King County, *King County Commissioner's Records*, Volume 5, Map of School District 64, November 10, 1888, p. 274 and Outline History of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington, p. 2.

of Puget Sound, thence Northerly along the shore of Puget Sound to an intersection with the E & W center line of section 20 Tp. 22 N.R. 4 E. thence East to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  corner on the East side of said section 20, thence North  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, thence East 1 mile, thence North  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, thence East  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, thence south  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, thence East  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, thence south 2 miles to the place of beginning.<sup>218</sup>

The boundaries were changed on August 10, 1909 to make an adjustment for the formation of Redondo School District District 169. The change reads "All of Section 29, the South Half of Sec. 20 and All of Sec. 32 contained in this District (All being in TWP. 22 N.R. 4 E.) is taken to form new District 169."<sup>219</sup>

A second change was made in the boundaries on February 8, 1919. The change reads, "The North  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Section 21. Twp. 22 N., R. 4 E transferred to District No. 72."<sup>220</sup>

## Schools

*The Federal Way Historical Tour Guide* indicates the original Star Lake School may have been built in 1880, eight years prior to the formation of Star Lake School District 64.<sup>221</sup> [This early date is probably wrong and the more likely construction date would be 1888-1890.] More likely the first Star Lake School was built at what is now the intersection of South 288<sup>th</sup> St. and Military Road. It was a one-room schoolhouse built by James Sloan.<sup>222</sup> It had one teacher and served first through eighth grades.<sup>223</sup>

Children from Stone's Landing and Buenna walked one to three miles through the forest, over trails and wagon roads, to get to school which they would attend with the Star Lake children. The Reed's children walked three miles from their home. Alice Reed (Shaughnessy) rode a pony to school. Laura Phillips (Mrs. Charles Schumann), sister of Bess Phillips Cruse, lived with the Reeds, was the first teacher in this school. Dedication of the school was on Washington's birthday about 1890. Part of the ceremony included a presentation of a crayon portrait of George Washington. Everett Reed provided the piano for the ceremony.<sup>224</sup>

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<sup>218</sup> Layhue, p. 274 and next page, which I assume is page 275, although it is not numbered. Page 274 contains a map showing Townships and Ranges while p. 275 contains the words. I have tried to copy the handwritten material as best I could. The abbreviations Tp. stands for township, R. stands for range and W.M. stands for Willamette Meridian in surveying terminology. I have tried to use capital letters and lower case letters as they were used in the document.

<sup>219</sup> Change #1, School District 64 Boundaries, August 10, 1909, Daily Records, *King County Commissioner's Records*, 1909, p. 96. This change is not signed on the copy in the files of the HSF. Apparently Twp. was being used for Tp. used in the previous footnote.

<sup>220</sup> Change #2, School District 64 Boundaries, February 8, 1919, Daily Records, *King County Commissioner's Records*, 1919, (appears to be p. 19, but difficult to follow from handwritten document.) This change is not signed on the copy in the files of the HSF.

<sup>221</sup> *Federal Way Historical Tour Guide*, Historical Society of Federal Way, 1992, item 5.

<sup>222</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4.

<sup>223</sup> *Federal Way Historical Tour Guide*, item 5.

<sup>224</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4.

A temporary school was set up in back of the Nelson's home in 1897, and the first school building was no longer used for educational purposes.<sup>225</sup> This second school also served first through eighth grade students. It had one teacher for all eight grades. Around 1900, the 1897 school was moved to the rear of the James Sloan home at 2202 S. 288<sup>th</sup> St.<sup>226</sup> This school/home was described by Nikulla in 1977 as follows.

The school is a one story [*sic*] building with horizontal shiplap siding and a medium pitch gale roof. The school has been drastically changed in appearance as it is now the back part of the present home of Anna Nelson. A back shed has also been added to the school.

Originally the 20' x 22' school sat a few yards east of the James Sloan House [with Anna Nelson living in it in 1977.] The school has the original double hung sash windows, panel doors with glass panes, brass door knobs and granite block foundation.

The Sloan house (onto which the school was later added) has the same exterior siding and windows which blend in with the old school. It is a one and a half story pioneer style house about 22' x 25' with a high pitch gale roof. Composition shingles cover the old cedar shingle roof on this house as well as the school.<sup>227</sup>

This home was torn down in early 2006 for a new development.

Another school was built around 1900 at the northeast corner of South 272<sup>nd</sup> St. and Military Road.<sup>228</sup> Nikulla refers to South 272<sup>nd</sup> St. as Gilbert Road.<sup>229</sup> This would be the third Star Lake School. Among the students who attended this school building were Helen Faulkner, and Alice Reed (Shaughnessy). At one time the only students that were in school were the four Reith children. They had to cross a swamp in the woods and often would have to lay down poles to keep from sinking.<sup>230</sup>

This third school burned down in 1909 and a fourth school was built in 1910 on the same location at South 272<sup>nd</sup> St. and Military Road. The current address is 3212 S. 272<sup>nd</sup>, Kent WA. [This school is often referred to as the third Star Lake School, but if the 1897 temporary building is included it is the fourth.]

Nikulla describe the building in 1978 as follows.

On Old Military Road just north of Star Lake stands the Star Lake School. The school, built in 1910, is a tall, one story Pioneer style building with horizontal shiplap siding and a full basement. It has a medium pitch, overhanging gable roof with returns and a boxed cornice. The original shingles have been replaced with composition shingles. A cupola rests on top. The school is thirty feet wide and forty feet in depth. The windows

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<sup>225</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4.

<sup>226</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4. and *Federal Way Historical Tour Guide*, item 5.

<sup>227</sup> Dwayne Nikulla, "Star Lake School," *King County Historic Sites Survey*, File No. 0008, King County Historic Sites Survey, January 27, 1978, p. 2.

<sup>228</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 5.

<sup>229</sup> Nikulla, "Star Lake School," p. 2.

<sup>230</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 5.

are eight feet tall, double hung, the top sash divided into four panes. Several small casement windows are located in the basement. [The windows of the basement are partially above ground.]

The main door, located on the east end, is a double leaf panel door with a window divided into six panes in the top half of each door. A wooden hood supported by brackets covers the main entryway. Concrete stairs lead to the entryway. The school rests on a concrete foundation.<sup>231</sup>

This school continued in operation until the consolidation of area schools in 1929.<sup>232</sup> The fourth Star Lake School is still standing and in use. It has seen many different owners and uses since it closed in 1929. Two former users were the Star Lake Improvement Club and the King's Baptist Temple.<sup>233</sup>

This school was used for a Sunday school and church as a preacher named Bushell came up from Christopher once a month and preached to the assembled pioneers.<sup>234</sup> [This would appear to be the first documented church services in the north part of the Federal Way area. See the section on St. George's School for implied church services in the southern part of Federal Way slightly earlier.]

## Early Directors

The earliest known directors were F. P. Crawford, elected in 1894 or 1895, G. H. Crotts, elected June 1894, and James T. Reed elected in June 1895. John Haskel is the earliest known clerk having been elected on June 10, 1895.<sup>235</sup> Since the district was formed in 1888, there were probably directors prior to this. O. P. Fredrickson replaced Crawford in October 1896.<sup>236</sup> Other pioneer settlers who were district officers were L. T. Gilbert, Anton Nelson, E. J. Rice and Fred Saulturen.<sup>237</sup>

## Early Teachers

Many of the early teachers were pioneer settlers in the area.<sup>238</sup> The earliest known teacher was Eveina [*sic- possibly Evelyn*] G. Williams who was appointed on October 17, 1895. She had a six-month appointment and was paid \$35.00 per month. [As with other information concerning School District 55 there is a gap between the formation of the district in 1888, and the records of the first teacher in 1895, so there may have been

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<sup>231</sup> Nikulla, "Star Lake School," p. 1.

<sup>232</sup> See the section of Formation of School District 210.

<sup>233</sup> Nikulla, "Star Lake School," p. 1.

<sup>234</sup> Niculla, Old Star Lake School, p. 2 and Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4.

<sup>235</sup> King County Register of School District Officers and Appointments --- District No. 64. . I am not sure where this came from so source reference is not complete. It is based on a partial copy in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>236</sup> Register of School District Officers and Appointments – District No. 64, p. 64, undated, Copy in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>237</sup> Dwayne Nikullla, "Star Lake School," *King County Historic Sites Survey*, File No. 0248, King County Historic Sites Survey, October 12, 1977, 1978, p. 1.

<sup>238</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4.

earlier ones.] Mae Reed is the second teacher to show in existing records. Her term was from March 15, 1897 to June 4, 1897. She received \$40.00 per month. Mrs. Everett W. Reed [probably the same as Mae Reed] received another three-month appointment on November 15, 1897 and received \$40.00 per month. This term ran from November 1897 to April 1898. The salary for this term was back to \$35.00 per month. Mr. Faulkner taught from 1897 to 1900 and Mary Reith taught in 1901.<sup>239</sup>

## **End of Star Lake School District 64**

Star Lake School District 64 came to an end in 1929 when it became part of School District 210.

There is some evidence that Star Lake School, along with Steel Lake School and Harding School, all closed in 1929, were reopened in 1943, for a short period of time to help solve the sudden expansion of students due to population adjustments during the Second World War.<sup>240</sup> See sections on Harding School and Steel Lake School for additional details.

The new Star Lake Elementary School, opened in 1958, as part of School District 210, used the name Star Lake Elementary, but has no actual connection to the schools of Star Lake School District 64 that disbanded to become part of School District 210 in 1929.

## **Steel Lake School District 92**

### **Spelling of Steel**

The A. R. Steele family homesteaded in the Steel Lake area in the 1880s. The original spelling for the family, lake and school district used the final e. Starting in the 1930s the final e was often dropped in general usage. It was not until the 1940s that it was no longer used. For consistency I have used Steel without the final e unless it is from a quote or title.

### **First Organized**

Steel Lake School District 92 was formed on February 4, 1891.<sup>241</sup> Olympia bonded the school district for \$1,500.<sup>242</sup> As mentioned above, the original spelling in the charter was Steele, after A.R. Steele and the Steele family.

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<sup>239</sup> King County Register of School Teachers, District 64, p. 67, undated, copy in the files of the HSFW. Note: there are two copies in the files that are both missing some of the material so this paragraph was put together by combining the material.

<sup>240</sup> "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft 2," 20 pages, July 1, 1991, p.6, in the files of the HSFW. There is no author listed but it appears this was a manuscript being prepared by members of the HSFW and Jack R. Evans, SCW Publications, 1011 Boren Avenue #155, Seattle, Wa 98104. The draft used here was being reviewed by members of the HSFW under the direction of Shirley Charnell and Marry Kay Barry. In essence it represents 48 pages (including the 28 page attachment) of a book about Federal Way that was never developed beyond the draft stage.

<sup>241</sup> Outline history of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington, p. 2.

<sup>242</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, June 3, 1958, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW.

The district boundaries were described as follows.

Beginning at the North West [*sic*] corner of the North East [*sic*] quarter of Section Five Township 21 N. R 4 E. W. M. [East of the Willamette Meridian] Running thence East 2 ½ miles, thence South 3 miles, thence West 2 ½ miles, thence North 3 miles to the place of beginning. All in the Tp. 21 N. P. 4 East King County Washington.<sup>243</sup>

As a guide in seeing where this was, it appears to be bordered on the north by Lake Dolloff and on the south by North Lake with Steel Lake being somewhat in the middle.

### **1891 – 1892 Steel Lake Temporary Cabin School**

In 1891, the Carlson and Johnson Sawmill operated on the east end of the lake. [This sawmill is often referred to as simply the Carlson Brothers Sawmill. I am not sure if there is a distinction or not.] The story is that Carlson donated an acre of land on the lake and that the firm provided a school facility for the children of its employees. [Possibly the term employees is wrong and it was the children of the owner(s)?]<sup>244</sup>

A 6 foot x 10 foot shake bachelor's cabin, already on the property donated by the Carlson Brothers, was fixed up and roughly furnished to hold school in during 1891 and 1892 while the permanent school was being built.<sup>245</sup> There was a little potbellied stove and there was one little window and a little door. C. J. Olsen was the first teacher and taught two terms of 3 months each in order to hold the district charter.<sup>246</sup>

### **Feud Between Webb and Steel**

The contract for building the permanent school was given to the sawmill firm of Carlson and Johnson located on Steel Lake. They provided both the lumber and the labor to build the school. They took out all of the cedar in Section 9 for the shingle bolts. Carlson, as mentioned previously, offered to donate an acre tract of land for the school. At the time, the Carlson firm owned or controlled much of the property along the whole south side of the lake. A controversy broke out concerning where to build the school. Taylor Webb and some others wanted the school to be in the center of the school district. The Steeles and Hurlberts (Mrs. Steele was Mr. Hurlbert's sister) wanted it on the north side, just west of the northeast corner of the lake on Steele property.<sup>247</sup>

During the negotiations and arrangements for bonding and setting up the District[,] Dolloff went home[,] taking the election books and records with him

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<sup>243</sup> Map of School District 92, Boundaries of School District 92, State of Washington, County of King, J. M. Layhue, Superintendent of Common Schools King County, date left blank in date location on form, p. 92, copy in the files of the HSFV.

<sup>244</sup> Tory Laughlin, Steele Lake Schoolhouse, King County Historic Sites Inventory Sheet, File No. 0555, King County Office of Historic Preservation, Seattle WA, March 4, 1986, p. 3.

<sup>245</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 2.

<sup>246</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 2.

<sup>247</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 1.

and subsequently went out for a horseback ride. When he came home he found someone had broken into his house and changed the election records in the election books so that not Dolloff was clerk and member of the board but Steele.<sup>248</sup>

Dolloff rode over to Webb in the morning and told him of the change. It seems that by changing the election records to show that O. R. Steele, instead of Dolloff, was a director, the Steele faction obtained a majority vote and they took the authority to change the location, order materials, and to commence work.<sup>249</sup>

Dolloff said, “what will we do?” Webb, always the man of resources, said he would go to Auburn, then the seat of government apparently, and get an injunction. On passing by what is now Gallagher’s corner, Webb warned Pat Benson, a sawmill operator, who was supplying lumber to the Steele group for the school that any more deliveries would be made at their own risk. And that he was getting an injunction.<sup>250</sup>

Webb went to I. B. Knickerbocker, an energetic young attorney and the man after whom Knickerbocker Hill (Cemetery Hill) was named. Knickerbocker went into action. He found that the witness tree had been changed. At the time, a witness tree was a tree growing near to where the corner stake of the survey should be. The official records reference the corner stake in reference to this tree. The matter was taken to court after evidence was collected concerning the fraud and deception. Webb’s faction won the case.<sup>251</sup>

Because of the feud and legal action, the Webb family tried to have Steel Lake and the Steel Lake School named something else, but by then the area had become too well known by the Steele name.

Tory Laughlin prepared a history of this schoolhouse for King County in 1986. He indicated that Carlson probably did not donate the land the school sat on but by August Johnson, as 1926 records show that the entire northern half of the land around the lake was owned by Johnson.<sup>252</sup> [I am not sure why Laughlin put so much worth on the 1926 records when the school was built about four decades earlier. –DC]

## Permanent Steel Lake School House

According to Mabel Webb Alexander, the permanent school was completed in 1893.<sup>253</sup> [In another source Mabel Webb Alexander said the permanent school was built in 1891 but this seems too early and probably refers to the temporary schoolhouse.]<sup>254</sup> This is

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<sup>248</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 1. The last sentence reads a little awkward, but that is the way it is in the reference.

<sup>249</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 1.

<sup>250</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 1.

<sup>251</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, pp. 1,2.

<sup>252</sup> Laughlin, Steele Lake Schoolhouse, p. 3.

<sup>253</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, pp. 1, 2.

<sup>254</sup> Leila E. Boislin, “Webb Center,” *Federal Way News*, June 18, 1953, p. 1.

generally referred to as the first Steel Lake School even though the cabin mentioned above was used from 1891 – 1892.

The Carlson Brothers took nice smooth cedars, split them, and fixed them up for double seats and desks. Later twenty-four single desks, a table and chair for the teacher placed on a rostrum, a big 8-day clock, and a bell for the bell-tower were purchased.<sup>255</sup> After the consolidation of school districts, in 1929, into Federal Way School District 210, the school was closed. It still belonged to the school district but was rented out for other activities. For example, the Steel Lake Sunday School was using it in 1936 as they indicated they would like to put in another stove in the schoolhouse. The School board allowed them to do this.<sup>256</sup>

During the Second World War, it appears the Steel Lake School was reopened temporarily, probably during 1943 and 1944, for use as a school again.<sup>257</sup> Another source would appear to support this statement not only for Steel Lake School but also for Harding School and Star Lake School.<sup>258</sup>

The Steel Lake School was the first home of the Federal Way Library for a short time in the 1940s.<sup>259</sup>

By 1953, the school had become an unsightly ruin at the east end of Steel Lake.<sup>260</sup> The school was torn down in January 1957.<sup>261</sup> When the school was torn down, some people in Puyallup who were operating a service station at the New River Bridge may have ended up with the bell.<sup>262</sup>

## Early District Officers

Mabel Webb Alexander indicated the first Directors were Taylor Webb, A. R. Steele, and J. M. Barker and the first clerk was Frank Dolloff.<sup>263</sup> This disagrees somewhat with the official county records however. In these, the first Director of District 92 is shown to be David Carlson<sup>264</sup> who was elected in June 1893. [It is difficult to read but the term appears to have been for three years.] Taylor Webb was elected as a Director in June 1894 for a three-year term. Frank P. Dolloff was elected on June 10, 1895 to be the clerk. Dolloff's term was apparently for only one year as he was reelected in June 1896 and thereafter clerks appear to be elected yearly. Henry Evans began a three-year term as Director in June 1895. Frank Dolloff was appointed (not known by whom) as a Director in July 1897, as was Taylor Webb. In the remarks column it indicates the officers elected refused to qualify. Dolloff only served two years of his three-year term and John M. Barker was appointed to fill out the 1899 term. Dolloff's vacancy is described in the

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<sup>255</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 2.

<sup>256</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, November 24, 1936. p. 1

<sup>257</sup> "Federal Way Schools Growing; New Building Soon Required, Federal Way News, May 4, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>258</sup> "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft 2", p.6, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>259</sup> "History of library program topic," *Federal Way News*, May 18, 1977, p. B2.

<sup>260</sup> Leila E. Boislin, "Webb Center," p. 1.

<sup>261</sup> Stan Hayward, "Pioneer Schoolmaster Had Rugged Existence," actual newspaper not known, Gateway Section, February 7, 1957, p. 4. This is a 12 inch x 16 inch copy from what appears to be a newspaper article but without any information concerning newspaper title but only the comment, Gateway Section.

<sup>262</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 2.

<sup>263</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 1.

<sup>264</sup> Carlson here is actually handwritten as Carlsen but in all other places it is Carlson.

column headed by the comment that he either resigned or was dismissed. Some of the following Directors, up until 1908, were elected and some were appointed.<sup>265</sup>

Contrary to Ilene Marckx's comments A. R. Steele does not appear to have been an official Director.

## First Steel Lake Teachers

Apparently Olson continued to teach once the permanent school opened in 1893. He taught several three-month terms. Three months was the minimum term allowed. (It seems the three-month term was the normal contract term used by all the early school districts in the area. – DC) Olson boarded with Mrs. Andrew Johnson. Teachers of that day had to have a minimum of an eighth grade education and had to teach in the county for 18 months before they could apply for a permit from the state to take an examination for either 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> class certifications.<sup>266</sup> Olson taught all grades up to the eighth. He taught one of John Barkers daughter's, Myrtice Barker, for one year. John Barker took a very deprecatory attitude toward Olson, saying he did not know anything. Barker sent his own children to the Buenna School even though he was on the Steel Lake School Board. Everyone else thought Olson was an excellent teacher.<sup>267</sup>

Olson got about \$25 a month out of which he paid his own board and room. Another person, who sometimes boarded teachers, charged \$10-\$12 per month which included home privileges but not always a private room as the teacher would often have to share a room with one of the children of the family.<sup>268</sup>

The county Register of School Teachers starts in 1896 for School District 92. (Possibly Olson had never been reported to the county.) Mrs. Edith Moulton is shown as being the teacher of record for the three months starting in March 18, 1896 at \$30.00 per month. She had a third class certificate. The record is shown as being reported by F. P. Dolloff, clerk of District 92. Rae Alice Bissell is reported as the second teacher of record with her term beginning March 29, 1897. She also received \$30.00 per month and had a third class certificate. Apparently the school operated only from March to June. The first two teachers, named above, plus the next six (Elva A. Stockwell, Mrs. Susan Lasher, Amy T. Cloud, Joy Massey, Mary Reith,<sup>269</sup> and Capitola Penches) are shown as having three-month appointments from March to June<sup>270</sup> The first teacher shown as receiving an appointment other than for this time period is Capitola Penches who in addition to the March through June term of 1902 also had an appointment for September to November 1902. Pay for 1898 –1900 was \$35.00 per month. Pay for 1901-1905 was \$40.00 per month.<sup>271</sup>

Mabel Webb Alexander was in the first class at the new school. Mrs. Alexander's parents usually boarded the teachers so she had inside information. According to

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<sup>265</sup> Register of School District Officers – District No. 92, [Probably King County Superintendent of Schools Log], p. 92.

<sup>266</sup> I do not know how the different classifications were used.

<sup>267</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 2.

<sup>268</sup> Mabel Webb Alexander, interviewed by Ilene Marckx, p. 2.

<sup>269</sup> Mary Reith's appointment was actually for June 22 – August 9, 1901.

<sup>270</sup> These names are handwritten on source and difficult to read.

<sup>271</sup> Register of School Teachers, District Number 92, Steel Lake, [probably from King County School Superintendent's Records], p. 95.

Hayward the school opened in 1892 with two families providing all the students – the Barkers and the Webbs.<sup>272</sup> [As described above the school actually appears to have opened in 1893.]

The first teacher at Steel Lake was a Norwegian named Olson who received \$25 a month for teaching all eight grades.

The good school master got himself into hot water shortly after arriving on the scene when he offered to teach a few of the older youngsters some subjects that were more advanced than the eighth grade.

In those days high schools didn't exist in the country and it was just as well. Many of the parents took a dim view of the fancy subjects that Mr. Olson was trying to impart to the youngsters.

When objections arose over this "higher education," schoolmaster Olson informed his country clients that all he was required to teach was the first eight grades and if his extra efforts weren't appreciated, he would go elsewhere.

This implied threat apparently settled the matter since teachers out in the tall uncut<sup>273</sup> were frequently hard to come by. They were required by law to teach so many months in the country before they could apply for a teaching position in what passed for cities then. It was sort of an apprenticeship.<sup>274</sup>

Mrs. Alexander described the life of the teacher when not teaching as quite mundane.

Most of the time they just stayed around our boarding house. In those days we had mail and our main link with the outside world was a copy of the *San Francisco Examiner* which arrived twice a month. It was a three-hour trip over county roads to Tacoma.<sup>275</sup>

Molly Todd started at Steel Lake School in 1908. She told Ilene Marckx the following about Steel Lake School,

[My] first year was 1908 and my teacher was Miss Herman, notable for her substantial stature.

In 1909, the next year, the teacher was a Miss Rice and I was the only girl in the school. Schoolmates included Lewis Todd, Roscoe Todd.

As for the school, it was a one-room school with a potbellied stove in one corner, a pail of water with a dipper provided drinking water and one of the nice things to do was to get to school early and pump the water and ring the bell. Toilets were the outdoor type.

We walked to school along the Military [Road] and over and along

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<sup>272</sup> Hayward, Gateway Section, p. 4.

<sup>273</sup> The tall uncut was apparently a term used to describe the tall and thick timber of the area.

<sup>274</sup> Hayward, Gateway Section, p. 4.

<sup>275</sup> Hayward, Gateway Section, p. 4.

the east end of Steel Lake much as now.

At the Steel Lake School we carried lunches in lard pails and every so often some youngster pulled off the lid to find, of all things, nothing but lard. Nearly everyone had a few hogs and other meat animals and of course made their own lard.<sup>276</sup>

Molly Todd transferred to Buenna School in 1914.<sup>277</sup>

## Disposal of the Steel Lake Schools

The permanent schoolhouse served the district until the five local school districts, including School District 92, were consolidated into School District 210 in 1929. The early school building itself survived until January 1957 when it was decided to tear it down to down to make way for progress. It had been declared an eyesore in its dilapidated condition.<sup>278</sup> The Steel Lake Fire District burned the building as a training exercise in September 1957. A King County Fire Station was built on the site.<sup>279</sup> The site is now a maintenance facility for the City of Federal Way.

The disposal of the first temporary school is somewhat more confused. Since only two schools are known for the Steel Lake School District, the temporary school and the permanent one and since the disposal of the permanent one is well documented what follows must refer to the temporary schoolhouse or else there was another schoolhouse built and used in between. Sometime around 1920 the [temporary] schoolhouse was moved up the hill to 30239 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. South to be used as a private residence. Tory Laughlin's 1986 Site Survey of the house indicates this story has been hard to substantiate or disprove. King County property records for the house list 1921 as the construction date of the house, however, its "effective age" has been amended in the records to suggest that it was, in fact constructed in 1896. Laughlin believed that its colonial revival style suggested an earlier construction date, with 1921 being the logical date for its relocation remodel. By 1938, an additional wing was in place and a garage added.<sup>280</sup>

Assuming the main part of the house is the old schoolhouse, Laughlin described it as,

The old two story, Steel Lake Schoolhouse forms the bulk of this house, with a single story addition protruding to the south. The main house is a simple side-gabled form with a shallow shed-roofed protruding facade on the first floor. On the north side first floor there

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<sup>276</sup> Ilene Marckx, interview with Molly Todd, in Ilene Marckx, *Notes, Schools District 92, M. Todd, unnumbered* page, in file marked *Marie [Reed] and Ilene's [Marckx] Notes*. This file contains approximately 100 unnumbered pages of notes that were to be used to write a book about Federal Way area history, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>277</sup> Ilene Marckx, interview with Molly Todd, in Ilene Marckx, *Notes, Schools District 92, M. Todd, unnumbered* page.

<sup>278</sup> Hayward, p. 4.

<sup>279</sup> Ilene Marckx, "Historic School District Schoolhouse Markers," King County Historic Markers Form, April 3, 1988, p. 1 and Ilene Marckx, Schools, Steele Lake Dist #92 building, typed 5x8 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>280</sup> Laughlin, p. 3.

is a hip-roofed bay window. Six-over-six paned, double-hung, sash windows are used throughout the first floor, both singly or in pairs and flanked by decorative shutters. Pairs of four-over-four sash windows are used in both gable ends on the second floor. Small, six pane horizontal windows are set just beneath the eaves in the front and back facades. The half-glazed entry door is set asymmetrically in the extended facade. The cladding of the main house is shiplap and the roofs are of wood shingles.<sup>281</sup>

This description of the old two-story schoolhouse does not seem to fit the description that the temporary schoolhouse was a six-foot x ten-foot bachelor cabin. As Laughlin indicated it is confusing as to what this supposed schoolhouse really represents.

## Formation of Redondo School District 169

School District 169, Redondo, was formed on August 10, 1909.<sup>282</sup>

School District 169 was made up of land removed from Star Lake District 64. The boundaries were changed on August 10, 1909 by changing the boundaries of School District 64 as follows, “All of Section 29, the South Half of Sec. 20 and All of Sec. 32 contained in this District [64] (All being in TWP. 22 N.R. 4 E.) is taken to form new District 169.”<sup>283</sup>

Wilmer Hurd told Ilene Marckx that the Redondo School opened in 1908. Wilmer was a student who transferred from Buenna School. The first teacher was Mary Bleaker, followed by Mr. Merrill.<sup>284</sup>

This school was closed when School District 169 was consolidated into School District 210.

It was reported at the October 1936 Federal Way School Board Meeting that the demolition of the Redondo School was turned in as a proposed W. P. A. project.<sup>285</sup> I am not sure if they took on this project.

## Move to Consolidate Rural School Districts

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and especially after World War I, the move to consolidate rural school districts was a primary focus in education in King County and throughout the country. By combining the resources and students from several small districts, county schools could improve facilities and transportation, receive more state money and in many cases, finally move to a graded curriculum. In 1905, the first consolidated school districts were organized in King County.<sup>286</sup> In 1928 and 1929, thirty-

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<sup>281</sup> Laughlin, pp. 2, 3.

<sup>282</sup> Outline history of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington, p. 2.

<sup>283</sup> Change #1, School District 64 Boundaries, August 10, 1909, Daily Records, *King County Commissioner's Records*, 1909, p. 96. This change is not signed in the copy in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>284</sup> Ilene Marckx, *School, 55, 169?, W. Hurd*, typed 4x6 index card, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>285</sup> Minutes of the regular meeting of the Federal Way School Board, October 10, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>286</sup> Day, section 7, p. 1.

four consolidated school districts were formed from smaller districts throughout the state.<sup>287</sup>

Transportation of students was one of the motivating problems for the rural schools. By consolidating, several schools could pool funds and pay the costs of getting the children to the district schools. Sometimes districts would pay for feed for students' horses or give allowances for interurban fares. In nearby Auburn, the district used horse-drawn transportation wagons. School Districts 43, 55, 64, 92 and 169 had only poor unpaved country roads that were a great problem in transporting children. Children walked several miles to school, rode bicycles, horses and buggies. Mrs. Anne Calavan, a teacher at Harding School, told of bringing students to school in her Model T Ford.<sup>288</sup>

## Formation of School District 210

Parents in many districts, including School Districts 43, 55, 64, 92 and 169, began to push for consolidation to finance busses and other facilities.<sup>289</sup> Marie Reed indicates that newspaper accounts state that Buenna [probably she means Adelaide School District since Buenna was the school in the Adelaide District], Star Lake and Edgewood Districts were the prime movers in accomplishing the consolidation. The Redondo District was lukewarm to the idea. The Steel Lake Directors were mostly opposed to giving up their district's individual identity.<sup>290</sup>

In 1929 a vote was held to consolidate. The vote to consolidate was 214 for and 167 against.<sup>291</sup>

The present Federal Way School District 210 was chartered on May 22, 1929. The five smaller school districts consolidated were: District 43, Edgewood; District 55, Adelaide; District 64, Star Lake; District 92, Steel Lake and District 169, Redondo.<sup>292</sup>

The initial boundaries of School District 210 were listed in official records as,

### A legal description of King County School District #210

Beginning at a point where the shore line of Puget Sound intersects at a point where the east-west center line of the south half of Section 20, Twp. 22N. R 4 E., thence east to the west line of Section 22. Thence north 1 ¼ miles, east ¾ mile, south 1 ½ miles, east ¼ mile, south 7 miles, west ½ mile, south ¼ mile, west ½ mile, south ¼ mile, west ½ mile, and south ½ mile to the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 33, Twp. 21N., R 4 E. Thence west 1 ½ miles, north ½ mile, thence in a northwesterly direction along the Pierce – King county [*sic*] line to the shore of Puget Sound. Thence in a northeasterly direction

<sup>287</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Early school was community glue," *Federal Way News*, September 20, 1989, p. A-3.

<sup>288</sup> Day, section 7, pp. 1, 2.

<sup>289</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

<sup>290</sup> [Marie Reed], for the Poverty Bay Historical Society, 1221 S. W. 304<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA, 98003, letter to Ms. Lucinda Cox, Mgr., Crestview Apartments, 27912 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003, June 5, 1983, p. 1, in the files of the HSF.

<sup>291</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 4.

<sup>292</sup> Outline history of the Organization of School Districts in King County Washington, p. 2 and Day, section 7, p. 2.

along said shoreline to the point of beginning.<sup>293</sup>

The boundaries have been changed several times since 1929 but the general configuration remains the same. Four of the changes are listed immediately after the original boundary description. These four have been inserted immediately below the original boundary description in the reference so I am assuming they were the first four changes but the gap between 1929 and 1964 might indicate they were not. I have only summarized the titles.

1. Change No. 1 - Effective July 1, 1964, transfer the described territory from Kent School District No. 415 to Federal Way School District No. 210.
2. Change No. 2 - Effective September 1, 1967, transfer described territory from Federal Way School District No. 210 to Fife School District #417 (in Puyallup.)
3. Change No. 3 (Two Parcels) - Effective September 1, 1967, described territory from Federal Way School District No. 210 to Auburn School District No.408.
4. Change No. 4 - Effective September 1, 1967 described territory from Auburn School District No. 408 to Federal Way School District No. 210.<sup>294</sup>

At the time of consolidation, there were no incorporated towns in the school district except for a small portion of Kent that extended into the district as it does today.

The School District was named Federal Way for the established federal highway that abutted or crossed through each of the five districts. The first new school of the consolidated district was also named Federal Way and portions of it remain as Federal Way High School.<sup>295</sup> The name was not without some controversy. The Steel Lake Board members were quite adamant about retaining the name Steel Lake for the district and first school. Some of the Redondo Directors also spoke out for retaining their name for the district. There are several versions as to who came up with the name. One version is that it was Laurie Betts, mother of Byron Betts, who as a member of the Redondo School Board suggested, as a compromise, the name Federal Way after the highway.<sup>296</sup>

Day indicates that the Harding School remained open and Mrs. Calavan continued to teach there through the 1930s and early 1940s.<sup>297</sup> This has not been verified by any other source but, as mentioned under the section on Harding School, it may have reopened for a short time during World War II. District 210 housed their first bus at Harding School. The bus drivers were Mr. and Mrs. Guy Pierce who lived in the “teacherage” on the Harding School grounds.<sup>298</sup> Possibly this is where the confusion arose as to Harding School being used. It was used by School District 210 in the 1930s but not as a school.

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<sup>293</sup> *King County Commissioner's Records*, Volume number not known, Map of School District 210, May 22, 1929, p. 254, in the files of the HSFW. The description is handwritten but in a very neat hand so it is easy to read.

<sup>294</sup> *King County Commissioner's Records*, p. 254.

<sup>295</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

<sup>296</sup> [Reed], letter to Cox, p. 1.

<sup>297</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

<sup>298</sup> Day, section 7, p. 2.

Mr. Fred Saulteren and Arthur Cruise were on the first School board.<sup>299</sup>

## **State Law to Reorganize School Districts**

Since public schools had started in Washington State back in the late 1800s, there had been no organized thought as to just how to manage the system uniformly or to ensure some equality in the level of teaching between different school districts. In 1937, the State legislature, after years of wrestling with the problem of school equalization, authorized the State Planning Commission to have a survey made of school needs in order to determine how to best cope with them. The study revealed a great discrepancy in educational opportunity throughout the state. The commission decided that, “the fundamental need of the education system is the equalization of educational opportunity,” and “the first consideration must be the welfare of the children.” The bottom line of the study was that, “the school district is the key-log that jams all efforts for equalization, not only of financial support, but of educational opportunity in its broader aspects.”<sup>300</sup>

Following the recommendations of the study, the 1941 Legislature enacted a new law. Under the provisions of this law a committee was appointed to revise county school districts. It was admitted that in addition to making education equal, a goal of any reorganization should be to save money. At the time King County had 79 districts. After the King County committee made its decisions on reorganizing, elections were held to get the people’s approval. The 79 old districts were reorganized into 45. The measure failed in 10 of the 45 new districts. District 210 apparently was one of the ten voting no against a change. [I do not know the details of what District 210 was asked to vote on. – DC.] Federal Way District 210 was therefore not altered in any way as it kept its old boundaries and structure and was included as one of the new 45. It was announced that the county would save \$51,116 per year, but since District 210 was not part of the reorganization it contributed nothing to the savings.<sup>301</sup>

## **First Federal Way District 210 School**

### **Federal Way High School Building**

The current Federal Way High School building has gone through several changes since its original construction. In 1929 it opened as an elementary school for grades one through eight. In 1937 a high school addition was added onto the building. In 1944 a junior high addition was made. At that time all three buildings were connected. In June 1963, the district tore down the old elementary part of the school to build offices, a student commons, a theater and part of the school library. Apparently the original portion of the building was torn down because it was not structurally sound and it was more economical to rebuild. In all, the current high school building has had ten or eleven major remodels and additions and several small ones over the years. With all these changes it is

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<sup>299</sup> [Reed], letter to Cox, p. 1.

<sup>300</sup> “Report on School Reorganization,” source is not known but it appears these pages are from a 20 plus page document put out by the county relating to status of school procedures, April 1, 1944, pp. 18, 19 in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>301</sup> “Report on School Reorganization,” pp. 18, 19.

almost impossible to sort out what was original and what has been added and when. Rod Leland, manager of facilities for the school district indicated it is possible to “walk down some hallways and one will predate World War II, while the next will have been erected after the 1960s.”<sup>302</sup> See the following sections concerning Federal Way Elementary School and Federal Way High School for more details on the various stages of construction and the dates.

## Federal Way Elementary School Opened

The Federal Way Elementary School site, which later also became the site of Federal Way High School, ending up with grade and high schools on the same campus, was chosen over several other sites because it had the advantage of being centrally located and it was served by good gravel roads which were important to rural school districts dependent on bus transportation. Furthermore, the site had a large, relatively level area for the school and playground. Probably the deciding factor for the school board was that the price was considered advantageous. Apparently the school board gave no thought to the fact that future growth would increase the traffic on Highway 99 appreciably. The site originally consisted of ten acres but was later expanded to forty acres.<sup>303</sup>

Consolidated School District 210 initially was only designed to provide school for grades one to eight. High school students would still be forced to go outside the district, if they attended high school. The new building was scheduled to cost \$44,000, but the budget was amended to \$61,000 in July 1929. The original structure had three stories, a kitchen, gymnasium, auditorium, eight classrooms and two play rooms. J. F. Sinclair was the first principal. He was hired from the nearby Algona School District. There were five teachers to instruct 142 students.<sup>304</sup> Another source confirms the five teachers but indicates there were 125 students. This source also refers to Mr. Sinclair as the Superintendent rather than principal. H. J. Winter is described as the second superintendent.<sup>305</sup>

## Expansion of Federal Way Elementary School

When Federal Way Elementary School opened most high school students were still sent to Auburn. In 1930, the grade school supported 150 students.<sup>306</sup>

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<sup>302</sup> Mike Halliday, “Schools’ wish; Age more gracefully, *Federal Way Mirror*, January 4, 2006, p. A2.

<sup>303</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, (King County Planning Commission: Seattle, December 1952), p. 27. Even though this document is dated as 1952 it contains information for 1953 that is verified by other sources. It therefore appears the 1952 date is in error or it was issued with a 1952 date, even though containing 1953 information, because of some government regulation that it had to be so dated. I have assumed that the information for 1953 given in this document is valid.

<sup>304</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to “Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2,” p. 5.

<sup>305</sup> Mrs Glen Bandy, Early History of Federal Way P. T. A., no date but based on material included appears to have been written around 1950, p. 1, from the Ilene Marckx Collection in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>306</sup> Lella E. Brislin, “Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210,” November 3, 1968, pp. 1, 2, in the files of the HSFW. This two-page document was apparently used for the dedication ceremony at one of the schools that opened in 1968.

The first fire occurred in the new district in 1933. Tom Webb, the janitor, fought the blaze single-handedly and prevented any major damage. The repairs were covered by insurance.<sup>307</sup>

In September 1933, the Board passed a resolution to add four rooms, either as a new building or as an addition to the present one. Labor was to be provided by the WPA. The district also agreed to trade some bricks still remaining at the former Buenna School for five days of carpentry help. In December 1934, a school addition was built [I am not sure if this was the four rooms planned in 1933 or not – DC.] During the 1934 school year maintenance problems were experienced when the pump broke down several times causing the school to close for a day. The missed day was made up on December 31.<sup>308</sup>

The first school levy was voted on in September 1934. A four-mill levy failed.<sup>309</sup>

In 1935, the Board was confronted with a disciplinary problem relating to school bus transportation. In consulting the state manual, they found the recommendation that when a student became rowdy on the bus, the driver was to stop the bus and dispatch the student one mile from his destination.<sup>310</sup>

By 1935, Federal Way Elementary School was supporting 320 students.<sup>311</sup>

In October 1936, the W. P. A. was invited by the school board to build a four-room addition to the elementary school. A letter was prepared for Charles Carey, District #4 of the W. P. A. making this request.<sup>312</sup>

Dear Sir:

Since the project to construct a four room school building with W. P. A. labor has been voted on favorably by this district and the money is now available to furnish the material needed to construct the four room school building and since complete plans are ready and will be furnished at your request:

BE IT RESOLVED: That we pledge ourselves that School District #210 King County will complete the project if the W. P. A. is forced to suspend operations due to cessation of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That these resolutions are recorded in the minutes of the regular school board meeting of School District #210 King County held on September 23, 1936.<sup>313</sup>

Later, in November 1936, the School Board apparently has some second thoughts about the size of the school addition. There was also interest in an auditorium that led to a discussion on the type of floor it might have. They requested the architect to draw up

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<sup>307</sup> Brislin, p. 1.

<sup>308</sup> Brislin, p. 1.

<sup>309</sup> Brislin, p. 1.

<sup>310</sup> Brislin, p. 2.

<sup>311</sup> Brislin, p. 2.

<sup>312</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, September 23, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>313</sup> Letter from Bob Kirchner, Chairman of the Board of Directors Federal Way School Board, to Chas. E. Carey, Supervisor, Division of Operations, Works Progress Administration, District, #4, September 24, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW.

alternate plans with one of the alternates to include plans for a six-room building and a full basement.<sup>314</sup>

In February 1937, the School Board Director, Bob Kirchner, went to Olympia to talk with Mr. Hoffman [position not given] concerning the new school addition. Mr. Hoffman requested the School board draw up a resolution making appropriation for the building project.<sup>315</sup> The following resolution was approved for submittal.

#### A Resolution

At a School Board meeting held on February 4, 1937, the Director of School District #210 King County passed the following resolution.

Since the present school building of the Federal Way School District #210 King County is not large enough for the present enrollment and since the voters of the district have shown their desire to build a new building,

BE IT RESOVLED That we, the elected representatives of School District #210 King County, pledge the district to provide funds for a new school building as follows: a ten mill excess levy amounting to \$9,550.00 which has been voted; a bond issue amounting to \$15,000 which will be voted.<sup>316</sup>

The School board held a public meeting in early February 1937, to discuss how to finance the new school addition. The turnout was reported to be good with representatives from the entire district present. The people at this public meeting expressed themselves as favoring a bond issue for the district. The proposed bond issue was authorized at the February 18, 1937 School board meeting.<sup>317</sup>

We [Carl Risvold, Bob Kirchner and Art Cruse], the elected representatives Of School District #210, King County, State of Washington, do hereby certify that we were present at the mentioned public meeting, held for the purpose of discussing how to finance the new building, that we do now after much thought and planning draft, pass and adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of School District #210 King County, State of Washington, that the question whether the negotiable cupon [*sic*] bonds of said District, payable serially, should be issued as provided by law, be voted on by the people, and the District Clerk is hereby directed to give notice to the qualified school electors of a bond election, according to law.<sup>318</sup>

This February 18, 1937 meeting also seems to be the first where the record shows the proposed building addition would be called a junior high school.<sup>319</sup>

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<sup>314</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, November 24, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>315</sup> Minutes of the regular meeting of the Federal Way School Board, February 4, 1937, p. 1.

<sup>316</sup> Minutes of the regular meeting of the Federal Way School Board, February 4, 1937, p. 1.

<sup>317</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, February 18, 1937, p. 1.

<sup>318</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, February 18, 1937, p. 1.

At the May 6, 1937 meeting the special election was scheduled for June 5, 1937.<sup>320</sup> The May 29, 1937 Federal Way School Board minutes indicate the special election was to be postponed to a later unspecified date.<sup>321</sup> Unfortunately minutes after this date are not available so the final details of the election and scheduling of the addition are not very well known.

The addition was added as an annex, in 1938, to the original school building. The addition that was originally planned to be a junior high school ended up being used for a high school as well as a junior high school. During construction it was altered to include both junior and senior students. (See the following section on the opening of Federal Way High School for additional discussion on the addition that became Federal Way High School.)

Later, additional central grade school buildings were added to the campus.

After the Second World War ended in 1945, a rapid post-war growth greatly overcrowded both the grade school and high school. The voters of the district were urged to pass a two-thirds increase in their present taxes for one year to take advantage of a post-war building program whereby the state would pay 70 percent of the cost.<sup>322</sup>

The first new building to be built after World War II was an expansion of the Federal Way Elementary School Building. It was a separate building for primary grades. The scheduled completion date was August 1, 1948 so it could be used for the 1948 – 1949 school year. Included in the school expansion program were a gymnasium – auditorium combination, the new primary building, a second story to the present upper grade section (for a music laboratory, science laboratory, health clinic and offices, a lunchroom to be located in back of the original building, shop buildings including a central heating plant, provisions for expanding the manual arts program, playfield development and the addition of a bus garage to house ever increasing numbers of buses.<sup>323</sup>

In October 1953, Federal Way Elementary School had 485 students in grades 1-6 and 248 students in grades 7-8 making a total of 733 students. There were 21 classrooms. The King County Planning Commission rated one of these classrooms as substandard. The Planning Commission also believed that there should be 25 classrooms for the actual number of students.<sup>324</sup>

Federal Way Grade School had 764 pupils on September 7, 1955.<sup>325</sup>

Federal Way Junior High School had 650 pupils in September 1958.<sup>326</sup>

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<sup>319</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, February 18, 1937, p. 1.

<sup>320</sup> Minutes of the Federal Way School Board, May 6, 1937, p. 1. Actually these minutes have a typographical error and say May 5, 1937, but based on the Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, May 29, 1937, p. 1, the date should have been June 5, 1937.

<sup>321</sup> Minutes of a special meeting of the Federal Way School Board, May 29, 1937, p. 1.

<sup>322</sup> Brislin, November 3, 1968, p. 3.

<sup>323</sup> “Federal Way School’s Building Program,” newspaper clipping from unknown source, month and day not known, 1948, p. not known.

<sup>324</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan, Federal Way Report*, p. 27.

<sup>325</sup> “ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS,” newspaper clipping, source not known but not the *Federal Way Review* or *Federal Way News*, September 6, 1955 (possibly wrong date), p. not known. Printed on glossy paper such as the *Federal Way Review* was so that is why I at first thought it was the *Federal Way Review*.

<sup>326</sup> “Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools,” *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

## Federal Way High School

### Opening of Federal Way High School

In 1936 plans were started for a new school. A bond issue and special levy was voted in 1937 to construct a new school (either as an addition to the present one or as a separate building.)<sup>327</sup> Originally the plan was to build only a junior high school, but during one lively school board meeting, it became a junior and senior high school. Local students would no longer have to go to Auburn, Tacoma or Highline to attend high school.<sup>328</sup> Superintendent H. J. Winter spent the summer of 1938 recruiting teachers from around the country.<sup>329</sup> On August 13, 1938, Governor Clarence Martin dedicated the new \$60,000 junior and senior High School building. On the same day, a 20-mill levy was approved to equip and operate the building. This was the largest election ever held up to that time for the Federal Way area. The vote was approved 483 to 32. The 1939 levy failed as only 198 turned out to vote.<sup>330</sup>

When the high school opened in September 1938, District 210 had 12 teachers, some of these served in the elementary school attached to the high school. There were two other full-time employees and five part-time bus drivers. For grades one to twelve there was an average daily attendance of 288.<sup>331</sup>

### Students, Activities and Teachers

The first Federal Way High School graduating class was in 1939. It consisted of 28 students.<sup>332</sup> Governor Martin gave the commencement address. Class officers were President: Geffa Hillstrom, Vice President: Jay Gould, Secretary: Tola Hillstrom and Treasurer: Dick Kroeger. The twenty eight graduates were: Carollee Alexander, William S. Bandy, Theodore Cruse, Frank James Cronkright, Lola Dorman, Shirley Mae Erickson, Harold R. Feaster, Olivia Fraker, Dorothy Frazer, Jay Gould, Georgeffa Hillstrom, John Francis Herr, Geraldine Lois Jordan, Theo H. Kline, Norma Helen Kinney, Richard S. Krieger, Norman Frederick Lind, Blanche Ann Long, Dorothy Lillian Linke, Helene Lloma Mildon, Frank Morgan, Iola Parrish, Calvin Richardson, Cyril Rocheleau, Marie Josephine Stroud, Harriet Jane Templeman, James L. Young and Paul A. Young. The class chose as their class motto, "To the Stars Through Difficulties."<sup>333</sup>

Once the school was opened, the W. P. A. also conducted adult education classes in the school.<sup>334</sup>

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<sup>327</sup> Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210, November 3, 1968, p. 2.

<sup>328</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 5.

<sup>329</sup> Scott Hammers, "School district celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> birthday," *Federal Way News*, May 12, 1999, p. 10.

<sup>330</sup> Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210, p. 2.

<sup>331</sup> "FEDERAL WAY IN REVIEW," *Federal Way News*, May 11, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>332</sup> Dick Ferguson, "Federal Way to Honor 33-Year Career of Retiring Education Chief," *Tacoma News Tribune and Sunday Ledger*, May 15, 1966, page number not known and Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210, November 3, 1968, p. 2.

<sup>333</sup> *Commencement Program Class of 1939, Federal Way High School*, June 1, 1939, p. 4, in the files of the HSFV.

<sup>334</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 5.

The junior high and senior high classes of 1939 jointly sponsored the first school play. *Spring Fever*, written by Professor Glen Hughes of the University of Washington, was the production that was directed by Elizabeth Loeffler. This was a popular high school play of the period and was presented by many schools.<sup>335</sup>

Federal Way High School organized their first student council in 1939 with ten members. A boys club with six officers and a girls club with seven officers, plus a German Club, A Latin Club and a Science Club were all organized in 1939.<sup>336</sup>

The high school band was also organized in 1939. It started with 12 members. With assorted instruments they played mostly classical music that was the type other students requested. Mrs. Lulu Belle Libbey was the first music director. She produced the first school operetta called, *Sun Bonnett Girl*.<sup>337</sup>

In 1940, Federal Way High School entered a sport team [probably football] for the first time in the Pierce County League.<sup>338</sup> The first coach was Merton Toole. He did triple duty by coaching football, basketball and baseball. "He was good at taking raw new teens and molding them into effective fighting forces."<sup>339</sup>

The school newspaper, first published by the students in 1939, was called *Short Circuit*. It was a mimeographed publication with news and gossip. The first actual journalism class was formed in 1940-1941 under the direction of Miss McGeough. This class had 21 members, who continued to put out the newspaper in an upgraded printed form.<sup>340</sup>

In 1942, Melvin Carlson was named principal of the high school.<sup>341</sup>

Classes had as many as 40 students and the school board grew to five members. World War II was blamed for the sudden increase in students. The old Star Lake, Steel Lake and Harding Schools were reopened in 1943 to handle the sudden influx of students. The school board insured its building against bombing or other acts of war in 1942. About this time the federal government granted \$42,500 to build a junior high building between the high school and the elementary schools. This addition actually ended up costing \$63,500. The school district also purchased ten acres of land north of the school for \$2,800.<sup>342</sup>

Federal Way High School had 58 graduates in 1950. The ceremony was held on June 7 in the auditorium of the Edgemont School in northeast Puyallup. Dr. Charles E. Martin, University of Washington professor of political science, was the commencement speaker.<sup>343</sup>

In October 1953, Federal Way High School had 337 students, apparently for grades 9 through 12.<sup>344</sup>

A gymnasium and cafeteria were added to the high school building in 1954.<sup>345</sup> Dedication was held on November 21, 1954. Pearl S. Wanamaker, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, gave the dedicatory address.<sup>346</sup>

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<sup>335</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>336</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>337</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>338</sup> Brislin, "Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210," November 3, 1968, p. 2.

<sup>339</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>340</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>341</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>342</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>343</sup> "Federal Way High School Commencement Set for June 7," *Seattle Times*, May 26, 1950, p. not known.

<sup>344</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, p. 27.

On September 7, 1955, Federal Way High School had 407 students.<sup>347</sup>

In September 1958, Federal Way High School had 470 students.<sup>348</sup>

In September 1960, Federal Way High School had 607 students.<sup>349</sup>

In June 1963, much of the original elementary school was demolished to allow for remodeling of the high school. The new addition housed all the high school offices, a student commons, a little theater and a portion of the school library. The cost of this project was estimated at \$627,000. Part of the remodeling, a new classroom wing, was completed prior to the remodeling. The remodeling was mostly completed for the opening of school in September.<sup>350</sup> Several people were upset that much of the old original portion of the school had been demolished. School District Superintendent Ken Jones stated that two structural engineers, the County Health Department and the State Fire Marshall, had inspected the old building. They had all agreed that it was not “economically feasible” to remodel the building to meet health and safety standards for school use. Jones stated that these reports were available for all to read if they had any doubts.<sup>351</sup>

The 1973-1974 school budget, including \$874,000 from the state, was for a ten-classroom addition and modernization to the older part of Federal Way High School.<sup>352</sup>

The original entrance to the high school is still visible, but was bricked up and has a planter in front of it. A classroom with narrow windows near the ceiling takes up the original entrance space. Several classrooms in the older sections of the school have small windows or none at all. The new entrance to the school faces Pacific Highway South, but the main office is several yards away. After the lunch area, which is also part of the new entrance, was expanded, a reception desk was added because visitors could not find the main office.<sup>353</sup> The reception desk today also provides a security checkpoint for entrance into the building.

Principal Randy Kaczor said the building is “mazey” and noted it’s a quarter mile walk from the northeast corner to the southwest corner. One of the results of the hodgepodge of additions to the high school has led to many outside doors which are not good in today’s security conscience world.<sup>354</sup>

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<sup>345</sup> “FEDERAL WAY IN REVIEW,” *Federal Way News*, May 11, 1955, p. 1, and “Federal Way Schools Begin Fall Term with 70 Teachers,” *Federal Way News*, September 7, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>346</sup> *Federal Way High School Class Annual, the SECOMA, 1954*, Published by the Students of Federal Way High School, Redondo Washington, 1953, p.60.

<sup>347</sup> “ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS,” p. not known.

<sup>348</sup> “Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools,” *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>349</sup> “Enrollment Up 16.7 % in Federal Way School District,” *Federal Way, Mid-Cities Advertiser*, September 21, 1960, p. 1.

<sup>350</sup> “Old School Torn Down,” *Federal Way News Advertiser*, June 19, 1963, p. not known.

<sup>351</sup> “Reasons Given For Demolishing Old FW School,” *Federal Way News Advertiser*, September 25, 1963, p. 13.

<sup>352</sup> “\$27.4 million budget approved,” *Federal Way News*, October 3, 1973, p. 1.

<sup>353</sup> Halliday, “Schools’ wish; Age more gracefully, p. A2.

<sup>354</sup> Halliday, “Schools’ wish; Age more gracefully, p. A2.

## H. J. Winter

H. J. Winter is described as the second superintendent of School District 210.<sup>355</sup> The school board dismissed Winter on December 17, 1940. He then almost immediately disappeared. The school board was non-committal concerning what had happened and would not respond to questions from reporters. Their only comment was that it was, “for cause.” The exact date of Winter’s departure from the area was not known. His wife was in California for the Christmas Holiday and when she returned on January 5, she found a note from Mr. Winter saying he would not be back. Mrs. Winter continued to live in their home at Redondo Beach with their eight-year old son, Herman. She refused to comment on the issue and only said she would hear from him, “when he found himself.”<sup>356</sup>

Winter came to Federal Way as principal of the High School in May 1938. The then principal, Charles Springer, had been told his contract would not be renewed. Apparently there was community support for Springer but the school board wanted him gone. Winter came from Troutlake, Klickitat County, Oregon. A short time later he was made superintendent and was in charge of both the elementary school and high school with a combined total of about 600 students.<sup>357</sup>

Concerning Winter’s absence, ‘the children noticed Mr. Winter was not there, but none of them thought a thing about it,’ one school board director commented. Kenneth C. Jones, principal of the high school was named as acting superintendent and also stayed on as principal of the high school.<sup>358</sup>

Winter’s disappearance followed several months of financial difficulties during which time he was sued twice and adjudged bankrupt. On October 3, 1940, Consuelo Houts obtained a judgment against Mr. And Mrs. Winter for \$220.53 plus interest and attorney fees. Garnishment procedures were filed later in the month with the school district to collect the money owed Houts. Winter filed a bankruptcy petition in federal court on November 1, 1940, listing liabilities of \$3,721.26 and assets of \$166.00 due him from the school district. His annual salary was \$3,000.<sup>359</sup>

Among the liabilities listed in the bankruptcy petition was a note to the Queen Anne Candy Company for \$150. This was made the basis for a suit filed against Winter on November 13, 1940. Judgment was granted the same day. The Queen Anne Candy Company transaction also appeared in the minutes of the school board meeting that Winters did not attend. The minutes indicate that Winter had personally guaranteed the account which was for candy and merchandise purchased for the school canteen run by the high school student body. Other items in the bankruptcy included \$500.00 owed to two loan companies, doctor bills, department store accounts in Seattle and Portland and money owed several individuals.<sup>360</sup>

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<sup>355</sup> Bandy, p. 1.

<sup>356</sup> Howard E. MacDonald, “SCHOOL HEAD DISAPPEARS AFTER OUSTER,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, January, (day not known), 1941, p. 1.

<sup>357</sup> MacDonald, p. not known.

<sup>358</sup> MacDonald, p. not known.

<sup>359</sup> MacDonald, p. not known.

<sup>360</sup> MacDonald, p. not known.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney James W. Mifflin, who acted for the district, said that Winter's contract with the school district had been settled with a payment of \$750.00. He added that Mrs. Winter called on him the previous week and told him that Winter had sent her \$25.00 of this and paid some small bills, but she thought that he had about \$500.00 when he left Seattle. Mrs. Winter also reported her husband's disappearance to the Seattle Police, but asked them to do nothing about it for the time being, believing she would hear from him.<sup>361</sup>

Rumors exist that Winter was let go because he was a German spy, but no evidence of this has been found.

## Kenneth C. Jones

A major influence on the development of the early growth stages of the Federal Way School District was Kenneth C. Jones. Jones spent the final 27 years of his career involved with Federal Way Schools.<sup>362</sup>

Jones was raised in the northeast part of Washington. He attended Washington State University for a short period of time but graduated from Oregon State University. He also did graduate work at the University of Washington. His first teaching assignment was at his alma matter, Chattaroy High School, near Spokane. He taught three years at Chattaroy and Wilbur High Schools.<sup>363</sup> Jones started his career in Federal Way as one of the newly hired junior high school teachers in 1938. Another teacher hired at the same time to teach in both the junior and senior high school was Melvin Carson.<sup>364</sup> In 1939, Jones accepted the principal's post at Federal Way High School.<sup>365</sup> Four months later, on December 14, 1940, he was elevated to the superintendent's position.<sup>366</sup> (See the section on H. J. Winter concerning the reason for the promotion to the superintendent's position.) In addition to his administrative duties he continued to teach three classes daily.<sup>367</sup> Melvin Carson became Jones's right hand man.<sup>368</sup> Carson was made principal of the elementary division in 1942. He was also highly thought of and is said to have the "esteem and love of his staff and pupils."<sup>369</sup> Jones had a reputation of being soft spoken and a soothing, patrician figure.<sup>370</sup> Jones indicated that the High School, opened in 1938, was considered very modern for the time.<sup>371</sup>

At a school board meeting in April 1964, Jones verbally requested that his contract not be extended beyond its expiration of June 30, 1966, as he intended to retire at the end of the 1965-1966 school year. He formally announced his resignation on December 8, 1965,

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<sup>361</sup> MacDonald, p. not known.

<sup>362</sup> Dick Ferguson, "Federal Way to Honor 33-Year Career of Retiring Education Chief," *Tacoma News Tribune and Sunday Ledger*, May 15, 1966, page number not known.

<sup>363</sup> Ferguson, 1966, page number not known.

<sup>364</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 5.

<sup>365</sup> Ferguson, 1966, page number not known.

<sup>366</sup> Ferguson, 1966, page number not known and Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>367</sup> "Search to Begin Soon For Successor to Supt. Jones," *Federal Way News Advertiser*, December 15, 1965, p. 1.

<sup>368</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>369</sup> Bandy, p. 1.

<sup>370</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>371</sup> Ferguson, 1966, page number not known.

to be effective June 30, 1966.<sup>372</sup> The official retirement date is listed as July 1, 1966.<sup>373</sup> During his tenure, the school district grew from 500 to 15,000 students.<sup>374</sup>

King County voters approved, around 1970, the Forward Thrust program to add many needed recreational facilities. The Federal Way Forward Thrust swimming pool opened in February 1971. It was named the Kenneth Jones Pool in honor of his long career with the school district. It was dedicated April 15, 1971. It is located on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South adjacent to Federal Way High School. Both the community and school district had access to it. Jones attended the dedication. Officials in attendance included County Executive John Spellman, Councilman Dave Mooney, County Park Director George Wyse and Federal Way School Superintendent Murray Taylor. The Federal Way pool was the second county operated pool completed under the Forward Thrust program. The Highline pool was the first.<sup>375</sup> The county turned the pool over to the city of Federal Way in the early 2000s. With the opening of the city of Federal Way Community Center in March 2007, which includes a fully modern pool facility, the Jones Pool was turned over to the school district. Tentative plans call for the pool to be torn down since it duplicates the one at the Community Center and it is quite outdated.

Kenneth Jones died on October 1, 1971 at the age of 65.<sup>376</sup> He died in a Tacoma hospital from cancer.<sup>377</sup>

## **Job Description for 1966 Superintendent**

When Jones indicated he planned to retire in June of 1966 a search was conducted for his replacement. The job description is summarized below.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Will be directly responsible for the administration of the Federal Way schools.
- Serve as an advisor to the Board in the formulation of policies.
- Administer the development and maintenance of a sound educational program.
- Recommend the number and type of positions.
- Provide proper personnel for the operation of the educational program.
- Recommend to the Board the employment and dismissal of all employees.

### Salary and contract information:

- Present salary is \$18,950.00.
- Contracts are renewed for a three-year period.

### Personal qualifications:

- Age 35 to 50 preferred.
- Married with family preferred.
- Good health is essential.

### Professional training:

- Must hold or be eligible for Washington State Superintendent's credentials.

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<sup>372</sup> "Search to Begin Soon For Successor to Supt. Jones, p. 1.

<sup>373</sup> Ferguson, 1966, page number not known.

<sup>374</sup> "Former superintendent Kenneth C. Jones dies," *Federal Way News*, October 6, 1971, p. 1.

<sup>375</sup> "Pool Dedication To Honor Jones," *The Tacoma News Tribune*, April 13, 1971, p. 18.

<sup>376</sup> "Former superintendent Kenneth C. Jones dies," October 6, 1971, p. 1.

<sup>377</sup> "Kenneth Jones, former school official, dies," *Seattle Times*, October 3, 1971, p. number not known.

Must hold a master's degree.

Although not mandatory, a doctor's degree is preferred.

A broad academic background and administration experience is desired.

Professional experience:

Should have experience as a classroom teacher.

Should have experience as a school principal.

Should have at least two years experience as a superintendent or assistant superintendent.<sup>378</sup>

## Nancy Garber Carlson Reminisces About High School

In 1980, Nancy Garber Carlson reminisced about her 1941 graduation from Federal Way High School. She said there were 28 students in her graduating class with everybody knowing everybody. Since the school building housed 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades she indicated they even knew all the seventh graders.<sup>379</sup>

Because of the small number of students, there were only 14 teachers for grades seven through twelve. It was not uncommon for the biology teacher to also instruct chemistry, physics and general science classes at every grade level.<sup>380</sup>

Nancy felt that there was respect for the teachers and very little in the way of discipline problems.

To get kicked out of school was almost unheard of. To do so, someone had to do more than smoke a cigarette at school, they would have to raise pure hell. . . . Kids did drink just as they always have and always will, but not to the extent that they do now [1980] and they certainly didn't do it at school. [Drugs] oh, my heavens no. We didn't even know what the word marijuana meant.<sup>381</sup>

Concerning activities Nancy said,

Every once in a while we'd sneak off campus at lunch time and head on down to Redondo. One of the guys had his very own Roadster with a rumble seat and you could pile a lot of kids in that old car. It was great fun, but if we got caught our punishment would be to write some promise out a thousand times or so. . . .

You know, we never were very good in sports, but we sure had a lot of spirit. I guess we just didn't have enough people to choose from. One thing for sure, nobody ever complained about getting enough playing time in, everybody played. And it seemed like we played the same teams like Yelm, Roy and Eatonville several times a year because there just weren't many schools around.<sup>382</sup>

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<sup>378</sup> "Federal Way School District Invites Application for the Position of Superintendent of Schools," 1966, p. 2.

<sup>379</sup> Susie Fleck, "FWHS graduate recalls early years, *Federal Way News*, June 13, 1980, p. A-1

<sup>380</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>381</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

Nancy said the school had several boys' and girls' clubs and there was always a big turnout for socials like the Mother-Daughter tea, the operettas and the drama club plays. Proms and school dances were held at the Northlake Dance Hall, which was located near where Weyerhaeuser now stands.<sup>383</sup>

During the early 1940s, the main Federal Way gathering point, for students and adults, was the old feed and grain store owned by Francis Marckx and Lundstrom's Grocery Store. Nancy indicated, "That was all there was to the town. It was all right there on the corner of highway 99 and South 312<sup>th</sup>."<sup>384</sup>

Concerning a lover's lane, Nancy commented with a giggle,

Yes, there was a lover's lane, in fact, there were several. There was so much wide open space that you could probably have parked anywhere. I suppose most everybody did neck, but girls weren't quite as sex-minded as they are now. There were a few though that were.

Mostly though, when kids got their parents cars, a whole bunch of us would pile in and take off to one of the lakes around to swim or go roller skating down at Redondo. There was a beautiful rink and bowling alley there. It was owned by Mr. Betts and we used to hang out there. You could drive around a lot too, gas only cost about 10 cents a gallon.<sup>385</sup>

One of the things that had changed between 1940, when Nancy attended Federal Way High School, and 1980, the time of the interview, was the style of dress by the students.

We really dressed quite well. We didn't wear jeans, we always wore dresses. No one would have thought of wearing our pedal pushers to school. We wore dresses to show off our saddle shoes, they were really the thing.

Oh, but those guys, they were going through this dirty cord thing. It was a status symbol or something with them not to have their corduroy pants washed. The pants started out in a number of different colors, but it didn't matter, they all ended up the same color...grey [*sic*].<sup>386</sup>

As graduation neared, Nancy told of the famous "Senior Sneaks." Seniors would sneak away from school and go to the ocean for a day and have a party.

Some of those pre-graduation parties would last all night. They were lots of fun, and we considered them pretty wild. I guess they wouldn't be now, though.<sup>387</sup>

Nancy said that very few of her classmates went on to college.

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<sup>382</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>383</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>384</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>385</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>386</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>387</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

Most of the girls got married, and many of the fellows had to go and fight in World War II. While in school we didn't really have war fever, at that time it was the furthest thing from our minds. Things seemed so simple then.

It was a good time and I really think we got a good education at our school. We had to study, so we really did learn a lot.<sup>388</sup>

Nancy believed that in the forty years she since had been at Federal Way High School many things had changed.

I'm afraid they don't respect an education or the educators as much as they should. That's the number one problem, lack of respect.

[I am] astonished at the different things FWHS offers now. Even with all these new offerings I still don't know if they have a better education than we did. They sure do offer a lot now. If anybody would have told me when I was there that someday they would have a psychologist at school, I wouldn't have believed them.

Gosh. We didn't need one or at least we didn't think we needed one.

### Federal Way High School Graduates

Table 2 shows the number of graduates from Federal Way High School over the years.

<b>Table 2 – Federal Way High School Graduates</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Graduates</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1939	28	See section on Students, Activities and Teachers for details.
1950	58	The ceremony was held on June 7 in the auditorium of the Edgemont School in northeast Puyallup. Dr. Charles E. Martin, University of Washington professor of political science was the commencement speaker. <sup>389</sup>
1956	80	Baccalaureate exercises were held June 3, 1956. <sup>390</sup>
1959	108	Graduation was held June 2. A baccalaureate exercise was held May 31. <sup>391</sup>

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<sup>388</sup> Fleck, p. A-1.

<sup>389</sup> "Federal Way High School Commencement Set for June 7," *Seattle Times*, May 26, 1950, p. not known.

<sup>390</sup> "Federal Way High School Seniors, Class of 1956," *Federal Way News-Review*, May 30, 1956, p. 1.

<sup>391</sup> "Graduation," *Federal Way News*, May 28, 1959 (? actual paper is not in the files of HSFWS so this is my estimate based on other papers and comment on clipping,) p. not available.

## Parent Teachers Association Before 1950

### Formation of PTA

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers was formed in Washington D. C. in 1897. The original name was Congress of Parents and Teachers but it soon became known as the Parents and Teachers Association or even just the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The state of Washington had its first PTA organized in 1905 and the King County Congress of Parents and Teachers was begun in 1913.<sup>392</sup>

This section discusses the early PTA involvement in Federal Way. The time period discussed is 1930 to 1950. The year 1950 is used as an end point since it is the time prior to the school construction and expansion program started in the 1950s. During 1930 to 1950 the PTA gave valuable support to the fledgling Federal Way district. After this the school district itself picked up many of the projects and costs that the PTA had previously provided for students outside the school tax base.

There are no records of the Federal Way PTA before October 9, 1931, when Secretary Mr. Edward Nelson began to record activities. Mrs. Glen (Irene) Bandy was the first president and Mary Steel was treasurer. Superintendent Sinclair and Hanna Holmstrom along with Bandy and Steel were the promoters and founders in getting the local PTA started.<sup>393</sup> Other early supporters were the Coles, Mrs. Forbes, Mr. Davin, Mrs. Cruise and the Hans Jensens. Mrs. Bodine was a committee chairman in the early years.<sup>394</sup>

The first meeting place was the old Buenna School that was not then in use. Both the Buenna School and Steel Lake School had held PTA meetings when they were still operating and before the Formation of School District 210.<sup>395</sup>

In the early days, students and teachers often participated in PTA activities. The Glee Clubs, Band and choruses were said to be “a joy to hear on many occasions.” In later years there were panel discussions in which both high school students and PTA members participated. The most noted was a controversial program held in May 1948 on “Universal Military Training.” This program had considerable audience response. Another program that drew conflicting comments was the panel on “Comics, Radio Programs and Shows.”<sup>396</sup> [Unfortunately the exact content of the comments for these two programs has not been preserved.]

The PTA tried to address problems and take responsibility for concerns that were not part of the regular school instruction or funding. Early projects undertaken had to do with the lunchroom, the safety of the children on the highway and playground, the health and happiness of all the school, good entertainment and many small projects sandwiched in with the larger projects.<sup>397</sup>

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<sup>392</sup> Mrs. Glen Bandy, *Early History of Federal Way P. T. A.*, no date but based on material included appears to have been written around 1949 or 1950, p. 1, from the Ilene Marckx Collection in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>393</sup> Bandy, p. 1.

<sup>394</sup> Bandy, p. 3.

<sup>395</sup> Unfortunately I did not make note of this reference and I cannot find it again. It is not Bandy.

<sup>396</sup> Bandy, p. 2.

<sup>397</sup> Bandy, p. 2.

## Membership

In the 1930s, men were much more active members than women and, at times, committees and chairmen all consisted of men.<sup>398</sup> The Welfare Committee in 1932 consisted of six men and one woman.<sup>399</sup> By 1933, the Welfare Committee had only six men and no women.<sup>400</sup> In other standing committees there were many men chairmen and men assistants. The male dominance was so pronounced and unusual compared to other PTAs that the minutes of May 1932 meeting state “Mrs. Bandy, received at the State Convention, for our association, an award for having the largest percentage of ‘Dads’ on their membership list.<sup>401</sup> Considering the previous comment it is a little surprising that it was not until April 1933, that the first man, Robert Neal, was elected president of the local PTA. It was not until 1949-50 that another man was elected president.<sup>402</sup>

Table 3 indicates the presidents of the Federal Way PTA from 1931 through 1950.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Years Served</b>
Mrs. Glen S. Bandy	1931 – 1933
Mr. Robert Neal	1933 – 1935
Mrs. Jack Merrill	1935 – 1936
Mrs. Norman (Nellie) Faulkner	1936 – 1937
Mrs. Gertrude Dunsmore	1937 – 1939
Mrs. Theo Cruise	1939 – 1941
Mrs. W. A. Witt	1941 – 1943
Mrs. Merrill Gates	1943 – 1944
Mrs. Glenn Parker	1944 – 1946
Mrs. Harold Watkins	1946 – 1948
Mrs. Al Osborn	1948 – 1949
Mr. C. A. Barnard	1949 - 1950

The growth of the Federal Way PTA was consistent over the years. In early 1931, there were 113 members listed. The December 1931 meeting minutes showed the figure was only 94. There was a drive for members each fall with the membership growing gradually until 1937-1938 when it stood at 231. In September 1942, membership dues were raised from \$0.50 to \$0.75 or \$1.25 for husband and wife. In May 1945, membership was reported as 235. Membership on January 1, 1946 was 286. In September 1947, membership was 447. On November 7, 1947, there were 401 members. Each classroom had a contest to see who had the highest percentage of parents as members. In 1947, Mrs. Stevens’ room and Mr. Johnstone’s room each had parent memberships over 100 percent. [Possibly the class got credit for non parents joining?]

<sup>398</sup> Bandy, p. 2.

<sup>399</sup> Secretary’s Book 1, Federal Way PTA, p. 36, referenced in Bandy, p. 2.

<sup>400</sup> Secretary’s Book 1, Federal Way PTA, p. 74, referenced in Bandy, p. 2.

<sup>401</sup> Secretary’s Book 1, Federal Way PTA, p. 33, referenced in Bandy, p. 2.

<sup>402</sup> Bandy, pp, 2, 3.

<sup>403</sup> Bandy, p. 3.

For three times prior to 1947, Federal Way had the distinction of having the largest PTA membership in King County. The first such time was 1934-1935. [The other two times are not indicated.] In 1949-1950, the membership was near 500. According to visiting speakers and friends of members who attended meetings, the Federal PTA was an “alive” and interesting group.<sup>404</sup>

## Lunch Room Project

The Federal Way PTA had the school lunchroom as one of their major projects from its start in 1930 until 1945.<sup>405</sup> In November 1930, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) set up a school lunch program.<sup>406</sup> The first cook was Mrs. Cole. The kitchen then was the room back of the stage that was also the Domestic Science room for classes in cooking. The dining room was then the elevated space along the side of the auditorium.<sup>407</sup>

The first discussion about lunches in the PTA minutes was in January 1932. A Committee of five was “to study the kitchen problem and submit plans for remodeling of same.” The February 12, 1932 minutes read: “Mr. Cole, Mr. Philips, and Mr. Lind were given a rising vote of thanks for donating their services in remodeling the kitchen.”<sup>408</sup>

Free lunches were given if the need required it. In May 1931, a Ladies Aid donated \$10.00 “which would make it possible to give out a few more free lunch tickets.” The Harding Improvement Club donated to the lunch program also. In March 1932, forty children were getting free lunches. In November 1932, twenty-nine children were getting lunch free. Many families donated food products, which were accepted instead of money for lunch tickets. The officers of the PTA often requested the donation of fresh vegetables and farm products. In May 1932, the Ladies Aid again made a donation. This time they donated \$21.15. The PTA membership fund was used for lunch tickets and for purchasing fruits and vegetables. Sometimes the PTA allowed membership fees to be paid with donations of fruits and vegetables.<sup>409</sup>

In January 1933, thirty-nine children were getting free lunch tickets. In December 1934, only thirty-two lunches were prepared daily. In March 1934, the school lunch fund was reported to have only \$0.71 in it. In September 1934, \$52.99 in lunchroom funds was stolen from Mr. Hill’s desk.<sup>410</sup>

In September 1934, the Federal government started helping with the school lunch program. The Surplus Commodities Corporation began supplying the basic foods. In October 1934, the PTA agreed to pay Mrs. Lambert, the cook in the lunchroom, \$1.00 per day.<sup>411</sup>

The school took over managing the school lunch program for the 1935–1936 school year. Funds were still short, however, and the November 1935 PTA minutes state, “On behalf of Miss Meredith, who has been trying so hard to run the lunchroom without any

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<sup>404</sup> Bandy, p. 6.

<sup>405</sup> Bandy, p. 11.

<sup>406</sup> Brislin, “Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210,” November 3, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>407</sup> Bandy, p. 11.

<sup>408</sup> Bandy, p. 11.

<sup>409</sup> Bandy, p. 11.

<sup>410</sup> Bandy, p. 11.

<sup>411</sup> Bandy, p. 4, 7.

funds, we wish to say that donations of vegetables, etc. will be very much appreciated.”<sup>412</sup>

The PTA apparently took the lunch program over again starting in the 1936-1937 school year. At the beginning of the 1937-1938 school year the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and PTA began working together in the lunchroom.<sup>413</sup> The WPA supplied the kitchen help starting in September 1937.<sup>414</sup> The WPA furnished four workers and a certain amount of staple food.<sup>415</sup> The lunches were five cents. The method of payment was for the parents, if able, to send one dollar per month to the PTA. A few free lunches were provided for those not able to provide the one dollar.<sup>416</sup>

The PTA Welfare chairman in December 1937,, stated: “Our hot lunches are helping the less fortunate in so many ways. There is less suffering, more help for the parents and the children are improving in every way.” Unfortunately things took a turn for the worse in 1937. The April 1937 PTA minutes read: “Our School Lunch Project is in the red and we have asked the cooperation of Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs, teachers and parents, to help or else it will have to be closed.” A minstrel show was held on April 29, 1937, with the proceeds going to the lunchroom. Bob Kirchner sent a letter to the PTA Executive Committee that stated sufficient funds would be available to give to Mrs. Winchell to pay for a woman to do Mrs. Winchell’s housework while Mrs. Winchell managed the business end of the lunchroom.<sup>417</sup>

In January 1939, the PTA selected a cannery at Kent where they could take produce for canning on shares. Volunteers took fruit and vegetables there to be canned. For several years this method of preserving food for the lunchroom was used. One day, in the summer of 1944, three thousand pounds of string beans were canned by some of the PTA ladies.<sup>418</sup>

In October 1939, Mrs. Templeman became manager of the lunchroom and held that position for four years. Mrs. Schindler than managed it for a year. Mrs. Merrill then managed it until the school board took control in the fall of 1945.<sup>419</sup>

In December 1941, it was decided to buy a new range for the kitchen for the price of \$175.00. However, the stove purchased ended up costing \$345.00 plus tax and freight. It took until May 1942 for the PTA to come up with enough donated funds to pay for it.<sup>420</sup>

After January 20, 1943, the lunchroom received no more help from the WPA. The PTA rehired two ladies who had been working through the WPA, Mrs. Dobbins, the baker, and Mrs. Ester Nelson, the second cook. The state started supplying commodities grown at the State Reformatory in Monroe. In February 1943, one more helper was hired and in November an additional cook was hired. A forty gallon hot water tank was installed and a vegetable slicing machine was purchased. In the fall of 1944, new tables

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<sup>412</sup> Bandy, p. 12.

<sup>413</sup> Bandy, p. 12.

<sup>414</sup> Bandy, pp. 4, 7.

<sup>415</sup> Bandy, p. 12.

<sup>416</sup> Brislin, “Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210,” November 3, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>417</sup> Bandy, p. 12.

<sup>418</sup> Bandy, p. 12.

<sup>419</sup> Bandy, pp. 12, 13.

<sup>420</sup> Bandy, p. 13.

and stools and a new gas range were ordered. A \$0.10 per hour raise was given to all lunchroom employees to keep turnover down.<sup>421</sup>

In April 1945, the PTA voted to turn the lunchroom over to the school board at the end of the school year.<sup>422</sup>

## PTA General Projects

In October 1934, more lights for the school building were requested and obtained. In 1940, constructing a tennis court became a project. The idea of a tennis court had been under discussion for several years but no positive action had occurred. In April 1940, a Mr. Hoit and a crew of men were hired to complete the courts using the entire \$492.00 in the PTA treasury.<sup>423</sup>

Adult education classes were organized and library books purchased by PTA fund raising activities. The PTA sponsored classes for first aid in October, November and December 1937. In January 1940, additional classes in first aid were held. Classes were also held on current events and dress design. In March 1940, the PTA purchased a public address system for use with activities at the school.<sup>424</sup>

Under Mrs. Faulkner's leadership, dental work for students was obtained with King County picking up half the cost. Eyeglasses and tonsillectomies were also partially funded by King County. The King County Council held their semiannual meeting at Federal Way School in October 1936.<sup>425</sup> On May 13, 1937, Governor Clarence D. Martin spoke at the PTA meeting.<sup>426</sup>

Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls activities flourished starting in 1936-1937, again under the leadership of Mrs. Faulkner. The Girl Scouts and Blue Birds were sponsored starting in October 1939.<sup>427</sup>

In the 1940s, the PTA became active in sponsoring blood bank donations. At almost every meeting attendees were requested to donate blood. The PTA also helped with the chest X-ray that became a requirement for the purpose of stamping out tuberculosis. National law required anyone 16 years or over to have a chest X-ray. The service was free starting with the 1948-1949 school year. PTA President Mrs. Watkins made the mobile unit for chest X-rays easy to access by having it come to the school and a PTA meeting in September 1949.<sup>428</sup>

Dance classes for students were considered extra curricular and therefore special teachers volunteered their time at hours that would not conflict with regular classes.<sup>429</sup>

In May 1945, the PTA voted to give financial aid to help buy band uniforms. In October 1947, it was voted to buy ten band uniforms at \$60 each. By the time of actual

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<sup>421</sup> Bandy, pp. 13, 14.

<sup>422</sup> Bandy, p. 14.

<sup>423</sup> Bandy, pp. 3, 4, 8.

<sup>424</sup> Bandy, p. 4.

<sup>425</sup> Secretary's Book 1, Federal Way PTA, p. 36, referenced in Bandy, pp. 3, 4.

<sup>426</sup> Bandy, p. 4.

<sup>427</sup> Bandy, p. 4.

<sup>428</sup> Bandy, p. 4.

<sup>429</sup> Bandy, p. 4.

purchase in 1947 the price had gone up to \$75.00 each. The additional \$150.00 was located.<sup>430</sup>

The Patrol Boys (apparently girls did not help as crossing guards then) were given a Christmas party by the Seattle Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Federal Way PTA contributed \$10.00. This donation continued at least through 1950.<sup>431</sup>

In September 1945, a pre-school organization was started. Mrs. E. Gresham was made the first president of this. In the fall of 1948, Mrs. Lee Hughes was elected president.<sup>432</sup>

The Federal Way PTA, in cooperation with the King County PTA, sponsored ski train trips. The October 1947 PTA meeting minutes included the following invitation,

High school students are invited to take advantage of the ski train trips on Saturdays to the Ski Bowl in Snoqualmie Pass sponsored by the King County P. T. A., Seattle Times and the Milwaukee Railroad. Instructors will be at the bowl. Round trip tickets will be \$1.17 for students and \$1.77 for adults.<sup>433</sup>

The Federal Way PTA's problem with this is that they had to arrange transportation to and from the train and to supply their share of chaperones. In March 1948, Mrs. Witt, the county recreation chairman, reported that skiing lessons would be \$0.25 per hour. The ski train and lessons would continue as long as weather permitted.<sup>434</sup>

The PTA also sponsored dances after ball games at various times. Finding the needed number of chaperones often proved to be a problem.<sup>435</sup>

Safety was always something the PTA was interested in. Safety programs were often held and generally were viewed as helpful. Many speakers presented programs and films were often shown. Upon learning that false ceilings were hazardous unless fireproofed the PTA got that approach for the auditorium dropped. The secretary wrote letters to County Commissioner Scars because of the perceived danger at certain points on the roads that the school busses used. Attempts were made to redirect the busses where there was less traffic and where traffic could be better controlled.<sup>436</sup>

I have included above only a partial list of the projects and activities listed by Mrs. Bandy in her 1950, 21-page history of the Federal Way PTA. See Mrs. Bandy's document for more items.<sup>437</sup>

## **PTA Finances**

Some of the finances of the early PTA were discussed in the previous sections. This section includes some of the more general expenses and budget processes.

A basket social was held a few weeks before February 1932 to raise funds for a school stage curtain. Two-thirds of the proceeds plus \$10.00 was applied to the curtain. Later

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<sup>430</sup> Bandy, pp. 9, 10.

<sup>431</sup> Bandy, p. 9.

<sup>432</sup> Bandy, p. 3.

<sup>433</sup> Bandy, pp. 4, 5.

<sup>434</sup> Bandy, p. 5.

<sup>435</sup> Bandy, p. 5.

<sup>436</sup> Bandy, p. 5.

<sup>437</sup> Bandy, pp. 1-21.

minutes indicate the school board paid the balance of \$33.00 still needed. The PTA donated five trees in March 1932 for landscaping the school grounds. By 1950 no one knew which trees these were.<sup>438</sup>

The PTA never had a large budget but tried to spend it wisely. Many volunteer hours were put into the work to make it function well beyond the money spent. The 1932-1933 budget was \$200, broken down as follows,

Christmas entertainment	35.00
Incidentals	25.50
Dues to County and State P. T. A.	32.00
National Convention	25.00
Treasurer's expense	2.50
School lunch	50.00
Founder's Day donation	1.00
Prize for membership drive	4.00
Total	<u>\$200.00</u> <sup>439</sup>

[While \$200.00 is shown as the sum of these figures in Bandy's, *Early History of the Federal Way PTA*, the actual total of the figures provided is \$175.00. - DC]

The total expenditures for 1935 were \$267.37.<sup>440</sup>

In September, 1936, the Treasurer, Mr. Hall reported that the PTA treasury was empty and there were still bills to pay.<sup>441</sup>

In March 1937, the Finance Committee reported that the carnival held on March 5 had made a \$30.00 profit. In 1947, the PTA reported a gross of \$3,165.00 with the profit at \$2,093.65 for a similar carnival. In 1948, the net proceeds were \$2,093.65. A check for \$1419.40 was made out from this for playground equipment.<sup>442</sup>

In 1941, the PTA was able to purchase a \$288 motion picture projector for school use.<sup>443</sup>

In October and November 1941, Mrs. Forbes of the Ways and Means Committee turned over \$155.62 to the treasury. This was obtained by sale of subscriptions for the *Farmer's Journal* and the *Farmer's Wife* magazines. The Father and Son Banquet for 1941 brought in another \$20.40 profit. The Paper Drive brought in \$30.00. After 1941, the Boy Scouts took over the paper drive and got the income. The money collected in 1941 was used to help pay for the new \$345.00 range for the school kitchen.<sup>444</sup>

A directory was first published for the 1937 – 1938 school year. The Directory became a major project in January 1943. The directory in 1943 sold for \$0.35 but later the price went to \$0.50. This yearly directory also sold advertisements so was actually a very good moneymaker for the PTA. The only year the proceeds are given is for 1948. The sale of advertising brought in \$791.00 and the sale of the directories themselves

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<sup>438</sup> Bandy, p. 7.

<sup>439</sup> Bandy, p. 7.

<sup>440</sup> Bandy pp. 6, 7.

<sup>441</sup> Bandy, p. 7.

<sup>442</sup> Bandy, pp. 7, 8, 10A. For some unknown reason the document with pages numbered 1-21 has a page 10A and a page 10B making the document actually 22 pages.

<sup>443</sup> Bandy, p. 8.

<sup>444</sup> Bandy, pp. 8, 9.

brought in \$324.00. Expenses to produce the book were \$673.00. This left a gain of \$442. Mrs. Bandy indicated that this was hard earned money as it took much volunteer time.<sup>445</sup>

At the end of 1947 the PTA account had \$4,602.09 available. This was used for some good causes in 1948. In January 1948 the school board reported they had originally agreed to pay \$3,090.00 for the bleachers. The School board had already paid \$1,500.00 on the bill. Only \$650.00 was available to pay off what was due. The PTA agreed to pay the difference of \$940.00. In February 1948 the PTA learned that a curtain and cyclorama for the school stage would cost \$756. The senior class raised \$200 of this so the PTA decided to contribute \$275.00.<sup>446</sup>

As a comparison of the \$200.00 1932-1933 budget shown previously, the following 1949-1950 PTA budget is shown.

Administration	\$25.00
Student aid	5.00
Membership	45.00
Hospitality	25.00
Founder's Day	10.00
Program	100.00
Publicity	40.00
Per Capita Tax <sup>447</sup>	53.70
Transportation for president to county council	20.00
Transportation for officers and chairmen to Spring and Fall Conferences	10.00
Transportation for 3 delegates to State Convention	150.00
Miscellaneous [ <i>sic</i> –miscellaneous]	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$553.70 <sup>448</sup>

[While \$553.70 is shown as the sum of these figures in Bandy's, *Early History of the Federal Way PTA*, the actual total of the figures provided is \$503.70. - DC]

Starting in 1944, the PTA treasurer and cashier were bonded. In 1945, the PTA money was insured at the rate of \$1,000 for \$19.80 per year. The PTA and school divided the cost equally.<sup>449</sup>

Many small projects ranging from \$5.00 to \$10.00 were funded over the years. I have included only a partial list of the financial activities of the Federal Way PTA between 1930 and 1951. See the entire document for many more items.<sup>450</sup>

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<sup>445</sup> Bandy, p. 4, 10B.

<sup>446</sup> Bandy, p. 10A.

<sup>447</sup> The per capita tax was levied at the rate of \$0.10 per member. This would imply there were 573 members. I do not know who received this tax money, possibly the state or national PTA organization..

<sup>448</sup> Bandy, p. 8.

<sup>449</sup> Bandy, p. 9.

<sup>450</sup> Bandy, pp. 1 –21.

## School Board Activities in the 1930s

Items covered at school board meetings have changed greatly over the years. The minutes of the January 5, 1935 school board meeting show that the only two items the Directors Carl Risvold, Art Cruse and Bob Kirchner covered were,

Moved by Cruse that the high school boy's parents be notified about the broken window in the bus. If it is not paid for by Tuesday the boy will not be allowed the privilege to ride on the bus. Seconded by Kirchner--Carried.

Moved by Kirchner that we take out insurance to protect the teachers and children on the school grounds and in the building, also to cover at least one-hundred [*sic*] and fifty feet of road where the buses load. Seconded by Cruse—Carried.<sup>451</sup>

The March 25, 1935 school board meeting was much the same with the following items discussed.

Moved by Kirchner that Carl Risvold be re-elected as Clerk. Seconded by Cruse--Carried.

Moved by Risvold that Kirchner be re-elected as Chairman. Seconded by Cruse--Carried.

Moved by Cruse that Risvold get bids on Domestic Science equipment. Seconded by Kirchner—Carried.

Moved by Risvold that Tom Webb be reimbursed to the amount of five dollars per month to cover the expense of operating his car on school business. Seconded by Cruse—Carried.<sup>452</sup>

The November 18, 1938 school board meeting discussed a problem a bus driver was having maintaining order on the bus.

The board discussed the authority that a bus driver had in maintaining order on the bus. It was found in the director's handbook that the state board of education suggests the following. For the first offense of disorderly conduct the driver should stop the bus and put the pupil off one mile from destination.<sup>453</sup>

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<sup>451</sup> Minutes of the Federal Way School Board's meeting, January 5, 1935, p. 1, which was also the only page.

<sup>452</sup> Minutes of the Federal Way School Board's meeting, March 25, 1935, p. 1, which was also the only page.

<sup>453</sup> Minutes of the Federal Way School Board's meeting, November 18, 1936, p. 1. The minutes for this meeting ran two pages.

In 1937, the shortest school board meeting was held. The entire minutes are as follows.

Minutes of the Federal Way School Board held on May 4, 1937.  
Directors present Mr. Risvold, Mr. Art Cruse, Mr. R. M Kirchner.  
The meeting was called a public hearing on the budget. No one being present the meeting adjourned.

Directors<sup>454</sup>

The school board meeting minutes for 1935 to 1937 are available in the files of the HSFW.

## **Student Population in Federal Way Public Schools**

Data for the following information comes from varied sources and at this point I have not made an effort to sort it out and try to come to a consistent set, so differences can be seen.

Students in the district numbered 150 in 1930. In 1935, they numbered 320.<sup>455</sup>

Table 4 provides information about the student population of Federal Way Schools from 1937 through 1954.

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<sup>454</sup> Minutes of the Federal Way School Board's meeting, May 4, 1937. p. 1,

<sup>455</sup> Brislin, "Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210," November 3, 1968, p. 2, in the files of the HSFW. This two-page document apparently was used for the dedication ceremony at one of the schools that opened in 1968.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Federal Way School Enrollment</b>	<b>Percent Growth from Previous Year (Percent)</b>	<b>King County School Enrollment Increase from Previous Year (Percent)</b>
1937	351		
1938	386	10	0
1939	681	76	2
1940	685	-1	0
1941	726 <sup>457</sup>	6	-1
1942	994	36	4
1943	1,103 <sup>458</sup>	11	4
1944	1,025	-7	1
1945	966	-6	1
1946	1,066	10	4
1947	1,095	3	-5
1948	1,070	-2	3
1949	1,151	8	2
1950	1,319	15	7
1951	1,384	5	8
1952	1,399	1	7
1953	1,650	18	3
1954	1,864	13	

The 1953 figure in the table above is in basic agreement with the 1,648 shown by the King County Planning Commission. For 1953, they show 1,063 in grades 1 through 6, 349 in grades 7 through 9 and 236 in grades 10 through 12.<sup>459</sup>

In 1954, the first day enrollment total was 1,731.<sup>460</sup> Another source gives the total number of students in 1954 as 1,717.<sup>461</sup>

In 1955, the enrollment in Federal Way schools stood at 1,805. The district had 66 certificated employees including teachers, principals and administrative staff. There were 38 non-certificated employees. These included secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, mechanics and cooks. The ten buses made double trips daily. Projected enrollments,

<sup>456</sup> “Federal Way School Population,” Source King County Superintendent of Schools, *Federal Way Review*, November 5, 1954, p. 12, in the files of the HSFW. The numbers for 1937 to 1949 had originally appeared in “Federal Way Rezone Problem,” John L Nordmark, Planning Officer, King County Planning Commission, memorandum to Members of King County Planning Commission, January 23, 1950, Exhibit II.

<sup>457</sup> Another source, Brislin, “Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210,” p. 2, lists the 1941 enrollment at time of opening for the school year as 657.

<sup>458</sup> Another source, Brislin, “Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210,” p. 2, lists the 1943 enrollment as 820.

<sup>459</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, p. 27.

<sup>460</sup> “ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS,” p. not known.

<sup>461</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to “Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2,” p. 6.

made by the King County Planning commission, predicted 3,868 pupils in Federal Way schools by 1960 requiring an additional 73 classrooms.<sup>462</sup>

By 1956, total enrollment had risen to 2,286.<sup>463</sup>

A total of 2,838 students registered in September 1958 in the Federal Way School District. This was nine percent higher than the previous year.<sup>464</sup> Another source gives the 1958 enrollment as 2,861.<sup>465</sup>

By 1960, enrollment reached 3,784.<sup>466</sup> In 1960, the Federal Way School District was the fastest growing district in King County. Figures released by the Superintendent of King County Schools showed a growth of 17.7 percent. Mercer Island was second with a 9.99 per cent growth followed by Auburn at 7.11 percent.<sup>467</sup> These growth figures would reflect the fact that the Federal Way area was the fastest growing area in King County in 1960.

By 1962, enrollment had grown rapidly to 6,132.<sup>468</sup>

An estimated 7,998 students were in the Federal Way schools when they opened on September 8, 1964. Nine hundred and three of these would be kindergarten students. Eight hundred and forty one were projected to be first graders. The enrollment for second through eighth grade was expected to be 3,512. There were an estimated 573 students for the two junior high schools and 1,198 high school students.<sup>469</sup> One reason for the growth between 1961 and 1965 was the establishment of kindergartens in 1962, since in 1961, these 903 would not have been in the school system.

By 1965, the enrollment had reached 8,000. This represented a more than 100 percent gain in five years.<sup>470</sup>

In 1977, Vic Heinlen, School Superintendent, stated that there were 15,700 students in the district, encompassing 15 elementary schools, five junior high schools and three senior high schools. There were 900 educational employees. Heinlen believed 1,200 employees were needed.<sup>471</sup>

The enrollment figures for September 7, 1955 were as follows: Lakeland Elementary School, 347; Steel Lake Elementary School, 496; Federal Way Grade School, 407, and Federal Way High School, 407. The total was 2,014.<sup>472</sup> [Note: The total given in the newspaper source was 2,014 but these figures actually add up to 1,651. – DC]

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<sup>462</sup> "FEDERAL WAY IN REVIEW," *Federal Way News*, May 11, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>463</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 6.

<sup>464</sup> "Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools," *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>465</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," pp. 6, 7.

<sup>466</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 7.

<sup>467</sup> "Federal Way School District Leads King County Enrollment Increase," *Federal Way and Mid-Cities New Advertiser*, September 28, 1960, p. 1.

<sup>468</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 7.

<sup>469</sup> Ray Kelley, "Kindergarten Offers Comprehensive Pgm [sic]," *Federal Way, Milton, Fife News Advertiser*, September 2, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>470</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 7.

<sup>471</sup> Public Service Section, p. 4, attached to "Federal Way History, FW1, Draft #2," p. 7.

<sup>472</sup> "ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS," p. not known.

For the 2005-2006 school year the Federal Way School District indicated the district had,

1. 37 schools (23 elementary, 7 middle schools, Public Academy, Internet Academy (K-12), and five high schools)
2. 22,178 enrollment
3. 2,700 staff members (including substitutes)
4. 35 square miles covered.<sup>473</sup>

## Teachers Salaries in 1940s

For many years, teacher's and administrator's salaries were public knowledge.

For the 1944 –1945 school year, 22 teachers at Federal Way Elementary School and High School received contracts for the school year of \$1,696.50 (Avis King, Margaret Lay and Genevieve Schmidt) to \$2223.00 (J. J. Stantus). School Superintendent K. C. Jones had a contract for \$3,627. The total proposed general fund budget was \$108,801 depending on funding.<sup>474</sup>

For the 1945–1946 school year, 27 teachers at Federal Way Elementary School and High School received contracts for the school year of \$1,950 (Beatrice Ebb) to \$2,650 (Otto Hubbell). School Superintendent K. C. Jones received \$4,200. This was part of the approved \$116,022.80 budget. Two additional teachers have been penciled in for remedial and eighth grade teaching assignments. Possibly Marie Reed added these names when the school year actually started.<sup>475</sup>

## Typical Budgets and Costs for 1930s and 1940s

The Federal Way School District budget for 1933 was \$18,300. They spent only \$14,000 during the year. Adjusting in previous years' expenditures, this left the district with a cash balance of \$445.67.<sup>476</sup>

The Financial Statement for December 30, 1943 showed the budget to be \$109,347 for the 1943-1944 school year. Some of the major items are shown here; for the complete budget see the reference.<sup>477</sup>

Salary of superintendent and support - \$5,530. Actual salary appears to be \$4,200.

Salary of principal and support – \$5,800. Actual salary appears to be \$4,400.

Salaries of teachers – \$51,734 (47.3 percent).

Repair of buildings and grounds - \$6,000.

Salaries of drivers – \$8,100.

Purchase of transportation equipment – \$2,658.

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<sup>473</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/facts/>, November 18, 2007.

<sup>474</sup> “Minutes of the Board of Directors, Federal Way School District No. 210,” April 30, 1943, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW. This document was originally in the files of Marie Reed.

<sup>475</sup> “Minutes of the Board of Directors, Federal Way School District No. 210,” April 25, 1944, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>476</sup> Brislin, “Dedication Ceremonies, Federal Way School District #210,” p. 1.

<sup>477</sup> “Financial Statement as of December 30, 1943,” December 30, 1943, pp. 1–2.

<b>Table 5 - Total Cost for Federal Way District 210 Compared with Other King County Districts for the 1944-1945 School Year<sup>478</sup></b>				
<b>District</b>	<b>Total Estimated Revenue, \$</b>	<b>State Contribution, \$</b>	<b>County Contribution, \$</b>	<b>Local Contribution, \$</b>
210	111,948	91,146 (82%)	8,377 (7%)	12,425 (11%)
1 (Seattle, the County's Largest)	6,056,345	2,415,107 (40%)	698,716 (11%)	2,942,522 (49%)
90 (Lowest in County - Based on Total Rev.)	1,396	1,129 (81%)	73 (5%)	194 (14%)
464 (Median – Based on Total Rev.)	65,020 (72)	46,791 (72)	5,401 (8%)	12,828 (20%)

The Federal Way School District 210 was ranked thirteenth out of 38 county school districts in total revenue for the 1944-1945 school year. The state's contribution to local school districts is determined by two principal factors: first, the number of pupils; second, the valuation back of each child. The poorer the district, the larger the percent of state contribution received. This was referred to as equalization. Based on the percentage of total funds provided by the state, the Federal Way School District ranked first, at 82 percent, (along with two others) for the most money received from the state. This would indicate Federal Way School District 210 was considered one of the poorest in the state for 1944 – 1945.<sup>479</sup>

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<sup>478</sup> William F Pool, Superintendent of Schools and L. M. Dimmitt, Deputy County Superintendent. "King County Director's Bulletin," 310 County-City Building, Seattle April 1, 1944, p. 12.

<sup>479</sup> William F Pool, Superintendent of Schools and L. M. Dimmitt, Deputy County Superintendent, p. 12.

<b>Table 6 – Average Cost per Day Per Student 1941-1943<sup>480</sup></b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Actual Student Days</b>	<b>State Warrant Issued, \$</b>	<b>Average State Cost Per Student, \$</b>	<b>Average Total Cost Per Student Assuming State is Paying 82 Percent of Cost,<sup>481</sup> \$</b>
1941-1942	Federal Way Elementary	89,934	39,067	0.43	0.52
1941-1942	Federal Way High School	35,174	24,531	0.70	0.85
1942-1943	Federal Way Elementary School	94,018	55,890	0.59	0.72 (The large increase in costs in 1942 – 1943 was described as due to sizable budget increases in instruction, operation of the facility and transportation.)
1942-1943	Federal Way High School	27,036	35,237	1.30	1.59 (The large increase in costs in 1942 – 1943 was described as due to sizable budget increases in instruction, operation of the facility and transportation.)
1941 – 1942	Range for County – Elem. Schools			0.43 – 2.12	
1941-1942	Range for County – High Schools			0.68 – 3.40	
1942 – 1943	Range for County – Elem. Schools			0.42 – 1.44	
1942 – 1943	Range for County – High Schools			0.82 – 3.54	

<sup>480</sup> William F Pool, Superintendent of Schools and L. M. Dimmitt, Deputy County Superintendent, “King County Director’s Bulletin,” 310 County-City Building, Seattle April 1, 1944, p. 14.

<sup>481</sup> Eighty two percent was selected because that is figure used in William F Pool, Superintendent of Schools and L. M. Dimmitt, Deputy County Superintendent, “King County Director’s Bulletin,” 310 County-City Building, Seattle April 1, 1944, p. 12, for the 1944-1945 school year.

## New Schools after 1950

### General Comments

Most of the rest of this monograph discusses the public schools built after 1950. They are presented in chronological order. One problem has become evident in sorting out the date that a school opened. Often the dates of construction and opening are used interchangeably; for example, a date for a school is described as when it opened when it really means when it was constructed. Also, several schools opened by using a closed school building or sharing space with another school. This means they are classified as open even though their actual school building is still being built elsewhere.

Some of the schools have addresses in Kent, Des Moines and Auburn but they are still part of Federal Way School District 210.

Some schools have considerable detail included, others almost none. This is due to the written sources available in the files of the HSFW. The comments concerning construction and the floor plans normally relate to when the school was built. Changes that occurred due to remodeling or other modifications are not always reflected in the discussion. For example, many of the schools built in the 1960s used an open concept with large rooms with portable walls. Most of these have now been replaced with individual walled classrooms.

### School District Growth

The school district grew slowly with major school building programs not starting until the 1950s. Debby Carley quotes Earl Chambers, who visited several Pacific Northwest History classes at Lakota Junior High School in 1971, as saying, "In 1965 there were still only four schools in the district, by 1971 there were 24."<sup>482</sup>

Some local residents were unhappy with the way the school district was progressing in the mid 1950s. There was a petition drive to have the Federal Way School District annexed to Pierce County and Tacoma. H. L. Frease, president of the Evergreen Business Men's Club, led the drive to collect signatures on petitions. The proposed annexation, which would transfer 16 square miles of area and an estimated population of 9,800 from King County school jurisdiction to Pierce County school jurisdiction was to be a first step in meeting the need for an expanded school system. Frease, who operated the L and L Market in the Federal Way District, said that a committee was to have copies of the petition mailed to all organizations in the district for the purpose of obtaining signatures in support of the plan.<sup>483</sup> Frease stated that,

We are circulating the petitions to see how many voters in the district are in favor of the annexation plan. If the majority are in favor, our first step would be to obtain annexation to Pierce County and then to the City of Tacoma. Many are in favor of the plan in order to obtain better

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<sup>482</sup> Debby Carley, Lakota Jr. High, "Students told of olden times," *Federal Way News*, June 2, 1971, Sec. 2, p. 1.

<sup>483</sup> "Seek Transfer of Federal Wy. [sic] To Pierce County," *Auburn Sun*, January 24, 1954, p. 1.

police protection, better telephone service and cheaper power than are now available in the district. . . . Many are unhappy because of plans proposed for the area by the King County Planning Commission and Seattle newspapers are not interested in the Federal Way District.<sup>484</sup>

Transfer of an area from one county to another required the vote of the people and then action by the state legislature.<sup>485</sup> It appears the group was after more than just improving schools. They were interested in moving the development planning for the Federal Way area away from King County jurisdiction to that of Pierce County. Nothing ever came of this petition drive.

In 1967, the Tacoma School District opened a discussion to entice The Federal Way School District to become part of the Tacoma District.<sup>486</sup>

The King County Planning Commission alluded to school standards adopted extensively in recent years by the best school administrations throughout the state. They did not provide an actual source however. The King County Planning Commission summarized their view on school standards as follows:

- \* No more that 30 children per classroom and teacher.
- \* Schools limited in size, particularly in the elementary grades.
- \* Elimination of traffic hazards between elementary schools and homes.
- \* Elementary schools accessible by walking with average distance between school and home one-half mile and not to exceed one mile in larger neighborhoods.
- \* Eventual elimination or at least minimizing school bus service.

As applied to elementary schools, the standards would encourage a facility designed to serve 400 to 600 youngsters, considered to be optimum size for an elementary school. Large enough to permit economical operation, yet small enough to give the child a feeling that he counts as an individual, such a school would contain 14 to 17 classrooms, each for about 30 pupils. At this size the school could serve between 420 and 510 children, with at least two classrooms for each elementary grade and kindergarten.<sup>487</sup> Preferably the school is located at approximately the center of its service area. The service area should be bounded rather than intersected by major highways and railroads so that the student does not have to contend with dangerous roads and crossings.

The school should be a community as well as an educational facility. Since it is near the center of its area and easily accessible to all, it is a natural focal point for neighborhood activities and interests. The community's use of the school facilities for clubs, classes, hobbies, recreation and meetings is primarily during the evenings, weekends and

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<sup>484</sup> "Seek Transfer of Federal Wy. [*sic*] To Pierce County," p. 1.

<sup>485</sup> "Seek Transfer of Federal Wy. [*sic*] To Pierce County," 1954, p. 1.

<sup>486</sup> Copeland Hood "Tacoma Annexation; An Old and Unsuccessful Story," *Federal Way News*, February 22, 1967, pp. 1, 7.

<sup>487</sup> In 1953 there was no public kindergarten in the Federal Way School District.

summers when the building and grounds are not ordinarily in use. Thus the adjoining multi-purpose use of the building and its adjoining playground and park areas makes possible year-round use of this important facility.

Preferably, neighborhood shopping centers are distinctly separated from the school. This reduces disciplinary problems which may arise when they are located too close together, and confines heavy traffic, especially of trucks, to the exterior of the neighborhood.<sup>488</sup>

The above standards refer primarily to elementary schools. The King County Planning Commission added the following guidelines for junior and senior high schools.

Junior and senior high schools, since they draw on a service area of five or six neighborhoods, should be located near a major intersection so that children may be brought in by automobile or bus without having to go through existing residential areas. Junior high schools are usually designed for from six to eight hundred students; senior high schools for from one thousand to twelve hundred students. At these sizes, the probable maximum [predicted] population will require five junior high schools and three senior high schools.<sup>489</sup>

## Lakeland Elementary School

Lakeland Elementary School was the first new school to be built separate from the Federal Way Elementary, Federal Way Junior High and Federal Way High School complex.

Ken Jones, School Superintendent, announced, in July 1951, that construction of a new elementary school would begin in September. On June 29, the federal government had announced the authorization of \$329,000 for construction of the school. The new school was to be built on a ten-acre site between Five Mile Lake and Lake Killarny on the corner of what was then referred to as Neal Road and Hinkle Road. The building would have twelve classrooms with a minimum construction period of 180 days. Coupled with the federal grant would be an allocation of \$18,000 for maintenance and operation. An additional \$9,000 was requested for maintenance and operation requirements and Congress would determine if this would be needed as a deficiency appropriation.<sup>490</sup>

The ten acres of land that were purchased for the school were originally three different parcels. The owners were Carl and Dorothy Laviola, Harold and Florence Ronquist and Clay and Florence Lawrence. The total cost for the three parcels was \$5,500.<sup>491</sup>

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<sup>488</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, p. 27.

<sup>489</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, p. 29.

<sup>490</sup> "Federal Way To Construct New School Building," *Auburn Globe News*, July 11, 1951, page number not known.

<sup>491</sup> Meo Feroy, President Lakeland PTA and Judy Robeson, ed., *Lakeland PTA Press*, October, Vol. 10, No. 2. p. 1 also the same article was reprinted in the Lakeland PTA Press, May 1, 1996, p. 1 according to Melodie Steiger, "Lakeland History," <http://e-pta.com/Lakeland/history.htm>, October 15, 2002 (This site does not appear to be currently active.)

John W. Maloney was the architect. The original square footage was 26,000. The original floor plans showed 13 classrooms. In addition to the classrooms, there was a 21 foot x 21 foot library, a 56 foot long multipurpose room, a boiler room, principal's room, office, teachers' room, work room, bathrooms, a seven foot x nine foot janitor's room, and various storage rooms.<sup>492</sup> Considerable remodeling has taken place over the years. The May 2007 Lakeland School Profile indicates there are now 19 classrooms with 381 kindergarten through fifth grade students.<sup>493</sup> There is now a cafeteria, gym and separate library.<sup>494</sup>

Five of the original classrooms are located to the right as you enter the front door of the building. The classrooms at the south end of the main building were added in 1957. The primary pod and library wing were added in 1958. A total modernization took place in 1988.<sup>495</sup>

The construction company that built Lakeland was Bona Fide Builders. Records and newspaper accounts indicate there was only a "mere \$568.44 overrun and the scheduled completion date was met."<sup>496</sup>

Lakeland Elementary officially opened on September 3, 1952 for grades one through six.<sup>497</sup> It was the first stand alone grade school built in the Federal Way School District since Federal Way School had been built in 1929, and the Federal Way School, by 1952, had become a complex with first grade through high school on its grounds.

On opening day,

The classrooms were not QUITE furnished, the parking lot was not QUITE paved and a parent could have lost a child or two that morning. The staff, under principal Irvin Crowell, was enthusiastic and resourceful. Overall, the students had a challenging and rewarding first year.<sup>498</sup>

Melodie Steiger, in a web site put together for the fiftieth anniversary of Lakeland Elementary in 2002, also commented on the opening days,

By all accounts, the place was a muddy mess in '52.

The playground was mud from end to end. Teachers parked their big, sluggish cars in packed mud. A thick fog seemed to cling to the place and when the fog lifted...it rained.

That was the grand opening of Lakeland Elementary...

It was...well, it was a school without desks. Lakeland, about half the size it is today, had been rather hastily furnished. And books were even more scarce.

"There was furniture in one room," recalls Jean Durspeck, who moved

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<sup>492</sup> Feroy, p. 1.

<sup>493</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakeland.html>, pp. 1, 2, May 21, 2007.

<sup>494</sup> "Lakeland Elementary 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash 1952-2002," Program, October 25, 2002, p. 2.

<sup>495</sup> Feroy, p. 1.

<sup>496</sup> Feroy, p. 1.

<sup>497</sup> Feroy, p. 1 and "Lakeland Elementary 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash 1952-2002," Program, October 25, 2002, p. 2.

<sup>498</sup> "Lakeland Elementary 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash 1952-2002," Program, p. 2.

from the Federal Way School to teach at Lakeland in '52. "That was my room. Others had some tables but no chairs. I think some had no tables. I don't know what they did in there, but classes went on."<sup>499</sup>

On Friday evening, October 24, 1952, the Lakeland Community Club held a reception for the teachers and principal of the new school. M. G. Carlson, the assistant superintendent, attended. He gave a brief talk on some of the problems with the school. Guest speakers also included Ted Zuck, president of the Community Club and LaVern Kurrle, fire chief of the Lakeland Volunteer Fire Department. The Stancato Accordion Band provided entertainment.<sup>500</sup>

Lakeland Elementary School was projected to have 351 students in grades 1 through 6 housed in ten classrooms for the 1953-54 school year. The King County Planning Commission believed there should be 12 classrooms for this number of students. They also believed two of the present classrooms were substandard.<sup>501</sup>

On September 7, 1955, Lakeland Elementary School had 347 students. At that time, Lakeland had a total of ten classrooms with the use of their multi-purpose room included. Lakeland was operating with grades one through five. Sixth grade and above went to Federal Way Grade School and Federal Way High School.<sup>502</sup>

In 1957, Bill Rehman became principal of Lakeland Elementary. He is fondly remembered for introducing square dancing to the school, along with conducting operettas.<sup>503</sup>

Lakeland Elementary School showed a registration of 410 students in September 1958.<sup>504</sup>

Lakeland was last remodeled in 1988. The school currently has 19 classrooms.<sup>505</sup>

Lakeland Elementary celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on October 22, 2002 with a reunion of past staff and alumni. Washington Lt. Governor Brad Owen served as Master of Ceremonies. Current Principal Scott Turner gave the welcome. There were speeches by Tom Murphy, Superintendent of Federal Way Public Schools, and several others that provided memories of the past. There was a square dance exhibition reminiscent of the 1950s when principal Bill Rehman had introduced it to the school. There were also several student readers providing information.<sup>506</sup>

The current address for Lakeland Elementary is 35675 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Auburn, WA 98001. Lakeland Elementary's current school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakeland.html>, May 21, 2007.

On May 15, 2007 the voters approved a \$149 million bond to rebuild Lakeland Elementary School and four other aging schools (Lakota Middle School and Panther Lake, Sunnycrest and Vahalla Elementary Schools) along with the district's

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<sup>499</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Lakeland History," <http://e-pta.com/Lakeland/history.htm>, October 15, 2002. This site does not appear to be currently active.

<sup>500</sup> Feroy, p. 1.

<sup>501</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, p. 27.

<sup>502</sup> "ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS," p. not known.

<sup>503</sup> "Lakeland Elementary 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash 1952-2002," Program, p. 2.

<sup>504</sup> "Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools," *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>505</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakeland.html>, May 21, 2007.

<sup>506</sup> "Lakeland Elementary 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash 1952-2002," Program, p. 3, 4.

transportation Center (the Bus Barn), the Central Kitchen and maintenance facilities. The bond continues a property tax rate that was due to end, of \$4.19 per \$1,000 valuation of property.<sup>507</sup> The vote was 9,149 in support (62.8 percent) and 5,418 against (37.2 percent.) A 60 percent approval rate was required. All other schools, except Federal Way High School, built before 1990, will receive some repairs.<sup>508</sup>

The next step will be to hire architects, engineers and other consultants who will draw up plans for the new schools and make recommendations to the School Board before construction can begin. Lakota Middle School, Panther Lake and Vahalla Elementary Schools will be the first to undergo reconstruction. Panther Lake and Vahalla will open some time in 2009 and Lakota around 2010. Construction on Sunnycrest and Lakeland Elementary Schools will then commence. All construction will be completed by 2013. Students will occupy the current building while the new school building is erected nearby on the same site. The new schools will be “green” buildings, meaning they will be more environmentally friendly than the ones they replace. This will include better insulation, more use of natural light, high-efficiency lighting and more hard-surface floors replacing carpet.<sup>509</sup>

## Steel Lake Elementary School

This Steel Lake Elementary School has no connection with the Steel Lake schools of the Steel Lake School District 92 that was consolidated into Federal Way School District 210 in 1929. The school was given its name in honor of the former school district and its location near Steel Lake. The Steel Lake Elementary School was built in 1954.<sup>510</sup> The address was 31455 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.<sup>511</sup> It originally had seven classrooms.<sup>512</sup>

Projections for the 1953-1954 school year were 227 students in grades 1 through 6. The King County Planning Commission indicated the school should have eight classrooms for this number of students. They also indicated that two of the present classrooms were substandard.<sup>513</sup>

In 1955, seven rooms were added to the school.<sup>514</sup> Even with 14 classrooms, including the multi-purpose room, there was not enough space for the 496 students enrolled on September 7, 1955. The overflow was estimated at 40 students. In 1955, Steel Lake Elementary School housed only first through fifth grade. Grades six and higher went to Federal Way Grade School and Federal Way High School.<sup>515</sup>

In September 1959, Steel Lake Elementary School showed a registration of 406 students.<sup>516</sup>

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<sup>507</sup> Margo Horner, “School bond clears final hurdle,” *Federal Way Mirror*, May 19, 2007, p. A3.

<sup>508</sup> “Revised bond gets nod from voters,” *Federal Way News*, May 23, 2007, p. 1, 2.

<sup>509</sup> Horner, p. A3.

<sup>510</sup> “FEDERAL WAY IN REVIEW,” *Federal Way News*, May 11, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>511</sup> Wendy Culverwell, “Twain students return to original building,” *Federal Way News*, January 13, 1994, p. A-6.

<sup>512</sup> “ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS,” p. not known.

<sup>513</sup> *King County Planning Commission Studies for a Comprehensive Plan*, Federal Way Report, p. 27.

<sup>514</sup> “FEDERAL WAY IN REVIEW,” *Federal Way News*, May 11, 1955, p. 1.

<sup>515</sup> “ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH FOR FEDERAL WAY SCHOOLS,” p. not known.

<sup>516</sup> “Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools,” *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

In the early 1980s this school was used as the district headquarters and not as a school. [More research needs to be done to determine what was happening at this facility from 1960 to 1980.]

Continuation High School moved from the former North Lake Elementary School to the former school district headquarters building in September 1988. (See the section on Truman High School for more details.)

The former Steel Lake Elementary School was torn down in 2001 to make room for the new Truman High School grounds and building.

## Mirror Lake Elementary School

Mirror Lake Elementary School was built in 1957. The school was last remodeled in 1987. There are 16 classrooms. The address is 625 South 314<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>517</sup>

Mirror Lake Elementary showed a registration of 412 students in September 1958.<sup>518</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/mirrorlake.html>, September 24, 2006.

## Star Lake Elementary School

The present Star Lake Elementary School has no connection with the former Star Lake School District 64 schools that consolidated into School District 210 in 1929.

Star Lake Elementary School was built in 1958. The school was last remodeled in 1988. There are 27 classrooms. The address is 4014 S. 270<sup>th</sup> Street, Kent, WA 98032.<sup>519</sup>

Five photos show the faculty for 1975-1979.

1. 1971-1972; 27 teachers are pictured. No names are provided.
2. 1975-1976; 25 teachers are pictured. Names are on the back.
3. 1976-1977; 23 teachers are shown. No names are provided.
4. 1977-1978; 25 teachers are shown. No names are provided.
5. 1978-1979; 19 teachers are shown. Names are on the back.<sup>520</sup>

In September 1958, Star Lake Elementary School registered 491 students.<sup>521</sup>

The 2006-2007 school profile indicated Star Lake Elementary serves approximately 449 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade.<sup>522</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/starlake.html>.

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<sup>517</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/mirrorlake.html>, September 24, 2006.

<sup>518</sup> "Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools," *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>519</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/starlake.html>, September 25, 2006.

<sup>520</sup> Photos are in the files of the HSFV.

<sup>521</sup> "Total of 2,838 Students Register In First Week At Federal Way Schools," *Federal Way News*, September 10, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>522</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/starlake.html>, May 21, 2007.

## Lakota Middle School

Lakota Middle School was built in 1960.<sup>523</sup> Originally it was classified as a junior high school.

In the late 1950s, a committee was assigned to determine how new schools should be named. The committee decided that Indian names from early times would be used for junior high schools and the school board ratified the policy that junior high schools [now called middle schools] had to have Indian names. Jim Chambers indicated that the committee made the decision in 1956.<sup>524</sup> Lakota was the first to be named with this policy. Other schools that were named using this policy were Totem Junior High School, Sacajawea Junior High School, Kilo Junior High School, Illahee Junior High School and Saghalie Middle School. Under current policy, these are all classified as Middle Schools. (Unfortunately the policy states only the use of Indian names, with no recommendation or requirement to use locally related Indian names.)

“Lakota” was the name selected from 160 entries submitted by junior high school students as the name for the new junior high school. Winner of the \$50 savings bond for his entry was Richard Camp, Star Route, Box 150, Tacoma, a seventh grade student in Federal Way. In addition to the savings bond award, a framed certificate listing his name was posted in the new junior high school. Entries in the contest were judged by a member of the school board, a representative of the school administration, a representative of the King County Park Board, which had supervision of an adjoining park to bear the same name, the principal, a representative of the junior high school and a member of the Federal Way Advisory Council. The five-man school board gave the final approval. Each entry in the contest had to be accompanied by a 25-word or less statement on the reasons for choosing the name.<sup>525</sup> Lakota loosely translates to “the people” or “meeting place of friends.”<sup>526</sup>

Lakota was dedicated December 7, 1960.<sup>527</sup> Formal dedication ceremonies were opened by the music of the Lakota Junior High School Band directed by Peter D. Heart. Kenneth Jones, Superintendent of the Federal Way School District, introduced special guests which included Harold Watkins, Chairman of the School Board of the District; Ralph Lund, architect; Paul B. DuCharme, director of mechanical installations; Clinton Erickson, Principal of the school and Mrs. Robert Hamre, President of the PTA. George Cronquist, Junior High School Supervisor of the State Department of Public Instruction was the guest speaker. The formal program concluded with music by the Girls’ Glee Club directed by Roy M. Larson. The visitors were then shown through the facility.<sup>528</sup>

The school was designed for 800 pupils. The structure contained 80,156 square feet. The construction cost was \$14.98 per square foot. Total construction cost was \$1,200,519. The state provided \$1,030,165 and the district \$170,354. Equipment in the

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<sup>523</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/lakota.html>, September 25, 2006.

<sup>524</sup> Carley, Sec. 2, p. 1.

<sup>525</sup> “Lakota”, Name Chosen For New Federal Way Junior High School, *Federal Way News*, May 27, 1959, p. not known and there is no copy of this issue in the HSFV files.

<sup>526</sup> “School names laud pioneer, books,” *Federal Way News*, September 28, 1988, p. A-4.

<sup>527</sup> “Lakota Junior High School Will Be Dedicated,” *Federal Way News*, December 7, 1960, Sec. 1, p. 1.

<sup>528</sup> “Federal Way School District Dedicates New Million Dollar Lakota Junior High,” *Federal Way News*, December 14, 1960, Sec. 2, p. 1.

building cost a total of \$116,010 with the state providing \$61,010 and the district \$55,000. Superintendent Jones announced that the King County officials had informed him that an appropriation had been made to develop the 30-acre county park adjoining the school, and that work on the project to provide baseball fields and other sports facilities, (such as a running track) would start as soon as weather permitted.<sup>529</sup>

When the school opened the staff included, in addition to the principal, a vice principal, who was also the boys' counselor, a girls' counselor, a lunchroom supervisor, two secretaries, a health coordinator and 34 teachers.<sup>530</sup>

The school was last remodeled in 1987. There are 34 classrooms. The address is 1415 SW 314<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>531</sup> The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/lakota.html>, September 25, 2006.

On May 15, 2007, the voters approved a \$149 million bond to rebuild Lakota Middle School and four other aging schools.<sup>532</sup> See the section on Lakeland Elementary School for details on the other schools and facilities included in the approved bond election.

The next step will be to hire architects, engineers and other consultants who will draw up plans for Lakota Middle School. Lakota Middle School will be one of the first three to undergo construction. The new Lakota Middle School should reopen around 2010. Students will occupy the current building while the new school building is erected nearby on the same site. The new school will be a "green" building, meaning it will be more environmentally friendly than the one replaced. This will include better insulation, more use of natural light, high-efficiency lighting and more hard-surface floors replacing carpet.<sup>533</sup>

## Panther Lake Elementary School

Panther Lake Elementary School was built in 1960.<sup>534</sup> The school was closed in 1975.<sup>535</sup>

The collapse of the Lake Dolloff Elementary School roof in August 1976 forced the closure of that school for the 1976-1977 school year. Panther Lake School, which had closed in 1975 and was not being used at the time, was chosen to temporarily house the displaced students.<sup>536</sup> Students were able to move back into Lake Dolloff Elementary School in March of 1977.<sup>537</sup>

For a short period of time, from April 1977 to July 1978, the Weyerhaeuser Company used the school for temporary office space for some of the Research Division staff waiting to be transferred to the new Technology Center that opened in the summer of 1978.<sup>538</sup>

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<sup>529</sup> "Federal Way School District Dedicates New Million Dollar Lakota Junior High," Sec. 2, p. 1.

<sup>530</sup> "Federal Way School District Dedicates New Million Dollar Lakota Junior High," Sec. 2, p. 1.

<sup>531</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/lakota.html>, September 25, 2006.

<sup>532</sup> "Revised bond gets nod from voters," *Federal Way News*, May 23, 2007, p. 1, 2.

<sup>533</sup> Horner, p. A3.

<sup>534</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/pantherlake.html>, September 28, 2006.

<sup>535</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*, cover letter with two tables, October 9, 1996, Table 2, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>536</sup> Keck, "Following ceiling collapse Heinlen to take Lk. Dolloff situation under investigation," p. 1.

<sup>537</sup> "Lake Dolloff students going home March 30," *Federal Way News*, March 20, 1977, p. A-1.

<sup>538</sup> Dick Caster, Research Division employee of Weyerhaeuser often visited the Research Division staff that was using the closed school.

Panther Lake Elementary reopened in 1978.<sup>539</sup>

The school was last remodeled in 1978 when it reopened as a school. There are 23 classrooms. The address is 34424 1st Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>540</sup>

The official school profile can be found at

<http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/pantherlake.html>, September 28, 2006.

On May 15, 2007 the voters approved a \$149 million bond to rebuild Panther Lake Elementary School and four other aging schools.<sup>541</sup> See the section on Lakeland Elementary School for details on the other schools and facilities included in the approved bond election.

The next step will be to hire architects, engineers and other consultants who will draw up plans for Panther Lake Elementary School. Panther Lake Elementary School will be one of the first three to undergo construction. The new Panther Lake Elementary School should reopen around 2009. Students will occupy the current building while the new school building is erected nearby on the same site. The new school will be a “green” building, meaning it will be more environmentally friendly than the one replaced. This will include better insulation, more use of natural light, high-efficiency lighting and more hard-surface floors replacing carpet.<sup>542</sup>

## Woodmont Elementary School

Woodmont Elementary School was built in 1960. The school was last remodeled in 1986. There are 24 classrooms. This school serves a multi-ethnic population of 420 students. The address is 26454 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Des Moines, WA 98198-9325.<sup>543</sup>

The official school profile can be found at

<http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/woodmont.html>, September 28, 2006.

## Olympic View Elementary School

Olympic View Elementary School was built in 1962. There are 23 classrooms. The classrooms are more spacious than current building codes require. There are approximately 490 students. The school is located at 2626 S.W. 327<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA, 98023.<sup>544</sup>

The official school profile can be found at

<http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/olympicview.html>, September 28, 2006.

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<sup>539</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*, Table 2.

<sup>540</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/pantherlake.html>, September 28, 2006.

<sup>541</sup> “Revised bond gets nod from voters,” *Federal Way News*, May 23, 2007, p. 1, 2.

<sup>542</sup> Horner, p. A3.

<sup>543</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/woodmont.html>, September 28, 2006.

<sup>544</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/olympicview.html>, September 28, 2006.

## Kindergarten Introduced

As late as 1961, kindergarten was not a part of the official school curriculum at either the local or state level. Some local school districts had started to include kindergarten in their official curriculum. The Federal Way PTA had, for many years, operated a private kindergarten system. For the 1961-1962 school year there were 250 students at four different locations, plus a sizable waiting list. This was a small part of the potential enrollment since many families could not enter their children due to financial and transportation difficulties. There were also only a limited number of classes available in the private kindergartens.<sup>545</sup> By 1962, the state was willing to provide 70 per cent of the cost of operating kindergarten classes. It was set up by the state that if the local district did not use these funds they would go back into the state general fund.<sup>546</sup>

In response to the request of about 1,000 registered voters, the school board placed on the ballot a proposition providing funds for an estimated 684 students. This would cost the district about \$35,884 after they received the state's grant of \$81,396. Experts in the field were saying that kindergartens do not compete with the other 12 grades but actually complement them. Supposedly the kindergarten child learns many skills that help him to be ready for school the following year.<sup>547</sup> The Federal Way School Board decided to open kindergarten classes if a 1.8 mill levy could pass to cover the costs. When asked his opinion on kindergarten, Kenneth Jones, superintendent of Federal Way Schools, stated that he believed kindergartens were good if the people want them. He said, "The state should either make kindergarten a part of the curriculum and finance it fully, or eliminate its support from the budget."<sup>548</sup>

An election was held on May 22, 1962 to determine if funds should be provided for the Federal Way School District to operate a public kindergarten. The funds were approved with 1641 yes votes against 892 no votes. The first public school kindergarten in District 210 opened in September 1962.<sup>549</sup>

With the closure of the private kindergartens, because there was now a public kindergarten, some funds were left over. The private operating groups decided to pool their remaining funds to buy a gift for the use of the public kindergarten. A committee designated as the "Federal Way Pre-School and Kindergarten Gift Fund," coordinated the distribution of the funds. Mrs. Clearance Johnson, acting as chairman of the group, approached Kenneth Jones, superintendent of the district, and at his suggestion it was agreed the money be used to purchase books and records. The \$1,761 accumulated by the

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<sup>545</sup> The source information hand written on the newspaper clipping is "Gift Fund Committee Aids Federal Way Kindergarten, *Federal Way News*, April 24, 1963, p. not known. The source information did not check out when the indicated edition of *the Federal Way News* was checked.

<sup>546</sup> "Kindergarten To Be Separate Item On May 21 Special School Ballot," *Federal Way, Fife News Advertiser*, April 17, 1963, p. 6. Note: During parts of 1962 and 1963 the Federal Way paper was referred to as the *News Advertiser* and had various combinations of Federal Way, Fife, Des Moines, Midway and Milton in its title.

<sup>547</sup> "Federal Way to Decide Kindergarten Issue May 22," *Federal Way, Fife, Midway, Des Moines News Advertiser*, May 9, 1962, p. 1.

<sup>548</sup> "Kindergarten To Be Separate Item On May 21 Special School Ballot," p. 6.

<sup>549</sup> "VOTERS OKAY KINDERGARTEN, *Federal Way, Fife, Midway, Des Moines News Advertiser*, May 30, 1962, p. 1.

groups from the sale of their kindergarten equipment and furniture and some remaining capital previously set aside was used to purchase 385 books and 165 records which were distributed evenly to the new public kindergartens.<sup>550</sup>

In 1964, Dr. J. F. Chiotri, Administrator of Education for the Federal Way School District, discussed how the kindergarten program is conducted for the five year olds.

The first of the two semesters is devoted to an adjustment period during which the youngsters learn to work, to get along with fellow classmates, adjust to the school situations, pay attention, follow directions and establish basic health habits.

The second semester is concerned more with the academic learning process during which the youngster may become familiar with reading readiness and mathematical ideas. While, no formal training is offered in these subjects and the emphasis is placed upon reading, there also is an approach to language arts, social studies, science, music, art education and physical education.

We cannot establish school habits too early in life. A youngster must realize that school is not all fun, the learning requires effort, but it can be a pleasant experience if done correctly....

It is the aim of the Federal Way Kindergarten programs to help the child develop an inquiring mind, a seeing eye, and give him information leading to some understanding of his world.<sup>551</sup>

## School Nurse Service

The Federal Way School Board decided at their May 1, 1963 meeting to discontinue use of the King County nursing program. The district began to hire and use their own nurses. The district hired three nurses at the start of the new program. They cycled through the schools on a regular basis.<sup>552</sup>

## Totem Middle School

Totem Middle School was originally called Totem Junior High School. The school was built in 1963. The school was last remodeled in 1996. There are 35 classrooms. The address is 26630 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032.<sup>553</sup>

The four elementary schools that feed into Totem Middle School are Mark Twain, Star Lake, Sunnycrest, and Valhalla. Graduates attend either Thomas Jefferson or Federal Way High School.<sup>554</sup>

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<sup>550</sup> "Gift Fund Committee Aids Federal Way Kindergarten, p. not known.

<sup>551</sup> Ray Kelley, "Kindergarten Offers Comprehensive Pgm [sic], *Federal Way, Milton, Fife News Advertiser*, September 2, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>552</sup> The source written on the newspaper clipping, "Board Votes to Provide School Nurse Service, *Federal Way News*, January 15, 1963, p. not known, did not check out when the indicated edition of the *Federal Way News* was checked..

<sup>553</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/totem.html>, September 28, 2006.

<sup>554</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/totem.html>, September 28, 2006.

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/totem.html>, September 28, 2006.

## School Bus Barn

The school bus barn at 320<sup>th</sup> Street South and 11<sup>th</sup> Place South was opened in 1964.<sup>555</sup> This actually is mostly a big fenced in parking lot where the school busses are stored. There is also a maintenance facility for repairing busses.

The school district first allowed women bus drivers in 1957.<sup>556</sup>

On May 15, 2007 the voters approved a \$149 million bond to rebuild five aging schools along with the district's Transportation Center (the Bus Barn), the Central Kitchen and maintenance facilities.<sup>557</sup> See the section on Lakeland Elementary School for details of the projects covered under the bond issue.

The next step will be to hire architects, engineers and other consultants who will draw up plans for the new Transportation Center. All construction should be completed by 2013.<sup>558</sup>

## Adelaide Elementary School

The Federal Way school board accepted bids totaling approximately \$432,000 on August 22, 1963, for the construction of Adelaide Elementary School. The low bid for the general construction was \$299,530 submitted by Korsmo Brothers of Tacoma. The contract for mechanical work was awarded to Pease and Sons of Tacoma on a low bid of \$45,900. Totem Electric of Tacoma submitted the low electrical bid of \$82,400. The target was to have the school ready for occupancy by February 1964. The plan was for the new school to have 16 classrooms, a lunch room, administrative offices, an all purpose room and a library.<sup>559</sup>

Adelaide Elementary School was named for the nearby beach and former School District 55 in the area. Supposedly 'Adelaide' was the sister of early settler Doc Oliver. Adelaide Oliver apparently never set foot on the beach, however.<sup>560</sup> The current Adelaide Elementary School had no direct connection with the former Adelaide School or District 55.

Adelaide Elementary School was dedicated on May 9, 1964. Albert N. Bradford of Walla Walla, Grand Master of the Washington Grand Lodge of Masons, was the presiding officer and L. O. Griffith, administrative coordinator of the department of Public Instruction brought a message on behalf of Louis Bruno, state superintendent of schools. The Thornton F. McElroy, Masonic Lodge did the organizing. Arthur Silvertson,

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<sup>555</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*, cover letter with two tables, October 9, 1996, Table 1, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>556</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Area earns name of 'Fertile Way,'" *Federal Way News*, September 27, 1989, p. A-3.

<sup>557</sup> "Revised bond gets nod from voters," *Federal Way News*, May 23, 2007, p. 1, 2.

<sup>558</sup> Horner, p. A3.

<sup>559</sup> "Adelaide School Bids Approved," *Federal Way News Advertiser*, August 28, 1963, p. 1.

<sup>560</sup> Melodie Steiger, "School names laud pioneers, books," *Federal Way News*, September 28, 1988, pp. A-1, A-4.

Adelaide principal, and John K. Cline, worshipful master of the local Masonic group participated in the laying of a cornerstone. The sealed copper box placed in the cornerstone contained a student composition on "Why I like Adelaide School", newspaper clippings announcing the event, a John F. Kennedy half-dollar and a list of names including Kenneth Jones, district superintendent, Principal Silvertson, members of the present Federal Way school board, officers of the Grand Lodge and officers of the T. F. McElroy Lodge.<sup>561</sup>

The public first got to tour the school on May 28, 1964 when an open house was held. The main student body was to come from Puget Sound Hills. Judge Robert Stead, from the Juvenile Court Referral committee, was the guest speaker at a business meeting that followed the open house. Rev. Roland Schlueter gave the invocation. The main item of business was to elect the PTA officers for the start of school. The school opened in the fall of 1964.<sup>562</sup>

In 1971, based on demand Adelaide obtained a bright new bicycle rack that stood by the front door. A total of 42 donated and purchased 2 X 4's were traded for surplus pipe, which was then used to build the bicycle rack for 32 bikes.<sup>563</sup>

In 1975, Adelaide Elementary School established a procedure to handle students who were unaccountably absent from class. Each room would have a volunteer mother who would handle phone calls for that room. The letter explaining the system to parents reads as follows,

To Help insure the safety of students, Adelaide is forming a phone check on those children who unaccountably are not in school. To avoid congestion of school lines and insure a minimum of calls, one parent for each room will be receiving calls for absences from that room. She will in turn notify that teacher.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the room mother listed below between 7:30-8:30 a.m. Just state that your child will be absent. No explanation is necessary.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number<sup>564</sup>

In 1981, Adelaide became an early user of computers. Geography lessons were partially taught from an Atari 800 computer. A green outline of the United States flashed on the TV monitor and a single state would light up in purple. The student then was supposed to type the name of the state on the Atari typewriter keypad. If the answer was correct then the capital was required. The goal was to name all the states and capitals. The money for three \$1,000 computers was raised by the PTA through a bulb sale, carnival and paper drive.<sup>565</sup>

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<sup>561</sup> "Masonic State Officers Head School Dedication," *Federal Way News Advertiser*, April 6, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>562</sup> "Open House Set at Adelaide," *Federal Way News*, May 27, 1964, Sec. 1, p. 5.

<sup>563</sup> Adelaide Elementary School Newsletter, January 1971, p. 1, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>564</sup> Letter, No Addressee or signature, "Adelaide Elementary School," April 30, 1975, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>565</sup> Ann Strosnider, "Atari computers print out lively lessons at Adelaide," *Federal Way News*, June 7, 1981, p. A-4.

The school was last remodeled in 1988.<sup>566</sup> During the modernization all the students and furniture were moved to Mark Twain Elementary, which was not in use. Mark Twain had been closed for several years and its main function during this time period was to house students from various schools while their school was being remodeled. All the materials and furnishings were moved back to Adelaide on January 28 and 29, 1989, about five weeks ahead of schedule. Students and staff came back to the school during the week of January 30. By this date the \$1.7 million modernization was substantially complete. During the modernization all the asbestos was removed.<sup>567</sup> The modernization updated heating, lighting and energy use for the 25-year-old school. The flat roof was made into a pitched one. The corridors were painted and soft carpets were added. The modernization made Adelaide one of the eight schools in Washington chosen to represent the state in a national contest for exceptional school programs.<sup>568</sup> The nomination was not only for the facility but also leadership, teaching environment, curriculum, parental support and atmosphere. Adelaide was also one of 23 schools featured in the November 1969 issue of AS & U, an architectural digest published by American School and University. The Adelaide modernization was part of that magazine's annual school architectural portfolio.<sup>569</sup>

In late May of 1989, Adelaide Elementary School celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with a party. The special invited guest performer was Stan Boreson, longtime popular local TV host of children's programs. Boreson had a regular TV program from 1955 to 1967 five nights a week at 5 P.M. on Channel 5, KING TV. Also part of the party was a chili feed and sock hop. Adelaide staff and students dressed up in outfits reminiscent of 1964, the year the school opened.<sup>570</sup>

Adelaide Elementary School's PTA introduced the Accelerated Reader Program in the fall of 1997. This is a motivating reading system that combines the best of the high-tech world with old-fashioned reading. It rewards students with how well they understand and retain information, not for how many minutes they read. Using the Accelerated Reader, a student chooses titles from the program's book list. Choices range from classics to contemporary favorites. After finishing a book, the student logs onto the school's computer and answers test questions about what he has read. The student earns points for every passed test. Points become prizes. The computer prints a student's test results and gives correct answers to the questions missed. "The testing becomes a fun competitive new sport." Brigadoon Elementary School and Wildwood Elementary School also introduced the Accelerated Reader Program at the same time. The program is just one of many approaches to support the Federal Way School District's emphasis on reading.<sup>571</sup>

In 1997, Adelaide Elementary School found space to be at a premium. Many of the teachers had no place to store their classroom supplies and they had to move from classroom to classroom as space was available. Sometimes student-teacher conferences were held inside the school's 5-foot by 5-foot phone booths. The solution was to add a

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<sup>566</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/adelaide.html>, October 9, 2006.

<sup>567</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Students return to spruced-up Adelaide," *Federal Way News*, January 8, 2006, pp. A-1, A-4.

<sup>568</sup> The organization making the nomination is not mentioned.

<sup>569</sup> "Adelaide honored for character, look," *Federal Way News*, December 10, 1989, p. A-5.

<sup>570</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Stan's fans, Ageless act delights young and old alike," *Federal Way News*, June 4, 1989, p. A-1

<sup>571</sup> Aya Takechi, "READY SET READ," *Federal Way News*, December 13, 1997, p. B-3.

double -portable.<sup>572</sup> Portables are quite common around schools in the Federal Way School District.

There are now 25 classrooms. The school address is 1635 SW 304<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>573</sup> Adelaide's official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/adelaide.html>, October 9, 2006.

## Policy for Naming Schools

With a projected growth in schools on the horizon, the Federal Way Distinct School Board implemented a school naming policy in 1965.

1. Elementary schools will be named either for local lakes, or for people, places and events from children's literature.
2. Junior highs (now called middle schools) are to be named for people, places or events in Native American history. (Unfortunately this is not limited to local Native American people, places or events.)
3. High Schools are to be named for famous American leaders. The person needs to be dead.<sup>574</sup>

The policy in effect today is basically the same.

### Naming of Facilities – Policy 6970

The superintendent/designee shall appoint a committee to make recommendations regarding the naming of, or changing the name of a school.

No school will be named after a living person.

Elementary schools shall be named after local lakes, geographical characteristics, authors of children's literature, or people, places or events from children's literature.

Middle schools are to be named after people, places or events from Native American literature.

Senior high schools are to be named after famous national American leaders.

School names shall be associated with the physical facility.

Program such as school wide design and academies may be designated by names descriptive of the program.

Adoption date: February 8, 1999.<sup>575</sup>

## Camelot Elementary School

Camelot Elementary School was built in 1965.<sup>576</sup> Originally the school had 16 classrooms. It was built at the location of a former NIKE missile site.<sup>577</sup> The school cost \$643,000 to construct.<sup>578</sup>

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<sup>572</sup> Jason J Kozielki, "Enrollment crunch hits hard," *Federal Way News*, December 10, 1997, p. A-1, A-2.

<sup>573</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/adelaide.html>, October 9, 2006.

<sup>574</sup> "School names laud pioneers, books," *Federal Way News*, September 28, 1988, p. A-4.

<sup>575</sup> FWPA Administration Policy 6970, Naming of Facilities, <http://www.fwps.org/info/policies/6000/6970.html>, June 3, 2007.

<sup>576</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/camelot.html>, September 18, 2006.

The design was to represent the King Arthur theme based on the Camelot name. Camelot is one of several Federal Way elementary schools with themes centered on the Knights-of-the-Round-Table.<sup>579</sup> Others include Brigadoon and Sherwood Forest.

Camelot was designed by Tacoma architects Harris and Reed. The school has a simple but unusually designed structure consisting of two classroom wings and a multipurpose area. William R. Reed stated, "We purposely kept the style of design and use of materials simple and almost primitive by today's standards because we wanted to achieve a King Arthur atmosphere, and at the same time keep costs down." The exterior of the school consists of pea gravel, plaster and cedar shingles. The gravel plaster is also carried into the hallways of the building. The walls are coated with a plastic material to help resist scuffing and wear. The gravel texture of the walls and varying ceiling heights and illumination in the hallways give the effect of an old English castle.<sup>580</sup> The original principal, William V. Rehman stated,

I'm a firm believer that the theme of the physical plant has a direct bearing on learning; we've gotten many favorable comments from pupils, parents and teachers about this building. [It] create[s] a pleasant atmosphere of change for students moving about in the building. We feel this kind of building gives us a good start toward the type of atmosphere we like to create for education.<sup>581</sup>

The library is named "King Arthur's Librarium" and the teacher's lounge is known as "The Round Table." The students never refer to the multipurpose room, instead it's the "Great Hall of Camelot." There are authentic looking, yet inexpensive, coat-of-arms designs on the doorways in the building. These designs were achieved by cutting the designs from asbestos that was then placed over the door while the remainder of the door was burned.<sup>582</sup>

In November 1966, Camelot was cited for outstanding design in the annual honors award program sponsored by the Southwest Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The jury of architects selected the school "because of its sense of identity (creating a design theme relating to the Camelot name) and because of the strong personality of the building." The award was presented to Harris and Reed.<sup>583</sup>

Camelot was remodeled in 1988 - 1989. The remodeling was completed in March of 1989. While the remodeling was going on the students used the old North Lake Elementary School. In addition to general remodeling and expansion, the \$1.6 million modification included removing all the asbestos.<sup>584</sup>

At Camelot's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1991, some of the first students told of designing shields to represent each of the seven grade levels at the school. Mounted on

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<sup>577</sup> "Bid Openings To Bring Classroom Construction," *Federal Way News Advertiser*, January 13, 1965, p. A-1.

<sup>578</sup> Wendy Culverwell, "Past, present join at Camelot," *Federal Way News*, March 24, 1991, p. B1.

<sup>579</sup> Culverwell, "Past, present join at Camelot," p. B1.

<sup>580</sup> "School Wins Design Award," *Federal Way News Advertiser*, November 23, 1966, Sec 1, p. 7.

<sup>581</sup> "School Wins Design Award," Sec 1, p. 7.

<sup>582</sup> "School Wins Design Award," Sec 1, p. 7.

<sup>583</sup> "School Wins Design Award," Sec 1, p. 7.

<sup>584</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Students return to spruced-up Adelaide," *Federal Way News*, January 8, 1989, p. A-4.

approximately 8-foot posts, the wooden shields were said to have been carried by 25 year's worth of Camelot students at school assemblies, field days and annual year-end moving-up ceremonies. During the school opening, a time capsule was stored in the rafters. At the anniversary the capsule was retrieved and opened after 25 years. Inside were slides of the original dedication ceremony, a program from the ceremony and a host of reel-to-reel films of the original ceremony. Apparently these were placed back in the capsule along with other memorabilia and compositions relating to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.<sup>585</sup>

There are now 19 classrooms. The address is 4041 South 298<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, Washington 98001.<sup>586</sup>

Camelot's school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/camelot.html>, May 22, 2007.

## Lake Grove Elementary School

Lake Grove Elementary School was built in 1965. It was last remodeled in 1985. There are 24 classrooms. The address is 303 S.W. 308<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, W 98023.<sup>587</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakegrove.html>, October 9, 2006.

## Sunnycrest Elementary School

Sunnycrest Elementary School was built in 1965. The school was last remodeled in 1992. There are 23 classrooms. The address is 24629 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032.<sup>588</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/sunnycrest.html>, October 9, 2006.

On May 15, 2007, the voters approved a \$149 million bond to rebuild Sunnycrest Elementary School and four other aging schools.<sup>589</sup> See the section on Lakeland Elementary School for details on the other schools and facilities included in the approved bond election.

The next step will be to hire architects, engineers and other consultants who will draw up plans for Sunnycrest Elementary School. Sunnycrest Elementary School will be one of the first three to undergo construction. The new Sunnycrest Elementary School should reopen around 2012. Students will occupy the current building while the new school building is erected nearby on the same site. The new school will be a "green" building, meaning it will be more environmentally friendly than the one replaced. This will include better insulation, more use of natural light, high-efficiency lighting and more hard-surface floors replacing carpet.<sup>590</sup>

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<sup>585</sup> Culverwell, "Past, present join at Camelot," p. B1.

<sup>586</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/camelot.html>, September 18, 2006.

<sup>587</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakegrove.html>, October 9, 2006.

<sup>588</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/sunnycrest.html>, October 9, 2006.

<sup>589</sup> "Revised bond gets nod from voters," *Federal Way News*, May 23, 2007, p. 1, 2.

<sup>590</sup> Horner, p. A3.

## Valhalla Elementary School

Valhalla Elementary School was built in 1967.<sup>591</sup> It opened in September 1967. When it opened it had about 600 students.<sup>592</sup> It was last remodeled in 1985. There are 24 classrooms. The address is 27847 – 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Auburn, WA 98001. Valhalla Elementary, home of the Voyagers, currently houses approximately 520 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade.<sup>593</sup>

In 2007, Valhalla Elementary School faced an overcrowding situation. Classes at Valhalla were averaging 28 students per teacher compared to 18 students per teacher at elementary schools district wide. One parent, Vicki Chandler said, “With all the extra students, teachers are spending more time managing the crowd and less time teaching.” With so many students parents were discussing changing school boundaries. The current enrollment at Valhalla was 532 students while nearby Camelot Elementary School only had 291 students. With a new housing development under construction within walking distance of Valhalla, parents were worried things would only get worse. School administrators indicated that changing school boundaries would not necessarily be the right decision. Parents indicated they were not happy with this decision.<sup>594</sup>

As a short term solution to overcrowding, it was decided to add one more teacher for the March to June 2007 schedule. The school district still was insisting, that while there might be some overcrowding, it was not “as big a problem as some folks think.” A statement was made that the average class size was actually 24, not the 18 reported in the March 7, 2007 Federal Way Mirror article referenced above. The school district said Valhalla averaged 25 so was only one above average. With 526 students, Valhalla is only one above the district average. Thirty of these students live outside the school boundaries and choose to attend this school. At neighboring Camelot the capacity is 342. Camelot is the district’s smallest school with only 291 students.<sup>595</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/valhalla.html>, October 9, 2006.

On May15, 2007, the voters approved a \$149 million bond to rebuild Valhalla Elementary School and four other aging schools.<sup>596</sup> See the section on Lakeland Elementary School for details on the other schools and facilities included in the approved bond election.

The next step will be to hire architects, engineers and other consultants who will draw up plans for Valhalla Elementary School. Valhalla Elementary School will be one of the first three to undergo construction. The new Valhalla Elementary School should reopen around 2009. Students will occupy the current building while the new school building is erected nearby on the same site. The new school will be a “green” building, meaning it will be more environmentally friendly than the one replaced. This will include better

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<sup>591</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/valhalla.html>, October 9, 2006.

<sup>592</sup> David Suffia, “Fway [sic] Schools Having Population Explosion,” *Tacoma News Tribune*, August 27, 1967, p. 8.

<sup>593</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/valhalla.html>, October 9, 2006.

<sup>594</sup> Margo Horner, “Valhalla Elementary needs elbow room,” *Federal Way Mirror*, March 7, 2007, pp. A1, A2.

<sup>595</sup> Margo Horner, “Valhalla will add one more teacher,” *Federal Way Mirror*, March 14, 2007, pp. A1, A2.

<sup>596</sup> “Revised bond gets nod from voters,” *Federal Way News*, May 23, 2007, p. 1, 2.

insulation, more use of natural light, high-efficiency lighting and more hard-surface floors replacing carpet.<sup>597</sup>

## Wildwood Elementary School

Wildwood Elementary School was built in 1967.<sup>598</sup> It opened in September 1968. It had about 600 students when it opened.<sup>599</sup> It was last remodeled in 1991. There are 28 classrooms. The address is 2405 South 300<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way WA, 98003.<sup>600</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/wildwood.html>, October 16, 2006.

## District Kitchen

The kitchen that serves the district was built in 1967.<sup>601</sup>

During discussion about a bond issue to build a new kitchen, in October 2006, it was pointed out that much of the equipment was very old and outdated. Much of the equipment was purchased used even back in 1967. For example, a major oven is from a 1929 battleship used in World War II. The V1400 mixers still in use were purchased secondhand when the school was built. Most of the refrigerators are from the 1960s, feature cork ceilings leading to unwanted condensation and two foot long icicles. Giant steamers, that are no longer practical for cooking, take up much needed space. The dishwasher, large enough to hold a compact car, doesn't recycle the water it uses thereby wasting much water. Very little of the equipment is energy efficient. It has become almost impossible to find replacement parts for much of the equipment. Mike Whitaker often finds himself making the parts and "jerry-rigging" them to work.<sup>602</sup>

The kitchen prepares and distributes 13,000 to 14,000 meals on school days. New stricter safety codes are getting increasingly difficult to abide by in the old facility. More frozen food storage is needed. Most of the district's frozen food is stored at a site in Puyallup and transported to Federal Way in semi-trucks twice a week.<sup>603</sup>

The school is hoping to pass a bond that would rebuild the kitchen on property the school owns near Celebration Park.<sup>604</sup>

The web site for the district nutrition service is <http://www.fwps.org/dept/nutrition>, October 16, 2006.

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<sup>597</sup> Horner, p. A3.

<sup>598</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/wildwood.html>, March 28, 2007.

<sup>599</sup> David Suffia, "Fway [sic] Schools Having Population Explosion," *Tacoma News Tribune*, August 27, 1967, p. 8.

<sup>600</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/wildwood.html>, March 28, 2007.

<sup>601</sup> Margo Horner, "District's ancient kitchen limps along," *Federal Way Mirror*, October 7, 2006, p. A2.

<sup>602</sup> Horner, p. A2.

<sup>603</sup> Horner, p. A2.

<sup>604</sup> Horner, p. A2.

## Sacajawea Middle School

Sacajawea Middle School was originally called Sacajawea Junior High School. It followed the school district procedure of naming middle schools after Native American people or words. The spelling of her name is controversial. Sacagawea is now the more accepted spelling of the name but Sacajawea Middle School has retained the earlier spelling.

Sacagawea,<sup>605</sup> a Native American woman, served as an interpreter and guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805 and 1806. As a child, she had been taken as a slave by members of the Hidatsa Tribe and lived among them. Later she was sold to a French-Canadian trapper named Toussaint Charbonneau. While the Expedition wintered in the Hidatsa-Mandan Village (1804-1805), they hired Charbonneau as an interpreter for the trip west. Sacagawea, one of Charbonneau's wives, and her baby accompanied the Expedition.<sup>606</sup>

Sacagawea was the only female member of the Corps of Discovery Lewis and Clark Expedition. She was in her late teens at the time. Her role in the expedition has been debated, fictionalized and romanticized. Although, popular culture has portrayed her as a guide to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, she probably only pointed out a few landmarks she recognized as the expedition journeyed through her childhood home in western Montana and eastern Idaho.<sup>607</sup>

Sacagawea contributed to the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on many occasions. Her most critical role was played out when she assisted the expedition in acquiring much needed horses from her people, the Lemhi Shoshone and their leader Cameahwait, her brother. As the expedition traveled westward, she continued as 'interprettess' where Shoshone captives were living among other tribes. Sacagawea's role as symbol of peace or ambassador emerged as the expedition moved west. Lewis and Clark noted on several occasions that the presence of Sacagawea and her infant son, Jean Baptiste, was an indication to all tribes that the expedition, though heavily armed, was not a fighting force.<sup>608</sup>

The Charbonneau family traveled with William Clark and a bond of friendship and admiration was established between them. Both Lewis and Clark made note of the teenage woman's courage, fortitude, and resourcefulness. After a sudden squall nearly capsized one of the boats in 1805, Sacagawea saved its valuable cargo. In recognition of her bravery, the captains named a Montana stream Bird Woman's River.<sup>609</sup>

Sacagawea was never officially hired by the expedition as a paid member and therefore did not receive monetary land payments for her services. However, in August 1806, after bidding farewell to the Charbonneaus at the Kidatsa village in North Dakota,

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<sup>605</sup> I will use the current spelling, Sacagawea, when referring to the woman and Sacajewea when referring to the school.

<sup>606</sup> <http://www.LewisandClarkTrail.com/Sacajewa.htm>, February 21, 2007.

<sup>607</sup> "Sacagawea – Woman of Legend and Myth," *Lewis and Clark Trail Guide, Re-live the adventure*," published by <http://www.LewisandClarkTrail.com>, 2005, p. 10B, printed copy in the files of the HSFW. The printed version has slightly different contents than the web site. The printed version was used as a tourist handout and was paid for by advertising.

<sup>608</sup> "Sacagawea – Woman of Legend and Myth," p. 10B.

<sup>609</sup> "Sacagawea – Woman of Legend and Myth," p. 10B

William Clark sent a letter to Toussaint Charbonneau expressing his gratitude for Sacagawea's contributions, "Your woman who accompanied you that long dangerous and fatiguing route to the Pacific Ocean and back deserved a greater reward than we had in our power to give her. . . ." <sup>610</sup>

Today, there are more rivers, parks, statues, women's and girls' organizations and other memorials named for Sacagawea than for any other woman in American history, <sup>611</sup> and of course a school is named after her in Federal Way.

Sacajawea Middle School was opened in September 1968. It opened with about 900 students. <sup>612</sup> The school was last remodeled in 1989. The school has 39 classrooms. The address for Sacajewea Middle School is 1101 South Dash Point Road, Federal Way, WA 98003. <sup>613</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/sacajawea.html>, October 16, 2006.

## Thomas Jefferson High School

Thomas Jefferson High School was built in 1968. <sup>614</sup> Thomas Jefferson High School is named after the third president of the United States and the author of the Declaration of Independence. The Federal Way School Board agreed to this name with one dissenting vote. Harold Watkins, a long time board member wanted to name the school after Kenneth Jones, superintendent in Federal Way for nearly 30 years. Jones had recently retired in 1966. The use of the name Kenneth Jones was not acceptable, however, since only dead people can be honored with a school named after them. Watkins replied to this limitation by saying, "I don't know why a man has to die before we give him credit. If you haven't earned credit after 27 year (on the job), I can't see how dying will help. The Board should give serious consideration to the name Jones." <sup>615</sup>

In a letter to all Thomas Jefferson students, Ted Haagen, Principal, wrote the following guidance at the start of the 1973-1974 school year;

### TO ALL STUDENTS

As you prepare your educational goals you should utilize the assistance of your parents, teachers, and counselors. Lifetime goals often change as you mature in your thinking and, therefore you should re-evaluate them each year that you are in school.

Many of you will plan your high school courses around acceptable college entrance, however, I want to remind you that high school is also a time when you can prepare yourself with technical skills that will prepare you for a job when you finish high school. We have many fine vocational offerings both here in school and at Occupational Skills Center.

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<sup>610</sup> "Sacagawea – Woman of Legend and Myth," p. 10B.

<sup>611</sup> "Sacagawea – Woman of Legend and Myth," p. 10B.

<sup>612</sup> David Suffia, "Fway [sic] Schools Having Population Explosion," *Tacoma News Tribune*, August 27, 1967, p. 8.

<sup>613</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/sacajawea.html>, October 16, 2006.

<sup>614</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/tj.html>, October 16, 2006.

<sup>615</sup> "How about Kenneth Jones High School?," *Federal Way News*, December 21, 1966, Sec. 1, p. 1.

In addition, our many local community colleges and vocational institutes offer advanced skills.

The courses at Thomas Jefferson High School offer a wide variety of subjects to satisfy your many needs. Certain requirements have been established by the State of Washington or our local school board and these are considered fundamental to the education of every citizen of our community. The remainder of our offerings are designed to allow you to pursue your own areas of interest and study.

Ted. J. Haagen  
Principal<sup>616</sup>

Thomas Jefferson High School underwent major remodeling in 1989 and 1990. It included covered walkways, the addition of an auxiliary gym, improved heating and lighting, an updated theater and roof improvement. The cost was nearly \$10 million. The cost was borne by \$5.3 million in local funds supplied by two voter-approved bonds and \$4.6 million in state money.<sup>617</sup> The remodel of the school forced closure of the lunchroom for September of 1989. Students had to make due with cold lunches. Work was required to modify the main entrance to bring it up to King County code requirements. This work elevated walkways to the level of the building's doorsills, making doorways more accessible to the handicapped. Additional building sprinklers were needed to meet code requirements.<sup>618</sup> Because modernization was behind schedule, school opening in the fall of 1989 was delayed from Tuesday, September 5 to Wednesday, September 6. Even after school opened students and staff were forced to share cramped spaces since all areas were not open and cleared of construction work. After construction was completed there was a long discussion between contractors and the School board concerning cost overruns and changes without full approval.<sup>619</sup>

There are 54 classrooms. The address is 4248 S. 288<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, WA 98001.<sup>620</sup>

The school profile can be found at

<http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/tj.html>, October 16, 2006.

## Mark Twain Elementary School

Mark Twain Elementary School was built in 1968.<sup>621</sup> The school was built for about 500 students. It was built as an open-concept school with no walls between its classrooms. Temporary walls were added.<sup>622</sup>

The school was closed in 1975 because of a lack of students. It was then used off and on for students and staff of other schools that were under construction.<sup>623</sup> Silver Lake Elementary temporarily held classes at Mark Twain the year prior to its opening.<sup>624</sup>

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<sup>616</sup> Ted Hagan, "TO ALL STUDENTS," Registration Catalog, Thomas Jefferson Catalog, 1973-1974, Federal Way School District 210, p. ii.

<sup>617</sup> Melodie Steiger, "TJ remodel cost irks school board," *Federal Way News*, May 26, 1989, p. A-9.

<sup>618</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Cold lunch for TJ this fall," *Federal Way News*, July 30, 1989, p. A-1.

<sup>619</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Remodel hampers TJ start," *Federal Way News*, September 8, 1989, pp. A-1, A-4.

<sup>620</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/tj.html>, October 16, 2006.

<sup>621</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/marktwain.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>622</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Board gives new life to old school," *Federal Way News*, November 29, 1989, p. A-1.

<sup>623</sup> "Principal choice tops district's to-do list," *Federal Way News*, December 20, 1989, p. A-4.

Many apartments and housing developments were built around the school closed in 1975, forcing the children in these developments to be sent down the road to Star Lake Elementary School.<sup>625</sup> It was decided by the School board, in November 1989, to use Mark Twain Elementary as a “swing” school to house students from other areas that were becoming overcrowded. This was particularly true for nearby Star Lake Elementary School since five of Star Lake’s classes were being forced to meet in Totem Junior High School next door.<sup>626</sup> Since its construction 21 years previously, in 1968, the school had gone through cycles of closure and reopening temporarily for use of staff and students while other schools were being remodeled. It has also been used temporarily by the South King County Multi-Service Center. Prior to reopening as a regular school some remodeling was required. Rod Leland, director of maintenance for the Federal Way School District stated,

It doesn’t need as much work as one might think, though. The school is in surprisingly good shape, considering its checkered past.

I’m actually a bit amazed. It took a lot of hard wear when the (South King County) Multi-Service Center was there, and it recovered nicely. We put the carpet back down, and it looked pretty good – for a 20-year-old carpet....

A new pitched roof was put on the campus-style buildings last summer at a cost of \$284,770, but the water damage inside remains. The boiler is OK, but classroom heating units need to be replaced. The playground is ugly and small and needs a smooth cement surface and safety pads under the equipment.

The outside walls are brick, which lasts 50 years without rotting. And that’s good.<sup>627</sup>

The school had originally been built, as were most of the Federal Way Schools in the 1960s and 1970s, without interior walls, to form an open concept. By the late 1980s, classroom walls were back in style. Temporary dividers, bookshelves and “teacher creativity” were put in place to make three or four classrooms in each of Mark Twain’s buildings. Rick McGovern, a school district architect said,

[Putting permanent walls in Mark Twain] doesn’t mean just stuffing in a bunch of walls.

Simply adding walls between classrooms would leave some classes without doorways. And each building was constructed with common heating units and lights, which would need to be separated for each classroom.

You light one room, you light all rooms. If you want to show a film, you could put everybody in the dark.<sup>628</sup>

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<sup>624</sup> Steiger, “Board gives new life to old school,” p. A-1.

<sup>625</sup> Melodie Steiger, “Should Mark Twain Elementary start again?” *Federal Way News*, November 26, 1989, p. A-5.

<sup>626</sup> Steiger, “Board gives new life to old school,” p. A-1.

<sup>627</sup> Melodie Steiger, “Mark Twain may require mending,” *Federal Way News*, December 20, 1989, p. A-4.

The opinion was that Mark Twain would have to be modernized as nearly every other school in the district had been. It would also need new sprinklers, handrails for handicapped access, a fire truck access road that would ring the school and new hydrants and fire alarms.<sup>629</sup>

Mark Twain Elementary School was reopened in 1991.<sup>630</sup>

In April 1993, students and staff of Mark Twain Elementary had to move so that a \$2.8 million facelift could occur. The state picked up \$1.4 million of the cost. Voters approving a 1991 construction bond funded the remainder. The students were temporarily housed at North Lake Elementary School. The facelift consisted of rearranging space to create more teaching area, updating utility lines, improving handicap access and steps were taken to muffle noise from nearby I-5 and the jets that fly overhead. Workers also updated the building's looks by replacing old flooring and repainting the walls.<sup>631</sup>

Mark Twain students moved back during the 1993-1994 winter break. Classes resumed at Mark Twain on January 3, 1994. Work was still not finished on the gymnasium until the end of January. The school hosted a rededication ceremony on February 1, 1994.<sup>632</sup>

It was last remodeled in the 1993 remodeling mentioned above. There are 25 classrooms. The address is 2450 South Star Lake Road, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>633</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/marktwain.html>, October 19, 2006.

## Nautilus Elementary School

Nautilus Elementary School was built in 1968.<sup>634</sup> The school was completed in September 1969.<sup>635</sup>

Nautilus' design is very similar to two other Federal Way schools, Brigadoon and Twin Lakes Elementary Schools, which were built around the same time. All were designed by Tacoma architect Robert Price. Building consultant Don Flagg indicated the three schools were built at the same time with common plans to save design money.<sup>636</sup>

Nautilus Elementary School received a national honor for its design in 1971. Nautilus was one of five schools to receive top honors at the Atlantic City Convention of the American Association of School Administrators. (Brigadoon Elementary School of Federal Way was also one of the five.) Mr. Murray Taylor, Superintendent of Schools for

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<sup>628</sup> Steiger, "Mark Twain may require mending, p. A-4.

<sup>629</sup> Steiger, "Mark Twain may require mending, p. A-4.

<sup>630</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*, cover letter with two tables, October 9, 1996, Table 2, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>631</sup> Wendy Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," *Federal Way News*, January 13, 1994, p. A-6.

<sup>632</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

<sup>633</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/marktwain.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>634</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/nautilus.html>, September 21, 2006.

<sup>635</sup> "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," Sec. 2, p. 5

<sup>636</sup> "New Elementary School To Open January 5," *Federal Way News*, handwritten, January 1971, p. not known.

the Federal Way School District, and Robert Billsbrough Price, FAIA Architect for the project, were present on February 21, 1971 to receive the award. The jury presented a slide show of the five outstanding entries that were selected from all the 400 entries. The jury consisted of four educators and four architects. Nautilus was cited for ease of adaptability to ever changing, progressive educational programs, as well as architectural excellence of massing, form, interior spaces, materials used, and site planning.<sup>637</sup>

The jury made the following comments:

Nautilus is a warm, inviting school on a beautiful wooded site with shingled exterior appropriate to the Pacific Northwest. Excellent interior learning spaces with careful attention to long-range flexibility. Outdoor sculpture, courts, and landscaping add to the overall inviting atmosphere.<sup>638</sup>

The School was last remodeled in 1989.<sup>639</sup> The cost to remodel was estimated at \$1.3 million.<sup>640</sup> There are 23 classrooms. The address is 1000 South 289<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>641</sup> The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/nautilus.html>, September 21, 2006.

## North Lake Elementary School

North Lake Elementary School was built in 1968.<sup>642</sup> The school contained 43,680 square-feet. The school was located at 3405 S. 336<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>643</sup> It was first closed in 1975.<sup>644</sup>

After North Lake was closed it was used many times by students and staff of other schools while their schools were being remodeled. Assistant Superintendent Donn Fountain said, in 1994, that North Lake had been originally fabricated from modular components. The construction technique, which had kept initial costs down, contributed to rapid deterioration, especially during the 1970s, when voters refused to pass maintenance and operations levies. A soggy rotten roof led to the facility's complete deterioration. Handicap accessibility was virtually non-existent. Buildings were six and eight inches off the sidewalks, which meant each room with an external door, would need its own ramp. Lighting was substandard, as were the heating and other electrical systems.<sup>645</sup>

By early 1981, the building was in such dismal shape and the local student population base so small that a committee recommended closing it rather than paying to update it. At the time Northlake was the home of Continuation High School. (See Truman High School section for more details about Continuation High School.) In 1988, Continuation

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<sup>637</sup> "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," Sec. 2, p. 5.

<sup>638</sup> "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," Sec. 2, p. 5.

<sup>639</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/nautilus.html>, September 21, 2006.

<sup>640</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Students return to spruced-up Adelaide," *Federal Way News*, January 8, 1989, p. A-4.

<sup>641</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/nautilus.html>, September 21, 2006.

<sup>642</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*, cover letter with two tables, October 9, 1996, Table 2, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>643</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," *Federal Way News*, January 13, 1994, p. A-6.

<sup>644</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*.

<sup>645</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

High School moved to the Steel Lake School on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, freeing up North Lake Elementary School for other temporary visitors.<sup>646</sup>

Sherwood Forest Elementary School spent its maiden year, 1990-91, at North Lake while its own building was under construction. Rainier View Elementary spent its maiden year, 1991-92, and much of the 1992-93 school year there also.<sup>647</sup>

Mark Twain was the last to use it for a temporary purpose when the students and staff moved back to their school in January 1994.<sup>648</sup>

In recent years the building was used for a church complex.

## Twin Lakes Elementary School

Twin Lakes Elementary School was built in 1968.<sup>649</sup> It took its name from the new real estate development it was located in. It was named after the Quadrant Corporation's landmark development that had used the name for the two lakes in the area.<sup>650</sup>

It was last remodeled in 1989.<sup>651</sup> Modernization costs were estimated to be around \$1.3 million. While it was being remodeled the students used the old North Lake Elementary School.<sup>652</sup> It has 25 classrooms. The address is 4400 S.W. 320<sup>th</sup> St., Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>653</sup>

In November 1976, Twin Lakes Elementary School principal Bill Rehman was suspended by Superintendent Vic Heinlen. Heinlen would only say that the suspension of the twenty-year employee "relates to (Rehman) personally." Rehman would only respond by saying he was ill and on leave.<sup>654</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/twinlakes.html>, October 19, 2006.

## Brigadoon Elementary School

The Federal Way School District School Profile web site for Brigadoon Elementary School indicates it was built in 1964.<sup>655</sup> Several newspaper articles, however, place construction completion in late 1970 and the opening in January 1971. The first article indicates Brigadoon Elementary School was completed in September 1970.<sup>656</sup> Another article indicates the school opened on January 5, 1971.<sup>657</sup> *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District* document also shows Brigadoon Elementary as being built

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<sup>646</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

<sup>647</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

<sup>648</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

<sup>649</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/twinlakes.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>650</sup> "School names laud pioneers, books," *Federal Way News*, September 28, 1988, p. A-4.

<sup>651</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/twinlakes.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>652</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Students return to spruced-up Adelaide," *Federal Way News*, January 8, 1989, p. A-4.

<sup>653</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/twinlakes.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>654</sup> "Twin Lakes principal gets the heave-ho," *Federal Way News*, November 10, 1976, p. A-1.

<sup>655</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/brigadoon.html>, May 30, 2007.

<sup>656</sup> "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," *Federal Way News*, February 24, 1971, Sec 2, p. 5.

<sup>657</sup> "New Elementary School To Open January 5," p. not known.

in 1970.<sup>658</sup> Deb Stenberg, Community Relations Director, Federal Way Public Schools and Rod Leland, Facility Service Director, Federal Way Public Schools have confirmed that the construction date of 1970 and the opening date of January 1971 are correct.<sup>659</sup>

Brigadoon's design is very similar to two other Federal Way schools, Nautilus and Twin Lakes Elementary Schools, which were built around the same time. Building consultant Don Flagg indicated the three schools were built at the same time with common plans to save design money.<sup>660</sup> Nautilus Elementary School was built in 1968-1969.<sup>661</sup> Twin Lakes Elementary School was built in 1968.<sup>662</sup> This again points to Brigadoon being built around 1969 or 1970.

Since several newspaper accounts place the construction and opening in 1970 and 1971 I have decided to place Brigadoon Elementary School chronologically as being built in 1970 and opened January 1971. The dates for the construction and opening of this school need to be researched further.

When the school opened it had 22 classrooms, a multipurpose room, a covered play area, a teachers' room, and office and conference space. Total cost for the 45,830 square foot structure was \$1,218,209.<sup>663</sup>

As mentioned above, Brigadoon's design is very similar to two other Federal Way schools, Nautilus and Twin Lakes Elementary Schools. All were designed by Tacoma architect Robert Price. Building consultant Don Flagg indicated the three schools were built at the same time with common plans to save design money. The general contractor for Brigadoon was William B. Johnson of Sumner. The mechanical contractor was Metcalf-Grimm, Inc. of Bremerton. Groff's Electric Heat, Inc. of Tacoma was the electrical contractor.<sup>664</sup>

Brigadoon Elementary School received a national honor for its design in 1971. Brigadoon was one of five schools to receive top honors at the Atlantic City Convention of the American Association of School Administrators. (Nautilus Elementary School of Federal Way was also one of the five.) Mr. Murray Taylor, Superintendent of Schools for the Federal Way School District and Robert Billsbrough Price, FAIA Architect for the project were present on February 21, 1971 to receive the award. The jury presented a slide show of the five outstanding entries that were selected from all the 400 entries. The jury consisted of four educators and four architects. Brigadoon was cited for ease of adaptability to ever changing, progressive educational programs, as well as architectural excellence of massing, form, interior spaces, materials used, and site planning.<sup>665</sup>

The jury made the following comments:

Brigadoon is an excellent example of the achievement of a humanistic environment using systems construction. Sensitive handling of interior

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<sup>658</sup> Author unknown, *The Brief History of the Federal Way School District*, cover letter with two tables, October 9, 1996, Table 2, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>659</sup> Rod Leland, e-mail to the author, May 31, 2007 and Deb Stenberg, e-mail to the author, May 31, 2007.

<sup>660</sup> "New Elementary School To Open January 5," p. not known.

<sup>661</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/nautilus.html>, September 21, 2006 and "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," Sec. 2, p. 5.

<sup>662</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/twinlakes.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>663</sup> "New Elementary School To Open January 5," p. not known.

<sup>664</sup> "New Elementary School To Open January 5," p. not known.

<sup>665</sup> "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," Sec. 2, p. 5.

and exterior spaces in an elementary school with appeal to teachers and pupils alike. Dignified, simple, straightforward architecture.<sup>666</sup>

Brigadoon was last remodeled in 1989. Currently it has 29 classrooms. The address is 3601 S.W. 336<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>667</sup>

Brigadoon's current school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/brigadoon.html>, May 30, 2007.

## Kilo Middle School

Kilo Middle School was originally called Kilo Junior High School. It was reclassified as a middle school in 2003.<sup>668</sup> The name, Kilo, is a Native American word for water.<sup>669</sup>

Kilo Middle School was built in 1970. The school was last remodeled in 1993. It has 38 classrooms. The address is 4400 South 308<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA, 98001.<sup>670</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/kilo.html>, October 19, 2006.

## Lake Dolloff Elementary School

Lake Dolloff Elementary School was opened in September 1970. The structure was built by Bud Daily Construction of Salt Lake City. The architects were Seifert, Forbes and Berry of Tacoma.<sup>671</sup> It was named after Frank Dolloff, who was a homesteader here in the late 1800s. The address is 4200 S. 308<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, WA 98001.<sup>672</sup>

On August 9, 1976, a 55-by-80 foot section of suspended ceiling, lighting fixtures and heating ducts collapsed.<sup>673</sup> A custodian discovered the damage when he came to work at 7:00 AM. Clocks in the destroyed area had stopped around 3:00 AM. The portion of the area that collapsed contained part of the school's open concept area. According to Federal Way School Superintendent Victor Heinlen the damaged area was equivalent to six classrooms for about 200 students.<sup>674</sup>

The collapse forced the closure of the school for the 1974-1975 school year. Another school, Panther Lake School, which had closed in 1975, and was not being used at the time, was chosen to temporarily house the displaced students.<sup>675</sup>

Students were able to move back into Lake Dolloff Elementary School in March of 1977.<sup>676</sup>

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<sup>666</sup> "Brigadoon and Nautilus among tops in the Nation," Sec. 2, p. 5.

<sup>667</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/brigadoon.html>, May 22, 2007.

<sup>668</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/kilo.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>669</sup> "Board Approves New Schools," *Federal Way News*, February 22, 1967, p. Sec. 1, p. 1.

<sup>670</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/kilo.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>671</sup> Al Keck, "Following ceiling collapse Heinlen to take Lk. Dolloff situation under investigation," *Federal Way News*, August 15, 1976, p. 1.

<sup>672</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakedolloff.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>673</sup> "Damage to Lake Dolloff school set at \$228,000," *Auburn Globe News*, September 29, 1976, p. A1.

<sup>674</sup> Keck, "Following ceiling collapse Heinlen to take Lk. Dolloff situation under investigation," p. 1.

<sup>675</sup> Keck, "Following ceiling collapse Heinlen to take Lk. Dolloff situation under investigation," p. 1.

<sup>676</sup> "Lake Dolloff students going home March 30," *Federal Way News*, March 20, 1977, p. A-1.

The initial estimate of damages was \$228,000. The cost was based on debris removal, cleanup, and consulting engineer and architect costs of \$153,000; and \$75,000 costs to provide transportation for the students to Panther Lake School.<sup>677</sup>

A key issue in recovering the costs concerned a six-year statute-of-limitations requirement that stated suit may be brought against the builders of a building if damage, resulting from poor construction occurs in the first six years. Since the school opened in September 1970, although built prior to that, the legal issue developed around if the six years had expired or not.<sup>678</sup>

The Federal Way School District filed a \$250,000 lawsuit in King County Superior Court in late August 1976. The suit asked for damage recovery against the architectural firm of Seifert, Forbes and Berry of Tacoma and Bud Bailey Construction of Salt Lake City. The suit argued the ceiling of the six-year old structure had been improperly designed and constructed.<sup>679</sup> A report by consulting engineers in September 1976, said the collapse was the result of “design emissions and faulty workmanship.” The construction contract for repairs was \$145,000 but that did not include architecture, engineering and other costs. The total final claim for damages was set at \$179,000. A \$150,000 out-of-court settlement was reached in February 1979, between the Federal Way School District and the contractor. Superintendent Vic Heinlen said, “I am pleased that it’s resolved and the recovery was fair. Had the matter gone to trial the cost of litigation would have eroded most of the settlement.”<sup>680</sup>

Lake Dolloff Elementary School was remodeled from December 1989 through the fall of 1990. Lake Dolloff students spent this time at the old North Lake Elementary School located at 3405 S. 336<sup>th</sup> Street. The school district spent \$1 million on the project. Major elements of the work included bringing the school’s wiring up to code and building walls within the former open-concept facility. Lake Dolloff at the time had 620 students. The school also added a second portable.<sup>681</sup> The school has 25 classrooms.<sup>682</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakedolloff.html>, October 19, 2006.

## Continuation High School

Continuation High School opened in 1970.<sup>683</sup> Continuation High School today operates under the name Truman High School. See the section on Truman High School for information on Continuation High School.

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<sup>677</sup> “Damage to Lake Dolloff school set at \$228,000,” p. A1.

<sup>678</sup> Keck, “Following ceiling collapse Heinlen to take Lk. Dolloff situation under investigation,” p. 1.

<sup>679</sup> “School district sues for ceiling collapse,” *Federal Way News*, August 29, 1976, p. A1.

<sup>680</sup> “Ceiling collapse: \$150,000 settlement reached on Dolloff,” *Federal Way News*, February 16, 1979, p. A1.

<sup>681</sup> “Lake Dolloff hits road at midyear,” *Federal Way News*, September 3, 1989, p. A-7

<sup>682</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/lakedolloff.html>, October 19, 2006.

<sup>683</sup> Polly Crawford “Kids can make it here,” *Federal Way News*, January 29, 1978, p. A-7.

## Illahee Middle School

Illahee Middle School was originally called Illahee Junior High School. Illahee means “dirt” or “earth.”<sup>684</sup>

Illahee Middle School was built in 1971. It was last remodeled in 1993. It has 38 classrooms. The school address is 36001 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>685</sup>

In 1989, a land swap with a Bellevue development firm allowed the Federal Way School District to add land to the Illahee Middle School grounds. The Federal Way School District agreed to the deal with RNJ Homes Inc., to trade the school district’s undeveloped Site 9 for a plot of land adjacent to Illahee. The district’s new 10-acre site is located east of Illahee, alongside another undeveloped plot of land owned by the district. With all the land the existing Illahee campus consists of 40 acres with 20 acres of this unused. The proposed use called for a high school to be built where Illahee stood. No plans were actually in the works to build a high school here but a citizens’ committee had recommended the school district consider the possibility. Forty acres is the recommended size for a standard size high school. The citizens’ committee reported that the Federal Way School District would eventually need another full-size high school with the rapidly growing population of elementary students growing older. The citizens’ committee recommended Illahee be converted to be this new high school. Illahee had temporarily served as a high school and junior high until Decatur High School was built in 1975.<sup>686</sup>

Site 9, which the district traded, is a 10-acre parcel of land located at Century Palisades. The district had originally purchased it in 1970 from the Weyerhaeuser Company for \$57,518. RNJ indicated they would build single-family homes at the site. Site 9 was recently assessed at about \$200,000. The property next to Illahee was assessed at \$180,000, so the school district received \$20,000 to make the swap even, said Superintendent Richard Harris. Harris indicated the swap of land makes the creation of a potential new high school at Illahee possible, “but other possibilities are in the offing. We haven’t said it will be a high school. It’s a potential high school, certainly, but the decision is not made yet. This trade has just given us flexibility.”<sup>687</sup> Todd Beamer High School was eventually built at a location several miles to the east.

The official school profile is

<http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/illahee.html>, November 29, 2006.

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<sup>684</sup> “School names laud pioneers, books,” *Federal Way News*, September 28, 1988, p. A-4.

<sup>685</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/illahee.html>, May 22, 2007.

<sup>686</sup> Melodie Steiger, “Land swap may lead to new high school.” *Federal Way News*, July 21, 1989, pp. A-1, A-7.

<sup>687</sup> Steiger, “Land swap may lead to new high school.” p. A-7.

## Decatur High School

Plans for Decatur High School were in effect as early as 1968. Delays in getting state matching funds for construction stalled the project for several years. It was not until 1974 that state matching funds were granted for construction of the new high school. The school was given the mission of not just preparing students to go on to college, but also to have a strong career orientation and training to prepare students to enter the work force immediately out of high school.<sup>688</sup>

Decatur High School started holding classes in 1971, at Illahee Junior High, 36001 1st Ave. S. until the permanent facilities were constructed.<sup>689</sup> While using Illahee, Decatur had about 600 students.<sup>690</sup> While at Illahee, Decatur High School held its first graduation on June 3, 1973. Eighty-six seniors received diplomas.<sup>691</sup> Twenty-eight of the graduating seniors received scholarships.<sup>692</sup> In the fall of 1973, Decatur had its first homecoming football game and homecoming queen based on the graduation the previous spring.<sup>693</sup>

In 1975, Decatur High School graduated 124 seniors.<sup>694</sup>

Even though Decatur was the district's smallest high school while it was in its temporary facility at Illahee, it won the Nisqually League baseball championship for the 1973 season. At the time, the league consisted of teams that included Eatonville, Yelm and Orting.<sup>695</sup>

There was opposition to building the new school. In 1974, the "Save Your Home Committee" was organized to oppose construction of Decatur High School. They urged the school board place a two-year moratorium on the construction. Many of the parents and students of the future high school formed a group urging building the school as soon as possible. A spokesman for the Weyerhaeuser Company, Paul Appling, indicated that the Weyerhaeuser expansion in the area and the opening up of West Campus was bringing many new families into the area and the school system would need to keep up.<sup>696</sup> Appling implied the Federal Way School system need to be ready for a quick expansion.

Federal Way is no longer a lunch bucket area. When people move into the area, the question on the top of the list is the quality of education. We've had to apologize for the area.<sup>697</sup>

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<sup>688</sup> "New 'Philosophy' at Decatur," *Federal Way News*, April 10, 1974, Sec. 1, p. 3.

<sup>689</sup> Gene Achziger, "Decatur students find home Sept. 7," *Federal Way News*, August 18, 1976, p. A-1.

<sup>690</sup> "Bid call authorized: Decatur construction could begin this fall," *Federal Way News*, May 14, 1975, p. 1.

<sup>691</sup> "Decatur's first graduation Sunday," *Federal Way News*, May 30, 1973, Sec. 2, p. 8.

<sup>692</sup> "New 'Philosophy' at Decatur," Sec 1. p. 3.

<sup>693</sup> Decatur's first homecoming celebration in full swing," *Federal Way News*, October 3, 1973, Sec. 1, p. 3.

<sup>694</sup> "Decatur graduates 124 seniors Saturday," *Federal Way News*, June 18, 1975, Sec. 2, p. 16.

<sup>695</sup> "Decatur wins league title," *Federal Way News*, May 5, 1973, Sec. 2, p. 1.

<sup>696</sup> "Decatur construction delay would be costly, supporters tell board," *Federal Way News*, July 24, 1974, Sec. 1, p. 1.

<sup>697</sup> "Decatur construction delay would be costly, supporters tell board," Sec. 1, p. 1.

Presentations from both sides concerning building or not building the new high school continued through several school board meetings. The “Save Your Home” group proposed alternatives such as converting an elementary school into a junior high. Illahee Junior High students could then be moved to the converted junior high and Decatur High students would have the total use of Illahee. As mentioned above, the junior and senior high students were currently sharing the Illahee facility. The school district director of new plant facilities, Jerry McEleney, told the school board that the state required 20 acres for a junior high site and 10 acres for an elementary school. This would mean that to implement the proposed plan the district would have to acquire 10 more acres around the elementary school to convert it to a junior high school. This would cost in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000, money the district did not have. In addition, McEleney said it would cost between \$3 and \$4 million to convert Illahee to a senior high that would meet state requirements. Dr. George Cochran, school superintendent, pointed out the problem of closing out an elementary school. Parents would revolt and not allow it.<sup>698</sup>

The School board approved going ahead with building Decatur High at their September 9, 1974 meeting. They expected to receive authorization for the state’s matching funds by October 25, 1974. The decision to go ahead with school construction “was greeted with lengthy applause from the audience.”<sup>699</sup> The land was cleared and graded for the permanent Decatur High School facility in the fall of 1974. The Federal Way School Board decided to send out invitations for bids for Decatur High School at their May 13, 1975 meeting. The district had \$6,418,000 in the budget for the school. The state provided \$4,433,000 of this and the local school district provided \$1,985,000. The initial design called for two buildings. One of these was an academic facility and the other was a field house housing a gymnasium. Also included were outdoor athletic facilities, parking areas and landscaping. The initial plan was for a school to house 1,650 students but this was pared down to 1,220 when the state school board refused to authorize state matching funds for the larger facility. The design plan allowed for possible future expansion. The 19,600 square foot field house called for equal areas for boys and girls. The parking lot was designed to hold 237 cars.<sup>700</sup>

Construction contracts totaling \$5,071,019 for the construction of Decatur High School were awarded July 28, 1975. The School board awarded the general construction contract to the George Sollitt Construction Company of Chicago. The project was the first in the northwest for this company. McKinstry Company received the mechanical contract and the Howard Electric Company was awarded the electrical contract. The target was to complete construction of the school by the fall of 1976 and have occupancy by January 1977.<sup>701</sup>

A helicopter was used to solve the problem of muddy ground preventing installation of heavy equipment with cranes during construction. On August 23, 1976, Queen City Helicopter of Seattle moved four 3,000-pound heating units from the ground to the top of the Decatur gymnasium by.<sup>702</sup>

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<sup>698</sup> “Board told of strong support for building Decatur High now,” *Federal Way News*, August 28, 1974, p. A1.

<sup>699</sup> “Decatur to be built,” *Federal Way News*, September 11, 1974, Sec. 1, p. 1.

<sup>700</sup> “Bid call authorized: Decatur construction could begin this fall,” p. 1.

<sup>701</sup> “Contracts Awarded: Decatur construction could begin in August,” *Federal Way News*, July 30, 1975, Sec. 1, p. 1.

<sup>702</sup> “Delicate operation,” *Auburn Globe*, August 25, 1976, p. A1.

Ted Haagen was named principal of the school for its opening in the permanent facility. He was transferred from Thomas Jefferson High School where he was the principal. The previous principal, while the school was at Illahee, Don Dederick, was transferred to an administrative position.<sup>703</sup>

Decatur High School was completed six months earlier than scheduled so it was able to open September 7, 1976.<sup>704</sup> The 1,200-student school had 44 teaching stations when opened.<sup>705</sup> On opening day the school had about 700 students.<sup>706</sup> While the academic building was mostly finished, the gymnasium was not fully usable on opening day.<sup>707</sup>

The final cost was \$5.8 million. Final cost worked out to be \$38.32 per square foot. State guidelines for state supported funding have a ceiling of \$37.88 per square foot. The Burr Associates, Lakewood architect, designed the school following the open concept. This allowed for completely open space with no electrical or plumbing connections in the walls. This allows for enclosed spaces to be changed with little effort. The carpet was installed before the walls were put in so there would be no interference with the floor covering when partitions were moved as needs changed. Jerry McEleney, director of new plant facilities, indicated that there is also a “first class” performing arts center that will seat up to 1,000. The field house has a gymnasium on the upper floor and dressing and other rooms below.<sup>708</sup> The field house can seat 1,600 for sports or 2,000 for stage events. The grounds cover 40 acres.<sup>709</sup>

The total covered area is 134,785 square feet. The buildings are constructed of precast concrete and are heavily insulated. They are heated and cooled electrically using multi-zone rooftop equipment that employs energy conservation features allowing excess heat from one area to be used in another area.<sup>710</sup>

For the transition from the old school at Illahee to the new permanent building the principal, Ted Haagen, organized a series of meetings to explain to students and parents how it would happen. Some new programs would be introduced but basically what had occurred at the old school would continue in the new facility. Haagen said that discipline would be tighter at Decatur than at either Federal Way High School or Thomas Jefferson. Students would take regular classes but also be allowed to take “self paced” classes.<sup>711</sup>

In 1976, a Decatur student, Teresa McClellan, was the first woman from the state of Washington to be appointed to the West Point Military Academy in New York. Teresa also was expected to receive an appointment from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Sue Convey, a cheerleader, received an appointment to the Merchant Marine Academy on long Island, New York. Sue also had the opportunity to attend the California Maritime Academy. Six boys were also nominated for military

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<sup>703</sup> “Contracts Awarded: Decatur construction could begin in August,” Sec 1. p. 1.

<sup>704</sup> “New High School Completed,” *The Seattle Times*, September 5, 1976, p. B16.

<sup>705</sup> “Decatur High School,” Federal Way School District 210, no date (but obviously 1976 announcement of new school opening), p. 1. in the files of the HSF.

<sup>706</sup> Gene Achziger, “Decatur students find home Sept. 7,” *Federal Way News*, August 18, 1976, p. A-1.

<sup>707</sup> “Copter Used to install Decatur heating units,” *Federal Way News*, August 29, 1976, p. A-3.

<sup>708</sup> “New High School Completed,” p. B16.

<sup>709</sup> “New High School Completed,” p. B16.

<sup>710</sup> “Decatur High School,” p. 1.

<sup>711</sup> Decatur going to the masses: “New Decatur gives students program choice,” *Federal Way News*, April 14, 1976.

academies in 1976. Decatur already had six former students in military academies with all said to be on honor rolls.<sup>712</sup> [I do not if either girl actually entered.]

Decatur was last remodeled in 2002. It has 64 classrooms. The school address is 2800 S.W. 320<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>713</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/decatur.html>, November 29, 2006.

## Typical School District Budgets for 1951-1974

The following information is provided describing school budget and operating costs during the rapid expansion of the Federal Way school system from 1951-1974. As can be seen, the total budget was only \$323,038 for 1951-1952 and had reached \$27,418,081 by 1973-1974.

Table 7 provides budget information for 1951 through 1955.

Area	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
Administration - Includes salaries of superintendent, secretary, supplies and expenses.	14,402	14,152	15,042	15,492
Instruction – Includes salaries of principals, teachers, clerks, instruction supplies, text books, and library.	229,160	227,160	261,114	278,586
Operation of Facilities – Includes salaries, supplies, fuel and utilities.	20,400	24,000	35,740	36,570
Maintenance and Improvement - Includes salaries, supplies, repairs, replacement equipment, improvements, and new equipment.	26,276	20,402	27,500	27,500
Health Supplies and Salaries	200	200	2,200	2,200
Transportation – Includes salaries, supplies, insurance, gasoline, oil, repairs, maintenance and equipment.	27,200	38,900	42,912	44,729
Insurance and Rent <sup>715</sup>	5,000	4,800	7,640	5,730
Warrant Interest	400	500	500	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>323,038</b>	<b>330,114</b>	<b>393,008</b>	<b>411,307</b>

<sup>712</sup> Bill Ostlund, “As tradition would have it, Decatur girl is state’s first for West Point,” *Federal Way News*, March 21, 1976, p. A-1.

<sup>713</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/decatur.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>714</sup> Federal Way Schools District #210, Redondo, Washington, exact source, date and page number not known, in the files of the HSFV. This appears to be one of the pages from a larger document that could not be located.

<sup>715</sup> While an area title of Insurance and Rent was shown on the source table the insurance and rent values were blank. I have used the difference between the total shown and the sum of the other numbers to get the insurance and rent values shown.

The proposed budget for the 1964-1965 school year was \$3,522,000. This budget is broken down in Table 8.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommended Amount, \$</b>
Administration	109,314
Instruction	2,436,017
Health	18,856
Transportation	197,191
Operation	286,673
Maintenance	62,139
Fixed Charges	107,450
Food Services	183,600
Community Service	3,760
Capital Outlay	116,750
Non Warrant	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,522,000</b>

In October 1973, the Federal Way School Board approved a budget of \$27,418,081 for the 1973 – 1974 school year. This included \$16,667,257 for the general fund, \$9,225,068 for the building fund and \$1,525,756 for bond interest and redemption fund. The building fund total included \$5,778,220 from the state. \$6,471,266 was for the construction of Decatur High School. The school district had \$9,670,000 in outstanding capital improvement bonds.<sup>717</sup>

Version 2 of this monograph will provide budget information for the period from 1975 to the present.

## **Silver Lake Elementary School**

Silver Lake Elementary School was built in 1989.<sup>718</sup> The first year it held classes at the then closed Mark Twain Elementary School.<sup>719</sup> Ground breaking for Silver Lake Elementary School’s own building took place on July 12, 1989. The construction contract was awarded to C & T Construction Co. of Tacoma. The architects, Erickson-McGovern of Tacoma, designed the building with brick veneer to fit in with nearby homes. The school was designed for 600 students. The school features a computer lab next to the library and a side-by-side multipurpose gymnasium that can be turned into one large auditorium area.<sup>720</sup> The building was opened for classes in the fall of 1990. The school

<sup>716</sup> “F. W. School Board to Consider \$3,522,000 Recommended Budget,” *Federal Way, Milton, Fife News Advertiser*, September 30, 1964, Sec . 1, p. 1.

<sup>717</sup> “\$27.4 million budget approved,” *Federal Way News*, October 3, 1973, Sec. 1, p. 1.

<sup>718</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/silverlake.html>, June 3, 2007.

<sup>719</sup> Steiger, “Board gives new life to old school,” p. A-1.

<sup>720</sup> “Elementary school has groundbreaking,” *Seattle Times*, July 12, 1989, p. H-1.

has not been remodeled since construction. There are 25 classrooms. The address is 1310 S.W. 325<sup>th</sup> Place, Federal Way, WA 98023.

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/silverlake.html>, October 23, 2006.

## **Sherwood Forest Elementary School**

Sherwood Forest Elementary School spent its maiden year, 1990-91, at North Lake while its own building was under construction.<sup>721</sup> Sherwood Forest Elementary School was built in 1991. It has not been remodeled. It has 25 classrooms. The school address is 34600 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW., Federal Way WA 98003.<sup>722</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/sherwoodforest.html>, November 29, 2006.

## **Rainier View Elementary School**

Rainier View Elementary School was built in 1992. It has not been remodeled. The school has 24 classrooms. The address is 3015 South 368<sup>th</sup> Street, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>723</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/rainierview.html>, November 29, 2006.

## **Green Gables Elementary School**

Green Gables Elementary School was built in 1993. It has not been remodeled. There are 23 classrooms. The school address is 32607 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>724</sup> The official school profile can be found at

<http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/greengables.html>, November 29, 2006.

## **Enterprise Elementary School**

Groundbreaking for the school took place in October 1993. The district had a budget of \$8.2 million to build and equip the new school. A bond issue had been authorized by voters in 1991, to pay for the school. L. P. & H. Construction built the school.<sup>725</sup>

Enterprise Elementary School was completed in 1994<sup>726</sup> and was originally scheduled to open in September 1994.<sup>727</sup> The opening was delayed until January 3, 1995 due to

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<sup>721</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

<sup>722</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/sherwoodforest.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>723</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/rainierview.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>724</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/greengables.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>725</sup> Wendy Culverwell, "Ceremony gets school running," *Federal Way News*, October 14, 1993, p. A-8.

<sup>726</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/enterprise.html>, November 24, 2006.

<sup>727</sup> Culverwell, Ceremony gets school running, p. A-8.

contractor troubles and weather delays. During the delay, students attended the old North Lake School. During the opening ceremony several hundred students sang songs, listened to the Star Trek theme and then followed their teachers to their new classrooms.<sup>728</sup>

The school is named in honor of the starship in the Star Trek TV and movie series. Jan Bleek, the principal when the school opened, indicated that the name was based on a vote of students at Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Panther Lake Elementary School which would contribute students to the new school in the Campus Highlands area. Bleek noted that the name Enterprise has education merit “because the TV and movie series promote teamwork and diversity.” Star Lake Elementary School principal, Paul Moreau, suggested the name. “Enterprise” far outpaced the competition in getting votes. The second place name, “Brooklade,” was more than 100 votes behind. Other names receiving votes were “Red Fern,” “C. S. Lewis,” “Madrona Crest,” and “Hylebos Park.”<sup>729</sup>

The school is divided into three “galaxies” or pods. When opened, one belonged to first and second grade, one to third and fourth and the other to fifth and sixth. Kindergarteners are in a separate wing near the office. Each pod has six classrooms. The unique design allows windows, not just on the outside but in the hallway so teachers and students can stand in the hall and observe what is going on in the classroom. A library, staff offices and conference rooms form the core of the pods.<sup>730</sup>

Enterprise Elementary School was one of the first in the district in the mid 1990s to implement the use of computers into the teaching process. Paul Wezeman, fifth grade teacher, implemented the use of Macintosh Power PCs into the classroom for everything from writing to science.<sup>731</sup>

Where other teachers stand in front of the room and “teach” students, Wezeman helps children – no, asks them – to teach themselves.

It’s a revolutionary concept, one the district hopes spreads like wildfire, and one administrators say effectively blends the use of technology with Federal Way’s mission to prepare students for a global marketplace.

Wezeman’s model is the class of the future, says Superintendent Tom Vander Ark, whose daughter Caroline spent two years with Wezeman and flourished.

Wezemann writes a list of the day’s lessons on the board in the morning, and his fifth-graders complete the tasks in teams, using their natural curiosity and the traditional and technological tools at hand – computers, a video recorder and electronic cameras.

“It is the interaction that creates the stimulation,” says Wezeman. “It’s the activity that creates the learning.”

The veteran teacher believes students retain as much as 90 percent of what they learn when they plan, research and design a lesson, and

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<sup>728</sup> Christy McKerney, “Students are eager to try new school,” *Federal Way News*, January 5, 1995, p. A3.

<sup>729</sup> Wendy Culverwell, “New School hires principal,” *Federal Way News*, February 22, 1994, p. A6.

<sup>730</sup> McKerney, “Students are eager to try new school,” p. A3.

<sup>731</sup> Christy McKearny, “Educator aims to prepare his students for the year 2020,” *Federal Way News*, November 18, 1996, p. A3.

then teach others what they have learned.

Retention from traditional lectures and drill methods is closer to 10 percent, he says ...<sup>732</sup>

Wezeman provided several examples of students who have thrived using this procedure. He indicated that many of his students typically test much higher in math and reading than their grade level. Students who start out behind quickly catch up with the rest of the class.<sup>733</sup>

The school has not been remodeled. It contains 26 classrooms. The address is 35101 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>734</sup> The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/enterprise.html>, November 24, 2006.

## Saghalie Middle School

Saghalie Middle School was originally called Saghalie Junior High School. Saghalie is a Chinook word meaning "uppermost" or "highest point."<sup>735</sup>

Saghalie Middle School was built in 1994. It has not been remodeled. There are 35 classrooms. The school address is 33914 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Federal Way, WA 98023.<sup>736</sup>

## Meredith Hill Elementary School

Meredith Hill Elementary School was built in 1995. The school has not been remodeled. There are 18 classrooms. The address is 5830 South 300th Street, Auburn, WA 98001.<sup>737</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/meredithhill.html>, November 26, 2006.

## Federal Way Public Academy

The Federal Way Public Academy was established in 1999. The building currently used for the school was remodeled for the school's use and the school moved in October 2003. There are 15 classrooms. The school address is 34620 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>738</sup>

Federal Way Public Academy is a 6th-10th grade school that students, together with their families, choose to attend. The school's program emphasizes a challenging, "traditional" academic curriculum for *every* student in every subject. Students who attend Public Academy want and

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<sup>732</sup> McKearny, "Educator aims to prepare his students for the year 2020," p. A3.

<sup>733</sup> McKearny, "Educator aims to prepare his students for the year 2020," p. A3.

<sup>734</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/enterprise.html>, November 24, 2006.

<sup>735</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/saghalie.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>736</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/saghalie.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>737</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/elementary/meredithhill.html>, November 24, 2006.

<sup>738</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/fwpa.html>, September 28, 2006.

receive rigorous academic instruction that will help them prepare for the college or university of their choice.

Public Academy strives to create optimum conditions for highly motivated students to perform at their best in a challenging setting. They receive individual attention and guidance within a friendly, small-school environment. The faculty understands and truly enjoys working with adolescents and believe *an academic community that shares and communicates desire for expectations will uphold a setting for high achievement.*<sup>739</sup>

Federal Way Public Academy opened in September 1999 with an enrollment of 120 7th and 8th graders and later added three more grades. The school currently serves over 300 students, and in order to maintain a small-school environment, the plan is to limit enrollment to about 300 students. The Public Academy program is distinguished by the depth of course content, the intensity of instruction, the engagement and motivation of students through the Socratic seminar style, the access to technology as a tool for communication, and the faculty's high expectations of all students. Students are expected to complete assignments at a high level of quality and depth and to produce significant research projects. They learn to write and speak with skill, clarity, and purpose and to read with appreciation and insight. All are expected to perform at their best, and they do. Academy students ranked among the highest in the state on recent standardized tests. Test scores however are only one demonstration of excellence. Federal Way Public Academy offers a full range of academic and extracurricular activities. Academy students go on to any of the district high schools, Puget Sound Early College or a number of other programs available to complete their final two years.<sup>740</sup>

Anyone interested in learning more about Public Academy, is invited to visit the school's website. The school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/fwpa.html>, May 22, 2007.

## Truman High School

Truman High School started out as Continuation High School in 1970.<sup>741</sup> Marion Grambeau was a key instigator in starting the school. Initially they used portables behind the school district headquarters.<sup>742</sup> The school then moved to the facilities of the vacant North Lake Elementary School.<sup>743</sup> In 1988, Continuation High School moved to the Steel Lake School on 23rd Avenue South, freeing up North Lake Elementary School for other temporary uses.<sup>744</sup>

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<sup>739</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/fwpa.html>, September 28, 2006.

<sup>740</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/fwpa.html>, September 28, 2006.

<sup>741</sup> Polly Crawford, "Kids can make it here," *Federal Way News*, January 29, 1978, p. A-7.

<sup>742</sup> Wendy Culverwell, "Retirement beckons Larry Merlino," *Federal Way News*, February 12., 1992, p.

A3.

<sup>743</sup> Crawford, " p. A-7.

<sup>744</sup> Culverwell, "Twain students return to original building," p. A-6.

Continuation High School catered to students who have problems adapting to traditional education structures. Initially, it included both junior high and secondary students who, for various reasons, could not make it at regular schools.<sup>745</sup>

Joan Warnes, 1978 student body president said,

Students who can't make it through another school can make it here....  
The students know either they make it here or they don't make it. If they want to learn, they learn here.

But they don't have to learn. They (the teachers) don't force you to learn. What effort you put toward it, you get out of it. It's more of a challenge. You know if you don't do it, you're not going to get through. Do it or you get kicked out.<sup>746</sup>

Students at Continuation High School were not required to attend classes. Instead they were required to earn credits but without grades. Each course had a different credit requirement, including attending a certain number of class periods (usually around 35) and completing a certain number of personal projects. Responsibility for class attendance and completion of projects was up to the student. Students were rewarded for work accomplished, not punished for failure to perform. Credits were transferable to any school in the district. When the student earned enough credits for graduation they received a district high school diploma from one of the other district high schools.<sup>747</sup>

In 1978, there were 180 students and six teachers. The great majority of the students had attendance problems when they attended other schools. Larry Merlino, principal in 1978, was pleased by his school's daily attendance rate of 60 to 80 percent attendance each day. He thought this was an improvement for these students.<sup>748</sup>

Merlino stated,

They see that the teachers care and they can communicate so that turns them on to learning. In regular schools, teachers see too many different kids each day. Teachers that teach here have to really want to be here, or we'd go stark raving mad. It's fun to come to work.<sup>749</sup>

The 1978 assistant student body president, Kathy Rupert, said the system was working for her.

It helped me. I dropped out last year and have to catch up on a lot of credits. You have to go to school to graduate. You gotta [*sic*] be here and do a certain amount of work, but you can go at your own rate.<sup>750</sup>

Students attend Continuation High School for many and various reasons.

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<sup>745</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>746</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>747</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>748</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>749</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>750</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

.... the student can attend part time only because of employment, the student has unusual personal situations, the student arrives too late to enroll in a regular program, the student needs more informal individual instruction, the female student is pregnant or has children, the student cannot stand the pressure of a full day of school, the student has a history of serious attendance problems, or the student has been suspended from a regular school.<sup>751</sup>

The school houses the only parenting program in the Federal Way School District. The parenting program allows teen-age mothers to bring their babies to school while they go to classes.<sup>752</sup>

In spite of the fact that about 20 percent of the students were on probation or have problems with the law, Principal Merlino reported that there was no real disciplinary problem. Gary Morris, a teacher, stated, "We just deal with the kids as people. We give them respect and they respect us."<sup>753</sup>

When junior high classes were included in the program the discipline issue was slightly different. Bob Kohn, a junior high teacher in 1978 stated,

They are like a bottle of nitroglycerin sitting on a shelf, ready to fall off.

The kids are intelligent, would not prove to be intelligent in a normal school because of behavioral problems. They cannot handle pressure or authority figures. Almost everyone has had a run-in with the police.

They (the police) don't handle them correctly.

Because the kids don't have any family life, they turn to peer culture. Peer culture is so strong. We've got to compete with that. It's hard for a school to do.

If it [the school] weren't here, those kids would be gone....<sup>754</sup>

Continuation High School applied for Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC) accreditation in October 1980. Accreditation would make the school the first alternative school in Washington to be accredited as a special purpose school. This would mean that the school could give diplomas in their own name rather than through one of the other Federal Way High Schools.<sup>755</sup> Accreditation was granted in early 1981.<sup>756</sup>

Continuation High had 23 graduates in 1982.<sup>757</sup>

Continuation High had 29 graduates in 1988.<sup>758</sup>

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<sup>751</sup> Student Handbook Continuation High School, Federal Way School District, 1978, as quoted to in Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>752</sup> "New classes at Continuation high," *Federal Way News*, September 1, 1985, p. A-5

<sup>753</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>754</sup> Crawford, p. A-7.

<sup>755</sup> Cathy Stone, "State's 1<sup>st</sup> accredited alternative school," *Federal Way News*, October 2, 1981, p. A-6.

<sup>756</sup> "Continuation will reach out," *Federal Way News*, September 3, 1989, p. A-8

<sup>757</sup> Harry Brooks, "Continuation: Grads overcome unusual pressures," *Federal Way News*, June 6, 1982, p.

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<sup>758</sup> "Continuation lists graduates," *Federal Way News*, July 24, 1988, p. A-12.

Continuation High School moved from the former North Lake Elementary School to the former school district headquarters building at 31455 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. in September 1988. The conversion of district headquarters to an alternative high school was not totally finished by the time school opened. Areas lagging behind included the day-care facility and the home economics classroom. Principal Merlino expected the enrollment to hold at the normal 200 level.<sup>759</sup> Because of the lack of a complete sprinkler system in the day-care portion of the old school district headquarters kept Continuation High from opening the day-care center of the school for mothers with babies. The day-care center was finally opened in January of 1989, allowing mothers with children to return to school.<sup>760</sup>

Continuation High School began a policy in November 1989, requiring all new students to undergo a drug and alcohol abuse assessment. To enroll at Continuation, students were required to undergo the assessment and abide by its recommended solutions if the assessment determines a student had a drug or alcohol abuse problem. The assessments were conducted by an outside firm, Olympic Counseling, which also provided follow-up classes for students who need help.<sup>761</sup>

On the opening day of the 1990-1991 school year, Continuation had 150 of its expected 225 students in class. The difference was partly due to the need for the other three high schools to refer students to Continuation.<sup>762</sup>

Continuation high School had 26 graduates in 1992. Larry Merlino, the principal for 17 years, retired at the end of the school year.<sup>763</sup> By 1992, Continuation High still was averaging about 200 students but it had grown to 11 teachers and five teacher assistants.<sup>764</sup> One of Merlino's last projects was to get the name of Continuation High changed. He stated, "Though the school is fully accredited, some employers – the military most notably – are wary of diplomas from alternative schools. An obviously non-traditional name tends to raise red flags."<sup>765</sup>

Continuation High had 15 graduates in 1993. The class speaker was Holly Capdeville, the mother of an 11-month-old boy.<sup>766</sup>

In 1994, Continuation High School became Harry S. Truman High School. There were about 35 teen moms among Truman's 250 students.<sup>767</sup>

Truman High School is located at 31455 28th Avenue South Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>768</sup>

The present school building was built in 2003.<sup>769</sup>

September 2001 marked the beginning of "Making dreams happen...one student at a time"-Truman's program of transformation. As part of the

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<sup>759</sup> "Continuation moves to new quarters," *Federal Way News*, September 7, 1988, p. B-7.

<sup>760</sup> Melodie Steiger, "Babies, moms return to class," *Federal Way News*, January 13, 1987, p. A-1.

<sup>761</sup> "Continuation has drug assessments," *Federal Way News*, September 12, 1990, p. A-4.

<sup>762</sup> "Continuation has drug assessments," p. A-4.

<sup>763</sup> Wendy Culverwell, "The Class of '92 is ready to go," *Federal Way News*, June 3, 1992, p. A4.

<sup>764</sup> Wendy Culverwell, "Retirement beckons Larry Merlino," *Federal Way News*, February 12., 1992, p.

A3.

<sup>765</sup> Culverwell, "Retirement beckons Larry Merlino p. A3.

<sup>766</sup> "Continuation grads set serious goals," *Federal Way News*, June 10, 1993, p. B4.

<sup>767</sup> Christy McKerney, "Outstanding senior used to come to school high," *Federal Way News*, June 4, 1994,

p. NOTE: Need to verify it is FWNews and find page number.

<sup>768</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/truman.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>769</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/truman.html>, November 29, 2006.

plan, the school was divided into two small schools within the Truman building. Each school:

- is led by a team of six teachers who act as advisors
- has its own space within the building
- works with parents as active partners in their children's high school experience
- helps students locate experiences and internships that match their interests and passions.

This change was supported by the Federal Way School Board, the State Board of Education, and a grant that Truman received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This grant provides funds for staff development and support to redesign the school into small, autonomous learning communities through strategies that are associated with high-achieving schools. The grant also allows the school to ensure that all students have access to college awareness opportunities and to improve every student's college preparedness. Truman juniors who qualify can apply for a four-year college scholarship from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.<sup>770</sup>

Truman High School had 21 graduates in 2001.<sup>771</sup>

Truman High School students have different grading methods and graduating requirements than the rest the Federal Way School District.

Because of a waiver presented to and passed by both the Federal Way Public Schools Board of Education and the Washington State Board of Education, Truman students graduate by meeting standards which demonstrate proficiencies as outlined in the Washington State EALRs and Washington Grade Level Expectations and documented in the student portfolios. The waiver also allows for teachers to guide content areas of learning, as generalist, and for internships in real-world settings as part of students' educational experiences.

Neither letter grades nor Carnegie units determine academic achievements for students attending Truman High School. Truman's standards based system allows students to see their true achievement levels as they relate to real world challenges and community expectations.<sup>772</sup>

The old Truman High School was completely torn down in the fall of 2001. [A new Truman High School was built on the same site but slightly to the northwest.] As part of the new school building the education program was divided into two schools of 102 students each with six learning teams per school. An effort will be made to individualize college awareness programs that put students directly in contact with colleges and universities through college fairs and campus visits. Internships and mentoring with local

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<sup>770</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/truman.html>, November 29, 2006.

<sup>771</sup> Liz Aberg, "Truman High School graduates 21 students," *Federal Way Mirror*, July 25, 2001, p. A-1.

<sup>772</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/truman.html>, November 29, 2006.

businesses will give students first-hand experience and insight into career possibilities. In the new program that is part of the Gate’s grant, about 15 to 20 students will be matched up with one teacher for their entire four years of high school. Principal Pam Morris-Stendal stated, “This way teachers can really get to know each student well and find out about their strengths and deficits.” The Gates Foundation grant equals about \$600.00 per full time student and will help to fund on-going teacher training. The Grant will also provide scholarship money to poor students who want to attend college.<sup>773</sup>

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores can be used to rate the effectiveness of Truman High School’s program since the schools inception. The WASL test scores for Truman High School and the district are shown in the following table. To a degree, students who started out poorer academically have been brought up to values much nearer to the districts than when they started.

<b>Grade 10</b>				
<b>Math</b>	2002	2003	2004	2005
Truman	1.1	9.1	14.9	32.0
District	35.4	43.2	42.0	51.0
<b>Reading</b>	2002	2003	2004	2005
Truman	27.8	29.0	72.3	72.0
District	61.6	65.0	66.4	79.0
<b>Writing</b>	2002	2003	2004	2005
Truman	32.3	33.3	63.8	73.0
District	56.4	69.2	70.1	75.0
<b>Science</b>	2002	2003	2004	2005
Truman		9.1	10.9	33.0
District		27.0	24.0	33.0

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/truman.html>, November 29, 2006.

## **Todd Beamer High School**

Todd Beamer High School was built in 2003. It has 34 classrooms. The school is located at 35999 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>775</sup>

It opened on September 3, 2003 with grades 9, 10 and 11. Feeder schools are Illahee and Kilo.<sup>776</sup> Grade 12 was added in 2004.

<sup>773</sup> Aberg, “Truman High School graduates 21 students,” p. A-1.

<sup>774</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/truman.html>, November 29, 2006. The figures for listening were not included here since they were not given for 2004 and 2005.

<sup>775</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/tbhs.html>, January 9, 2007.

Students who attend Todd Beamer High School know that their school is named for one of the passengers who fought back at hijackers on September 11, 2001. Todd Beamer is the one who is thought to have uttered the now famous line, "Let's roll." The School board approved the name, which fit with its policy of naming high schools for national heroes who are deceased. Jonathan Gilles, a senior in 2005, arranged to have a pink granite memorial with black lettering placed in front of the school to remind future students of who their school is named after. Donations were obtained from local businesses. Jonathan did it as an Eagle Scout project.<sup>777</sup> The marker reads as follows:

Todd Beamer  
High School  
This memorial is dedicated to  
Todd Beamer and the courageous  
Americans of United Flight 93 who  
Unselfishly gave their lives on  
September 11, 2001.

They showed the world that the  
American spirit is strong and brave,  
and they live on in each of us as  
free American heroes.

"LET'S ROLL"<sup>778</sup>

The school name was actually picked by students who would be attending the school and approved by the School board. The total number voting was 1,643. The voting tabulation was as follows:

Proposed Name	Number of Student Votes	Per Cent of Votes
Abraham Lincoln	232	14.1
Helen Keller	95	5.8
Chief Joseph	82	5.0
Rachael Carson	90	5.5
Todd Beamer	889	54.1
Frederick Douglass	107	6.5
Mary Ann Shadd Carey	56	3.4
Ronald Reagan	92	5.6
Total	1,643	100.0

<sup>776</sup> Power Point Presentation sheets for the opening of Todd Beamer High School, probably made for a School Board presentation, not dated but probably fall of 2003, in the files of the HSFW.

<sup>777</sup> Linda Shaw, "Memorial carries a message," *Seattle Times*, September 11, 1905, pp. B1, B4.

<sup>778</sup> Copied from the memorial in front of Todd Beamer High School, March 28, 2007.

<sup>779</sup> Hand written tabulation on a copy of Federal Way Public School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting, October 8, 2002, Agenda, Section B, Item 1, New High School Name, in the files of the HSFW.

Todd Beamer is based on small learning communities.

Uniquely designed, Todd Beamer High School reflects a college style campus and a mission to ensure academic rigor and student success in four distinct learning communities: the Humanities and Arts Academy; the Math, Science, Health and Fitness Academy; and the Puget Sound Business and Industry Academy. Opened in the fall of 2003, Todd Beamer High School adopted a mission and vision to help all students develop college level skills. Academy X was opened in 2005, offering a college prep program featuring AVID. Each academy is directly aligned to the project's nine common characteristics of high performing schools. In addition to these common principles, the school's educational approach is based on instruction, relationships and the 4 X 4 structure.<sup>780</sup>

The four academy choices that a student may choose from are as follows,

**1. Academy X – Every Student, Every Day, College Bound**

.... Students in this academy follow a rigorous college preparatory course of study, and they are supported by an elective that teachers [*sic*] powerful learning strategies and provides tutorial support each semester. The academy utilizes AVID learning philosophy, a very successful nationally recognized program that dramatically increases graduation rates, acceptance rates into four-year colleges and college success.

**2. Humanities & Arts Academy – The Pen, the Page, the Stage, the Rage**

Looking for a creative arena to develop and showcase your talents? Looking for the intellectual challenges of college through an inquiry-based, art-centered curriculum? The Humanities & Art Academy is for you.

Students in the Humanities & Arts enjoy a rigorous core curriculum centered on the arts. Students choose to further their studies in courses ranging from drama to drawing, from painting to poetry, and from speech to singing; they can even prepare for a future in the arts with courses, in journalism, creative writing, graphic design, and digital photography.

**3. Puget Sound Business and Industries – Leaders in Innovation**

In the Business and Industries Academy, students learn to integrate their learning with technology and with awareness of the world of business and industry. Our academy partners with the Puget Sound business community to provide relevant applications to the knowledge our students are acquiring.

Our approach is collaborative and project-based, which helps our students develop skills that are highly valued in business today. Students can pursue commercial photography, computer-based design, marketing, pre-engineering, and a full array of Career and Technical Education

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<sup>780</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/tbhs.html>, January 9, 2007.

pathways.

#### **4. Math, Science, Health & Fitness Academy - All about Rigor**

Students in the MSHF Academy are encouraged to exceed standard in preparation for life after high school. We teach students to learn through active inquiry and apply their learning to solving real world problems. Our graduates are qualified to pursue any career of their choosing and they will be prepared, not only for their next academic step, but also for active involvement as citizens in our community.

Our academy is a natural choice for students who are exploring careers that emphasize science, including health care specialties, teaching, child development and coaching.

In the year 2005, we became a new affiliate of the Air Force junior ROTC program which provides students with an opportunity to pursue leadership and an aeronautical orientation to heir [*sic*] studies.<sup>781</sup>

Each student has four daily 90-minute blocks each semester (4 x 4 Block.) There are personal peer coaches. There are approximately 22 students per advisor with a minimum of two 30 minute meetings per week. The teaching and advising schedule is designed to sustain relationships with the same adult for the four high school years. 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders mentor 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders. Teaching styles are designed for different learning styles and include kinesthetic, auditory and visual approaches. Each of the academies is designed to have a maximum of 450 students. Each of the academies has its own principal.<sup>782</sup>

The 4 x 4 Block scheduling is defined as follows,

A 4 X 4 block schedule means that there are four (4) ninety-minute classes each day. Students attend the same class daily for one semester (90 days). Because more learning can occur in those 90 minutes, at the end of each semester students will have covered a year's worth of curriculum and had the opportunity to earn one high school credit per class (four credits total). Four new classes are started each semester. When the school year is complete, students will have the opportunity to earn 8 credits compared to the six credits possible in a traditional six period day. [The inconsistency of using an Arabic 8 versus a written six is in the source.]

.... The advantages of the block schedule are numerous, but the main benefit is that it provides for in-depth learning. We have found however, that there are two subject areas where there is potential for students to lose ground with a block schedule. Those are math and foreign language. To turn that concern into a strength, we have moved towards blocking two semesters together for a year-long immersion in

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<sup>781</sup> Home of the Titans! 2006 – 2007 Course Catalog, Math, Science, Health and Fitness Academy at Todd Beamer High School, Federal Way Public Schools, p. 5. Each of the four academies has its own 44 to 64 page catalog.

<sup>782</sup> Power Point Presentation sheets for the opening of Todd Beamer High School, probably made for a School Board presentation, not dated but probably fall of 2003, in the files of the HSFW.

those subject area [*sic*]....<sup>783</sup>

The official Todd Beamer High School profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/senior/tbhs.html>, January 9, 2007.

## Sequoyah Middle School

Sequoyah Middle School was built in 2005. It has 26 classrooms. The address is 3425 S. 360<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, WA 98001.<sup>784</sup>

Sequoyah Middle School, Federal Way's seventh and newest middle school, was built from the ground up to enhance learning. The school is filled with natural light, a design feature that has been shown to positively impact students' academic performance.

On each floor of the school's three wings, four classrooms cluster around a central area. This central "flex-space" is a comfortable, desk-free location where classes can gather to do collaborative work or spread out to conduct experiments and other learning activities.

Each wing intersects with the central area, known as the "Forest" for the soaring natural wood pillars that run throughout it. But it's what's going on inside the school - math, science and a whole lot of fun - that makes Sequoyah really special.

The school is made up of houses, one in each wing of the school. Students stay with the same teachers for three consecutive years, in a "multi-age looping" class. This strengthens student relationships with staff as well as peers, establishing a community of learners and providing a "continuum of learning" for all students. Teachers spend less time getting to know students during the first few weeks of the year and are better able to develop individualized programs for students who are above or below standard.

Sequoyah Middle School is the first in the district to have an instructional focus, which is on math and science. All subjects are taught, of course, but math and science are incorporated in ways you wouldn't necessarily expect them. Situated on a 47-acre campus at the shore of Five Mile Lake, Sequoyah students explore rich environmental education opportunities right outside the door. From plant identification to water testing, Sequoyah students investigate relationships among the systems of the natural world. Active learning, inquiry and problem solving are essential to help them build a solid foundation of knowledge and skills.

Middle school students learn best when curriculum is meaningful, relevant and interesting to them. Sequoyah staff designed a framework for interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes the interconnections

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<sup>783</sup> Home of the Titans! 2006 – 2007 Course Catalog, Math, Science, Health and Fitness Academy at Todd Beamer High School, Federal Way Public Schools, p. 8

<sup>784</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/sequoyah.html>, January 9, 2007.

across subject areas. Centered on the science EALRs, this framework is constructed around three themes: identity, interdependence and transformation. Science and Humanities teachers of each house collaborate to develop these themes in a three-year cycle.<sup>785</sup>

The official school profile can be found at <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/sequoyah.html>, January 9, 2007.

## Private Schools

Other than the sections on St. George's Indian School, all the previous material has related to public schools. There have been many private schools, both secular and religious, in the Federal Way area. Only one, Spring Valley Montessori School, will be covered now. Others will be added in version 2 of this monograph.

### Spring Valley Montessori School

The main campus of Spring Valley Montessori School is located at 36605 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003.<sup>786</sup> According to Madeleine Justice in 1991, it is the only non-public, non-parochial independent school in Federal Way.<sup>787</sup> I am not sure that statement is still true.

Spring Valley Montessori School, Campus One, is located on 14 wooded acres that include tall trees, a meadow, a hill, a creek and a lovely lake that is a bird refuge for ducks and geese throughout the year. All nature studies and recreation activities are conducted on the campus' large outdoor areas. Spring Valley Montessori School Campus Two is located in a beautiful rural setting on 6 acres. It includes a soccer field, a fenced outside activities area and a new 4,000 sq ft multi-purpose building.<sup>788</sup>

Campus One is for preschool, preprimary and primary. Campus Two is for elementary through middle school (third through eighth grades.)<sup>789</sup> Campus One is located at the 36605 Pacific Highway South address. Campus Two, opened in 1984, is located at 37515 Eighth Avenue South in Federal Way. Campus Two occupies a six-acre site.<sup>790</sup> In 1999, Campus Two added a 4,100 square foot multi purpose building. The structure serves a variety of functions as a meeting room, gymnasium and auditorium. Prior to this construction, Spring Valley had to rent space from churches and multipurpose rooms of other schools when they needed a large facility.<sup>791</sup> The two campuses have 12 classrooms

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<sup>785</sup> <http://www.fwps.org/info/schools/profiles/middle/sequoyah.html>, January 9, 2007.

<sup>786</sup> <http://www.springvalley.org/info.htm>, March 13, 2007.

<sup>787</sup> M. J. Justus, "Meeting of the Board of Directors, Address by Madeleine J. Justice," June 26, 1991, p. 2. [My assumption is that the Board of Directors referred to is of Spring Valley School. – DC]

<sup>787</sup> Justus, p. 13.

<sup>788</sup> <http://www.springvalley.org/info.htm>, March 13, 2007.

<sup>789</sup> <http://www.springvalley.org/info.htm>, March 13, 2007.

<sup>790</sup> Tammy Batey, "Spring Valley Montessori celebrates anniversary," *Federal Way Mirror*, June 6, 2001, p. B1.

<sup>791</sup> Liz Aberg, "Montessori breaking new ground, *Federal Way Mirror*, September 11, 1999, p. A1.

with excellent outdoor facilities. The two campuses have a rated capacity of 220 children.<sup>792</sup>

The founder, Madeleine J. Justice, indicated the aim of the school is, “to build a school dedicated to provide an independent educational experience for children from age 3 years as far as we can go....”<sup>793</sup>

George and Madeleine Justice were born in Hungary. Madeleine in the area commonly called Transylvania (now part of Rumania.) George Justice was president of an American company in Hungary and left just before the end of World War II. The Justices came to New York.<sup>794</sup> They came to Seattle in 1949.<sup>795</sup>

Madeleine Justice founded a school in the Grosvenor House, located at 500 Wall Street, in Seattle in 1951. Originally the school was for 3-5 year olds.<sup>796</sup> The school began with her son Peter who was 3, and 11 other children. It soon grew to 36 students within a few months. It was growing so fast Justice had to hire an assistant teacher.<sup>797</sup>

In 1951, there weren’t any laws on the books in the State of Washington governing such enterprises. Mrs. Justice tried to work with Seattle and state agencies but had little success. Since she was running the school as a private enterprise they did not know how to handle it since she was not asking for money as were other schools trying to get started. She brought together interested parties and started writing a proposal for the first child protection legislation governing nurseries and childcare centers. This led to a law being passed in 1953/1954. Unfortunately, the law was worded that “Day Care Centers should provide supplemental custodial care only and not engage in education of children.” The opposite of what Mrs. Justice wanted. It took many years of hard work to produce a very long document that covers all the necessary contingencies of this type of care.<sup>798</sup>

George Justice started the Justice Solid Cedar Homes Company in Tacoma. The Grosvenor House that the school was in was sold to the Doric Company.<sup>799</sup> When the building changed hands in 1957, the new management did not want children.<sup>800</sup> So, she moved to Federal Way in 1957 and settled on the 13-acre site that was to become Spring Valley School.<sup>801</sup> The school in Federal Way was founded in 1959.<sup>802</sup> Prior to the school’s opening, the site was known as the Spring Valley Trout Farm.<sup>803</sup> The first class was held in February 1960.<sup>804</sup> The first classes were held in a converted stable. George later built adjoining classrooms with his cedar homes construction company.<sup>805</sup> In

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<sup>792</sup> Justus, p. 2.

<sup>793</sup> Justus, p. 1.

<sup>794</sup> Jim Shahan, “Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a ‘close knit’ family,” *Federal Way News*, May 23, 1976, pp. A1.

<sup>795</sup> Geraldine LaMarche, “Spring Valley Montessori School CEO dies,” *Federal Way News*, September 2, 1995, p. A6.

<sup>796</sup> Kurt Herzog, “School celebrates first 40 years,” *Federal Way News*, September 9, 1990, p. B1.

<sup>797</sup> Batey, “Spring Valley Montessori celebrates anniversary,” p. B1.

<sup>798</sup> Justice, pp. 1, 2.

<sup>799</sup> Justice, p. 2.

<sup>800</sup> Shahan, “Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a ‘close knit’ family,” p. A1.

<sup>801</sup> LaMarche, “Spring Valley Montessori School CEO dies,” p. A6.

<sup>802</sup> Batey, “Spring Valley Montessori celebrates anniversary,” p. B1.

<sup>803</sup> Shahan, “Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a ‘close knit’ family,” p. A1.

<sup>804</sup> Justice, p. 2.

<sup>805</sup> Herzog, “School celebrates first 40 years,” p. B1.

September 1964, Spring Valley added first grade and then an additional grade each year up through the sixth grade.<sup>806</sup> Seventh and eighth grades were added in September 1991.<sup>807</sup>

In 1972, George sold his Solid Cedar Homes Manufacturing Company and took over as administrator and president of the school while Madeleine was in charge of the school's curriculum.<sup>808</sup>

Mrs. Justice and her husband, George, lived on site, overlooking the small lake at the back of the site. When the school opened it had 14 children. By 1977 the school served 216 children from age three through the sixth grade.<sup>809</sup> George Justice died August 30, 1995, at the age of 82 at his longtime home.<sup>810</sup>

Now in her 90s, Mrs. Justice is still active but has recently retired as Executive Director. The school now serves students from 3 years old to eighth grade. The curriculum has remained essentially the same over the years, despite the difficulties public schools are facing with Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) tests. Mrs. Justice, the founder said, "The importance of our work is we do the same thing and we build on it."<sup>811</sup> Justice commented as follows when interviewed for the school's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I want to deinstitutionalize the Ninja Turtles. I want to change (students) direction of interest.

Teaching focuses on creating a self-motivated enthusiasm for learning in students, through the exploration of the senses and the mind.

For instance, students learn about biological life by growing flowers and examining other living organisms, such as trees and polliwogs, first-hand. The classrooms often move to the school's spacious wooded setting to examine nature.

To say that the school rejects the Ninja Turtles isn't to say that the place isn't any fun or that it's stuffy. Rather, the school's objective is to divert children away from the trivial to more substantial matters.

However, the mass merchandising of commercially contrived toys is taking its toll on children's minds. I have seen a great change which is not very cheering. Forty years ago, the child was much more a really young child.<sup>812</sup>

The site is more like a park than a schoolyard and the rooms are more like large living rooms than classrooms. The atmosphere is more like a close-knit family than that of a school.<sup>813</sup>

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<sup>806</sup> Justice, p. 2.

<sup>807</sup> Justice, p. 13.

<sup>808</sup> Justice, p. 2 and LaMarche, "Spring Valley Montessori School CEO dies," p. A6.

<sup>809</sup> Shahan, "Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a 'close knit' family," p. A1.

<sup>810</sup> LaMarche, "Spring Valley Montessori School CEO dies," p. A6.

<sup>811</sup> Margo Horner, "Montessori curriculum builds on success," *Federal Way Mirror*, March 7, 2007, pp. A1, A2.

<sup>812</sup> Herzog, "School celebrates first 40 years," p. B1.

<sup>813</sup> Shahan, "Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a 'close knit' family," p. A1.

Spring Valley uses the Montessori technique of instruction. This is named after Maria Montessori who founded the technique around 1900. Maria Montessori was the first woman in Italy to graduate as an M.D. She was a supervisor in a mental institution and developed new techniques of educating handicapped children.<sup>814</sup> She believed children were not blank slates but individuals with great potential. The education method was based on her observation that children teach themselves. There are approximately 4,000 certified Montessori schools in the United States and about 7,000 worldwide.<sup>815</sup> Justice has studied the Montessori Method at the University of Cluj, Romania, in Vienna, Australia and London.<sup>816</sup>

The techniques also work with normal children, but at an accelerated rate. The system follows the idea that a 'picture is worth a thousand words' cliché. Mrs. Justice said, "The basis of Montessori is to expose the children to everything we want to teach in the concrete. Instead of a lot of talking, we expose them to things through the senses – sight, smell, touch, hearing and tasting." The walls of the classrooms give evidence to the technique as they are lined with a myriad of pictures, maps, historical time lines and other visual graphics used to teach geography, math, reading, spelling and history. The teachers make their own three-dimensional education aids after school.<sup>817</sup>

Instead of explaining to the students that an island is a piece of land surrounded entirely by water, the teacher will have a child pour water into a pan equipped with a colored plaster mold in the center. The student sees the water surrounding the disk and understands not only the meaning of the word island but also the meaning of flooding, should he pour in too much water.<sup>818</sup>

The teaching philosophy emphasizes the enormous potential of children and instructs educators to treat each child as an individual when designing their curriculum. The method also stresses that children deserve adult's respect. Older students help the younger ones.<sup>819</sup>

Montessori Education celebrated 100 years of educational services throughout the world in 2007. Governor Christine Gregoire proclaimed February 26 through March 3, 2007 as Montessori week in Washington State.<sup>820</sup>

Justice indicates "grace and courtesy," is integrated into the curriculum.

Politeness is very important. The first thing is absolute respect for the people and every living thing.... Children with good manners are appreciated by society, of course. Montessori students shake hands, take turns and help one another clean up.... Children at Spring Valley are required to put away toys and work tools after each use to demonstrate the completion of a job. This teaches the children to complete projects, a value that will be used throughout life.<sup>821</sup>

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<sup>814</sup> Shahan, "Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a 'close knit' family," p. A1.

<sup>815</sup> Batey, "Spring Valley Montessori celebrates anniversary," p. B3.

<sup>816</sup> Herzog, "School celebrates first 40 years," p. B1.

<sup>817</sup> Shahan, "Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a 'close knit' family," p. A1.

<sup>818</sup> Shahan, "Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a 'close knit' family," p. A1.

<sup>819</sup> Batey, "Spring Valley Montessori celebrates anniversary," p. B1.

<sup>820</sup> Horner, "Montessori curriculum builds on success, p. A1.

<sup>821</sup> Horner, "Montessori curriculum builds on success, p. A1.

The Montessori Method focuses on social interaction and educating a child's whole personality, rather than teaching a specific body of knowledge, according to the Montessori International website. Montessori Method indicates this leads to a high degree of academic achievement. Justice says that all of the alumni that the school has followed have gone on to college. Montessori students succeed later in life because they learn the fundamentals at a very early age.<sup>822</sup>

Each classroom has a minimum of 2 teachers. Student-teacher ratio is kept low to facilitate individual attention. A low student-teacher ratio allows independent exploration to take place. The school is open year round with an 8-week summer-school program. The summer-school program combines Montessori academics with nature hikes, gardening, crafts, pottery, music, etiquette, cooking and sports.<sup>823</sup>

Spring Valley School started offering teacher training in the Montessori Method of Education in 1968.<sup>824</sup> At first this was held in cooperation with the St. Nicholas Training Centre, London, England. After successful completion, Montessori Teaching Certificates and College credits were available.<sup>825</sup> Since 1970, the teacher training is done in cooperation with the University of Puget Sound. As of 1978, Spring Valley School issues their own Diploma in cooperation with the University of Puget Sound<sup>826</sup> About 20 teachers per year are trained in the Montessori Method.<sup>827</sup>

All students, kindergarten through 8th grade, are required to wear the school uniform. The basic uniform is a plaid jumper for girls and navy blue pants and white shirt for boys.<sup>828</sup>

Justice still likes to interact with the students. Students come back after summer vacation with hopes of finally being as tall as Justice, who is four feet, eight inches tall.<sup>829</sup>

The school is fully state approved.<sup>830</sup> The school is:

1. Registered with and licensed by the Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The curriculum is filed with that office.
2. Licensed by the Department of Social and Health, Child Protection Services for Child Care.
3. Licensed by the State Fire Marshall's Office.
4. A member of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS). Mrs. Justice served on their Board of Directors starting in the early 1980s.
5. A member of the Pacific Montessori Association (PNMA). Mrs. Justice also served on their Board of Directors from the mid 1970s.
6. Spring Valley Montessori Teacher Training Program is a Charter Member of the Association of Accreditation of Montessori Teacher Education (AAMTE),

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<sup>822</sup> Horner, "Montessori curriculum builds on success, pp. A1, A3.

<sup>823</sup> <http://www.springvalley.org/info.htm>, March 13, 2007.

<sup>824</sup> Advertisement, "TEACHER TRAINING MONTESSORI METHOD OF EDUCATION," *Federal Way News*, July 19, 1981, p. A8.

<sup>825</sup> Advertisement, "Montessori Teacher Training," *Federal Way News*, August 27, 1975, Sec. 1, p. 7.

<sup>826</sup> Justice, p. 2.

<sup>827</sup> Herzog, "School celebrates first 40 years," p. B1.

<sup>828</sup> <http://www.springvalley.org/info.htm>, March 13, 2007.

<sup>829</sup> Horner, "Montessori curriculum builds on success, p. A3.

<sup>830</sup> Shahan, "Spring Valley School: A Silver anniversary of a 'close knit' family," p. A1.

which is a national organization for the accreditation of Montessori teacher education courses.

7. Conducted Montessori Teacher Training Course since 1968, mostly in cooperation with the University of Puget Sound. The course is registered with, and licensed by, the State Board of Vocational Education.
8. Worked in excellent cooperation with the Federal Way Public Schools.<sup>831</sup>

In 1991, the school administration consisted of the president, the Director, the Assistant Director and two part-time personnel who maintained the office, telephones, typed, filed, used the computers, etc. The teaching staff consisted of nine state certified teachers for K through 8<sup>th</sup> grades with qualifications ranging from B.A. to Ph.D. and Montessori Diplomas, six Non-State Certified teachers holding B.A. and beyond degrees and Montessori Diplomas, two teachers with A.A. Degrees and Montessori Diplomas, French language and Art teachers, and a number of day care assistants according to need.<sup>832</sup>

The school profile can be found at <http://www.springvalley.org/info.htm>, March 13, 2007.

## Future Work

As mentioned in the introduction, this monograph is considered to be only version one. Version two will examine many of the sources and topics left uncovered in version one. Also, some thought needs to be given to the topical and chronological organization of the document.

## Sources

There are several sources still to be reviewed and included.

1. For the *Federal Way News* and *Federal Way Mirror* only the clippings in the files of the HSFW were reviewed. The FWHS has almost complete bound volumes of the *Federal Way News* from 1953 until it disbanded in 1993. There are also copies of the *Federal Way Mirror* and the new *Federal Way News* from their inception. These should be examined page-by-page to find school related material.
2. There are other early papers in the files of the HSFW that should be reviewed page by page. These include the *Federal Way Review* (published by Federal Shopping Way in the late 1950s), the *Federal Way Beacon* (published in the early 1960s, the HSFW has only an incomplete collection of these), the *Federal Way Herald* (published in the late 1990s) and the *Tri-City Weekly*.
3. The typed, written and audio oral histories in the files of the HSFW need to be read and listened to for school related material.
4. Former teachers and principals should be interviewed.
5. The *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post Intelligence*, *Auburn Globe* and *Tacoma News Tribune* have occasionally printed articles relating to Federal Way area

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<sup>831</sup> Justice, pp. 2, 3.

<sup>832</sup> Justice, p. 3.

schools. These are a good source for all dates but are particularly valuable for the time prior to 1953 when the *Federal Way News* began publication. Unfortunately these will be time consuming to search and probably therefore will not be used. Hopefully this situation might be improved as computer availability of this material becomes available for keyword searches.

6. School District 210 has some old files that are available. These mostly pertain to land negotiations, school construction and maintenance but they do offer some usable material for the time period after 1960.

## Topics

The following topics have not been covered in version one with any detail and should be added to version two.

1. School board membership and the related politics of running School District 210 have not been included in any detail.
2. Bond issues held from the early 1930s to the present have not been discussed, especially the time period after 1950. Financing the schools has always been a controversial issue that deserves a detailed discussion.
3. Several strikes have affected the schools.
4. PTA organizations and other school support groups deserve more discussion.
5. Athletics should be covered.
6. The material on private schools needs to be expanded to include all that have existed.
7. The monograph would be greatly improved with the addition of photographs.

## Organization

Some thought needs to be given concerning reorganizing the format of this monograph. Should it exist as one long document or be divided into individual monographs that cover specific topics?

## Acknowledgements

The reason much of the material used has been preserved is because of two historians of Federal Way history. Marie Stowe Reed and Ilene Marckx both did considerable research and collected many interviews with local pioneers. They collected material relating to all aspects of Federal Way history but their collection of material relating to early schools is impressive. They were the driving force behind the historical organizations and research between 1960 and 1985. Their files are currently included in the files of the HSFW.

Much of this is in the form of handwritten notes, letters to editors of various newspapers that were never published, newspaper articles and oral histories. Some of this is typed, some just handwritten miscellaneous notes. Without their material the history of Federal Way schools would be greatly reduced.

Lynda Jenkins has taken on the task of organizing the files of the HSFW. She has helped clip newspaper articles, filed the vast collection of newspaper articles and other documents and organized them into a filing system that is very useful. This has been of immense help in preparing the History of the Federal Way Area Schools. Most of the material used in this document is in these files.

I would especially like to thank Shirley Opstad for her proofreading of this document. Her comments are always useful and make for a greatly improved document.

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The Historical Society of Federal Way receives financial support from



## Appendix A - Chronological Summary of School Districts in the Federal Way Area

<b>Date Chartered</b>	<b>School District</b>	<b>Comment</b>
November 8, 1884	North Edgewood 42	
February 12, 1887	Adelaide 55	
November 10, 1888	Star Lake 64	
February 4, 1891	Steel Lake 92	
August 10, 1909	Redondo 169	Star Lake District 64 was made smaller with Redondo District 169 becoming what was lost.
September 12, 1917	North Edgewood 43	Same as North Edgewood District 42 except the Pierce County portion was removed and the district renumbered.
May 22, 1929	Federal Way 210	Consolidation of Districts 43, 55, 64, 92 and 169.

## Appendix B – Chronological List of Federal Way Area Schools Prior to 1930

<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
1884	North Edgewood School	North Edgewood District 42	Not known. <sup>833</sup>
Mid 1880s	French's Lake School	None but was in the area that became Adelaide School District 55	Not known.
1887	Adelaide Beach School	Adelaide District 55	Not known.
1888	St. George's Indian School	Private School	Closed in 1936. Last building torn down in 1971.
1888-1890	Star Lake Cabin School (1)	Star Lake District 64	Not known.
1891	Name not known but probably referred to as Steel Lake School 1	Steel Lake District 92	Possibly moved to 30239 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. So. May still exist as annex to this house.
1893	Steel Lake School 2	Steel Lake District 92	Torn down in 1957.
1893-1894	Buenna School	Adelaide District 55	Torn down in 1935 by WPA.
1897	Star Lake School 2	Star Lake District 64	Moved to the James Sloan House in 1900. House was torn down in 2006.
1900	Star Lake School 3	Star Lake District 64	Burned down in 1909.
1908	Redondo School	Redondo District 169	Possibly torn down in 1936 or 1937 as a WPA project.
1910	Star Lake School 4	Star Lake District 64	Still standing at South 272 <sup>nd</sup> and Military Road.
1920	Harding School	North Edgewood District 43	Still exists. Currently being used as a church.
1929	Federal Way School	Federal Way District 210	Still exists in an expanded version.

<sup>833</sup> See the section on North Edgewood School for the discussion on the possibility that there were two North Edgewood Schools with the first being destroyed by a forest fire in 1889 and the second being built to replace it.

## Appendix C – Current Federal Way School District Facts

2007-2008 Federal Way Public Schools Fact Sheet<sup>834</sup>

<p><b>District Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37 schools (23 elementary, 7 middle schools, Public Academy, Internet Academy (K-12), and five high schools)</li> <li>• 22,178 enrollment (7<sup>th</sup> largest)</li> <li>• 2,700 staff members</li> <li>• Founded in 1929</li> <li>• 35 square miles</li> </ul>	<p><b>FWPS Community Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 86,000 residents within Federal Way city limits, up to 200,000 in greater metropolitan area</li> <li>• 3 cities and King Co. within the district</li> <li>• 700 Chamber members and business partners</li> <li>• Around one-third of the population is Asian-American, African-American or Hispanic-American background with 51.7% minority student population</li> <li>• 48.3% students in/near poverty (school lunch program figures)</li> <li>• 105 languages spoken by district families</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Impact Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A district-wide math initiative, including Algebraic Thinking in middle school</li> <li>• Beyond High School planning for all students, beginning in 8th grade</li> <li>• Partnerships with innovative academic programs such as the TAF Academy, and the <a href="#">Cambridge</a> and SpringBoard programs</li> <li>• The design and construction/remodeling of 31 schools and district facilities over six years</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Fair Funding Lawsuit</a>, which seeks to require the state to fund all school districts at the same rate</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Federal Way Public Schools Every Student . . . A Reader</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Federal Way Public Schools Strategic Plan</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">"All Means All"</p>

<sup>834</sup> <http://fwps.org/info/facts/>, May 26, 2008.