

~~509 So. Columbia~~  
~~Woodburn, Or. 97071~~  
February 27, 2001

Dean Bones  
Nestucca Valley Middle School  
P. O. Box 77  
Beaver, Or. 97108

Dear Mr. Bones:

I cannot be at your meeting, February 28<sup>th</sup>, but have some information for you.

My Mother, Edith Creecy, taught at the East Beaver School from 1924 thru 1929. Since I was born in 1926, I don't know much of anything about that period. I do know she drove a car to school and that the school was near the end of the East Beaver Road. It was a one room schoolhouse, with all eight grades.

My Mother also taught at the Hemlock Grade School for 12 years (1929 thru 1941). I started the first grade there, with my Mother as my teacher. At that time, her sister, Erma Gilbert, taught grades 5 thru 8 and my Mother taught grades 1 thru 4.

The classroom area was two rooms. The dividing wall could be folded back to make it one large room. Every Christmas, we had a Christmas program, with all of the students participating. At the end of the program, Santa would come in with sacks of candy and oranges for all of the children at the program. My Mother earned the money for this treat by writing a column in the Headlight-Herald each week. Another thing I remember is that my Mother had geraniums in the windows in her room. Those who had done their school work had the privilege of watering the plants for her. At recess time, all of the students were on the playground. The teachers took turns supervising. Also, they participated in the games that were played. Our lunch was eaten at our desks, or if the weather was good, we ate outside. We carried our lunches in lunch boxes or paper sacks. We rode a bus to school. I rode a bus that took high school students to Nestucca. They would let us off at Hemlock and then go on to Cloverdale. Other students rode the grade school bus.

The only other people I know from Hemlock Grade School is Thyril Hopkins and Tom Blanchard. They both live in your area.

I am enclosing some copies of school pictures from when I was in Hemlock School. If you have some specific questions about those years, maybe I could answer them, let me know.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Denting*