

Gerald Bauer's Thoughts About South Tillamook County in the Early Days

Written by Gerald Bauer on May 3, 2000

(Note that Nestucca Valley Middle School student, Noemi, typed this short history facts article as part of her technology assignments during 2002 or 2003. I made some corrections and reformatted this article in 2015 db.)

Here are some thoughts about South Tillamook County in the early days . . . just some thoughts in general.

Schools: Some early teachers while I was going to school at Neskowin School were Prudence Quinn, Myrabell Paul, Mary Lowther and Kenneth Dick. Mrs. Paul was my 3rd to 5th grade teacher. She is 95 years old (*in 2000 db*) and still has wonderful handwriting.

The present school building is now used as a summer home (*db*). It was the second one. The first school was west of the highway just south of the 9th tee of the old golf course. I went to school for all 8 grades in the new building.

People who sent their kids to school in those days were part of the community: Dicks, Wards, Kinmans, Commons, Scherzingers, Frank Martin family, Taggarts and some I have forgotten. Oh yes, and the Sims family. Mr. Sims had a filling station at Neskowin. His son is now living in Scio, Oregon. On South Beach at Neskowin there were 4 houses. People just came out for the weekend or for the summer. Fred Scherzinger had a diary there for many years (*north of Neskowin in the area of what is now called Aeolian Way db*). Harold is his son and we called him "Toughy."

Post Offices: The post office was at Neskowin, but I think it may have been called something else at an earlier date. There was a post office up on the Lois Carver place, and it was called "Elsie." I have heard it called some other name but I can't remember it. I worked at the post office in Salem after moving here (to Salem), but have since retired.

Golf Courses: The first golf course was built in the early 30's, perhaps in '33 or '34. I'm not sure of the date. Matt and Margaret Sandidge bought it in the late 30's or early 40's. The second course was put in about '65 or '67. I can't remember the exact date.

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The Bauer family history: My parents were married in 1916 and lived with Grandfather and Grandmother in the hotel in Neskowin. They milked cows on the Bray place where the Neskowin School is now (*Hm . . . is Gerald referring to Neskowin Valley School about 3 miles up Slab Creek Road or to the farm where the Hawk Creek Gallery of Michael Schlicting is now which is located on Schoolhouse Road? db*). They didn't have a car so they drove up and back in a wagon pulled by a team of horses.

Grandfather had a sawmill, but I don't remember how long he had it. Later on he had a dairy north of the golf course, but didn't have a road to it. Later on they put in a plank road which out in spots whenever there was a high tide or a bad storm.

My parents bought our dairy in 1919 and mother sold it in 1960. There was a sawmill on the place built about 1910-1915. I'm not sure of the date. It might have been during WWI. I remember taking spruce cants out for plywood during the 30's. Spruce cants were the spruce logs cut into 8-foot lengths so they would fit the plywood mills.

More Bauer history: My grandfather, Sam Bauer, and his brother, Steve, came from Germany in the 1800's. They both settled in homesteads on Neskowin Creek (*Now called Slab Creek db*). The homesteads were next to each other and were at the end of one road now known as Bauer Road. I don't know who owns the property now. One of Steve's granddaughters owns an acre of the farm and holds a family reunion there each Fourth of July.

With regards,

Gerald Bauer