

## **Letter from Mary Gwendolyn “Gwen” AYER Jones**

in about 2002 with family information

*Retyped by Dean Bones 2022*

My grandfather named the post office Blaine honoring James G. Blaine who was ran for president in 1884. My grandfather was the first postmaster for Blaine. He and his family of 5 children came to the Blaine area in 1890 and settled on what was “Walkers Prairie about a mile below where Blaine is now. My mother, Nellie Ayer, was 5 years old when they came here.

My grandfather built a sawmill and his home, and he also built or furnished lumber for the 1st Blaine School House which was built on the hill on the north side of the road leading into Blaine. Note that there were no bridges at that time, so people forded the river several times east of Beaver. I didn't attend Silver Falls School. Neither did any of my children. Nor did they attend the Blaine School. They attended Beaver School.

My children are Herbert Leroy who went to Beaver Grade School 1940 - 1949 and NUHS 1948 - 1952; Mary Alice who went to Beaver 1944 - 1953 and NUHS 1952; Frances Elaine who went to Beaver 1948 - 1956 and NUHS 1956 - 1960; Rodney Glen who went to Beaver from 1959 - ? and NUHS from ? to ?; and Beverly Lynn Jones who attended Beaver from 1961 - 1970 and NUHS from 1970 - 1974.. My husband, H.L. “Bud” Jones and I also had Billie but for less than 2 years.

We contracted hauling children to Beaver Grade School in 1949 for 25 years and then 3 years also for Nestucca High School. Note that two people who transported kids to Beaver School before us were Alfred McPherson and Herbert Hoskins in private cars.

In 1956 we drove to Iowa and got a new school bus, and then in 1958 we flew to Ohio and drove home a fire truck for Nestucca Rural Fire District. Bud belonged to the Fire Co. for 35 years and was secretary of the district.

All our children went to Beaver Grade School and Nestucca High School. I went to Blaine School most of 8 years and graduated from Brown School. I started in Cloverdale High School and then moved into the new Nestucca Union High School in 1929.

I was in the Parents Club for many years and helped with the Smorgasbord all of the years it was in existence as the Parents Club fundraiser.

We contacted our school buses with Beaver in 1949 and stopped in 1974.

We contracted with Nestucca Union High School in 1974 and stopped in 1977.

We bought a new bus in Iowa in June 1956.