

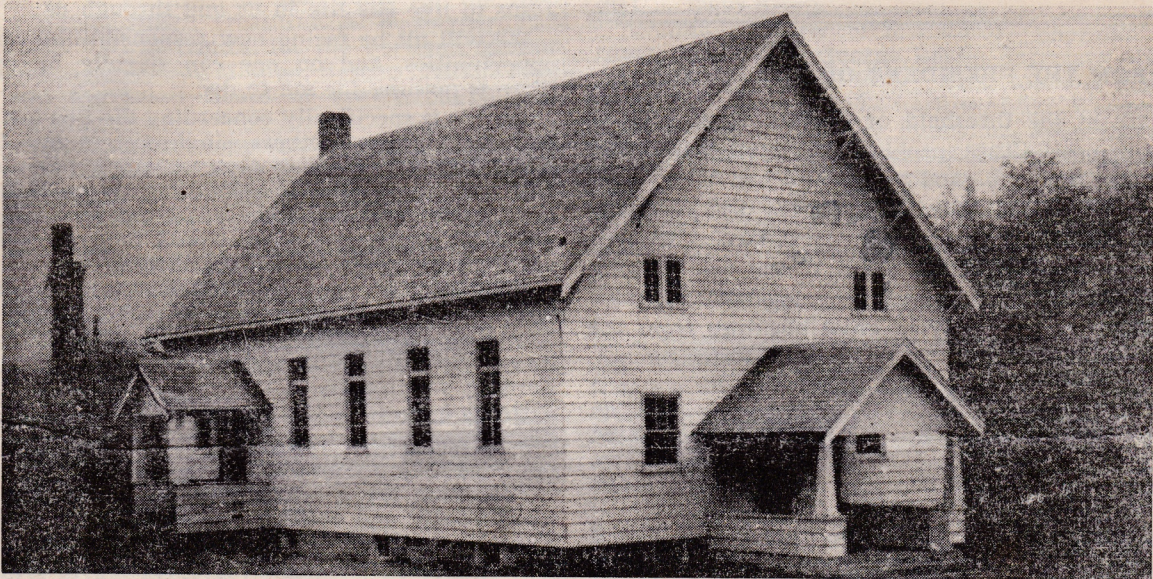
MISSIONARY EVANGEL

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel.—Jesus.

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The New Blaine Church Building

HISTORY OF THE BLAINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

By May Larrew

In the autumn of 1925, Bro. Frank Larrew, wife and two sons, moved to the community, about six miles above Blaine, which is along the big Nestucca River. They took up a homestead and have lived on it since October 15, 1925. On November 16, 1926 a little daughter came to bless their home.

There were no members of the Mennonite denomination living in this community, but each Sunday they had their Sunday School in their home. When circumstances permitted, they attended services at Sheridan, a distance of fifty-six miles, where they were charter members.

Time went on, but still there were no Sunday School or church services near, due to the fact that people lived far apart and travel conditions were poor. However, prayers ascended that in some way God would open the way for work in this community.

Sometimes God allows some tragic event to happen to awaken people to spiritual needs and that is what happened in the spring of 1936. A young man returning home one night was drunk. He stumbled and fell face downward in a small creek and was drowned.

Soon afterward a Presbyterian Sunday School missionary came into this community and organized a Sunday School in the school district in which the Larrew family lived, but it soon died out because of lack of interest.

After this work failed, the Larrew family then began attending Sunday School at Blaine, road conditions having improved by this time.

The Sunday School at Blaine was a union Sunday School which was held in the Blaine schoolhouse and was visited as often as possible

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The Junior Girls' Circle is progressing nicely with good interest.

May we, as this Christmas season draws near, not think of what we will receive, but what we can give that others may be happy. And as another year dawns may we each one determine to do more for our Lord who has done so much for us. Pray for the work here at Winton.—Mary Weaver

WESTERN MENNONITE CHURCH

Salem, Oregon

A number from our congregation are attending the night classes on Monday evening at W.M.S.

On Wednesday evening we meet in the basement of the school for prayer meeting. We have been using the book, "Lessons in Christian Doctrine, Living the Christian Life."

The Sisters Sewing Circle meets the first Thursday of the month. Most of our sewing is for foreign relief. We also do some canning during the summer months. Since we do not have a church house, we meet in different homes in the community. We appreciate the good number who so faithfully give of their time each month.

We enjoyed having Bro. and Sister Josef Herschkowitz with us on Friday evening, January 2. Bro. Herschkowitz brought us a message.

Our neighbors and friends in the community enjoyed the Christmas carols sung by the young folk on Christmas Eve.

Sister Salome Lind has been attending church services the last few Sundays. We pray that she may again be restored to her normal health and strength.

—Hilda Reist

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD

(Continued from Page 3)

ban car fund be set up for the Portland Mission to replace the present 1938 G.M.C. Panel Truck; and that the Present Portland Mission Building Fund be transferred into it as a basis to start from; and that a committee of two Board Members and Mission Supt. be responsible to raise the needed funds to purchase the above mentioned vehicle, by solicitation of our district churches and by placing announcements in our church periodicals and thus relieving and financial obligations to the District Board." Carried. Moved: that the Executive Committee appoint the above mentioned committee. Carried.

Moved: to adopt the following recommendation. "That the expenses of the Portland Rescue Mission farm warehouse charges be shown in the farm report. Also that purchases for the 'Home Operation' be shown on the accounts of the home supt. only and not duplicated as farm expenses." Carried.

Moved: that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the matter of selling the Jewish Mission property to the Jews who want to acquire it so they can erect a synagogue, and report back to the board. Carried. Four brethren were nominated. Moved: that all four serve on the committee. Carried. Committee: Lester Kropf, Floyd Whitaker, Albert Snyder and Hugh Wolfer.

Since there is a real need for facilities to care for convalescent patients at the Home for the Aged, and since there seems to be a considerable amount of money available to build another wing to the Home for this purpose; Therefore, be it moved, that we make this need known throughout the district and authorize our treasurer to receive funds for the same; be it further moved that a building program be set in motion as soon as sufficient funds are on hand to complete the project. Carried.

Moved: that we ask the Harrisburg congregation to elect a member on the Local Board for the Home for the Aged, for a period of two years; and then follow the regular procedure in submitting two nominees for this position to the annual Board Meeting every second year. Carried. Moved: that we elect someone to serve three years on the Local Board of the Portland Rescue Mission Farm, and ask the Harrisburg congregation to elect one for two years. Carried.

Moved: to accept the resignation of Paul Yoder from the Service Unit Committee of the District Mission Board. Carried.

Moved: that we elect an Evangelism Committee of five qualified brethren whose responsibility it shall be to discover and investigate open fields and bring information to the District Mission Board for their consideration. Further, that this committee give consideration to the appeal of the former Mexico-Central America Mission Board. Carried. Committee elected: Oscar Wideman, Chester Kauffman, Robert Garber, Floyd Emmert and Paul Snyder.

A report of the Nampa property was given by Harold Miller.

Since James Bucher and wife are considering to resume Jewish Mission work in Portland again, it was moved: that we ask them to cooperate with Hugh Wolfer and wife in this work. Carried.

A favorable vote was taken to encourage the Men's Chorus to go to Sacramento to sing at the Rescue Mission sometime.

Consideration was given to take over the title to the property at Sacramento, valued at \$12,000.00, and free of encumbrance, which is to be used for a Rescue Mission Home, and which would have room for a church building. Moved: that we accept this property. Carried.

BLAINE HISTORY

(Continued from Front Page)

by the Presbyterian Sunday School missionary. However, many times months passed between his visits.

Feeling the desire and need for preaching services by some, a suggestion was made in 1937 that ministers from the Sheridan congregation come to minister to the Blaine community. The suggestion met with approval and the ministers have been coming ever since. At first a minister and a group of brethren and sisters came the third Sunday of each month and at the close of the services all present for Sunday School and services remained and had a pot-luck lunch and fellowship together, which was enjoyed by all.

Then in 1938, the ministers began coming every other Sunday and still continue to do so as the work

Many want the Christ of the cross, without the cross of the Christ.

at Blaine is still a mission outpost of the Sheridan congregation.

Up until the fall of 1938 the Larrew family were the only members of the Mennonite faith in the Blaine community, then Roy Kenagy, wife and children, of Hubbard, Oregon, came and were a welcome addition and their help was appreciated.

In the spring of 1941, Bro. and Sister James Bucher moved their trailer house to the Blaine community. A series of evangelistic meetings were held. Several confessions were the result. Sister Ada Benfield, now of Portland, one of the converts was baptized and received into the Mennonite Church. Others chose a church home in other denominations.

During this time a midweek prayer meeting was started and still continues. The prayer meetings were then held in different homes, but now they are held in the church building. They were well attended and both young and old took their turn in choosing a subject or scripture for study. This was one phase of the work where there was no shirking or making excuses, but all accepted their part. The memory of those early prayer meetings is still precious.

The work kept growing and other families moved in to help. Alvin Kester and family, from Molalla, Oregon, then in 1944, Sam Hostetler and family, of Hubbard, Oregon, came. As the number of children increased a period following the Sunday School lesson was used for a time of singing with the children. This period they seemed to enjoy.

In the year of 1945, three other families moved into the Beaver, Oregon, community, but attended Sunday School and church services at Blaine. They were J. D. Kauffman and family, Earve Schrock and family, and Victor Byers and family. A year later Paul Byers and family moved to Tillamook but attended services at Blaine.

With this increase and an increase of the Sunday School attendance conditions became quite crowded in the schoolhouse. As the group of members of the Mennonite faith grew they felt a desire for a church building of their own. So in 1946, a building fund was started. An offering was taken at prayer meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Donations and gifts from different congregations and individuals were added to this fund as time went on. Through the cooperation of the Sheridan congregation, a parcel of ground was purchased upon which to build a church house.

In the spring of 1947, Bro. Roy Kenagy, Hubbard, Oregon, he and his family having moved back there, brought a power shovel of the Hubbard Clay Works, to dig the basement. Before he began to dig, the group of members all gathered on the grounds, sang a song and had prayer, asking God's blessing upon the undertaking. From then on the work went forward as funds and labor were available, until the building was completed in May, 1952.

In 1946, a conviction was felt that there should be a resident minister in our midst and many prayers were offered to that effect. At a special meeting with the Sheridan congregation, Bro. Dan Shenk was chosen by lot for the work. However, later on account of ill health, Bro. Shenk moved back to Sheridan. This left the members and work at Blaine again without a resident minister, until later Bro. J. D. Kauffman was ordained to the ministry to be the resident minister for the Blaine community. These were times

when we very definitely felt the Holy Spirit leading.

During these years three new homes were established by the marriage of the three Larrew children, now grown to manhood and womanhood, and also members of the church. The wedding of Reuben H. Schrock and Naomi Larrew was held in the Blaine schoolhouse on October 12, 1947. Bro. G. D. Shenk performed the ceremony.

Later Lloyd Shenk and family, of Sheridan, Oregon, moved into the community to help in the work.

Evangelistic meetings have been conducted at different times by Brethren J. W. Hess, Ernest Garber and Andrew Jantzi. Eternity alone will reveal the results of these meetings. Other brethren from different states, Canada and also Bro. P. J. Malagar, a native of India, have brought us messages of help and encouragement.

Summer Bible School was held for the first time in June, 1948, and since then Bible School has been held each year with good attendance. The children are transported to and from school. What the results of the seed sown will be, eternity alone will reveal.

Up until the summer of 1952, Bible School was held in the Blaine schoolhouse under crowded conditions, but each morning the children came, eager to learn the songs and stories of Jesus. Teachers from the Sheridan congregation, Bethel congregation and the Blaine group were happy for the privilege to tell the Gospel Story to these eager children. The Herald Summer Bible School material has been used through each year.

The long anticipated time finally arrived. The day we had all worked and prayed for, the day when the church building could be dedicated. June 1, 1952, was that day and the building was dedicated and an all-day meeting was held with a program of appropriate subjects and songs. Many good truths were presented. There was a basket lunch, with the Blaine group serving coffee. We rejoiced and still rejoice and thank God who so wonderfully undertook for us in every way by providing funds and labor for the erection of a place of worship with more room for Sunday School classes and worship services. We also want to again thank all who helped by funds, labor and prayer. May God bless each one.

However, even if the building is completed and dedicated, the work of the Lord is not completed. The work must go on till Christ comes. Souls still need a Saviour. There are problems and needs that need to be faced. We need the prayers of all God's people.

We are few in number as there are only eight families of members here now, for several years ago four families moved away. However, we are not discouraged, but desire to press on in the Lord's work, knowing that the Lord does not promise the blessing to the many, but to the faithful.

The average attendance at Sunday School is between fifty and sixty.

Preaching services are held each Sunday morning and evening, and Young Peoples meeting and children's meeting each Sunday evening.

The Sisters Sewing Circle also appreciate the basement of the new church building in which to meet and work. Before the building was completed we met at the home of Bro. Harve Schrock. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month. It is a pleasure to work for those who are in need, knowing that thereby we are doing it as unto Christ.

Today people are learning to do without many things their parents never thought of having.