

Brief History Answering Questions about Her Schooling Years

typed by Dean Bones in 2022

My name is Leta BONES Williams Mentzer, and I was born in McMinnville, Oregon, on July 12, 1920. My parents were Walter and Anna Bones.

My parents moved to Tillamook from McMinnville when I was 2 years old. My dad went to work at Coats' Mill that was located at the Hoquarton Slough and Highway 101. My brother, Raymond Bones, was born in Tillamook on April 12, 1923. *(Note that Ray always said he was born in Dayton, Oregon, in the house of his grandparents. db)*

My 1st school was at Kilchis School on the Kilchis River. The Zurcher family were our neighbors. Our next move was to Meda Loop Road near Oretown. My dad went to work for the Oregon State Highway Department in Hebo where he worked until he retired.

When I was in the 6th grade we moved to Beaver where I was put back into the 5th grade. It was a 2 room school. There were 4 grades in each room. Mrs. Edith Graves was one of my teachers, and then Mrs. Lydia Alvord was another of my teachers. Her son, Jack Alvord, lives here in Roseburg. We were taught to sound out the words, and the teachers were strict. Mind or get the ruler across your hands. Also in Meda School a milking machine hose was used on your rear. Doris Bills was my teacher that I remember most.

The girls all wore dresses and long stockings. In the summer time we would wear anklets for a while. The boys wore jeans and colored shirts and heavy shoes.

Usually each class had about 6 students, and the teacher taught all four grades. We had outside toilets in all my grade school years.

We lived in a house across from the Ollie Woods' ranch east of Beaver which is now owned by his son, Edwin Woods. We walked to school, and the 1st bridge on Blaine Road was a covered bridge. We had a fear of a car coming while we were in the bridge. We would run as fast as our legs would carry us going or coming.

The schools had a cloak room where we hung our coats, took off any galoshes or boots and had a shelf for our lunch boxes. Meda School had all 8 grades in one room, and Beaver had 2 rooms with 4 grades in each. We had wooden floors and high windows so we couldn't see out. The floors were oiled once or twice a year. The playshed in Beaver had a dirt floor packed hard. It had about 4 foot walls and then about 2 - 3 feet of open space and then the roof.

My mom was janitor at Beaver, and I had to help clean.

School took up at 9:00 AM and ended at 3:00 PM. We had Thanksgiving and Christmas vacations. We took our lunches in pails.

In our games at school we chose up sides. Boys and girls played ball together as there were not enough for boys to be alone. We played tag, and we had swings and teeter-totters. We exchanged games with Blaine School.

Our school subjects were reading, writing, arithmetic, English and history.

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We walked to school, or our parents took us.

There were 5 of us that graduated from the 8th grade, Helen WOODS Lewallyn, Billy Gilbert, Ralph Speece, Avis Pick (?), and myself.

It was on to N.U.H.S. for 4 years. After graduating in June of 1938 I got married to Elton Williams of Friona, Texas, in December of 1938. We had many hard years, but with determination and working together through it all we gained as the years went by.

We raised 4 children, Loretta, Phyllis, Dennis and Steven. When the children were small we built a log home south of Beaver. When the last child was in high school we bought the grocery store on the west side of Beaver from Rose and Bud Leckington. We later built a new and bigger store, Leta and Elton's Grocery. We were in the business for 18 years when my health caused us to sell to Jim and Laura Fox.

Elton was later killed in a hunting accident on October 23, 1977. In 1979 I moved to Roseburg near the oldest daughter where In 1980 I met and married Arnold Mentzer. We have traveled lots and now are enjoying our retired later years here in Roseburg.