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The Mundorff family moved to South Tillamook County in the autumn of 1920, to a 180 acre dairy farm consisting of the northeast quarter of Section 20, T5S, R9W, about two miles northwest of Dolph. I, and a younger sister and brother, attended Dolph Elementary School the first winter (1920-21). This was in a small vacant white house – one of a group of houses located about ½ mile north of Dolph. One of the houses was occupied by the Cornell family, and Mrs. Cornell was the teacher. We understood that this group of small houses had been part of a stage station. Looking at a current topographic map, I believe the location was up Baxter Creek.

During the summer of 1921, the residents built a small wooden schoolhouse on the west side of the highway, across from a farm owned by the Meyers family. I believe the location of this school was just south of the northern boundary of Section 28, T5S, R9W, between Highway 22 and the creek. During the seven years the Mundorff family lived here (1920-1927), the school never had more than 8 or 9 pupils, of which two or three were Mundorffs.

Another grade school was Castle Rock, three or four miles north, on the west side of the highway, on Three Rivers, across from the farm of T.R. Hornschuch (my uncle), which I believe, was on Pollard Creek. This school was also used as a Sunday school and non-denominational church. T.R. Hornschuch, a retired minister, served as preacher, as, at times, did each of his brothers: E.D. Hornschuch, whose farm was on Lawrence creek, and H.E. Hornschuch, whose farm was a couple of miles north on the east side of Three Rivers.

When we arrived in Tillamook County in 1920, the highway was gravel, sometimes muddy. Our mail was delivered three times a week from Hebo, by horse and buggy. It was a "Star Route." There was no electric power, and although the highway was paved in 1921 or '22, there was no electric power when we moved away in October 1927.

My family operated a dairy farm. Milk was transported to the cheese factory at Hebo.

Telephone service was via a party line. The bell rang at every house on the line. Each subscriber had a specified ring – one long, one short; a long and 2 shorts, etc. but often several subscribers would pick up their phones to listen, no matter whose call it was. One woman was notorious for listening to her neighbors. One neighbor who was familiar with her listening became exasperated and shouted, "Mrs 'Brown', I smell your beans a-burnin' " and she snorted, "Well, I never," and slammed down the receiver.

As we had no electricity, the phones were battery operated.

H.R. Hornschuch operated an alder sawmill on his farm on Pollard Creek during the period 1924 to 1928.

My father, John Mundorff, and his brother-in-law, John W. Kohler, built an alder sawmill and drying shed on alder Creek in 1925. They also built a tramway with wooden rails, and used a rebuilt car to haul logs along the creek bottom.

*I will be glad to give any other information  
I might remember about south Tillamook County  
in the 1920's. Maurice J. Mundorff*