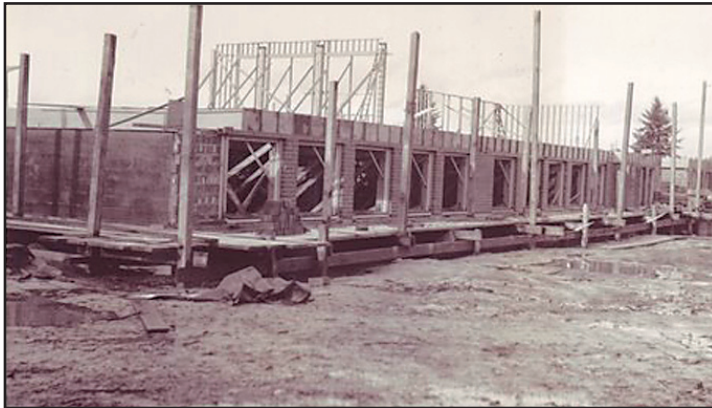


Tualatin's Old Brick School - Gone But Not Forgotten...

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

Rome leveled the city of Carthage after the third Punic war, and perhaps, some say, plowed over the site, and it seems the old Tualatin brick elementary school along Boones Ferry Road has met the same fate. The building, once the pride of Tualatin, has been flattened, leveled and hauled away and the site has been salted with a layer of straw. With the exception of a small pile of bricks, there is no evidence of the once fine building that educated generations of Tualatin children.



Tualatin's brick school in the early stages of construction.

The brick school was erected in 1939 when the old school became too crowded and was no longer adequate to educate Tualatin's growing youth population. Those were hard economic times as the great depression lingered on, but the Public Works Administration gave Tualatin \$30,000 and the district raised \$20,000 through bond sales. Adjoining districts Carlon and Mulloy were incorporated into the Tualatin district.

The new eight-classroom school, state of the art for its time, opened in the fall of 1939 and the stage, basement, cafeteria and gym floor were completed over the next two years with community fund raisers. There was a wood burning furnace downstairs, and a long woodpile behind the building. Later more modern heating was installed.

In the first few years students ate their brown bag lunches at their desks, but when the cafeteria opened, hot lunches became available for 20 cents a day. Typical lunches might be frowned upon today, but I can remember the hot potato sandwiches, rich in starch and calories, that Bertha Floyd would dish out. First a slice of white bread on the tray, then a scoop of hot mashed potatoes topped with a ladleful of cream gravy. Big boys would want a double. Hamburger stew or bean soup was often served, along with a canned vegetable and often a little dish of canned fruit. And always a half-pint carton of milk. Those who brought their lunch from home might eat a PB & J or tuna sandwich wrapped in wax paper, an apple and a cookie, and would purchase milk for five cents.

Cecil Loose was principal in the old school and stayed on for a few years at the new school until Mr. Englebritsen took over the job. Then during the Second World War Beatrice Cole, who had grown up in Tualatin, and taught at the new school, was hired as principal. John Brown took her place when she left to marry the



Tualatin Elementary School was state of the art in its time. The school board borrowed the plans from Collins View School, and the bricks were hauled in from Willamina. Teachers would open the windows on warm days with a long pole with a hook on the end.



The brick school on Boones Ferry Road was the starting place for the Crawfish Festival parade for many years.

school board director John Hinderman. Pearl Jaeger, Lila King and Evie Andrews were just three of the teachers who spent their entire career at Tualatin elementary, sometimes teaching three generations of the same family.

Eventually kindergarten classes were added and in the 1960s students who lived in the Tigard district went to Tuality Junior High for 6th and 7th grades, and those in the Sherwood district stayed at



No baggy uniforms for this 1945 basketball team! Proudly posing along the road in front of the brick school in their maroon satin trunks and jerseys are left to right: Jack Holman, Harold Vick, Claude Shannon, Einar Peterson, Bob Hunt, Stanley Sherman, ??????, Larry Lee and Glen Lundy. In the background on the left side is the Logan house, and on the right is the Munikma dairy barn.

Tualatin Elementary through 8th grade.

The fine gymnasium was the site of many basketball games as well as the annual Fireman's Ball. Carnivals and auctions held in the gym helped raise funds for equipment or to aid a needy Tualatin neighbor. In the

early days, cross-out softball, hop scotch, marbles and jump rope were the favorite games to play outside at recess. Over the decades that followed soccer fields, extra classrooms, a library and outdoor covered playgrounds were added to the campus.

The old brick Tualatin Elementary was honored to have had two Oregon Teachers of the Year, Evie Andrews and Joy Lindner. It would be hard to count how many kids learned their ABCs

at Tualatin's brick school, but it must be in the thousands. The old school had asbestos problems and was not earth quake safe. It closed in 2004 and a new school opened that fall on 95th Avenue. Now 580 students eat lunch, play games and learn much more than

the three R's at the new Tualatin Elementary School.

And now, like the phoenix rising from the ashes, a new elderly care facility will be built on the site of the old brick school. Maybe some of the brick school's former students will be living there someday. Like one old farmer used to say "What goes around, comes around."

Photos courtesy of the Tualatin Historical Society