

Pacheco Union Elementary School District Centennial . . . A Continuing Epoch

Churn Creek Bottom, or Churn Creek Valley, as the residents of this area refer to it, was settled in the early 1800's. Some of the early settlers were the families of Tracy, Logan, Harris, Parsons, Deakins, Hampton, Dinsmore, MacFarland, Love, Howard, Schaub, Saxon, McKinnon, Beach, Robinson, Pool, Edge, Brimmer, Hill, and Weir. Descendants of these early families still live in Shasta County and take part in its growth and progress.

These first settlers contributed greatly to Shasta County's agriculture, history, education, and culture. We are particularly interested in the development of education in Churn Creek Valley.

Before 1875, school was held in private homes in the valley. The teacher boarded with various families, one week at a time. School would be held at the home where the teacher boarded that week, then on to another home the following week. Records of the school and its affairs are somewhat vague, and there are many gaps in the accounts as to dates and activities.

A step forward was made as to school housing when a hog barn was converted into a school house and a bell for the building was purchased in 1875. This school house was on the Jim Beach ranch. Due to the manner in which the building was constructed, the hogs could enter the place at night and sleep there. Water for school use had to be carried in buckets from a ranch a quarter of a mile away. It was mainly on account of the hogs' night quarters that the three-member school board decided that a new school house was in order.

Land values were low. Taxes at that time were \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. Money needed for the new school building would be between \$55 and \$1500. Even this low estimate seemed huge to many residents. There was much opposition to the proposed bond. A bond on the district had to be passed to secure funds for the new building. The majority of the people in the district thought that if they just didn't vote, the bond would fail. These people didn't vote, but five favorable votes were cast and the bond carried.



The new school-house was built on a site donated by the Isaac C. Morgan family about half way down the valley. The construction of the school-house was started in 1883 and was completed in 1884. A Mr. Logan was a board member at this time; and near the completion of the structure, a school official was a guest at the Logan home one evening. During the course of the evening's conversation, the topic of the new school arose. Up to this time, the area had no official name. Mrs. Logan suggested that the school district be named in honor of General Pacheco who was governor of California for a short time. The suggestion was favorably received, and in 1884 the Churn Creek area became Pacheco School District.

The building was a white, one-room frame structure with high and long old-fashioned windows on the south and north sides. It had a belfry which held the large bell. The bell was rung each morning at 8:30 a.m. by the janitor, and by the teacher at 9:00 a.m. to call the class to order. Old-timers remember the bell being used as a fire alarm or as a help signal.

The school-house was heated by a large wood furnace with pipes hanging from the ceiling to carry heat throughout the room. Later, with volunteer labor, the furnace was replaced by a pot-bellied stove.

With the building of Shasta Dam and the general advancement of Shasta County, people demanded better educational facilities. In the wake of these newer educational demands, the one-teacher school was doomed. In many cases, it was found that there were not enough children in a district to open a fall term of school. The few children in such a district were transported to an adjoining district. These small schools were very expensive to operate and often didn't have the best facilities. As time went on, more and more small schools were annexed to larger and better equipped school districts. Prairie District, which lay south of Pacheco, was the first to be annexed to Pacheco. This was on January 16, 1951. Pacheco District now became Pacheco UNION School District.

Like the original Pacheco District, the Prairie District had many early-day settlers who were the founders of the Prairie community. Family names such as St. Vrain, Stevenson, Stennison, Craven, Dillon, Severtson, and others, were among the first settlers in that area.

The trend to phase out the smaller districts continued, and in July, 1963, the Sacramento River District, established in 1863, which is east of Pacheco, was annexed to the new union district. The following December, the Pacheco Union School District Board of Trustees voted to accept any portion of the Parkville District. This district lay father east and south of Pacheco. The annexation date notice by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors was March 2, 1964. Names like Beatie, Jensen, McMullen, Reed, Halesman, McWhennie, Ross, Brightman, Rolison, Kuney, Peacock, Leas, Daymon, Vestal, Hickman, Lack, Dersch, and Hawes were some of the early settlers in these areas. These people and their descendents have made, and are still making, great contributions to Pacheco Union School District and to Shasta County.

A peculiarity of the Pacheco Union School District is that it is divided between Shasta Union High School District and Anderson Union High School District. The eighth-grade graduates go in two different directions to high school. Through the years, Pacheco's students have received high scholastic and athletic honors in both schools.

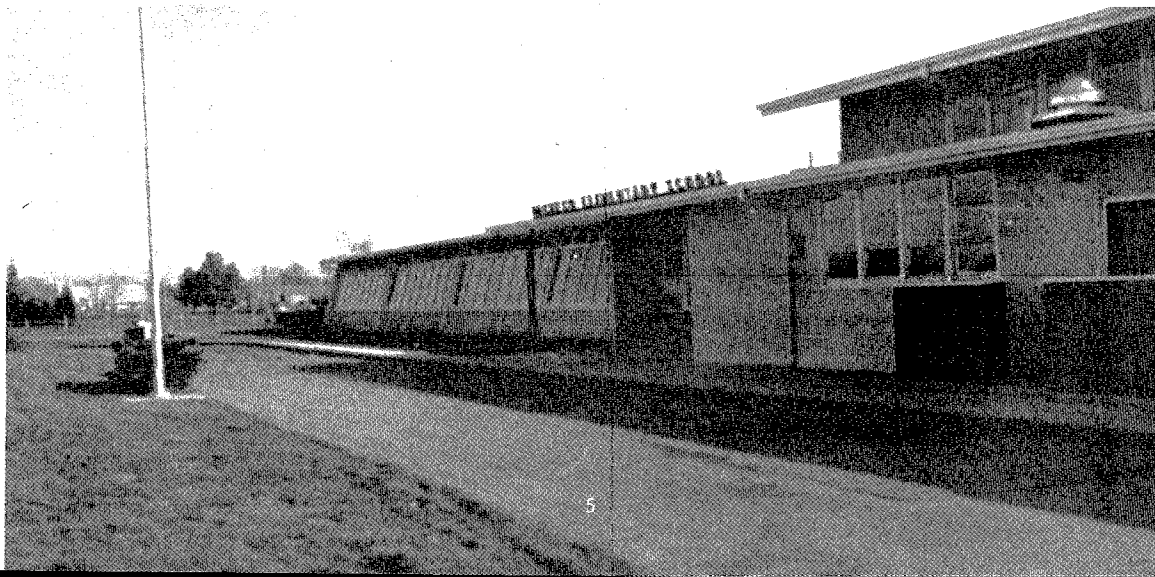
Today, Pacheco Union School District covers about twenty-five square miles in area. There are two school plants. One is on the last purchased site of the Pacheco area, and the school is known as the Pacheco School. The other plant is located on the Dersch Road in the Prairie area and is called Prairie School. New land was purchased on which to build this school. Prairie has seven classrooms and one multi-purpose room.

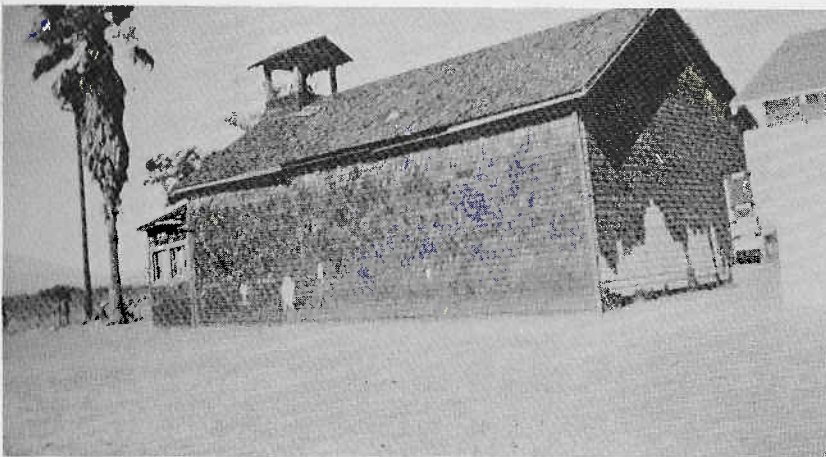
At the Pacheco School, new classroom wings have been added. A multi-purpose room, an additional office, a kindergarten room, and a tool shed have recently been built. The school has a large conditioned play area which is equipped for a well-rounded physical education program.

The district employs thirty-one classroom teachers, one principal, one superintendent, four full time teachers' aides, and eight part time teachers' aides. There are four buses that cover the district for rapid transportation. The maintenance of the plants is done by four custodians. Adequate lunches are served by five cooks. Four secretaries, one of whom is an educational secretary, have charge of the offices.

A well stocked library under the direction of a library aide provides ample reference and reading material for the students. The district contracts for other services for the students from the County Superintendent of Schools Office. The children of Pacheco Union School District have every advantage of children living in metropolitan areas. Pacheco ranks high in scholastic achievements and it carries on several innovative programs at the local, state and federal level.

The year 1975 has been designated as the centennial year for this district. The summation of the progress and development of education through the years in the Pacheco Union School District proves that it is, indeed, a continuing EPOCH.





Thanks to Mrs. Evelyn Mann and Vern Parsons for pictures



Old Timer
Wm. Logan

Old Pacheco School



Left to Right
Roy Deakin
Ralph Wier
Roy Thompson
Willie Deason
Wayne Parson



Former
Pacheco
Students.

Ralph Wier, Alta Wier, Edge Dinsmore, Wayne Parsons, Louise Logan, Leland Harris,
Roy Thompson, Edith Harris.

Our thanks to Mrs Richard Roberts, Mrs. Robert Clover and Mr. Vern Parsons
who worked on the committee which compiled the Facts and History presented here.

The editors.

Pacheco School 1928

