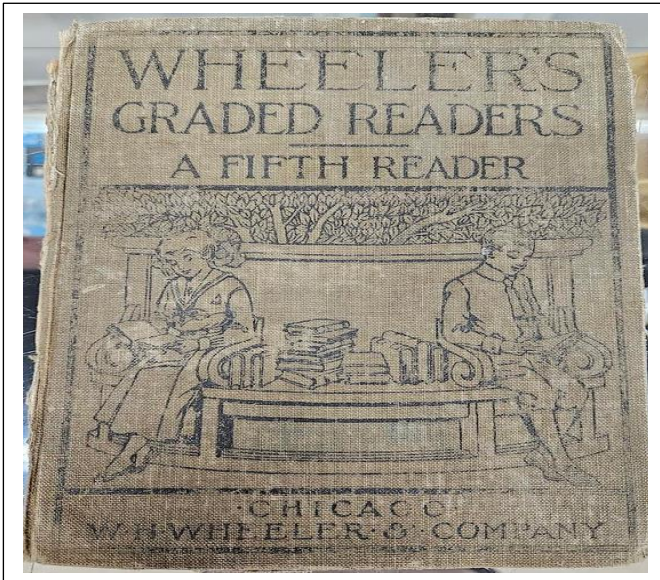




Siuslaw Pioneer Museum



Graded Reader for elementary students - SPM



Remington Standard Typewriter 1880-1890 SPM

*Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Association, Inc.
A non-profit 501(c)3 organization*

Our Mission

The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is an educational and repository facility that demonstrates the history, the vision, the vitality, and the values and culture of the peoples of the Siuslaw Valley and coastal region.

Museum & Library Hours

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is currently open
Wed - Sun from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Non-member admission is \$7.00

Kyle Research Library is attached to the museum and houses historical documents.
Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
and by appointment.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2637 Florence, OR 97439

Phone (541) 997-7884

Layout: Kyle Research Library Volunteer Staff
*We reserve the right to edit or reject any article.
Published Quarterly*

When does one acquire the desire to learn about their past?

Most people don't start to think about their ancestry until later in life when they begin to look backwards instead of forwards. We are so busy living our younger years, acquiring knowledge, raising families, making a living, enjoying being alive. How do we introduce younger generations to their ancestral heritage?

When I was a child, my parents took us on a trip each summer to historical places in the USA. We visited national parks, cities where our ancestors had lived, museums, etc. It wasn't until decades later that I realized what a huge impact those trips had on how I viewed the world. Now it helps me understand my ancestors and their impact on my life.

Our focus for the future (with this newsletter) is to present the history of the Siuslaw Valley and introduce you to some of the inventory in the pioneer museum. We hope you have an opportunity to visit us; but if you don't then this is the next best thing! Your continuing support thrills us and assures future generations will be able to see the historical aspects of the Siuslaw Valley.

See you in January 2025 as the story continues!

*Merilee Mulvey, Volunteer Editor
Kyle Research Library at SPM*

The times they are a-changin' ... with our Newsletter!

We appreciate your patience this year since a few newsletter issues were missed. There has been a transition of volunteers at the museum and as a result, decisions are being made about various job responsibilities of the volunteers. A new look to the newsletter is evolving. Please feel free to comment on what you like and where we can use improvement!

One continuing theme of the newsletter will be towards providing you, the reader, a LOT of content about the *People, Places, Things, Events* that the museum represents about the history of the Siuslaw Valley. Our first major series in the new edition will be a year-long study of the KYLE and BERGMAN families, who were prominent early settlers in Florence. We'll be tracking their ancestry beginning as they came from countries in Europe to the Pacific Coast of the USA. Side articles will focus on topics related to their journeys so the reader can understand what life was like during the last 150 years. One of our volunteers lives in the KYLE house in Old Town Florence and will be co-authoring the series.

So... Stay Tuned!

Newsletter email: siuslawpioneermuseum@gmail.com

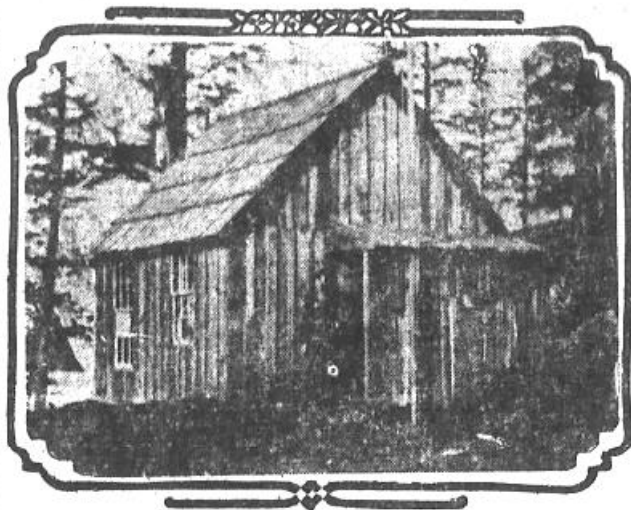
PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS, EVENTS

LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL AT HECETA

Heceta Head was a remote location in the late nineteenth century. As a result, Heceta Head had its own post office and a school district with a one-room schoolhouse. Its teacher taught the children of the Lighthouse Keepers and area ranchers and farmers. One teacher taught all eight grades. In 1916, a larger school house was built for the fourteen students then in attendance; nine of the pupils were Light House Keepers' children. The seclusion resulted in tragedy for the first Keeper, Andrew Hald, when his wife suffered a serious illness and his infant daughter died from lack of timely medical attention.

Source: <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/heceta-head-lighthouse/>

GIRL FINDS LANE COUNTY'S LOST SCHOOL ON LONG RIDE



Heceta school, one of Lane county's rural institutions, visited by Miss Goldie Von Bibber, supervisor, on her 130 mile horseback ride over her district. On a little gray pony she made the trip unattended.

Source: The Oregon Daily Journal; 9 Mar 1913; Portland OR;

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/78409135/>

Florence, OR., March 8 – **Miss Goldie Van Bibber**, school superintendent, has just completed, in the cause of education, another expedition into Lane county's frontier. All alone and mounted on her little gray pony, she made this trip, which, in its length and in the isolation of its course, marks the culmination of her increasingly daring journeys.

She rode from Mapleton to Deadwood, thence to the Alsea Road within a mile of the Alsea River, from there to Fisher post office, over the Alsea mountain to Upper Yachats, down the Yachats to Ocean View, **along the beach to Heceta**, from Heceta to Mercer Lake, and from Mercer Lake back to Mapleton, a distance altogether of about 130 miles.

Continued on page 3

Miss Van Bibber did not meet with so much personal adventure as usual, but found the trip fruitful, as always, of human interest. At Five Rivers school she found a teacher whom she guessed to be about 70 years old and who made the introduction to every recitation a lecture to some individual of the class and the invariable peroration a lecture to the class as a whole.

On this trip she also visited Denzer, a school which she had never before visited, because she could not find it. Supervisor, Mickey, thinking at first that it was in his district, made a futile search for it last year. Then Miss Van Bibber, learning that it was in her district, made a trip to find it but failed to do so. Then one day a man saying he hailed from no less a place

than Denzer, came into the county superintendent's office at Eugene and wanted to know what prejudice kept the supervisor from visiting Denzer.

Directions were obtained and Miss Van Bibber found it this time without difficulty. The teacher is a woman between 40 and 60 years old and this is her first school. All her life, she confessed to Miss Van Bibber, she had wanted to teach and at last she had reached the cherished goal. Miss Van Bibber found her to be a regular encyclopedia of literature gathered in a long life of desultory reading, but of formal training she had practically none. The school at the mouth of **Ten Mile creek**, now for the first time in several years, has a teacher.

GOLDIE VAN BIBBER



Excerpts from a story written by KRL volunteer, Deborah J. Lobey and researched by volunteer Sharon LaDuke Waite for the KRL in November 2021.

Goldie's father moved to Colorado from Kentucky to acquire land as part of the Homestead Act of 1862. Her mother was the first teacher in the Gunnison Valley, Colorado in 1882. Goldie was born on February 28, 1885. During her childhood, the family relocated from Colorado to California before moving to Oregon.

At age 18 (in 1903) Goldie began teaching in eastern Oregon at a rural school in Prairie City. She attended the University of Oregon and an undergraduate in 1911, Goldie was appointed by Lane County as rural school supervisor for the Siuslaw Valley, considered to be the most remote and inaccessible area in the state. Her role was to supervise 31 of the coastal districts, with headquarters in Florence. She was given a salary of \$1,000.00 per year.

Her work has been described as 'revolutionary.' Among her many accomplishments was the creation of a program to teach school children, in Lane County, the elementary principles of road building. Approved by the County, the students used a short strip of road in front of or adjacent to the school house to perform the task, which replaced an existing mud path. A road-building primer for the students was prepared by the County Supervisor, designed to provide map-making skills, acquaint the students with construction methods, and the value of good roads, and at the same time, allowed the County to keep abreast of the industrious endeavor.

There is a large file of information in the Kyle Research Library that covers her long and interesting life and career. We think you'll enjoy learning more about her!



TEN MILE CREEK SCHOOL

Source: Excerpt from an article in *The Oregonian* newspaper; Eugene, OR 5 Jul 1914

Ten Mile school was located in a little hunter's cabin from which the little window in which one may throw a stone into the Pacific Ocean. It is near Cape Perpetua almost on the Linn and Lincoln County line. Miss Jean Sharman, of Ocean View, is teacher.

More on Miss Van Bibber...

Twenty school children, from 6 to 12 years old, attending the Chickahominy school, have built a better piece of road than the pupils of any other school in the Siuslaw supervisory district. The little white school house in the mountains 30 miles west of Eugene has received two silver trophies. It celebrated the winning of a unique contest, but one which has been so successful that it is to be perpetuated, not alone in the mountainous school district, but all over Lane County.

Early last fall a girl Supervisor who looks after 30 schools in a mountainous coast region, traveling along on horseback and on foot, entered the office of the County Judge. "I want to use some of Lane County's roads for laboratories for my students," she said. She outlined a plan to the County Judge that he since declares the most important step ever taken in road construction in Lane County.

"I want to give them an idea of what well-constructed roads are," she said. "I want the pupils who live in the country and who are farmers of tomorrow to have an idea of the principles, the work and the expense in constructing permanent roads. As future taxpayers they will know that there is only one kind of a road to accept and they will pay for the road when they get it. Not many of them will be actual road builders when they grow up, but they will know how."



(Oceanview) Ten Mile School

The County Judge looked at the girl in astonishment. "You may use the roads," he said. "You may call on the county road supervisors for assistance. You may have anything you wish, if you can only make that plan work. What is more, I will donate to you two silver cups which you can hang as prizes. I will have the County Engineer write a textbook; it will be a road primer made for Lane County road building."

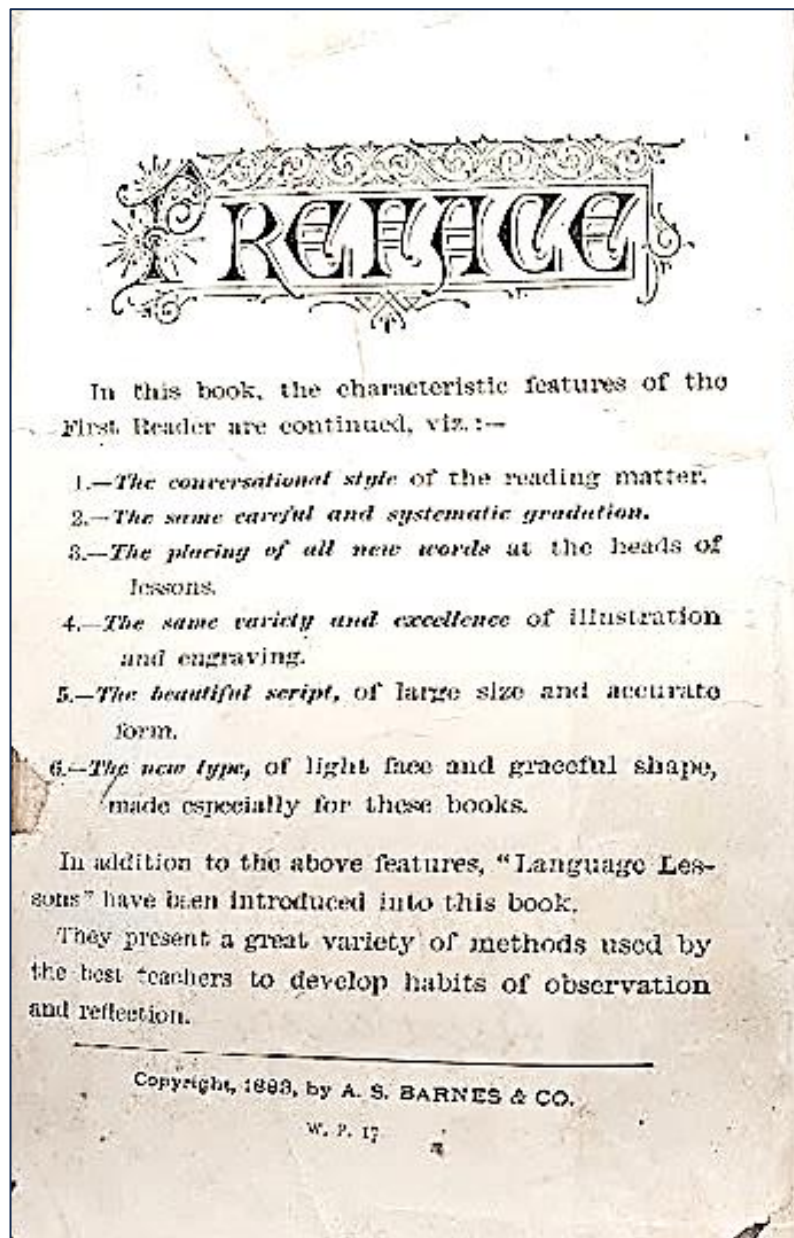
The road primer was written and published at the expense of the Judge. The cups were hung up and the contest announced. Other schools competed. The children all over the district-built roads. Some of the schools in the Siuslaw are not on roads. So, they widened the trails past the log school buildings. Ten Mile school students won honorable mention. Chickahominy school won both silver cups.

Editor's Note: Can you imagine being a young lady riding around a heavily wooded county to little hamlets here and there, ALONE, checking on her students?!

PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS, EVENTS

PORTAGE SCHOOL – AKA NORTH FORK SCHOOL

Did you ever wonder what life was like 100 years ago in little one room school houses in a sparsely populated area like the Siuslaw Valley? Well, we'll begin with one of the first schools in the valley. The name of the school was PORTAGE and it was often referred to as the NORTH FORK school probably because the school was situated near a bridge that went over the North Fork River.



According to some recorded stories on file in our Kyle Research Library, a member of the McCain family recounted, "In 1882, there was a small house on the Portage Farm which was located across the river (sic- North Fork) from the present North Fork Grange Hall. The building was near the brick kiln.

The community bought it for a small fee (\$30) and it was used for a school. The river near the school made a big bend, so the Indians carried boats overland between the two navigable bodies of water to save time and energy from traveling the loop."

A story told by La Vaughn Vanderburg Kemnow notes that the first school teacher in Western Lane County, in 1884, was La Vaughn's father Warren Vanderburg's aunt, **Caroline Vanderburg**. Caroline had come with her family from Iowa by wagon train to Oregon in 1864, at the age of eighteen.

Another archival record source from La Vaughn mentioned that in the early days, teachers would "board around" – stay with each family for a few weeks. In this way the families would contribute to the cost of educating their children.

Later the teacher would live with one family throughout the school term. Most often, teachers at the Portage school boarded with his great-grandparents Amos and Clara Gamble Haring.

We encourage you to visit the Kyle Research Library to learn more about the North Fork/Portage School

This is an image of the Barnes New National "Second Reader" book published by American Book Company in 1883. This book was used at Portage School.



This is a photo of the children attending Portage School in 1929.

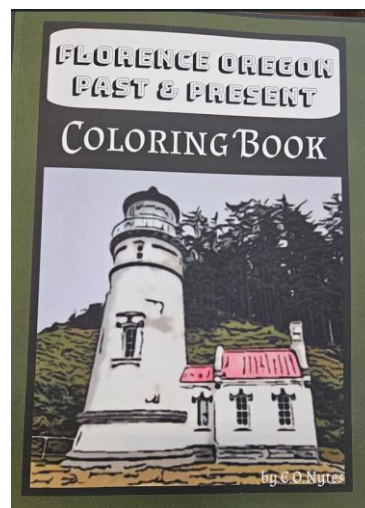
Visit Our Website

Everything you need to know about the museum and research library are in one convenient spot... our website!

www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com

- Meet your museum board and trustees.
- Pick your membership level of support.
- Look up ancestors on the family name index.
- View oral history stories of Pioneers & families.
- Contact us with your message/question.
- MUCH MORE!

Museum Gift Shop



Upcoming Events

October-December 2024

Oct 14 Board Meeting at museum
Nov 11 Board Meeting at museum
Dec 9 Board Meeting at museum

Keep abreast of happenings at the museum...

Visit us at:

e-mail library@siuslawpioneermuseum.com

★ website www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Siuslaw-Pioneer-Museum>

Newsletter: siuslawpioneermuseum@gmail.com

Endowment Fund

An endowment fund in the Museum's name has been established with many financial gifts from our members. Donors who wish to contribute to this fund should make their contribution payable to:

"Western Lane Community Foundation"
and specify

"Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Endowment"
on the check

Mail check to:
Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
P. O. Box 2637
Florence, OR 97439

Please keep in mind that checks specified to the endowment fund are to be used as specified by the endowment maker for special projects or the general endowment held by the foundation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – Please Print

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Name of your business _____

Sponsor, Patron, & Lifetime levels link your business web address on the museum website

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____ New mbr _____ Renewing mbr _____

Make Check Payable to: Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Member year runs Jan 1 – Dec 31

MAIL TO: Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, PO Box 2637, Florence OR 97439

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Individual	\$20.00	Business/Organization	\$35.00	Patron	\$165.00
Family	\$25.00	Sponsor	\$90.00	Lifetime	\$1,100.00

If you wish to pay by credit card, you are welcome to go to our website membership section



P.O. Box 2637

Florence OR 97439

Return Service Requested

MAILING LABEL

SIUSLAW PIONEER MUSEUM



The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is located on the corner of 2nd and Maple streets in Old Town Florence.

Our location address is:
278 Maple Street

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 2637
Florence OR 97439

Meet our Board of Directors and Trustees

President: Pamela Mann
Vice President: Craig Sanders
Secretary: Amy Graham
Treasurer: Dorothy Hosking

Trustees:
John Barnes
Annie Schmidt
Jesse Beers
Pat Rongey
Carl Frazier
Kyle Lewis
Jared Anderson
Steve Skidmore

Board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the museum. These meetings are open to all members. Call ahead for space availability.