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## Ben & Bertha Baker

### Robert “Ben” Baker

Born: 1901 Wisconsin  
Father & Mother’s Birth Place: Wisconsin

### Bertha (Gigler) Baker

Born: 1907 Oregon  
Father’s Birth Place: Germany  
Mother’s Birth Place: Oklahoma

**1912 -20** Three Pines was recently developed and a going concern in 1912 with over a hundred citizens; a brand new one-year old school. By 1917 the Three Pines Lumber Company was in financial trouble and the town was in decline. In 1920 all that was left of the Town of Three Pines was some homes and the Three Pines School.

### 1920 Census. Fruitdale, Josephine Co., OR

Andrew Gigler	Head	47 years	Germany
Mary Gigler	Wife	33 years	Ohio
<u>Bertha Gigler</u>	<u>Dau</u>	<u>13 years</u>	<u>Oregon</u>
Julia Gigler	Dau	9 years	Oregon
Andrew Gigler	Son	5 years	Oregon

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1. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Verlin Clare Grimes’ Three Pines & Hugo Memories: 1913 - 2002*. Hugo, OR.

2. Hugo Neighborhood. 2000. *Carrol E. Brown’s Hugo Memories: 1916 - 2000*. Hugo, OR.

3. Walker, Mike. February 12, 2008. *Wayne & Janet Mcky and DeLoss and Jeanette Downes Interview about Hugo Settlers*. Hugo, OR.

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## The Baker Family, Hugo Settlers: ca., 1925 - 1934

**1928 Baker’s Three Pines Home** “*Verlin’s [Grimes] eighth grade teacher [Three Pines School] was Bertha Gigler. She later married Ben Baker, who was a logger and miner up Jump-off Joe Creek. She married Ben the same year that Verlin graduated from the eighth grade in May 1928. After they were married Ben and Bertha lived in a little yellow house about 50 feet from the Ludwick home. The yellow house had previously been used as an office when the old planning mill was operating in Three Pines ca 1910 - 1914. The Grimes family eventually tore the old yellow house down and used the wood to remodel their own home.*”<sup>1</sup>

**1929** Ben Baker was a logger, miner, and Carrol Brown’s scoutmaster. Carrol spent a lot of time placer mining with Baker during the 1929 - 1935 period. They used a sluice box/rocker while gold mining on the Rogue River from Grants Pass to Grave Creek. Sixteen old Carrol summer logged with Barker around Fort Klamath.<sup>2</sup>

### 1930 Census. Lucky Queen, Josephine Co., OR

<u>Robert Baker</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Gold Miner</u>	<u>29 years</u>	<u>WI</u>
<u>Bertha Baker</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>23 years</u>	<u>OR</u>

**1931** Mrs. Bertha Baker, our grade teacher for next year, has finished her course at Southern Oregon Normal school and is residing in a tent near the new home now being built. *Grants Pass Bulletin*. August 28, 1931. [Hugo Items](#).

**Baker’s Hugo Home** “*During the summer of 1931 Frank Holden and Lela Sexton and others quit claimed about three acres just south of the school [ Hugo] to Ben and Bertha (Gigler) Baker. The couple built a little house there right next to the church [Hugo]. Bertha Baker taught at the Hugo Elementary School. Later after the Bakers left the little house became a room for the teachers.*”<sup>1</sup>

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## Gold Miner & School Teacher

**Teacherage & Parsonage** The home the Bakers built would become a teacherage for the Hugo School, and eventually became a parsonage for the Hugo Community Church.

**1932** At their meeting last week, the school board of Dist. 22, Hugo, reelected Mrs. Bertha Baker to the grade school and Mrs. Rena Hales Holdman to the high school. *Grants Pass Bulletin*, March 4, 1932. Hugo Items. “Bud” or Charles Baker of Eureka and his sister, Miss Ethyl Baker, of Gold Beach, arrived at the Baker home for the July 4 holidays. *Grants Pass Daily Courier*, July 8, 1932. By H. E. Walker. [Three Pines](#).

**1933** At the last meeting of the school board Mr. Earle A. Brown, formerly of Medford and Ione, was elected to teach the high school next year. Mrs. Bertha Baker is to have the grade school work again. *Grants Pass Bulletin*, February 24, 1933. [Hugo](#).

**1934** Teacher Baker, passed away in 1934.

**1930s - 1940s** Ben Barker and Glen McKy were partners at the Hyden Mine (hard rock gold mine) and in other mining ventures. He had a lot of mining claims around the county with his dad, George Baker. They also lived up Jumpoff Joe Creek.<sup>3</sup>

**Want more information?** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community’s history and land use.

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## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: [hugo@jeffnet.org](mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org)

Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>

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## “BEN” BAKER FAMILY: HUGO SETTLERS



Very Draft  
Brochure 17 Of Hugo's Early  
Settler Brochure Series



*Hugo School Teacherage &  
Hugo Community Church Parsonage*

**Not Quality Controlled, Nor Edited**

Brochure 17 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series

HNA & HS 2008 -17

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**February 13, 2008**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**