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## Lucky Queen School: 1894 - 1896

**1892** On April 13, 1892, Caroline Stumbo Niday Sexton, owner of large tracts of land in the area, and original Donation Land claimant, granted two acres of land to School District #22 of the Lucky Queen Precinct for a school to be built.



**Caroline Sexton**

**1894** Josephine County School records indicate that District #22 was officially recognized in 1894. The area, which it served, was known as the Lucky Queen voting precinct that was named for the successfully producing gold mine several miles east of the stage road. The Hugo Post Office was established in August 22, 1896 and closed January 31, 1956. It was named Hugo for Hugo Garbers, a prominent local resident. Previously the area had been known as Gravel Pit Station after Southern Pacific Railroad's flag depot. The school building built in 1894 was named the Lucky Queen School. The Gravel Pit Station railroad depot was built in the mid-1880's and was located directly across from the Lucky Queen School on a silica ledge within the railroad right-of-way.

## Hugo School: 1897 - 1912

**1897** The Lucky Queen School later became known as the Hugo School ca. 1897 and served the area until a new school building was erected in 1912.

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## Mt. Sexton Grange: 1912 - 1931

The Mt. Sexton Grange purchased the old school building from School District #22 and served the community well from 1912 - 1931.

**1912** "The Hugo school district is constructing a modern school building to replace the old one, which was sold to the Hugo Grange. The Grange is remodeling the old structure, building on a kitchen, and making other alterations that will create from it a meeting place not only for sessions of the Grange, but for all social gathering as well." Rogue River Courier. September 13, 1912. Hugo Grange Hall.

## Hugo Community Club: 1931 - 1940

**1931** The Hugo Community Club purchased the old school building from the Mt. Sexton Grange of Hugo, State of Oregon for the sum of \$70.00 on March 31, 1931.

## Hugo Ladies Club: 1922-Present

The Hugo Ladies Club has been in existence since the early 1900s, when women living in this rural community gathered bi-monthly in one another's homes for a "bountiful dinner", recitations, singing and games, and an afternoon of sewing for the Red Cross or for the hospital in Grants Pass. The name of the group often depended on who was taking minutes. Initially the women referred to themselves as the 'Ladies Circle'. Over the years there were Halloween parties, Fools Day parties, May Day celebrations, fairs, carnivals and quilt exhibits with ribbons awarded.

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## Hugo Ladies Club Officially Organized: 1922

**1922** "The Hugo Women's club was organized Friday afternoon at a meeting of the women of the community at the grange hall. Officers were elected and it was decided that meetings shall be held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The object of the organization will be to work for the betterment of the community, to improve the school grounds, investigate the possibility of electricity for the community, consider the idea of a branch library and to do some work along the line of home problems.

Mrs. J. E. Hair and Miss Jessie Griswold assisted in the organization of the club, drawing up a tentative constitution and suggesting a number of different lines of work the club might follow. Mrs. Hair is president of the Grants Pass Women's club and Miss Griswold is home demonstrator for the county.

Officers elected at the meeting were Mrs. L. M. Brittsan, president; Mrs. C. [Charles] D. Sexton, vice president; Mrs. C. F. Smith, secretary, and Mrs. J. T. McKy, treasurer." Grants Pass Daily Courier, Saturday, May 13, 1922.

The Club's constitution would evolve over the years into the current By-Laws and Rules. The building would later be fitted with an electric box on the back porch holding three fuses; which in turn serviced the grange/club until the early 1990's when the system was changed into a moderate breaker system.

**1932** In March of 1932, the group decided to reorganize as "Home Demonstration Unit No. 14" but after one year voted to drop their affiliation with the home extension program and become again the "Ladies Circle" or "Ladies Club".

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## Ladies Club Purchases the Old School Building: 1940

**1935** In September of 1935, Dr. Mable Holgate, a member of the club, donated a collection of her own books as the nucleus of the Hugo library to be housed at the Community Center under the club's sponsorship. The stamp for the books read "Hugo Ladies Club". "Schoolhouse Quilters" was added to the name in the mid-1990's when the focus of the club changed, and for years the club has been distinguished for exquisite hand quilting.

**1940** The Hugo Ladies Club purchased the old school building from the Hugo Community Club for the sum of \$1.00 on August 19, 1940.



**1977** The Hugo Ladies Club held their first quilt show in 1977.

The Hugo Ladies Club has made numerous improvements to the building. Electrical fans, florescent light fixtures, corner spotlights, running water, foundation, new metal roof, culverts and storage buildings were installed. The building has been repainted several times, the porch rebuilt, kitchen remodeled, electrical system enhanced and landscaping improved. In approximately 1995, the old oval wood burning stove obtained from the historic Winona School was replaced with an oil burning unit.

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## Club Charities

Club members feel fortunate to own such an historic building, and its preservation and maintenance are a high priority of the group. The Hugo Ladies Club currently has several charities which they support: Women's Crisis Center, Food Access Center, Memory or Grieving Quilts which service Three Rivers Hospital Neo Natal Unit, Christmas toys and games for the Young Marines, special projects for such groups as Caps for Cancer Patients, special projects for the Grants Pass Rescue Mission, quilts for Vets as well as fire quilts kept on hand for people who have lost their homes due to fire. The Club meets every Friday. Members may also meet on Tuesdays to work on personal quilting projects.



**Hugo Ladies Club, 6050 Hugo Rd., Hugo, Oregon 97526**

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## HUGO LADIES CLUB HISTORIC BUILDING



**Created by Karen Rose  
of  
Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
&  
Hugo Ladies Club**