

HUGO LADIES CLUB HISTORIC BUILDING

August 20, 2011

By Karen Rose, Member of the Hugo Ladies Club and Member and Editor of HNA&HS.

LUCKY QUEEN SCHOOL / HUGO SCHOOL: 1894 – 1912

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 Niday came west with her husband Hiram Niday and took Donation Land Claim #40 of 321.88 acres in December of 1853. Hiram died March 19, 1855, and Caroline and her children inherited the property. She later married David Sexton (local Indian fighter) in 1857 and the two acquired additional lands in the area. The earliest trail (Applegate Trail) and stage route led directly through the land claim and "the widow Niday's" house is noted in all the earliest General Land Office survey records in 1856. Mount Sexton was named for the Sexton family.

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 (closed January 31, 1956) and the area near the railroad called Gravel Pit Station, was named Hugo for Hugo Garbers, a prominent local resident. 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.

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.

The former Hugo School, current Hugo Ladies Club, stands several yards from Hugo Road in a small meadow among mature oaks. Its location, some distance away from the second Hugo School indicates that the center of the community had shifted closer to the second Hugo Depot built in 1913. The Southern Pacific Railroad developed the second Hugo Depot at railroad milepost 487.4 and the yard had a siding, passing line, main line, section house, bunkhouses, and depot.



Hugo Ladies Club

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 *1*“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.**

1913 “A pleasant evening was spent at the Grange Hall Saturday in tripping the fantastic toe to the strains of the orchestra.” **Rogue River Courier. January 18, 1913. Hugo Items.**

1“Our grange is a help, provides a place of amusement for the young and an educational afternoon once a month for all.” **Rogue River Courier. April 4, 1913. Hugo Items.**

“The young men of Hugo have started a skating rink. An athletic club would be beneficial and interesting here.” **Rogue River Courier. April 4, 1913. Hugo Items.**

“Grange picnic next Saturday, May 24. All are invited to come and bring their lunch as a good time is anticipated. All are anxious to hear President Chas. Sexton’s report from the state grange. Dance in the evening and good music.” **Rogue River Courier. May 28, 1913. Hugo Items.**

“The grange intends to celebrate the Fourth of July at Hugo. All are invited to attend and a good time is anticipated.” **Rogue River Courier. June 6, 1913. Hugo Items.**

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.

The 14 members at this time were: Thos. MacKenzie, Glen W. McKy, R. G. Fenton, Truman Sommers, Walter W. Penny, D. E. Heller, C. A. Erickson, L. E. Brown, Peter Pirzer, Wm. MacKenzie, Mrs. Jennie Beveridge Estate, Loraine W. Grimes, Henry C. Peterson and Mrs. Susie Peterson.

Maxine Brown Rogers’ Hugo memories:

“Maxine took piano lessons from Lily MacKenzie, who taught any interested youngster in Hugo. No charge. She always walked, every Saturday, down to the church or the community hall to give these lessons. Carrol Brown, Maxine’s brother, learned to play the clarinet. Maxine was not a great pianist, but she always enjoyed good music.”

Carrol Brown’s Hugo memories:

“The school had a piano and when there was a wintertime dance at the old grange hall they would put it into the wagon and take it down there.”

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.

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.**

This constitution would evolve over the years into the Club's 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.

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".

1932 *"Our Ladies' Circle, a group of homemakers meeting bi-monthly for several years past, reorganized last week into Home Demonstration Unit No. 14 in order to be more closely connected with the extension work."* **Grants Pass Bulletin, March 25, 1932. Hugo Items.**

1933 *"The Ladies Circle will meet with Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. L. E. Brown next Thursday, March 16. This circle has dropped out of the demonstration group and is doing relief work along with other relief groups of the county. Another quilt will be prepared next week."* **Grants Pass Bulletin, March 10, 1933.**

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. Approximately 1995, the old oval wood-burning stove obtained from the historic Winona School was replaced with an oil-burning unit.

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 & 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.

DEED DETAILS:

1WARRANTY DEED –113th day of April A. D. 1892.

(Josephine County, Oregon, Deed Records: Volume 10, Page 457)

“1This Indenture Witnessed That Caroline Sexton of Lucky Queen County, State of Josephine the grantor herein, for the consideration of the sum of dollars to in hand paid, the receipt where of is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto School District No. 22 of Josephine County, State of Oregon, the grantee herein, the following described premises, to-wit: (commencing at the S. E. corner of the S. E. Quarter of the S. E. Quarter of Sec. 28, T. 34, S. of R. 6 running North 360 ft. thence W. 360 ft. thence S. 360 ft. thence East 360 feet to place of beginning,) to hold and to have for school purposes only, otherwise to be reverted back to its original ownership herein or assigns forever. All the above described premises being in Josephine County, Oregon.”

1WARRANTY DEED - 131st day of March A. D. 1931.

(Josephine County, Oregon, Deed Records: Volume 71, Page 470)

“1That Mt. Sexton Grange of Hugo State of Oregon, in consideration of the sum of Seventy Dollars, (\$70.00) to them paid by the Hugo Community Club of Hugo State of Oregon, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said Hugo Community Club heirs and assigns, all the following bounded and described real property, situated in the County of Josephine and State of Oregon:
Commencing at the South East corner of Section 28, Township 34, South, Range 6 West of Willamette Meridian, North 360 feet, thence West 360 feet, thence South 360 feet, thence East 360 feet to place of beginning. Including all buildings now on the ground.”

1QUITCLAIM DEED FOR HUGO LADIES COMMUNITY CLUB - 119th day of August 1940.

(Josephine County, Oregon, Deed Records: Volume 92, Page 94)

“1That The Hugo Community Club, Hugo, Ore a club of fourteen (14) members for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other considerations of value do hereby remise, release and forever Quitclaim unto The Ladies’ Community Club of Hugo, Oregon all their right, title and interest in and to the following described premises, to-wit:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 28, Township 34, South Range 6 West of Willamette Meridian, North 360 feet, Thence West 360 feet thence South 360 feet, thence East 360 feet to place of beginning. Included all buildings now on the ground.”

Witnesses: 1Truman Sommers, G. W. McKy, R. G. Fenton, L. E. Brown, D. E. Heller, W. W. Penny, Peter Pirzer, Thos. Mackenzie, Wm. Mackenzie, Loraine W. Grimes, C. A. Erickson, Susie Peterson, Mrs. J. Estate Henry Peterson and his wife.

1 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

Historic Name	Lucky Queen School
Original Owner	Josephine County School District #22
Common Name	Hugo Community School
Present Owner	Hugo Ladies Community Club
Account No.	T. 34S. R6W. Section 28 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 34-6-28, TL 2200
Type	School
Built	1894 (estimated)
Style	Vernacular
Plan	Rectangular; one-story
Roof	Gable; corrugated metal; gable porch roof; composition shingle
Walls	Frame; channel siding
Windows	Two-over-two, double hung; four-over four' double hung on side elevations
Doors	Wood; four paneled; old screen; two-light transom
Decorative Elements	Cornice molding over door; long porch posts and rails; frieze boards and gable board
Foundation	None; cement porch floor
Alterations	Porch is newer
Other	Outhouse; gable roof; corrugated metal; frame channel

Sources:

Atwood, Kay. 1984. Josephine County historical resources inventory, 1983 - 1984. Pages 199 & 207. Grants Pass, OR.

Josephine County Deed Records: Vol. 10, p. 457.

Josephine County School Records.

Ledwidge, Anita; Telephone conversation February 8, 1984. Mrs. Ledwidge is a member of the Hugo Ladies Club.

Photos:



