

GOING DOWN THE SLIDE

Faye (Wingerd) Poole

8th Grade Graduate of Hugo Elementary School: 1953

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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In 1947 I was in my first year attending Hugo Elementary School. I was a 3rd grader. That winter was the coldest winter on record. We had three feet of snow at the school. Hugo seemed to get more than other places.

I and my family lived on Route 1 in northern Josephine County, Oregon. Route 1, Box 97, is now 9430 Monument Drive (see Photo 1). Our home was built by my father, Simon Wingerd. I had a sister, Wilma, and a brother, Buford (see Photo 2).

Recess and lunch hour at the Hugo Elementary School found the kids rolling large snowballs and building forts with them to hide behind. Then we needed ammunition, or smaller snowballs. With that finished, the war began of throwing snowballs and ducking behind the fort for protection. Of course there was no winners, only kids having lots of fun with freezing feet and hands, and soaking wet bodies. I don't know how we went back to the classroom and did any school work. I don't think there has been that much snow in Hugo again.



*Photo 1 Wingerd Home At Route 1, Box 97
(today 9430 Monument Drive), Hugo, Oregon*

Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole



***Photo 2 Wingerd Kids (left to right - Faye, Buford, and Wilma)
at Their Route 1 Home, Hugo, Oregon: 1949***

Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole

Now, thoughts from the lunch room:

- You always had to eat everything on your plate before you could be excused. Sometimes that was lengthy when you had winter squash and ran out of milk to wash it down. I still don't like it.
- Milk came in little glass half-pink bottles you drank with a straw.
- When you were older, you got selected to help in the kitchen doing various chores. Those days you got your lunch free.
- Bread came in wax paper wrappers rather than plastic bags. We got them from the cooks, opened them up and used them to sit on when going down the slide. The slide became so slick you could really travel fast. That was pretty scary for the little kids, but great fun for the older ones.
- At the lunch room you learned to eat fast so you could be the first ones excused, go to the gym and get the balls.

Faye (Wingerd) Poole (2000)
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