

Ruth I. Barton's Memories Of Hugo & Three Pines, Oregon: 1920 - 2000

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BARTON FAMILY SETTLED IN HUGO

1910 - Barton Family George S. Barton traveled from Maine to Nevada c. 1910 to investigate some mining claims. In Nevada he met Hazel Logan and chose her for his wife. They were married in Bishop, California May 12, 1914. Later, the Barton family moved to Oregon into the Illinois valley southwest of Grants Pass. George's interest was still mining.

1916 About 1916 the Bartons moved into Grants Pass.

1920 - Ruth Born Ruth I. Barton was born in Grants Pass on North Eighth Street on February 1, 1920.

1922 - Top Of The World Ranch About 1922 the Bartons moved from Grants Pass to the *Top Of The World Ranch*. The ranch in Hugo was about 10 miles north of Grants Pass on highway U.S. 99 (see Map One and Figure 1). George Barton left mining for awhile to work in produce.



Figure 1. Barton Family & Friends, Three Pines, Oregon: 1923 Back row, left to right - Mr. Huggins, ?, Reba Kolkow, Mrs. Dean, Clara Aggie, ?, Harold Barton, Mrs. Bear, and George Barton; Front row, left to right - Fern Barton, Coral Barton, Mrs. Hazel Barton holding baby Dorothy Barton, Mrs. Anderson, Ruth Barton, and Lester Anderson
Courtesy of Ruth (Barton) Davis

HUGO COMMUNITY CHURCH

1922 - 1927

Maggie and Jiggs The family attended the Hugo Community Church from 1922 through mid-December 1927. The church had a round wood stove just inside and left of the entrance. There were rows of pews on each side and at the end of the room there was a platform about one or two steps higher - a pulpit. On the right of the platform, on the same level as the pews was the piano. Mrs. Larson played the piano and sang with her mouth wide-open. It was

like Maggie in *Maggie and Jiggs*. She wore loose bangles on her arms. Ruth wanted to be like her some day, but didn't make it. There may have been a pump organ on the other side. The walls had windows on each side.

1924 - Baptized In 1924 Ruth Barton's brother, Harold, was baptized by a visiting pastor. He believes it was in Jump-Off-Joe Creek. Ruth was with him that day with several other children.

Christmas Programs Sisters Coral and Ruth thought the Christmas programs at the church were wonderful, especially the bags of candy, each with an orange in them. One time during a Christmas program Ruth's older sister Coral recited a poem on the church's stage, but when young Ruth was supposed to speak her piece she was so scared she got up on her dad's lap and hid her head. No persuasions like "*Santa Claus won't bring you any candy.*" would move her. Her dad disappeared and later came through the window dressed like Santa Claus. Ruth did not know Santa was her dad, but she got candy like everyone else did.

Apostle John Missionaries J. J. Ray and John Randall were with the American Sunday School Union. They visited the Hugo and Three Pines districts every year. Ruth thought John Randall was the Apostle John.

1925 - Pullman A couple named Chappell came to the Hugo Community Church to hold a Daily Vacation Bible School in 1925. Their mode of transportation was a Pullman car equipped for living. Their Pullman was attached to a line of railroad cars. When the

train arrived in Hugo their Pullman was moved onto the siding.

Accepted Jesus It was through Mrs. Chappell that five-year old Ruth accepted Jesus as her Savior. They were in the Chapel Car and Mrs Chappell gave Ruth a very loving warm hug - never forgotten by Ruth. Ruth told her mother who got down on her knees at eye level with Ruth and said, "*Ruthie, you are never to sin again.*"

Mr. Penny would lead the church singing and he often rocked up on his toes during the songs. He was a good leader.

The little children at Sunday School had a sand box. In it were stand-up trees, bushes, and flowers. This was the garden of Eden and they were taught about the beginning of life and how sin came to the people.

Sister Coral attended a revival at the Three Pines School. A lot of water melon was served at the end of the period.

FIRE AT HUGO AND THREE PINES

1926 or 1927 - Firefighter Harold One time Ruth's brother, eleven-year old Harold Barton, got in on forest fire fighting. It was the summer of 1926 or 1927 that the fire started along the railroad tracks. It started from a spark from the engine. It spread fast as the grass was dry. Every man and boy was summoned to help put it out. Harold's dad was away and he felt obliged to go in his place.

They fought fire with everything they could find - shovels, wet gunnie sacks, and feet; little spots of fire were stomped out. There were no hoses or hydrants for water. It spread to the Ludwick's property and they

were able to save their home, but it went on over to the Three Pines Elementary School (see Map Two).

One of the outhouses in the area used by the girls was burned; the girls were very mad that they had to use the same one as the boys. The school house roof also caught fire. It amused Harold that the boy that went up on the roof and put out the fire was a boy who hated school.

Harold's mother, Hazel Barton, worried



*Figure 2. Three Pines School: 1914
(porch is facing west)
Courtesy of Ralph Kolkow*

about him while he was gone fighting fire, but Harold did not get hurt and the fire was out in a day.

THREE PINES SCHOOL

George and Hazel Barton's children who attended the Three Pines School, from oldest to youngest, were Fern, Harold, Coral, Ruth, and Quintin (see Figure 2).

1925 Ruth attended Three Pines School from the first grade in 1925 to the middle of the third grade in 1927.

Water Ladle There were two flights of stairs going up to the first platform; one on the north and one on the south - then the wide single flight to the porch on the second floor of the school. At the right of the entrance was a cloak room. Near the entry was a wooden bench large enough for a wash basin and a container of water. A ladle hung near by. It seems we drank from the same ladle. A roller towel was there to dry our hands.

At the northwest corner, in the back of the school room, there was a large round metal stove. It had a flat top and the kids would heat soup there in the winter. The soup was brought to school by the kids in lard pails. The stove could get very hot. The kids would sit at their desks in the back of the room to eat their lunches.

The first floor of the school was where the firewood was cut and stored for the school's wood stove. There were a lot of chips around on the floor which was dirt.

The playground was ordinary dirt and mostly on a slope. When it rained little streamlets were made down the hill, but in warm weather it could be dry and dusty. It was very difficult for the children to keep clean.

Walk To School The Barton children walked to school together by way of the drive that went by the packing house to a metal gate at the south-east corner of the back vineyard. Through the gate the drive joined the road that went past the Deanes' house and the little red and white striped house of Mr. Huggins, the hired man. From there they took a path to the right that led to a foot bridge with a cattle guard. The creek bank was high and the tall ferns grew around

the water's edge; a few willows grew along the sides above. Across the bridge the path was level for a ways, but soon it began to rise and finally they were going up hill. At the top, the school house was in full view. It was a short incline from the gate into the school grounds. At the corner of the fence was a poison oak bush. Though the children had been warned, it did not stop them from eating the berries in the spring. They didn't get poison oak.

1926 In 1926 father, George S. Barton, and mother, Hazel Barton, had seven children from oldest to youngest: Fern, Harold, Coral, Ruth, Quintin, Dorothy, and Bethany (see Figure 3).



Figure 3. Barton Family: 1926
Front row, left to right - Coral holding Bethany, Ruth, Fern, Dorothy, Mother - Hazel, and Quintin
Back row on hood is Harold
 Courtesy of Ruth (Barton) Davis



Figure 4. Hugo School: 1926
 Courtesy of Carrol and Martha Brown

1927 In 1927 when Quintin started first grade at Three Pines, Fern was attending Hugo High School at Hugo (see Figure 4).

Excused To Swing George Barton and Mr. Ludwick were two of three men on the Three Pines School Board. One fall they drove into the school yard and put up a

swing set that had two to four swings. It was very exciting for the children. Coral had a hard time getting a turn on the swing so she figured out a way to have her turn. She would raise her hand "to be excused" just before recess and she could get a swing.

Ruth would take turns on the swing with Norma Waggner who was new at the school. One time Ruth was swinging and pumping higher and higher when Norma accidentally moved into the way. A corner of the swing board hit Norma above her left eye and cut the flesh open. Norma bled a lot and had to have stitches from a doctor who was ten miles away in

Grants Pass.

There were many games played at the school. Harold liked to play the jack knife game called, "Mumble-ty-peg." There was another game called, "Here we come - Where are you from?" There was also tag, marbles, horse shoes, and a very small diamond for soft ball.

Baseball Five and one-half year old Ruth felt she was the "runt" on the soft ball team. One time she played a game called "Work-up." She missed the first ball and hit a grounder on the second pitch. The teacher, Mr. Cockrane, swooped her up and threw her over his left shoulder. He then carried her around the bases. At home plate he put her down for a home run. All the kids gave her an applause. Baseball later became Ruth's favorite game to watch.

Another time Coral was going home from school with a bunch of other kids. They were picking on each other and cutting-up. The boys had chocolate candy and they didn't give her any even when she asked for some. The boys told her she would have to let a boy kiss her for a chocolate. The children never saw chocolate candy very often and Coral really wanted one, so she let a boy kiss her.

Once another kid hit Coral over the head with a ruler and Coral hit back. All the teacher saw was Coral hitting the other kid. So, the teacher scolded Coral and hit her with a ruler.

1927 - Whistling Quintin In 1927 when Quintin was in the first grade ElVon Ludwick whistled in school. The teacher asked who did it and ElVon said it was Quintin, but Quintin could not whistle. The teacher tried to get him to do it again and ElVon did it again. She made Quintin go

up to the front of the room and whistle, but he could not. He was the youngest kid in school and to be in front of all those older kids all the way up to the eighth grade was very embarrassing for him. The teacher kept demanding him to whistle. Quintin felt it was harsh punishment for something he did not do and he never forgot it.

Awg Ruth was shy in school and had a hard time going to the teacher's desk to get help. One day she was reading a story about an Indian boy. She wanted to know how to say his name so she went up to Mr. Cockrane and pointed to the name in the book and said, "*How do you say that?*" Because the children were often made to sound out their words he said, "*o-g.*" Ruth responded by saying "Awg" and was he ever surprised. "Ogee" was the way the Indian boy's name was supposed to be pronounced. Ruth was so embarrassed that she never went back for help from the teacher - not ever, through all her grades.

What happened To Ruthie? Ruth's mother, Hazel Barton, would later say when Ruth was in the third grade, "*I wonder what happened to Ruthie? She used to be so good in arithmetic and reading.*" It was easy for Ruth to copy her older siblings with the multiplication tables because they rattled off the easy ones - the twos, fives, and tens, she had them memorized. But, when it came to the sevens it was another matter. She knew all the sevens except for seven times seven. Nothing, no answer ends in a nine. It can not be that. Third grader Ruth was at the black-board looking at a question written there. "*Seven time seven equals what?*" She stood there red in the face frozen stiff! To this day she can not remember how she had to finally accept the answer. She felt

she was at the black-board for an eternity.
Nothing equals a forty-nine!

But, what happened to Ruthie in the second grade? At Three Pines there was a bar between two big trees for the children to play on. Someone made a ramp from the top of the bar to the ground with a two-by-six board. It made a spring board and everyone jumped on it time after time. One time Ruthie was on it when the recess bell rang. The next thing she knew she saw the sunrise and it was morning. She was on the ground. She had bounced off the board on to her head and was knocked out and no one saw it happen. She knew she had to be in line to march into the school house. This march was, "*Left-right, left-right, forward march.*" She got in line and marched inside. She took her desk in the second row where the second graders sat. It was reading time and the teacher, Mrs. Gallagher, came to hear her read. Ruth could see two lines for every one. Her words came slow and jerky. The teacher asked her, "*Are you sick?*" Ruthie answered, "*Yes.*" The teacher then said, "*Maybe you had better go home.*" So, alone she walked out of the school house onto the porch and there she vomited. She returned to tell the teacher who would have to clean it up. Ruth walked home. She laid down every now and then in the dry grass along the path to rest and groan. When she reached the back of her home she must have been seen by her mother who asked, "*What is the matter?*" She told her mother she was sick and consequently was put to bed (in a six year crib). Ruthie slept until 9:00 p.m. and it was dark. The crib had been moved into another room where a wood heater was providing warmth. A rocker had been pulled along side the crib and Ruthie asked, "*Why is there a rocker there?*" She was told that Mrs. Gallagher had asked the

former teacher, Mr. Cockrane, to go see how she was; he sat there. No one ever knew that she had fallen.

HOME BURNED

1927 - Home Burned The Barton home on the *Top of the World Ranch* burned December 1927. The Barton family settled in Grants Pass again. The ranch was once a wonderful place and consequently a great loss. When the family no longer lived there - it was no longer theirs, like a lost homestead. Though he did not have the ranch, Ruthie's father continued his produce business in Grants Pass and the four trucks "long hauling" in the state and in California.

All the Barton kids had to make adjustments to city schools. Their clothes didn't come up to what the city kids wore. Ruth remembers being called "stinky."

1930 George Barton had two produce stores in Medford, Oregon, but no longer ran the trucks. He did have a store to store delivery in town.

1934 In 1934 the Bartons moved to Eugene, Oregon where George Barton was in the Bohemia Mining Company operating east of Cottage Grove. George and Hazel (Logan) Barton's eleventh and last child was born in Eugene.

EUGENE, OREGON

2000 Ruth Davis was living in Eugene, Oregon September 2000 (see Figure 5).



Figure 5. Ruth (Barton) Davis: Spring 2000
Courtesy Ruth Davis

The years that have gone by and the memory of her mother saying, “*I wonder what happened to Ruthie?*” helped her know why arithmetic, shorthand, mathematics, typing and piano have been difficult. We know now not to put

someone to bed who has had a concussion. Ruth’s life has been O.K. in spite of her fall.

Ruth (Barton) Davis

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