

Schools

by Iva Alice Mann

I had the firm belief that everyone should do some civic work to better his community. My friend, Mrs. Bosworth, asked me to run in the election for director of Park Lodge School District. I was elected unanimously by nine men!

Park Lodge was a three room school and getting crowded but there were three exceptional teachers, Mrs. Emma Tripler-principal, her daughter Marion Tripler (Mrs. Armand Miller) had the 3rd and 4th grades, while Helen Morris was the primary teacher.

When they completed 8 grades they had to take the street car (later a bus) into Jason Lee Junior High for one year then to Stadium or Lincoln High. Our course of study did not correspond to Tacoma's with their Junior High but our 8th grade was a review of everything to get ready for the state exams which decided their promotion. But several Jason Lee teachers told me they could always spot Park Lodge students because they were so well prepared by grammar and arithmetic, due to our excellent teachers and the necessity of getting ready for the state examinations.

Seeing what our youngsters had to do to get into the city schools-early hours and then the constant wait in the city bus depot after school where there was invariably several unsavory men lounging. And knowing that all fine of our schools in this area were having the same problem. I decided we would have a senior school out in the Lakes District by joining together.

Well, that was a problem. All fine schools, American Lake, Lake City, Lakeview and Custer (a one room school) were all jealous of each other, and had nothing to do with each other. So, the first thing to be done was to break that down. So I asked Mrs. Tripler if she would have a tea party and invite the teachers from the other schools, which she did, bringing out her silver tea service. Of course each school had to reciprocate, and they became quite friendly.

Next, to tackle the school boards. But they were much easier. I just had to present the idea of consolidation-as they could see something had to be done to take care of the growing population, and there was no money. They could see the benefit of getting together, pooling our funds and building a school in one district after the other. Then it was time to broach the idea of a consolidated high school which appealed to all of them.

Next, the community had to be educated which was done by numerous meeting in each district. The idea appealed to the county and state officials so I had no trouble in getting good speakers who easily became aware of our problems.

But we discovered we would not have money enough to have a good high school so we decided to settle for a junior high first and then a senior high later. But there was no law that would allow us to do that. So we started in on that problem. It meant many trips to Olympia and the legislature. There was no difficulty in getting the state superintendent of schools and the governor to see our need and the solution, but the legislators could not see that.

I was terribly discouraged as it as certain to be voted down. But just before the vote, Governor Martin suddenly came down from his podium and grabbed me by the hand and hauled me up in from of the legislative body. Governor Martin was a very tall man and I had a terrible time keeping up to his strides, but we made it, and he

addressed the legislators, introducing me as "this one person who could really answer any questions they had about the need for letting us have a junior high school." I had gone through as many meetings where I had to have figures to show the need, that I could answer any of their questions. Well it was voted that a rural district could have could have a junior high school and then we were on our way.

One of the biggest help I had was from Charles Mann (no relation) who was editor of the Lakewood Log, the first newspaper in the district. He was a very clever man and had enumerable questions about the need for such a thing. He surely could get at the root of any idea, but I had the answers ready and he supported this idea which was of great help as his paper was delivered throughout the five districts.

Well. when the election votes were counted it was almost 90% favorable.

So we were on our way! Location first. The present site was nearly unanimously approved. Then the name. I wanted to call it the "Interlaaken Junior High" but some of the well to do people comprised the Interlaaken district objected so that was dropped. I had refused to have the school named for me as I said, "no school should be named for a living person as there was no consensus that he or she might turn out. So I remembered Ira Davisson whose father DeWitt Davisson had homesteaded this area, telling me that this district at when the creek would overflow and keep the ground green with clover under the big fir trees, were so delighted with the beautiful green spot after months crossing the US in covered wagons that they called the district "Clover Park". So when that story was told it accepted as the name for the new school.