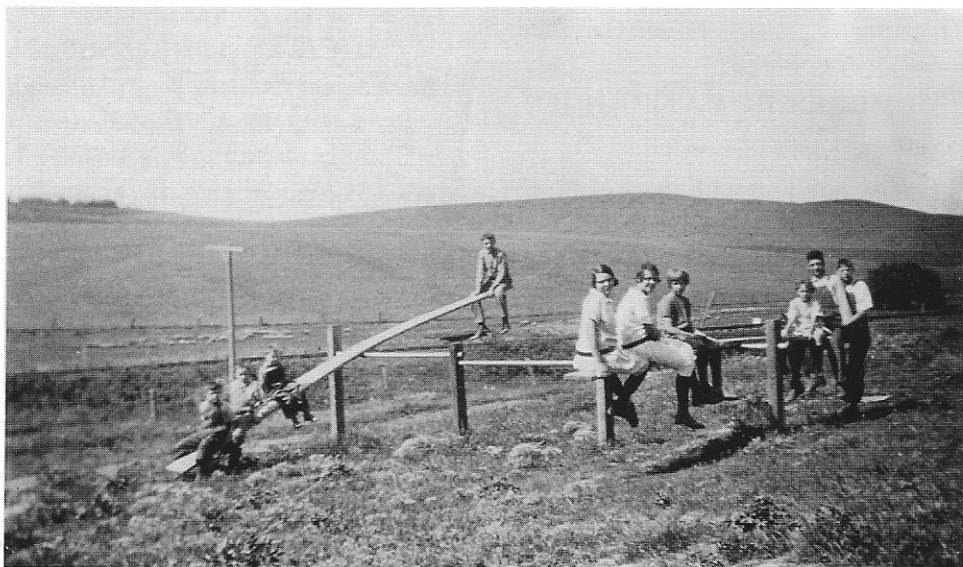


Bunchgrass Historian



Whitman County Historical Society
Colfax, Washington

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- ◆ **Historic Round Barn Razed - 1953**
 - ◆ **Sunshine School**
 - ◆ **Memories of Wartime Pullman - Part 3**
 - ◆ **A Broadcasting Star is Born**
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Whitman County Historical Society

The Bunchgrass Historian is published by the Whitman County Historical Society. Its purpose is to further interest in the rich past of Whitman County.

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COVER

Recess at the Sunshine School
1920s



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The page 4 photograph was displayed at the WCHS booth at the 2004 Palouse Empire Fair. The photo drew much attention; people asked where it was or related their memories of this structure. This article is a reprint of the 1953 *Pullman Herald* article. Although the round barn was torn down more than fifty years ago, the hill where the barn stood between Pullman and Colfax is still called "Round Barn Hill" by many long-time residents of the Palouse. The site is about four miles northwest of downtown Pullman on right side of US 195 midway between Armstrong Road and the road to Whitman County Solid Waste Disposal Facility.

Miriam L. Stratton has lived in Pullman since 1974. She has authored a book, *Guests in the Land of Buzkashi: Afganistan Revisited*, as well as two previous articles in the *Bunchgrass Historian*. Marjorie Stratton Jeffrey not only provided much information for this article but also provided the photographs that she took as a school girl, using the camera she had won.

Lenna Harding completes in this issue her delightful story of growing up in Pullman during World War II.

Christina Marie Steffler, from Kennewick, is a History and Pre-Dental major at WSU. She wrote this paper for a history writing course. Christina expects to graduate in 2006.





The Round Barn on Round Barn Hill around 1900.

HISTORIC ROUND BARN RAZED Novel Structure Was Last Word in Design Half Century Ago

Pullman Herald, Page 1, Thursday, June 4, 1953

By Horace E. Chandler

A familiar landmark to the many drivers who travel the Colfax highway (U.S. 195), the big round barn, built about 1900 by Ben Manning, some five miles northwest of Pullman, was razed this week by Merle Harlow, who now farms the land, received as a homestead by Manning.

Mrs. Eugene Harms, the former Verna Krous, whose father, C. T. Krous, bought the place from Mr. Manning and moved his family there in 1910, corroborates the age of the structure and has other recollections of its earlier days.

The picture [on page 6] shows the historic structure as it was in the last stages of demolition on June 1. Removing a timber in the picture is Mr. Harlow.

Says Mrs. Harms, "Somehow the barn escaped destruction when our home burned in 1922; so my father had only to rebuild the house, which was completed in 1923. Mother sold the farmstead in 1947 – my father having died in 1942 – to Dr. F.A. Bryant (recently deceased) of Colfax, who was in partnership with Glenn Harlow, the father of Merle.

In answer to a question about the reason for the barn's circular form, Mrs. Harms said, "Ben had a lot of horses – maybe 30 head sometime – and he figured he could save a lot of time forking out the hay if he had them standing in a circle with heads all toward the center. So that's the way he built it. My father, also, farmed with horses for a long time. He had a big threshing machine, a straw burner, and did not get a tractor until the late twenties."

She went on, "One of my most happy recollections is of the swing we had, hung from the high cupola in the middle of the barn. The extremely long ropes made swinging a real adventure.

"A rather amusing thing about the structure was the way some of the WSC frats used it when they were initiating pledges. A group of freshmen would often be sent to Krous's barn to look for a note, containing further instructions, in the north-east corner of the building. Since the building was round, of course, endless searching failed to reveal any note.

"The cupola was surmounted by a weather vane made of solid copper in the shape of a horse, and I remember that some college students once climbed up

and made away with this trophy.”

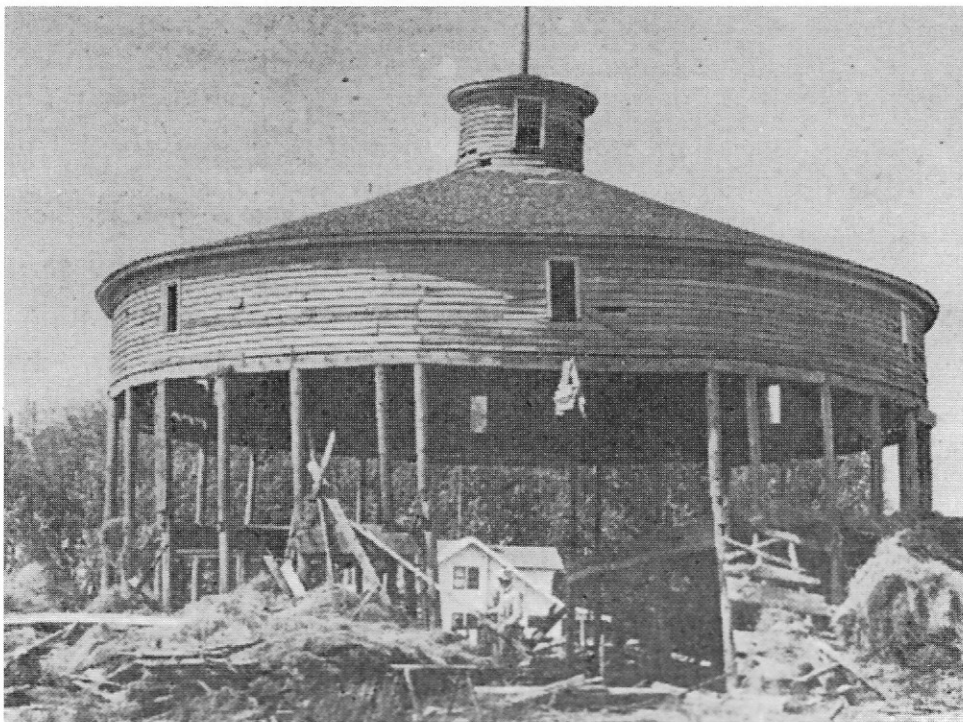
Merle Harlow well remembers this incident, since it was he who played sleuth, located the group that had taken the vane, and recovered it. The horse is still in the possession of the Harlow family.

According to Guy Allen, Pullman, the vane was made about 1905, by a tin worker, Holliver Sletton, who was employed at the time by Lee Allen, late owner of the hardware firm that bears his name.

When asked why the barn was being razed, Mr. Harlow replied, “It was no use as a place to store machinery and I keep only a few cows. Furthermore, the building was becoming rotten in spots. We found many round nails in it, and some square ones, too, as we tore it down. It was certainly well put together. As replacements, I’ll probably put up a machine storage shed and a small barn.”

“Has anyone commented on the disappearance of the old landmark?” I asked.

“Oh, yes,” replied Mr. Harlow. “Many have spoken about it, and some suggest that maybe I ought to put up a signboard saying, “This is where the old round barn stood,” or something like that. Well, at any rate, I sure did hate to tear it down!”



June 1, 1953 demolition of the Round Barn. Merle Harlow is removing a timber. The house seen through the barn still stands.

SUNSHINE SCHOOL

By **Miriam L. Stratton**

As described by Edith E. Erickson, Sunshine School, a one-room school in District #34, Whitman County, was located on Section 12, Township 14, Range 45 beside what is now named the Old Moscow Road. "It was established before 1890 and...consolidated with Pullman in 1938. It was the first school to consolidate officially with Pullman. It had been sending its students to Pullman at least two years before that. It is reported that it got its name from a small stream of that name which flowed nearby."¹ An early railroad stop also bore the name Sunshine and a cut-off road from the Old Moscow Road to the main highway between Pullman and Moscow still carries on the name.

Memories of their days in the one-room school linger on for Herb Stratton (life-long Pullman resident) and his sister, Marjorie Stratton Jeffrey (living in Albuquerque, NM). Their forebears, siblings, and cousins attended the school. Their father, Charles A. Stratton, served as its Clerk and Director at varying periods, as did their grandfather, John C. Stratton, who homesteaded in the area and sent his



The Sunshine School, 1920's

thirteen children to the school. Three members of the family taught in the Sunshine School: Amanda (Myrtle) and Laura Stratton and Henrietta Wendling Stratton.

Marjorie, who attended Sunshine from 1923 to 1931, shares some of her memories. “This was a one-room country school with a big round stove which heated the room in the winter. No electricity. A pump and a flag pole were out front. We would say the pledge each morning. Our pledge was like it is today, but without ‘under God.’ We saluted the flag with our right hand at our forehead and then stretched our hand out to the flag.

“Some of the games we used to play were anti-over, steal sticks, throw away the stick, hide and seek, football (girls, too), baseball, and others. To play steal sticks, we divided into two teams, drew a line in the dirt between us. We drew a circle and put in ten sticks on each side. Then one by one we would attempt to steal the sticks from the other side’s circle. If a runner was tagged, that runner was a prisoner.”

There was a porch on the front of the school “and I was so shocked when I came to school one day and the porch was gone replaced by some steps. The porch was where we played hopscotch.”

Behind the school, the ground rose in a bank. At the back, to the east stood a small barn where students who rode horseback to school could keep their horses during the day. The barn was close enough to the bank that Marjorie remembers stepping out onto the roof and lying there to fly kites. “The wind would pick them right up into the sky,” she reminisced.

“Once we dug a cave in the bank in the back of the barn. When we were clear in the back, we couldn’t hear the bell. One time we could, but pretended we couldn’t, until we got tired of hearing it ring. The teacher was standing right on top of the cave when we came out—boy, were we embarrassed.



Dirt bank behind the school with Orvilla and Bud (Harlan) McInturff

“When the snow was good for sledding, we would spend recesses sliding belly buster. The big boys made bumps which almost made us fly after going over them.

“We kids always put on a Christmas program for parents. Santa Claus came to our school with his jingle bells and ‘ho ho.’ Our tree was all decorated and the candles were lit. The tree was loaded with gifts and Santa had a bag of candy and popcorn balls over his shoulder. As he started handing out the gifts, his whiskers caught on fire. He pulled off the whiskers and ran out. Someone else finished passing out the gifts. Word came back that Santa was okay. I felt better. It wasn’t until the next day when Dad mentioned he got his eyebrows singed that I knew he was Santa. I was quite disheartened that Santa wasn’t real.”

When she was twelve, Marjorie ran a race in Farmers’ Appreciation Day and won a camera with which she took many pictures of her school, teachers, and classmates. We are indebted to Marjorie for the pictures she provided for this article. Marjorie described Farmers’ Appreciation Day as a big event for both adults and children. The town merchants awarded coupons for various items and prizes for games. Held on a Saturday, it was only for farmers to participate.

“A few years after I graduated from Sunshine School, the public school buses began to run, so the school was closed. The Tom McMurrays bought the school house and moved it onto their place for a barn to put hay in.”

Herb Stratton remembers his years (first through eighth grades, 1925-1933). “The number of kids varied from six to twelve or so. I don’t think I ever had anybody else in my grade until I got to seventh grade. There was a girl moved in, a relation to Vosburghs, Joyce Harms, and she was in my grade. The boy, Donald Harms, was several years younger. In eighth grade they closed the Russell School over by Valley Cement and the kids came from over there for a year. They were Baud kids, two girls. I don’t know whether there were any more or not. Some relations of Leonards’, the McInturff kids (Orvilla, Harlan or Harland, spelling varies but known as “Bud,” and Fay) stayed with them and we must have had about five in the 8th grade.”

Marjorie remembers that the mother of the McInturff children died when the youngest, Zelma, was two years old and the three older children went to live with their aunt, Mrs. Leonard. Zelma lived with Jennie Stratton for a period of



Miss Bentley

time. Jennie Stratton was an aunt to Marjorie and Herb.

Herb had three teachers in eight years. “The first one was Miss Bentley. She was there for two years. Then I had Mr. Matthews for four years and Elizabeth Wolliscroft for the last two. She was the one who had us all make quilts and pillows.

“Usually, we walked across the fields from where we lived at Stratton’s Dairy, but sometimes we would walk part way on the railroad going to school and there was a special key that unlocks the switch down there at the ‘Y’ to change the tracks. Matt, the section boss, or somebody, had lost the key and we found it and gave it to him. The next day or two he brought a big bag of bananas and oranges out to us for returning the key. They were real treats. We didn’t get them very often.

“Jim [Stratton] and Wayne McMurray used to dig holes (caves) in the banks back of the school, until they were told to quit. There was a pond across the road from the school. It iced over in winter. One time we got out on it and the ice cracked and we fell in. I tried to pole vault over the pond. I didn’t make it and fell in. When I went back to school the only dry clothes the teacher had for me to wear was a dress!

“After Ed, Jim and Marjorie graduated into high school, I had two years left in the Sunshine School. A few years after I graduated, it closed up. Everybody had to go in town. There weren’t that many left by then. There were cousins—Uncle George’s kids, Ruth, Bob, Faye and Ward [Stratton]. Ward attended the first through third grades at the school when it closed and consolidated with Pullman. The Harms boy was still here and I think the McInturffs who stayed at Leonards. When we could, we rode with Dad on his milk run and walked home. For two years all four of us, sister and brothers, were in the school at once.”

When the school ceased functioning, Charles Stratton “rescued” a set of Encyclopedia Britannica dated 1890 and a set of International Reference books dated 1925 as well as some other books from the Sunshine library. These exist today at Herb Stratton’s.

The Sunshine School building remains part of Ken McMurray’s cattle barn. It was moved there from its original place about where Gary and Karen Bloomfield live now. Tom McMurray used five tractors to move the school building the half mile to their place. Another square shed (the horse barn) was



Judy McMurray provided this picture showing the moving of Sunshine School

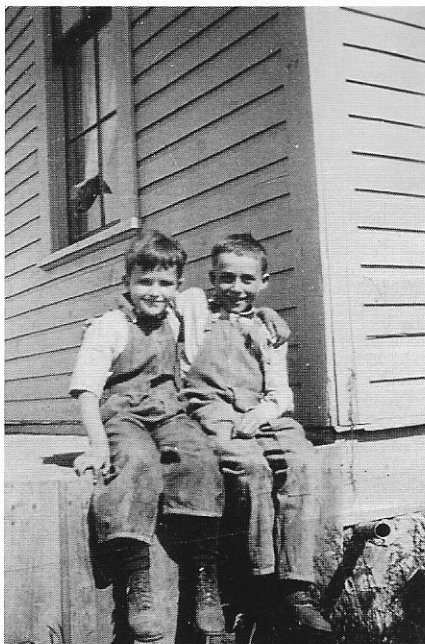
moved to the Hinchcliff property. Herb Stratton and the author climbed into the section of Ken McMurray's barn to see the inside of the old school. Standing on top of bales of hay, we could see the top two feet of the wall blackboard with the names of Vosburgh students still visible.

Early records include an 1888 District Clerk's Annual Report signed by John C. Stratton that indicates the school had \$136.03 on hand at the beginning of the year and the District Superintendent had apportioned \$248.21. The teacher's wage for the year was \$218 with \$25 paid out for furniture and apparatus. At the close of school in June, a balance remained of \$141.23. The estimated value of "apparatus" (globe, charts, maps, etc) was \$25.²

In 1888, the families who had children in the school district were listed as M. Sheldon (3 males), N.A. Vosburgh (4 males), J.C. Stratton (2 males, 4 females), R.S. Booth (1 male, 2 females), W.O. Booth (1 male), L. Thoney (1 female), P. Thoney (none listed), L. Gregg (1 male), L. Baud (1 male, 1 female), E. Farrand (1 male, 1 female), I. Griffith (3 males, 3 females), A. Gustin (2 male, 2 females), W. Spaulding (2 females), Oberholtzer (2 males, 4 females), J. Froman (2 males), R. Crawford (2 females), L. Crawford (1 female), I. Mulhall (1 male), making a total of 49 students between the ages of 5 and 21. In addition, 15 children under age 5 resided in the district. Irvin Griffith signed as Director and J.C. Stratton as Clerk. It is unclear how many of the children listed on the child census records actually attended Sunshine School. Some who were in the district attended school in Pullman.

By 1890, child census records for District 34 named Orin, Alice, Frankie, Myrtle, Minnie, Charles, and Ida Stratton; Earle and Orpha May Booth; Lillie and Sallie Stephinson; Ollie Griffith; Cora A. and Gracie Crawford; Richard, Minnie, S.E., Reston, and Lucricia Wisherd; John and Hattie Beames; Maud, Holmon, and Homer Griffith; George and Alta Ferrand; May and John L. Baud; Carry and Leah Thoney; Harley E. and Clara V. Gregg. Myron Sheldon served as Clerk and John C. Stratton as Director.

In 1900, child census records listed Minnie (age 19, students could attend to age 21), Charles, Ida, Winnie, Laura, Iva, Leslie,



*Wayne McMurray and Jim Stratton,
1926*

and Gladys Stratton; Ward Booth; Freddie White; Ada and George Kruegel; Daniel Griffith; Neva, Toney, Blanch, and Guy Wood; Lewis Westerdyke; Alta Farrand; Earl Witelow; George Strome; Saidie Clark; Roy Robertson; and Roy Vosburgh.

Amanda Myrtle Stratton taught in Sunshine School in 1902 and 1903 for \$45 per month. Laura Stratton taught in Sunshine from May 1912 to December 1914 for a monthly salary of \$70. Like all teachers she was responsible for her own janitor work. The record of teachers' contracts for District 34 from 1911 to 1935 lists Nellie Belfre, Laura Stratton, Chas. A. Belfre, Elizabeth MacKay, Carrie S. Hunt, Edna Champlin, Minnie Rosborough, Bessie Bishop, Helen J. McFaddin, Henrietta Wendling (the future Mrs. George Stratton), Mrs. H.J. Oliphant, Elinore Hake, Katherine P. Bentley, T.C. Mathews, and Elizabeth Wooliscroft. In 1916, the salary was increased to \$75, two years later to \$80 and then \$85. In 1919, it became \$100 and in 1921, \$125. It remained at that amount until 1930 when it was increased to \$130. An apparent dip in enrollment during the Depression caused Elizabeth Wooliscroft's salary to drop to \$90 in 1931 and even further in 1935 to \$71.25.

In those same years, parents and residents of District 34 served as Directors of the Sunshine School: J.S. Flock, R.S. Booth, B. Westerdyke, F.J. Kaylor, R.D. Booth, T.A. Leonard, C.W. Taylor, T.M. Pritchard, George M. Stratton, C.A. Stratton, T.B. McMurray, I.A. Shelton, C.H. Hinchcliff, Scott Getchell, and Sadie A. Leonard. It was while George Stratton was on the school board that he courted and married Henrietta Wendling, the school teacher.

From 1921 to 1924, John C. Stratton's and others' grandchildren began attending the school. The school child census reports list Chester, Mayda, Walter, Scotty, Florence, and Ardella Getchell; Ernest Eugene Vosburgh; Lola Pauline Sticker; Edwin, James, Marjorie, and Herbert Stratton; Elmer Charles Woods; Philip Bender; John Harold and Ruth Ellen Graham; Bobbie Baldwin, Melvin Boyd and Wayne McMurray; George, Oliver, and Esther Leonard; Alvin, Howard, and Donald Watts; Ilene and Irving Carlson, Marian Hinchcliff; and Gladys, Nellie, and Geraldine, daughters of Leslie Stratton. However, Leslie's daughters, while residing in the district, actually attended school in Pullman during some years, riding The Bug, a one-car passenger railway car that traveled between Pullman and Moscow several times a day. As stated above, there is no indication on the child census records who actually attended Sunshine School. Those students living on what is now the Pullman-Moscow highway apparently found it easier to travel to Pullman rather than through the hills to Sunshine School.

Nellie Stratton Montague, who lives in Colfax, did remember attending special occasions that were held at the Sunshine School. She tells of box socials to raise money for the school that attracted many families in the surrounding area. She also remembered that at least one time the school was the scene for a wedding and reception, in particular a reception and charivari for a Hinchcliff boy. She thought that a woman's club, the Friendly Neighborhood Club, also held special events in the

school, when not meeting in one another's homes.

One-room schools brought education with varying degrees of success to children in small communities and rural areas where it would have been impossible for children to travel the distances to a larger town. A teacher faced many challenges not faced today: starting a fire to warm the room in the winter, supervising the playground, no principal's office to send miscreants. Sometimes the teachers were only a few years older than their oldest scholars. There were also rare privileges for the students. All performed in the special programs, all played the games during recess regardless of age or skill. Students in upper grades could help teach younger ones to read or drill in spelling or arithmetic. Lessons outside the three "r's" depended on a teacher's skills or talents in singing, playing a piano (if the school provided one), sports, or art. If the school had a library, it was generally shy of books. But the school tended to be a community affair with parents involved without any parent-teacher organization. It was the center of community activities, offering space enough for potlucks, card games, and dances (for those not opposed to such things). All the students knew each other regardless of age and grade, making a strong bond of community. And obviously, such schools provided many rich memories for those fortunate enough to have attended one.



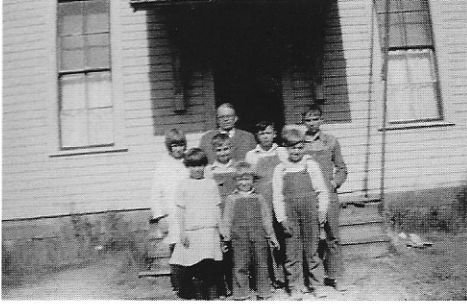
Alumni from Sunshine School at a picnic.

Front left to right: George Leonard, Chester Getchel, Oliver Leonard, Walter Getchel. Back row: Marion Hinchlif and Esther Leonard

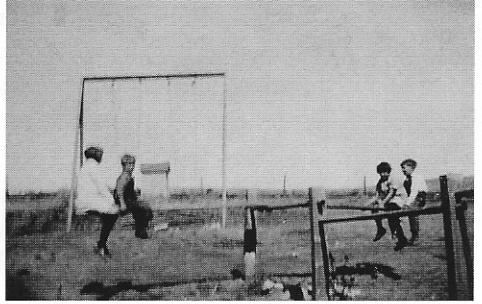
Photocopies of census reports, teachers' contracts, clerk reports and other papers for District 34 are in the Whitman County Historical Society library in Pullman. The Washington State Archives at Cheney, WA, has many old ledgers containing records of the school districts in Whitman County.

¹ Erickson, Edith E., *Whitman County from Abbeville to Zion*, University Printing and Copying, Colfax, WA 1985.

² All statistics, census reports and names of students were obtained from the Washington State Archives, Eastern Region, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA.



Mr. Mathews with seven of his students, 1929



The playground at recess

| REPORT | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|---------|
| | 1ST MO. | 2ND MO. | 3RD MO. | 4TH MO. | 5TH MO. | 6TH MO. | 7TH MO. | 8TH MO. | 9TH MO. | AVE. | REMARKS |
| Days of School..... | 19 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | | |
| Days Present..... | 18 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 20 | | |
| Days Absent..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Absent Unex..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Times Tardy..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Department..... | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | | |
| Reading..... | 90 | 90 | 91 | 91 | | | | 10 | 83 | | |
| Spelling..... | 98 | 94 | 99 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 96 | 92 | | | |
| Writing..... | 85 | 88 | 89 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 90 | | | |
| Arithmetic..... | 85 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 90 | 94 | 93 | 94 | | | |
| Language..... | 88 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 92 | | | |
| Geography..... | | | | | | | | | 76 | | |
| Music..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drawing..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| History..... | 88 | 90 | 91 | 91 | | | | | 93 | | |
| Physiology..... | | | | | | | | | 98 | | |
| Agriculture..... | | | | | 74 | 94 | 96 | 97 | | | |
| Health Habits..... | | | | | | | | | | | |

TO THE TEACHER—Do not mark the pupil above what he earns. You will wrong him by doing so. All tests should be fair and thorough. In the grades 1-4 use letters according to the following scale: E—Excellent, 90-100; G—Good, 80-90; F—Fair, 70-80; P—Poor, below 70. Use numbers in grades 5-8.

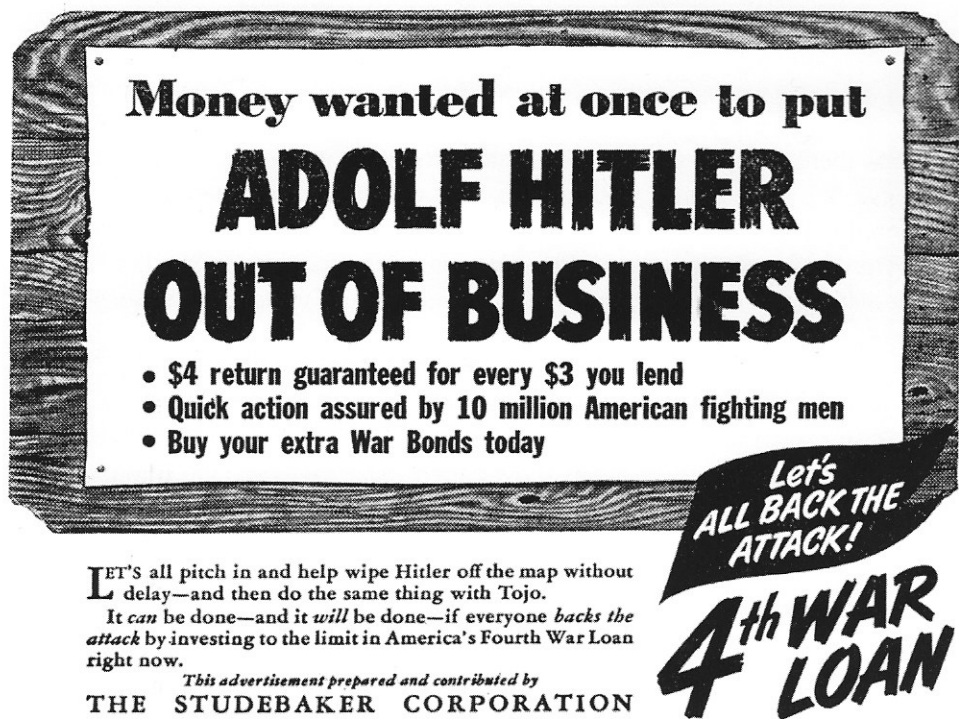
L. T. BABCOCK, County Superintendent.

MEMORIES OF WARTIME PULLMAN - Part 3

By Lenna Harding

One way to make sure that civilians continued to be willing to endure hardships was propaganda. We were bombarded with a steady stream of posters, radio announcements, entertainment and rallies. We heard messages using both stereotypes and ridicule, such as “Buy bonds today,” “Loose lips sink ships” (enjoining us to keep our mouths shut about anything we might have heard about troop movements, new weapons, etc.), songs like “Der Führer’s Face” by Spike Jones, and posters showing grinning monster characterizations of Tojo and Hirohito.

Frequent bond rallies were staged on the street between the Corner Drug and Emerson’s department store. Since I was in the High School band while in Junior High, I got in on those. We would march in uniform and play several patriotic marches



Money wanted at once to put

ADOLF HITLER OUT OF BUSINESS

- \$4 return guaranteed for every \$3 you lend
- Quick action assured by 10 million American fighting men
- Buy your extra War Bonds today

*Let's
ALL BACK THE
ATTACK!*

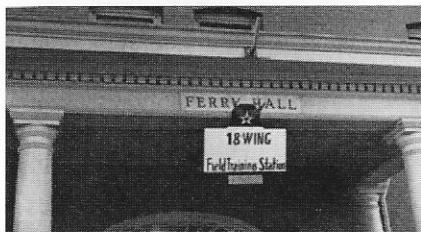
**4th WAR
LOAN**

LET’S all pitch in and help wipe Hitler off the map without delay—and then do the same thing with Tojo.
It can be done—and it *will* be done—if everyone *backs the attack* by investing to the limit in America’s Fourth War Loan right now.
This advertisement prepared and contributed by
THE STUDEBAKER CORPORATION

Pullman Herald, January 28, 1944

and someone on the back of a truck would exhort us to buy bonds until it hurt. War bonds cost \$18.75 for a \$25 bond, \$37.50 for a \$50 one, and \$75 for a \$100 one. We could also buy stamps priced at 10, 25, 50 cents and \$1. We'd lick and stick them into a book until we had enough to take to the post office to buy a bond. The stamps were sold in the schools as well as the post office.

Magazines, such as *Life* and *Time* and the newsreels were the only visual news we received, television not being available yet. Therefore, the only visual news was a week or more old by the time we ever viewed it. We relied heavily, not only on newspapers, but radio commentators such as Edward R. Murrow and William Shirer who were our favorites. My uncle, Harold Deutsch, did a radio news commentary from a station in the Twin Cities for a while. One time when Mama was playing with the dial on the radio, she brought him in. Though she had met him only once briefly, she recognized his voice immediately. Daddy didn't believe her until the credits came on.



The Air Corps had an advanced training program at WSC, so we had groups of future airmen in and out of Pullman, studying math and aircraft identification. Idaho had Navy. These men were rather fun for girls. We'd be ice-skating and suddenly find ourselves with partners. We'd be in a movie theater and find a hand on our knee. We didn't

let it stay there, being in grade school then junior high and too young for that kind of nonsense. We were taught to firmly take the offender's hand and firmly place it back on the offender's own knee. It usually worked and we were left alone.

The Air Corps didn't neglect muscle training either. Platoons of fellows jogged or marched up and down the streets of our neighborhood almost every day chanting or singing tunes, such as the Air Force song and Sound Off. I'm sure some of the words were cleaned up from the versions sung on base. Otherwise the Pullman bluenoses would have been out protesting in force.

During the time they were here, the fellows put on two performances in Bryan Hall. One was a revue type talent show called "The Air Force Goes to College." The other was a production of Clare Booth Luce's play, "The Women," with an all male cast in drag. It was a hoot, though one bluenose was known to have called the Dean of Men, McCreary, to tell him how obscene and shocking she thought it was. He is rumored to have said, "Well, I'll tell you. As Dean of Men, I was shocked. But as an ex-Navy man, I thought it was wonderful." I never did hear what her reaction was. We had already seen the play performed by the drama department on campus. At that time, it was one of the few plays with an all female cast. It had been chosen because the college had no male students to take male parts. I guess they weren't into giving the gals pants roles.

The nearest the war came to Pullman was a train wreck. A passenger train derailed on that section of track near where the Quality Inn now stands below the road to Moscow. There was some talk that it might have been sabotage because a contingent of sailors from U Idaho were due to be shipped out that day, but for some reason it was delayed. It took the railroad people a couple of days to right the cars and engine. They brought in a big crane to lift the engine from its side onto a set of wheels. A crowd of us gathered to watch the excitement.

In grade school we followed the progress of battles using maps from the news-

H. S. Girls Help Red Cross



This group of high school girls has rolled more than 13,000 surgical dressings for the Red Cross since January. Working two hours each Monday evening in Stevens Hall, the girls have helped swell the total of work accomplished by various units of the Pullman Chapter. Shown in the picture are the following supervisors, instructors and workers: Standing (left to

right) are Mrs. R. D. Sloan, president; Mrs. E. L. Overholser, Mrs. R. P. Cope, Mrs. E. G. Schafer, supervisor of the Campus unit and Mrs. M. S. Knebelman, in charge of the surgical bandage production. Seated at the table (left front) are Mrs. Alvin Law, Mrs. James Roberts and Mrs. C. L. Bedford; at work on the second table in foreground are Roberta Tucker, Barbara Stephenson, Dorothy Ford,

Mary Alice Davidson and Dorothy Dixon, the latter two High School teachers; working at tables in the background are Shirley Fulkerth, Shirley Phelps, Henrietta Allert, Laura Lee Thompson, Helen Bendixen, Nancy Roberts, Betty Webb, Pat Ayres, Marlen Glover, Edie Allert, Ruth Wickliffe, Wilma Appel, Dorothy Ingham, Mildred Hag, Mayellen Hatley, Louise Shaw and Pat Nelson.

Pullman Herald, May 5, 1944

paper and changed the battle lines on outline maps of Europe and Asia. In fifth grade both boys and girls knitted afghan squares while our teacher read to us. We brought scraps of whatever yarn our mothers had and knitted them into six-inch squares. Miss Jennifer then crocheted them together and put a nice edge on it. It was sent to a military hospital to use as a lap throw. We also knitted wristlets and mittens with slits across the palm for shooting or a separate forefinger for the same purpose, using olive drab yarn and patterns furnished by the Red Cross. We also collected crossword puzzles from the newspaper along with solutions and pasted them on shirt cardboards for use in veterans' hospitals. I recall making all kinds of scrapbooks for them, too.

I remember tearing off all unused parts of school papers and using them to save paper. Our teacher would take home a fistful of paper strips to grade at night. Every so often there would be paper drives collecting both newspapers and magazines. I'm not sure about other kinds. We always felt it a bonus if someone gave us copies of *Sunshine and Health*, the nudists' magazine. They weren't plentiful so we shared them. After all, we had to get our sex education some place, and it usually wasn't at home or school.

Since Mama was a trained bacteriologist, she was recruited to supervise a group of women folding gauze bandages for the Red Cross. She was required to wear a white uniform and a wimple-like headdress. The only uniform she could find locally was a horrid looking sack-shaped item that did nothing for her figure, but she dutifully wore it, washed, stiffly starched, and ironed fresh for each session. The other women had to wear hair nets or snoods to keep unwanted hair out of the bandages. Her duties included keeping the workplace as clean as possible, making sure the women had clean hands, and teaching the women, mostly faculty wives, how to fold each bandage properly. Each was checked and refolded if necessary, then counted and packaged in small bundles for sterilization later. I remember her complaining about having to do some gal's work over. Campus politics precluded her complaining directly to the ladies involved. Their husbands ranked higher in the pecking order than Daddy.

As boys went off to war, their mothers and wives and sweethearts placed flags in their windows with a colored star for each serviceman or woman. If a serviceman was killed in the war, the star became a gold one. Over the years, telegrams were dreaded since they often brought bad news of death or injury or missing in action.

V-mail was used for most correspondence since it was the only form of air-mail going overseas. One bought a sheet not unlike today's air letter sheet and wrote the message on one side only, then folded it with the address on the outside. It was sent to a place where it was microfilmed and processed, then the film was sent overseas where it was printed out. If something happened to a shipment, it was re-filmed. This worked both to and from overseas. With plane space so scarce, this

saved a lot of room. All mail going to and from overseas, including Alaska and Hawaii, was censored. There was a joke going around about the gal who received a letter looking like a paper snowflake with an enclosed note that said “Your boyfriend loves you but he talks too much” and signed “the Censor.”

I can remember vividly the day President Roosevelt died. I was in Junior High by then. Our Camp Fire group was rehearsing a play at the old Edison school auditorium with our leader, Mrs. Veach, directing. When the news was brought to us, I remember Mrs. Veach, a very conservative Republican, throwing her hands up in alarm and saying, “My God, now we’ll all go to the devil.” Without television then, we got our pictures of the events following his death via newsreels and still pictures in magazines. The movies showed hundreds of crying people lined up along the



Lower picture shows a local service family's idea of Hitler's proper ending. Left to right are Mrs. Ralph Bloomfield, whose husband is in the Air Transport Command in England; her son, Dennis; and Sally Staudinger and Sonny Staudinger. (Photographs by Hutchison)

Pullman Herald, May 11, 1945

railroad track as the train passed by carrying his body and Mrs. Roosevelt to Washington D.C. from Warm Springs, Georgia. We cried, too. Old Harry Truman, unprepared as he was, really came through for us.

Gradually, the war wound down. Victory in Europe (VE Day) came in May, 1945. We were still in school, but we had already turned in our band uniforms, so we marched in our civies down Main Street to a big celebration at the corner of Main and Kamiaken. When Victory over Japan (VJ Day) came in August, the celebration was more spontaneous and unorganized. I was in the middle of taking my Junior Lifesaving test at the swimming pool when the siren went off. I never did get to finish my test and am not yet a Junior Lifesaver. Instead we joined others downtown for a bit of mutual cheering and whooping instead.

More sobering and shocking were the newsreels showing the opening of the concentration and prisoner of war camps. If nothing else gave meaning to the fighting and sacrifices, those pictures sure did. This also made some of us feel more than a bit guilty wondering how many Jews could have been saved had the U.S. been more willing to take them in before the war.

Also sobering were the atomic bombs and the destruction they caused. We were at once awed, frightened, and worried. One sideline on that—we knew something odd was happening at Hanford but remembering the “Loose lips sink ships” motto, we did little speculating out loud about it. I did hear one vague but prophetic remark about it being something to do with giving something the size of a lump of coal enough energy to power a ship around the world. Being patriotic, I never repeated that but felt a bit smug when the truth came out.

For a kid who lost no loved one or close family friends in the war, the whole thing was a grand adventure. To have lived those years in Pullman made it doubly so. They are years I will never forget.



Training planes at Pullman Airport

A BROADCASTING STAR IS BORN: Washington State College and Edward R. Murrow

By Christina M. Steffler

Since the opening of Washington State College in 1892, now known as Washington State University, more than 134,000 students have graduated with Bachelors degrees.¹ Some of these graduates went on to further their educations, others entered the work force, many started families, but all hoped to be successful in their separate endeavors. One Washington State College graduate who is recognized for his tremendous success is the broadcasting legend Edward R. Murrow, class of 1930. In acknowledgement of his accomplishments, the communications building at Washington State University was dedicated to Murrow in 1970. Although many of today's young people have no idea who Edward R. Murrow was, in his time Edward Murrow was more popular and more famous than all of today's news reporters and broadcasters combined. Yet Murrow never meant to attend WSC. Harsh circumstances forced him to give up his dream of earning a "good" college degree and a career in law. Instead, he enrolled himself at Washington's "cow college." Once at WSC, an outstanding mentor and a series of chance events steered him into a very different career, the one for which he seemed to have been destined.

During the 1920s, Washington's middle-to-upper class students attended the University of Washington, while the lower half of the economic scale attended Washington State College. Although both of Murrow's older brothers had attended WSC, Murrow had grandiose dreams of attending the University of Virginia and toyed with the idea of becoming a lawyer.² Unfortunately, Murrow did not have the means to attend the University of Washington, let alone the University of Virginia. Not wanting to let go of his dream, Murrow worked hard as a logger in Clallam County for Bloedel-Donovan Lumber Mills for a year after high school graduation and saved his money.³ When he found that his funds were considerably lacking, he registered as a freshman for the scholastic year 1926-1927 at the "cow college." Uncertain of his direction, Murrow enrolled as a business major, where his disinterest earned him a string of B's and C's.



*Murrow while a student at
WSC*

The turning point in Edward Murrow's college career, one that would forever change him, was meeting his speech professor Ida Lou Anderson.⁴ She was a young, vibrant woman, who according to Murrow "demanded not excellence so much as integrity."⁵ She had suffered from polio as a child, a disease that left her



Ida Lou Anderson

hunched over and crippled. Her inner strength and kindness spoke to Murrow, while his natural ability for public speaking captivated her. Murrow soon became Miss Anderson's star pupil, and with her encouragement he changed his major from business to speech.⁶ Miss Anderson became his teacher, tutor, and friend. She taught him philosophy, politics, speech, and poetry. Her teaching, friendship, and ideals helped to guide Murrow through his years at WSC, and his grades quickly improved to A's and B's. Murrow also adopted Miss Anderson's moral mentor, the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, as his own. Murrow put into practice the ideal that he should not live his life as if he had a thousand years but live each day as though it were his last—an ideal that Murrow would hold true from that day forth.⁷

Murrow's years at WSC were a "voyage of intellectual discovery."⁸ In his efforts to live life to its fullest, he immersed himself in many of the activities and programs that WSC had to offer. He became a member of Kappa Sigma, the most prestigious fraternity at WSC. He joined campus theater where he played the husband in "Craig's Wife" and the waiter in Molnar's "The Swan." Murrow also played the lead in Pollock's "The Enemy." He quickly became a star member of the debate team and represented Washington State College in *ex tempore* oratory at the Pacific Forensic League. Another of Murrow's activities was serving as a cadet in the ROTC program. He also served on various committees such as the prom committee and the annual military ball committee.

Murrow seemed to excel in everything that he did. "By his senior year, he was the president of the student government, an ROTC colonel, and the head of the Pacific Student Association."⁹ His reputation as the west coast debater earned him respect for both himself and for the college. Also, by the end of his senior year, Murrow was elected president of the nation's largest and most influential secular student organization, the National Student Federation of America.¹⁰ Clearly, Murrow's "live each day to its fullest" philosophy compelled him to do his best and drove him to take on more and more responsibilities, a habit that would be continuous through the rest of his life. These activities played a major role in leading Murrow in the right direction, helping him to find his areas of interest and to find a possible career.

At this point, Murrow was leaning toward pursuing a career in politics. But

as destiny would have it, Murrow found his true calling when WSC offered the very first radio broadcasting class in the entire country. The class had to be camouflaged as “community drama” in order to be accepted as an official academic course. Edward Murrow was one of the first twenty-four students to take “community drama.” Ironically, Murrow received only a B in the class, and the professor thought Murrow to be ambitious and self absorbed.¹¹ In 1930, Edward Murrow spoke his first words over the radio on the campus station KWSC, during his last semester at Washington State College. Ida Lou Anderson helped Murrow in the area of broadcasting by relaying her wisdom, such as to “seek a style that is both true and universal.”¹² Also later in Murrow’s career, Miss Anderson suggested that Murrow add the dramatic pause in his now famous opening, “This...is London.”¹³

After graduating in 1930, Murrow accepted a position as president in the New York central office of the National Student Federation of America (a position full of prestige and opportunity), which was a stepping stone leading to his legendary career.¹⁴ Thirty-two years later, after delivering the commencement address to the class of 1962, Murrow received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Washington State University. In his address Murrow stated, “A man is the product of his education.”¹⁵

Edward R. Murrow, the legend, was clearly the product of his education. Had he attended the University of Virginia or any other college, he probably would not have found his calling in broadcasting. From Ida Lou Anderson, Murrow found the support and direction that he so desperately needed. At Washington State College, he was given the opportunity to immerse himself in various projects and activities that helped him to find his areas of interest and helped to shape the man that he would become. Finally, during his senior year at WSC, Murrow was given his first introduction to broadcasting, an experience that changed his life, an experience that he would not have received anywhere else.

¹ Washington State University Institutional Research, Degrees and Certificates Awarded Since 1897, <http://www.wsu.edu> (3/24/2004).

² Joseph E. Persico, *Edward R. Murrow: An American Original* (McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., 1988), 32.

³ A.M. Sperber, *Murrow: His Life and Times* (Bantam Books, 1987), 22-23.

⁴ Sperber, *Murrow*, 25.

⁵ Alexander Kendrick, *Prime Time: The Life of Edward R. Murrow* (Little, Brown and Co., 1996), 102.

⁶ Sperber, *Murrow*, 25.

⁷ Persico, *Edward R. Murrow*, 61.

⁸ Persico, *Edward R. Murrow*, 61.

⁹ Sperber, *Murrow*, 27.

¹⁰ Kendrick, *Prime Time*, 106.

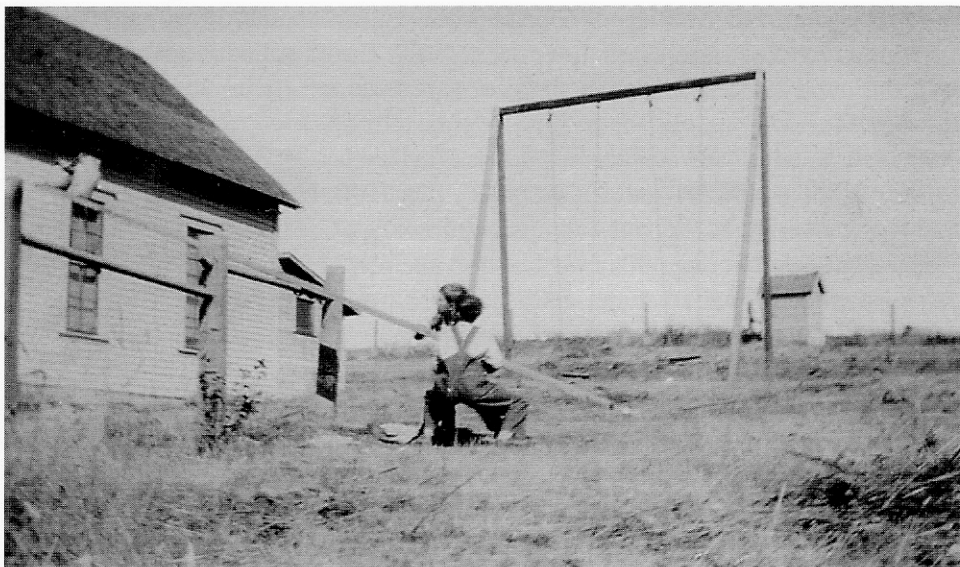
¹¹ Persico, *Edward R. Murrow*, 58.

¹² Persico, *Edward R. Murrow*, 40.

¹³ Kendrick, *Prime Time*, 103.

¹⁴ Sperber, *Murrow*, 29-31.

¹⁵ Kendrick, *Prime Time*, 107-108.



*"What fun." Boys bouncing bags filled with dirt into the air.
Sunshine School, 1920's.*



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