

1942

70 miles from the Pacific and 100 miles from Crater Lake. Since most of our roads are hard surface, people think nothing of driving 50 to 150 miles for a Sunday outing. Our climate is very mild with warm wet winters and dry summers. Flowers bloom the year around. We have the lowest wind velocity of any city in the United States. (I hope by now I've convinced you this is a real scenic and recreational paradise.) We have a beautiful 16 mm movie film of our county entitled "The 100 Valleys of the Umpqua" which is available free to anyone in the country who wishes to show it. If you are interested I'll enclose a card for you to order it.

I'm sorry I haven't been able to find more than one of my pictures taken at District 39. We lost several boxes of things when moving to Oregon. I believe this was my fourth grade class at that time.

I recall several amusing stories from my first experience. When I read a story to my first grade class which ended, "and the good fairy flew out of sight," I asked, "What does that mean?" Marilyn Bierschenk quickly replied, "out of gas!" She developed toothaches frequently so she could sit on my lap. One little girl forgot her lunchpail so her brother could "see what the teacher looked like". Several little boys told colorful stories their uncle and the neighbor boys encouraged them to tell in school. And to this day I don't know who wired the school door shut on Halloween. It was a long cold wait until someone came to my rescue the next morning. I couldn't ring the bell for help since the rope was missing. And I recall I had quite a time trying to teach the little Carsten boy to speak the same language as the other children when he came to visit. I don't believe Donnie Lieneman ever stopped smiling.

We had severe dust storms in the spring of 1943. During a windstorm the oilburner flooded. When I opened the door in the morning, the fuel ignited in my face singeing my hair, eyebrows and lashes.

My salary was \$70 per month and my certification was based on the State Teachers Examinations and 12 Semester Hours of College.

I am still pegging away toward a BS Degree by taking night classes at our Extension Center in Roseburg.

We are planning to spend Christmas in Nebraska this year. Perhaps we shall see many of our old friends at that time. Please send me an anniversary booklet. I would also enjoy hearing from any of my former students.

Best wishes to all of you and if you are ever out this way, please stop and see us.

Sincerely yours,  
*Ardith N. Johnson*