(https://sos.oregon.gov/blue-book)

Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit



Students and a teacher pose for a photo on the porch of the tiny Faun Creek Schoolhouse in Lane County circa 1911. (Roy C. Andrews photographs, PH003-N917td, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon)

About the Exhibit

This exhibit uses photos, artwork and memorabilia to highlight the colorful history of rural and small town schools in Oregon before World War II. With sweeping changes to current school methods, testing and funding, a look back at an earlier era of Oregon schools for perspective is...educational.



Image, right: The lamp of knowledge from the cover of an early 1900s Oregon School Register and Record Book. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

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Exhibit Introduction

Many Oregon public school students now routinely use iPads and other computer devices loaded with educational apps. Others struggle with writing in cursive form. How times have changed from the era before World War II, when devices consisted of chalk, pointers and pencils...when proper cursive styles were enforced with penmanship grades.



A detail from an 1890 *Oregon School Register and Record Book.* (Oregon State Archives Image)

An education revolution, driven partly by greatly enhanced mobility, stands between today's students and those of yesteryear. The early years of the 1900s saw the development of mass-produced cars at affordable prices. This fed the demand for better-paved roads as proponents sought to "Get Oregon Out of the Mud." Modern travelers often fail to conceive of just how difficult it was to travel even a few miles on muddy, unpaved roads. And Oregon had precious few miles of paved roads in the 1800s and early 1900s.



Minnie Lightfoot, a Marion County sixth grader, drew this image of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905. (Oregon State Archives Image)

Rural and small town schools were sited with this practical reality in mind. Students walked or rode on horseback or in a buggy to get to school. As a result, some Oregon counties each had well over 100 strategically located school districts, often centered around a oneroom schoolhouse.

By the middle decades of the 1900s, paved roads had lessened the need for so many small schools. Buses could ferry students cheaply and effectively to larger and more efficient schools. A massive school consolidation movement swept through Oregon, in some cases merging 9 out of 10 school districts. The number of districts has dwindled to 197 in the entire state.



An old school hand bell used to call students to the classroom. (Oregon State Archives Image)

Many of the old one-room schoolhouses were repurposed as community centers, private schools or museum exhibits. Others were converted into private homes, torn down or allowed to degrade into ruins over the decades. This exhibit takes a stroll through an earlier time in Oregon. It offers glimpses of old schoolhouses, students at work and play and the colorful life revolving around rural schools in the state.

About the Student Artwork

Much of the student artwork featured in this exhibit was originally presented at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland—notable as the first world's fair on the Pacific Coast of North America.

Nearly 1.6 million people attended the event, which ran from June to October. Students from around Oregon submitted school work on subjects designed to show visitors the high quality of education in the state.

Other drawings in this exhibit were displayed at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.

Note: Some images have been tinted for exhibit purposes.



A mill drawn by Wasco County 7th grader Lavona Moore in 1905. (Fort Dalles Museum) See large image and attached poem on next page.

Savona Moore

Dist 4. 7th Grade.

C.D. Thompson TEACHER



Beneath the hill you may see the mile Of wasting wood and erumbling stone; The wheel's dripping and clatteringstill, But ferry, the miller, is dead, and gone!

(https://sos.oregon.gov/blue-book)

Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Soap Creek School

The one-room Soap Creek School was built north of Corvallis in 1935. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 1 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Moro Basketball Team

The 1921 Moro basketball team with coach and mascot. This photo is on display at the Sherman County Historical Museum in Moro. (Oregon State Archives image from print) Slide 2 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Shaniko School

The old Shaniko School building was constructed in Shaniko in 1901 when travel was more difficult and some counties had more than 100 local school districts each. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 3 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Classroom Drill

Two girls work through a "two pointer drill" in front of a Marion County public school class in 1904. Drills and memorization were important educational components of the time. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

Slide 4 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Fairbanks School

Fairbanks School sits on a hillside along Fifteenmile Road in rural Wasco County. (Oregon State Archives) Slide 5 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

1904 Drawing

A boy and his dog in this 1904 drawing by Marion County third grader Herbert Woods illustrate his brief essay about fishing. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 6 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Antelope School

The Antelope School building in the small southeastern Wasco County town of Antelope was constructed in 1924. It served as a school until 1984 and is now used as a community center. (Oregon State Archive Photo) Slide 7 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

"Rosa's Dandelion"

Turner School student Alta Osborn illustrated the poem "Rosa's Dandelion" with a watercolor drawing. The work was included in bound books of student work from around Marion County that were exhibit at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 8 / of 60



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School Memorabilia

A 1930s Sherman County basketball trophy and vintage Wasco High School beanie are in the holdings the Sherman County Historical Museum. (Oregon State Archives photos) A circa 1940 Bend High School songbook features lyrics to both school chants and popular songs of the time. (Deschutes County Historical Society Archives) Slide 9 / of 60



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Watering a Garden

Second grade Wasco County student Elce Johnson drew this scene of a boy and girl planting and watering a garden. The work was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Fort Dalles Museum) Slide 10 / of 60



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Spelling Drill

Students stand in front of a chalkboard during a spelling drill in a Marion County public school class in 1904. Given a choice, they may have chosen a different word for the drill. (Oregon State Archives Photo Slide 11 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Rock Hill School

The circa 1910 one-room Rock Hill School stands on a rise southwest of Lebanon, overlooking the heart of the Willamette Valley. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 12 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Test Questions

These are a few of dozens of circa 1910 questions from the Eighth Grade Examination required by the state. How well can you answer them? In addition to history, the exam covered physiology, geography spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, civics and agriculture. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 13 / of 60

UNITED STATES HISTORY.

TO THE APPLICANT: Select the first and any seven of the others. TO THE EXAMINER: Grade the first eight answers only.

- The Grand Old Man of Oregon-
 - (a) What was his name?
 - (b) Give one historical event connected with his life that distinguished him.
- 2.
- The Thirteen Colonies— (a) Name them. (b) Why were there no large plantations in New England?
- 3. The American Revolution-
 - (a) Give two causes of the revolution.
 - (b) What was the Stamp Act?
- (c) What was the result of the revolution?4. National Growth—
- - (a) Why did the United States, and especially of the western part, desire to have control of the Mississippi?
 - (b) Why did Napoleon sell Louisiana Territory to the United States?
- Institutional Life-5,
- Why were Jefferson and other leading Americans anxious to secure the Oregon country, and why was the territory of special value to the United States? 6. American Civil War-
 - Why was the difference in the topographical climate and soil of the North and South the main or fundamental cause of the American Civil War?

7. Name one great statesman; one great general; one great inventor; one great scientist; one great teacher.

8. Each of the following dates has a historical fact connected with it: 1787, 1812, 1820, 1776, 1607. Name them.

9. Give a historical fact connected with each of the following: Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, U. S. Grant, Stephen A. Douglas, Joseph Cannon.

10. In what year did Oregon become a state?

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Farm Drawing

Twelve-year-old Jake Hudson of Milton, now Milton-Freewater north of Pendleton, drew this evocative image of a little girl offering an ear of corn to a pig. His drawing was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Oregon State Archives Images) Slide 14 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

School Performers

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" pose circa 1935. Reid School students performed this and similar productions on a large stage in the school's third floor 300-seat auditorium. The Bend school opened in 1914 and is now home to the Deschutes Historical Museum. (Deschutes County Historical Society Archives) Slide 15 / of 60

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Andrews School Building

The old Andrews School building is located in the ghost town of Andrews near the remote Alvord Desert in Harney County. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 16 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Sports Memorabilia

Vintage school sports equipment is displayed in an exhibit at the Sherman County Historical Museum in Moro. The leather football helmet dates to a pre-World War II period and contrasts starkly with modern helmet construction. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 17 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Lunch Talk

A girl whispers to a classmate during lunch at school in Hadleyville west of Eugene circa 1912. (Roy C. Andrews photographs, PH003-N954td, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon) Slide 18 / of 60



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Football Game

The Eugene High School football team runs a play circa 1908. The high school was located at 11th Avenue and Willamette Street until 1915. Highlighting the rural and small town nature of the state outside of Portland, the population of Eugene was only 3,236 in 1900. (Lane County Historical Museum) Slide 19 / of 60



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Waldron School

Deer graze in front of the old Waldron School along Highway 207 north of Mitchell. The schoolhouse was built in 1874 and is a last vestige of the small community of Waldron, which had a post office from 1879 to 1902. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 20 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Health Clowns

"Health Clowns" march in the 1930 Coquille May Day Parade carrying letters of the alphabet. The students were participating in one of many "health parades" staged around the state. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

Slide 21 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Ship Drawing

In 1905, Rosa Danulo, a Wasco County School District 24 student, drew this image of Commodore Dewey's fleet. The scene refers to Admiral George Dewey, who was famous for his 1898 victory over Spanish forces at the Battle of Manila Bay in the Phillipines during the Spanish-American War. The drawing was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Fort Dalles Museum)

Slide 22 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Oregon Trail Reenactment

Students at Larson School in Coos County reenact the journey west on the Oregon Trail as part of a May Day event in 1931. The sign on the wagon reads "Oregon or Bust." The two standing students play the part of a pioneer couple, while the students on their hands and knees drew the less dignified roles of draft animals, probably oxen. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 23 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Farmington School

The old Farmington School building in rural Washington County is now privately owned. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 24 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Chemawa Indian School

Students pose for a photograph circa 1900 in front of the Chemawa Indian School, also known as the Salem Indian Boarding School, north of Salem. The school, and similar institutions in other parts of the country, attempted to assimilate young tribal members into the mainstream of Euro-American society. As part of this process, the schools often encouraged or forced students to abandon their tribal languages, dress and customs. (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) Slide 25 / of 60



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Arithmetic Problem

Eleven-year-old Wasco County student Loren Anthoney solved and illustrated the real world arithmetic problems shown here. The work was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Fort Dalles Museum) Slide 26 / of 60

THE DALLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Loren anthoney. agellyrs arithmetic - Second Month. Т a grocer having 1468 sacks of flour sold 164 sacks one week, 2 34 the next week and 160 the NOMAIO next week. How many had he left? 164 sold first week. 234 Sold second week. LOUP 1 6 0sold third week. 5 6 8 sold in three weeks. THE DALLES ORE 1468 had-568 sold=900 left. If one yard of cloth cost \$ 1.75 ants what will 15 yards cost? 1 yard cost \$ 1.75. 10 yordscost \$17.50.

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Webfoot School

The old Webfoot School building near Klondike Road east of Wasco is an example of a schoolhouse that has aged naturally over the decades. It was built in 1894. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 27 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Playground

Students crowd onto playground equipment to pose for a photograph at Moro Grade School circa 1920. (Sherman County Historical Museum) Slide 28 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Girls Basketball Team

Members of the Moro High School girls basketball team display their uniforms circa 1905. (Sherman County Historical Museum) Slide 29 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Log School

This small log building served as the first school in Bend when it was built in the 1880s. (Oregon State Archives Photo-from a print in a master's thesis on the history of Deschutes County schools) Slide 30 / of 60



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Smock Prairie School

The Smock Prairie School served as a school from 1906 to 1956. It was moved to Wamic in 1995 and serves as a museum. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 31 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Student Drawing

Eleven-year-old Minnie Harmon of Milton drew this image of a boy and girl. Her drawing was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 32 / of 60


Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Classroom Scene

Children raise their hands in a classroom at Disston School in Lane County circa 1911. (Roy C. Andrews photographs, PH003-N878, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon) Slide 33 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Field Meet Poster

A poster announces a 1909 field meet in Moro for Sherman County schools. The meet included numerous track and field athletic events. It also offered declamatory contests, in which competitors recited speeches or poems from memory in public with a focus on elocution. The poster is on display at the Sherman County Historical Museum in Moro. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 34 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Byrd School

A classic one-room schoolhouse, the Byrd School was built seven miles south of Pilot Rock in 1879. Volunteers moved it to the Umatilla County Historical Museum in Pendleton in 1990. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 35 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Graduating Class

Holding their diplomas and surrounded by floral arrangements, the graduating class of Toledo High School circa 1910 proudly poses for a class photo. (Lincoln County Historical Society) Slide 36 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Baseball Team

In addition to sports sponsored directly by schools, many youths played on town-based teams. Wearing elaborate uniforms, this Jacksonville baseball team claimed the title of "Champions of Oregon" in 1877. Notice the initials on the uniforms denoting playing positions: P=pitcher, SS=shortstop, for example. (Southern Oregon Historical Society, Photo No. 4877) Slide 37 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Gardening Drawing

Lutechia Brown, a Wasco County third grade student, created this drawing of a little girl gardening for Miss Thompson's reading class. It accompanied a poem imploring the seeds to wake up and leave their shells, and was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Fort Dalles Museum) Slide 38 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Newport Girls Basketball Team

The 1929–1930 girls basketball team at Newport Junior High School poses for a photograph with the coach. Bobbed hairstyles were popular in the 1920s. (Lincoln County Historical Society) Slide 39 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Lower Pine Creek Schoolhouse

The Lower Pine Creek Schoolhouse and Interpretive Center in Fossil gives visitors a taste of the old oneroom school days of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Volunteers moved the one-room building from Lower Pine Creek at the mouth of Cove Creek and renovated it as an interpretive center. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 40 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Physiology Drawings

Many students illustrated examples of physiology for display at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri. This work by Marion County eighth grader Edith Campbell in 1904 describes changes to the human jaw over a lifetime. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 41 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Classroom Scene

A teacher stands at the head of a Marion County class in the first years of the 1900s. Students sit attentively in front of a sign above the chalkboard reminding them that "Order is Heaven's First Law." Discipline was strict and punishment for unruliness could be severe by today's standards. A portrait of President William McKinley, who was assassinated in 1901, also looks down on the class. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

Slide 42 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Human Tower

Boys build a human tower at Moro School circa 1914. (Sherman County Historical Museum) Slide 43 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Harris School

The old one-room Harris School near Summer Lake was built in 1890. It was renovated in 2013. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 44 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Physiology Drawings

Many students illustrated examples of physiology for display at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri. This work by Marion County sixth grader Ella Meyer shows the workings of the human heart. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 45 / of 60

LEWIS & CLARK EXPOSITION-1905 Ella meyer. omissEvelynhash. Dist. 118, 6th Gr. Phy sidogy. Diagram illustrating the flow of blood through the heart. a) and (Z) large veins that bring the blood back to the right awride; (C) right awride; (d) right ventricle; e pulmonary artery, car rying blood the lungs (f.p) pulmonary veins, bringing blood from the lungs; (8.) left auricle; (h) left ventricle. (i. k.) the aorta. 194

Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Classroom Scene

Children read in a classroom at Walker School near Cottage Grove circa 1911. (Roy C. Andrews photographs, PH003-N791, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon) Slide 46 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Grade Sheet

A Lane County School District 18 list details the grade results (1 = A) for fifth to eighth grade students in 1935. Columns assigned grades for deportment, hygiene and penmanship, among other subjects. Remarks varied from "excellent" to "very poor, doesn't try." Students also took the difficult Eighth Grade Examination, which was given for decades throughout Oregon. Many students ended their formal education at the eighth grade. (Lane Education Service District) Slide 47 / of 60

District No. <u>1</u> The following is a list of grades received in the Court examinations, duily everage and the full years. Teacher <u>Dysec & Curven</u> <u>Summanne first</u>) <u>Statistical Article Caro, Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>122</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>122</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell, Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Carotic Name</u> <u>Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Hist. Lang. Spell</u>, <u>Hyp. App. <u>11</u>, <u>112</u> <u>Convert</u> <u>Manuary Walter</u> <u>Filosof Sp3 Sp3 Sp 2 a 2 444334443344232122 1 111142</u> <u>Capable Statistical Article Caro</u>, <u>Carotic Filosof</u> <u>513934444334443344334433443341222 2 111142</u> <u>Capable Statistical Article Carobic Carobic</u></u></u></u></u></u></u></u></u></u>																																						
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Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Shanghai School

The construction date of the old Shanghai School near Cove is unknown but it was moved to its current location in 1905. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 48 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Fire Escape

Students try out the "first fire escape at Moro School" circa 1920. They likely enjoyed this safety exercise much more than their arithmetic or history lessons. (Sherman County Historical Museum) Slide 49 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Alsea Public School

In the days before the widespread use of modern motorized buses, some schools used horse-drawn "kid hacks" or "kiddie wagons," such as these parked in front of the Alsea Public School circa 1910. (Benton County Historical Society & Museum, image no. image 1982-081.0005) Slide 50 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Classroom Equipment

Vintage school classroom equipment is displayed in an exhibit at the Sherman County Historical Museum. Did the size and shape of the personal chalkboard slates of the 1800s inspire today's computer tablets? (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 51 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Aesop's Fable Illustration

Wasco County sixth grade student Delbert Tomlinson paraphrased and illustrated this parable from Aesop's Fables about the fox and the grapes. The moral of the parable is that it is easy to despise what you cannot get. The work was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Fort Dalles Museum)

Slide 52 / of 60



The Fox and The Grapes.

A fox who was hungry was walking along and saw some Grape's high on a vine in a tree.

The fox said,"How good they would taste. So heran and jumped as high as he could but he saw that they were far above his head.

Then he went off mad and said that they were sour and not fit to eat any way.

Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Maypole Dance

Students dance around a maypole at Damascus School in 1930. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 53 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Golden School Building

The old one-room schoolhouse at the Golden State Heritage Site in the ghost town of Golden near Wolf Creek in Josephine County. The former mining community boasted almost 100 buildings at its peak in the 1850s. The school operated from 1897 to 1928. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 54 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

School Register and Record Book Cover

The cover on an 1890 Clackamas County Oregon School Register and Record Book. The standardized book was distributed to school districts throughout Oregon by the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction for decades. It served as the main record for teachers to document a variety of information about curriculum, students, visitors and related information. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 55 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

School Register and Record Book Page

A page from an early 1900s Clackamas County Oregon School Register and Record Book. The standardized book was distributed to school districts throughout Oregon by the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction for decades. It served as the main record for teachers to document a variety of information about curriculum, students, visitors and related information. Teachers were sometimes very blunt about student performance in the remarks field. (Oregon State Archives Image) Slide 56 / of 60

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Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Baseball Players

Boys take a break from a game of baseball during recess at Latham School south of Cottage Grove in 1912. (Roy C. Andrews photographs, PH003-N846td, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon) Slide 57 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Student Drawing

Fourth grade Wasco County student Vernon Shoemaker drew a barn and a turkey to illustrate a brief story about a farm. The work was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. (Fort Dalles Museum) Slide 58 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Twickenham School

The Twickenham School building was constructed in 1906 in a very remote part of Wheeler County. It dates to an era before mass-produced automobiles and paved roads, making the need for nearby schools much more important. (Oregon State Archives Photo) Slide 59 / of 60



Oregon's Early Rural Schools Web Exhibit

Faun Creek Schoolhouse

Students and a teacher pose for a photo on the porch of the Faun Creek Schoolhouse in Lane County circa 1911. (Roy C. Andrews photographs, PH003-N917td, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon) Slide 60 / of 60

