

Where Do We Catch the School Bus?

The Sno-Isle Library system is conducting a program to collect images from throughout the County to document local history. Granite Falls Historical Society provided 130+ photos, and we are pleased to share some of them (and others) here with our readers. You can browse pictures from Granite Falls and other communities at: <http://www.sno-isle.org/catalog/photos> .

Last time, we saw how the community called “Robe” moved around on local maps. It brought to mind some of the early communities in the area, and how they had to contend with the lack of transportation “back in the day”. One critical item for each settlement was the education of their children . . . so schools were built locally, within walking distance for the kids. There was no bus! Besides the “big” school built in Granite Falls in 1893, there were many schools a few miles outside of town:



Otto family, 1892, left-to-right Robert, Julia, Florence, Harriette, Charlie, and Eva Habben (Julia's sister).

Robe School picture taken years later shows teacher Florence Otto and her pupils.



“Final” Robe School

The Robe School, which brought this subject to mind, started as a small structure described by Julia Otto (early pioneer), but grew into a substantial school before the need for it was eliminated in 1937 through robust school bus transportation. Mrs. Otto wrote: “During the summer [of 1892] we had a visit from the County Superintendent, saying if we would build a schoolhouse he would give us a school. Mr. McPherson gave an acre of land and the men of the district put up a log school house. Each parent made a seat and desk for his children (no two alike). They also made one for the teacher. In the Fall, we had three months school. . . . The following summer we had three months school, June, July, August.” Little did she know at the time that her daughter Florence would grow up to be the local school teacher!



Original #83



Later #83

School 83 was on the Burn Rd – the original still serves as an outbuilding at Sarvey Wildlife, while the second School 83 is now the Community Bible Church on Burn Rd.



Riverside School on Jordan Rd, now serves as Riverside Community Club.



Granville Grange on 163rd Ave NE, was built as the Outlook School, picture taken 1909.



Scherrer School was on Menzel Lake Rd, about 3 miles south of town, and served the large Waite Mill Camp #3..

We have great documentation (but unfortunately no pictures) of the Maple Hill Grove School on Robe-Menzel Rd, near its intersections with Menzol Lake Rd and Carpenter Rd, and the district battles over State money associated with which district could claim the students.



We have a picture of a horse-drawn “school bus” driven by a young Frank Ashe (lower right) in front of the Granite Falls school, but only one picture of a motorized school bus taken in the 1930s . . . it was posed in front of the large log arch that used to cross Stanley St at the west end of town.

