

Chapter 11

Our School was Stevens Elementary School.

Dona, Sassy, Darlene and Rainsey all attended classes at Lincoln School. Dona and Sassy then went on to H.B. Ellison Junior High, and Jimmy attended H. B. Ellison for just a short time. Darlene, Rainsey, Dale and I all attended Stevens School. Rainsey went on to H. B. Ellison from there, but Dale and I went to the new Pioneer Junior High.

WED., MAY 8, 1980 THE WENATCHEE DAILY WORLD, WENATCHEE, WA

WASHINGTON STATE APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

MAD & EVENTS AND TRAFFIC GUIDE

LEGEND
 GRAND PARADE
 MOB PARADE
 ROAD BARRIER
 TRAFFIC ARROWS

3,000 Students In Line

Three thousand students in march time for the last of the Apple Blossom Festival. The parade is scheduled for Saturday with participants getting into town at 10 a.m.

Festival Notes

Harried workers at the Blossom Festival headquarters took a few seconds off from the confusion of the last few days' arrangements to give some last-few-days notes.

Here they are:

The Manson Grange float, mer at the Manson Festival Saturday will be one of featured attractions in the parade next Saturday.

A final meeting of the parade division last night finished for the parade.

A new feature of this year's parade will be a "parade assigned to each out-of-town. They will guide the streets around town during the parade.

The hosts will be charged with the job of making sure that the visitors get right places at the right time. They will show them where assigned sleeping places, where to eat, where they go to enjoy their events, and generally take care of them.

Eight two-way radios will be used to guide the parade smoothly. Four of the radios will be used for the parade officials. Parade officials will follow the parade with the portables, report to Division Chairman Stuart at the Apple Bowl. The non-portable sets will be at strategic places along the route. Plans will direct the parade over his set at the Bowl.

Fifty military police from Moses Lake air base been assigned to Wenatchee for the festival. The MP's look after things of Mose personnel expected to witness festival events. Wenatchee police will be "hats" to their military colleagues.

The number of cars along the parade route at the parade will be sharply tallied this year. Only press

Two-Hour Grand Parade Is Pageant of Floats, Bands

Saturday's Grand Parade is designed to thrill all of the expected 100,000 visitors to the Apple Blossom Festival as well as the home folks.

The two-hour procession begins at 10 a. m. from the Apple Bowl. It will wind its way through the city over a mile long route that in past years has been jammed with spectators hours before the event began.

Governor Arthur Langley will

FESTIVAL NOTE

The Okanogan Women's chorus will provide entertainment at the All-Service club luncheon Saturday at noon. Gov. Arthur B. Langley will be guest of honor. The Sproctimal club will be host.

About three-fourths of U. S. maple syrup and sugar is produced in the Pacific Northwest.



The first Stevens School was built in the 1890's, and was located on Kittitas Street and between Methow and South Chelan Streets (the 200 block). The school was named in honor of Isaac Ingalls Stevens, first governor of Washington Territory. The 2nd Stevens Public School built in 1925 on the same spot, and was the school we (the Courchane kids) attended. It was square in shape, with a basement, main floor and upper floor. John Gellatly gives it 10 class rooms (I don't remember that many), a multi-purpose room, and had 304 students in 1956. I have many fond memories of this school. The multi-purpose room mentioned by John Gellatly I remember as the large room on the west side of the upper level. It held the music room. It had a stage and was also used as the lunch room. On it's stage I stood many times through the years that I was at Stevens School in Christmas plays (once I was one of the Three Wise Men and another time I was a shepherd), and to square dance. We all learned to square dance in the 4th grade and were taught by Mrs. Struntz.

We sang many true American songs in Mrs. Stache's Music class. The beautiful song "America" was one song that I still remember. Others were the "Star Spangled Banner," "O'Susanna" "Frere Jacques," "Hot Cross Buns," "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "Ring Around the Rosie," "Old MacDonald," and "Row Row Your Boat." We also learned to play a piccolo, which was small plastic half-size flute. In fact piccolo is Italian for small. Usually made of wood they could be made of plastic or resin as well. It is the highest-pitched instrument in the orchestra or band. John Phillip Sousa wrote, "Stars and Stripes Forever" for the piccolo. I don't remember if they were given to us or if we had to buy

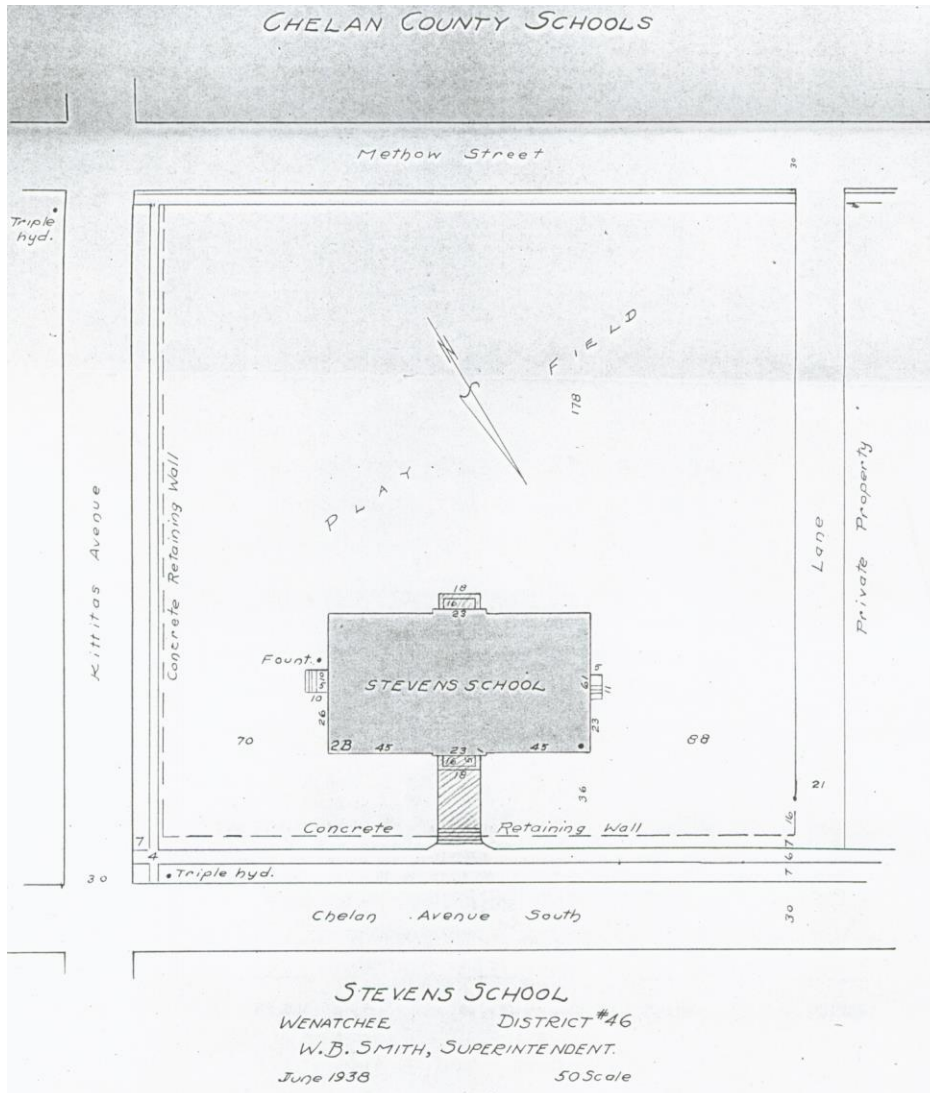
them. Jim Buhning's recollections: One in particular is when you are speaking of the teachers at Stevens school, you mention music teacher Ms. "Stacey". I'm quite sure that should be Stache (pronounced stashy). She and Ms. Baumgarter both lived in apartments at the Columbia Hotel where my maternal Grandmother worked as a maid for many years up until about 1940 or thereabouts. Grandmother and Ms. Stache became pretty good friends over the years, and Stache's love of the violin was my sister Caroline's inspiration to play it. She took lessons from Ms. Stache for several years even after she entered Jr. High and was no longer a student at Stevens." "Mildred Stache. She was the entire music department at Stevens for many years. My sister took violin lessons from her and I took cello. Fortunately, my sister learned to play. :-) That's not a bad mark on her talents because I think Ms. Stache was an excellent teacher. She was a single lady and lived in a suite at the Columbia Hotel. My Grandmother met her there when she worked as a maid in the thirties." Jim Buhning

Rhona Mills Wuth writes on 11/9/2013 "Miss Baumgartner was killed in an auto accident .. I think in Spokane. She retired when Stevens closed down and it was just a couple years later that she was killed."

Each floor level including the basement had class rooms, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd were on the main level, the 4th and an Achievement class and boiler (Heating) room were in the basement, and the 5th and 6th grades were upstairs. Each level had two lavatories, girls and boys. Each class room had old wooden and wrought iron desks that had lids that lifted up to reveal a place to keep paper, pencils and school books. Adjacent to the lids there was a groove along the top that held pencils and erasers, also on each corner of the desk was an ink well in which was put a bottle of India ink (left over from pen and ink days). Although we did use pen and ink in our penmanship exercises. Each class room had a cloak room, and each student had a hook and shelf in which to put coats, overshoes (called rubbers in those days) and lunches. Our school patrol gear was stored here too. A large blackboard (in those days they were actually black) with felt erasers and chalk covered one wall of each room. Near it was always a pencil sharpener. And they were

two doors to the class rooms both going out into the hallways. George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's portraits adorned many of the walls. There was a principal's office, nurse's station and janitor's room on the main level.

There were 6 entrances to the school, two main entrances that were large double door entrances, one on the Methow Street side (or back) that was at ground level, and the front (or main) on South Chelan Street. The main entrance was approached from the street and it was much lower than the doors, so there were two sets of large steps, one from the street to a flat area that was lawn and then the 2nd steps that went into the building. This side of the building also had a retaining wall running from Kittitas Street to Chelan where it turned to go to down Chelan to an alley that was located at a stop just before Yakima Street. It ended here. Past the alley to Yakima were a little diner and then a gas station. On the two ends of the building were doors with steps going into the basement and metal stairs up to doors on the upper level. The stairs at Stevens School were elaborate, both large entrances (main and back) had very wide wooden stairs going up to the main level (1st, 2nd and 3rd grades), these were directly in line with the double doors, on one side on both entrances were narrower stairs going downstairs. So if you were coming in from the back (the students rarely used the main entrance), you could see the opposite stairs as you went up. From the main floor another narrower stairs up to the upper floor. The big stairs were wide, airy, well lit and friendly. All the stairs had banisters or handrails, I slid down one once and Mr. Steele, the janitor, gave me hell. The metal stairs (fire escape) on the Yakima Street end was used in fire alarm practices. The Kittitas end did not have a fire escape.



From the Central Regional Archives, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Wash. Later a concrete sidewalk was put in the back entrance and went to the Methow city sidewalk.

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL FIRE ASSOCIATION, SEATTLE, WASH.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 - CHELAN COUNTY - WENATCHEE SCHOOL

BUILDING SURVEY: (STEVENS BUILDING)

- CONSTRUCTION - Two story and full basement; composition roof; brick (stucco) building; lath and plaster partitions; frame floors; concrete and frame in basement.
- OCCUPANCY - Basement - classes; heat; first floor - class rooms; second floor - class rooms.
- HOUSEKEEPING - Basement - good; first floor - good; second floor - good.
- HEATING - Steam heat from wood and coal fuel; located in basement; cut off with concrete and approved door.
- LIGHTING - Electric - conduit wiring properly fused from closed fuse box located various in building.
- PRIVATE PROTECTION - Seven $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallon soda and acid extinguishers.
Two $1\frac{1}{8}$ quart carbon tetrachloride extinguishers.
Six $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. S.P. and 50 feet Hose.
- PUBLIC PROTECTION - Triple hydrant, 100 feet distant; paid fire department 2 blocks distant.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON:

- BUILDING
 1. Worn extension cord in boiler room should be replaced with heavy rubber "Pecking House" cord.
 2. Cleanup of rubbish under ramp in fuel bin needed.

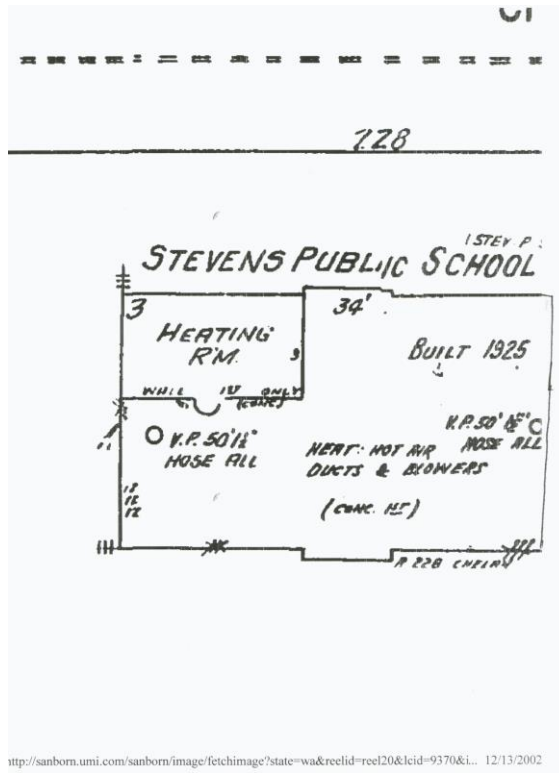
RATE MAKEUP - None

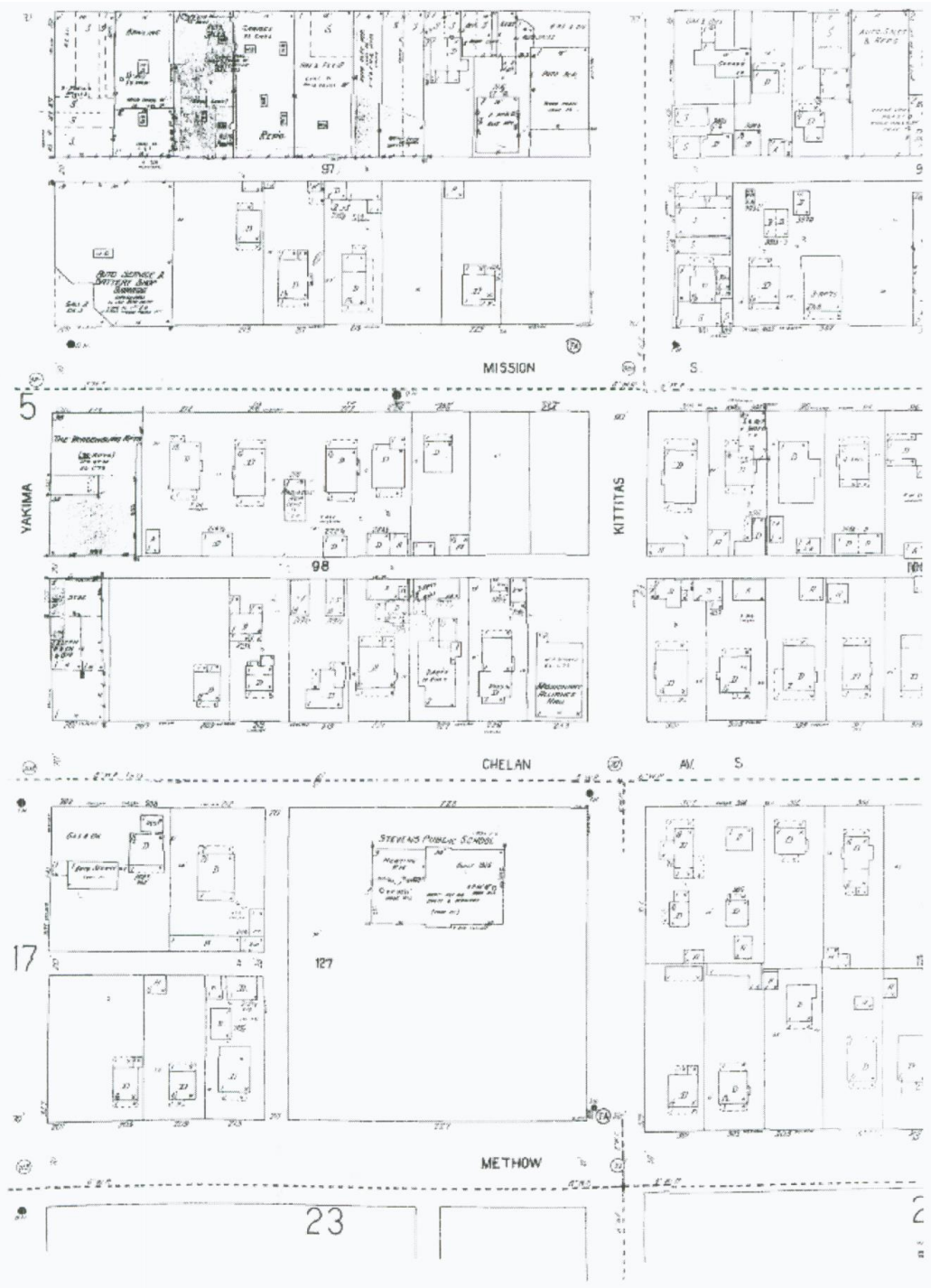
INSURANCE COVERAGE
(See High School)

RATE MAKEUP:

Stevens Building.	Basic - B Class		.55
	Indirect steam heating system	5%	.03
			.52
	Occupancy - grade school		
	Protection - Extinguishers	5%	
	Standpipes	5%	
			.03
			.45
	Term Adjustment	20%	.10
			.39

From the Central Regional Archives, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington





<http://sanborn.umi.com/sanborn/image/fetchimage?state=wa&reelid=reel20&lcid=9370&i...> 12/13/2002
 We lived in a house located about where the 23 is shown on the plat, 220 Methow.



Soil Conservation Aerial Photograph of Wenatchee 2.6 1948 (Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center). All the houses we lived in at 434 and 338 Mission Street and 220 and 408 Methow are shown on this photo.

All the grades except the 4th lined up in single file formation at the back entrance to wait for the admittance bell to ring in the mornings. The 4th grade lined up on the Kittitas side as it was taught in the basement. My 1st teacher was Ms. Richard and 2nd grade teacher was Mrs. Flink and the 3rd was Mrs. Baumgarten, 4th Mrs. Struntz, 5th Mrs. Rutherford and 6th was Mr. Finley. The janitor was Mr. Steele, until he retired, he was replaced by a man from The Netherlands. He was Dutch and could speak very little English, he and his wife and several children (2 boys Hans and Fritz, and a daughter I think) came over from Europe after World War Two through some government program. Hans and Fritz and Dale and I became very good friends. Tulips, in a wooden shoe was first encountered by us at their little house on Methow Street. We lived about a half block up the street from them. I remember one of the boys had a scar across his left cheek. They did not speak English either.



Rainsey



Dale



Chalky

Some of the fond memories of my school days were that the school teachers used to bring pussy willow bouquets to Stevens school every spring. We marveled at these simple fuzzy branches and years later (1978) Rainsey and I scouted out the complete valley to find a pussy willow bush. I wanted to plant it on my place in East Wenatchee. We finally found one at Milot Mills Florists, a French Pink variety. Today it is huge and needs pruning frequently, but every spring I remember Rainsey and the bouquets at school. Every year we had “open house” on a certain night with booths of goodies, games and tours by the teachers, usually called the school carnival. These were fun and cost us very little money. Every year we had a school picnic, or went on a field trip. In different times we toured the city jail, the fire department, the tree fruit experiment station and the museum. On one school picnic at Mission Park while with Mrs. Struntz’s 4th grade class I got hit hard in the left ear by a hardball. It knocked me out of the game and almost out! Boy!, that hurt. I never played hardball again.

Although my memories are mostly good about school, Sassy remembers differently. When Sassy, with Jimmy and Dona, started school here in the early 1940’s things were different. They were looked down on by other students because of their Indian blood. Dale and I never got much of that and it might be because we started with our school mates in the 1st grade and grew up together. Sassy and the others were thrust into junior

high with older and more prejudiced kids. There was that hoity-toity class of rich kids even then.



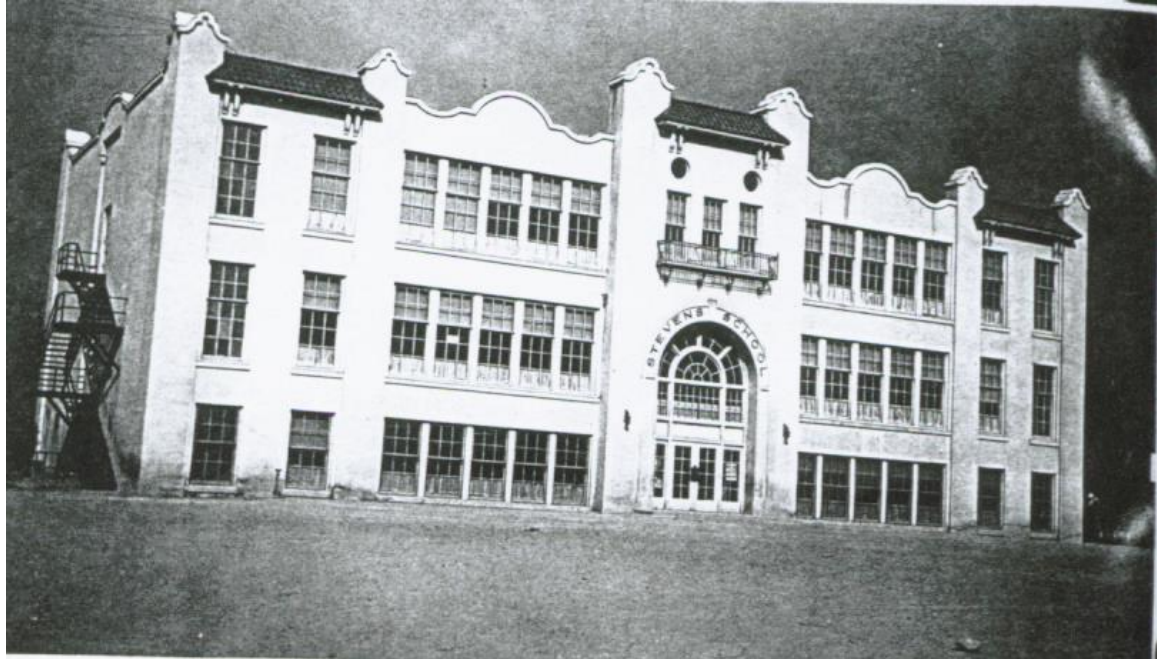
I think the trees were pretty much cut down by the time I attended Stevens School. And the hitching posts were gone, although some of the thick metal hitching rings were still embedded in some of the concrete sidewalks. I loved to look out the windows and watch the cars go by and I feel sorry for the kids today with schools having no windows.

Email from Rhona Mills Wuth 11/10/2013

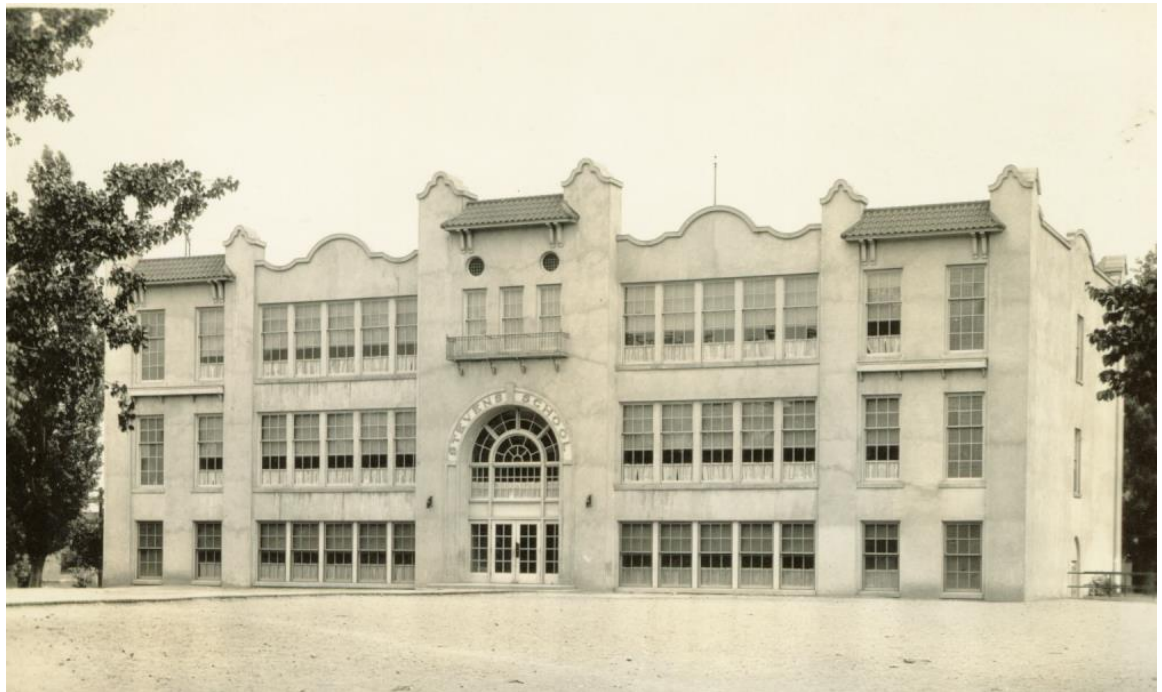
Do you remember, David, that the cloak rooms had two doors and could form a circular path for rowdy kids to run through if and when the teacher was out of the room? I remember many of those kids, usually boys!

I also remember that Miss Bumgartner and Ms. Stache wrote some of those plays we did. I was a moon fairy in one. I still have my tiara!

And from the back of Miss Bumgartner's room, there was little door. You went up a couple of steps and were out on a balcony above the two sets of main stairs. She used that room to setup an easel and we could choose to paint during recess. I loved it!
Pip squeak here: Do you remember the tether balls? My favorite recess game! And Miss Bumgartner taught us how to play Fox and Geese in the snow! Yes, you young tender children of today, we had to stay out at recess time even in 32 degree weather!



From the Central Regional Archives, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Wash. This is the Methow Street side, showing the play ground.



Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, Stevens School, 75-23-15.

Stevens school didn't have a gym so in the 6th grade we had to go to South Wenatchee School to practice for basketball. This was the only year I played school basketball because by the next year or two I was a lot shorter than my classmates!

Most of the property on Stevens School was devoted to a playground. It was mostly dirt and rocks, with a small asphalt area for hopscotch and shooting baskets. The playground was divided by a concrete sidewalk that ran from Methow to the back entrance. On this side from the alley to Yakima were located several residents, one of the kids named Alan Beidler lived in the middle one. His Dad, Steve Beidler, was very large and a local legend. He was a World War II veteran and I remember we used to pin his medals and ribbons on our shirts and play. Either the Beidler place or the one next to it had a mulberry tree. It was the first we ever saw (and only) and we delighted in eating the fruit. Alan Beidler today (Sept. 2003) has a real estate business, Sage Real Estate Services, Inc.

Also back on this part of the school grounds were old concrete foundations just visible above the hard playground, some areas stuck out of the dirt about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or so. The teachers told us that it was the old school (I always thought old high school), and that it had burned down years ago. Now I think it was probably the original Stevens School built in the 1890's and probably all 12 grades were taught in it at one time. The Wenatchee records show the old high school at another location. The Yakima side of the block across the alley was cut in half by another alley that ran parallel with both S. Methow and South Chelan Street. This made two sections one with residences and the other with a service station and little diner.

Mrs. Baumgarten, our 3rd grade teacher made silhouettes of the class, and I guess it was tradition of schools in those days. Silhouettes were in vogue during the days of the American Revolution and I suppose it was a tradition from those times. We sat by a lamp that reflected our profiles on piece of paper on a wall and the teacher would trace around the shadow of our heads. These were cut out and traced on black construction paper and mounted on a white background for a nice silhouette. We brought them home and they hung on the walls for a long time, but I don't know what ever happened to them.

[A History of Silhouettes A silhouette or shadow portrait is produced by having a person turn side on (in profile) and their image or shadow is drawn or cut from paper. This produces a likeness through shape, without showing details of the face. Originally, they were called profile miniatures or shades, but were named silhouette after the French Minister for Finance Etienne de Silhouette (1709 – 1769). He was very miserly and cut black profiles as a hobby, so his name was used to reflect his cheapness! Silhouette-portraits were popular during the 18th century in Europe, as they were a cheap, quick method of producing a likeness. Photography was not in public use until about 1839 and sitting for painted portraiture (even miniatures) was expensive. Silhouette-portraits were hung in oval frames in the sitting room or bedroom. Sometimes, whole scenes showing people against indoor or outdoor scenery were created. There was generally a silhouette artist in every large town, but in 1820, the quality of silhouettes is thought to have declined as more unskilled artists were working. Silhouettes and painted miniatures also declined in popularity with the invention of photography. Silhouette-portraits were produced by positioning the subject between a bright light (such as a candle) and a sheet of white drawing paper pinned against a wall. Their shadow was traced and cut out, then mounted and framed. Some silhouettes were drawn or cut from paper, wax, glass or plaster. Although silhouettes are normally plain, paint was sometimes used to decorate it.

For example, the hair or dress was touched in gold or bronze paint, gray paint was used to emphasize folds of clothing or texture of hair. http://www.questacon.edu.au/assets/pdf/Spot_the_Skipper_-_a_History_of_Silhouettes.pdf]

Lunches at school were brown bag, but sometimes when Momma could afford it we ate at the little diner by the alley. Little cans of Campbell's Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup, and tuna (or egg salad) sandwiches. We thought the little cans of soup were really neat! I think our neighbors, Terry and Lona Barnett ate there too. We never salted and peppered our food in those days, that is Dale and I didn't, and one day we saw one of the girls salt and pepper her soup. I was stunned! What a neat idea. One year we ate lunch at our sister Dona's who lived on Mission Street just around the corner from the school. It was a long walk home from school. When we ate in the school lunch room, we were always told to wash up and the lavatories had a round clear soap container attached to the wall, after washing the soap left a clean smelling odor on our hands. Our lunch was usually just a sandwich, milk, and fruit. The sandwiches were usually bologna, potted meat or tuna on Wonder Bread [that built bodies in 8 ways in those days]. The bologna and black pepper salami of those days were the real deal and tasted so good.

Daddy and Momma held Dale back until I was old enough to go to school with him, as we were inseparable. This lasted until the 3rd grade when the school authorities decided that I depended on Dale too much and held me back. I remember being crushed and the next year lining up to go to the 3rd grade when one of my friends yelled at me that I was in the wrong line. Dale was standing by him and said simply "No, he is in the right line." I was temporarily embarrassed. But I met some of my best school chums that year.

Our route to Stevens School was the three blocks that went north towards town from 746 South Chelan. On that route we past such "interesting" places as the Mandely Refrigeration Company, Red Sign's Service Inc., the Humphries Apartments, Mrs. Tracy's, the St. Joseph Catholic Church (with Father O'Sullivan) and the Chelan Street Grocery.

The Korean War to us kids was just a "rumor", that is to say we heard about it, but didn't know the facts or what war was. It was the reason we did school drills, in the advent of enemy bombs dropping on us, someone said. We didn't read newspapers, or watch TV news then, and didn't listen to the news on the radio, so we never knew that that vicious and bloody war was actually being fought in Korea, or that our 1st cousin Charles Courchene was then in Korea. Where was Korea anyway? We asked Dale why we did air raid drills and what everyone was covering up for, under the desks each time there was a drill. What were bombs? He said that airplanes came over and dropped these bombs, they were full of white powder and exploded when they hit the ground covering everything with the powder. "But if it hit you first, it would knock you out, he cautioned". So that was our Korean War and why we hid under the desks with our heads covered by our arms. In fact about that time I remember we saw our first airplane fly over Wenatchee's skies. I think I saw it first and ran into the house to alert the rest of the family. Airplane sightings were still big deals to people in those days. Dale and I watched and watched but it did not drop any powder bombs, we were so sure it would and said so. We were very disappointed that it didn't. I am sure that Dale, as I did,

remembered the powder bombs when he was in Vietnam, especially as the mortar rounds were exploding around him. If only they were just exploding white talcum powder on us then!

The St. Joseph's Catholic Church's parking area was first graveled (or re-graveled) during the time we attended Stevens School. I remember that Dale and I, along with another kid, either Pat Humphries or Frankie Thompson, were on our way home from school. As we past the church we realized that new crushed rock had been laid over the parking area. On closer inspection we saw that the rock were of all kinds of shapes and colors. Every time we saw a shiny one or brightly colored one we yipped "Ah", pretty soon so many "ahhhh's" were heard that our friend said, "Boy with all the ahhhh's it sounds like a room full of sick people!" Of course this embarrassed Dale and we started saying our ahhh's in whisper's to each other. We collected a pocketful of the shiniest and prettiest rocks we could and went happily on our way home. The year 2003 is the last year for services in this church on Chelan St. and a new church is being built. The building was given over to city and has been made a community center.

I had a certain artistic talent, with neat printing and penmanship in those days. I lost this talent somewhere in Vietnam. I did two pictures that the teachers hung on the walls of the old school. The first one I did was a watercolor of a Pilgrim and an American Indian. It was made for Thanksgiving. I was in Mrs. Baumgarten's 3rd grade class (the second time) and she hung it on the back wall (the wall that was adjacent to the stairway). It was on that wall for years. I hear. In the fifth grade I started a pastel picture of tropical birds, using the National Geographic for ideas, it was very large and on poster board. I would work on it each day for the entire year and still was not finished with it by the schools year's end. The next year, Mrs. Rutherford dragged it out from some closet and ask Mr. Finley if I could take time each day to finish it. He agreed to let me. This picture was on the upper level hall walls for years afterward too. Stevens closed in the 1970's and became a fallout shelter. I don't know what they did with the pictures and other school stuff. Later the building was demolished and a new marble Federal Building and Post Office was built on that location. So I suppose the pictures were discarded. While attending Pioneer Junior High I did an engraving on a sheet of copper that struck the Art teacher's eye, and I don't know whatever happened to it. It was an elephant and India theme.

In our school days we traveled all over the south end of Wenatchee, along the Columbia River banks, Wharf Street and along the Railroad tracks. I can remember exploring all the big rocks that lined the river bank. Once in awhile we waded or jumped into the cold Columbia River. We had heard Jimmy had swum across the Columbia River, and wondered how he had done it. Mainly because when we went to the river we could see very large currents and eddies out in the middle that could pull a person down into the river to drown. We saw many old hobo camps and some that still had occupants, and once under the new Bridge we saw writings or graffiti left by The King of the Hoboes. We wondered who he was. We picked up drift wood, rocks, bottle caps and railroad spikes. These were all great treasures to us. Once I saw a large bird fly over the river and disappear somewhere, to me it looked like a pterodactyl and it scared the hell out of

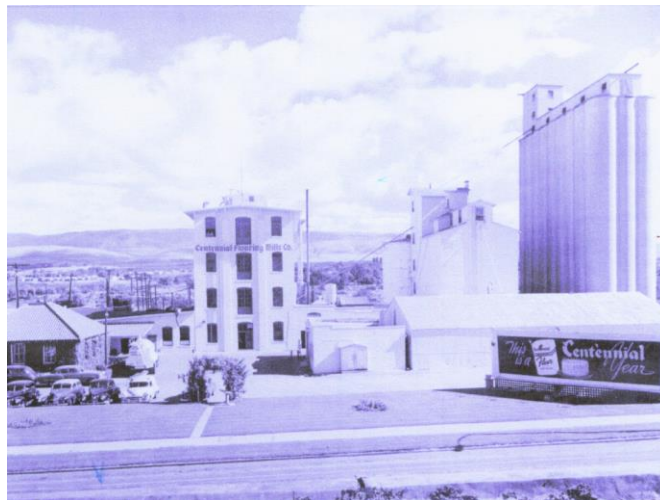
me, and for a long time after that I would look for it every time we went to the river. Being kids we could see anything our imaginations conjured up.

Exploring along the Great Northern Railroad tracks we would snoop around the old Centennial Flour Mills buildings and silos. Once we climbed up the metal ladder that went to the top of Centennial Mills from the railroad tracks side of the mill. It was high and it was a wonder we didn't fall and kill ourselves! We were attracted to the mill because it was a favorite roosting place for the pigeons. They were probably still there from the days of the Pigeon Man on Wharf Street. One time we got into the wheat silos and saw they were full of grain, so we all jumped in, not realizing how dangerous that it was. If the silo took on wheat or released wheat we could have been hurt. But that never occurred to us. We would jump around and dive into the grain and throw it at each other until we tired of that game.



Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, photos 84-94-6 & 88-108-221

Centennial Mills on Wenatchee Avenue.



Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, 85-18-33

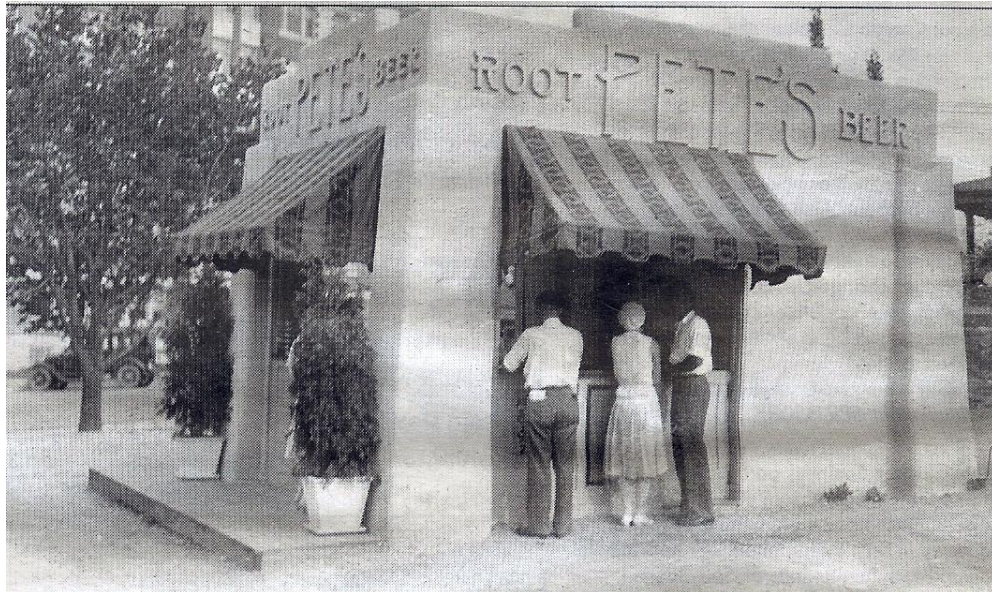
Centennial Mills

One favorite spot for us kids was the Plaza Fountain, which located at the junction of Orondo, Okanogan and Methow Streets and across from the Chelan County Courthouse. It had set of stools on the outside of the building and a large window and counter. We sat on the outside on a plaza and ordered from the counter large frosted mugs of root beer and root beer floats. It was our usual stopping off place whenever we walked to the movies. Later the Plaza Jet Market was build it and behind that on Okanogan Street was a little Plaza Hamburger Booth, where we could get 5 hamburgers for a dollar.



The original Plaza

Take from "Wenatchee Valley – Images of North Central Washington," vol. 1, page 109, by The Wenatchee World, 2002, photo from Beryl Jean Kinney



Wenatchee Business Journal, Opinion, April 2009, page 34, "Mystery Photo."
This root beer stand was in operation prior to the Plaza.



“Looking Back – Ice Cream and beer: Plaza still serving family needs” by Chris Rader, Wenatchee Business Journal, Features, page 13, & 18, April 2009.

In 1926, Paul and Helen “Ma” Kinney started a Standard service station on Okanogan Streets. Later they built the Plaza across the street on the triangle lot of Okanogan and Orondo Streets, it was to be a confectionary and food store. The Plaza was very similar to the typical general store with 100 pound sacks of sugar, flour and rice. In front of the store was a long rectangular window that opened up to serve ice cream bars and root beer floats. Customers had four stools use while they enjoyed their treats. The ice cream and root beer was made at the store’s plant in back and was hand packed. It is said that they sold more Olympia beer than any other store in Eastern Washington. At one time I remember that there were three Plaza’s the old store and fountain, the Super Jet and a small concession stand behind the Super Jet that sold hamburgers. In 1961 the Kinney’s opened up a new bigger store called the Plaza Super Jet behind where the older store was. The Kinney family sold out in 1979 to Don Lau and Gary Sinclair and is still a going business today with Jeff Lau the owner. Where the old store was now stands Evergreen Optical. I poured new concrete driveways and sidewalk on both entrances of the Plaza Super Jet a few years ago (2007). Across the street the service station was later a Chevron station owned by Dorothy Preston, who lived across the street from Pam and I on Madison Street in 1976-78. Some of the above was taken from “Looking Back – Ice Cream and Beer: Plaza still serving family needs” by Chris Rader, Wenatchee Business Journal, Features, page 13, and 18, April 2009.

Doc’s Midget, a soda fountain, was on the corner of Mission and Orondo streets. I remember it was just a slip of a business, running in a very narrow room with only a row of stools and counter. Here were got ice cream, sodas and French fries. All the Courchane girls would meet there friends here to hang out. Next door to the Midget was the Spudnut, a place that made potato donuts that were glazed. Spudnut joints were a chain that originated in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In the early 1950's the Presidential candidates campaigned by train and made what was called whistle-stops at all the little towns in the United States that was on their route. General Eisenhower came to Wenatchee and he stopped the Great Northern train Depot to make a short campaign speech. Dale and I ran from Stevens School down to the train depot to see him [school was let out early so any kids that wanted to could go see him]. We didn't know who he was really, but were told he was a WWII hero. When we got to the train station there was a huge crowd, and we couldn't see a thing. Finally a man saw our predicament and picked us up one at a time and held us over his head so we could get a glimpse of General Eisenhower. All I saw was a bald headed man visible above the mass of people, who was standing at the back of the train and remembered that he was smiling and waving. Eisenhower was making a speech, but Dale and I didn't have a clue what it was about and soon headed home to tell Daddy about it. Daddy told us he would probably be the next President of the United States.

Elvis Presley made a West Coast Tour, and from August 29, 1957 to September 2, 1957 did concerts in Spokane, Vancouver, Tacoma, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon. After Portland, The King of Rock and Roll headed back to Tupelo, Mississippi for a concert in that city's Fairgrounds. We heard he was coming to Wenatchee too and waited with anticipation, but to no avail. The town Fathers banned him from our fair town and I hear they wouldn't even let him off the train. What a disappointment! We were crushed! The Wenatchee Daily World wrote on September 4, 1957: "[Billy] Graham outdraws Presley." It goes on to say that Billy Graham drew 200,000 people while Elvis Presley only drew 100,000 "persons in Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Tacoma and Vancouver" who "jammed ball parks, auditoriums and theaters to indulge the fad of Elvis Presley.... But after seeing Presley for the first time in a movie, we're convinced his success is a pure product of publicity. He has nothing to offer musically. The rhythm of his accompaniment is all that gets him by. But publicity has created a mass hysteria among the youngsters that dictates attendance at a Presley performance as "the thing to do." Music experts say Presley and his music are already on the decline." How wrong they were! How very wrong!

Dale's Stevens School records are:

Year:	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Grade:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Age:	7	8	9	10	11	12
Days missed:	9	7 ½	12	4	4 ½	23
Date						
Entered:	9/2-52	8-31-53	9-1-54	9-7-55	9/5/56	9-4-57
Teacher:	Richard	Flink	Baumgarten	Struntz	E. Taylor	Finley
					Rutherford	

Dale went to Washington School in 1956-57 and don't know if Taylor was from there are not, Rutherford taught at Stevens School. (Mr. Taylor died 2003) He took reading, penmanship, spelling, arithmetic, language, geography, history, health and hygiene, art, music, and science. He got average grades. Work, Study Habits, Social & Personal Traits he got 1, 2 & 3's.

Test: Metro. Readiness	Otis Alpha A	Cal. Ach.	Otis-Beta	Calif. Ach.
Date: 9-16-52	9-14-54	10-12-55	9/18/56	9-24-57
Score: 81	136		46	252
Chronological Age: 7-3			11-3	12-4
Mental Age:	10-4			
Intelligence Quotient:	107		110	
Letter Rating: B		5.3		
Percentile: 76		95	G.D.	6.7

Personality rating for attitude, industriousness, cooperation, courtesy, sportsmanship, sociability, cheerfulness, sensitiveness, kindness, & emotional stability were almost 100 per cent 1 & 2's.

Dale Lewis Courchane, sex m, birth month June, day 15, Yr. 1945, place of birth Wenatchee, State: Wash. Bro. 2 Sis. 3

Father: Lewis L. Courchane, living with Yes, race: W, citizen: Yes, occupation: Orchard.

Mother: Viola A. Courchane, living with Yes, race: W, citizen: Yes, occupation: Cook Elk's Club.

Address Record:

746 S. Chelan 2-8461 (phone)

338 So. Mission

220 Methow

408 Methow

Transferred to: Stevens Date: 9/8/52 To Washington Date: 9-5-56

Stevens 1/3/57

Dale's School Records at Pioneer Junior High School are:

Date Entered Pioneer Jr. High 9/3/58 from Stevens, entered H. B. Ellison 11/10/59 from Pioneer. Date withdrew 3-8-60 Reason: dropped because of irregular attendance

Father's Name: Lewis Courchane occupation: Manager Living Y

Mother's Name: Viola Courchane occupation: Cook Living Y

No. of Brothers 2 No. at Home 1 No. of Sisters 4 No. at Home 1

Living with parents

1958-59 in the 7th grade and 1959-60 in the 8th grade, he was with the first class to attend the new Pioneer Junior High in 1959, it was called Pioneer Park Junior High the first year. He got average grades and took reading, English, arithmetic, general science, social studies, physical education, music, mechanical drawing, & art.

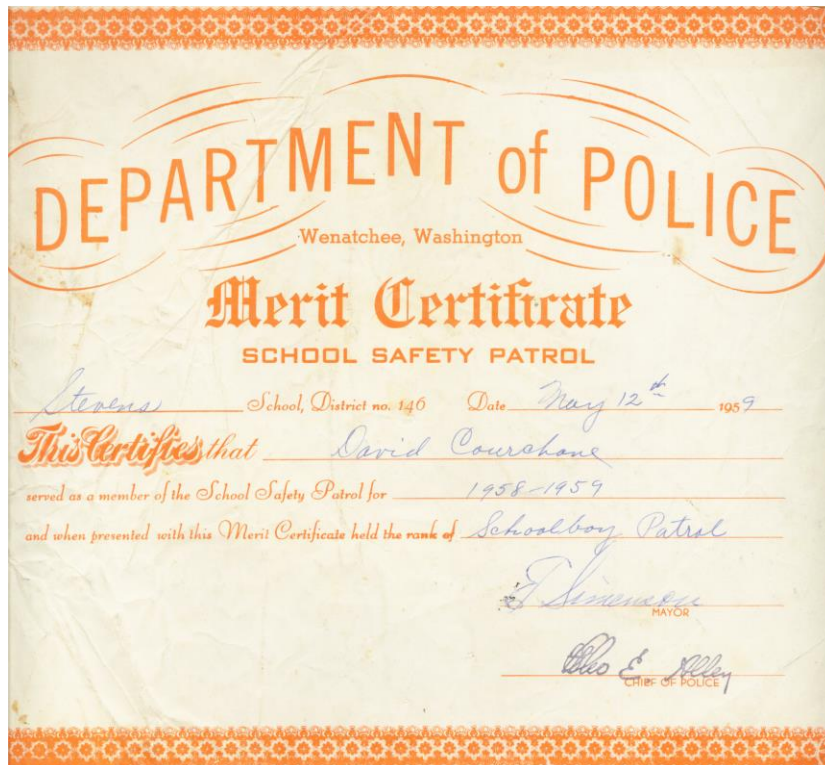
He missed 46 days in the 7th grade and was twice tardy.

"David Courchane, your brother Dale was in 6th grade with me at Washington School; Mr. Gib Edward's class 1957-1958 school year. We honored him along with our other class mate, Steve Prince who was also killed in Viet Nam. He would have graduated with us in 1964 ♥" Candy Crawford Kunz, 11/8/2013

Dale lived with Sassy & O.A. in St. Ignatius, Montana and attended the St. Ignatius Junior High for the year 1960-61, where he took English, mathematics, history, reading and science in the 8th grade class. He got A's & B's. The test for Stanford Achievement he got grade level 11.6.

My grade school records were never found by the superintendent's office, and I have asked twice.

I was a school patrol during the 5th & 6th grades and we stood on the corner of S. Chelan and Kittitas Streets.

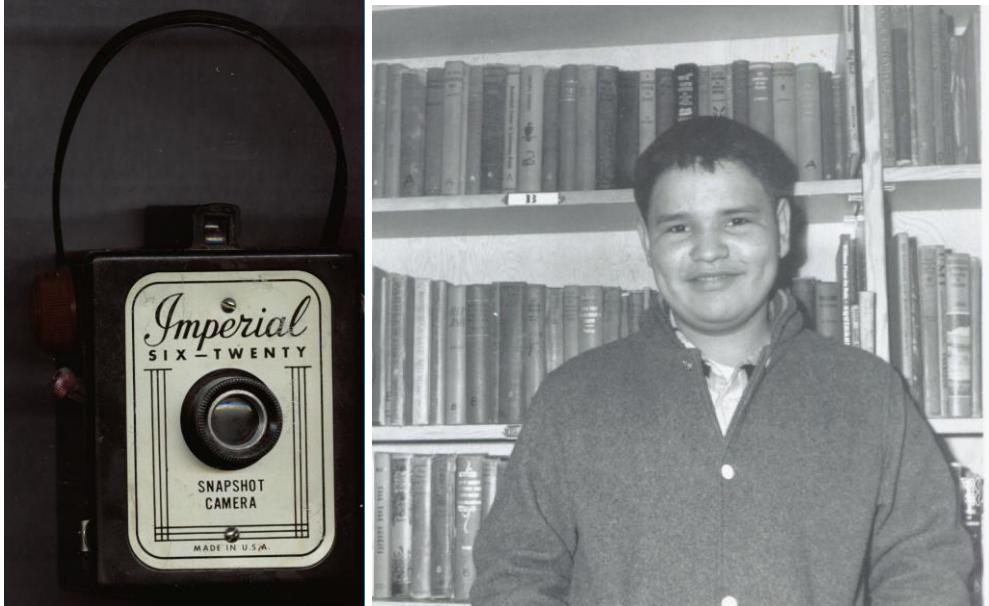


When we lived at 408 Methow Dale and I went home for lunch as it was only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a block from school. One day we had spaghetti and grape juice for lunch (probably leftover from the day before), I ate so much that I got sick (foundered myself Daddy said). I still was made to go back to school after lunch. I was in the Mrs. Rutherford's fifth grade class and it wasn't too long after I sat down at my desk when I knew I was about to throw up. So I raised my hand to be excused and started running for the lavatory (which was just across from our room) but I didn't make and threw up a trail from my desk cross the classroom floor and hallway and all over the lavatory floor and the urinals. Purple sickening looking Spaghetti! Mr. Steele, the janitor was pissed and said so as he was cleaning up the mess! I can still remember my classmates' wide eyes and looks of horror as I ran to the lavatory! Ha! Ha!

Stamp Collecting.

Dona started collecting stamps in about 1954, while we lived at 746 South Chelan, in a little paper covered H. E. Harris & Co. Discoverer Stamp Album. It was a basic beginner's album. One could get bags of used (or cancelled) stamps at the local Five and Dime Store Kress's on Wenatchee Avenue. Dona would get a big bag and we'd all look through them and sort them out and soak them in warm water to separate the stamp from the envelope paper. There were a lot of duplicates in the bag, it was a grab bag kind of thing. Envelopes of selected issues could be purchased also, of any country that you chose to collect. Dona collected worldwide stamps. So the big bags were just right for her. Pretty soon Dale and I were collecting stamps in a similar album. Then Mike Courchane and Gaye Jones started collecting. And, still some years later Danny Jones, Georgie Hansbrough, Patty Courchane and Joe Courchane all started collecting. One album, a 1960 edition of The New World Wide Postage Stamp Album, was passed down from Dale to Mike and then to Patty (this album is stored down in my basement library today 2003, as is Dona's old album). I gave my old world wide album to George Hansbrough in the early 1970's and I think he still has it somewhere. Today I still collect U.S. Mint stamps, and every year Pam gets me the annual mint stamp albums that the Postal Service puts out. Dona quit collecting not long after she had started, and eventually everyone but me stopped collecting. Today I have a half dozen U.S. White Ace Stamp Albums, as I only collect U.S. mint stamps. I quit getting the supplemental pages and opted to buy the yearly postal service mint albums instead. About 20 years ago I did a concrete patio for Herb Gardner and his wife, at the time they owned Gardner Stamp Shop on Emerson St. in Wenatchee and for payment they gave me four Supreme Global Stamp Albums put out by Minkus. These have grown to 12 since then and are massive albums that are 5 to 6 inches wide and are literally illustrated with thousands of images of every stamp put out in the world and over these images one places the issues he collects. I have not actively collected in these albums for several years or kept up the very expensive supplemental pages each year. So they just sit on shelves in the basement library.

I won a camera in a school Spelling Bee in the 5th or 6th grade, I still have the little plastic camera and many of the old black and white photos taken during the early 1960's by me were with this little camera. Daddy later bought me a 35 mm Zeis Ikon camera and many of the color photos I took during the 1960's and 1970's were taken with this camera. He would not let me take it into the U.S. Army with me, and bought me an Instamatic 127 camera (it was stolen from my locker at Fort Ord, California).



The camera I won in the Spelling Bee. Chalky in the Stevens School Library, one of the teachers (Mrs. Rutherford or Mr. Finley took this picture and later gave me a copy. I think it was taken on the day I won the little black camera.

The 1956 Apple Blossom Festival (the 37th), “Rain Falls, Enthusiasm High as 59 Floats Go By....After 36 years of Sunny Saturdays .. the rains came to the grand parade..” “Enterprising street hawkers found a new business on the parade route.... they were selling rain coats.” The parade was led by the USMC Color Guard, the Wenatchee American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps and the Drill Team of the American Legion Auxiliary and followed by 59 floats, bands and other entries. Among them were: The Seattle Police Drill team, a float with “Live ducks in a pond performed in the second place winning Cascadian float. Piano music entertained two picnickers who watched the pool”, Vernon Girls Cadette Marching Unit from Vernon, B.C., the Canadian Legion Pipe Band from Kelowna, B.C., the Camp Fire Float and Blue Bird Royalty, and the Cashmere High School Band. The Wenatchee Protestant Churches entered a float. Knights in armor marched in front of the Wenatchee Valley College float and Lady Guinevere rode in an apple improvised chair, The Ginger Bread family came in the Centennial Mills float, US Army reserves float, Alcoa’s float and “Rocking Around the Clock,” were the Leavenworth High School band.” 4,000 kids from 18 schools marched in the junior parade. (Source: Wenatchee Daily World, May 3-6, 1956)

On April 14, 1956 our beloved Uncle Lem Ashley died in St. Ignatius, Montana. He was carried home by Archie, Walter, and Charlie McDonald, A.W. Hare, Alfred Hilton and Napoleon Plouffe.