

Katie Durett, 97, Recalls Austrian' George's Death

Miss Katie Durett, 1217 Bird St., is 97 today.

In honor of the occasion, Harvey Sweeney, Miss Durett's brother-in-law, is holding open house this afternoon. Friends and relatives from Oroville, Chico, and Quincy are planning to help Miss Durett celebrate her birthday.

Although confined to a wheelchair for the past nine years, Katie, as she is known to her friends, takes an interest in world events. She also can recall vividly the memories of almost a century.

Lived In Cherokee

Katie was born in Sacramento in 1858 and moved with her parents to Cherokee when she was four years old. She attended grammar school in Cherokee.

While living in Cherokee, Katie's father, Charles, was engaged in

hydraulic mining. Katie recalls visiting the mining scenes and going to the old assay office where gold was weighed and valued. Over \$12,000,000 in gold passed through the old office that is now a crumbled mass of masonry.

The family moved to Yankee Hill when she was 24. She lived there until her father died fifty years ago.

Camped On Hillsides

A large sanitarium located at Deadwood near Concow is recalled by Miss Durett. The sanitarium was operated by a Chinese doctor who had as many as 150 patients at a time. In the summer, patients would camp on the hillside in tents, Miss Durett said.

All of Miss Durett's memories are not pleasant. She witnessed the execution and cremation of



Oroville Mercury

1-19-1955

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BIRTHDAY HONOREE—Friends and relatives held open house today for Miss Katie Durett, who is 97 years old today. Born in Sacramento in 1858, Miss Durett moved to Butte county at the age of four and has lived here all her life. Confined to a wheelchair, Katie, as her friends call her, still takes an active interest in the city's progress and has a vivid recollection of early days in the community.

"Austrian" George on the Bidwell Bar bridge.

George had murdered a young woman, Susie McDaniels, as she was walking home from a dance in the company of a friend. He allegedly slipped up behind Miss McDaniels, pulled her back by the hair and stabbed her.

Citizens Aid Officers

The crime shocked the community and citizens joined law officers in tracking down the killer. Miss Durett's father was undersheriff at the time and she was determined to see what happened.

George was cornered on the bridge and shot as he tried to escape. The crowd took his body to his cabin, soaked it in kerosene, and set it on fire.

"It was terrible," Miss Durett said, as she recalled the incident.

She has traveled little, limiting her excursions to visits to friend and relatives in the county. She worked in the local cannery for 35 years and has lived in her present home for 12 years.

Miss Durett had two brothers and two sisters. Only one brother, Lou Chico, is still alive. She has two nieces, Jessie Eddy, Forbestown and Olive Sexton, Chico.

Her last major outing was a Christmas trip to Robinson's Mills to spend the holiday with Mrs. Eddy and family.

"We're looking forward to her 100th birthday celebration," Sweeney said, as he made plans for today's party.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF STOCK-IN-TRADE & ON SALE BEER-WINE LICENSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that AUGUST J. BYERS and HANNA M. BYERS, residing at Route 1, Box 264, Oroville, California, intend to sell, transfer and assign to RALPH TILDEN LOUGHLEN residing at Route 1, Box 264, Oroville, California, the following described property, to-wit:

All of the stock-in-trade, and On Sale Beer and Wine Licenses situate in that certain Business known as The Rock House located approximately twenty-two miles North of Oroville, Butte County, California.

That said sale will take place on the 7th day of March, 1955 at 10:00 o'clock A. M. in the office of C. Keith Lyde, Attorney at Law, Courthouse, Oroville, Butte County, California and that the consideration is to be paid at the time and place of said sale.

The consideration for the transfer of said On Sale Beer and Wine Licenses is nil.

DATED this 21st day of February, 1955.

AUGUST J. BYERS
HANNA M. BYERS

Sellers

RALPH TILDEN LOUGHLEN

Buyer

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF BUTTE

On this 21st day of February, 1955, before me, CELIA NETTLESHIP, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared AUGUST F. BYERS and HANNA M. BYERS, and RALPH TILDEN LOUGHLEN, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

CELIA NETTLESHIP

My Commission expires December 23, 1955.

(No. 51—Feb. 24, 1955)

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

February 23, 1955

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Subject to issuance of the license applied for, and commencing not less than 15 days after the date posted, notice is hereby given that the undersigned proposes to sell alcoholic beverages at these premises, described as follows:

Feather River Hwy. U. S. Alt. 40
22 Mi. E. of Oroville.

Pursuant to such intention, the undersigned is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for issuance by transfer of an alcoholic beverage license (or licenses) for these premises as follows:

On-Sale Beer and Wine.

Anyone desiring to protest the issuance of such license(s) may file a verified protest with the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at Sacramento, California, stating grounds for denial as provided by law. The premises are now licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Ralph Tilden Loughlen

(No. 52—Feb. 24-1955)

Oroville Mercury

4-8-1955

The

ROCK HOUSE

.....CAFE

21 Mi. From Oroville, up the
FEATHER RIVER CANYON

Opens Under New Management

With a completely new modernized stainless steel kitchen

THE FINEST FOOD will be Available

**Our Desire To Please You
Is Your Assurance
Of The
BEST**

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR EASTER DINNER

COMPLETE DINNER

Roast Prime Ribs of Beef Au Jus

Virginia Baked Ham, Honey Butter, Sweet Potatoes

Steaks & Chops

Deep Fried Louisiana Prawns

PHONE 71-W-1

Two County Officers Drive Off Road In Recent Storm

Missing a tricky turn on the Yankee Hill cutoff between U.S. Highway 40A and Paradise set off a hunt for Probation Officer Woodrow Lambirth and Deputy Sheriff Johnny Rose late last Friday night and Saturday morning.

The hunt was called off when Lambirth and Rose reported in from Stirling City that their car had become stuck in the snow and that they had walked nearly 16 miles during the night.

Lambirth and Rose had official business for the juvenile court to transact in Chico and in Woodland. At 10:30 p.m. Friday when a telephone call to Woodland revealed the men had not been there, Deputy Dewey Airola notified Sheriff Abernethy and a systematic search of the road along the canyon was begun.

It ended shortly after 9 o'clock the next morning 13 miles east of Oroville when the phone call was received.

Undersheriff Ed Spellmeyer, Deputies Joe Pini and Airola and Shadrack Satchel and Floyd Cooper, prisoners, took part. Six men from the Butte County sheriff's office also assisted in the hunt.

Rose, in a report to Sheriff Abernethy, explained that neither he nor Lambirth had previously been on the road before and that they had been told, before they left, that it was rough in places.

They failed to make the turn to the left which leads past the Concow school, about four miles north of the turnoff from the highway.

Rose and Lambirth returned to Quincy Saturday afternoon after receiving assistance from the Butte County sheriff's office in pulling their automobile from the snow.

Feather River Bulletin
4-21-1955

39 Years in One School

'Old Grads' Honor Retiring Teacher



RETIRING TEACHER HONORED — After 39 years of continuous teaching all grades in the one-room rural Pentz school, Anna Hesbol retired. County Superintendent of Schools Jay E. Partridge declares the veteran teacher hold the record in Butte County, and perhaps some kind of state record, for continuous service in the same country school building. Above, Miss Hesbol (second from right) is presented with a farewell gift from her final graduating class, left to right, Fredricka Shelton, Jay Peterson, Henry Miller and Elizabeth Phillips. In a surprise event, a bevy of "old grads"—adults who had graduated from her school during the past nearly four decades — attended to honor her and wish her well. (Enterprise - Record Photo).

By SYLVIA COOKE

PENTZ—"A cheer for Miss Hesbol!"

Pentz Community Hall was filled beyond standing room last Thursday evening as parents and residents of Mesilla Valley School District here, and "old grads" of the tiny one-room school house assembled to honor retiring teacher Anna Hesbol.

Fondness for the veteran school teacher and appreciation for her services to the rural community permeated the entire evening's program.

Miss Hesbol officiated at her last eighth grade graduation exercises last Thursday, just before her retirement, in the same little building in which she started teaching school 39 years ago.

More outstanding, however, is the fact that she has taught for her 39 years of work in the same little building.

And although the building remained fundamentally the same structure that was built in 1874, its locale has changed at least three times!

Miss Hesbol, jovial and hearty, with a deep understanding of children, shows only with her wavy gray hair the toll of 39 years of one-room rural school teaching.

A product of the Sierra foothills, she was born near Oroville at what is now known as Pacific Heights. She lived for a time at Banner Mine with her parents, who later moved to Clear Creek and began raising cattle.

Here she grew up in the shadow

The Chico Enterprise Record

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of the rimrock-topped, rolling foothills in the Pentz area. After graduating from Oroville High School she attended Chico Normal School (now Chico State College) and emerged a full-fledged teacher, assigned to the Clear Creek Country School.

The "little old schoolhouse," already decades old, was built on skids. When the population shifted a few miles away near the Pence Ranch, the school was shifted also.

Later it was skidded to its present cross-roads location, and only a few years ago was let down from its skids.

Periodic remodeling has kept the old school in top notch condition, and its appearance today presents a study in history and progress.

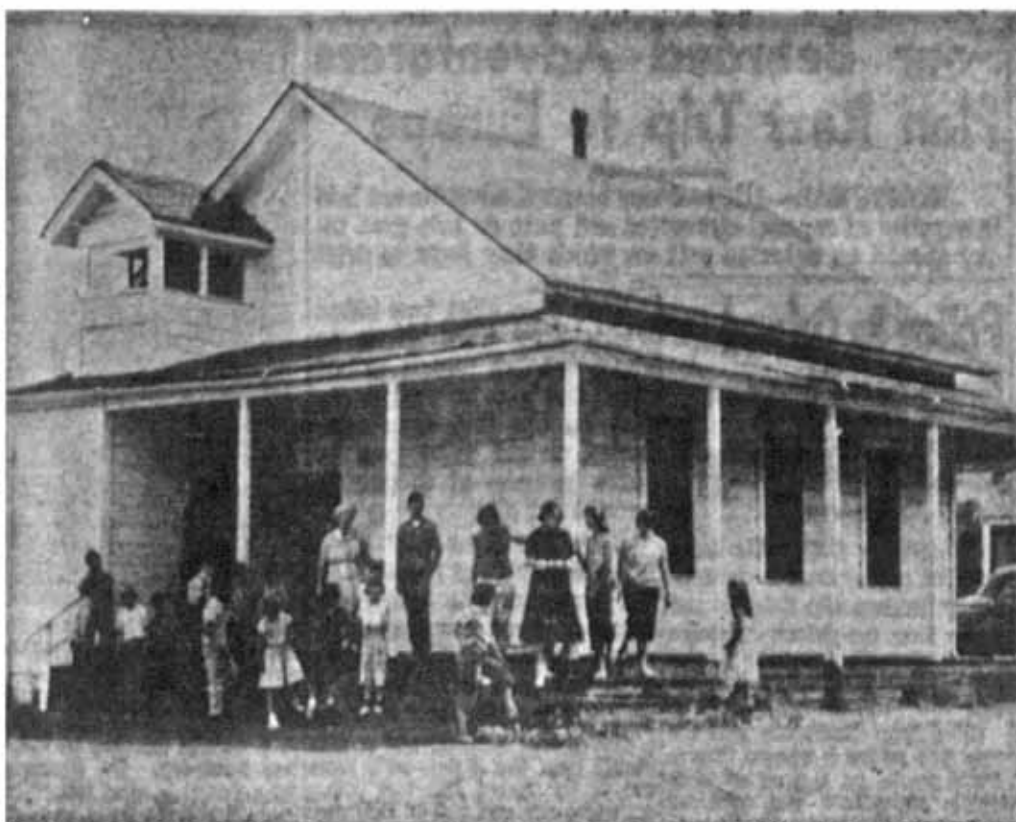
pastel paint tints the high, narrow tongue and groove walled and ceilinged room. An air cooler peeks from a window framed with scrolled woodwork. Several nicked, carved and stained school desks held together with ornate and intricately scrolled ironwork of 19th century vintage vie with modern swivel desk and seat combinations of polished plywood!

And in this little schoolhouse, marked with periodic signs of the times, Miss Hesbol gave basic education and human understanding to the children of the area, all grades from first to eighth, for 39 years.

Her "old grads" are scattered throughout California. Many who have gone in all directions for their educations, their vocations,

have returned to the mid-Valley—some back to Pentz where Miss Hesbol has been teaching their children the rudiments of "readin', writin' and 'rithmetic."

Some have gone into the teaching field, even to rural schools themselves. Present Thursday night, among many of the Pentz school graduates, was Mrs. Thora Pagendarm, who for years taught school at Centerville. Another teacher "grad" was Vesta Maas, teacher in Durham schools. Marion Bennum, one of Miss Hesbol's "children," now sends his youngsters to Pentz School under her instruction.



SCHOOLHOUSE BY THE ROAD — This little country school has been a focal point in the Mesilla Valley area for 79 years. The building has been thrice-moved, modernized, but remains the same basic one-room school that was built in 1874. Pictured are some of the pupils taught at the cross-roads Pentz school by Anna Hesbol, who retired last week amid honors for her 39 years of continuous service in the rural school. (Enterprise-Record Photo).

In last Thursday's final graduation exercises for Miss Hesbol, a class of four well-adjusted, composed and intelligent graduates presented testimony to her instruction.

At ease and with command of their voices, thoughts and presentation, Fredericka (Teddy) Selton, Elizabeth Phillips, Henry Miller and Jay Peterson gave talks on

American democracy, the Bill of Rights, duties of citizens and purposes of taxation as their part of the program.

Children of other classes presented a choral selection, rhythm band number, and vocal and instrumental selections.

Diplomas were presented by Helen Nash, of the Butte County superintendent of school's office. She also read a letter of commendation and tribute to Miss Hesbol from Supt. Jay Partridge.

Highlight of the honors to the retiring teacher was presentation

of an original poem in appreciation, given by Miss Maas, who then presented her a gift from former graduates and citizens.

At the refreshment and social hour which followed the program, guests were served from a lace-covered buffet table centered with a large, oblong gold cake. Decorated with golden frosting arches and scrolls, it bore the legend, "To Miss Hesbol—A Job Well Done."

Singing a clear note above the babble of congratulations as the assemblage lined up to wish her

well was the happy laughter of the guest of honor, as she greeted all of her Mesilla Valley friends from far and near.

She will remain in the valley. She lives on the cattle ranch nearby and plans to enjoy her retirement in the area where she has spent her life so far.

Assisting with plans for the "surprise" farewell to the retiring teacher were Chester Phillips, and school board members Wesley Peterson, Peggy Phillips, and Gerald Inman, together with numerous parents of the area.

Butte Woman Teaches 35 Years In One Room Rural School

Retiring At 60, She Will Run Ranch

By John W. Ternus

McClatchy newspapers agricultural staff

OROVILLE, Butte Co. — One bright morning a few days ago Alma Hesbol got into her car at her home in the Clear Creek Canyon and climbed the steep grade to the hard top road.

Then she drove through the foothills to the Messilla Valley School seven miles away, a routine she had followed for 35 years.

A Different Day

This morning was a little different, however, for Miss Hesbol was retiring after setting a record for tenure in Butte County which probably will stand for many a year.

For Miss Hesbol, a stout, gray haired, blue eyed woman with a perpetual little laugh, classes that day were about as usual. She already had been feted by students and fellow teachers.

She had been presented with a wrist watch at a surprise party given in her honor by parents of her pupils, some of whom had learned their ABC's under her.

The year's work was done, report cards were made out and the school was neat and clean.

There were rumors the school trustees had found a replacement, a momentous task they had not been faced with in more than a quarter of a century and she wanted everything in apple pie order when the new teacher arrives next fall.

Shy Goodbye

At noon, they ate their lunches—the school has no hot lunch program—and later the children gathered up their books and their home made musical instruments and shyly came forward to bid Miss Hesbol goodbye. Then they trooped out the door, delighted with their new found freedom.



EXTRA CURRICULAR—Alma Hesbol, who has retired this week after 35 years in the Messilla Valley School in Butte County, often acted as a medical consultant in addition to her teaching duties. She is shown here gravely in-

specting a sliver in the finger of Marvin Cook, first grader dubbed affectionately Little Bitty Buddy by the rest of the pupils. The other pupils, left to right, are Teddy Steilton and Kathleen and Elizabeth Phillips. Bee Photo

Sacramento Bee

6-11-1955

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Miss Hesbol glanced around at the familiar scene, at the childish paintings on the wall, the little mementoes of affection left behind, at the cot where on a few occasions she had retired for a few hours under the weight of her 60 years while well trained eighth graders kept up the schedules, and at the straggling flower garden which always had been a problem because of the lack of water. They never have succeeded in getting a good well at the school and sometimes she and the children brought water in tin buckets for drinking.

Long Tenure

Stepping outside, she cast a glance at the frame, one room school, set in the saddlebow of Messilla Valley and possessing a tenure even longer than her own. Now nearly 100 years old, the little structure had been moved from a nearby canyon to this more central location a half century before.

Then getting into her car, she had driven back along the winding road to the 778 acre cattle ranch and the small herd of Herefords she has been nurturing.

Retirement has arrived for Alma Hesbol. She intends to enjoy it, perhaps doing a little private tutoring, watching over the beef cattle a little more carefully and visiting with her neighbors and former pupils when she chooses.

She never has married, but over the years has helped out a half dozen children who were wards of the court, taking them into her home and bringing them to school with her each morning.

She recalls the United States was fighting the first World War when she began to teach in the Clear Creek school in 1918 following graduation from Chico State College in Butte County.

She taught there for two years before taking over the Messilla Valley School which was a problem at the time. Seven or eight teachers had given it up as a bad job.

Horse And Buggy

In addition, the seven mile drive by horse and buggy over the country roads from her home would have presented quite a chore to most teachers but she hardly recalls any difficulty at all from the cold and rain. She was young and had inherited hardihood from her Norse ancestors.

All went well. She smoothed out the problems "mostly by taking the children by degrees" and was hired back year after year until she became a community institution. In the mid '20s she turned her horses out to pasture and bought a new car. Regularly every 10 years she bought another. She now is on her fourth, all the same make.



ROUTINE—Alma Hesbol paused on the steps of the Messilla Valley School in Butte County before entering to begin the day's work. The little one room school is set in the cup of a valley which is green most of the school year.



RHYTHM BAND—Miss Hesbol watches as an eighth grader, Elizabeth Phillips, leads a rhythm band developed in the school, using a weird collection of home made instruments.



FULL CYCLE—Mrs. Bennum, shown at the wheel of the school bus which she drives, also was a pupil of Miss Hesbol's. The Bennums' son, David, a fifth grader, receives a friendly pat from the teacher.
Bee Photos

Close Call

She always buys the same kind of a car because once while driving on a school picnic, loaded with children, a collision almost forced her car into a steep canyon.

The vehicle teetered on the edge and had to be pulled back to safety. She believes that only the good Lord and strength in the brakes saved them.

Badly shaken though she was, she only missed one day of school and did not discover broken ribs and a chest injury until four months later.

She developed a somewhat unique system of teaching, but it seemed to work. Graduates from her country school consistently have made good records in high school and her methods were observed annually for the last 10 years by student teachers from Chico State.

Pupil-Teachers

Student responsibility probably would be the best way to define it. In the forenoon, the older pupils made assignments and plans for the day and school officers and committees outlined other work to be undertaken.

Then in the afternoons, Miss Hesbol conducted drills on the work assigned. "New children usually were a little timid at first, but they generally got into the swing of things pretty quickly," she comments.

Visitors at the school were surprised pleasantly when pupils came forward to take their coats and to offer them a chair, and were impressed by the courteous goodbyes when they left.

Although officially there were eight grades, actually she says she had 23, the number of children enrolled. "They all got individual attention, I believe in that," she says.

"I don't believe in grades, I put them where they do the best work."

No Delinquents

She says there were no juvenile delinquents in her school, although she recalls some who were exceptionally mischievous and hard to handle.

One whom she had chastised on a number of occasions wrote back from a Pacific Island during World War II that he had never really appreciated Miss Hesbol until he got in the army.

"Most children who have a tendency to travel the wrong path could be saved with a little attention," she believes.



EXPUPIL — Marion Bennum of the nearby Pentz district went to the Messilla Valley School the first year Miss Hesbol taught there. Now employed by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, he says she was "very thorough."

Sacramento Bee

6-18-1955

Letters From The People

Teacher Is Praised

Editor of The Bee—Sir: These spiritual flowers are for the living. They go to Miss Alma Hesbol, country school teacher of Messilla Valley, Butte County. I just read of her 35 years of continuous teaching in a one room rural school.

My heart is filled with admiration for her type of womanhood. Hers is a living example of sane, common sense, realistic education. It proves that it is not the expensive, modern tax eating type of education with its fine buildings which pays the highest dividends to the home. No, we see in the type of system of education used by Miss Hesbol an answer to our mounting educational problems.

Today millions of dollars are being spent to improve education. We improve the buildings and it ends there. It is not buildings which create or fashion character or better minds. Buildings have nothing to do with better citizenship for future men or women. Finer teachers, the kind Alma Hesbol represents, are needed. Miss Hesbol served the people of Messilla Valley well. She proved that our present day education is far too expensive for what the children receive in return for supporting it.

The institutions are in the saddle and the home feels the pain from the spurs digging in. Far too long has the home suffered and been neglected. Parents are desperate under the increasing demands upon the home by institutions for more and more dollars. Decentralization is the answer.

VAL D. BAIMA.
Grass Valley.

Paradise Post

12-16-1955

Yankee Hill Man Is Charged With Burglary

Brought to justice court Wednesday in handcuffs, Miland Gordon was arraigned on three charges involving alleged activities of his over the week end in Yankee Hill.

Marion Upton of Yankee Hill charged that he entered her home Saturday and took two rifles, one a Remington 25-30; some ammunition; a dozen eggs, and some canned goods, totalling \$81 in value.

Maurice Stiles, also of Yankee Hill, charged that Gordon entered his home at night with intent to commit grand larceny, and armed with a 25-30 Remington rifle.

Gordon asked for an attorney. He said he had no cash, no real property, and no car. Roy McKernan was appointed as his attorney by the court.

Earl Vanyle, the sheriff's deputy who accompanied Gordon from the county jail, explained Gordon was in handcuffs "because we've lost him two or three times already."

Later, following consultation with McKernan, Gordon waived a preliminary hearing and was bound over to superior court.