

Historic Houses - North County
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'Little Red School House' Now Attractive Home



Take an old but durable school house, an energetic and enthusiastic young couple and a beautiful setting in the Bonny Doon area and what can you get? An attractive and very livable home.

Roy and Frances Rydell have proved this in a little less than two years. They purchased the old Ocean View school house on Pine Flat road, with its half-acre of grounds and have done wonders to the outside and inside of the structure and to the grounds.

In the picture above, the Rydells are shown on the porch of their home talking with F. A. Hellenthal, clerk of the Bonnie Doon union elementary school district board. Clustered at the Rydells' feet are Charles and Rose, their pet dogs.

The Rydells, who acquired the old "Red School House on the Hill" from Mrs. Emma Atkinson, their neighbor, formerly resided in Scotts Valley San Francisco and Hollywood. Rydell is an architect student and painter, with gardening as a hobby. The work he has

done in the old school is his first carpentry efforts.

The Rydells have added an upstairs bedroom and wings for a bathroom and kitchen. The main room in the old school is the living room.

The old building has been moved back and turned about half-way around from its former location on the bank above School creek. The Rydells have put in a rock terrace and are clearing off some oaks with future landscaping in mind. The former outbuilding and storage shed of the school will be converted into a studio.

Hellenthal, a retired contractor, has taken considerable interest in the progress of the Rydells. He points out, that Bonnie Doon district next month will sell the old San Vicente school building, located three miles further up Pine Flat road, and its purchasers may want to follow the Rydells' example.

The Ocean View school district was formed in 1884 through a split with the San Vicente district. The

school house was built that fall, on the site of the old Glassell mill. Anna Helmke was the teacher in 1884-85; Minerva Waterman the following year.

San Vicente school district was established by the board of supervisors in May, 1872. It apparently had a building "near Quistorfs" until the split in 1884, when the two present buildings were erected. Lizzie Taintor was another early teacher there.

Andrew Glassell was a Virginian, practicing law in San Francisco until the Civil War. He had foreclosed in 1858 on James Williams' Laguna Rancho (\$9,583 with two and a half per cent per month interest) including the limestone deposits and quarry. He put in a sawmill and lime kiln, the kiln a third of the way down the road from Bonny Doon to the coast. After the Civil war he went to Los Angeles and with Alfred B. Chapman and George H. Smith formed a law firm. He died in Los Angeles in 1901.