

Alumni of 'Old Ben Lomond School' Plans First Reunion Next Sunday

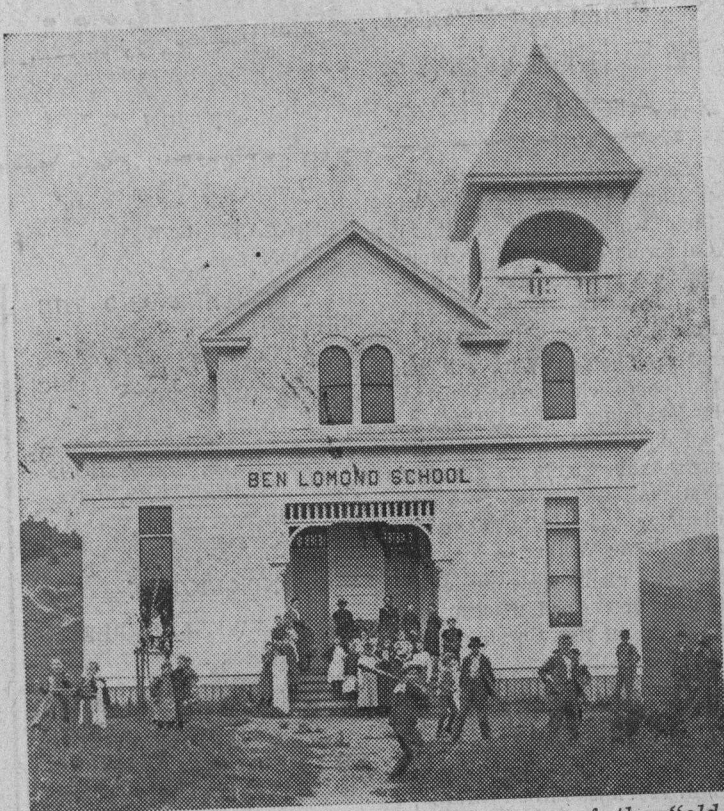
Although "the old white Ben Lomond schoolhouse" has been gone for more than 30 years, it still is not forgotten — at least by the many pupils who learned their 3 R's there.

And there'll be lots of reminiscing when these same pupils get together next Sunday for a reunion at the Ben Lomond recreation hall.

Instigator of the affair is Mrs. Irving Kelley (Mabel Hall) of Santa Cruz, who began attending the two-room school in 1903, about eight years after it was constructed. The picture, at right, of the school is her own, but taken before the turn of the century.

"When I was small Ben Lomond was a mill town," she recalled. "Lumbering was the main business in the valley in those days and it was mainly the children of the lumberjacks and the millworkers who filled the school."

For a time, according to Leon Rowland in his "Annals of Santa Cruz," the town even had mills in its name. It was called Pacific Mills for almost a decade, the name originating from the mills which the Pacific Manufacturing company had there in connection with its lumbering operation. It was changed to Ben Lomond in



FROM 1895 TO 1931 was the life span of the "old white Ben Lomond school" above. Former pupils will gather for their first reunion next Sunday at the Ben Lomond recreation hall.

1887 when the post office department objected to Pacific Mills.

The new name came from Ben Lomond mountain, so named by a Scotchman, John Burns, who settled in the area in 1850. He put out the county's first vineyard (except for a small one near the mission) and named the mountain after a Scotch wine grape district.

Ben Lomond children attended the white schoolhouse until approximately 1931 when it was razed to make way for the brick schoolhouse which still stands and now is the property of the Latter Day Saints.

All former pupils and their families are invited to attend the reunion set from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Each family is to bring its own lunch with coffee and tea to be provided.

Anyone wishing further information on the reunion may call Mrs. Kelley at GR 5-0997.

—M.A.S.