



An early view of the first two-room Live Oak school

Early Live Oak school students hold first reunion

By CATHERINE SHAW
Saturday was a day of festive nostalgia for a group of pre-1936 graduates of the Live Oak School. The occasion marked the school's "first ever" reunion.

Sixty-seven former students and their spouses, making a total of 104 people, enjoyed a potluck lunch at the home of one of the graduates, Bob Tefertiller, near the school grounds. The class of 1926 won the honors for having the biggest attendance, with 10 members present, followed by the class of 1928 with nine.

Tefertiller transformed his backyard on Harper Street into a picnic area. Long tables were set up, where the guests enjoyed their meal and recollections of times long past.

A fivesome of some of the earlier graduates included Marie Hess of San Francisco, who

graduated in 1916; Violet Miller Macy of Santa Cruz, who graduated in 1919; Santa Cruz residents Hazel Brass Kunde and Louise Foster Fisher, who graduated in 1921; and Nell Rice Petersen, of Fresno, also a 1921 graduate.

"I hiked through two cow pastures to get to school," said 1928 graduate Dorothy Perry, reminiscing about her walks to school from her home on Portola Road.

Perry and Aptos resident Flora Alves, also a 1928 graduate, recalled the days their first and second grade classes were held on the stage of the clubhouse because of overcrowding at Live Oak's two-room school.

Also present at the reunion was 1926 graduate Dorothy Roth, who with her husband, has operated the Alladin Nursery in Watsonville

since 1936.

The idea for the reunion was instigated by 1929 graduate Paul Ramsey and 1928 graduate Tefertiller, along with three others from the class of 1928 — Ray Smith, Wilford Vickers, and Stanley Smith. After a get together last year, these gentlemen decided it would be a good idea to expand the gathering to include as many "old-timers" as possible.

The men contacted most of the former students through a system of "chain reaction," (job and church associations, etc.), and they made use of an old World War II service directory compiled by the Santa Cruz High School Alumni Association. Old school pictures and graduation programs also helped the cause.

Live Oak School, which opened in 1873 as a one-room schoolhouse

and in 1914 was expanded into two rooms, has grown into a school district that accommodates 1320 students and 66 teachers in three separate schools.

Children in Kindergarten through fifth grades attend either Live Oak or Green Acres School, and sixth through eighth grade students attend Del Mar School.

The present Live Oak School buildings are situated in the same location as the original one-room schoolhouse, which was built in 1873 on a one-half acre piece of property donated by the Kinsley family, who operated a nearby ranch.

In the 1930s, the acreage in general proximity to the school was recognized as the second largest egg producing area in California, second only to Petaluma.