

Boulder Creek Teacher's 34-Year Career Is Coming To End

By Wally Trabing

Teacher Still Wants To Be Educator

A whining Sabre jet arched over Boulder Creek one day last week, high above a paper-cluttered classroom where a gray-haired teacher sat recalling horse and buggy school days.

The kids had gone for the summer, leaving the year's workbooks and papers around the fourth grade room of the Boulder Creek elementary school.

Mrs. Frank Clement was putting the finishing touches to a teaching career of 34 years—20 of them full time and 14 as a substitute—and all of them in this little mountain school.

Alone, corsaged, and slightly ruffled from the little sendoff party by the teachers, Laureen Clement talked of her past.

She came to the school in 1915 from the San Jose Normal school (now San Jose State college).

You've no doubt heard those stories about freckle faced imps who supposedly dipped girls' pig-tails in the ink wells. Well, it happened in Mrs. Clement's classes.

They were still using slates in those early years. Those were the days when the boys came to school in overalls and the girls in calico.

Another trick, not so well recorded in the annals of mischievous conduct, was the placing of grass hoppers in the ink wells. And don't you think they didn't make a mess hopping about covered with ink.

On the whole Mrs. Clement had their number from the start.

She was as native to those parts as the giant redwoods. Born in Boulder Creek where her father worked in the forest making stakes, she got her early schooling in here, in a now non-existent building, but at the same location as the present school.

Throughout the years Mrs. Clement has influenced the young minds of over 600 students. Their fads, mode of living, and sociological manners have changed a bit, but on the whole, the basic American youngster has remained the same.

Only now there are many more students than there is room in the classrooms. Mrs. Clement knows well the value of reaching each child during the lessons and now is a firm booster for the passage of the June 30th school bond elections in the valley.

She has taught in all the elementary grades, including shop and P.E.

During those early years the arrival of the youngsters to their morning classes would be accompanied with much neighing of horses which brought many of the students to school.

Mrs. Clement was raised close to nature and once the kids discovered she was not afraid of snakes and frogs, the fun of bring-



Mrs. Frank Clement, who has devoted her life to education, retired as elementary teacher

at Boulder Creek school after giving its boys and girls 34 years of service. She knows this school well, having received her

elementary and secondary education herself in Boulder Creek.

ing them to class soon waned. "She was a great teacher," said Vincent Locatelli, county supervisor who had her in first and second grades along with four brothers and a sister.

"She was firm, but I never remember her getting mad at any of us," he said.

During the pre-20's the students bought their own books and supplies. They sat in pairs at double desks and were called to class by a hand bell.

"Perhaps the students took their studies a little more seriously in those early days," she said. "The town was isolated in the winter because of road slides and the kids had less to do.

"The school teacher, I would

say, held more respect in the community.

Now days things come more easy to the youngsters, and the attitude of many parents makes it more difficult for the teachers."

Mrs. Clement said it is fairly easy to spot the children in class whose parents are interested in the education of their offspring, and help them at home.

"But a teacher can find something good in every child," she said.

Although in retirement, Mrs. Clement still looks forward to improvements in the school. First she hopes that the people will approve the addition of more classrooms for the school.

She also would like to see the students graduate in their own school. At present the exercises are in the Burl movie theater on the main street of Boulder Creek.

There is another wish in the back of her mind. Perhaps they

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
No. 16,168

SHOP IN THE GREATER
SANTA CRUZ TRADING AREA

"PROTECTION & PRIVACY
WITHOUT

Daylite Plastic Fiberglas Pla

Use For: Patios, Carports, Green
Windbreaks, Skylights, and
Many Widths, Lengths & Colors to
from. If We Do Not Have W
Want In Stock, Will Make It Up
Complete Line of Accessories.

BUY DIRECT FROM M
Daylite Plastic
201 Capitola Road