

Anna Sharp, George Roemhild, Clarence Roemhild, Aaron, Owen, Helen and Liza Gilbert and Hershel and Denzel Bradford.

Other teachers remembered as having taught at the school were Verona Chapman and Della Jackson.

The Letz Creek School

(Author's note: It is interesting to note that the former teachers of the Letz Creek School spell it "Lets" or "Letts" Creek School. It has not been determined how the creek was named. The official spelling is "Letz".)

The Letz Creek School sat right next to the Albright house at the entrance to Letz Creek Road where it joins south Territorial Road (ME-F10). Opal L. Thorpe was the school teacher for the 1926-1927 school year. Mrs. Thorpe and her daughter Vivian Arlene lived in a one-room house with an attached woodshed which sat behind the school. A 12-year old boy, Marion Castleman, lived with the family and helped with chores to earn his room and board.

Vivian Thorpe Stafford recalls the year that she lived and attended second grade at the Letz Creek School. "A wonderful covered bridge spanned the creek, and it was our playshed. The school board also put up a brand new swing in that covered bridge, and I can remember many happy hours there."

Sitting well back from the school and teacher's quarters were individual outhouses – his and hers.

"Up until after I lived in Lorane, I had always been called by my family by my middle name, Arlene." But, after one year of having Russell Milness calling her "Arlene Sardine," the name was permanently spoiled for her. She begged her mother mercilessly to call her by her first name of Vivian, thereafter.

Vivian told of the Thorpes' weekend trips to town. "The three of us would start walking down the road as soon as school was over on a Friday afternoon. We walked to Lorane and stay overnight with the mailman and his wife. Then Saturday morning we rode into town with him when he went to get the mail. On Sunday afternoon, my Uncle Merle drove us to Lorane. From there, we walked the seven miles back to the Letz Creek School.

"From the ever-faithful Sears & Roebuck catalog, Mother ordered a whole lot of Easter candies, eggs and treats for her students. She hid them in the woods across the road from the school, and we had a really good old-fashioned Easter egg hunt."

Bess E. Tweedt taught school at the Letz Creek School in 1927-1928. Her husband John taught there in 1929. The following is a collection of their memories about the people and the conditions surrounding the Letz Creek School.

"I can recall nine pupils. Fred Gilbert was the only



Letz Creek School, 1925

eighth grader. Others were Edna Gilbert, Ruby King, Robert King, Russell Milness, Walter Milness, Marjorie Jenner, Margaret Koch and Hershel Bradford.

"Recesses and lunch hours ended with the sound of a hand-held bell.

"We had a real blackboard. The teacher wrote the lessons on boards painted black. Cracks where the boards were put together made it easy for the teacher to keep a straight line.

"The building was heated with a large sheet-iron stove placed in one corner of the room. During the fall, a little fire in the morning made the room comfortable. In the winter, we cooked stew or warmed soup on the stove's flat top. It smelled so good as we did our lessons. The stew had to be stirred once in awhile or it would scorch. Hot water for washing soup bowls was another bonus.

"After the rains started in the fall, the salmon run started. One lunch hour, Robert King caught hold of a large salmon. He made so much noise we all came to see what had happened. He was able to hold on until some of the others came to help. The fish was almost as long as Robert was tall.

"We had running water. We ran down the hill to Letz Creek, dipped up a bucket of water, and ran back to the school. There was a shelf in the cloak room for the water pail and a shelf for the soup bowls and drinking cups.

"A new regulation by the county required that all rural schools send a sample of their drinking water to be tested. This was done and it was recommended that a well or other source of water be found. They tried to put down a well, but that was not successful. So, the board decided to pipe water from a clear, cold spring on the hill across the road from the school. The water was piped to a sink built on the front porch of the school.

"There was always a Christmas program, and a picnic at the end of the school year.

"Tragedy struck one morning when Ruby King, who was our student janitor, was splitting wood. The stick she was cutting slipped and threw her hand under the blade of the ax. She cut her hand near the thumb to