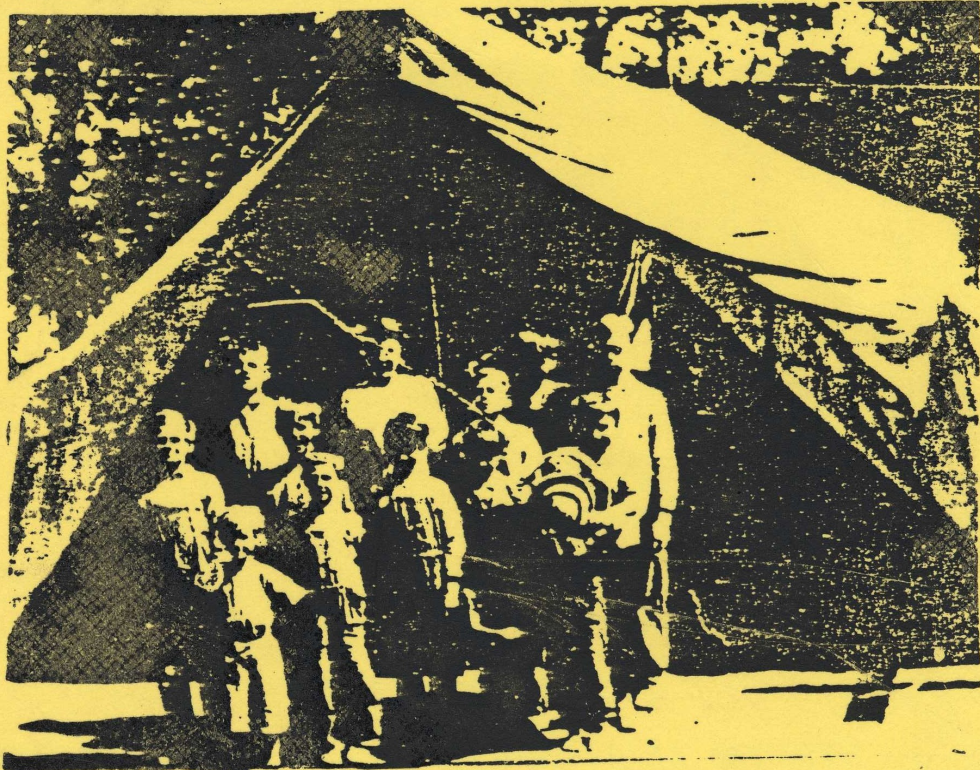


What Became of the Little Red Schoolhouse?



FACTS AND FIGURES—TALES AND PHOTOS
OF EARLY MENDOCINO COUNTY SCHOOLS

VOLUME-4

ROUND VALLEY-POTTER VALLEY

This publication by the
MENDOCINO COAST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
in cooperation with the Mendocino County Museum
and the Mendocino County Historical Society is presented to

Mendocino County Museum

The purpose of this publication is to provide a record of
information on early Mendocino County Schools and make it
available for public use.

WHAT BECAME OF THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE?

Facts and Figures--Tales and Photos
of Early Mendocino County Schools

**DEDICATED TO
ELIZABETH HINTON MCCOMBS
TEACHER AND RESIDENT OF ROUND VALLEY FOR MANY YEARS
AND
DELIGHT SHELTON
RESIDENT AND HISTORIAN OF POTTER VALLEY**

**PROPERTY OF:
Mendocino County Museum
400 East Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-2736**

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Cover Photo: Tent School-Poonkinney Independence School

ROUND VALLEY AGENCY SCHOOL

The Yuki had lived for many generations in what they called Me-sha-kai, meaning the valley of tule or tall grass. They were a well established, self-sufficient tribe with their own culture and language. The valley provided all their needs and the hunters, fishermen, and gathers supplied food, materials for housing and what little clothing was needed. The tribe was well known for their skill at making baskets of many kinds, which served a wide variety of uses. The education of the children was left mainly up to the grandparents as they had the time and patience to pass on the skills and knowledge of a life time. The grandfathers were responsible for training the boys in the many skills they would need in later life and the grandmothers taught the girls to make baskets and other wifely skills.

Indian children were seldom chastised as the Indians felt that treating children ugly made ugly adults.

The coming of the white man to Round Valley was a sad day for the Indians and an end of a way of life as they knew it. In 1856 the Indian farm was established at Non Cult or Round Valley, in 1858 the farm was changed to a regular reservation. Indians from many tribes were herded onto the reservation, these were people of diverse cultures and languages, with little in common except their dislike of the white man, who often mistreated them. This was a completely different existence than they had known and many escaped as soon as possible.

In 1873 a boarding school was built and all Indian children over six years of age were placed in this school where they were taught to speak English, and to dress and live like the white man; thus tribal language, crafts and customs were lost in one generation. In 1883 and again in 1893, the Indians burned the school.

A Methodist Indian Mission near the school gave religious instruction.

Later the school known as the Agency School at the Soldiers' quarters was abolished and the Federal government established the second Indian school in Round Valley. This was called the Low Quarter's school, located south of the William Ganu's walnut grove.

The Reservation remains in existence, however the boarding school was abandoned and a school called the Reservation Elementary School was established about 1914.

Much of the forgoing information was taken from articles which have appeared in the Mendocino County Historical Society Newsletters.

The following article was taken from Mendocino County Remembered-An Oral History by Elsie Allen.