

## Clorox Well

Clarence and Bernice (Brazille) Kolkow, Storytellers  
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society  
2001

Bernice Brazille started first grade at Three Pines Elementary School in 1928. Her first teacher was Bertha Gigler. Clarence Kolkow and Bernice (Brazille) Kolkow both attended this school (see Photo 1). Bernice was one year older and a grade higher than Clarence. The school was



*Photo 1. Three Pines Elementary School, Three Pines, Oregon: 1914*

Courtesy of Ralph Kolkow

located on a dirt road called Hugo Road (eventually the address of the structure became 681 Three Pines Road) about .7 miles from the junction of present day Three Pines Road and the old U.S. 99 (now Monument Drive). Both Clarence and Bernice had to walk to school.

Clarence Kolkow started first grade at Three Pines Elementary School in 1930. His teacher was Bertha Gigler. His dad made him wear bib-overalls and he just hated wearing them.

There was one teacher for all eight grades. The size of the student body of all eight grades averaged around a dozen students, however, one year it was very large and had over two dozen students. The school house was a big two story structure and was heated by a big firewood stove.

Water to the school was provided by a large outside hand pump about 150 feet downhill to the south of the school building. It was packed up the stairs into the school house by the older students with buckets and placed into a larger bucket with a pushbutton thing on it, and you got a drink. Sometimes a rat or a mole or some animal fell in the well and died. That was when they would hookup the gas motor (i.e., pump jack or one-lunger), put the belt, and pump the water out of the well. Clorox was then poured in the well to purify it after which everyone would drink the water again. Clarence stated jokingly - *“That was how we stayed healthy.”*

Walker, Mike. March 16, 2001. *Clarence and Bernice (Brazille) Kolkow's Memories*. Education Chair for Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.