



# Beaver Creek Preservation and Historical Society

*Working to gather, preserve and share the history of the  
Beaver Creek area*



P.O. Box 5402, Lake Montezuma, AZ 86342

www.beavercreekhistory.com

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## *Happy Holidays*



Another year has whizzed by and it's time to review the happenings of 2018. For the Historical Society it's been a good year. Like everyone, we may not have accomplished all we thought we would, but we have been gathering information and had many interesting presenters at our meetings. We have big plans for 2019 and hope you will be there to join us.. From the BCPHS Board members, we **THANK YOU** for your continued support..

pioneer building that looked like a deserted church and was impossible to heat. There we encountered isolation.” For her second year of teaching, Sister was very happy to again be close to friendly neighbors. Classes were held in the big living room of the old Fredrick house on Little Beaver near its confluence with Beaver Creek and less than a mile from Soda Springs Ranch. The school roster for the 1915-16 school year included 23 students... familiar family names like Dickinson, Hopkins, McGuire, Welch, Chestnut, Collins, Finnie, and Montgomery. The school motto was “Whoever you are, be noble. Whatever you do, do well’ Whenever you speak, speak kindly, Give joy wherever you dwell.”

## *Rock School Historical Story*

Ranch Schoolteacher, Eulalia “Sister” Bourne  
1892-1984

Eulalia Collins was born on a Texas homestead and raised in the White Mountains of New Mexico. Her nickname “Sister” was given to her by a younger sister who couldn’t pronounce “Eulalia”. When she was 17, she married William Bourne, a prospector and a man more than twice her age. They moved to Arizona sometime between 1911 and 1914. The marriage was not a happy one and Sister received an uncontested divorce in 1915.

Although she only had three years of formal schooling, Sister succeeded in getting an Arizona teaching certificate in 1914. Her first job was in Beaver Creek at a one-room school. She described the school as “a little wooden building on a flat near the bank of Dry Beaver.” One of her students was Gene McGuire, 16 years old, who lived with his father in a shack a few hundred yards from the schoolhouse. Gene’s father was a member of the School Board. When she returned from Christmas break however, Sister found that classes would be held near Walker Creek because so many families moved off of the Mogollon Rim and registered their children in school. This school building was “a big old unpainted

In her book Ranch Schoolteacher, Sister describes her fascination with Beaver Creek. “Oh, that lovely brook sparkling and foaming over the clean rounded rocks under the giant sycamores and cottonwoods! In nearly two decades on earth I had never before seen a pool deep enough to swim in; had never gone to sleep to the music of a rippling stream...Beaver Creek was mine. My right of possession was only a love claim and in the domain of my heart it remains....How I loved the wonderful viable romantic waters of Beaver Creek!”

Sister Bourne revisited the Beaver Creek area in the early 1980’s and shared her stories at the Pioneer Picnic at Montezuma Well.

Other books by Sister Bourne include Woman in Levis and Nine Months Is a Year.

### Monthly Presentations

**March:** Annual Meeting — Rob Estrada told the story of Lulu Verde

**May:** Barbara Jaquay — “Where Have all the Sheep Gone”

**September:** Don & Chris Godard — “What Do You NOT Know About Cement”

**October:** Betty Gaudy — History of Weaving

**November:** Robert Estrada — Father’s WWII service

## How the Gymnasium Came to BCS

THE NEWTON REAY BUILDING — by Rosemary Reay

Ever notice the sign above the gymnasium door at Beaver Creek School? It reads: The Newton Reay Building. It was dedicated to my husband, Newton Reay, and this is my story:

We moved from Flagstaff to McGuireville in August, 1967, and settled on Beaver Creek. We enrolled a son and a daughter in the tiny one-room rock school-house. There were 45 students in 2 classrooms with 2 teachers. Outside were 2 outhouses next to the wash, but, thankfully, there was also indoor plumbing!

The community was growing and soon a mobile classroom was added. A concrete slab was poured at the north end of the campus and basketball hoops installed. As enrollment increased additional classrooms were added in the form of metal temporary buildings. Interscholastic games were played on the slab outside-- hot in the summer, cold in the winter. Volleyball and other events such as graduation ceremonies, assemblies, and "The Gong Show" were held on the grass or sidewalks.



It was 1978 and BCS wanted something that could be used as a gym and also a place for community activities. We planned an auction with a barbeque to raise the necessary funds. Newton volunteered to furnish his construction equipment to ready the site for the building, including landscaping when completed.

A pit barbeque was planned. Newton dug the pit, brought in firewood. Lee Vaughn procured the meat, and word went out for donations to be auctioned. A date was set and Karl Conant agreed to be the auctioneer. As this was new to most of us, Lee took charge of the pit. Men and boys volunteered

to stay up all night with the fire, Newton included! Morning came, the meat was taken out, tempting all to take "just a little bite"! Salads, beans, desserts, were countless and "a good time was had by all"! The auction was a success and we were on our way to having a brand new gym!

When all was said and done, Newton and I received a letter from the school indicating that The Board of Trustees of the Beaver Creek School District #26, in the regular meeting of December 10, 1980, by unanimous decision, for generous donation of time, equipment, materials, and expense dedicated the multi-purpose building as "The Newton Reay Building".

## Jennie's Journal—By Wyona Jaffe



Wyona is an Arizona native, born in Phoenix, attended Murphy Elementary School and West Phoenix High School. Her career in the school districts of Phoenix and Tempe set the stage for her eventual retirement to the Verde Valley where she had her roots. Her grandmother, Jennie Lee Hawkins

Holmes, was born in the Verde Valley and told Wyona stories about how she grew up in the Arizona Territory. Wyona's interest in the history of Arizona set her on the path of writing Jennie's story.

**Jennie's Journal:** 1875 A True Story of a Verde Valley Pioneer is a combination of Jennie's personal journals, research on Verde Valley history and Arizona history. Her grandparents, William Henry and Harriett Hawkins came to the Verde Valley in a wagon train in 1875 followed shortly by her parents. Jennie was born in 1891 on her parent's ranch which was located near the TAPCO power plant north of Peck's Lake. Jennie's Journal is a first-hand look at a pioneering family during the early days of Arizona.

For purchase of her book, contact her at: [azwildflower137@gmail.com](mailto:azwildflower137@gmail.com)

### **Beaver Creek Preservation and Historical Society Board of Directors**

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