

Alpine History Mystery for August 2013 – Solved!

Our August mystery question was: What is the name of the last teacher to teach in a one-room schoolhouse in Alpine? The answer to this mystery is Hazel Hohanshelt.



Hazel Taylor was born in North Dakota. As the story goes, it was a cyclone that brought Hazel Taylor and her future husband Forrest Hohanshelt together. You see Hazel's father was in charge of repairing cyclone damage to their North Dakota town when Forrest showed up looking for work. That's where they met. Later, the Taylor family moved to Alpine and Forrest followed so he could continue to work for Mr. Taylor.



After Hazel Taylor finished college, she married Forrest and became Mrs. Hazel Hohanshelt.

In 1928, Hazel Hohanshelt started teaching in the Alpine Center School – the last one-room schoolhouse in Alpine. She taught 17 students in the 1st through 8th grades at that school. Then, in 1931, the Viejas School joined the Alpine Union School. Now the classes were big enough to have two teachers, so Mrs. Groom from the Viejas School taught the 1st through 4th grades and Mrs. Hohanshelt taught the 5th through 8th grades.

Hazel Hohanshelt continued to teach in Alpine until she retired in 1962. In her 34 year career, she taught over 1000 Alpine students and is fondly remembered by many families who sent children to her classes.

Did you or someone you know attend her class? If so, please let us know by sending a note to mystery@alpinehistory.org