

Quimby School District

Quimby, also called tL'ohne:s-ding or Long Prairie Place by the Tsnungwe¹, is a location up near Denny in the New River area. Sometimes Quimby is seen as being spelled with an "n" (Quinby), especially the creek nearby of the same name.

In 1921, the Denny post office moved 20 miles down New River to Quimby when the postmaster, Frank Ladd, moved his family there.²

There is not a lot of information about the Quimby School although we can deduce some knowledge from available sources. There are records of the William and Rose C. Noble family living on Quimby Creek, so the school was likely located nearby to serve their five or six school-aged children.³ The Trinity County schools' records indicate the school was first approved to open during the 1921-22 school year.⁴ During the 1922-1923 school year Quimby shows up in the school directory with Jeanette Irving (taught there 1/4 month), and Bertha Riley (taught there 8 months) as the teachers. Bertha was paid \$140 per month.⁵ We know that Quimby School was its own single-school District because an election had taken place in April of 1922 to elect school district trustees. J. D. Griffith, Viola Dailey, and Luellan Griffith were elected to hold those positions for Quimby. Because three people were elected, which would make a full board for a small district, we know that this was a brand new board and therefore a new school district. All other long-standing boards only elect one trustee during one election cycle and then elect the other two during the next election cycle so that the positions would be staggered.⁶

The Quimby School District was visited by the Trinity County Superintendent of Schools, Lucy M. Young, on April 26, 1923. The teacher was still Bertha G Riley who continued with a salary of \$140 per month. There were six students enrolled but only one student was present that day. That one student's "Order and Attendance" was listed as "Good" along with the student's progress in their studies. The "Methods and Zeal" of the teacher was listed as "Fair". Some difficulty was noted: "Trouble in school. All pupils out except one - settled difficulties today." That trouble was settled all within a one-half hour visit to the school.⁷

During the 1924-25 school year, George Will Wood taught at Quimby for nine and three-quarter months. During official visits in both May and September of 1924, Mr. Wood was also making a salary of \$140. In May, seven students were enrolled but by September there were only three students enrolled. Student progress was either good or excellent in all subject areas. The condition of the school library was "small but sufficient", however, the school was missing student desks, a teacher's desk, and even a teacher's chair.⁸ They likely sat on benches with no tables or desks on which to write. In March of 1925, the teacher had changed to Mary E. Theller. She made \$130 per month with only five students enrolled.⁹

New trustees for Quimby were announced in the May 1, 1925 newspaper so we know it was still a functioning district at that time. Those trustees elected were Grover Ladd and Miss C. M. Moore.¹⁰

With so few students it's not surprising then that the school district was suspended after the 1926-27 school year.¹¹ In a regular session of the Board of Supervisors (acting as the County Board of Education at the time),

¹ Tsnungwe Tribe, "General Description of Tribal Territory", *Tsnungwe Place Names*, 14.

² "Moved Denny Postoffice Twenty Miles to Quimby", *The Trinity Journal*, March 5, 1921.

³ Holland, James. *A History of Education in Trinity County; A Thesis presented to the School of Education*. 1971. Chico State College 1971, 31, 32; and the United States Federal Census 1920.

⁴ "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁵ School Warrants, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁶ "Returns slow on School Trustees", *The Trinity Journal*, April 8, 1922.

⁷ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 125; and "Town Talk", *The Trinity Journal*, April 28, 1923.

⁸ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 151 and 176.

⁹ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 203.

¹⁰ "New Trustees For Various Districts", *The Trinity Journal*, May 1, 1926.

¹¹ "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 9.

Miss Lucy M. Young, County Superintendent of Schools, suggested in her report that Quimby should be closed. The Board agreed and abolished the little district and ordered that “the territory within the bounds of said district be annexed to and made a part of the Lower Trinity, Burnt Ranch, and Cox Bar school districts, the boundaries of said school districts being amended”.¹² The Quimby School District funding was portioned out according to Average Daily Attendance (ADA) to Burnt Ranch (9 ADA), Cox Bar (6 ADA), and Lower Trinity (7 ADA).¹³ By all accounts, Quimby did not continue beyond that date.¹⁴

An interesting thing to note is that the current Maintenance building (in 2023) at the Trinity County Office of Education in Weaverville used to be the Quimby bus garage but was moved to Weaverville from the Quimby School some years ago.¹⁵

See also **New River Area Schools**

¹² “Regular Session of the Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 14, 1927.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Warrant Records*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 1926.

¹⁵ Supahan, Sarah, interview with French, Jim, retired Trinity County Superintendent of Schools, January 3, 2022.