

# Folk celebrate mission building's 100th

*Dixon area has been a focal point of Presbyterian mission*



The Mission School building

**O**n a bright early fall Sunday afternoon in September, former students, friends and church members gathered in the Presbyterian mission school building in Dixon to celebrate the structure's 100th anniversary.

While the mission day school had been established in 1887, this adobe structure came into being in 1910. The school (along with many other Presbyterian mission schools) closed in 1958.

Through the years since then the building has been maintained and remodeled by members of the congregation and mission work groups.

Today it is used as a retreat center for church groups. The facility provides a large meeting room, a well-furnished large kitchen, and several bedrooms.

Presbyterian work in the area began with the school, but it did not end there. The Embudo congregation was established in 1889 and continues today under the leadership of Commissioned Lay Pastor Mary Jo Lundy.

The year 1915 brought Embudo Hospital which was established in a two-room building in Dixon.

Later, with residents of the area providing much of the labor, a larger adobe hospital was built along the highway to Taos. The facility was later expanded to include more hospital rooms, a chapel, housing for nurses and three residences for doctors.

Medical personnel from Embudo also staffed Presbyterian clinics at Peñasco and Truchas.

The hospital closed in the early 1970s and the property sold.

Dixon was also front, center in a legal dispute that began in 1948 when the Dixon Free Schools Committee filed suit to prevent members of Catholic teaching orders (primarily nuns) from instructing in New Mexico public schools.

In March of 1949, Judge E. T. Hensley handed down a written decision supporting the Free School Committee.

*Today the building is used as a retreat center providing a large meeting room, a well-furnished modern kitchen, and several bedrooms*



A picture montage of the history of the Embudo church, school, hospital



Clerk of Session Charlotte Valdez, shows the notebook she has put together listing the history of each of the families in the Embudo Church.