

Irene Alberta Burns



Irene Burns, Superintendent of Schools
Margaret McNaught, State Commissioner
Annie Smith, teacher on an inspection of
schools.

Irene Alberta Burns
1872-1962

Irene was born in Auburn but raised on the Foresthill Divide. Her first teaching job was at the old gold camp of Deadwood. She would later teach at Foresthill, Blue Canyon, Lone Star and in Auburn Schools. In 1914 she became the first woman elected to public office in Placer County as the Superintendent of Schools. She served three terms. Always concerned with special needs students, in 1930 she moved to San Francisco and opened a school especially designed for developmental disabled kids. She returned to Auburn in 1942.

Her home on Linden Avenue is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Placer Herald 12 Sept. 1952, k-M data base, parks.ca.gov, findagrave Photo courtesy of Placer County Museums