

Most Remote School In State



Miss Helen Pelissier and her eight pupils of Mount Washington school. Rear (left to right), Nellie Hunt, Miss Pelissier, Barbara Van Deusen. Second row, Harriet Isaacson, Doris Van Deusen, Betty Melius. Front row, Alfred Van Deusen (the only boy), Mary Porter, Lucile Van Deusen.

he will hold the mountain record for many years. Ever since the early settlement of the town there have been Whitbecks at Mount Washington and they all have been hunters and trappers.

In the old days Mount Washington had two postoffices. Now it has rural free delivery through the efforts of Congressman Allen T. Treadway. The Springfield Republican arrives daily in the homes of the leading families from April 1 to January 1. Then for three months the mail is delivered every other day. The winter term at the school started on January 4 and will run to February 20. Then while the roads are in the worst condition of any time during the year there will be a vacation until April 20. The summer term always opens just after Independence day.

Miss Pelissier boards in the home of Mr and Mrs Peter Osmun. Mr Osmun is the state fire observer on the Mount Everett reservation. He discovered and reported 15 fires the past season, during which 5500 persons registered at the fire tower. Mr Osmun is 76 and in the season walks from his home to the summit every day.

Mount Washington has 21 men and 14 women voters. The farmers own 17 horses, 17 cows, 48 sheep and 202 fowls. There are 69 houses and 12,627 acres of land assessed.

The commonwealth helps Mount Washington to function financially. The last published town report shows receipts from various state departments were \$6268. Of this amount \$3500 was for road maintenance. The county gave the town \$1034 and in addition appropriated \$1500 for the Mount Everett reservation. The roads of Mount Washington are among the best of any small town in Western Massachusetts. The total assessed real estate valuation of the town is \$180,-

655 and personal property \$20,110.

A Fascination of Its Own

For one accustomed to the "high" life of Springfield Mount Washington with its "high" life might seem a little lonesome especially during the twilight period of the day, but there are people for whom this tiny community has a marvelous fascination. Practically every home has its telephone and radio; the family car is a necessity and it takes only a few minutes to coast down the mountain to Copake Falls, N. Y., whence comes all the mail; Great Barrington or Sheffield. Mount Washington people look forward to the time when the state will take over the highway from the Under Mountain road at Sheffield to the summit of Mount Everett. The scenery along this highway can be described adequately in superlative alone.

Mount Washington through Town Clerk William A. Hunt has presented an imposing vital statistics record for 1931: Birth 1, marriages 0, deaths 0. The last death in the town was that of Newton E. W. Isaacson, which occurred November 22, 1925.

As proof that the old stock still clings to the fertile soil of Mount Washington read this list of town officers: Clerk and treasurer, William A. Hunt; collector of taxes and constable, Howard Porter; selectmen, Gilbert Isaacson, Ezra Whitbeck, Howard Porter; assessors, Gilbert Isaacson, Lewis Houghtaling, Russel Whitbeck; auditor, George E. Hamilton.

"Petticoat Rule" on Mount Washington? Not on your life. Even with 14 out of 35 voters enrolled. There may be a different story to tell when Martha Houghtaling, the latest arrival reaches the sublime age of 21.