

Happy Camp School District

In 1851 a group of 14 miners camped on a level piece of ground on the banks of Indian Creek. Folklore has it that these miners acquired several bottles of liquor and were “partying it up”. As the drinks were passed around, someone proposed a toast to the campsite, “To a Happy Camp,” and so the name Happy Camp was given to the present town.

The Happy Camp School District was established in 1887. The first school house was located on “school house flat” where the present Laundromat stands. The second school was located approximately a quarter mile up the Buckhorn Road from the present school grounds. This building is now being used as a residence. The present school house is the third structure.

In 1899 the teacher was Miss Eva S. Barbour. School was held for a six month term with 24 pupils in attendance.

Reference in board of Supervisors minutes:

Established: April 6, 1887 – Boundaries described (4-217)

February 6, 1912 – Boundary change (9-97)

February 7, 1922 – Part of Happy Camp taken to form Clear Creek (12-397,398)

December 3, 1940 – Happy Camp Union formed (18-408)

January 6, 1942 – Boundary change (19-55, 56)

September 27, 1955 – School bonds (24-64)

May 21, 1957 – Boundary change (25-101)



Happy Camp — 1910

Happy Camp class, 1910. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



Date unknown. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



School sign, date unknown. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



ca. 1929. Loaned by the Siskiyou County Public Library.



School sign, date unknown. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



ca. 1935. Photo by Bob Dennis, from the collection of Bob Dais.



Students, ca. 1939. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



Class with teacher, Mrs. Fowler, March 1939. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



March, 1939. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



Happy Camp school boys on the way to school, date unknown. Loaned by the Siskiyou County Public Library.



ca. 1975. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.