

Hilt School District

The Hilt School District was formerly called the Bailey hill School District. The name was changed from Bailey Hill to Hilt in 1921.

The first school term was held in the Fairking residence on the north side of Bailey hill. From there the school moved to the basement of the old hotel or “boarding house”. The next school was built on Water Tank Hill. Another school house was erected at the Junction of Soda Springs Road and Cottonwood Creek. It was at this place that the old Hilt sawmill was built. When they moved the sawmill to its present site, they also moved the school house to its present location.

The school was named after John Hilt, who crossed the plains by ox team in 1854. He successfully mined for a few years and then, preferring an occupation more stable than mining, he acquired title to some timber land on the west bank of Cottonwood Creek. Here erected a sawmill. The land and site was purchased by Fruit Growers Corporation, and a large mill town eventually formed.

In 1973 the Company abruptly closed down and the mill was disbanded. The houses were torn down and burned; the entire town was razed. In 1974 the district was annexed to the Hornbrook School District.

Reference in board of Supervisors minutes:

Note: Was formerly called Bailey hill School District (see Bailey Hill)

June 6, 1921 – Petition to change name of Bailey hill School District to hilt School District (12-311)

July 5, 1921 – Bailey Hill School District name changed to Hilt (12-318)

February 7, 1922 – Boundary change – Part of Beaver Creek School District annexed to Hilt, description given (12-398, 399)

July 23, 1974 – Hilt lapsed and annexed to Hornbrook.



Hilt School, date unknown. Photo by Mildred Grant, donated by Roderick and Larry Grant.



Hilt class (Miss Gansberg), ca. 1939. Photo by Mildred Grant, donated by Roderick and Larry Grant.



Close-up of Miss Ganzberg's class, ca. 1939.



Miss Kitzing's class, ca. 1939. Photo by Mildred Grant, donated by Roderick and Larry Grant.



Close-up of Miss Kitzing's class, ca. 1939.



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



Close-up of class above, date unknown.



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



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



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



Hilt School (the last one), ca. 1970. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History collection.