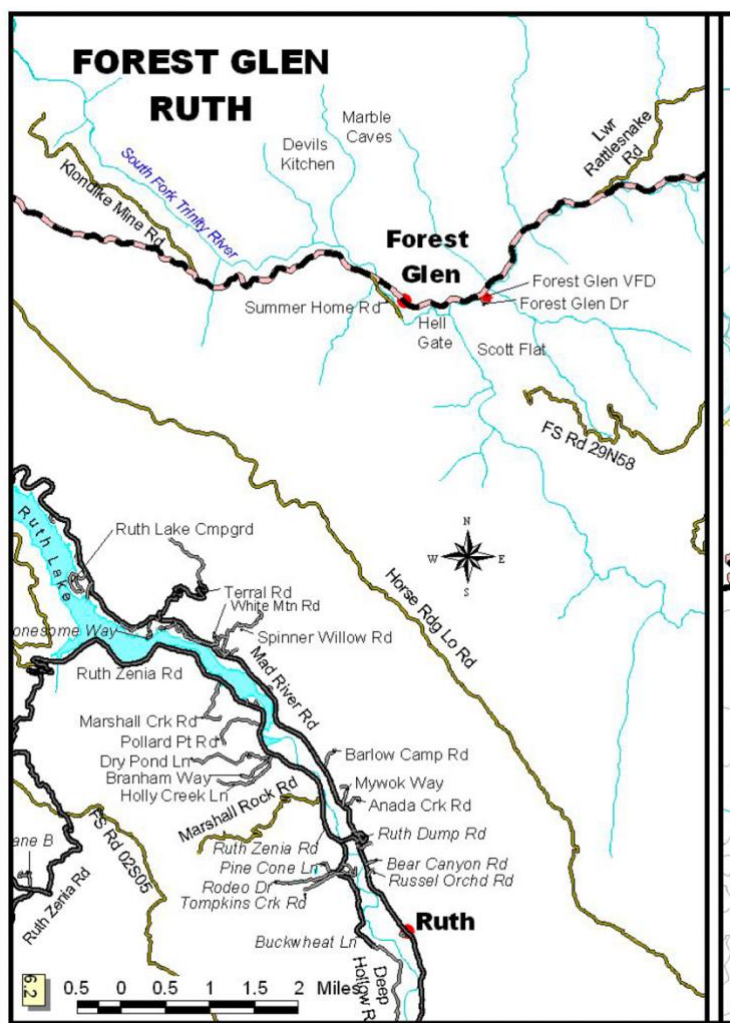


Forest Glen School/Forest School District

“Forest School” was located near the community of Ruth in the southern area of Trinity County. Another “Forest School” also existed, but was located near Salyer – far north of Ruth. Some of the school records do not make the distinction between “Forest Glen School” and “Forest School”, and then there are others that refer to the school, helpfully, as “Forest School in Ruth”. It has taken some diligent research to determine the distinctive history of each of the “Forest” Schools.

On July 5, 1919, a petition was received by the County Board of Supervisors requesting a new district be created out of the Mad River and Hetten Valley School Districts’ territory. This new district was to be called Forest School District.¹ This single-school district was clearly the one in the southern part of the county due to the other school territories mentioned.

A notice in the local paper in July of 1920, declares the Forest [Glen] School “recently formed in the southern portion of the county” and that a bond was needed to build and furnish a schoolhouse.² In addition, only one Forest School is listed in the district directory for the 1920-21 school year, and the location listed is Ruth.



An official visit to the school was made on August 12, 1920. The teacher for the new school year was Helen E. Anderson. Her salary was \$110 per month and she taught 10 students. It appears that this was a visit to the Forest [Glen] School because a note on the visiting records indicates that a new school building was needed as they were holding school in a woodshed.³ This certainly explains the need for a school bond to build a new schoolhouse. The bond was issued in January 1921, in the amount of \$600, to build and furnish a new school.⁴ The local paper indicates, in several editions, that there was difficulty in selling the bond which would explain the delay between the approval to raise a bond in July of 1920 and the issuance of that bond in January 1921.

The Forest [Glen] School is also listed in the Teacher’s Directory for the 1921-22 school year with two teacher’s names: Mary G. Clarke and Anita L. Anderson. The location was Ruth. The district was in session only 8 and ¼ months that year.⁵ In the 1922-23 and the 1923-24 Directories, Anita L. Anderson is still listed as being the teacher and the school was in session for nine months both years.

Another visit to the school occurred on June 19 (no year listed but presumably in 1922) by the Deputy Superintendent of Schools. Anita Anderson was still teaching and was paid a salary of \$130 per month teaching nine students. It was stated that her teaching methods were up to date and she was an earnest worker. The

¹ “Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 5, 1919.

² “Bonds for School House”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 7, 1920.

³ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 58.

⁴ *Warrant Records*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁵ *Teacher Directories*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

schoolhouse was yet unfinished and the outbuildings were temporary. The school also needed “playground apparatus” but they had a library which was listed in good condition. The students, seven primary and two in the 6th-8th grades, were making good progress in their studies, especially in reading.⁶

Another visit to the school occurred on July 31, 1922. This visit was likely during the start of the 1922-23 school year which often began in July for many schools in the county. Only a few weeks had passed since the last visit. Anita Anderson had continued teaching there for the same salary. There were nine students enrolled with seven students present at the time of the visit. The students’ order and attention were “Very Good” and the building and grounds were now reported as being in good shape. The only thing needed at the school was a picture of President George Washington. It seems all schools at that time had an obligation to have pictures of both George Washington and one of President Abraham Lincoln.⁷

In July 1925, Anita Anderson had continued teaching at Forest [Glen] School but the enrollment had dropped to just three students. A handwritten note in the visit records said, “Teacher doing good work”. The school was still missing a picture of Washington and it was noted that another one of the school's needs was, simply, “more pupils”.⁸

The Forest School was suspended during the 1926-27 school year and lapsed (closed) on July 5, 1927. Students were said to have transferred to Mad River and Hetten Valley School Districts. Mad River received five students and Hetten Valley eight.⁹

Much later, “Forest Glen School”, was recorded as an “Emergency School” under the Hayfork Valley Union School District beginning in the 1941-42 school year and continuing through the 1942-43 school year.¹⁰ It’s not certain what constituted an emergency school in Trinity County in the 1940s, but the 2005 California Education Code, Section 1920-1924 states that, “The county superintendent of schools may, with the approval of the county board of education, when funds are not available from other sources in his [or her] judgment it is necessary, do any one or more of the following acts: (a) Establish and maintain one or more emergency elementary schools for children....” The current Education Code has been updated to include slightly different language (see Education Code Section 14057).¹¹ In 1955, the Hayfork Valley Union School District was said to have operated Hayfork School, Wildwood School, and *Forest Glen School*, although Forest Glen closed permanently that year, after only two months, due to a lack of students.¹²

⁶ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, no page number.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 110.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 188.

⁹ *School District Disbursements & Receipts*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

¹⁰ “Statistics of Elementary Schools”, *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

¹¹ “Justia US Law”, <https://law.justia.com/codes/california/2005/edc/1920-1924.html>, and “Find Law”, <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/education-code/edc-sect-14057/>, accessed December 23, 2023.

¹² “Trinity County Schools Growing With California”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 28, 1956, Centennial Edition