

## Hettenpome School District, Eventually Changed to Hoaglin School District

According to historical records, Hoaglin School District was established as one of the county's public schools in 1915. However, it began its existence as Hettenpome School and the date of that school's origins is difficult to establish.



"Old Hoaglin School on Shannon Property" Courtesy of Peggy Canale

Below is a recording of the dates and locations of the Hettenpome/Hettenpom and Hoaglin School Districts as found in the sources that could be located:

1. In about 1890 a school was said to have moved from Long Ridge to the south end of Kettenpom Valley, located about a mile north of Hoaglin. The school at that time was named Hettenpome.<sup>1</sup> According to two sources, Hettenpome was an alternative spelling of the Wintu word "Kettenpom" which means "Little Indian Potato land".<sup>2</sup>
2. In 1892 and again in 1898, the Hettenpome Schoolhouse was used as a polling place for an election.<sup>3</sup>
3. The Trinity County Superintendent of Schools visited the public school named Hettenpome in 1900, 1902, 1904, 1909, and 1913, but no school records prior to that indicate that it was a public school receiving state monies.
4. At one point the school was referred to as "Hettenpome nee Long Ridge" in the historic school fund register located at the Trinity County Office of Education. "Neé", a French term, means that the school was originally called Long Ridge, but this has not been confirmed by another source.
5. This school functioned under the name Hettenpome until the 1907-08 school year when the "e" was dropped from the ending of the name, making the name of the school "Hettenpom", although not all school records followed this convention.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Keter, Thomas S., "A Compendium of People and Places for the North Fork Eel River Region during the Homesteading Era", [http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people\\_and\\_places\\_nferw\\_vol\\_1.pdf](http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people_and_places_nferw_vol_1.pdf), 2017. Accessed November 4, 2022. 152-155.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., and "Indian Names in Trinity Co.", *The Trinity Journal*, August 19, 1916.

<sup>3</sup> *The Trinity Journal*, February 13, 1892 and September 3, 1898.

<sup>4</sup> *District Warrants*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

6. The Hettenpom School was said to have moved from Long Ridge to Hoaglin Valley in the historic school district warrants, stating "Hettenpome changed to Hoaglin".<sup>5</sup>
7. In January of 1915, a petition was submitted by the residents of the Hettenpome School District to the Board of Supervisors asking to officially change the name to Hoaglin School District. The petition was approved.<sup>6</sup>
8. The school by the name of Hettenpom had its last funding disbursements occurring during the 1916-17 school year.
9. In some references, the same school was referred to as "Hoaglin Valley".<sup>7</sup>

In any event, the Hoaglin School was certainly called by different names and may have existed in several different locations at different times in history according to the information below.



*Hoaglin School 1947, Graduation Picnic for Carol Newmaker. Back row: Jean Lampley, Carol Newmaker, teacher Margaret Burgess Potter, Jackie Wedell, Bob Potter; Front row: Shirley Lampley, Marilyn Potter, Dean Moore*



While in Hoaglin Valley the school was located on the Holtorf Ranch on the Kettelpom Valley road. "J. and H. Holtorf" owned most of the Hoaglin Valley at this time. This is also the location where the school burned in a fire in 1911. Prior to being rebuilt, the school was held in the "Old Clem Cabin". When it was rebuilt in 1915 the new schoolhouse was said to be a one-story medium gable structure, resting on wooden blocks with "a hip roof entry porch and the use of a dentil molding [which] are exceptional features of this building..."

Sitting in the middle of a large overgrazed field is the old one-room Hoaglin schoolhouse. It looks like a classic example of an abandoned prairie schoolhouse. It was built in 1915 after an earlier school had burned. The use of this building as a school was not regular, for the doors were sometimes closed for lack of students. The original part of the school is a one-story medium gable structure. A cross-gable has been added to the rear and the entire building rests on wooden blocks. The roof's original shingles are exposed in large patches where newer tin has been torn off. A hip roof entry porch and the use of a dental [i.e.: dentil] molding are exceptional features of this building which is located in a very rural, functionally oriented area.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *District Warrants, and School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 520.

<sup>6</sup> "Board of Supervisors", *The Trinity Journal*, January 16, 1915.

<sup>7</sup> "The Students of Hoaglin-Zenia Elementary School, *One Room Schoolhouses in Southern Trinity County*, 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Jones, Alice Goen, Ed., *Trinity County Historical Sites*, Trinity County Historical Society, 1981, 351; and Keter, Thomas S., "A Compendium of People and Places for the North Fork Eel River Region during the Homesteading Era", [http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people\\_and\\_places\\_nferw\\_vol\\_1.pdf](http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people_and_places_nferw_vol_1.pdf), 2017, accessed November 4, 2022, 154.

The Hoaglin School burned down again in May of 1917, but “a new one will replace it, to be in charge of Mrs. Gertrude Gronemeyer, teacher”.<sup>9</sup> Apparently, it was not only replaced but also improved because in 1920 the Superintendent of Schools visited the school and declared it the “Best kept schoolhouse in the county”.<sup>10</sup>

In an interview with May Gray [no date], she said the following:

We girls attended Hoaglin School, a three-mile walk from our home on Bluff Creek. It's a beautiful country and our memories of school days are very pleasant. Most of the children came from greater distances, riding horseback to school. As I remember, eighteen was the largest attendance while we were there. The schoolhouse was built of hand-hewn logs. It burned in 1917 and was rebuilt the same year.

The school was the center of much of the social life, old-fashioned dances, etc., being held there. Whole families attended from miles around. They brought quilts to put the small ones to sleep on, in a corner of the room. Everyone brought sandwiches and cakes. They made coffee in a five-gallon can for a midnight supper. It was an all-night affair beings [sic] it was too dark to travel the rough trails home on horseback. There was always plenty of food for a snack in the morning before leaving for home at sun up. The music was a violin with a guitar accompaniment and a caller to call changes for quadrilles.

When we first attended Hoaglin School, it was in session only seven months of the year. Winter was too stormy for traveling.<sup>11</sup>

In an interview with Chuck Hall, who attended Hoaglin School in the 1940s, he rode to school on “chicken-feed” horses. He said that not only did students take their own lunch, but they also had to take their own hay and grain to feed the horses during the school day.<sup>12</sup>



*Hoaglin Valley School Building pictured in 1978*

Bertha Martin taught school at Hoaglin for five years until 1941.<sup>13</sup> In 1941, the school opened at what was called the Heller Highwater Ranch. Later the school moved to a log cabin up the hill on the Wixson property and continued at that location until

<sup>9</sup> “Schools are opening”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 27, 1917.

<sup>10</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 62.

<sup>11</sup> “The Students of Hoaglin-Zenia Elementary School, *One Room Schoolhouses in Southern Trinity County*, 2008.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>13</sup> Keter, Thomas S., “A Compendium of People and Places for the North Fork Eel River Region during the Homesteading Era”, [http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people\\_and\\_places\\_nferw\\_vol\\_1.pdf](http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people_and_places_nferw_vol_1.pdf), 2017, accessed November 4, 2022. 153.

approximately 1958.<sup>14</sup>

In 1945, a new school building was constructed, and in the summer of 1955 a new teacherage was built. The enrollment of the school at that time was 18 students with Miss Hannah Watson as teacher. The trustees were Mrs. Kathleen Wixson, Mrs. Elizabeth Wedel, and Mrs. Polly McEwen.<sup>15</sup>

According to an interview with Zelma Benninoven [no date], during the 1950s there was an increase in logging in the area and many small mills opened providing employment. Due to the logging, the roads were improved, reducing the isolation of the area. Due to the influx of people, the school hired an extra teacher and there were 40 students attending class in two sessions morning and afternoon.<sup>16</sup>



In March of 1959 the school was combined into the Hoaglin-Zenia Union School District<sup>17</sup> and later became an elementary school within the Southern Trinity Joint Unified School District located in Mad River.

See also **Kettenpom** and **Zenia Schools**.

"Hoaglin School 1952-1953, Located on the road to the Armstrong Place on the Witter Ranch". Back row: Shirley Lampley, Dennis Lewis; second row: Barbara Brownfield, Henry Wedell, Billie Clark; Front Row: ? Aho, ? Aho, Dorothy McEwen, ?, ?, Barbara Sturgis, Cynthia Clark, Larry Clark, ? Aho, Duane Burgess. Courtesy of Peggy Canale

<sup>14</sup> The Students of Hoaglin-Zenia Elementary School, *One Room Schoolhouses in Southern Trinity County*, 2008.

<sup>15</sup> "A Short History of the Schools in Trinity County", *The Trinity Journal*, 1956, 5.

<sup>16</sup> Keter, Thomas S., "A Compendium of People and Places for the North Fork Eel River Region during the Homesteading Era", [http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people\\_and\\_places\\_nferw\\_vol\\_1.pdf](http://wordpress.solararch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/people_and_places_nferw_vol_1.pdf), 2017. Accessed October 20, 2023. 155.

<sup>17</sup> "Hoaglin-Zenia School Opens", *The Trinity Journal*, March 12, 1959.