

Sawyer, Preston

Santa Cruz Yesterdays



HAPPY VALLEY SCHOOL IN 1894

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The Happy Valley school was 30 years old and 22-year-old Etha Bradley was teaching it when the 18 pupils lined up to have their picture taken.

Etha was the daughter of O. I. Bradley, the pioneer blacksmith. Four years later she became Mrs. Albert Rostron. Today she lives at 1021 Ocean street.

The tall young man with the derby, in the exact center of the scene, was a dashing blade from Santa Cruz who, with high stepping team

and buggy, drove by and gaily declared he would be in the picture, too. He later became Santa Cruz mayor and postmaster. His name? Fred Howe. His companion Mrs. Rostron cannot identify;

The pupils of the school 56 years ago included two daughters of Selden S. Staples, Lucy, who became Mrs. James B. Sims, and Blossom, who married C. P. Forde. Lena Gaukroger is now Mrs. Randall. Vivian and Ethel Duke were daughters of William Henry Duke, who had

installed the Hihn water system in Santa Cruz. Another of the girls was Laura Rostron. Three of the boys were sons of the Hall family, Eddie, Theo and Hiram.

Of the identity of the other nine pupils Mrs. Rortson regretfully says she cannot be sure.

The Happy Valley school, 11th established in the county, had been built in 1864. The small wing at the right, originally in front of the one-room building, had been moved to the side and the porch built.