

HUMBOLDT AREA PEOPLES ARCHIVE  
PO Box 632  
Bayside, CA 95524

*Title*

Salmon Creek Community School Collection

*Collection number*

2023.05

*Contact information*

Humboldt Area Peoples Archive  
PO Box 632; Bayside, CA 95524  
[edith.butler@humboldt.edu](mailto:edith.butler@humboldt.edu) Edie Butler, Archivist

*Collection processed by*

Edie Butler, Avril Frasché

*Date Collection Processed*

2024

*Language*

English

*Donors*

Salmon Creek Community School Board of Directors, Chip Tittmann,  
Sarah Tittmann

*Collection Creator*

Salmon Creek Community School

*Dates Covered by Collection*

1973 – 2024

*Size of Collection*

Four records storage boxes, two oversize boxes, Wood Box [36" long, 18.5" wide, 16.5" high], digital files holding: websites, PDFs, digital images, and 2024 digital oral histories

*Abstract*

In the late 1960s and 1970s, as the old ranches in Salmon Creek were being divided into parcels, the Back-To-The-Landers arrived to set up homesteads and build a community of their own choosing. This occurred in the Salmon Creek area as well as many other areas of rural northwest California. The newcomers found a need to create a school that would reflect their values and that was closer to their homes than

the public schools.

This Archive holds a serendipitous collection of materials that reflects the history of this “alternative” school that evolved based on Montessori and Waldorf methods. Included are administrative records, long runs of the Board of Directors meeting minutes, Bylaws, and Statement of Principles; examples of student work and activities; curriculum; photo albums, vhs tapes, dvds, and other media; and 2024 oral history interviews.

#### *Access*

Contact Humboldt Area Peoples Archive. Collection is available by appointment.

#### *Copyright*

Copyright has been donated to Humboldt Area Peoples Archive

#### *Organizational Information*

The Salmon Creek Community School was founded in 1970 and continuously served the region’s children until classes ended in 2019. The non-profit organization that was formed in 1977 continues on the school grounds serving as a community center. Student enrollment in the school varied over time. Funding was provided by the community through fundraising and by families paying dues while their children were enrolled at the school. Other support was provided by CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) for a period in the late 1970s and by the Southern Humboldt Unified School District in the form of subsidized teacher and staff positions.

#### *Acquisition Information*

Kathy Fraser, who has multiple roles within the Salmon Creek Community School-- a recent Board Member, a former teacher, and the parent of a former student-- contacted the Humboldt Area Peoples Archive to discuss donating the records of the School. On December 29, 2023 the files, photos and other media materials, and a homemade Wood Box were picked up from the School library. Kathy Fraser reported that the Wood Box was in fact a school artifact, in addition to being the safest place to store the photo albums while they were at the School. A member of the Samuels Family had attended one of the school reunions and brought this box as a donation to the school. He was the youngest grandchild of the family that had owned the Samuels Ranch, a large sheep ranch in Salmon Creek. The box was used to store bedding, keeping it free of vermin and ready for their use on their annual visits to the ranch.

#### *Arrangement of Collection*

Most of the materials had been stored in the Wood Box in the Library building. Sarah Tittmann and Chip Tittmann each donated papers from

their involvement with the School. The materials placed in the oversize boxes were gathered by Kathy Fraser. During processing, like materials were gathered together and sorted into files, or in the case of the materials from the Tittmanns, were left as each had assembled them. Most titles were created by the archivists as they readied them for researchers to use.

The Collection was sorted into these sections:

Administration

Photo Albums

Photos, CDs, DVDs, VHS, Cassette

Salmon Creek Community School website on flash drive

Digital images and PDFs on flash drive

Oral Histories on flash drive

Oversize boxes holding the Curriculum materials and student work

Wood Box [36" long, 18.5" wide, 16.5" high] donated by a member of the Samuels Family

### ***Container List***

#### **Box 1**

Administration

1 SCCS Articles of Incorporation (3 versions); Bylaws; Statement of Principals; 1977, undated

2 SCCS History, list of students, "timeline", earlier era schools

3 "History" includes some student work

4 Property Leasehold Agreement; 1982

5 "Trustee Records"; 1973 – 1974

6 Administration Materials; 1981 – 1984

7 Administration from Sarah Tittmann [Loose in 3 ring binder]

7-1 1 of 3 3 ring-binder: Minutes, Documents – Financial Reports, Policies, Master Plan; 1986 – 1992

7-2 2 of 3 3 ring binder; 1987 – 1992

7-3 3 of 3 Policies, 1987; Property Agreement between SCCS and Jerry Juan;

Loose in 3 ring binder

8 Administration- from Chip Tittmann- seven folders

8-1 SCCS 1981 – 1988

8-2 SCCS Lease

8-3 SCCS Clivas [compost privy]

8-4 SCCS Minutes 1985 – 1986

8-5 SCCS/Planning 1986 – 1987

8-6 SCCS Porch 2002

8-7 Trivia

9 Administration, Bylaws, Policies, Board Minutes 1986 – 1988

10 Enrollment and Attendance Record Early 1980s

11 SCCS Planning Committees Reports and Maps 1985 – 1986

12 SCCS Annual Meeting Minutes; Résumés of Ellen Crosby and Karen

O'Shell 1987, 1990  
13 Toilet/Grey water 1989  
14 Maps, Aerial Photos of Salmon Creek  
15 Newsletters 1987 – 2008  
16 Yearbooks 2009 – 2016  
17 SCCS Fundraising, Quilts  
18 SCCS Fundraising, Cookbook 2023  
19 SCCS Fundraising, Calendars 1986 – 2023

## **Box 2**

### Photo Albums

1 Photo Album – 1 1978 – 1981  
2 Photo Album – 2 1981 – 1982  
3 Photo Album – 3 1982 or 1983, 1986 – 1989  
4 Photo Album – 4 May 1983  
5 Photo Album – 5 May 1983 – September 1985  
6 Photo Album – 6 Summer 1995  
7 Photo Album – 7 1995 – 2002

## **Box 3**

### Photo Albums

1 Photo Album – 8 Nov 2003 – Jan 2004  
2 Photo Album – 9; Quilts 2003 – 2005  
Two loose undated photos  
3 Photo Album – 10 Sept 2003 – Sept 2005  
4 Photo Album – 11 Sept 2005 – Aug 2006  
5 Photo Album – 12 2004, 2006 – 2007  
Loose photos 2003 or 2004; album is 2006 – 2007  
6 Photo Album – 13 2007 – 2008

## **Box 4**

### Photos, CDs, DVDs, VHS, Cassette

1 4 Photos – in frames 1996, undated, “Salad Bar” [from a fundraiser]  
2 Photos 1977, 1980, 1986, 1994, 1995 – 1996  
3 Photos 2000, 2003, 2005  
4 Photos 2006, 2014  
5 Photos – at the school, field trips; undated  
6 Photos; undated  
7 Photos – negatives  
8 CDs [descriptive list inside box and on Flash Drive 1, in Box 4 file 12]  
1 Gary G. and the Eat and Play Kids 1986  
2 “Photos Allen Photos Fernbridge” 9/16/2001 Fernbridge  
Overlook from 9100 block of Blue Slide Rd, Ferndale  
Couple photos of a young child; couple photos of an adult photographer  
3 “Old S.C.C.S. Photos” [red case] 2001 – 2003 Some photos ID kids by names  
“Current” folder is kids’ work from Feb 2001 Mostly photos of kids

- 4 "SCCS Pictures" 10/6/2006 Apple juicing; Washing wool
- 5 "S.C.C.S. 8/06-6/07"; Professionally formatted; Photo slideshows with music
- 6 "S.C.C.S. 07 – 08"; Professionally formatted; Photo slideshows with music
- 7 "Bird Quilt calendar 09" 2007 – 2008; Has a small piece of paper with an email address: [proteanpress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:proteanpress@sbcglobal.net); Quilt photos from 2007 and 2008
- 8 "SPRING Fling Pics 2007 By Michael Strong"; Group photos of kids in front of backdrop
- 9 "SCCS '07 Halloween + Fossil Field Trip (for website)" 2007
- 10 "Artwheels KHSU 10-07-08 Artwheels So-Hum Quilters";
- 11 "school Pics 2008 – 2009" contains 2004?; 2008; 2009. [Folder title indicates 2004 but both metadata and CD title indicates 2008 and 2009]; Halloween photos in folder called "Jan 1, 2008"
- 12 "school camping Trip 2009" 8/27/2009; Skunk train
13. Camo Cowboys Ride Again 2016

9 SCCS Plays – DVDs [descriptive list inside box and on Flash Drive in Box 4 file 12]

- 1 "Steve W Class- Destry Girard and Classmates 1984"
- 2 "1991/Jenny's class/King George"
- 3 "Gold Rush Rhiannan/ Play with Kemp Boys/ 1999-2000?"
- 4 "3 South Eastern tales/ Little Deer Mouse/ 3 Skits-"
- 5 "Dragon Play/Starship Enterprize (sic)/ 7 dwarfs."

10 SCCS Plays – VHS [descriptive list inside box]

- 1 "Steve's class 84?"
- 2 "SCCS 1985/ 588 - Nat. Geographic - Creatures of the Mangrove - 888-Planet Earth"
- 3 "Salmon Creek Spring Plays 1988 TITTMANN pls return"
- 4 "SCCS late 80s early 90s?"
- 5 "SCCS Plays Search For Delicious/ Ancient Forest/Eat Play/ TITTMANN"
- 6 "Salmon Creek School Play 93/ 'Cinderella' also Auction Party/SP"
- 7 "SCCS 'Birds to the Rescue of the Dumb Chicks' Mar. 2000"
- 8 "Hansel + Gretel 2001"
- 9 "The Goldrush Play and Marty Dance"
- 10 "?- Play- 'The Doorbell Rang'"
- 11 "3 Mouse Deer: Dawn + Steve/ ? Plays / Joseph/ TITTMANN pls return"

11 Cassette 1986

12 **Flash drive- "SCCS Coll. 1" [2003-2024]**

Documents

By Gary Glassman\_Salmon Creek School 2  
 CD and DVD Information – description of content  
 HAPA SCCS Collection Guide/ Finding Aid

Images

2023 images

Bird Quilt Calendar

SCCS '07 Halloween + Fossil Field Trip (for website)

Interviews - 2024

Chip Tittmann – Board Member, Parent

Emily Katz - Student

Heather Smith - Student

**Flash drive- “SCCS Coll. 2” [2014?-2024]**

Interviews - 2024

Jenny Edwards - Teacher

Kathy Fraser – Teacher, Board Member, Parent

Kym Kemp – Teacher, Parent

Mark Sommer - Teacher

Mary Leighton - Teacher

Reuben Childs - Student

SCCS Original Website [2014?]

SCCS Second Website- Created by Kathy Fraser [2018?]

## **Oversize Boxes: 5 and 6**

### **Box 5**

Curriculum and Student Work Samples 1985 – 2017

Includes: SCCS Plays Programs, Scripts

### **Box 6**

Student Work Samples 1985 – 2019; undated

Large Wood Box (36” long, 18.5” wide, 16.5” high)