

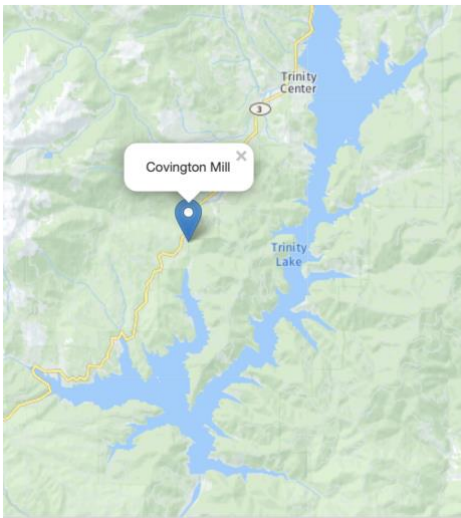
Covington Mill School, Minersville School District

The community of Covington Mill was named after the sawmill that was established there by brothers Guy and Virgil Covington. The two had traveled to the area near Trinity Center from Washington State in the late 1800s.¹ The Mill was less than a mile from Bowerman's Ranch. The Sawmill was once a bustling operation with 30 employees. Lumber from the mill was shipped all over the United States and into Mexico² including to the California Disneyland Park when it was being built in the 1950s.³

The Covington schoolhouse, which educated the mill-worker children was located on Covington Drive and then later it was converted into a private home which still exists to this day (in 2022).

In the 1946-47 school year, "Covingtons, Minersville" is listed under the Minersville School District in official school records.⁴ Interestingly, the notation is written as "Covingtons". It could be that at first the children of the Covington family were being taught at home and the Minersville School District was providing some support to them in some way. However, by 1956, "Covington Mill School" was indeed an official public school and had 21

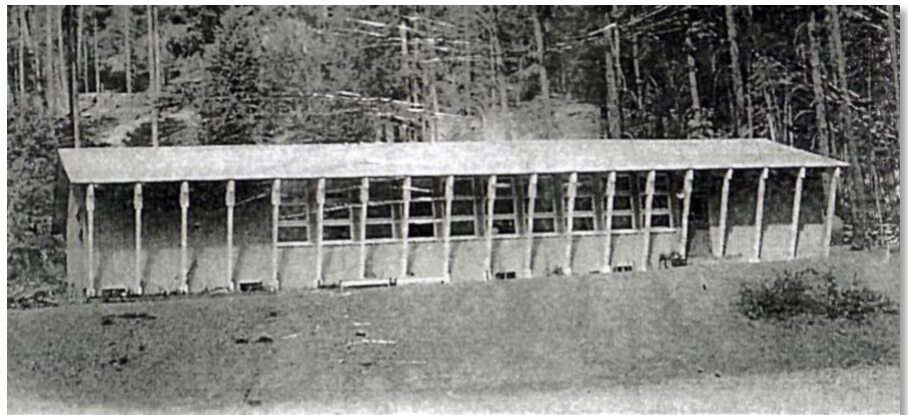
students; Minersville School had 18. A new school building had been constructed at Covington Mill just the year before.⁵



Primary Class at Covington Mill, c. 1958. David Purdue on left; also pictured at the Covington twins. Photo courtesy of David Purdue.

Ms. Hannah Watson was teaching at Covington Mill Elementary School in 1947 and 1948. Howard Covington reported that he had once misbehaved at school and received

punishment from her. He was taken into the back room which was her living quarters, a "teacherage" as they were known, and was spanked. He remembers that there were boxes of stuff everywhere. A galvanized tub of water was next to several boxes upon which were two loaves of bread. As she spanked, he hollered and kicked. In his thrashing about he bumped the boxes, which caused the bread to fall into the



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¹ "Covington History – Covington Mill in California", <http://www.covingtonhistory.co.uk/California.htm>. Accessed November 18, 2022.

² "The Covington Sawmill", *The Trinity Journal*, http://www.trinityjournal.com/image_d6096d12-170b-11e6-98e7-b37f9c8e384c.html. Accessed May 11, 2016.

³ "Covington History – Covington Mill in California", <http://www.covingtonhistory.co.uk/California.htm>. Accessed November 18, 2022.

⁴ "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 1946-47, 2.

⁵ "Trinity County Schools Growing With California", *The Trinity Journal*, January 28, 1956, Centennial Edition.

water. The spanking came to an abrupt halt and he was sent back to his desk.⁶

It is not yet known when this school was closed.

See also **Minersville School District**.

⁶ Covington, Howard, "Covington Mill Logs – Early Day Memories", *Trinity Trails – Newsletter of the Trinity County Historical Society*, June 2023, 5.