

Glimpses from Present to the Past

The “Seneca History Walk”, a tour of Seneca’s historical buildings and sites, is an annual event for students and staff of Seneca School. Through the efforts of the students and staff, this tour is now available to the public in DVD format. The DVD depicts how our history is still with us and how it has changed with time. History is brought to life as viewers see pictures of how a site or building looked originally, and then compare it to what they see today. That “then and now” comparison is the basis of the school’s most recent project. It incorporates past and present comparisons through the use of historical photos and present-day video footage.



Camp One , a logging camp outside of Seneca, in 1931

This DVD was created by the fifth through eighth grade students of Judith Beaudet Reed and Andrea Combs during the 2010-2011 school year. The students and their teachers selected and researched historical sites in and around Seneca, wrote brief narratives, chose photos of the sites as they appeared in Seneca’s company town days, and finally videotaped the students at the present-day sites as they presented the historical information in a then-and-now format.

At the invitation of Representative John Huffman, the fifth through eighth grade classes traveled to Salem to present the DVD to the education committee at the state capitol last spring. Upon their return to school, the students all agreed that the DVD needed revision, so they set to work again.

After a long period of technical difficulties, happy success has been achieved.

As the students of one class explained, “Our history project helps us to see our community differently. When we look around Seneca, we see it the way it used to be and the way it is now. We can see that things change over the years. We wonder how it will change in the future, and want to help shape those changes. “

The DVD may be ordered prepaid. The cost is \$10, plus \$2 shipping if applicable. It will also be available for purchase on May 19 at Seneca School during its 80th reunion celebration. Please send checks payable to Seneca School, P.O. Box 69, Seneca, OR 97873. For more information, call the school at 541-542-2542.