



1908 – A farmers' telephone line is installed providing telephone communication in Happy Valley with the outside world.¹

1908 – Frank Ott opens a feed mill on Sunnyside Road. Ott and his wife Louise would also open the adjoining Sunnyside Country Store, which would be used often by Happy Valley residents. The buildings exist to this day.²



Frank Ott's feed mill (Sunnyside Store at right), 1917

Courtesy: Clackamas County Historical Society

May 23, 1909 – The Clackamas Rifle Range, a National Defense Range, opens its first season just south of Mount Talbert. The U.S. government purchased the land in 1910 and was renamed Camp Benson and later Camp Withycombe during World War I after Oregon’s governor at the time, James Withycombe. The site is now the home of the Oregon Military Museum.³

May 17, 1911 – Charles Rebstock’s son Edward is born in Happy Valley. Ed helped build many of Happy Valley’s roads, string its telephone lines, installed its water system, organized the fire district, served on the board of directors for the elementary school, and was known as “Mr. Happy Valley.”⁴



**Ed Rebstock at the reservoir site
at Idleman and Mount Scott Blvd.**

Courtesy: The Rebstock family

1917 – The original school is replaced by a larger schoolhouse on the same site. This structure would later become the music room when the school expanded.⁵

1925 – Happy Valley’s first paved road is constructed.⁶

1925 – Happy Valley receives electricity.⁷

July 19, 1930 – The Mount Scott Water District is officially incorporated by the state of Oregon. It will later become the Sunrise Water Authority.⁸

Circa 1946 – A central water system is installed in Happy Valley. Also, a huge tree falls across Sieben Creek on the property of Wally Hubbard. The dam creates a popular swimming hole for kids in the area for decades. ⁹

1949 – Happy Valley Rural Fire District No. 65 is formed by volunteers.¹⁰

1954 – East Mount Scott School patrons vote 34-3 to change the name of the school to Happy Valley.¹¹

1955 – Construction begins for a Boy Scouts' lodge on Scouters' Mountain. The 22,000 square-foot building featured a hall with room for about 600 people and dorm rooms that could sleep up to 190 people. It was renamed the "Chief Obie Lodge" in 1980 after the late G. H. "Obie" Oberteuffer, who established the training center there.¹²



Chief Obie Lodge

Photo by David Anderson

November 14, 1957 – The new Clackamas High School in Milwaukie is dedicated, which Happy Valley students will attend.¹³

1958 – The Happy Valley Fire Station on King Road is built.¹⁴

1960 – A new large brick building is constructed at Happy Valley Elementary. The north section containing the 5th and 6th grade classrooms would be added in 1967.¹⁵

1962 – The Columbus Day storm downs trees, blocks roads, damages buildings, and knocks out electric power in Happy Valley.¹⁶

July 10, 1963 – A portion of the property of Robert and Doris Francis is purchased by the Mount Scott Investment Group for the purpose of creating a park. The remaining portion of their property was purchased in 1964 and the land is now the Happy Valley City Park.¹⁷

August 25, 1965 – Happy Valley residents vote 111 to 66 in favor of incorporation and the vote is certified by the Board of Clackamas County Commissioners. Happy Valley becomes Clackamas County's 11th municipality and the first since 1913.¹⁸

November 17, 1965 – The first Happy Valley City Council meeting takes place at the Happy Valley Fire Station. James Robnett becomes Happy Valley's first mayor at the meeting.¹⁹



City Council meeting, 1969
(left to right) Jack Kato, James Robnett, Harry Niehoff and Jack Allen
Courtesy: City of Happy Valley

1970 – Happy Valley population is 1,392.²⁰

March 22, 1972 – It is ordered by the Board of County Commissioners that all roads within the Clackamas Post Office service area to have the prefix “Southeast” added to all road names.²¹



SE Sunnyside Road at about 138th Ave., 1989

Photo by Bud Unruh

1980 – Happy Valley population is 1,499.²²

1980 – Ash from the eruption of Mount St. Helens lands in Happy Valley.



Deardorff Barn with Mount St. Helens in background, 1989

Photo by Bud Unruh

March 6, 1981 – The Clackamas Town Center shopping mall opens.²³



Clackamas Town Center food court, c. 1981

Courtesy: Clackamas County Historical Society

1982 – The Cedar Crossing Covered Bridge along Deardorff Road opens. The bridge replaced a deteriorating one built in 1936, which itself replaced the first bridge that was built in 1885.²⁴

1984 – Edward A. Rebstock, “Mr. Happy Valley,” passes away.²⁵

1989 – Mount Scott Elementary School opens.²⁶

Created by Mark Hurlburt

Mark Hurlburt is a lifelong Happy Valley resident and the volunteer librarian in the Wilmer Gardner Research Library at the Museum of the Oregon Territory.

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