Siskiyou Union High School District

Butte Valley High School (Dorris)

In 1916, a high school in Dorris began. Classes were first met in a room upstairs in the first elementary school, which still stands on California Street and is being used as an apartment house. There was a separate branch of the high school at Macdoel, with the teacher commuting back and forth morning and afternoon. Only freshman and sophomore grades were taught. Students had to go to Yreka for the junior and senior years.

The original unit of the Butte Valley High School was constructed in 1918, and in 1920, the Macdoel branch was discontinued. However, the matter of the location of the school was not settled until 1920, when it was finally agreed to locate the Butte Valley High School in Dorris.

In 1943, the high school was destroyed by a fire. For the remainder of the year, the high school and elementary school shared the same building. The present high school was constructed in 1944-1945, across the street from the elementary school.

The following article describes the ceremonies at the dedication of the high school:

"Dorris High School Dedication Service

> On Thursday, April 6, Mrs. Kate Hope Livingston, accompanied by the student body of the high school, climbed to the top of a mountain just north of Dorris and with due ceremony, buried a lead plate on which was inscribed 'I wish to be of services to the world,' and above the plate a large wooden cross was erected as a memorial of the occasion. Below the inscription the following signatures were placed: Inez Thackaray, Iola Clemens, Ruby Warren, Gail Hayworth, Agnes Sly, Juliette Eberhard, Verna Dorris, Vida Dorris, Katie Thomas, Nina Seavers, Hugh Kerwin, Daniel Bercovich, Bill Bishop, and Ira Ingram. Each threw an evergreen on the plate as it was burned, a symbol of deeping fresh in the mind the resolution just taken.
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> As the day wore on, a fire was built and potatoes roasted, while quantities of delicious bacon were broiled. Coffee, eggs, and pickles added made an appreciated lunch, after which the party scrambled down the mountain to the awaiting automobiles and thence home."



Butte Valley High School, ca. 1935. Photo by Bob Dennis, from the collection of Bob Dais.



Butte Valley High School (aka. Dorris), date unknown. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



Date unknown. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



Date unknown. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.



ca. 1974. Siskiyou County Office of Education School History Collection.