Yreka Union High School District

The first high school in Yreka was actually the Siskiyou County High School. Later the name was changed to the Siskiyou union High School District. Yreka High School was an attendance area of that district, as were Weed, Mount Shasta, Fort Jones, McCloud, Happy camp, Dorris, Tulelake, and others.

In 1969, the Yreka High school attendance area withdrew from the Siskiyou Union High School District and formed its own school district: The Yreka Union High School District. The first high school in Yreka burned to the ground in 1916. Another building was erected on the same site and with additions, served the attendance area until 1958. During the 1958-1959 year, a new building was constructed on a fifty acre site across the street from the old school. In 1974, the old building was razed. In the corner stone box, a number of documents were found (Refer to the following documents).



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-: CORNER STONE CEREMONIES :-
PROGRAM OF EXERCISES:

1.....Music BY THE BAND,— (A solemn, sacred piece)

2.....PRAYER BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN---------J.P. Rutter.

3.....SINGING—Chorus, "Hail to Our Beautiful Queen".
(by the pupils of the County High School).

4.....PRESIDENT OF THE DAY invites the Grand Master to commence the ceremonies.

5.....GRAND MASTER commences ceremonies.

6.....BAND—(Lively piece of music)

7.....A. ADDRESS by Prof. John Kennedy, who will deposit a roll of teachers of the county.

B. ADDRESS by Prof. W.S. Hall, who will deposit roll of pupils of High School.

C. ADDRESS by Rev. A. George, who will deposit Bible.

D. ADDRESS by H.B. Gillis, Esp., (other deposits made of newspapers, emblems, etc.)

8.....GRAND MASTER addresses Grand Treasurer during time casket is being deposited.

9.....MALE DOUBLE QUARTETTE—"Laying of Corner Stone".

1;.....CEREMONY of laying stone.

11.....WHILE CORN, wine, and oil are being distributed, band plays a joyous air.

12.....(WHEN Grand Master returns to platform)
CHORUS—"The Song that is Sung by the Stream"
(by Mrs. E.H. Scofield's class)

13.....ADDRESS by Prof. E.H. Hyatt.

14.....SINGING—"America".

15.....BENEDICTION----------Grand Chaplain

16.....Reform line of march.

On June 22rd, 1917, the Trustees of the Siskiyou Union High School, composed of J.A. Ager, Chairman, M.C. Beem, Alex. Albee, A.C. Abshire and Miss Lillian Julian, entered into a contract for the construction of the main high school building at Yreka, and branch high school buildings at McCloud, Sisson, Weed, Dorris and Fort Jones. The contract for the main building at Yreka was $52,160.00 which with the contract for the installation of the heating system for $5,565.00, made a total of $57,725.00 for this building.

The old brick high school building burned to the ground on October 3rd, 1916, starting about eleven o'clock in the evening, apparently from the laboratory where the pupils had been working with chemicals. The Trustees obtained approximately $20,000.00 insurance upon the old building and contents.

A bond election was called in the month of November following the fire, calling for $60,000.00 bonds for the establishment of one high school building at Yreka. So much dissention and bitterness arose in some of the communities outside of Yreka over the issue, that the proposition was lost by a narrow margin of a two-third majority. The Board of Trustees at their next meeting, after conferring with tax-payers from different parts of the County put the following proposition before the voters of the district: A bond election calling for $45,000.00 for Yreka, and $5,000.00 in each of the towns above named, making a total bond issue of $70,000.00; this election was carried by the necessary two-thirds majority on March 31st, 1917.

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With the $45,000.00 thus obtained, in addition to the insurance money already on hand, the Trustees let the contract for the building in the sum mentioned above.

At the date this memorandum was written and placed in the corner stone box, A.C. Abshire, one of the Trustees named herein, had resigned, and W.E. Combrink, of Yreka, was appointed by County Superintendent of Schools W.H. Parker, to succeed him as Trustee.

Yreka June the 2d 1894

To whom this may come greeting.

This is to certify that this Building was erected by Siskiyou County.For the purpose of carrying on a county high school. The cost of the building is $17725.00 dollars exclusive of grounds or furniture.O.A. Bennett is the architect. And Geo W. Cooper the contractor. Heolt and Gregg Sub contractors on Stone and Brick work. The building is to be completed by the first of December 1894. The corner stone was laid on the above date. Under the auspices of St. John Lodge No. 37. And Howard Lodge No. 96. F and A.M. assisted by all the other secret orders in the city. And the public in generaly. All the Business Houses were closed and the people turned out enmass. To assist in the ceremonies. And we all hope that when this building is taken down, it will be to erect another and larger one in its sted for the same purpose for which this one was erected.

Signed
Geo W. Cooper

Established: January 12, 1909 - Description of boundaries (26-253)
May 10, 1960 - Trustee areas established (26-339)
April 24, 1969 - Territory exchange between Siskiyou Union High School District and Yreka Union High School District (County Board of Education Minutes, April 24, 1969, Vol. 5)

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