

Wishon Elementary

This school is located at 3857 East Harvard and is an elementary neighborhood school. It first appeared in the district school directory in 1954-55.

Wishon School is named for Albert Graves Wishon, one of the major founders of the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation, the first producer of commercial electric power for the Fresno area.

Wishon was a native of Missouri. He studied at the Missouri School of Mines and was particularly interested in waterpower and hydraulics. His activities in the field of power generation and distribution started in Visalia but were soon moved to the Fresno area. He joined forces with Balch and Kerckhoff who had started power generation on the San Joaquin River. He was made manager of the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation and greatly expanded its hydroelectric operations and its distribution system. Wishon was a pioneer in the use of electrically powered pumps used for agricultural irrigation.

San Joaquin Light and Power was gradually taken over by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Wishon then became the San Joaquin Valley Manager of the operations of this firm in the Fresno area and throughout the valley. Wishon had other extensive business connections. He was very generous with his time and money in supporting civic projects. There is an important street in Fresno named for him.

A.G. Wishon is credited with being the man who really made electric power available in the San Joaquin Valley.