

Old Landmark of Yreka Is Being Torn Down

By DORIS ROBINSON

Mail Tribune Correspondent
Yreka—Another old landmark of Yreka is being torn down. It is the old fire hall built in 1861 on West Miner st., across the street from the present fire hall.

A historical marker which is placed in front of the old hall reads: "No. 2 Engine House was built in 1861 for the Klamath Engine company, one of three volunteer fire companies in Yreka. This building was used in 1931."

To go back in history, the first organized effort to form a fire fighting group for Yreka was in 1856. It was called Siskiyou Hook and Ladder company. This decision came about after Yreka had suffered several disastrous fires, one in 1852 which destroyed most of the business district, and another in 1854. There was no water works or even enough water to fight fires.

Organizes Department

The board of trustees organized a fire department by ordinance Sept. 7, 1857. The fire company was able to check another disastrous fire on Miner st., and the grateful

citizens held a meeting and decided to try and find further means of combating fires.

The matter was taken up with the city trustees and they ordered a fire engine, which was delivered early that spring. The engine cost \$725, and 300 feet of hose cost \$600. The hook and ladder company asked for the use of the engine, but the board of trustees decided to form another company. So Yreka Engine Company No. 1 was formed Feb. 28, 1858.

The first officers of the fire department were elected to office for one year.

Fire Hall Burns

The fire hall burned in May, 1859, and a new hall was located on Fourth st. A church bell was used to call the fire company to a fire.

On Oct. 1, 1859, more hose was purchased at a cost of \$226.87 plus four trumpets at a cost of \$48, then another fire engine with two hose carts and more hose which cost \$1,000 in freight charges besides the purchase price.

In May, 1860, Klamath Engine Company No. 2 was organized. A lot on Miner st. was purchased by the city and was purchased by the city in December, 1860, for Engine House No. 2. The fire bell from Engine House No. 1 was moved to No. 2. A tin roof and belfry for the new bell was built at a cost of \$175.

Mrs. Pollock, curator of the Siskiyou County museum, lived as a child in a home which adjoins the old fire hall. She tells the story about what a temptation it was for her family to ring the fire bell. The ropes were within

their reach and a few times they were overcome by the urge to ring the bell and a tug on the rope caused a clang of the bell and out came the firemen. After that, the ropes were put out of reach of small hands.

Furniture Store

This home which adjoins the fire hall was originally a furniture store owned by Mrs. Pollock's step-grandfather, whose name was John Rammer. The Rammers lived in a small residence on the east and adjoining the store in 1875. Later the furniture store was converted into the Schultz home.

Mrs. Pollock's maiden name was Schultz and her father and all her brothers have been firemen. Charles Schultz, a brother, is the chief of the Yreka Fire department at the

present time, and Robert Schultz is a member of the company.

The old fire companies had mottos on silk flags. The motto for the Siskiyou Hook and Ladder company was "We Strive to Save." Motto for No. 1 company was "We Strive to Save." Klamath Company No. 2 had as its motto "When duty calls we will obey."

Now this historic old building is being torn down brick by brick. Robert Schultz purchased it from the city and has contracted Harold Eddy to take it down since they have deteriorated and become dangerous. The old historic items from the fire hall have been moved across the street to the present fire hall. Some are on display at the Siskiyou County museum.

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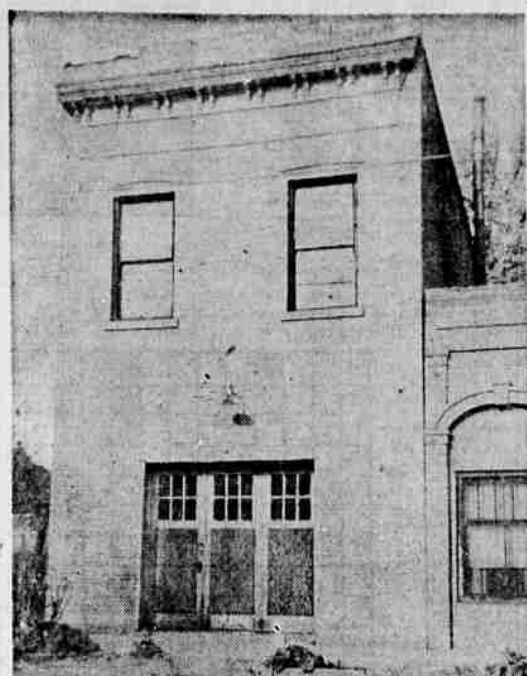


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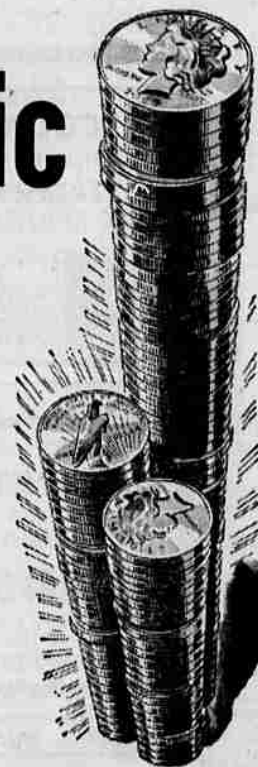


COMING DOWN—This old fire hall in Yreka originally built in 1861 is being torn down. The above photo shows the two-story hall before demolition work started. Robert Schultz purchased the old station from the city and contracted Harold Eddy to take it down.



PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED — The old Yreka fire hall is shown here as demolition work was in progress recently and the second story had been removed. The adjoining building on the right was once a furniture store, but more recently was used as a residence.

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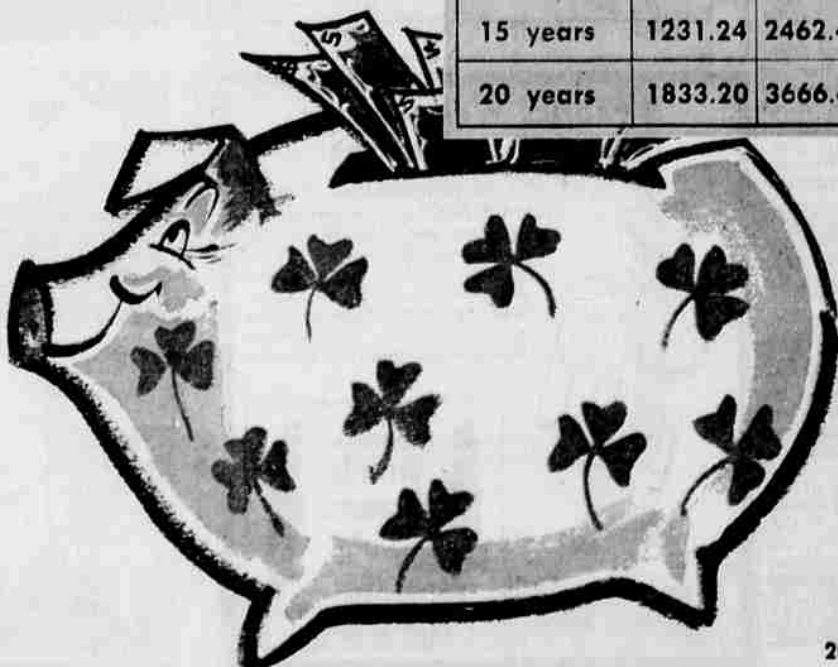
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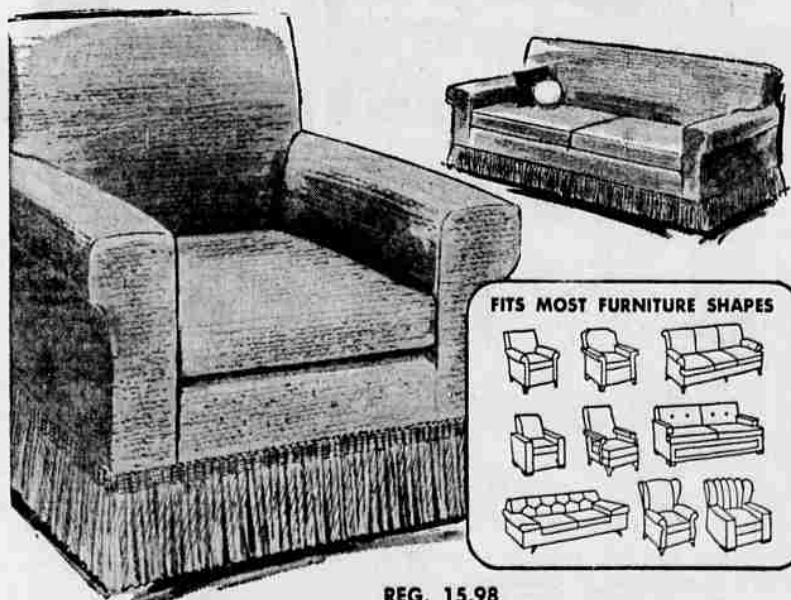
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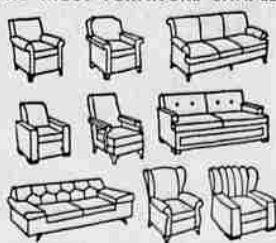
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