Weed Voters Approve New School Construction

WEED—On Jan. 12 of this year, voters of the Weed Union Elementary School District approved by a two to one vote margin two propositions to construct a new elementary school to replace worn out buildings officially found to be below the minimum structural and fire safety standards.

Current school structures in use were built during various years beginning in 1910, with additions being made in 1922, 1932, 1950 and 1954:

Information on the Weed Union Elementary School District was furnished to us by Leno F. Lenzi, district superintendent, with special thanks to Mrs. Leland Stone, Mrs. Glenn Crooks, Mrs. Mamie Hix, Mrs. Lawrence Sullivan, Mrs. Inez Meline and Mrs. Rita Krum, for the historical data.

The school's name was not always Weed Union Elementary School, at one time it was called the Summit Union District. It was named this because it was the union of two separate districts with the union taking place June 30, 1906, joining the Mount Shasta District and the Summit District. The Mount Shasta District was begun Feb. 1, 1869 and was the first in this vicinity with schools started in two separate locations.

The first Mount Shasta District School was begun in the early 1860s, and consisted of one room. Pupils attending were aged from 3 to high school age. Mrs. Leland Stone, a long - time resident of the area, said she thought it must have been a combination of a nursery and a junior college. "It was both expedient and convenient for the school master to take care of the children because there was more work to be done than you can imagine and the school master took the the place of a baby sitter, giving the mothers a chance to help with the work." It is believed that this school burned.

The second school was also a one-room structure and had attendance of nine pupils, eight boys and one girl. The girl was Mrs. Glenn Crooks. This particular school is still standing with more rooms added on to it and is used as a home on the Bert Hoy Ranch.

The Summit District also had two schools with the first one begun April 7, 1886, on a flat above South Highway near what is now Fred Riley's house. This particular school was ill-fated, it blew down during a wind storm.

The second Summit School was built shortly after the first one blew down in either 1886 or early 1887. This one was located on Oregon Street, near the Charles Powell home, and was one-roomed. It burned sometime around 1905.

Many of the pupils who attended this school are still living today. A few of them are Stanford Stone, Mrs. Elmer Meline, Mrs. Bill Krum, Mrs. Edna Sullivan and Mrs. Lawrence Sullivan. The teacher was the father of Mrs. Frank Mills.

After the Summit School burned there was a period of time in which the students didn't attend school because the Mount Shasta School on the Hoy Ranch was too far away.

During this time, a local man purchased a piece of property in the Angle Valley area with the intention of erecting a saloon to take advantage of the already booming saloon trade from the saw mill and factory workers. Mrs. Charles Avery was aroused by the fact that the town was already overrun with saloons but that there was no school for the children. She drew up a petition and carried it from door-to-door and secured enough signatures to make the building a school instead of a saloon.

Because of finances and low attendance, it was decided to unite the two districts and after several elections, one district called the Summit Union District was established. On June 30, 1908, a one-room school with two teachers was opened. Because of a population boom it soon became necessary to erect another building adjoining the school and finally the school population became so large that classes were also being held in the north part of town and in a store building.

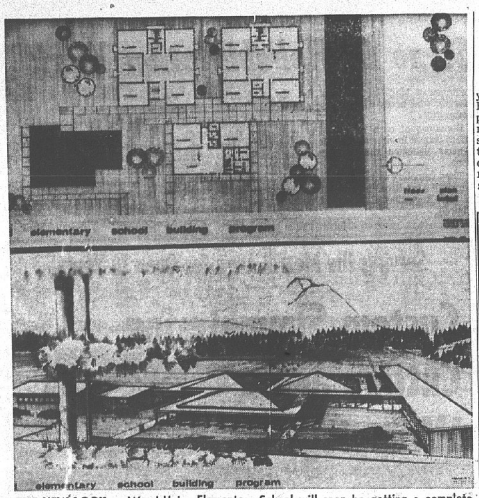
In 1910 a new school house was built on the location site of the 1908 school, with four rooms large enough to have all the classes once again under one roof. The building had four rooms and was constructed of concrete blocks. In 1919 a separate high school was built.

By 1922, the town had grown so fast that it was once again necessary to add on to the elementary school. A two-story frame building was erected in back of the concrete one and in 1932 more classrooms were added.

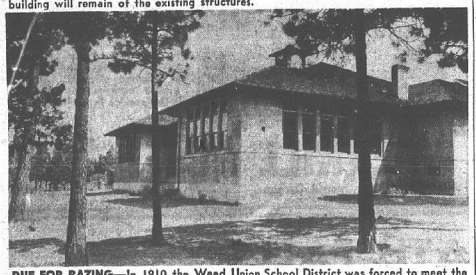
Up until 1938 the schools were heated with pot bellied stoves in each room, then the heating system was changed to a hot air furnace providing adequate heating facilities for all the buildings.

In 1950 another building was added to the growing school campus to house the kindergarten, first grade, one second

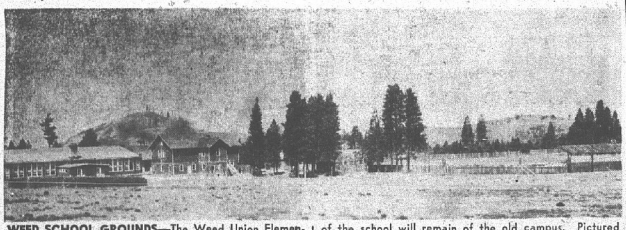
(Continued on Page 9-C)



THE NEW LOOK — Weed Union Elementary School will soon be getting a complete revamping with the addition of a multipurpose room and three new classroom wings. Pictured above are the architect's plans for the new buildings. The top picture shows the ground level plans and the bottom one is of the proposed architecture. Only one building will remain of the existing structures.



DUE FOR RAZING—In 1910 the Weed Union School District was forced to meet the rapidly rising student population by building a new school. Pictured above is the school that was built at the time, still in use, which was merely one of a series of buildings to be erected to meet the districts needs. The school is due for razing soon to be replaced by a more modern, flexible building. The blocks used to construct this 1910 vintage school were made at the old Coggins Box Factory in Weed, only the cement was imported.



WEED SCHOOL GROUNDS—The Weed Union Elementary School is due for some drastic changes within the next few years with the building of three new classroom units and the tearing down of three. Only a 1950 wing of the school will remain of the old campus. Pictured above is the way the grounds appeared to passersby in 1954.

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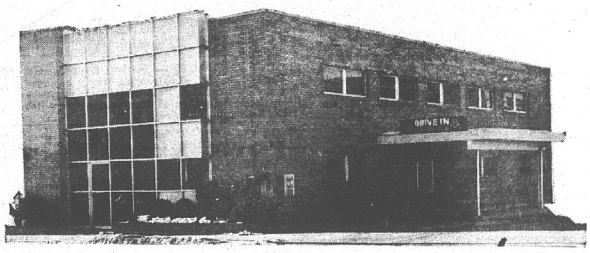

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