

Hayfork High School

Hayfork High School began as an “Attendance Center” (a branch campus) for the Trinity County High School located in Weaverville. The County High School Board took action on August 30, 1919, to establish a branch high school with one teacher in Hayfork, due, in part, to a petition from the citizens of Hayfork.¹ That center began operations right away in the 1919-20 school year. It covered the first three years of high school for students.

In 1922, the first construction bond of \$25,000 was passed to be used for “constructing the proper and necessary buildings for the high school at Weaverville and Hayfork”.² Also in 1922, the Hayfork high school students were rewarded for their help with the county fair:

A freezer of ice cream was presented to the Hayfork branch high school Monday by the committee in charge of the county fair. A vote of thanks by the school cannot express the pleasure with which the gift was received by pupils and teachers. It is needless to say that this fine dessert was served as soon as dishes and spoons could be secured from Mrs. Coumbs, who kindly loaned them. This gift, the committee stated, was a reward of merit for helping decorate for the fair – but ice cream or not, the pupils were glad to cooperate.³

Later, due to falling enrollment, only two years of school were offered, and in 1927 the school was closed entirely.



Said to be Hayfork High School in the early days, or perhaps the Attendance Center

The school had been located in a structure on the main street in Hayfork which was still standing in 1962⁴.

Years later, on April 11, 1956, the community of Hayfork had a high school again after a long lapse due to a decision of the Trinity County High School Board. That school was established at the Trinity County Fairgrounds with approximately 100 students. The population of students soon grew to require several alterations to the buildings, but eventually, they were considered no longer unusable as classrooms.⁵

In April of 1966, the same board approved plans to build a new high school in Hayfork with funding provided by a bond passed earlier for construction costs.⁶ It was named, unsurprisingly, Hayfork High School.

On July 1, 1987, the school district was renamed **Mountain Valley Unified School District** and still exists to this day. The district includes Hayfork Elementary, Hayfork High School, Valley High, and Mountain Valley Adult School. The new high school is said to be built on land originally owned by the “Youngs” who were related to the

¹ Holland, James. *A History of Education in Trinity County; A Thesis presented to the School of Education*. 1971. Chico State College, 36.

² McGowan, Katherine R., “Organization of small school districts on lower Trinity”, *Trinity Journal*, August 17, 1972, 10

³ “The News Back Then”, *The Trinity Journal*, Saturday, September 27, 1873, as reprinted September 28, 2022, 17.

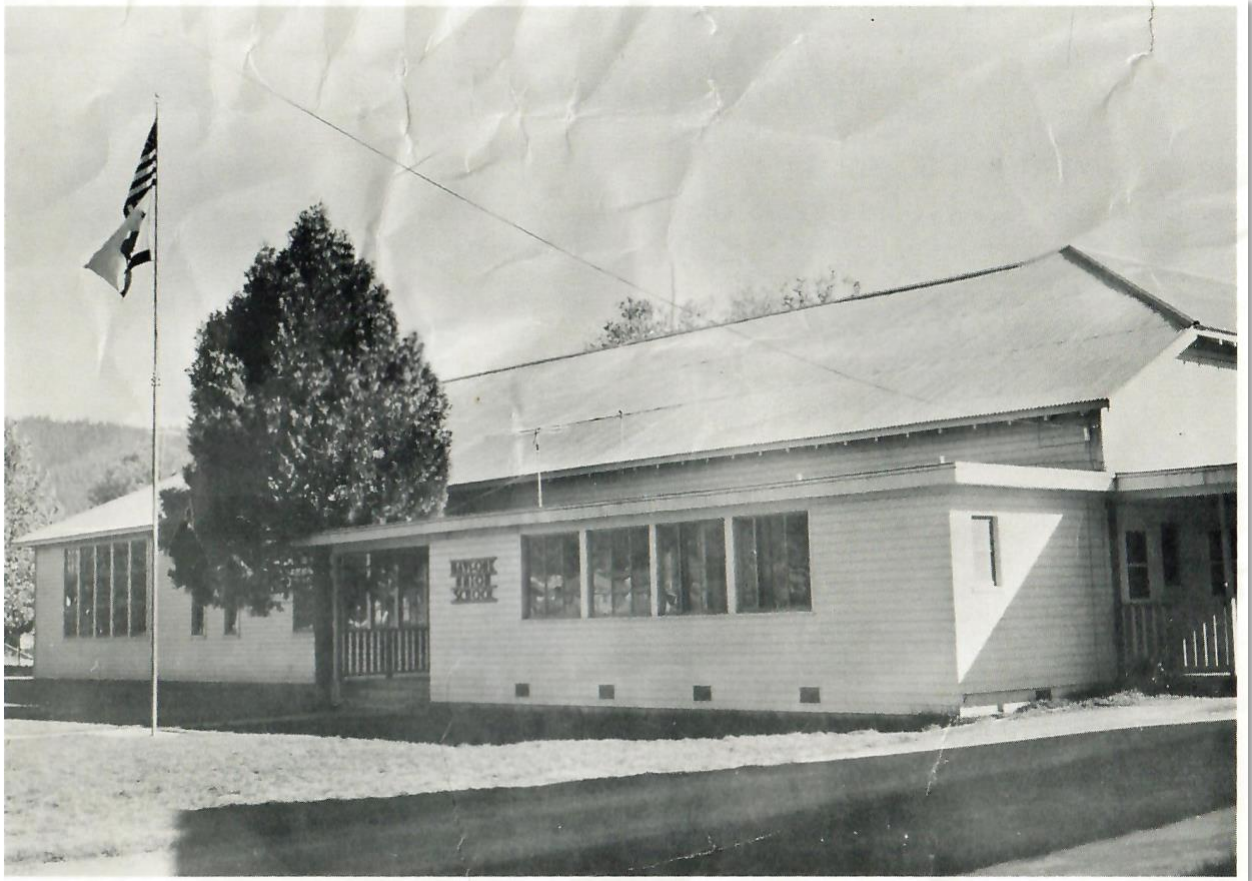
⁴ Notes created for the Bond and State Aid, Trinity County Office of Education, 1962.

⁵ From a one-page document found in the historical files at the Trinity County Office of Education, no date.

⁶ Holland, James. *A History of Education in Trinity County; A Thesis presented to the School of Education*. 1971. Chico State College. 36, 37.

Bayless family who ran the Hay Fork Flour and Sawmills. The Meckels were also related to the Youngs and it was Fred and Henry Meckel who sold the land to the district.⁷

See also **Hayfork Schools**.



Hayfork High School 1968

⁷ The Hayfork Historical Writing Class, "This is Hayfork", Shasta College, 1972. 33.