

Weaverville Grammar School District:

Weaverville, in Wintu ancestral territory, was named following the building of the first white cabin there in July of 1850 by Daniel Bennett, James Howe, and John Weaver. They drew pine straws to name the place. John Weaver won. Shortly after the naming, Mr. Weaver apparently left Trinity for places unknown.¹

The Early Years

In 1862, a county school census indicated that 158 4-year-olds through 18-year-olds lived in Weaverville. The Weaverville public school (which is now called Weaverville Elementary and is unified with Trinity High School to form the Trinity Alps Unified School District) was officially established on August 5, 1862, and was first in

operation during the 1862-63 school year. By 1866, there were 151 students enrolled in the school.²



Weaverville School House 1874

Before the opening of the public school in 1862, however, there was evidence of other schools in Weaverville. Some schools were clearly identified as private schools. One such school was functioning in 1854 and paid for by “subscription.” J. Adams was the teacher. Then, in 1856, Mrs. Niblett also started a private school.³ There is a notice that in the spring of 1856, a Weaverville school closed “on account of the deficiency of funds to keep it up.”⁴ Also, in 1856, the Trinity County Assessor’s Office reported in the *Sacramento Daily Union* that, among other things, such as the acreage of land adapted to tillage (935), the number of cherry trees (51), the number of working oxen (458), and the number of churches (3), there was one schoolhouse in Weaverville, and only “two public schools” reported in the county as a whole.⁵

In 1858, there was a mention in the local paper that County School Superintendent Ruch intended to “divide the Weaverville School, placing the smaller scholars in charge of another teacher.” The notice continues, “[Mr. Ruch] deserves much praise for his constant attention to this business, and if supported by persons interested in the School, will succeed in arranging the business properly.”⁶ Also, in 1858, a short article in the local newspaper indicates that Mr. Hulburt, a teacher in the district, tendered his resignation because he was an attorney by profession and wanted to pursue that vocation in Weaverville instead of teaching.⁷

The school year commenced again in August of 1860, and it was reported that,

The school house is now what it should be, and the children are well accommodated. The higher branches of the school are taught by Mr. R. Desty, of whose proficiency as a teacher parents and scholars speak in the most laudatory terms. Miss Maggie Ruch has charge of the

¹ “A Brief History of Trinity County,” *Trinity County Historical Society*, 1.

² “School Fund”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 6, 1866.

³ “Douglas City” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1955, 16.

⁴ *The Trinity Times*, December 27, 1856.

⁵ “Statistics of Trinity County”, *Sacramento Daily Union*, October 7, 1856.

⁶ *The Trinity Times*, October 9, 1858.

⁷ *Ibid.*

juvenile department, in a room separate from the advanced scholars where they will be better cared for, and have better facilities for study and recitation than was possible when occupying the same room with grown-up pupils.⁸

Clearly, early schools functioned in Weaverville before the official public school was opened in 1862, but this was in the very early days of education in Trinity County, and no records have yet been found that provide the answers to detailed questions, such as whether all the early schools were paid for by private subscriptions or if some received public funds.

The public school was unexpectedly closed in the winter of 1863 due to the exhaustion of public funds. It was expected to be closed for two or three months. \$100 was said to have been “lost” to the district in the last semi-annual funding apportionment from the state due to an error in a report of the county superintendent. It was felt that the error would be rectified in the next apportionment.⁹

In 1866 the school had 151 enrolled students and received an apportionment of \$209.89 to run the school. This was likely a semi-annual apportionment amount.¹⁰ An advertisement was found in the local paper in March of 1866 titled “Teacher Wanted.” The school sought “A Lady Teacher” to provide instruction to a class of six students for \$30 per month “and board.” Included in the advertisement was the statement that the “situation will not be very onerous...”

“Apply Soon!”¹¹ Even though an interested teacher was encouraged to inquire for further information at the Trinity Journal Office in Weaverville, it’s likely that this advertisement was meant for another school with fewer students, perhaps even a private school located in Weaverville. By 1867 it was clear that it was the public Weaverville School advertising for two teachers, “A male teacher for the Grammar Department and a Female Teacher for the Primary Department.” The school was to start its spring term on March 4th.¹²

In February of 1867, the Trustees of the Weaverville School District named E. F. Allen, Esq. as the spring term teacher for the Grammar Department and Miss Nellie Norcross as the teacher for the Primary Department. The paper titled this notice “Good Selection” and added that “no better selections could have been made.”¹³



Weaverville Grammar School, 1890

⁸ *The Trinity Journal*, September 1, 1860.

⁹ “The District School”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 19, 1863.

¹⁰ “School Fund”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 6, 1866.

¹¹ “To Teachers”, *The Trinity Journal*, March 17, 1866.

¹² “Teachers Wanted”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 26, 1867.

¹³ “Good Selection”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, February 23, 1867.

In 1869, when 163 students were enrolled,¹⁴ the local newspaper announced the opening of the Grammar School for the spring term on Monday, February 8, under the direction of Mr. C. W. Smith.¹⁵

Interestingly, in June 1871, a private school was to open using the Grammar Department building of the Weaverville Public School. Miss M. E. Cochell was to teach the school, and she was noted as being “a competent teacher, and we doubt not will find ample encouragement.”¹⁶ Perhaps it was a summer school-type situation that was being offered by a private teacher, and the school board was willing to let her use the facilities. A similar situation occurred just two years later when Mr. Bragdon was scheduled to open a private school in the Grammar School room beginning on December 15th. This would take place over the long winter break when the public schools were closed. Tuition for the full term of eleven weeks was \$4 for primary students, \$6 for a “Common English” class, and \$7 for “Higher English”. Mr. Bragdon was assisted by Mrs. Sawyer, “an experienced teacher,” and “no pains will be spared to make it a model school.” Two lessons in vocal music each week were to be provided at no extra charge.¹⁷ A “revised” state law had gone into effect also in 1871, which required that the school year “will not be less than eight months.”¹⁸ Perhaps this had something to do with the public school being used for private schooling.

Another advertisement for a teacher was found in the April 20, 1872 edition of the local newspaper. The advertisement includes a thorough amount of information about the situation, and in it, the school appears desperate for a teacher, likely because the spring school term should have already begun, and there was pressure to complete the full eight months of the school year as required.

The Grammar Department of Weaverville School District is without a teacher. The school is a large one and is as much if not more than any one person can do to render it justice under the most favorable circumstances. None but a first-class teacher should apply for it. To such a one the inducements are also first-class. Liberal compensation is always given by the Trustees for the time public school is kept. During the rest of the year a competent teacher will earn still more per month keeping a private school. Right here in Weaverville School District a competent man can earn more teaching school than is paid as wages to any one [sic] else in the county. We doubt if there is a better opening in any rural district in this state than offers in Weaverville School District right now.¹⁹

On November 13th of 1874, it was reported that the “Weaverville Grammar School closed today after having a written examination [this may have been a closure for the winter break]. A large number of parents and visitors came in today.” The visitors included Frank Young and “his full board of trustees.” The student “Roll of Honor” included the following: Lizzie Shurtleff, Pearl Kelton, Annie Hocker, Emilie Nieman, Carrie Lowden, Gussie Stiller, Lizzie Paulen, Henry Lowden, Nellie O’Neil, Ettie Goering, Bertha Loveridge, John Blackwell, Mary O’Neil, Merwin Loveridge, Edward Frick, Ida Atkins, Lavinia Brady, Sarah Blackwell. W. B. Lovett was the teacher.²⁰ In 1875, the Grammar and Intermediate Departments of the school were opened, with Mr. H. H. Heath teaching the Grammar students and Miss Burns teaching the Intermediate Department. Both were from Shasta County.²¹ The spring term of 1876 commenced on March 6 with Mr. H. H. Heath continuing as the teacher for the Grammar Department, and the Primary Department began on March 13 with Mrs. E. B. Ames, who expected to be returning home from San Francisco “on the 11th”. The Trustees were said to have concluded that there would be

¹⁴ “Apportionment of School Money for Trinity County”,

¹⁵ “Opening of the Grammar School”, *The Trinity Journal*, February 6, 1869.

¹⁶ “Private School”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 24, 1871. *The Trinity Journal*, July 3, 1869.

¹⁷ *The Trinity Journal*, December 6, 1873.

¹⁸ “Teachers Wanted”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, March 4, 1871.

¹⁹ “School Teacher Wanted”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 20, 1872.

²⁰ Mrs. W. B. Lovett, Correspondence with Miss Lucy M. Young, County Superintendent of Schools. Unknown date.

²¹ “Public Schools”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 11, 1875.

no Intermediate Department that year but that they would “make other arrangements for the next year.”²² By 1878, there were 200 students enrolled in the school.²³

The Weaverville School Houses

A Union Church was once located on Chimney Point in Weaverville. This is the highest ground now located in the Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park on the west bank of Sidney Gulch. That church building was taken over by the Weaverville Grammar School Trustees²⁴ and was used until a community effort was made to build “the fine old Victorian school building on school-house hill” (see photos in this document) on what is now called



Oregon Street (so named as it was the road to Oregon Gulch).²⁵ A notice in the paper in 1865 points out some of the problems with the church-building-turned-school. The article encourages the Board of Trustees to “make safe” the footpath over the gulch at the former church. It says that the trustees “know that it is in an unsafe condition and that a large body of water must necessarily pass that way for several months to come. It is dangerous enough, at present.”²⁶ The old church building came into disrepair and was eventually abandoned in March of 1867.

The district chose a San Francisco architect, Henry A. Schulze, to design the new school. The district advertised for bids for the building of the school, and separate bids for furnishing the building with one hundred double school desks and three teacher’s desks. They named November 1st, 1878, as the date the building needed to be completed.²⁷ The new Weaverville two-story grammar school was completed that same year for \$5,850. Eventually, the lot formerly occupied by the Union Church was sold to the Chinese Mason Company on June 21, 1879.²⁸ In addition, it’s been said that the “new” grammar school was remodeled into the Church of the Nazarene much later in time.

The local paper had a great deal to say about the need for the new school building and waxed poetic about it:

From the earliest days of California, away back in the misty past, until the present time, the town of Weaverville has never before been the owner of a respectable School Building. Our individual recollection goes back to the Fall of '59, when an urchin of wee small stature we attempted to quench our thirst after knowledge in a dilapidated building clinging to the hillside, and which even now forms the North end of the School House occupied by the Primary Department. The Old School House was about 20 x 40, furnished with rough desks and benches

²² “Public School”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, March 11, 1876.

²³ “Apportionment of School Money”, *The Trinity Journal*, March 16, 1878.

²⁴ Hicks, Patricia Johnson, *Weaverville Trinity County, California*, 1990, 20.

²⁵ Meckel, Henry C., “Memories of my Trinity County Education” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1983, 31; and Hicks, Patricia Johnson, *Weaverville Trinity County, California*, 1.

²⁶ “District Schools”, *The Trinity Journal*, February 11, 1865.

²⁷ “Proposals for School Building”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 6, 1878.

²⁸ Hicks, Patricia Johnson, *Weaverville Trinity County, California*, 1990, 39.

and lined with cotton cloth of the most porous nature. The upper wall was built into the hill, while the lower sill stood on posts about four feet from the ground. The flooring was rough and unmatched, large gaping cracks therein furnishing ample ventilation and the space under the floor being utilized as headquarters for wandering goats and hogs, which were plenty in those days, long before a hog and goat law was even thought of. The school roll contained in the neighborhood of 125 names, and there was a fair average attendance. One teacher only – Mr. Robert Desty, whom every one of his scholars now living can only hold in grateful remembrance – was employed...How the number of children who then attended school were crowded into that little room and why we didn't freeze in Winter and melt in Summer is something we cannot now understand...²⁹

The Weaverville School District Through the 1880s

One early visit by the County Superintendent of Schools to the Weaverville Grammar School in February 1883 revealed that "Professor J. T. Barron" was teaching there. He was making an extraordinary amount (at the time) of \$100 per month and taught only a four-month school term. The report also indicated that he had 28 years of experience. It was either his lengthy experience, or perhaps he was also acting as an administrator to the school, which might have increased his salary to this level. There was no record of how many students were enrolled, but the report indicated that the student's order and attention were rated as "good." In addition, while their reading and language skills were also rated as "good," the students' arithmetic and writing skills were rated as only "fair."³⁰ That same month, Mary O'Neil was teaching the Primary Department. She was making \$65 per month. She'd been teaching only four months but went on to have a long tenure at the Weaverville School in the coming years, as evidence below will demonstrate.³¹

By the school year of 1884-85, in addition to the Grammar and Intermediate Departments, a Primary Department had been added. The teachers at the school were H. R. Given, Emily Nieman, and Mary O'Neil, who, it appears, had graduated from the same school only about ten years previous.³² In 1891, H.R. Given was replaced by Kittie O'Neil, although the other two teachers remained,³³ and in 1892, Lizzie Fox left her position at Junction City and took over for Emily Nieman.³⁴ Both Horace R. Given and Lizzie Fox would later become County Superintendent of Schools (during the years 1883-1890 and 1895-1906, respectively).

On May 17, 1895, the school had to close for a time due to a lack of funding. As was done in the past, school teachers would conduct a private school to make up the usual time, paid for by the parents of the students who were to attend.³⁵ By the summer of 1895, however, apportionment funds had arrived in the county, and the public school was once again functional. Kittie O'Neil was still a teacher there and, presumably, an administrator of sorts since her salary was \$100 per month, while the other teachers (D. J. Hall and Mary O'Neil) both received \$70 per month.³⁶ All three teachers were still teaching in the fall of 1896.³⁷

A "Grand Ball" was held in late June of 1899, just following the annual Teachers' Institute for the benefit of the Weaverville School fund. It was determined that the night was "perfect" and that the ball was the "social success of the season." Held at Whitmore's Hall, the place was "handsomely decorated for the occasion and the floor

²⁹ "Our New School-House", *The Trinity Journal*, November 16, 1878.

³⁰ "Superintendent's Record", Trinity County Historical Society, February 9, 1883.

³¹ "Superintendent's Record", Trinity County Historical Society, April 6, 1883.

³² "Teachers Record Book", Trinity County Historical Society, 52.

³³ "Teachers Record Book", Trinity County Historical Society, 82.

³⁴ "Teachers Record Book", Trinity County Historical Society, 83.

³⁵ *The Trinity Journal*, May 11, 1895.

³⁶ "Our Public Schools", *The Trinity Journal*, August 17, 1895.

³⁷ "Districts, Clerks, and Teachers", *The Trinity Journal*, October 24, 1896.

was in fine condition for dancing. The music furnished by the Gilzean's orchestra was first class." A grand march was held at 9:00 pm led by Frank Flagg and Miss Adele McMurry, which opened the ball. This march was described as a "serpentine march and its pretty figures were handsomely executed." The local paper went on to describe more details about the evening:

...the dance was carried on with energy that baffled weariness...the ladies in their handsome summer costumes were charming. The floor directors and aids were indefatigable in their efforts and contributed much to the success of the evening. At midnight an unusually good supper was served – the contribution of the ladies of Weaverville – which was thoroughly enjoyed. Dancing then resumed with renewed vigor and morning was beginning to break when tired dancers sought repose.

Sixty-four tickets were sold for the event. After expenses, the ball made \$105 for the school fund.³⁸

In August of 1899, the local paper remarked on the upcoming School Tax Election and said the following about the Weaverville School and the importance of more funding:

[It] has long maintained a high rank among schools in the State for efficiency and it only depends upon the voters of the District whether the standard shall be maintained or not. Unless the tax carries[,] the standard of the school is bound to deteriorate. The increase in taxes will be a small matter to the tax payers and will hardly be noticed. The benefits arising from the tax are so obvious as to require no argument. Isolated as this town is by reason of its position in the mountains, it is impossible to give our children the advantages they would receive in other communities. To keep up our schools is a duty we owe them as well as ourselves. Nine tenths of our children must receive their education here and it should be our pride as well as duty to see that their school facilities equal that of any community in the State. The tax should, and we hope it will, carry by an overwhelming majority.³⁹

A New Century Begins

On May 6, 1903, it was announced that all students on track to graduate from all of the county's public schools would gather at the Weaverville School for two days (Friday and Saturday, June 19th and 20th) for their examinations. They had to successfully pass the examinations in order to receive their Diplomas of Graduation.⁴⁰ Also in 1903, on November 13, a visit to the Weaverville School



Weaverville School House, 1903

³⁸ "The Grand Ball", *The Trinity Journal*, July 1, 1899.

³⁹ "School Tax Election", *The Trinity Journal*, August 5, 1899.

⁴⁰ "School Notes", *The Trinity Journal*, May 6, 1903.

occurred by County Superintendent Lizzy Fox. She reported that the Intermediate Department was taught by Miss Helen P Raich, with 34 students enrolled, but only 22 were in their seats on that day. The rest were absent due to illness. On November 20, she visited the Grammar Department and reported that the teacher (who had the unfortunate name of J. J. Waste) had 24 students present at the time of the visit, with a total of 28 students enrolled. Three days later, she visited the Primary Department with teacher Miss Mary O’Neil. The number of students enrolled at that level was a total of 43, but only 30 students were present.⁴¹ It was reported in the local newspaper that the schools were in “a flourishing condition, and a splendid school system, under the capable supervising principal, J. J. Waste [see photo of him on this page], is everywhere manifest...School rooms and halls are neat and attractive and with few exceptions are well cared... inspection of the woodshed in its present lamentable condition is a reproach to the beautiful property, and the outbuildings are in an unclean and unsanitary condition.”⁴² Recommendations were also made to improve the unsatisfactory conditions such as repairing and securing all outbuildings.⁴³

Miss Fox was particularly interested in the names of the students who were not attending school during these visits, given the Compulsory Education Law that had just been enacted in the state. The Legislature had passed this law to guarantee to teach child of California “his right to the elements of an English Education”.

Every child in the state must attend school, and no parent or guardian in any community, unless excused, as provided by law, has a right to deprive any child of this inalienable privilege. All school records will be carefully inspected and circular letters will be issued to the teachers and school boards of trustees making it a duty to report the names of all children, residing within two miles, by the nearest traveled road to a public school house, who are not attending school.⁴⁴



Flag Raising, 1912; one student was a “Goodyear”

It was said that the teacher's records showed that there were children of school age in the district who were not attending school or were very irregular in attendance. The paper noted, “To maintain the high standards of our schools and to prolong the length of term – as Weaverville should receive a large sum of money apportioned to school districts on the average daily attendance – Weaverville district should take the initiative measures immediately to enforce the Compulsory Education Law.”⁴⁵ The lack of enrollment in schools for all children in Trinity County was still a problem in 1907. While there were 679 children in the county, according to the School Census, 101 were not accounted for in schools. At this time in history, Weaverville School had 140 students enrolled.⁴⁶

In November 1904, the Weaverville School teachers were L. P. Dunkley, who was also the principal and made \$90 per month; Miss Helen P. Balch (\$60 per month); and Miss Mary O’Neil, who, despite her longevity teaching at the school, also made \$60 per month.⁴⁷

⁴¹ “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 12, 1903.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, October 24, 1903.

⁴⁵ “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 12, 1903.

⁴⁶ “School Census”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 15, 1907.

⁴⁷ “Districts, Clerks, Teachers, Trinity County, 1904-05”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 5, 1904.

The school did not escape the influenza epidemic that began in the United States in 1918. The school closed for two weeks in October 1918 “to assist in preventing the spread of the Spanish influenza,” Students were instructed to stay near their homes and refrain from visiting each other's homes.⁴⁸ By November 12, 1918, a local county ordinance said, in part, “Every person in any town, precinct of school district in said Trinity County, wherever said Spanish Influenza is now, or may hereafter be prevalent, shall wear an Influenza mask as above described when in the presence of a third party...”⁴⁹ By January 11, 1919, there was a sudden outbreak of the malady with cases identified among students and staff of the Trinity County High School in Weaverville. Ten students were “taken ill Thursday [January 9th] and went to their homes, and several others retired from studies Friday [January 10th] morning.” That school was ordered closed by the County Health Officer and the Grammar School was ordered closed at noon on the same day.⁵⁰ By January 18th, it was reported that the schools would stay closed “for a few weeks at least.”⁵¹ The Trinity Journal reported on Saturday, February 22, 1919, that the Weaverville Grammar School was opened “last Monday” with a “grand dance” after being closed for four weeks due to the influenza epidemic.

The paper insisted that the disease was “kept prevalent in many instances through carelessness and disregard of common precautionary measures.” It recognized that “we are all interested in the opening of the schools” but added that the chances are that they will not open so long as the epidemic continues.” The article implored the public to take precautions so that the disease would not remain all winter.⁵² In May 1919, the school closed early on the 23rd, with a considerable reduction in attendance during the weeks prior owing to the prevalence of influenza. Some students were reported to have had the illness, while others were afraid of contracting it.⁵³ The paper also published a rhyme to remind everyone to “Cover up each cough and sneeze. If you don’t, you’ll spread disease.”

The 1920 school year began on September 4th with a principal/teacher and two other teachers, one for the primary grades, Miss Mary O’Neil, and one for the intermediate grades, Miss Cecilia Weinheimer. The principal, Miss Madeline Bach, was new to the school, “her home being in Berkeley.”⁵⁴ By September 11 of the same year, just a week after the school year began, Miss Madeline Bach had resigned from her position and left for home, back in Berkeley. Having in the past taught only certain subjects in large educational institutions, Miss Bach, “found that her experience had not fitted her to conduct a school such as ours”.⁵⁵

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COUNTY
	Balance fwd.	
July 26	State Appmt.	1071.53
Nov 7	County "	
" 24	" "	734.00
May 11	" "	564.40
" 16	Federal Indian Aid - 1919-1920	1140
Jan 3	1920 Taxes	
Feb 1	1920 Taxes	
May 4	1920 Taxes	
Nov 2	1920 Taxes	

From 1919-1920 and from 1931-1938, Weaverville School District received Federal Indian Aid Funding indicating that a significant number of students enrolled were Native American.

⁴⁸ “Some Items of Local Interest”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, October 26 and November 9, 1919.

⁴⁹ “Ordinance No. 126”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 12, 1918.

⁵⁰ “Sudden Outbreak of “Flu”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, January 11, 1919.

⁵¹ “Influenza Spreads at County Capital”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, January 18, 1919.

⁵² “Wear Your Masks; Get Rid of the Flu”, *Weekly Trinity Journal*, February 8, 1919.

⁵³ “Some Items of Local Interest”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 24, 1919.

⁵⁴ “Local Schools Open”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 4, 1920.

⁵⁵ “Local News Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 11, 1920.

In the directory of the 1920-21 school year, there were multiple teachers listed, but it appears as though each teacher taught only a portion of the nine months the school was in session: Vera H. Noble, Elizabeth H. Gehm, Madeline Bach, Elizabeth Keller, Celia M. Weinheimer, and Mary O'Neil. The next school year, 1921-22, there were also multiple teachers listed with only 74 students enrolled. They are: Gladys R. Meyer Elizabeth H. Gehm, C. L. McKain, Celia M. Weinheimer, Mary O'Neil. By the next year, 1922-23, the school district was back to listing



only three teachers, Florence Reames Clayton, Celia Weinheimer, and Mary O'Neil. That year there were only 65 enrolled students. The same three teachers continued working together at least until the 1924-25 school year. No district directories have yet been found for the rest of the decade. In the 1924-25 school year, there were only 57 students enrolled. That number of enrolled students remained steady for the rest of the 1920s.⁵⁶

1904. Back row L to R: Grace Mahoney Ruby Whitmore, Mr. Waste (principal), Bill Artmentrout, Dave Haas, George Jumper; Second Row: Lucy Young, Margaret McDonald, Irma Goodyear (Miller), Edith Mahoney, Beth Horton, Brython Davis, A. Woodbury boy; Third row: McDonald, C. A. Paulsen, Lloyd Langer, De Forrest Cleaves.

The 1930s brought great fluctuations in student enrollment. In 1930 student enrollment rose to 67 and then to 89 in the 1931-32 school year. In 1932-33 the total enrollment dropped to 73, but rose again in 1933-34 to 88. Then, in the 1938-39 school year, the enrollment

jumped to 133 but dropped to 96 in the 1939-40 school year. Still, only three teachers were maintained in the district in the early 30s. In the 1933-34 school year, the three teachers were Frances Smith, W. Ellis Flowers, and Katherine Ryan. The next year, Frances Smith was replaced with Frances Day (or perhaps a marriage had taken place, and a new last name was used).⁵⁷ In August of 1936, the local newspaper lists four teachers at the Weaverville School District out of a total of 28 women and 12 men hired to teach in all 24 schools in the county. Weaverville's teachers were Mrs. Frances Day, Ellis Flowers, Miss Katherine Ryan, and Mrs. Norma Shanahan.⁵⁸ The same teachers continued in the 1937-38 school year.⁵⁹

Jumping ahead to 1946, the school district, planning a brand new school, bought a different site from Earl H. Taylor for \$2,500. The district hoped to obtain state funds to repay part of the cost of the site and to obtain state aid in making plans for the school. By September 1948, construction of the new school had begun. The clearing and part of the grading had already been accomplished. The school was to have five classrooms in an L shape.⁶⁰ Many more classrooms have been added since that time as the school has expanded to accommodate the approximately 345 students who attend and the 17 teachers who provide instruction today in 2024.

On November 19, 2007, Weaverville Grammar School District unified with Trinity High School District, becoming just one school in the Trinity Alps Unified School District.

⁵⁶ School Directories for 1920-21 - 1924-25, along with "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁵⁷ "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁵⁸ "County Teachers Chosen, 28 Women and 12 Men Will Teach 24 School Districts", *The Trinity Journal*, August 6, 1936.

⁵⁹ "39 Teachers Chosen for 24 Districts", *The Trinity Journal*, August 19, 1937.

⁶⁰ "Weaverville Elementary", *The Trinity Journal*, September 9, 1948.



Weaverville Elementary, 1961

