



Laying Corner-stone of Van Nuys Grammar School.

At the left is County Superintendent Mark Keppel guiding the granite block into position; by his side is H. J. Whitley, who was a leading figure in founding the townsite and who is managing the development of the town.

A. B. C's.

FOR YOUNG IDEA IN NEW FIELD.

CORNER-STONE OF VAN 'NUYS SCHOOL IS LAID.

Wonderful New Region of Suburban Homes Starts Right by Constructing Magnificent Grammar School Building—Speeches Given to Tune of Pounding Hammers.

The corner-stone of the \$50,000 grammar school at Van Nuys was laid yesterday afternoon with a simple ceremony by County Superintendent of Schools Mark Keppel and H. J. Whitley, one of the founders of the town-site and general manager of the Los Angeles Suburban Homes Company, which owns the 47,000 acres of which the town and environs is composed. Nearly every person in the community was in attendance. D. M. Gibson of the Board of School Trustees, was in charge of the exercises.

Early in the afternoon several hundred residents of the town and adjoining territory gathered quietly, using brick and lumber piles, gangways, and scaffolding for seats.

The event was marked by no set ceremony or ritual. Speeches were given to the tune of hammers and accompanied by the noise of masons at work on the school building and on dozens of dwellings under construction in the neighborhood. The gathering sang the National Anthem, and the local minister offered a prayer of dedication.

Keppel in his address stated that the Van Nuys school district is the richest in the county, excepting Los Angeles City and Pasadena, in view of assessed value of the lands included. He predicted great growth and population for the district and urged the school trustees to make generous tax levies while the district is large to provide ample funds to keep pace with the needs of the school. He especially emphasized the importance of industrial training. He said:

"When a man knows right he quits doing wrong and the school should supplement home training in this regard. When the corner-stone of a school is laid a monument is erected to law and order, to knowledge and progress, and this is a monument to prosperity."

In speaking of higher education he stated that only 4 per cent. of the public school children of the United States ever enter high school but that the average in Los Angeles County is 17 per cent.

Whitley gave a graphic and interesting synopsis of the school work done by Keppel in the county and outlined the history of the Van Nuys school district, the formation of which was a part of his development work.

W. P. Whitsett, sales manager for the townsite, described his first trip to Van Nuys about 18 months ago, accompanied by Whitley. At that time the present townsite was a vast grainfield unbroken by improvements of any nature. Deputy District Attorney G. Ray Horton, F. M. Keffer, C. C. Hartzler, and Mrs. H. S. Trotter also spoke.

The school building is 80x175 feet in dimensions, consisting of eight class-rooms, a principal's room, auditorium, music room, and a gymnasium in the basement, and is equipped with the most modern and approved sanitary features.