

## YHS officials dedicate latest addition

**The twenty-three classroom Ansel Adams Building is Yosemite High School's newest feature on campus**

By **David Richards**

(Updated Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 10:50 AM)

Over the past six years, Yosemite High School has blossomed with new facilities.

In 2004 alone, the Baker Swim Complex opened, while a renovation project of the Badger Football Stadium and track was also completed, along with a new theatre for the YHS drama department, just to name a few.

On Friday, one of the last pieces of the YHS remodeling puzzle was dedicated, the Ansel Adams Building, a 23-classroom superstructure, which includes restrooms, a staff lounge and two conference areas.

The expansion of the approximately 100-acre YHS campus over the past half-dozen years can essentially be traced back to the passage of a \$11.76 million school bond by foothill residents in 1998.

"We've said it over and over again," said Steve Raupp, YHS principal. "You go back to that bond in 1998 where we had 70-plus percent of the voters that passed the bond and that was a starting point for all of this. It tells us the community values education ... we recognize the community's contribution to this whole thing."

Bill McCabe, Yosemite Joint Union High School District superintendent, said the Ansel Adams Building, at a price of \$8.3 million, was funded through a combination of school bond funds, state bond funds, district funds and developer fees.

Present at Friday's dedication were a variety of local and state school officials, including Linda Olson, president of the Yosemite Joint Union High School District board of trustees, Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County superintendent of schools and Luisa Park, director of the Office of Public School Construction.

"This is an exciting day for all of your communities," Frazier said.

It didn't stop there.

Assemblyman Dave Cogdill presented McCabe with a framed resolution for the occasion, while Harry Baker, owner of Sierra Telephone and the first board president of the Yosemite Union High School District, took time out to address the crowd as well.

"I am very proud to have played a small role in getting the ball rolling and look where we are today," he said. "Enjoy it and make good use of it."

Also in attendance was Ann Adams Helm, daughter of Ansel Adams, the famous photographer



Yosemite High School students take an advanced look of the new Ansel Adams Building last week, a 23-classroom structure that was dedicated by state and local school officials Friday.

David Richards

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the YHS building is named after. Ansel Adams was perhaps best known for his black and white landscape photographs of national parks, including Yosemite.

"My father would be honored that a building like this would be named after him," Ann Helm said, who attended the dedication with her husband, Ken.

Raupp said that a committee discussed several options as to naming the new classroom facility. The Ansel Adams Building was eventually selected and then later approved by the board of trustees.

"It was a fitting name in light of the fact that the school is named Yosemite High School," Raupp said.

Representatives from the offices of Senator Chuck Pochigian and Congressman George Radanovich were also present, as were board members from neighboring school districts.

The 1,200 members of the YHS student body were in attendance as well, who braved the heat to attend the 30-minute ceremony.

"I was extremely pleased with the dedication," McCabe said. "The district is very thankful for the support of our communities in actualizing a vision of permanent classrooms and other facilities on campus."

The Ansel Adams Building will house all math, English and social studies classes, along with a few foreign language classes, providing a more central location for YHS students compared with the array of portable classrooms that have housed those areas in recent years.

The square footage is estimated at 26,500 square feet.

"It's a wonderful facility," Raupp said. "It's going to be great for kids because we will have more classes in a centralized area."

In a few months, students, parents and faculty will notice the portables start to be removed from campus, as the district was leasing the facilities on a temporary basis.

Raupp said the goal is to begin teaching classes sometime during the month of October .

On Friday, students seemed eager to take advantage of their soon-to-be new home as the dedication wrapped up with a tour of the facility.

"It's really cool," said junior saxophone player Billy Green, after taking a walk through of the premises. "It's really nice. It's a real school now."

Faculty seemed equally as impressed.

"It has a new car smell to it," said Tom Fiormenti, YHS athletic director after peaking his head into one of the rooms.



As part of the ribbon-cutting ceremonies, (from left to right) Bill McCabe, superintendent of the Yosemite Joint Union High School District, gathers with Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County superintendent of schools, Luisa Park, director of the Office of Public School Construction, Harry Baker, owner of Sierra

Telephone, and Ann Adams Helm, daughter of well-known photographer Ansel Adams.  
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Yosemite High School junior Billy Green checks out one of the new classrooms of the Ansel Adams Building with a fellow student.  
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