

International Authority Calls Cowell UC Site 'Magnificent'

The Cowell site of the University of California is a "magnificent site" in the words of Lewis Mumford, international authority on planning and author, when he visited the campus area Friday.

Serving as a distinguished visiting professor at the University of California this year, Mumford visited the site along with members of the university's campus planning committee.

The group met at the study of the First Congregational church under the direction of Chancellor Dean E. McHenry. In attendance were William Roth, a member of the university's board of regents; Admiral C. D. Wheelock, retired professor at the La Jolla campus and former chairman of the administrative committee for new campus location criteria; Vice President Elmo Morgan of the state-wide staff; Robert Evans, chief university architect and Jack Wagstaff, university architect assigned to the Santa Cruz campus.

Mumford, who gained world-wide notice in 1938 with the publication of "The Culture of Cities", is the author of some 20 books, including "The Renewal of Life series. His latest book "The City in History" has been widely acclaimed.

From 1951 to 1956, he was Professor of City Planning at the University of Pennsylvania and from 1957 to 1960 he served as Visiting Bemis Professor there.

Although he is not an architect, he is an honorary member of many leading architectural and town planning groups. This year he received the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture from Queen Elizabeth II on the recommendation of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mumford was impressed by the plans for a residential university at the Cowell site. He urged creation of "the right kind of a small unit which can be developed in its proper relationship to the entire project." The McHenry plan, he said, is "definitely on the right track . . . the only thing to do."

His only fear of the size — more than 1900 acres—of the Cowell site was that it is so big there might be a temptation to spread out too much. He would like to see the relationship between units close enough to maintain easy intercourse between students and buildings and the university core.

Mumford said he thought that Santa Cruz was a beautiful area and capable of great improvements without too much effort because it has not yet become crowded. "You need a greater density in areas so that better use may be made of the open spaces," he declared, "now some of the open space is wasted, but there is an opportunity

for retaining its pleasantness by good planning and more gardens."

Going back to the Cowell site, Mumford said he believed it would be possible to retain the rolling hills and the irregular setting to make the best possible use of the majestic site.

He would also like to see high utilization of the visual spaces so that everyone could appreciate the beauty of the site and its surroundings—the bay and the mountains, the trees and vista.

The site is ideal for development of a university, he emphasized.

The planning expert also expressed a desire for more two-story homes. "They are the best for living comfort," he said, and also, "do not waste space with inadequacies."

Mumford said that many of the ideas best for campus planning would also serve the community such as the creation of more green walkways, easily accessible to the people so that they don't have to drive 50 miles to take a walk.

"The city could enhance its recreational future and tourist popularity by better development of its natural assets and we shouldn't spoil beautiful natural assets by ill-developed adjacent regions," he warned.

Mumford is enjoying his work with the university and with the department of planning students and professors.

He's no stranger to the state as he was at Stanford in 1942-44.

He feels that California is getting too many people and shouldn't keep trying to expand by obtaining additional defense industries. "Industry is sufficient to maintain the economy now," he said.

In "The City in History", published by Harcourt, Brace and World, Mumford writes of the university city — a passage in which Santa Cruzans would be interested, reads:

"... With its long memory, its vital international affiliations, its disciplined devotion to intellectual communication and co-operation, the university has become the central nucleus in the new urban and cultural grid . . .

"Further by its concern with advancing systematic knowledge alone, the university has pushed to the point of caricature many of the worst aspects of the historic city: intense vocational compartmentalization, over-specialization, and hierarchic subordination under a pervasive bureaucratic discipline. Meanwhile the expanding universe of knowledge, subject to forces similar to those that have produced automatic technological expansion, has lost its central human point of reference: hence a failure to evaluate, assimilate, and put to wider human uses its own most valuable products.

"... As now constituted, even the greatest universities—and the University of California at Berkeley is one of the great ones—exhibit the current metropolitan vices of over-growth and congestion, dissociation and disorganization. If the University is to function as the organizing nucleus in the new urban explosion, it must not merely decentralize and reorganize its facilities on a regional basis as many American state universities are now doing, but undergo an inner transformation from pedagogy to paideia, from science to wisdom, from detachment to commitment."

Box Factory Has Third Fire In Week

Tuolumne City (AP).—The third fire in a week at the Pickering Lumber corporation here caused an estimated \$300,000 damage Friday night as it brought a shutdown of the firm's box factory and threatened the town.

About 100 men fought the fire, as volunteers from the mill joined the fire department and several state forestry division crews to keep the blaze from spreading to nearby houses.

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Gonzales In Texas

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