

# Spaniard's Will Gives Four Santa Cruzans Scholarships

Scholarships for four or more Santa Cruz area high school students will become available in 1958 under the terms of a will on file with the county clerk's office.

Ramon Fernandez, a native of Spain and a resident of Santa Cruz for 20 years prior to his death January 4, established a \$60,000 trust fund for the scholarships to be known as the Estelle B. Brand Scholarship fund.

The late Mrs. Brand was Fernandez' foster mother.

Executor of the will is Joseph R. Alcantara, Fernandez' friend and investment counselor since 1938.

In the beginning, income from the scholarship fund is expected to provide four students with approximately \$750 each toward the first year of their college education.

Fernandez specifically stated in his will that the money would be made available to any needy student of good moral character and scholastic standing and ability regardless of race, creed, color or sex. He also stipulated that students from parochial, private and public schools should be considered equally for the awards.

The will further declares that should any person receiving one of the scholarships fail to adhere to certain moral, character or scholastic standards the committee selecting the scholarship winners shall have the privilege of revoking the award and returning the money to the trust fund.

The committee charged with the responsibility of selecting students for the scholarships is composed of Alcantara; a member of the law firm of Murphy and Adams, and the president of the County Bank of Santa Cruz.

Upon the death of the trustee, the fund will go to Stanford university and Santa Clara university, share and share alike.

The two universities then will use the funds for continuing the scholarship program for Santa Cruz area students. These scholarships will be known as the Estelle B. Brand scholarships.

The initial \$60,000 has a good chance of becoming even greater, under the terms of the will.

After making the scholarship and other bequests, Fernandez decreed that three-quarters of the balance of the estate be placed in trust and that the earnings from this portion be given to his sister. She is Senora Louisa Fernandez de Folgueras of Barcelona, Spain. Upon her death, 15 per cent of the three-quarters portion of the estate will go to her three children. The balance of the three-quarters portion will revert to the Estelle B. Brand scholarship fund.

Balance of the estate, 25 per cent of it, is to be placed in trust and the income paid to a cousin, Eulogia Garcia Fernandez of Meires, Spain, for the balance of her life. Upon her death the money in trust is to revert to the scholarship fund.

The University of California medical school eventually will benefit from the will.

Fernandez left his home and other real property to a friend, John W. Flory of Los Angeles. Upon the death of Flory, if his son, David, is 25 years old, the property then will revert to the university. If David is not 25 at the time of his father's death, he will have use of the property or income from funds derived from the sale thereof, until he is 25, at which time it will revert to the university.

This particular fund is to be known as the Estelle B. Branch Research fund and it is to be used for medical research.

Other beneficiaries under the will include St. Joseph's Catholic church, Star of the Sea Catholic church and two close friends.

Fernandez also established a memorial fund with the churches in the name of Mrs. Brand.

The brilliant Spaniard, born in 1900, immigrated to this country about 1928 and was befriended by Mrs. Brand during his attendance at the University of California at Davis. He never married.

During the '30s he purchased a chicken farm on Paul Sweet road and operated it successfully until about 1941. At that time he began contracting for the management and boarding of bracero labor. He continued this business until his retirement in late 1950.

Fernandez is believed to have been orphaned at an early age in Barcelona and it is known that he considered Mrs. Brand his mother.

In his will he refers to her as "My dear mother, Mrs. Estelle B. Brand."

She died in Santa Cruz in April, 1951 at 74 and is buried in Oakwood Memorial park, directly across the road from the Fernandez residence. Fernandez was buried beside her.

A keen student of the stock market, Fernandez spent a great portion of his time on market analysis.

Friends say he and Mrs. Brand were extremely interested in the education of young people and that Fernandez established the scholarship and research funds in the belief that Mrs. Brand would have used the money for such purposes had she lived.

## Ben Lomond Dam Repair Job Gets State Fund Aid

The state public works board yesterday approved an allocation of \$7477 to the Ben Lomond fire protection district for the repair of the Ben Lomond dam.

Senator Donald Grunsky, who has guided several appropriations through the board in connection with the 1955 floods, said the request was a revised document which increased state aid to the figure.

Steven Wyckoff, attorney for the fire district, said this morning that the \$7477 from the state, plus a federal government allocation of \$400 would be sufficient to cover the original repair estimate of the dam's main section, damaged and weakened during the San Lorenzo river rampage in 1955.