

UCSC - History

McHenry's Plan For UCSC

Santa Cruz (AP) — In the hills above Santa Cruz, on the north central coast of California, in quiet pasture lands and groves of redwood, a university of the 21st Century is being built.

It will open in the fall of 1965 with 500 liberal arts students and a faculty of 60.

By the year 2000 it should reach its maximum enrollment of 27,500 students. But if its first chancellor, Dean E. McHenry, has its way it will seem smaller as it grows larger.

The Santa Cruz campus of the University of California, as envisioned by Chancellor McHenry, by U. C. President Clark Kerr and by the regents of the giant statewide university system, will be a series of relatively small colleges.

The plan is based on the Oxford and Cambridge pattern, with faculty members living and working close to the students.

Each college will have 400 to 800 students, many living in. Four such colleges are in the plan through 1970. Eventually there may be 20 or more, plus as many as 10 graduate schools, and centers for special studies including the South Pacific.

There will be a campus core — a main library, administration and science buildings, an audio-visual center transmitting televised lectures by great educators to surrounding colleges.

What is not likely to be found at Santa Cruz: fraternities, big-time football and cars on the inner campus.

The administration suggests bicycles.

Now under construction and scheduled to be finished in

time for classes in September are the Central Services Building, a \$462,000 structure, and the \$2,509,000 Natural Sciences unit I. Also under way but with a later completion date are structures to house the first of the colleges, \$3,745,000 Cowell.

Dormitories for the first student body are to be put up next spring or summer and will be of temporary type, to serve until permanent buildings are ready.

Different teams of architects will design each college so each will have its own personality. Directing the physical planning is campus architect John E. Wagstaff, formerly of the U.C. San Francisco campus.

The university bought, the magnificent 2000-acre site for \$2 million from the Samuel H. Cowell Foundation. Henry S. Cowell came to Santa Cruz in 1865 and made a fortune by combining a limestone quarrying operation with ranching. Samuel H. was a son.

The ranch atmosphere is all about. The original carriage house has been converted into a handsome interim administration building. The old cook-house will be the chancellor's office until permanent quarters are up. Cattle graze and saddle horses run in the meadows. Deer and other wild animals are in the redwood dells.

An abandoned limestone quarry is scheduled for development into an outdoor theater. Chairman Jan Popper of the UCLA Music department has pronounced it echo-free.

The second quarry may one day be a stadium — not for spectator sports, but for a live-

ly intramural program.

The underlying limestone has provided perfect drainage; no water stands in the quarries.

Chancellor McHenry has no fears about getting students. He has more than 1000 inquiries.

First to file his request was Robert Childers of Monterey. The same day twins Carolyn and David Sanford of Hollywood flew in to file.

The first student body will be about 500 freshmen and juniors. Application deadline is March 1. Admission requirements are the same as on the other eight U.C. campuses.

McHenry, born on a farm near Lompoc in 1910, and a UCLA graduate, was professor of political science at UCLA and dean of academic planning for the university statewide before coming here.

Provost of Cowell is an early American historian and author, Dr. Page Smith, a former history professor at UCLA.

"What is being attempted is no less than a combination of the remarkable scholarly resources of a great university with the human dimensions of a small college dedicated to the proposition that the tradition of the liberal arts in American higher education must not be allowed to die," he said.

McHenry said "we hope to bridge the gap between the curricular and the noncurricular and fill in the chasm that so often yawns between students and faculty.

"The principal means for accomplishing these aims are the residential colleges. These are educational units in which faculty and students live in close

association — sharing social, athletic and many other activities.

"These colleges will be pre-dominant during the early development of the campus and will be enduring, distinctive features of the ultimate campus organization.

"All residential colleges will provide undergraduate liberal arts education, but they will vary considerably in shade and emphasis.

"Campus growth will come through the addition, nearly every year, of another of these communities of students and teachers.

"After early concentration on high-quality undergraduate education, Santa Cruz will launch the additional enterprises of a general university campus: graduate instruction, professional schools and research institutions."

A pressing problem is building a faculty.

Dr. F. M. G. Willson, who will become professor of government January 1, is dean of the faculty of social studies at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in South Africa.

Dr. Bernard Haley, who will join UCSC in July as professor of economics, has been with Stanford University since 1926. He now is teaching in the Stanford-in-Germany program.