

Brook Knoll School Is Built On More Conventional Lines

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New Addition To Have Flexibility
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(Editor's Note: This is the third in a Sunday School News series on recently constructed elementary schools in the Santa Cruz area. Featured today is Brook Knoll School in the Scotts Valley Elementary School District.)

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

Kids at Brook Knoll Elementary School don't have to learn of the beauties of nature from textbooks. They just look out the window.

Situated on a hilltop off Sims road north of Santa Cruz, the school site commands a sweeping view of sea and mountains. It sits in delicious isolation, far from road noises and outside disturbances of all kinds.

Brook Knoll's hilltop home was once beneath the sea, so that the school now lies in an unlovely yard of white sand. But the kids, and probably the teachers, wouldn't trade it for a million dollars worth of formal landscaping. It's like a big sandbox and makes a fine playground.

The inland beach is especially easy on elbows and knees, too. Playtime injuries are practically non-existent at Brook Knoll. And children can go outside to play right

after a rain because there is no mud problem.

The scratchy sand does play hob with classroom floors, however, and maintenance in that area is a headache.

A number of oases of trees and shrubbery are now being planted to break up the broad expanse of sand.

Brook Knoll school is currently made up of two six-classroom units separated by an oriental garden area. It is a wood frame construction with a concrete block veneer. Wide overhanging eaves double as walkway covers.

It is built on more conventional lines than some other recent school constructions in the county, without a great capacity for interior re-arrangement.

But Scotts Valley District Superintendent Edwin Swanson said the new Brook Knoll addition, due to begin in approximately two weeks, will have a higher flexibility factor for the middle grades where the district feels it is more important.

Each of Brook Knoll's current classrooms, however, is built with an alcove to be used for smaller group projects, allowing some degree of re-arrangement.

The classrooms are self-contained units with controlled environments of fluorescent lighting and artificial air conditioning.

Thick slabs of sound swallowing material, called geo-acoustic blocks, dot the ceilings. These are cheaper than an acoustical tile ceiling, and painted various bright colors, double as room decorations. Walls are covered with a vinyl material to provide bulletin board space.

Brook Knoll was constructed with state aid, and therefore under strict square footage limitations. To keep class sizes down, all rooms were built for use as classrooms, although some are put to other purposes. Swanson, for instance, maintains his office in a storeroom.

There are 8216 square feet of floor space in the largest of Brook Knoll's two units. The other contains 7880 square feet. Construction cost was \$14 per square foot, below state averages. The school began operation when the first unit was constructed in September, 1964.

Swanson stated the school has a "very functional design." He said Brook Knoll was "built economically, and requires a minimum amount of maintenance and operational cost."

The superintendent continued that several visitors have told him the school has "the most substantial and aesthetic design they have seen among school buildings.

"It fits very well into the area and even into our sand," he said.

Eight teachers instruct the 300 kindergarten through sixth grade students at Brook Knoll. The new construction will provide room for 120 more, and it is expected the facility will ultimately house 600 youngsters.

The school maintains one educationally mentally retarded class.

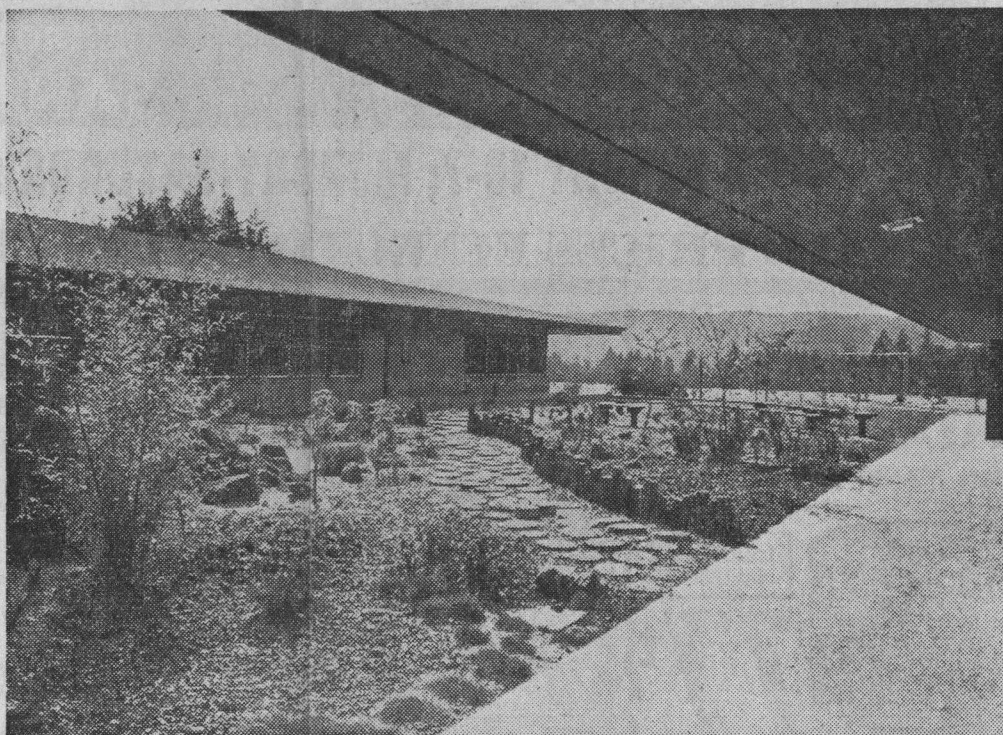
Brook Knoll's new construction will add 8470 square feet of floor space in two units. The buildings will contain administration offices, a teachers' room, storage room, library, two kindergartens (one of which is to be used as a music room) and one regular classroom. The new buildings will make available for use two more classrooms in the existing buildings.



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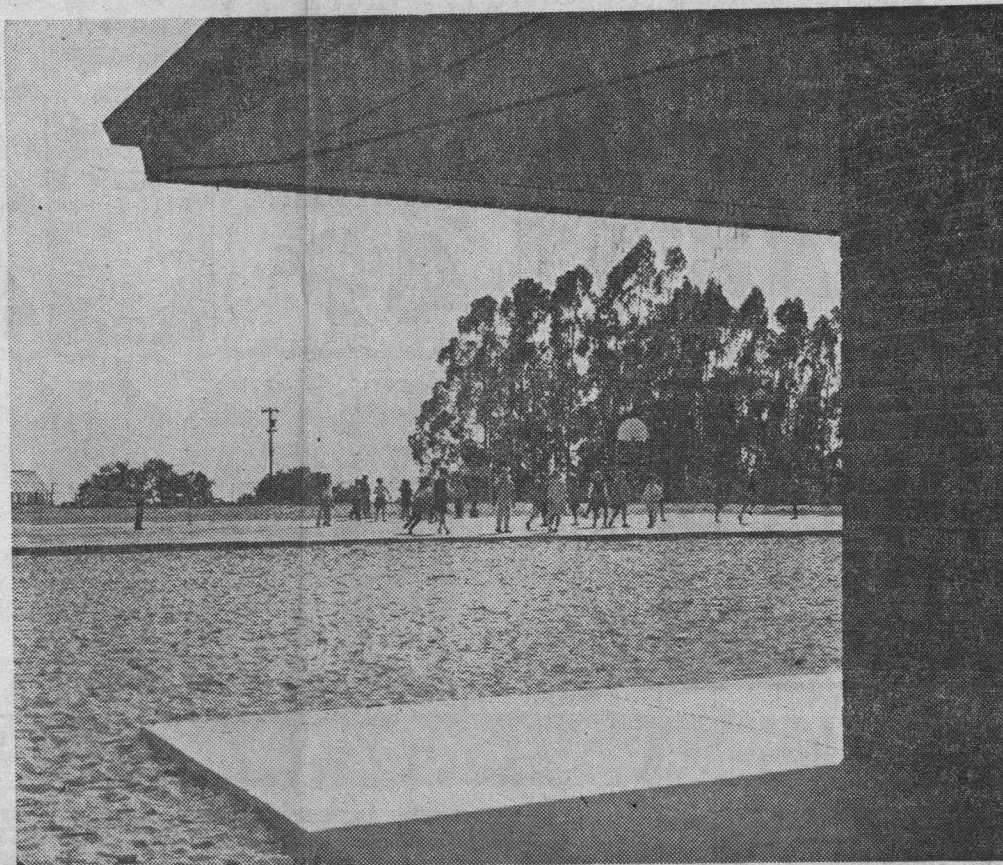
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An oriental garden, landscaped by a volunteer labor force, provides a welcome

green respite in Brook Knoll's white sea of sand. Extra wide

eaves on the school's two building units provide covers for walkways.



Brook Knoll's sandy surroundings are not overly pleasing aesthetically, but the

kids think it's fine — just a big sandbox for playtime. The sandy grounds keep school-

yard injuries to a minimum, but create problems of floor maintenance.

'57 SCHS Grad On UCSC Staff

Fred S. Weaver Jr. has become the first graduate of Santa Cruz High School to receive a teaching appointment at UCSC.

He will become an acting assistant professor of economics at Stevenson College on the UCSC campus effective July 1.

Weaver, a 1957 graduate of Santa Cruz High, was one of two seniors commended by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for distinguished performance in a national search for students of unusual ability.

Weaver was graduated from the University of California in 1961 with departmental honors in economics. That summer he was on the staff of the U. S. Department of Labor in Washington, D. C.

He received an appointment the following year as an economics teaching assistant at Cornell University.

He continued his work at Cornell the following year while working on his doctorate. He then went to Chile for a year to gather additional information for his Ph.D.

He returned from Chile to Cornell to receive his degree.

Weaver is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Weaver of 22 Pasatiempo drive.

He is married to the former Serena A. Smith of Klamath Falls, Ore.