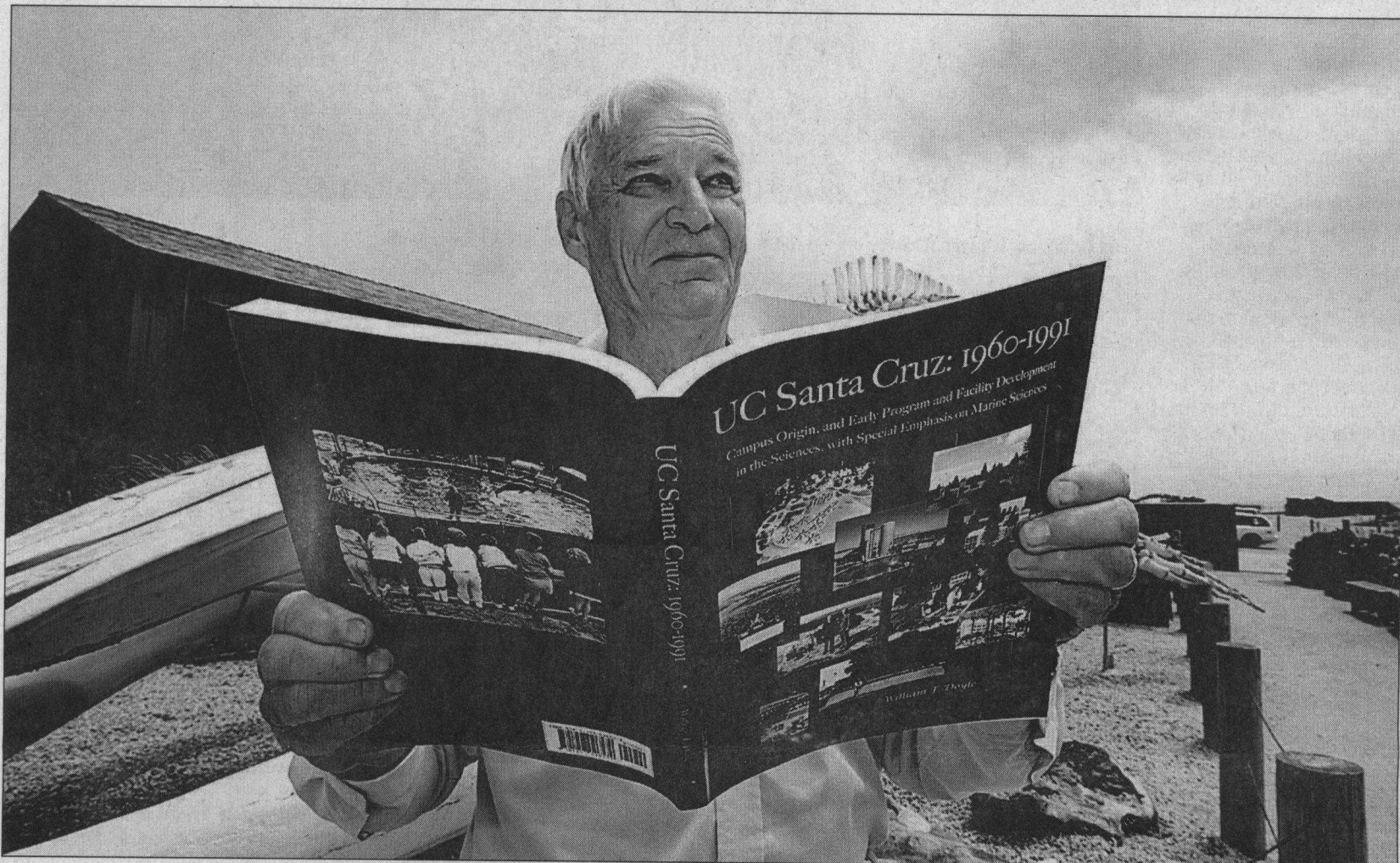


# Retired professor's book tells the story of first banana slugs

Watsonville High grad Doyle joined faculty in 1965



Retired UC Santa Cruz professor William Doyle has put together a book on the early years of the university.

DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

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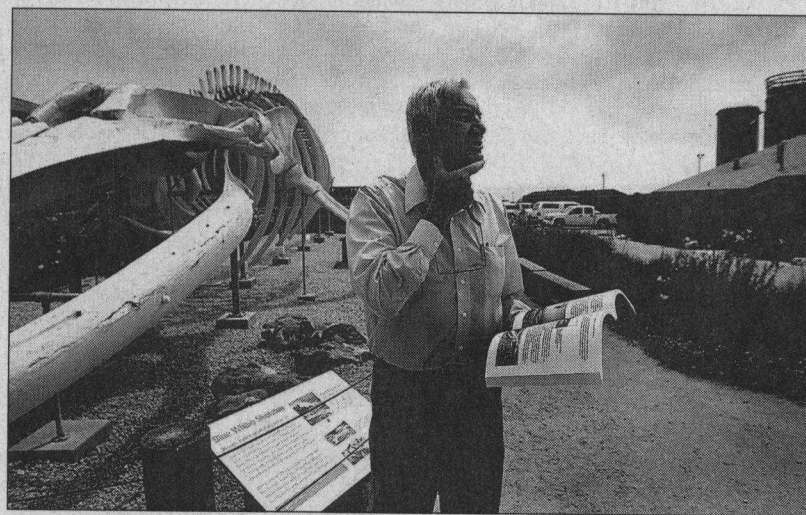
SANTA CRUZ — William Doyle, as one of UC Santa Cruz's pioneer faculty who arrived with the first class in 1965, literally saw the Westside campus grow from a ranch into a bustling institution of higher education.

In fact, the botanist was not even fully aware of how little had been done to prepare the campus for students and researchers before he arrived from Northwestern University. There were just a few buildings, and all of the faculty stayed in the ranch cook's house.

"They failed to tell me they hadn't built any lab space yet," he said. "I was storing plants at my mother-in-law's house, and some of my research plants died."

In addition to using newspaper articles, documents and oral histories, Doyle tapped into his own memory of the fledgling stages of UCSC to write the recently published "UC Santa Cruz: 1960-1991," a chronicle of the founding and early history of the university.

"Bill was indeed a pioneer, who arrived at a nascent campus with almost no buildings, no academic programs, and very few faculty," UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthal wrote in the book's forward. "His own com-



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A book by retired UC Santa Cruz professor William Doyle on the early years of the university took about four years to finish.

mitment to the campus led to a string of developments and contributions that spanned his entire career."

Coming to UCSC to be a part of the first group of faculty was a homecoming for Doyle, who graduated from Watsonville High School in 1947. He was also drawn to the idea of being a part of a university building from scratch and the vision of Dean McHenry, the founding chancellor of UCSC, who wanted to focus on undergraduate education through the establish-

ment of multiple colleges within the university structure.

"There was a tremendous amount of camaraderie across the divisions because there were so few faculty over all," Doyle said.

The book focuses on the development of programs and facilities on campus for the sciences, with an emphasis on marine sciences, as Doyle served as the chair of the biology department, director of the Institute of Marine Sciences and founding member of Oakes

College at different points in his 26-year career at UCSC.

He shares the story of receiving land donated by Donald and Marion Younger for the Long Marine Lab, and how he sought, with other faculty, to give the marine sciences division its own niche.

UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and other ocean research units were looking farther out to sea, so at UCSC they chose to focus on the coastal zone.

It took Doyle, 82, about four years to complete the book, and he sent drafts of the work to former colleagues to get their notes.

One reason he said he decided to write the book was because friends, faculty and students had asked him to clear up some inaccuracies in the oral history of the school's early development — including giving credit where it was due.

"I wanted to acknowledge the important impact that all of the different faculty, staff and students had on the development of the campus," he said. "Also, the community was vital, collectively and with support from individuals."

The book is available at the UCSC library, UCSC bookstore and on [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). Proceeds from the sale will support research and education programs at Long Marine Lab.