

Community College Only Answer To Problem Of Giving County Students Higher Education And Can Be Afforded In Area, Says Dr. Calvin Flint

A community college is the only answer to the problem of providing higher education for the bulk of Santa Cruz county high school graduates and the county can afford such an institution.

This was the gist of an interesting and informative talk last night by Dr. Calvin Flint, president of Monterey Peninsula college, at the weekly meeting of San Lorenzo valley Kiwanians at Alexander's in Boulder Creek. The speaker was introduced by Dr. Eugene Haskell, superintendent of San Lorenzo valley unified schools. Jack Morris presided. A number of guests and visiting Kiwanians were present to hear Dr. Flint.

Basing his facts and figures upon his recent study of junior college needs in Santa Cruz county for his thesis for a Ph. D degree at Stanford university. Dr. Flint discussed the cultural, economic and financial aspects involving proposed establishment of a junior college in this county.

Stressing that he is "not trying to sell something to Santa Cruz county" but is interested solely in higher education for young people and in the cultural and economic benefits of a college, Dr. Flint presented the following facts:

If a junior college is established in Santa Cruz county, in its second year it could have an enrollment of 600 plus students at a cost to taxpayers of from 18 to 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. This would be based on an assessed valuation of approximately \$100,000,000 with some of the Monterey county area in the Watsonville joint union high school district included in the program.

Santa Cruz county, which does not have a junior college, could become one of the 12 wealthiest

junior college districts in California.

Only 12 per cent of young people 18 through 21 years of age from Santa Cruz county are attending college while the national average is 26 per cent.

Last year Santa Cruz county paid other junior colleges \$147,000 in tuition for students from this county attending outside institutions. In addition, thousands of dollars are spent by students themselves outside of the county. Between \$250,000 and \$300,000 are being spent outside the county annually because there is no junior college here.

Santa Cruz area students attending Monterey Peninsula college spend three hours each school day on buses in order to obtain higher education. Only Merced, a city of 19,000, finds itself in a similar situation in California.

A college education definitely means better jobs and improved financial conditions in middle years for the college graduate.

With steady growth of population in the state, in 10 years a county junior college could have 1000 to 1200 students.

The physical plant could be "monumental" or simple but attractive, depending upon the peoples' wishes. The maximum could be 100 acres with buildings costing \$2,877,000. But a Santa Cruz county junior college could "get by" at much less than this maximum figure and could add necessary facilities as the financial picture brightens.

Operating cost for the first year could be around \$275,000 or not much more than the county is paying in tuition to other junior colleges now.

Santa Cruz county people must decide the question of establish-

ment of a junior college, after taking into consideration the adequacy of elementary and secondary educational facilities in the county.

Linton Forrester, past president of the Freedom Kiwanis club, and chairman of the county schools reorganization committee, was a visitor and took part in general discussion after Dr. Flint's talk. It was agreed that most large universities are recommending that high school graduates attend a junior college for the first two years of their higher education program before enrolling at larger institutions.

Another feature of the meeting was the presentation to the club of the traditional "axe" from a delegation of valley Lions. The Kiwanis defeated the Lions, 18 to 15, last week in their traditional charity basketball game and will have possession of the "axe" for 12 months. The Lions won the trophy last year.

George (Hoot) Cress, Dick Lee and Bill Rae represented the Lions. The trophy was received by President Morris and Tom Colosi, manager of the Kiwanis team.

Earl Adams, Boulder Creek Red Cross drive chairman, announced that contributions in the drive could be made through the Kiwanis club and credited to the organization.

At least 15 representatives of the club will attend the 12th division meeting tomorrow night at the Riverside hotel here.

Other visitors included Vincent Locatelli, president of the unified board of trustees, and William LaBee, valley high school principal; Fred Morris of Santa Cruz; Herman Armstrong and Vern Kirchoff of the Freedom Kiwanis club; and Fred Jenkins of the Sentinel-News.

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