

Long Lab

(continued from page 7)

House That Bill Built

Ten years ago, Long Marine Lab was a hole in the ground, as Potts remembers it. UCSC's director of marine sciences, Bill Doyle, had grand plans in an era of penny-pinching frugality.

Doyle, who was ill when GOOD TIMES prepared this article, is a biologist whose primary research is in lower plants, like moss and liverworts, said Silver. But Doyle realized UCSC was an ideal campus to host a marine research facility.

"In 1977, that's when UC was plunging into its worst economic picture, all nine campuses stopped building. Long Marine Lab was constructed in that period using entirely non-state and non-university funds. Bill Doyle was able to foresee the need to do it that way and then finding a way to do it," said Potts.

The 40 acres of land the lab sits on was donated by locals Donald and Marion Younger in 1972. Joseph Long of Long's Drugs fame was a principal contributor, and the lab bears his name.

Much of the research conducted at the lab is paid for by private grant money raised by the researchers themselves, said Ken Bruland, a chemical oceanographer.

Everyone involved in the lab seems unstinting in their praise of Doyle.

"He's done it (built the lab) in an institutional way, but there's been a

tremendous loyalty to individuals," said Silver. "For instance, the year I had a child and it was really hard for me to work, he arranged to get me a research assistant to help me, and that's sort of a constant story of helping the individual through critical stages of their story."

"Other places, the director of most marine programs also has a vested interest in some major research speciality of their own which can come into conflict (with other researchers)," said Potts. "There's no sense of competition with the director's research here."

The lab has also been a vital link between UCSC and the Santa Cruz community.

"At the worst time of communication between the campus and the town, Bill was the one shining star that kept and maintained a real active community involvement," Bruland said.

One area of community involvement has been the docent program, in which community volunteers learn about the lab and in turn, lead visitors on tours and operate a public education program.

"Docents are a good example (of community involvement). Bill has conceived this entirely as a community-based support system, which as I understand is unique in the UC system. And the docents, the feedback into the community, are terribly important for the entire concept. Our financial support for running the operation depends on the financial involvement of the community," said Potts.

Perhaps more importantly, the docents are the primary reason the lab is so accessible to the general public.

"There's no way we could afford it as a university, and there's no way the researchers could afford to have their technicians give all these tours," said Bruland. "So it's Bill's volunteer docent program which has been critical for that."

Plans for the lab's future include an expanded visitors' center (estimated cost: \$750,000) to handle the tens of thousands who come to the lab each year. Another new building will house two new research facilities, at a cost of \$2.2 million.

The Open House

Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., researchers and docents will be on hand to lead tours through the entire facility and explain the many research projects. Visitors can spend time with the dolphins, sea lions (Schusterman and Gisinier will demonstrate their work) and touch sea stars and hermit crabs. A Monterey Bay Aquarium touring stage show also will be presented.

The big catch will be the fall fish festival, an albacore barbecue which helps raise funds for the lab. Grilled albacore, two salads and a roll cost \$5.

Admission to the festival is free. To reach Long Marine Lab, take Mission Street to Swift Street on the west side of Santa Cruz. Turn toward the ocean on Swift, then right on Delaware Avenue.

Parking will be available on

Delaware and in the Silicon Systems parking lot, which has been donated for the day. Shuttle buses will transport visitors between the parking areas and the lab. 429-2883.