

1964: Momentous weekend as UC Santa Cruz christened

UCSC - History to 1964
EDITOR'S NOTE: The Sentinel is celebrating its 150th year in 2006 by reaching into our archives to republish some of the noteworthy stories and editorials out of the past.

The following editorial appeared on April 17, 1964.

It is not often when a community the size of Santa Cruz has such a momentous weekend as we have here today and tomorrow.

This afternoon dedication ceremonies were held at the University of California Santa Cruz campus, marking the beginning of what will eventually become an

extraordinary center of learning.

Tomorrow morning ceremonies will mark the official opening of a \$5 million small craft harbor — the joint effort of the Santa Cruz Port district, the California State Small Craft Harbor commission and the corps of army engineers of the federal government.

Both projects will have an exceptional impact on the community and its environs in the years ahead — even more than they have already made.

Indeed, they mark the start of a new era in Santa Cruz.

It was nearly six years ago when Santa Cruz began to feel the effects of

the growth of California. The fantastic development of neighboring Santa Clara county began to find its way across the Santa Cruz mountains.

Coincidentally, it was the same year — 1958 — when local efforts were initiated on behalf of the plan to establish a university campus here and when major accomplishments were achieved towards bringing the Santa Cruz small craft harbor into reality.

Since that time the growth rate has gradually increased in this area to a point where it is generally running ahead of the growth rate for the state.

And, perhaps, an even more notable

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 change has occurred in the rate of economic growth in the Santa Cruz area which exceeds even that of our population increases.

But what has happened in the past few years only emphasizes what is going to occur on a much greater scale in the future.

The university and the harbor provide us with signals for a sense of direction. In diverse settings within our community, they will provide a path which can lead us to a much greater thoroughfare.

The harbor can set the pattern for a

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vast new field of recreational ventures, capitalizing on the unlimited opportunities offered by the establishment of a marina complex, designed to capture the tantalizing lure between man and the ocean.

The sun, the sand and the sea will become enhanced by the romance of sparkling sails and startling spinnakers.

With the facilities made possible by the harbor development, the Santa Cruz area has made a big step ahead toward coping with the wants of a more demanding recreational audience.

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(Editor's note: Some text was missing here from our archived copy.)

It should not be isolated on the rolling hills of the Cowell ranch, overlooking the city from an academic perch, but rather a center

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of living and learning which will reach into the heart of the community and into the minds of the citizenry.

With the expansion of the university campus, there will be a cultural development which will affect all of those within and about the university environment.

The concept which has made California into the most populated state in the Union becomes centered in our own community — the riches of educational opportunity, the fun of living in a recreational wonderland, the security of economic stability, the climate and the scenic treasures.

These are assets few communities have.

Some were God-given, some were earned by concentrated dedication of the citizenry, but these assets are not to be locked in a vault, they are to be utilized in the establishment of an even better environment for those who will be here in the years to come.

The people of Santa Cruz today are the contemporary trustees who must use their knowledge, their ability and their energy towards making the Santa Cruz of tomorrow as fascinating as our dreams.

The gains we have made should not go out of focus, but should be maintained in the proper relationship to the pattern of growth. It is not the era of an overnight boom, but rather the continuation of a moderate, constant development.

By the same token, it is no time to think small, but rather to think well so that we may bring forward the opportunities of tomorrow.

It will be a busy weekend, but the times ahead may be even more challenging and rewarding.