

✓ Aptos - 1990 Colleagues praise new principal

Will take Aptos reins by July

By JOHN BESSA
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Apple Valley's loss is Aptos High School's gain, said co-workers of David Hare, the new principal for the high school.

Hare, who was chosen Wednesday for the job, will finish the school year at Apple Valley High, where he is assistant principal.

"You guys are really lucky," said David Hall, supervisor for computing services at Apple Valley Unified School District. "I'm going to go beat him up now for leaving."

In his eight years at Apple Valley High, Hare has earned a reputation for being tireless, innovative and well-liked, co-workers said.

"He's excellent. He is pretty much a high-energy person," said Gloria Thrall, Hare's secretary for three years at the 2,800-student school. The school

is in Apple Valley, a community of about 65,000 in the high desert south of Barstow.

"He takes on any (project), regardless of the enormous size of them. Nothing seems to deter him," Thrall said.

Hare, 41, has worked in education for 18 years, starting as a teacher in Utah, his home state. He has taught physical education, math and science.

As assistant principal, he is in charge of discipline, curriculum and instruction, and student activities programs, among others. He also served as acting principal for a total of six months.

Hare said he chose Aptos High School for the area's beauty and the support of the school from the community.

"The major factor was ... the quality of the educational system here," he said.

Hare will replace Ron Severson, who was hired to open a new high school near Sacramento.

"I hope to be in the office and on board and have my feet real wet by July 1," Hare said.

The new principal's contract is in ne-

gotiation, said Clem Donaldson, Pajaro Valley assistant superintendent in charge of personnel.

The base salary ranges from \$56,368 to \$64,660 a year, he said, and those with master's degrees make an additional \$1,487 a year. Hare has a master's degree.

Hall said Hare is creative and aggressive in making school improvements.

He spearheaded efforts to buy a CD-ROM-equipped computer network in the high school's library and to install more computers on the campus, Hall said.

Hare also started a program to wire the school with fiber-optic lines for future expansion of computer use, Hall said.

"He has really been a pusher," Hall said.

Apple Valley is near the top of Cajon Pass, north of San Bernardino.

The community has a white population of about 80 percent, according to the 1990 Census. About one-tenth of its residents are Latino.

Hare said he has had no experience

with the desegregation issues that he'll face at Aptos High.

He did not claim fluency in a foreign language during the interview process, district officials said.

Busing is common in Apple Valley, but only because it is the only high school in the area, Hare said.

Apple Valley has little industry and is mostly a residential area, Hall said. Many residents make a 40-minute drive over the San Bernardino Mountains to jobs in San Bernardino, he said. The nearby Norton Air Force base closed recently, straining the area's economy, and school enrollment has declined.

Besides improving technology at the school, Hare was president of the Newton T. Bass Stadium and Activity Center Foundation. The stadium, when complete, will be the largest of its kind in San Bernardino County.

He also coached the school basketball team for several years.

"He gets along really fine with the students," Thrall said. "We hate to see him go. It's going to leave a big hole that's going to be hard to fill."