

Santa Cruz County's First College Campus

By Mildred Ann Smith

OFFERING convincing proof that this area is an ideal one for a college site is Santa Cruz county's first institution of higher learning, the small, but fast-growing Bethany Bible college.

Since its move from San Francisco to Bethany park in 1950, the 39-year-old Assemblies of God school has not only increased its student body more than 40 per cent but has contributed its share to the economy as well as to the cultural and spiritual life of the county.

The college, located seven miles from Santa Cruz off the Los Gatos highway opposite Santa's Village, now has a plant valued at \$533,000 with a gross operating budget of more than \$120,000. Some \$50,000 of that amount goes for payroll, according to Rev. Gerald Boyd, business manager and registrar of the college, with a large percentage of the total budget spent locally, either directly or indirectly.

Acting as "goodwill ambassadors" for the school are the large number of students who do part-time work in the area. Realizing the need of many of them to work, the administration has scheduled the majority of the classes in the morning.

In the afternoon the students fan out in all directions to baby-sit, do housework, serve as waitresses or service station attendants, clerk in stores or wherever else they can find employment. Almost without exception they put the Christian principles to which they adhere into action in their friendly, courteous behavior.

Academic-wise, the school is progressing. Control of the former Glad Tidings Bible institute passed in 1947 to the Northern California-Nevada District Council of Assemblies of God. Immediate steps were taken to raise the academic standards, reorganize the administrative procedure and expand the faculty.

In 1954 a fourth year was added to the curriculum and the college was incorporated by the State of California as a degree-granting institution.

Bachelor of arts degrees now are granted in theology, Bible, Christian education, missions and sacred music. A three-year course also is available.

Steps have been taken for accreditation by the National Association of Bible Colleges and Institutes and it is expected that this will be accomplished by the beginning of the school year this fall.

The administration, headed by the genial president, Rev. Leland R. Keys, also is aiming for recognition from state colleges and universities. At present, students from Bethany are accepted on a probationary basis and if they maintain their grades, credits for liberal arts courses are transferrable.

"Some people think that Bethany is just a glorified Sunday school," the president complained, "and that's one impression we'd like to correct."

Plant expansion plans for this year call for a student center building to contain a recreation area, store, book-



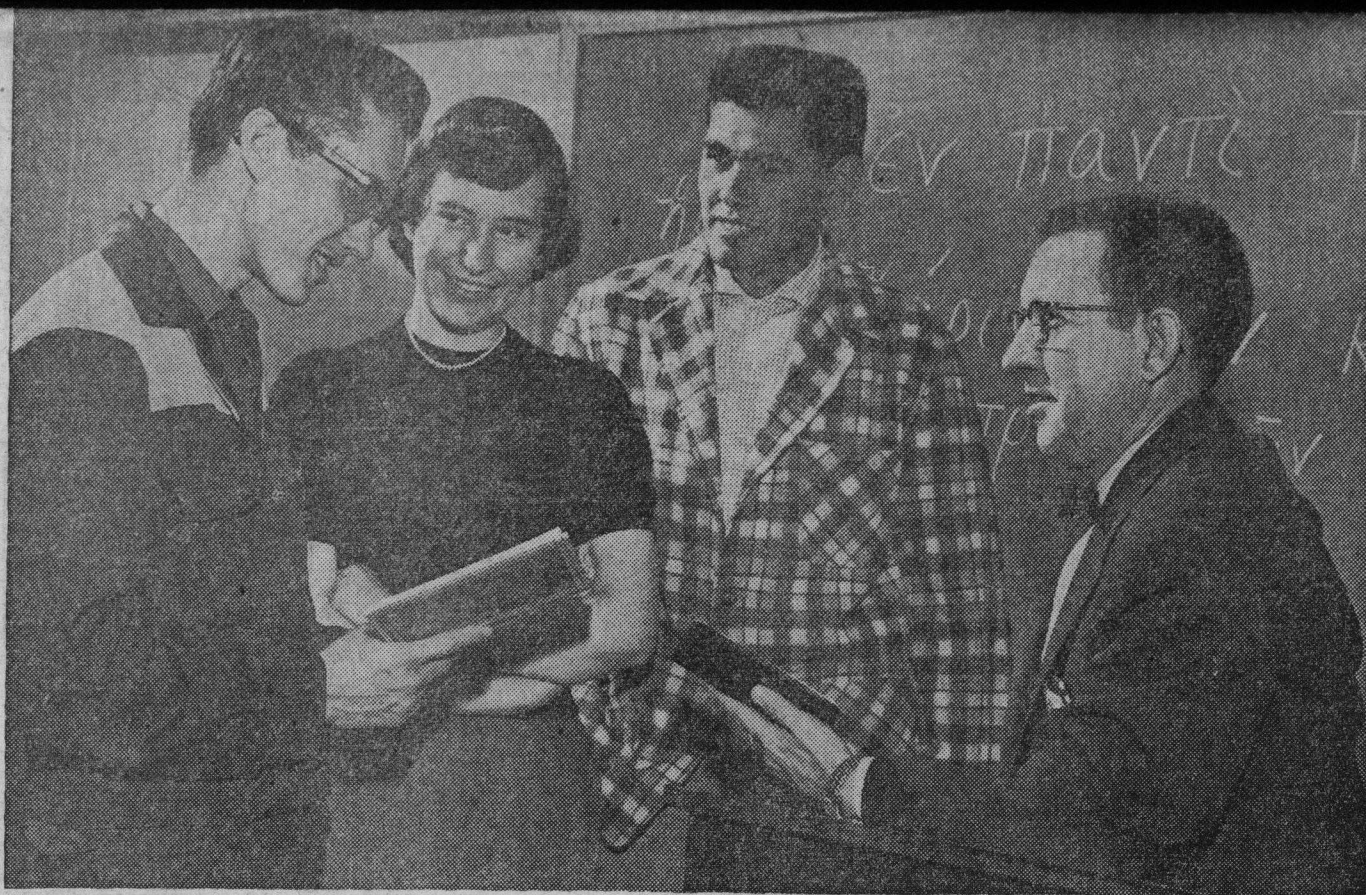
MARRIED STUDENTS number 55 at Bethany Bible college. Senior Charles Baldwin of Cupertino and his wife, Pauline, a junior, formerly of Portland, Ore., pause for a chat with Rev. Leland R. Keys, president of the Assemblies of God school, following morning chapel. The Baldwins, who met at Bethany and were married last summer, plan to enter

the ministry. Like many other married students, they rent one of the summer homes in Bethany park during the school year. In the background is Craig Memorial chapel, completed in September of 1956. The redwood and stone construction lends itself to the natural beauty of the wooded area where the college is situated.



SERVING YOU AND THE COMMUNITY is pretty Freshman Dale Hallberg of Atwater, one of the many Bethany students employed part-time in Santa Cruz and the surrounding areas. She works each afternoon at a local restaurant. College students are noted for their friendliness and courtesy.





GREEK CLASS (above) is conducted by Dr. James D. Rider who also serves as dean of men. Participating in an after-class discussion are (left to right) Junior Paul Hoff of Vallejo, Freshman Bea Burleson of Hollister and Junior Alfred

Elgin of Santa Rosa. After mastering the language, students can read the New Testament in its original Greek without loss of meaning due to translation. Hoff is pastor for the new Faith chapel at Boulder Creek, staffed by the students.



COLLEGE ATMOSPHERE prevails in the dorm (above) where Student Body President David Paco of Honolulu relaxes with Australian Ian Crouch (on upper bunk) and Santa Cruzan Noel Wilson. Ian, whose home is in Melbourne, is a sophomore and Noel is a junior. All three boys plan ministerial careers. Of the 240 students, there are 152 Californians with 15 other states represented as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Malaya and India.

MUSIC IS AN INTEGRAL PART of the program at Bethany. At left, Rev. Forrest Beiser, head of the music department, directs the girls' sextet in one of the sacred numbers they sing when, along with other students, they go out on Sundays in evangelistic endeavors. Left to right are Sophomore Verena Schwartz of Hood River, Ore., Freshman Janie Routh of Pendleton, Ore., Freshman Betty Richter of Placerville, Freshman Ruth Taylor of Tacoma, Wash., Freshman Janna Bennett of Hollister and Sophomore Edna Jarvis of Woodland.

Photos by Pete Amos of Webber's



room, fountain and more dormitories.

A new sewage disposal system is being completed this spring as is a \$16,000 trailer park. By late spring the college will have a 400x160-foot football field.

Pretty ambitious planning for an institution which has very little endowment and whose students pay just \$22.50 per month tuition! For those students who live on the campus the rooms are \$12.50 a month and the board \$40 a month.

"Living trust" is the answer with the denomination's congregations in California and Nevada contributing \$1000 per month to its budget. The administration expects this amount will be raised to \$3000 per month within the next half year.

The increase in funds will be used to pay off outstanding loans and to build an endowment, the registrar noted.

"Purpose" of Bethany Bible college as listed in the catalogue is "to prepare young men and women for the Christian ministry in any of its present-day manifold phases."

To this end classes run from Tuesday through Saturday instead of the conventional Monday through Friday schedule. This enables students to gain practical experience by serving on deputation teams which each week-end conduct Sunday schools and churches in some 15 far-flung areas.

In addition to completely staffing some small churches, students may assist in others as superintendents, organists, pianists, teachers, song leaders, assistant pastors and musical directors.

Music forms an integral part of the school program and the outstanding music department is headed by Rev. Forrest Beiser, who this summer will receive his MA degree from San Jose State college.

When we toured the campus recently we found that music definitely was "in the air"—coming from practice rooms, from the chapel, and from kids who just sing because they like to.

There were no popular ballads and no rock 'n' roll but it was a welcome change to hear sacred songs sung in rhythmic harmony by attractive teenagers.

Rev. Beiser pointed out that the school has three choirs, including a 12-voice, 32-voice and an 80-voice, as well as two male quartets, a trumpet trio, a girls' quartet, four mixed vocal groups and a girls' sextet.

"We have had as many as 20 groups out in various parts of northern California in one week-end," he said.

Just released in the past two months is a long-play recording featuring the different music department groups.

Bethany students act as pastors of Bethel church in Santa Cruz and Loma Prieta church. Newest endeavor of the students is the establishment of the Faith tabernacle in Boulder Creek.

Of the 240 students, 55 are married. The largest number, 152, comes from California with Oregon placing second with 33 students. Fourteen other states are represented as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Malaya, India and Australia.

Because of the reasonable rates for room and board each student works one hour of detail time per day, cutting down on the need for maintenance personnel.

Students who complete the three- or four-year courses at Bethany serve two years as full-time ministers before the denomination ordains them. Some of them go into missionary work and some of them staff churches while they continue in state and private colleges.

Even though many students do not complete the courses and go into Christian service, the administration feels that the time spent at Bethany is not wasted.

As one member of the faculty put it, "One or two years dedicated to learning and living Christian principles is a small amount out of a lifetime."