

## The Old and the New

# From Buggies to Business at UCSC

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When the University of California acquired the Cowell Ranch property for its Santa Cruz campus, it also got a clutch of old buildings...

Barns, a cooperage, storage sheds, bunk cabins, a cook house, even a pig sty and quite a few privies were included in the motley collection of ranch structures. Some were falling down — almost. Artists and photographers appreciate that degree of decay more than anyone else. Sketching and snapping parties are common on campus.

But several of the larger

buildings were solid, despite their age. One of these was the Carriage House.

When the Cowells were in residence at the local ranch, they no doubt had several buggies, which were the "runabouts" of that horsey era; perhaps a tally-ho or two, or a surrey, for when the whole family went to church or elsewhere.

It was no doubt from this building that one of the Cowell daughters took her horse and buggy the day she was thrown from the buggy and killed when the horse ran away.

The Carriage House was built in 1865 and used as part of the ranch operation until

1946. It stood idle for 18 years until it was rehabilitated in 1964 by the new UCSC Physical Planning and Construction Staff, and local Architect Bates Elliott. Bogard Construction did the work.

In August of 1964, Chancellor Dean McHenry and his staff moved into the Carriage House after two years at Cabrillo College. Physical planning also shared the building.

Interesting detail about the more than century old building: several old, falling-down sheds nearby furnished beautiful old boards which were used as paneling inside

the Carriage House. Other weathered boards were made into doors and conference tables for use in it.

University departments played a long-term game of musical chairs, taking turns moving into and out of the Carriage House as their new quarters were completed on campus.

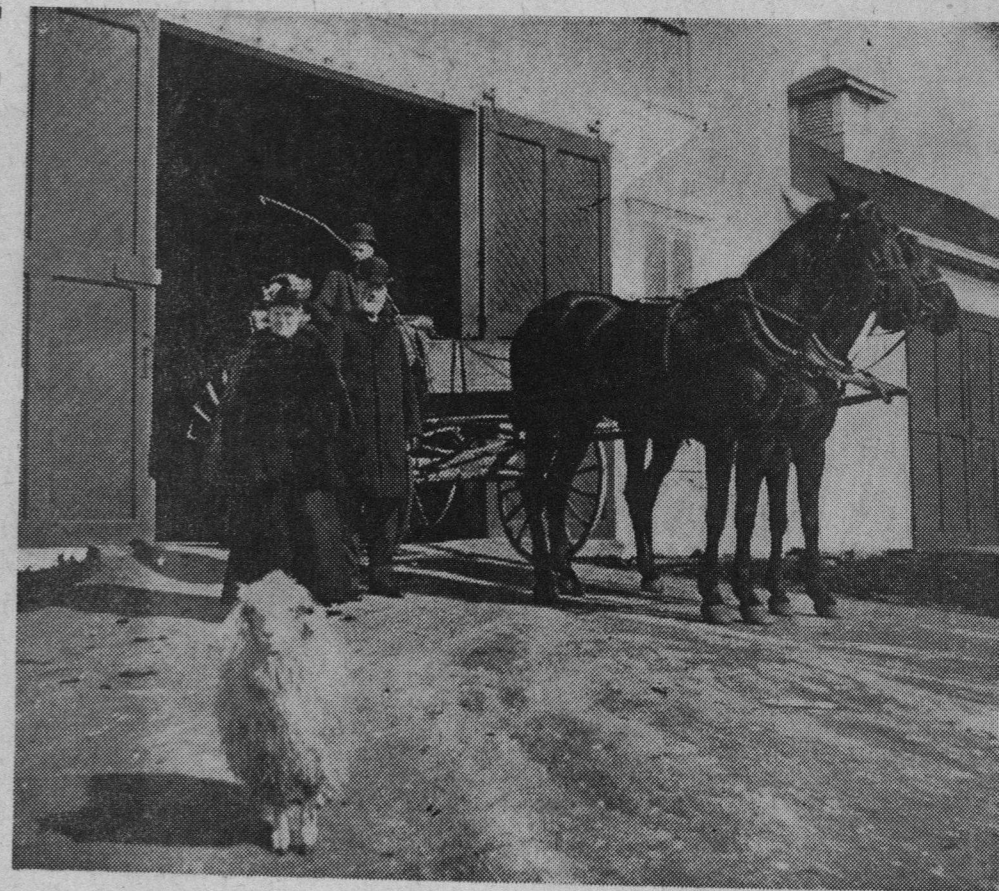
When the Chancellor moved out, the Library moved in under the direction of Librarian Donald Clark. When Don moved his people out, Business Services moved in; next the Cowell College staff used the Carriage House, then Academic Planning, Accounting, Purchasing and

Personnel took their turns.

Now, Purchasing has about half the main floor; Physical Planning shares the remainder with part of University Relations, Gifts and Endowments.

A note of humor was introduced into the situation in 1965 when a memo addressed to "Our Carriage House Colleagues" from "Your Cook house Conferees" announced an open house party to inspect the Cook house quarters.

Without a doubt the University's efforts to save and make useful these handsome buildings have done much to enhance the campus.



Above: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cowell, pet angora goat and Frank George, their long-time ranch superintendent, about to leave the Carriage House. Cowell bought into the local lime-making business in 1865 and became one of the state's wealthiest men. Far left, young girl romps with dogs in Carriage House drive. Who was she? No one knows today, but she could have been Helen or Isabella, Cowell girls who never married. Carriage House as it is today, at left.



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