

A Decade Of Education In County Schools--Part 5

Cabrillo College—A Success Story

(Editor's Note: The following is the fifth in a six-part Sunday School News series on education in Santa Cruz County schools in the past decade.)

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One of the most extraordinary successes in the history of California higher education—that is the story of the first decade of Cabrillo College.

Today the handsome buildings of this public, two-year institution stand as picturesque, yet practical monuments to the vision of Santa Cruzans who labored mightily for decades to achieve what many considered to be an impossible dream—a junior college to serve the educational and cultural needs of this county.

Authorized in October, 1958, after a decisive defeat in 1954, Cabrillo College opened its doors in temporary quarters in September, 1959. That first facility was an abandoned building at Watsonville High School.

The months between the successful election and the opening of that first term were filled with the myriad details of planning and organizing the institution.

Those who may think that establishment of an institution of higher learning is a simple assignment might review the record of the thousands of man-hours that went into the multitude of details involved in fashioning a college to serve the diverse needs of a complex society.

In January, 1959, the first board of trustees was elected, and today five members of that original slate—Carol Conelly, Joe Chamberlain, Marguerite Blaisdell, Harold Hyde, and Albert (Bud) Rice—continue to serve the college. The first president was Keith Shaffer.

On March 2, 1959, the board

selected the name, Cabrillo, in recognition of the 16th-Century explorer's role in the discovery of Monterey Bay.

The name also served to unify the county and stem the rivalry between the Santa Cruz and Watsonville areas.

In April, 1959, the board appointed a 41-year-old Long Beach City College dean as president. Today Dr. Robert E. Swenson, educated at Cornell College of Iowa, Columbia University and Stanford University, continues to guide the college as it prepares for the start of a second decade of community service.

And to Dr. Swenson, as he reviews the past 10 years, "community service" stands as perhaps the college's most extraordinary or unique achievement. The almost constant programs of educational, cultural, recreational events—workshops, institutes, conferences, concerts, plays, lectures, exhibits, and demonstrations—have forged a close bond between the college and the community.

Serving with Dr. Swenson today are many members of the college's original faculty and staff, including the institution's top officials, many of whom were lured to Cabrillo from junior colleges throughout the state.

From Cerritos College in Norwalk came Floyd Younger, now assistant superintendent for instruction. Leland Harris, assistant superintendent for business, left a post with Marin County schools; Malby Roberts, dean of counseling and records, previously was with Bakersfield College; Fred Osborne, librarian, came from Long Beach City College; and John Hinton, now dean of instructional services, came to Cabrillo from Porterville College.

Jack Snyder, Santa Cruz High School teacher for several

years, became the dean of student activities.

The initial subjects taught were in the first-year requirements primarily and when the enrollment reports were analyzed it was discovered that most students indicated a preference for business, education and social science courses.

By the mid-summer of 1959 plans also were shaping up for a bond election, a selection of a permanent campus site, and formation of a citizens committee to help choose the location. Plans called for an ultimate enrollment of 2000 students.

How conservative—and how wrong—was this estimate as seen in the events that occurred.

On September 21, 1959, enrollment was 758 students. Dr. Swenson predicted 1100 by 1962. Alas, on October 4, 1960, about a month after the college began its second year of operation, the temporary quarters in Watsonville bulged with 1142 students.

And when the college begins the 1968-69 term on Tuesday it's looking for 3800 students.

The 10 years since 1959 have been marked by the successful \$6.6-million bond election in June, 1960, to build the present

campus on the 126-acre site astride Soquel Drive between Porter and Borregas Gulches; by an ever-growing curriculum designed to meet the practical needs of the community and the academic requirements of four-year colleges and universities; by the ever-expanding student body; and by addition of new and varied cultural activities.

The summer musical, the Cabrillo Music Festival, and numerous other events have made the name of Cabrillo a synonym for cultural excellence and leadership.

As Santa Cruz County's first institution of higher learning, Cabrillo College now is rounding out its first decade of service. At the same time, it is planning for the future.

The junior or community college has been called "America's unique contribution to education." A look at Cabrillo College, its people, its programs and service, and its product—well-trained persons in a variety of occupational and academic fields—suggests some of the reasons why.

(New Week: The series concludes next Sunday with a report on the county office of education.)

The Court Calendar

Recent action at Santa Cruz Municipal Court included dismissal of marijuana charges against David Glenn De La Paz, 20, of Marina.

De La Paz pleaded guilty, however, to the misdemeanor charge of possessing a dangerous drug and was fined \$125 by Judge Donald May.

Trial was reset for Tuesday for Joseph Salvador Napoli, 23, of Daly City, and Gordon Canzizio, 20, of Santa Cruz. The two are charged with being in

David Wayne Simons, 21, of Santa Cruz, entered a not guilty plea on a morals offense and was scheduled for a jury trial on November 12.

Delbert Leonard Edgemon, 49, of Salinas, was slated to enter a plea on an attempted burglary charge next Thursday. A jury trial was set for October 21 for Kenneth D. Mendenhall, 55, of Salinas, who faces the same charge.