

## Flashback

### History of MiraCosta College – San Elijo Campus

# What to expect from a local satellite campus

By DR. JOHN MCDONALD  
President, MiraCosta College

The other day my office announced that we are now in escrow in our purchase of the Manchester Avenue site. It has taken five years to get to this point and it will be at least five more before we begin construction in Cardiff.

It all began about six years ago when the state decided to require all high school districts to become part of some community college district. San Dieguito was one of those "open" districts affected by the legislation. MiraCosta sought the annexation of San Dieguito and was granted that territory in the fall of 1975, to become effective July 1, 1976. The logic that put San Dieguito with MiraCosta instead of with Palomar, where most of its college students attended, was that the arrangement would create two strong districts in the North county and that such was in the best interest of all concerned.

We immediately established a store-front operation in Solana Beach, where, on a summer evening in 1976, our governing board made a solemn promise to citizens present that we would seek state approval to develop a campus in San Dieguito. The effort went forward—sometimes at a snail's pace, to be sure, but always in the same direction. Finally, in mid-1980, the approval came. Not for a complete comprehensive campus (at least, not yet), but for an extensive educational facility which Sacramento calls a "center." This center will be missing a library, gymnasium, and shops associated with campuses, but it will be possible for students to earn a degree there in a limited number of disciplines.

Our staff made an extensive search of the heart of San Dieguito, looking for property which met state education specifications, with

reasonable access and at a price we could afford. Five sites were pinpointed and these were winnowed until there was but one: on the bend of Manchester a little east of I-5. For a while it appeared we had selected the most controversial site in the county; however, after we had aired the details before about eight community groups (and offered to make presentations before several others), grass-roots support became as close to unanimous as anyone could have hoped.

That's how we reached this point, perhaps two or three weeks away from acquisition. But how will all this translate into classrooms for San Dieguitans? Classrooms teaching what? When? Because we have a strong well-attended center now in Del Mar, the "when" is at least five years off and maybe seven. When the Del Mar school



Dr. John MacDonald is a 1940 graduate of the institution he now heads. After completing his education at Humboldt State College and UCLA, he became president of MiraCosta College in 1963 and added the title of district superintendent the next year. He is also active in civic, church and charity endeavors. He is married and has three sons.

district begins to eye the school site, they are renting to us, it will be time for us to begin building in Cardiff.

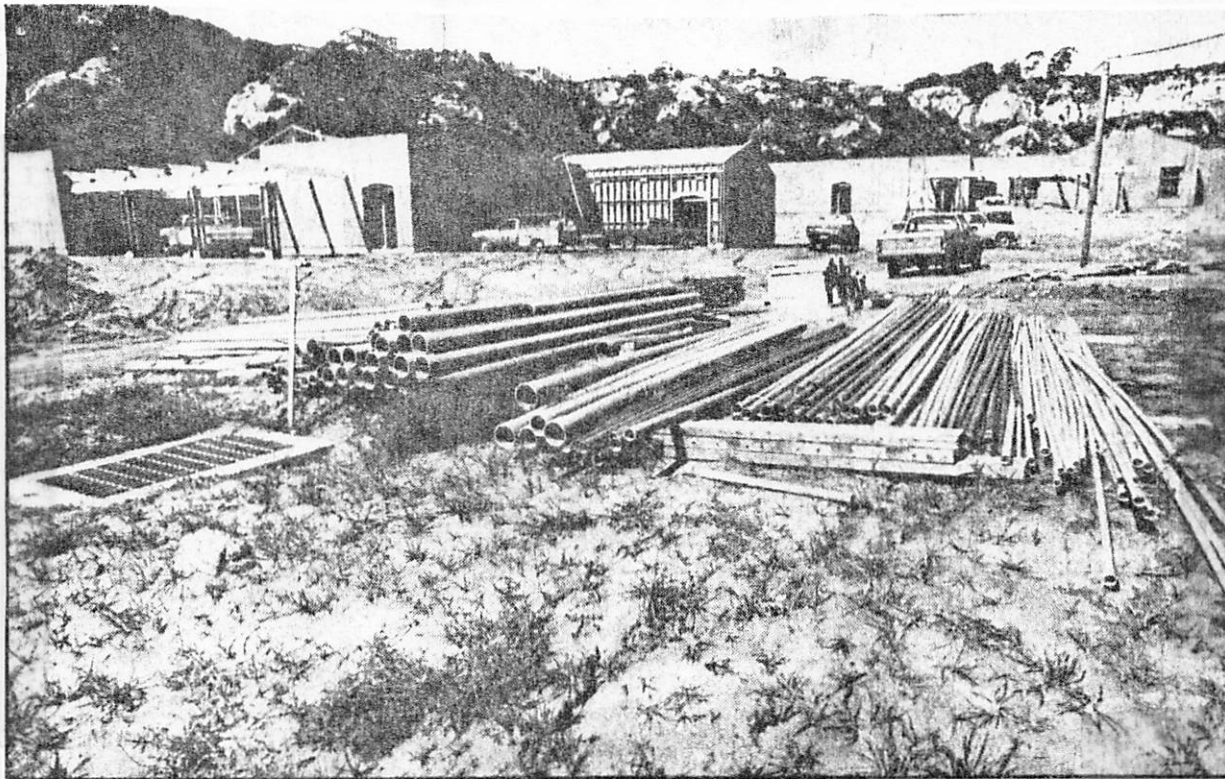
As for which subjects will be taught in Cardiff, our needs assessment study found support for general education courses in behavioral sciences, art, languages and English, courses needed by students planning to transfer for a four-year institution after a year or two at MiraCosta. Courses for women re-entering the education process after years of other pursuits certainly will be part of the new center, just as they are now at Del Mar. Refresher courses and probably remedial classes in reading and other basic subjects can be expected. Vocational probabilities include business and office occupations, real estate, communications technologies, child development and possibly electronics and vocational nursing. And with the "New Silicon Valley" located just to the south of Del Mar, can computer science be overlooked? Hardly.

Guidance and counseling services will be integral to the operation. Certainly, community service seminars, workshops and short courses are obligatory. Financial aid programs will benefit hundreds of San Dieguito students. Such student services as a bookstore operation and food vending are inevitable.

Will the center ever become a campus? We don't know. That depends on decisions in Sacramento. However, if the state should someday permit us to develop a comprehensive campus, it is doubtful we could do so on the acreage we are now acquiring.

Meantime, we are grateful for the support the San Dieguito community has given us in this effort. We look forward to the construction planning stage in the knowledge that the citizenry will be of tremendous assistance to us at that point.

4/1/81 Citizen



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## Campus in Cardiff almost half finished

CARDIFF — Construction of the satellite campus of MiraCosta College on the north edge of San Elijo Lagoon is nearing the halfway mark, with 43 percent of seven buildings in phase one expected to be completed August 1988.

Completion of the work should come eight years after the architectural firm of Liebhardt, Weston and Associates was first hired to evaluate the site, and 13 years after local residents requested the campus be built.

"I'm a superstitious person and I hate to get optimistic, but I think we're fairly close to being on schedule," said John Mullender, MiraCosta's vice president of business. "Things are going pretty well."

When the campus opens in September, 1,000 students are expected to enroll in freshman and sophomore-level general education courses that are transferable to a university as well as community service courses and workshops.

Phase one encompasses 42,000 square feet of the campus' 42 acres, which will include classroom complexes for sciences, the arts, computers and a student lounge.

Also slated for completion in phase one is a maintenance building, an administration building and a library. Chamac Inc. is the general contractor at work on the site.

Excavation and installation of underground site utility services are under way. Framing of the buildings has been finished, and clay tile roofing will be added in the next few weeks as will lath and plaster.

The campus amphitheater, which will seat 175, is complete, as is a 826-space parking lot.

Construction of phase two of the campus is tentatively scheduled for completion in 1990. It will include an industrial technology complex and three additional buildings.

A community advisory committee, which considers campus-related issues such as fund-raising, landscaping, public relations and cultural activities, has been meeting regularly since June 1987.

The next meeting is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday at Saints Helen and Constantine Greek Orthodox Church, adjacent to the satellite campus site.



Surfcomber 8/19/88



Staff photo/Pam Trainor

First phase of new MiraCosta campus has seven buildings on site adjacent to San Elijo Lagoon.

## *'Greatly needed' new campus expected to be full on day one*

By Andrew LePage  
Staff Writer

**T**o Encinitas resident Martha Witz, MiraCosta College's new \$6 million San Elijo campus, scheduled to open late this month, is a "shining light in the community," meeting the educational needs of residents of all ages in the San Dieguito region.

According to Witz, the opening day of a new campus in the San Dieguito area is long overdue. MiraCosta's Oceanside campus and the 11-classroom Del Mar extension have been unable to meet the needs of an increasing population located between the campuses, says Witz, who heads the San Elijo Campus Advisory Committee.

"The Oceanside and Del Mar campuses are not central to the growing areas — the San Dieguito region," Witz contends. "This greatly needed campus will fill the needs of students at Torrey Pines and San Dieguito high schools and provide a cultural center (including a 140-seat amphitheater and a 140-seat multi-purpose room where dances, lectures and concerts will be staged) for the entire community."

Situated alongside the San Elijo Lagoon, the 48-acre site was purchased by the MiraCosta College District in 1981 for \$1.7 million. It now includes 44,000 square feet of classroom space in seven buildings: a science building, learning resource center, computer center, creative arts

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# COLLEGE/*New campus will be full*

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complex, student lounge, administration building and maintenance building.

The state funded 88 percent of the construction, with the district covering the remaining costs.

Nearly a year after organizers had hoped to open the doors, the first day of class at the San Elijo extension is now scheduled for Sept. 7. Registration begins Aug. 29, and officials expect to reach their 1,500-student capacity immediately.

Ann Carli, San Elijo campus director, says that while the state's principal concern is providing two years of general education for students who plan to transfer to a four-year institution, she emphasizes two additional goals: Providing vocational training (including classes toward an associate degree) and a continual source of education for people who want to "learn and enrich their lives through education" via fee-based classes open to anyone.

Witz added that "The average middle-class high school graduate needs two years of (community college) to be able to afford to transfer" to a four-year school. According to a year-old study conducted at San Diego State University, comparative yearly college costs — including fees, books and supplies — in the county are as follows: USD, \$8,300; UCSD, \$1,934; SDSU, 1,098; and community colleges, \$500.

In pursuit of their general education classes, pre-transfer students can take classes offered at both the main campus in Oceanside and at San Elijo, as all of MiraCosta's departments are centralized.

If the demand for a community college in the San Dieguito area is as great as studies conducted by

the district have shown, officials fear traffic along Manchester Avenue may be a problem until the road is widened. Manchester has been widened directly in front of the campus, but it narrows to two lanes for short stretches on either side of the campus.

"What we need is a four-lane highway," says Witz, who expects traffic to be a problem initially but is confident that "those problems will eventually be worked out."

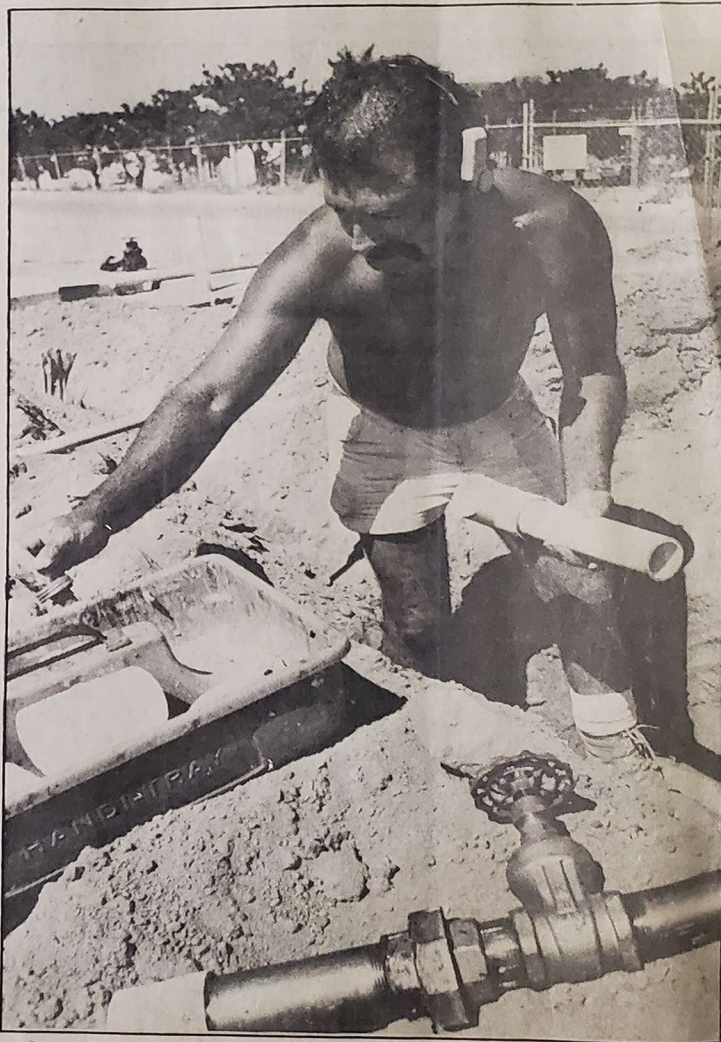
To help ease traffic congestion near the campus, Witz said, the starting times for classes — as demanded by the California Coastal Commission — were scheduled to avoid peak rush hours; morning classes are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., and evening classes at 7 p.m.

Traffic problems and other snags associated with the new campus will be watched closely by the San Elijo Campus Advisory Committee, formed by the college in May 1987 to ensure the campus would meet the needs of the community and be aesthetically acceptable.

"You've got a community that's really involved in this project," Witz says. "That brings the campus closer to all of us and makes it our (the San Dieguito region's) campus."

Carli says she hopes Manchester Avenue, or at least the widening of the off-ramp from Interstate 5 will be completed within two years, as the San Elijo campus will then be in phase two of development, accommodating another 1,500 students and including four new buildings.

Phase two structures will be used primarily for vocational programs, Carli said, including industrial technology, electrical and pre-engineering, and biomedical and behavioral science laboratories.



Staff photo/Pam Trainor

Workers continue to complete construction on the new campus, above, while the afternoon shadows cast designs along an empty walkway, below, which will soon be busy with students.





*what's new?*

## **The San Elijo Campus of MiraCosta College—that's what!**

### **Opens September '88 offering:**

- low cost college courses: \$5 per unit for California residents
- freshman, sophomore general education courses—transferable to UC, CSU and private colleges
- career certificate programs
- cultural events, community services classes, workshops, excursions
- MiraCosta College's new San Elijo Campus is a 44,000 square foot facility facing the beautiful San Elijo Lagoon. Conveniently located on Manchester Avenue between I-5 and El Camino Real, Phase 1 of the campus features classrooms and laboratories; computer center; art, music and dance studios; Learning Resources Center; student lounge; and a student information and administrative complex.

3333 Manchester Avenue, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. For more information call 942-1352



"Down Memory Lane"  
Irene Kratzer



## **WHERE DID THE NAME CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA COME FROM???**

After the original Indian inhabitants, Cardiff and California were once part of Mexico, as was most of the southwest. Mexico was a colony of Spain at the time and the original land grants were awarded to prominent Mexican families. At the south end of Cardiff, the slough was given the name "Alejo" as found on the land grant map at the Heritage Museum, meaning "separate" (alejar), separating Cardiff from the Lockwood Mesa to the south. After the arrival of the early American settlers, such as the Mackinnons who settled here in 1875, J. Frank Cullen came from Boston in 1910, and became our first developer/speculator. He prepared a map showing central Cardiff divided up into lots priced at \$30 each and corner lots for \$45. The city's original name was to be San Elijo, an Americanized version of Alejo with "San" or "Saint" added (Saint Separation?!) Mrs. Cullen, a native of Cardiff, Wales, wisely vetoed that and renamed the City Cardiff, changing all the Spanish street names to English, Scotch and Irish names, leaving only San Elijo Avenue and Orinda Drive to retain their original names. Another developer, Victor Kremer, later developed the "Composer District" to the north, naming streets after musicians and composers.

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