

HISTORY OF COLUMBIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Tape Recorded Interviews)

By

Richard L. Dyer
History Instructor

History of Columbia Community College

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tape #1, Side A only

"The Development of Columbia Junior College, 1966-1969"

Script by Dean Robert Deal

Read by Pete Ladd

(See Appendix for copy)

YOSEMITE JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

Tape #2, Side A

Dr. Walter M. Garcia, Superintendent, Yosemite Junior College
District

Tape #2, Side B

Donald S. Brady, Tuolumne County Trustee, Yosemite Junior College
District

Tape #3, Side A & B

Dr. Harvey B. Rhodes, President, Columbia Junior College

Tape #4, Side A

Dr. J Kenneth Rowland, Assistant Superintendent & Business
Manager, Yosemite Junior College District

Tape #5, Side A

Dr. Richard Dodge, Dean of Science & Natural Resources, Columbia
Junior College

Tape #5, Side B

Dr. Patricia Hertert-Rhodes, Curriculum Assistant & Program
Advisor for Adult Students, Yosemite
Junior College District

Tape #6, Side A

Robert W. Deal, Dean of Occupational Education, Columbia Junior
College

History of Columbia Community College

MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Tape #6, Side B

Phil Swearingen

ORIGINAL FULL-TIME FACULTY

Tape #7, Side A

Walter L. Leineke, English, Speech

Jon N. Hagstrom, English, Reading

Tape #7, Side B

Joel C. Barber, Art, Art History

Ross A. Carkeet, Jr., Biology, Forestry, Natural Resources

Tape #8, Side A

Donald A. Jones, Chemistry, Earth Science

Barbara C. Painter, Counselor

Tape #8, Side B

Robert H. Hamilton, History, Political Science

Tape #9, Side A

Richard W. Rogers, Business Education

Thelma A. Jensen, LVN Health Occupations

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY

Tape #9, Side B

Jean Peterson

FIRST STUDENT BODY, COLUMBIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Tape #10, Side A

Melissa Gandolfo

Phil Barbera

Brian Burger

Guy Perea

Consuelo & Vance Clinton

History of Columbia Community College

FIRST STUDENT BODY, COLUMBIA JUNIOR COLLEGE (continued)

Tape #10, Side B

Clinton's (continued)
Stan Lloyd
Penny Erlenbusch

Tape #11, Side A

Bernice Frost

APPENDIX

"A Suggested Name For Our College" by Dottie Firebaugh

"The Development of Columbia Junior College, 1966-1969"
by Dean Robert Deal

"Columbia Junior College" (1969 Yearbook)

COLUMBIA JUNIOR COLLEGE (continued)

Tape #12, Side A and B

Frost, McKinley, Welding Instructor (Emeritus) 2-6-87.

Tape #13, Side A and B

Lyon, Jerry, Business Instructor. 3-6-87.

Tape #14, Side A and B

Wallace, Arlene, Secretary to the President. May 15, 1987.

A SUGGESTED NAME FOR OUR COLLEGE

Many names, varied and beautiful, come to mind in the effort to define and to identify the projected new campus of Modesto Junior College. For me, though, the choice seems to come right back 'round to one: "Columbia College".

The district in which the college site is located was first called Columbia by the argonauts more than a century ago, and it is so known today. The name "Columbia College" comes naturally. Unless some other California college has pre-empted this name. I think we should claim it forthwith, and for the following reasons:

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historically accurate and significant place names are a cherished part of the heritage of Tuolumne County. In their innate sense of the fitness of things, our founding fathers chose to commemorate three main cultural developments that have contributed most to the growth of California and of our region.

First, and appropriately, they called the county Tuolumne. This word, borrowed from the Miwok, bespeaks the most recent in a succession of Indian cultural groups that occupied this region from prehistoric times on down to the period of recorded history.

Second, there is the Spanish-Mexican culture, which had its beginnings in the sixteenth century and flowered ultimately along the California coast. A local application of the Spanish-Mexican influence is to be found in the name of the county seat: Sonora. This name honors those intrepid Sonorians of Sonora Mexico, who were first to arrive in our area in numbers during the gold rush of 1848.¹

¹The term Sonorian or Sonorinian was generally applied by the argonauts to Mexicans from Sonora and other parts of northern Mexico.

Mines" is also distinctly reminiscent of that other "Columbia: The Gem of the Ocean".

A practical consideration of the name "Columbia: Gem of the Southern Mines" is that it serves to specifically locate and identify Columbia in its unique and enviable relationship to the "Southern Mines" or southernmost sector of the fabled gold-bearing Mother Lode region that had made California the magnet for the great migration. The Southern Mines refers to the sector that is bounded in the north by the Mokelumne River and extends southward as far as the Merced. Columbia's boasted title of Gem of the Southern Mines was, moreover, fairly earned. The Columbia diggins were among the richest in the mines, north or south. The vast subterranean supply of gold that had been deposited here in the tertiary period totaled, finally, an estimated fifty to eighty-seven millions. Under the onslaught of the argonauts it lasted just long enough to permit this mining camp to escape the common fate of oblivion. Though burned to the ground more than once, Columbia rose anew from the ashes, evolving through successive phases, from rag town to frame structures to those fire-resistant buildings of brick and rock which still stand today as reminders of Gold Rush times.

IN CONCLUSION

Columbia College is a name of euphony and grace. It is historically accurate: uniquely and significantly identified as to origin and place. And for those kindred souls, the scholars and their teachers, the name invokes the free and questing spirit of the argonaut and of his predecessor, Columbus: Christopher Columbus, who combined abstract theory with practical test and so sailed west. Of him Joaquin Miller, western poet, wrote, "He gained a world; he gave that world its grandest lesson: 'On! Sail on!' "

by-Dottie Firebaugh

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLUMBIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

1966 - 1969

Background of Yosemite Junior College District

Modesto Junior College, founded in 1921, was the first junior college district formed in California and its boundaries were coterminous with those of the Modesto High School District. Within these forty-eight years this institution has developed into one of the most respected and renowned community colleges in the nation enrolling some 5,000 students.

On July 1, 1966, by an overwhelming majority of its voters, the district was enlarged to include all of Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties and portions of Merced, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara Counties, and was renamed the Yosemite Junior College District. The district stretches over one hundred seventy miles across Central California from the Coast Range on the west to the Sierra Nevada on the east. Because of the growth and the number of potential students in the district, the need for higher education in a remote area, and the distances involved in transportation to existing colleges, the Yosemite Junior College Board of Trustees authorized the formation of a second campus in Tuolumne County and gave it the proud name of Columbia Junior College.

In November, 1966 the voters of this expanded district approved a 30¢ override tax for ten years to be used for construction of the Columbia Junior College campus, the modernization of Modesto Junior College, and the future development of a third campus located in the valley. It should be noted that even before the passage of this override tax, the Yosemite Junior College Board of Trustees had the vision and foresight to begin negotiations for the acquisition of land for Columbia Junior College with the Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Department of Interior. Mr. Donald Brady, President of the Board of Trustees, accepted the land patent transfer at a cost of \$2.50 an acre from Congressman Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson designating 160 acres of forest land surrounding San Diego Reservoir for educational use on July 1, 1967.

Strategically situated on the property is the beautiful San Diego Reservoir from which rolling hills join with the rugged majesty of the Sierras. The campus is adjacent to Columbia State Park in the heart of the historic Mother Lode and is steeped in the heritage of the Gold Rush Days. In this unusual, remote and beautiful setting, the faculty and staff of Columbia Junior College is in the process of developing a program of meaningful academic and occupational education which will be focused on the worth and dignity of each student. These curricula will be developed using the newest and most innovative ideas and are dedicated to serve the educational needs of all citizens of post-high school age residing in the district.

Hopefully, the college will receive state funds approximating 50% of the cost. Construction is scheduled to begin by July 1, 1970.

Buildings included in Phase II construction include the Forestry Technology Building, Heavy Equipment Maintenance and Operation Building, Health Occupations Building, Fire Science Building, and the first building in the Physical Education Center complex, including outdoor areas such as tennis courts, athletic field, basketball areas, etc. The addition of this phase of construction will allow us to begin a meaningful and realistically planned occupational program which has been developed with the advice and under the direction of a group of Tuolumne County Citizens Advisory Committees. These programs will serve the occupational needs of the Mother Lode area.

Residence Halls

It was the district's original desire to interest private financing in developing residence halls and dining commons for the use of Columbia Junior College students. We were not successful in this endeavor although we had complete discussions and tentative commitments from eight different investment groups. On December 3, 1968, the Yosemite Junior College Board of Trustees decided to apply for a low interest loan from the Housing and Urban Development Office to develop residence halls and dining commons to serve at least 150 students. These buildings will probably be under construction in 1969 and will be ready for student use in September, 1970.

Residence halls are an important and necessary component of Columbia Junior College as all surveys and studies have indicated that at least one-third of those students interested in enrolling desire to live in residence halls. With this in mind, it is planned residence halls will be ultimately constructed to house over 700 students.

Entry Roads

Still, a majority of the students will commute by private automobile. The first entrance developed onto the site was by an ingress road from the east off of Sawmill Flat Road. This entrance presents a pleasing introduction to the campus as it traverses through a grove of ponderosa pine. In the future a second road will be developed to the south or southwest and will join either the Sawmill Flat Road or the Columbia-Sonora highway.

An interesting feature of this campus will be that all parking will be located off campus so the vehicles will not be seen. A hill to the east of the campus has been terraced for this purpose. Inasmuch as vehicles will not be allowed into Columbia Junior College, all campus travel will be by foot or bicycle.

Educational Plans

Each instructional space will be constructed at Columbia Junior College

amphitheater and other cultural areas on campus. Cooperation with the business and industrial community will allow the students to become involved in their business organizations for observation, training and work experience and, conversely, will bring the adults from business and industry onto the campus for trade extension and in-service training during the evening hours. Selected expertise from the community's resources will be used by the college as part-time instructors in many occupational areas. In effect, the college's physical facilities will not be limited to the buildings that happen to be located on the campus. We perceive the entire Tuolumne County area as an extension of the learning environment for Columbia Junior College. Examples of occupational areas under consideration for community involvement could include Natural Resource Management, including technicians in fish and game, forestry, conservation, fire science, and outdoor recreation, licensed vocational nursing and nurses' aides; lumber technology; office occupations; aviation program; heavy equipment operation and maintenance; and hotel and resort management. Columbia exists to serve the educational, vocational, and cultural needs of the Mother Lode community and is, indeed, a community college.

Fall 1968 Program

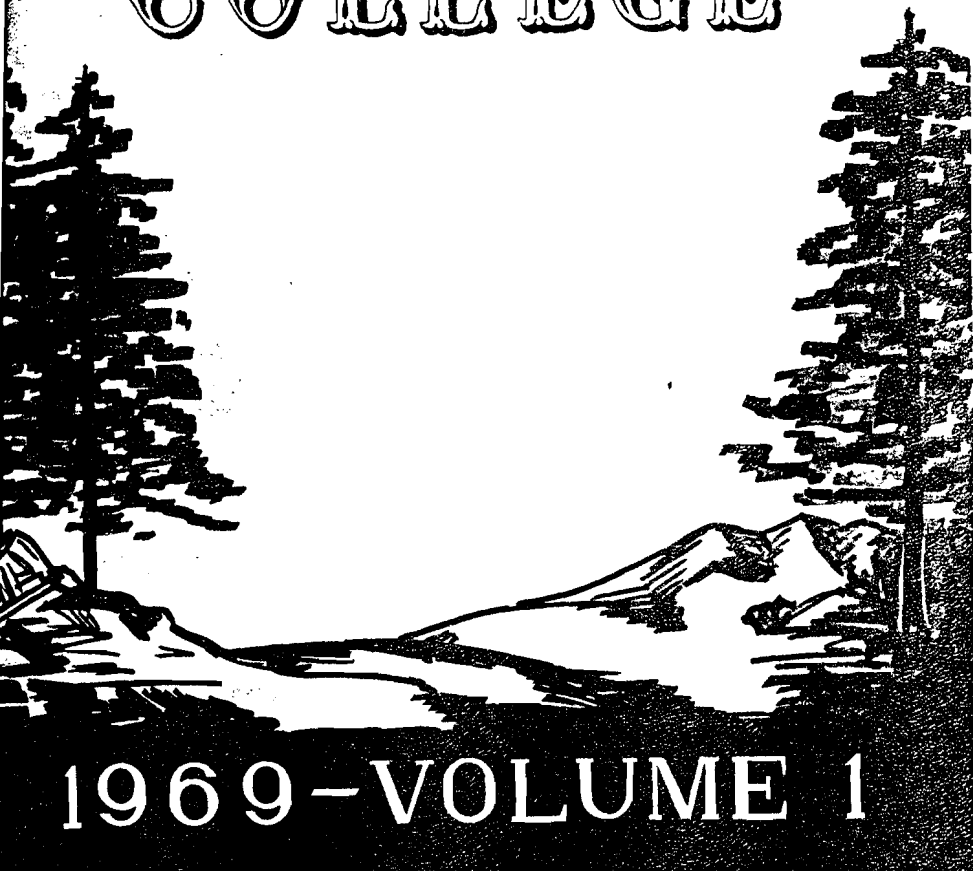
In order to bring an educational program to Tuolumne County at the earliest possible time, it was decided to begin a regular day program before the campus was completed, as well as a continuation of the evening program instituted four years ago. Arrangements were made through the cooperation of Columbia State Park, University of Pacific, and interested citizens to lease Eagle Cottage and the Odd Fellow's Hall for this purpose. In addition, a building was leased on Highway 108 that is used as a temporary business education building. The Tuolumne County Hospital and Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors graciously allowed us to use the hospital basement as a training area for health occupations. Our evening program is housed in these buildings, as well as Sonora High School, Summerville High School, Curtis Creek Elementary School, and other facilities of the community as needed.

Enrollment

The college staff was tremendously gratified that the Fall Quarter of 1968 showed that we had 300 students taking a fulltime load, as well as 759 part-time students taking less than 12 hours, while 81 students were involved in ungraded classes for adults. This meant that a total of 1,140 individuals were involved in the first educational program offered by Columbia Junior College.

Our outstanding instructional staff is composed of 15 imminently qualified instructors that have been brought together from all over the nation. Faculty members are carefully selected on many factors but primarily by their interest in and concern for students. We feel that in order to be an outstanding educational institution, it is necessary to have a very close relationship between faculty and student body. It is our opinion that many of the problems higher education is experiencing in the large urban institutions are brought about by the fact that students generally resent losing their identity as individuals. At Columbia

C O L U M B I A
J U N I O R
C O L L E G E



1969-VOLUME 1



EAGLE
COTAGE

To the First Student Body of Columbia Junior College

Congratulations to each and every one of you for your magnificent efforts and cooperation during the first year of the College's operation. It has been a difficult year as you moved from classrooms in Eagle Cotage and the IOOF Hall in Columbia, the business unit located in Sonora, and attending evening classes located throughout the county, but I'm sure it has been rewarding and most profitable.

This has been a year you will never forget. It has been a fruitful year for many reasons. You have had the opportunity to set patterns for the future for your college as you developed a philosophy for students that accentuated the positive and "let's work" on the negative. You have demonstrated time and time again that you are concerned and interested in your fellow man regardless of who or where he may be. You have become involved with the myriad of problems facing society but have not condescended to the point of violence and destruction, but have joined together to help those who needed assistance and understanding. You have lived by and with the concepts inherent in the Golden Rule. I'm so proud of all of you.

You recognize that you have been blessed by having the opportunity to study with a faculty that I sincerely feel has no peer. They are competent in their discipline, understanding of their students and, above all, real human beings. For the remainder of your life you will be thankful for what they have done for and to you.

For those who will be transferring on to some other senior institution, you have our sincerest wishes for continued success. You all know that the Columbia staff is always ready to assist you in the future, as we have been in the past, if you feel a need for our services. To those of you who will be returning next year, we have much more to accomplish. We look forward with much anticipation as we move onto our beautiful new campus next fall. This year has only been the beginning to a truly dynamic and meaningful college that involves students, faculty, and community in continuing experiences to actively participate in the learning process. It has been a privilege for me to have had the opportunity of working with you.



Harvey B. Rhodes
President, Columbia Junior College



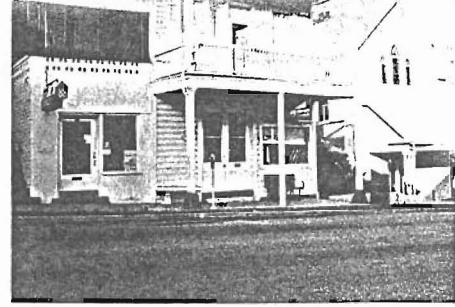


That government is best which governs least
Henry Thoreau



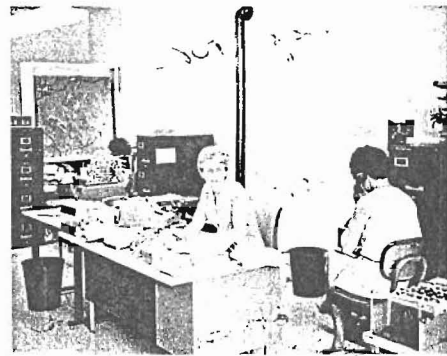
The ideal college consists of a log of wood with an instructor at one end and a student at the other.
Mark Hopkins





Rule a big country as you would fry small fish, let alone, or the fish will become paste by constant turning around

Lao Tse



Quietly be and let it flow





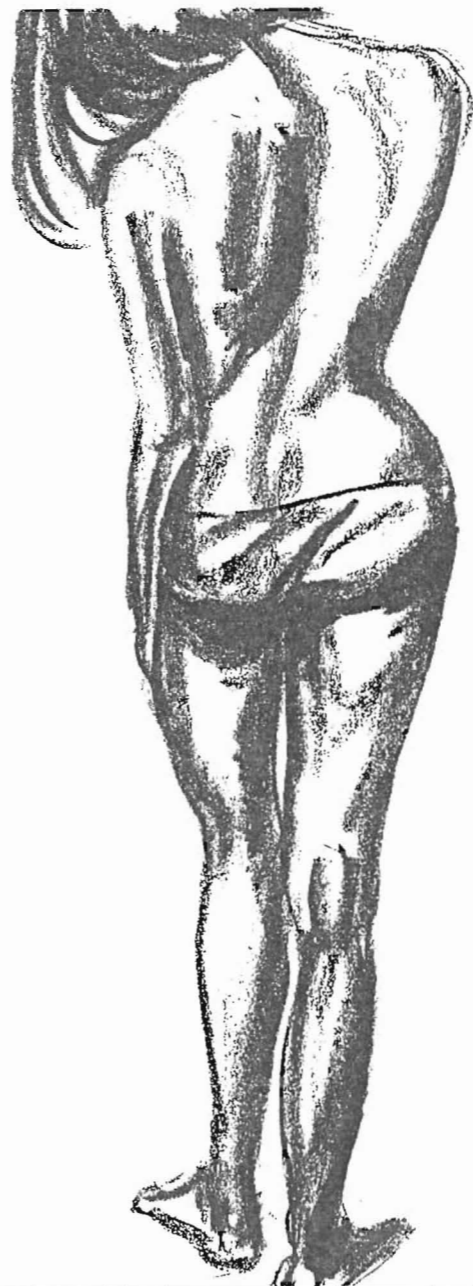
A guest has not to thank the host, but the host the guest.
Russian proverb



Wit is the salt of conversation, not the food.
Hazlitt



4/10/69
Doris



4/10/69
Doris



The present is the key to the past.
Proverb



This island earth is my planet the sun
Grafitti





A world to be born under your footsteps.
St. John Perse



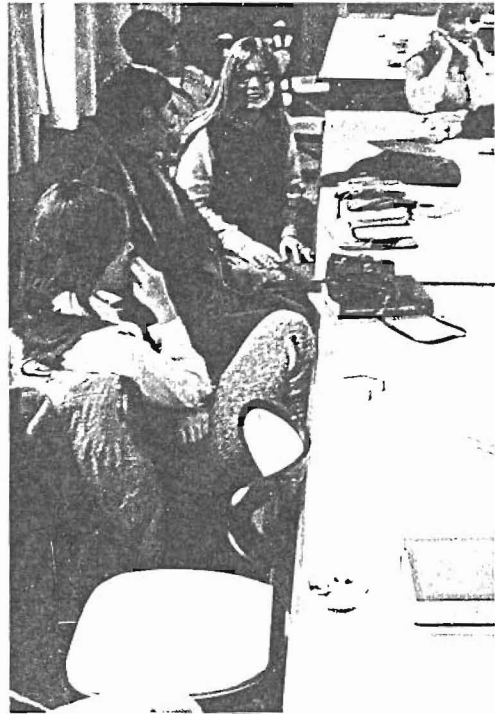
I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves
Thomas Jefferson





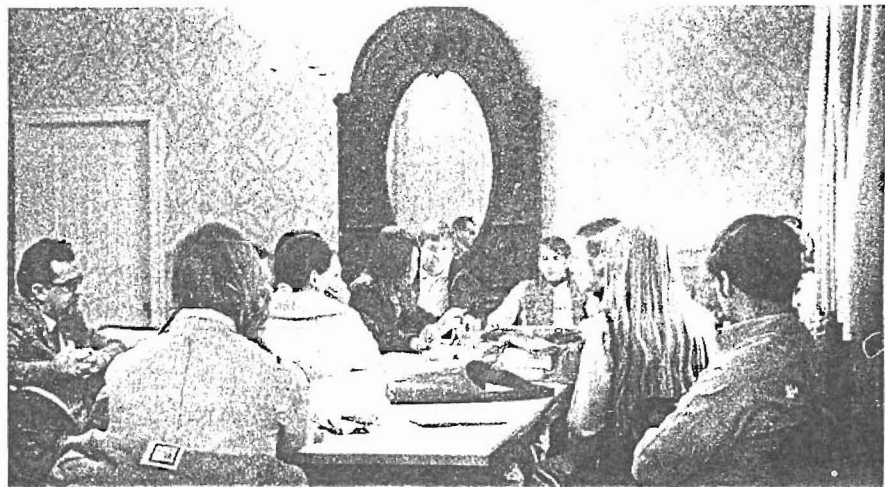
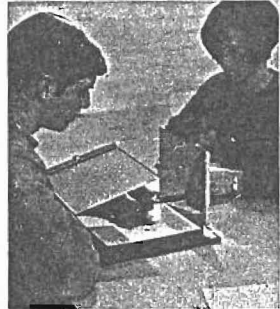
the mind is restless, turbulent, strong and unyielding as difficult to subdue
as the wind

Bhagavad-Gita



Existence is an equilibrium of sorts, a show of envy is an insult to oneself
Another's happiness will expiate for any misfortune you might suffer

Yevgeny Yebtushenko





healeth those that are broken in heart, and giveth medicine to heal their sickness
The Book of Common Prayer



Why that the naked, poor and mangled Peace, / Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyfui
births

Wm Shakespeare in "Henry V"





Everybody's business is nobody's business

Sir Izaak Walton

Life's business being just the terrible choice.

Robert Browning





Education will not happen to him, but with him and by him.
CJC Goals



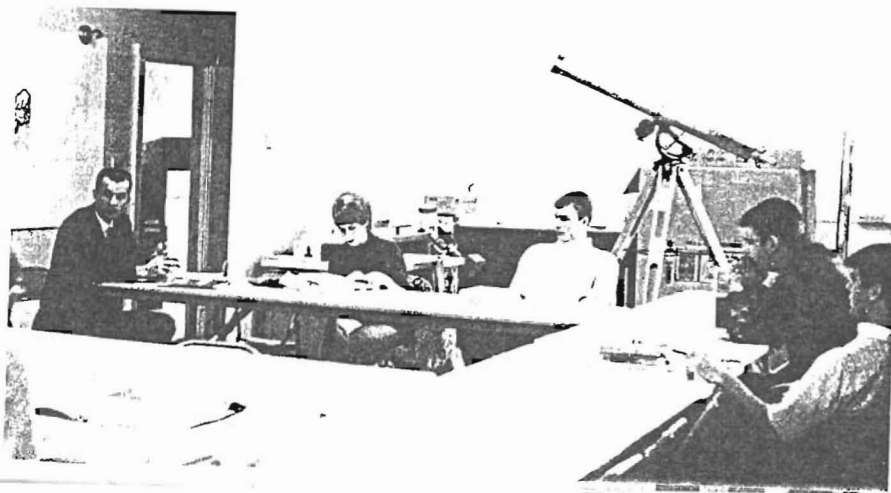
Books, the children of the brain.
Jonathan Swift



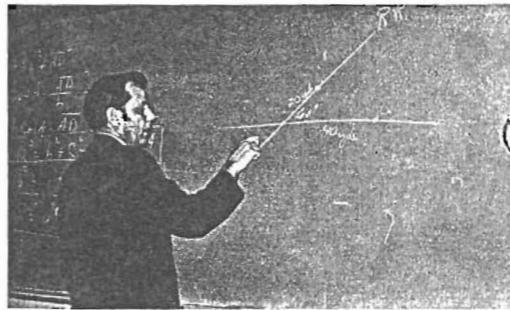
Vertical text or markings at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.



The love of money is the root of all evil.
The Bible



A computer can perform a function in five-billionths of a second.
Pace Magazine





Antiquities are history defaced
Francis Bacon



Clasp the hands and know the thoughts of men in other lands
John Masfield

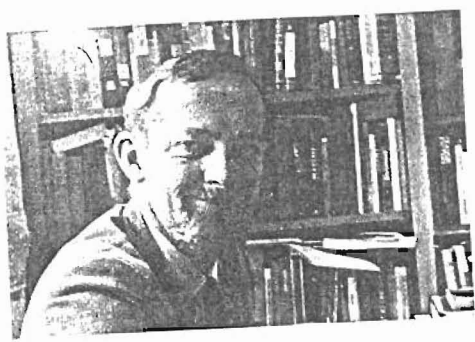


1968



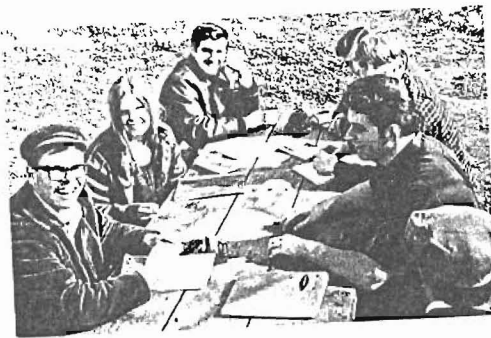
Things could be worse. Suppose your errors were tabulated and published every day, like those of a ball-player

Colton



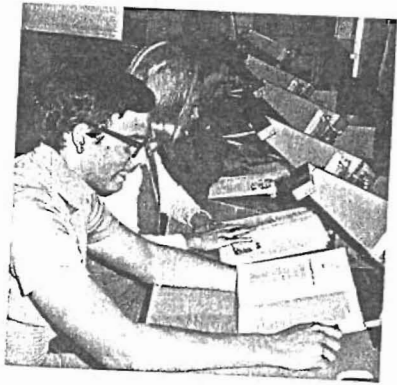
Never is there either work without reward, nor reward without work being expended

Livy





To have read the same book is a bond between two people
Anonymous



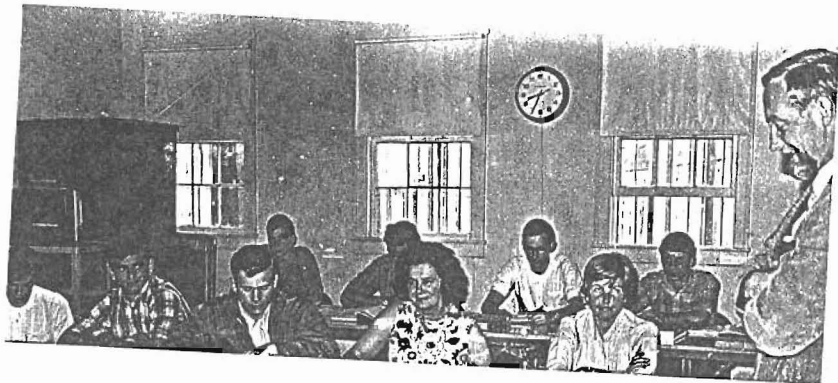
It is necessary to make good acts secure
by means of good acts, so that they
may not fade from the memories of
men.

Cato the Elder





Be careful that you write accurately rather than much.
Erasmus



Speech is the gift to all, but the thought of few.
Cato

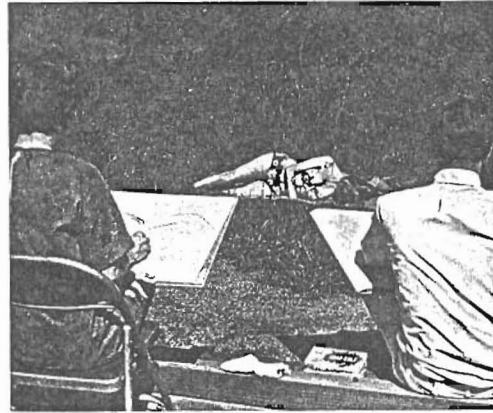


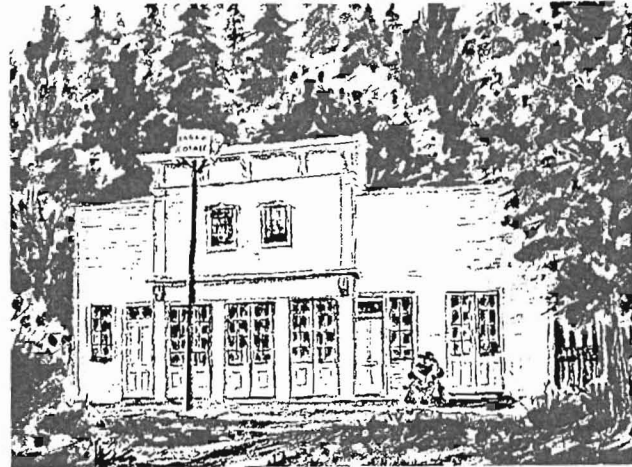
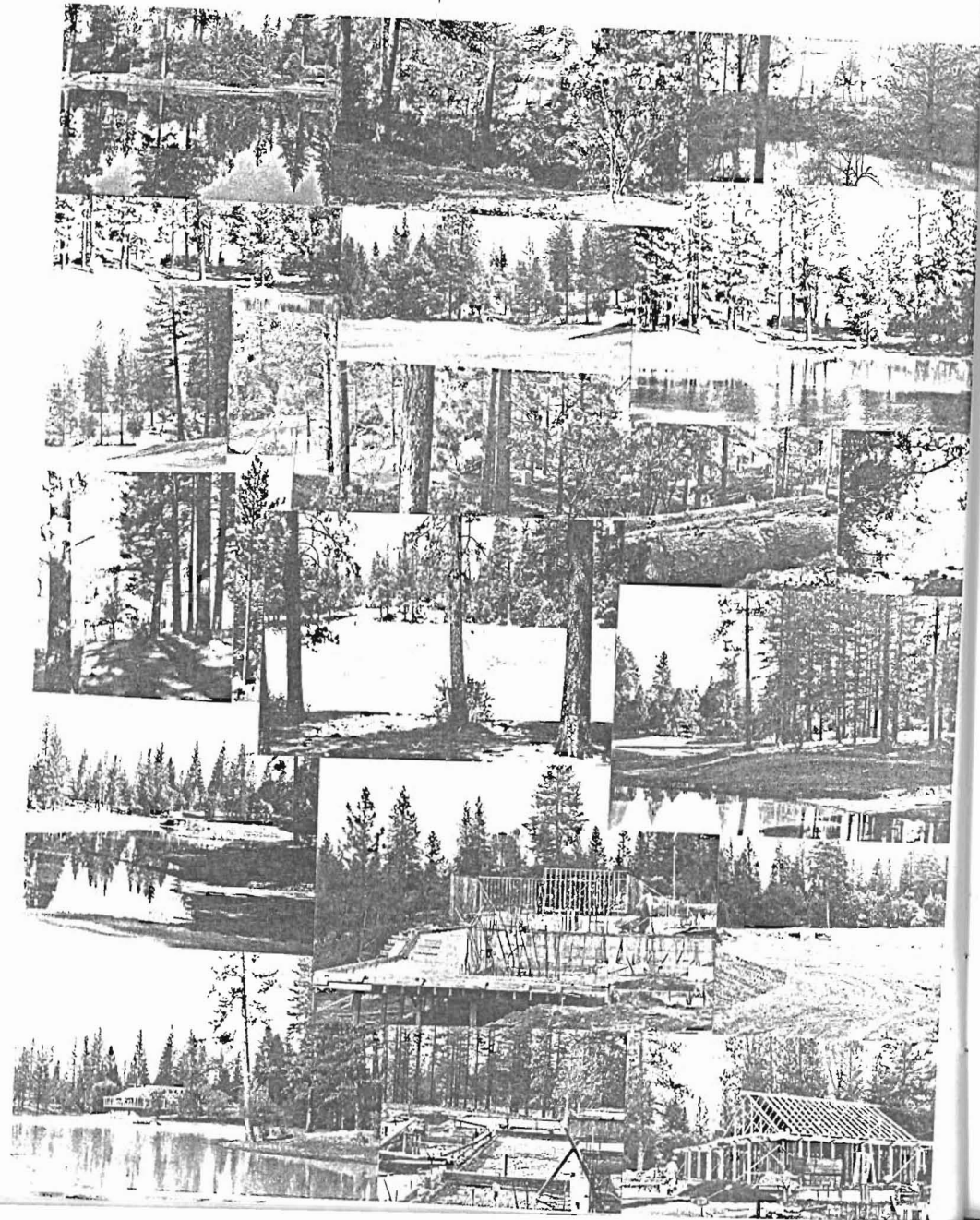


Floris Jansen
4-29-11



He who works with his hands is a laborer, and he who works
with his hands and his head is a craftsman, but he who works
with his hands, his head, and his heart is an artist
St. Francis of Assisi





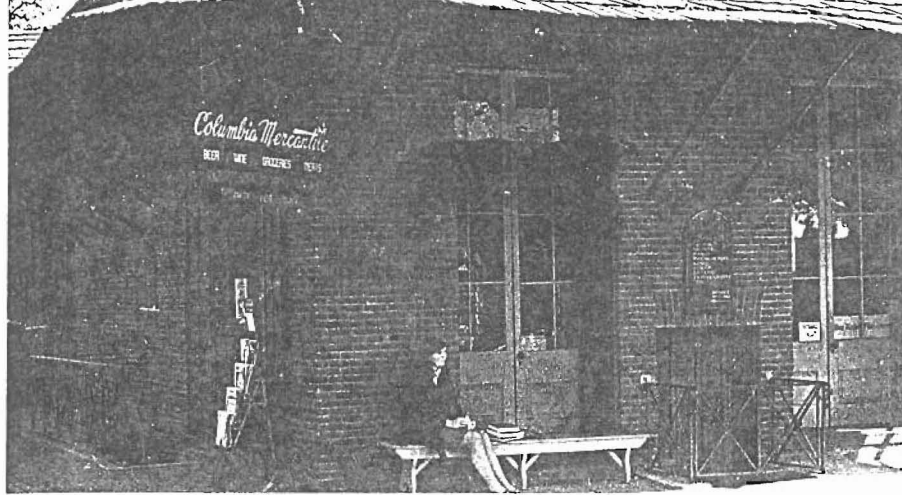
EAGLE COTTAGE - FIRST HOME OF COLUMBIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

You are cordially invited
to attend
the
FIRST ANNUAL GRADUATION
at
COLUMBIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Thursday, June 12, 1969

6:00 p.m.

on campus



COLUMBIA MERCANTILE, COLUMBIA



VERNON MAGNEY, JEWELER, SONORA

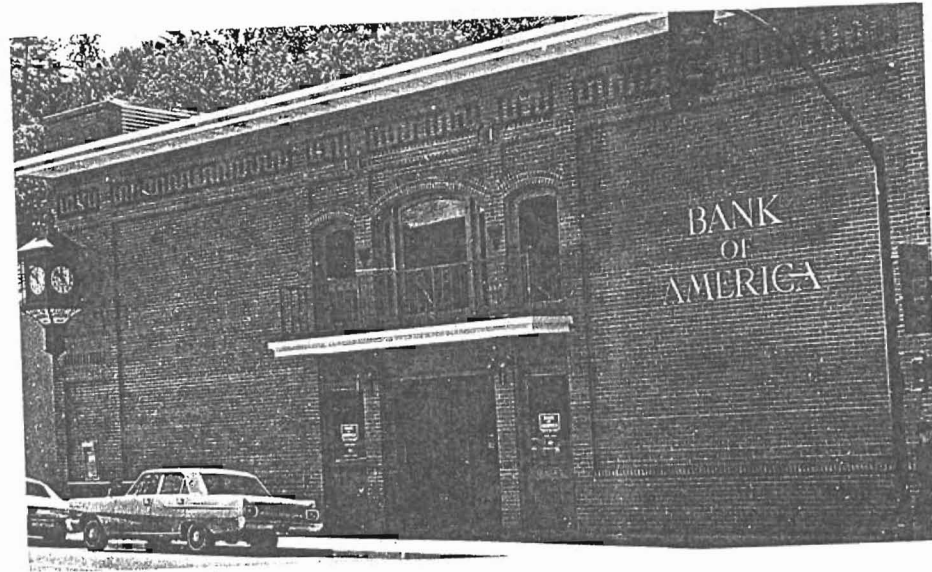
COMPLIMENTS OF
HALES & SYMONS
since 1898



MUNDORF'S HARDWARE, SONORA



CANDY KITCHEN, COLUMBIA



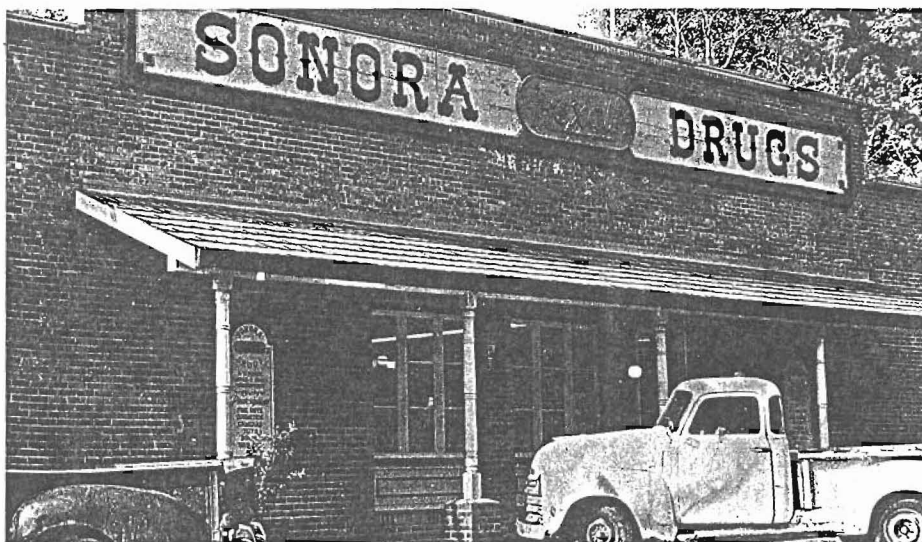
BANK OF AMERICA, SONORA



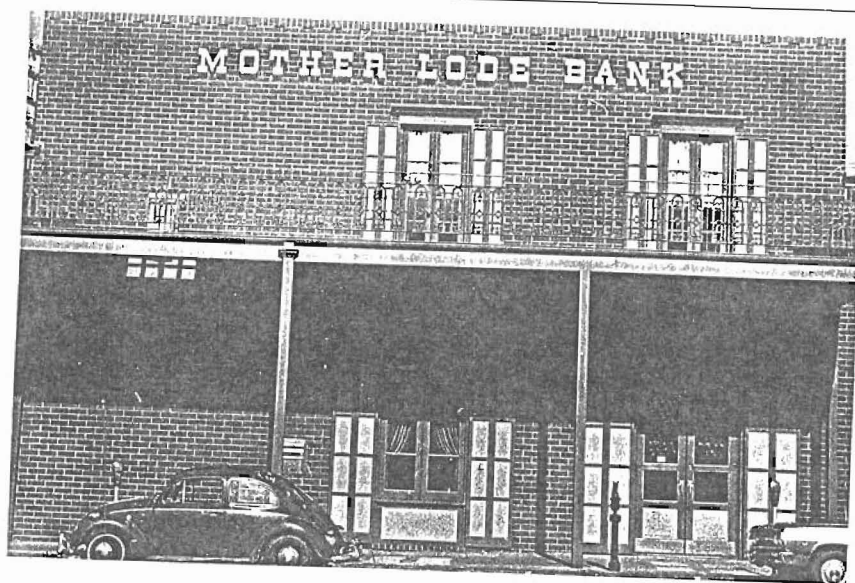
VILLAGE INN – COFFEE SALOON, COLUMBIA



DOC'S MOBIL SERVICE, SONORA



SONORA REXALL DRUGS, SONORA



MOTHER LODE BANK, SONORA



WOLF DRUG, SONORA

PITTS STUDIO, SONORA
PHOTOGRAPHY