

A HISTORY OF THE SANTA PAULA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A Project  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the School of Education  
The University of Southern California

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science in Education

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by  
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## PREFACE

The information herein is dedicated to the Santa Paula Elementary School District authorities and constituents that they may gain insight into coping with its everyday problems. This study also made an attempt to help its readers appreciate the contributions of the early Santa Paula residents to their present educational system.

Grateful acknowledgment is expressed to the people whose help proved invaluable. Superintendent Roland J. Roberts made all district records, booklets, and pictures available. Mrs. Thelma B. Bedell, retired principal and teacher, loaned her typewritten material entitled, "Santa Paula School District Development," as well as numerous newspaper clippings and some of the elementary school dedication bulletins. Mrs. Hazel Lamanno, PTA president of the Barbara Webster PTA during the school year 1959-60, donated her tapes and scrapbooks to be used. The support and encouragement of interested individuals have made this project possible.

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## CHAPTER I

### THE PROBLEM AND PROCEDURE

There is an interesting story to relate concerning the history and development of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. This story should be made available to people who happen for some reason to be interested; an effort has never been made to put this history and valuable information into a chronological sequence. The happenings of the past years have made the present conditions what they are today, and will continue to shape the future.

It was with the above thoughts in mind that this study of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools and its historical existence was undertaken. When any person concerned with this specific subject needs to look into the past for direction, the content of this project may some day be of value. It is also hoped that the appreciation of present residents and future inhabitants will be enriched by the information contained herein.

### Statement of the Problem

The purpose of this study is to gather together the past events that have influenced the growth and development of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. Factors which have contributed to the education of elementary school children from early history up to the present time have been portrayed. To these ends, answers were sought for the following questions:

1. What is the history of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools?
2. What influenced the selections of the school sites?
3. How has school enrollment influenced board decisions?
4. What has been the emphasis guiding the curriculum and school philosophy over the years?
5. What do the financial records reveal about the budgets of the district?
6. What is the history behind the development of the individual schools and their respective names?

### Importance of the Study

No formal history has been kept of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. Interesting facts and valuable information concerning the schools would be of interest to those who have always lived in this area as well as those who come into the district for the first time. My desire is that the administrators, teachers, students and their parents, and all personnel of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools may enjoy this study. It is also hoped that those concerned with future plans and programs of instruction may find this story profitable in making future decisions.

### Sources of Data

This study would not have been undertaken without the help of Thelma B. Bedell who shared an abundance of information regarding the school district and its history. This was supplied by word of mouth, as well as by newspaper articles, dedication pamphlets, and her own paper entitled "Santa Paula School District Development." Pertinent records, pamphlets and materials in the Santa Paula Elementary School Office were made available by Superintendent Roland J. Roberts. These proved to be extremely valuable in providing the historical data that must be used in order to write this paper. The minutes of the district board meetings yielded information regarding curriculum changes

and policy and other relevant historical information. The Dean Hobbs Memorial Library of Santa Paula and the Ventura County Library had only a few available books on this subject, but these few proved invaluable.

### Organization and Procedure of the Study

The purpose of this study is to organize and present interesting and pertinent facts concerning the history and development of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools.

Chapter I gives the purpose and content of the total. It includes the problem, importance of the study, sources of data, and organization and procedure of the study.

Chapter II is a description of the area and the history of Santa Paula.

Chapter III records the history of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools and gives an account of the people for whom they are named.

Chapter IV relates the general tendency of the policies, philosophy and educational procedures of the district.

Chapter V is an attempt to predict the future development of the Santa Paula Elementary School District.

Chapter VI is a summary of the study which has been presented.

## CHAPTER II

### A DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND THE HISTORY OF SANTA PAULA

This chapter deals with the physical description and the development of the Santa Paula area as it grew from a wilderness into an incorporated city of considerable size. It relates important happenings of early inhabitants and industry as well as religious and cultural development. It is necessary to study the community and its growth and development in order to understand its influence on the elementary school district of the locality.

#### The Physical Description of the Area

Santa Paula is located in Ventura County, in the Santa Clara River Valley about fifteen miles east of the Pacific Ocean. It is on State Highway 126, which is a new freeway extending one mile east of Santa Paula, and will eventually connect with U. S. Highway 99. It is bounded on the north by the Coast Range Mountains and on the south by the Santa Clara River, which winds between the hills and flows into the Pacific Ocean. Fillmore is ten miles to the

east and Ventura is fourteen miles to the west. Oxnard is twenty miles to the southwest and Ojai is sixteen miles to the northeast.

The Glen City, as it is often called since the building of the Glen Tavern Hotel in 1913, has an elevation of 268 feet above sea level. It has a mild dry atmosphere, with a cool wind prevailing from the ocean most of the time. The temperature seldom goes above 90 degrees or below 30 degrees. The weather is warm in summer and cool in winter, but extremes of temperature are rarely experienced.

#### The First Inhabitants

"Santa Paula's recorded history starts with the arrival in 1769 of the Portola Expedition. At that time the only inhabitants were a rather low type of Indians known as the Mupu."<sup>1</sup> The Mupu Indians must have been a clan of the Chumash Tribe; it is thought that they were the first inhabitants of the Santa Paula Area. None of these Indians are known to exist today.

It is hard for us to realize nowadays that the hills and valleys of this area were infested with a plentiful supply of various kinds of wild life in the early days.

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<sup>1</sup>Clarence Earle Kelsey, Historical Committeeman, Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce, Stories and Legends of the Santa Clara Valley, 1961, p. 4.

A hundred years ago black bears, grizzly bears, and mountain lions roamed the land. Deer were also plentiful. Wild ducks, valley quail, raccoons and rabbits were found in abundance, and for many years gave the local sportsmen plenty of excitement.

Development of this area began in the late 1700's; the Mission Fathers installed an irrigation system and brought water to this agricultural land for mission use from the Santa Paula Creek. Father Crespi and others on the Portola Expedition called the area Santa Paula as early as 1800, although the Indians originally called it Mupu. This village was also known as Boulder at one time. Survey maps of 1859 mark the spot of the remains of an old chapel in Santa Paula. "In 1850 our valley with less than half a dozen American residents was still a part of Santa Barbara County."<sup>2</sup> Ventura County was established January 1, 1873. At this time the site of Santa Paula was still a wilderness. The city of Santa Paula is entirely within the tract of land known as the Rancho Santa Paula Y Saticoy, which was granted to Manuel Jimeno by the Mexican governor of California. A few other Spanish settlers lived in the area at this time. This land was sold to A. P. More and Associates, then to George W. Briggs for \$40,000 in 1862. "Mr. Briggs intended to lay out Santa Paula as a temperance

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<sup>2</sup>Veve Allee, Santa Paula High Lights, a historical paper, October 13, 1952, p. 3.

town; however, he left the area and never returned. The mineral rights were sold to Mr. Edward Haskell in 1864."<sup>3</sup>

### Industries and Growth of Santa Paula

Agriculture has always been the most important business in this area, the main crops being citrus, walnuts, and lima beans. Oil and livestock have also helped the growth of Santa Paula.

Nathan Weston Blanchard and E. L. Bradley made a trip through the valley in 1865 and were highly impressed with what they saw. Then in 1872 they moved to Santa Paula, Mr. Blanchard with his family. Blanchard and Bradley bought 2,700 acres of land from E. B. Higgins, who had purchased the land from George G. Briggs. The assessed valuation of this land at that time was \$28,518.

Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Bradley planned for a little town site; the land was laid out in lots and were sold. The growth of the little town was very slow at first due to several dry years, followed by several wet years. The only business establishment was a small liquor store as late as 1875. Blanchard and Bradley enlarged the Santa Paula Creek irrigation ditch which the Indian Mission workers had dug. These water rights have belonged to the Santa Paula Water Works since 1891.

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<sup>3</sup>Kelsey, op. cit., p. 5.

In spite of the fact that four historians state that Blanchard and Bradley built the first flour mill at Mill Park in 1871, a year before their arrival, the "Ventura Signal," a newspaper run by John Bradley, reported on July 22, 1871: "The Santa Paula Mill has been stopped for repairs on the reservoir. Mr. Higgins informs us that he will be ready for milling in a week or two, of which due notice will be given." November 4, 1871: "The Santa Paula Mill is again running and turning out a fine quality of meal, graham flour, etc. Mr. Higgins informs us that he is preparing to manufacture flour." October 18, 1872: "Bradley and Blanchard have the ground cleared off for their new flouring mill at the Santa Paula Creek. As soon as the required material can be had, its erection will be commenced and vigorously pushed until completed." February 1, 1873: "A large amount of machinery brought around the Horn was delivered by the S. S. Kalorama for Bradley and Blanchard's new flouring mill at Santa Paula. Mr. Blanchard informs us that they will soon be in running order." May 17, 1873: "The new flouring mill at Santa Paula is now in active work. We will tell what a fine three story mill they have, with its power working turbine, propelled by a large stream of water."<sup>4</sup>

The mill had four runs of stone from two to four feet in diameter. An excellent grade of flour was produced at first, but in later years they made only rolled barley. This mill ran successfully until 1888 when it burned down and was not rebuilt. There is now a well at the south end of Mill Park which furnishes water to part of the city.

There has never been a shortage of water in Santa Paula due to the foresight of the people responsible for the two water companies; the Thermal Belt Water Company and the Santa Paula Water Works were incorporated in 1891.

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., pp. 4-5.

There were 1,500 shares of stock valued at \$100 a share. All of these were acquired by Nathan Blanchard and E. L. Bradley. The Thermal Belt Water Company and the Limoneira Company were both incorporated in 1893; one depended on the other. Blanchard and Bradley allowed the Thermal Belt Water Company to own all the stock in the Santa Paula Water Works. The Thermal Belt Water Company was organized to supply water at cost to its stock owners but the company was given no capital stock value. The manager of these water companies was twenty-year-old Charles Collins Teague. He also became manager of the Limoneira Corporation in 1899 and was most successful in his undertakings.

Nathan Blanchard and E. L. Bradley set out the first orange tree in the Santa Paula area in 1874--100 acres of seedling oranges that were budded to valencia oranges and lemons. Blanchard is credited with the first large orange production in this area, as Bradley died in 1885. The daily newspaper in "Our Yesterday" reports on the Blanchard orange crop of 1892 as follows: "Seventy-five years ago, January 1892. The fruit crop this season from the orchards of N. W. Blanchard of Santa Paula will fill 75 to 100 cars with each carload worth \$800."<sup>5</sup> Blanchard and Bradley made extensive contributions in grain production and sheep raising. Walnut groves and lima bean

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<sup>5</sup>Star Free Press, January 31, 1967.

fields flourished a few years later. Oil was discovered in the vicinity in 1880. "The Hardison and Stewart Oil Company was formed in the 1880's and by 1889 had fifty pumping wells, averaging 700 barrels a day. In 1890 it was reorganized and merged into the Union Oil."<sup>6</sup> The Santa Clara Valley, from Newhall to Ventura, is the birthplace of the California oil industry. In 1887 the Southern Pacific Railroad built a branch line through the city, from Saugus to Montalvo.

On April 22, 1902 Santa Paula became an incorporated city of the sixth class, with an operating board of five trustees. The planning commission now has a seven-man board, but it was first set up on a five-man basis. In 1927 the Council-Mayor system was instituted, the mayor being elected by the five-man council. The city operated as a general law city of the sixth class. In 1951 the city council installed the city administrative class; this has made the city government more efficient.

In 1903 the volunteer fire department was organized as a result of a disastrous fire that destroyed the Santa Paula business district from Davis Street to Eighth. In 1935 the present fire station was built, and an addition was added in 1958. The present police station was built in 1951 and the modern structure is a source of pride to the

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<sup>6</sup>Allee, op. cit., p. 1.

community. In 1958 the present City Hall was built, and plans have been made to build a City-County Court Building as part of the Civic Center Project.

Religious and Cultural Development  
of Santa Paula

"Right from the start it was fortunate to be under the guidance of people who were concerned with spiritual, cultural, and educational well-being of their community; as well as its economic aspects."<sup>7</sup> The Baptists were the first denomination to organize a church in Santa Paula. In 1878 they had a building and an enrollment of thirteen members. Today there are more than two dozen churches in this city of approximately 16,000.

In 1882 the first public grammar school was opened; today there are eight public elementary schools in Santa Paula. In 1889 the Santa Paula Academy was opened and operated for two years, a private school with two teachers. In 1891 it was sold to the city for \$8,000 and became the Santa Paula High School. The Dean Hobbs Blanchard Memorial Library, financed by Nathan Blanchard as a memorial to his son, was opened to the public in 1910.

In 1958 the Thille family gave \$350,000 as a memorial to Nick Thille for the purpose of building the

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 5.

Santa Paula Memorial Hospital. The ten-acre site was given by the Teague-McKevett ranchers; later they gave an additional sixteen acres. This picturesque spot is on the hillside in the northern part of town overlooking the rest of the city as well as the Santa Clara Valley.

#### Disasters of the Glen City

Eighteen hundred eighty-seven was a dry year, and it is said three-fourths of the stock died in the area. In the middle of December in 1883, the east wind blew hot and strong for nearly a month. Everything dried up and dust clouds hung over the valley until South Mountain could barely be seen. Santa Paula residents expected another dry year, but they were wrong. The big rain started on January 26, 1884, and by February 8, sixteen inches of rain had fallen. In March ten more inches of rain fell, and for the season forty inches of rain were recorded. There was much suffering, damages, and financial losses caused by this freak season of nature. An interesting report given in Clarence Kelsey's booklet is as follows:

The hard packed ground of the hog pens on the John Cummings Ranch became so soft that the hogs climbed one on top of another, the bottom hogs sank into soft earth and suffocated. The men tore down buildings to get boards to support as many hogs as possible.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Kelsey, op. cit., p. 9.

*March 13*  
The St. Francis Dam broke in September of 1928, taking the lives of hundreds as the flood swept through the Santa Clara River Valley and over the southern portion of town on its way to the ocean. This enormous wave of destruction carried numerous homes and other buildings as well as herds of livestock down the riverbed, and dumped most of the accumulation into the Pacific Ocean. This disaster necessitated extensive reconstruction and clean-up, and it greatly affected the lives of all the inhabitants of the area.

#### Summary

The excellent location of Santa Paula has helped give it incentive for growth. Since the late 1700's when its only inhabitants were the Indians, its growth and development has been from a wild valley to a rich agricultural center, with the well-earned title, "The Lemon Capital of the World." "February 1892, a Santa Paula rancher claims he cut 300 lemons from a single tree this week, and in November he cut 200 from the same tree, which still has about 500 left on its branches."<sup>9</sup>

The Mission Fathers started the development of the city by overseeing Indian workers as they built a small mission and installed a primitive irrigation system. This

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<sup>9</sup>Star Free Press, February 7, 1967.

period was of short duration; the mission reverted back to nature.

The irrigation system was rebuilt and improved for the purpose of running the old mill in 1871. Due to the foresight of early settlers of Santa Paula the water supply has always been adequate.

Agriculture has always been the leading industry of Santa Paula with the oil industry running a close second. Manufacturing firms of the city produce corrugated boxes, underwear, building materials, industrial silencers, sheet metal and oil tool products. Modern packing plants process oranges, lemons, and avocados of the surrounding countryside. In 1880 oil was discovered in the area and has always greatly aided the economy. Santa Paula is the birthplace of the Union Oil Company which was founded October 17, 1890. The history is well preserved in the California Oil Museum at the corner of Tenth and Main Streets. This museum is a treasure chest of oil history, data and equipment. All the lumber used in the museum, which was the original home office of the Union Oil of California, was shipped around the Horn in the 1880's and milled at the site.

Santa Paula is the geographical center of Ventura County in the fertile Santa Clara Valley. It escapes the congestion and tensions which plague so many modern cities, yet it is only a short, easy drive from metropolitan areas.

This beautiful city has a climate that is a mediterranean marvel. The weather is usually pleasant and is air conditioned, a courtesy of the Pacific Ocean. It is favored by its superb natural setting and a sound and growing economy.

## CHAPTER III

### THE HISTORY OF THE SANTA PAULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A study of the Santa Paula Elementary School District's development makes it apparent that the growth has been one of gradual expansion. It has escaped the rapid growth of other city elementary school districts in Ventura County, but for the last decade it has continued to grow at the rate of about a hundred students per year.

Roland J. Roberts is the present superintendent of Santa Paula Elementary Schools, and he has capably served in this capacity since 1959. His office is now located at 506 West Main Street. The eight public schools in the district and their locations are: McKeveitt School, 955 East Pleasant Street; Barbara Webster School, 1150 Saticoy Street; Isbell School, 221 South Fourth Street; Grace S. Thille School, 1144 Ventura Street; Blanchard School, 115 Peck Road; Glen City School, 141 Steckel Drive; and Cerebral Palsy School, Eleventh and Santa Paula Streets.

This chapter deals with specific growth and development of each individual school of the district, and with

the history of the particular prominent citizens whose names the schools carry. It also includes the Cerebral Palsy School and elementary schools of the district that have vanished from the sites they once occupied.

### Santa Paula's First School

Santa Paula's first school is thought to have been on the very spot where Glen City School is located, 141 Steckel Drive and West Main Street. At that time, about the year 1873, there was no school district. The first school was a private school located on the private property of an early pioneer who paid a teacher to instruct all the children who lived near enough to attend.

Jefferson Crane was a pioneer who came to the area in 1861 to work with George Briggs, his uncle. Mr. Crane built a home in Santa Paula in 1868. He wrote a historical paper stating that "the first school was held in a small building standing on what is now Dana Teague's lemon orchard and it was taught by Miss Augusta Stevens."<sup>1</sup> Miss Stevens taught in several Ventura County Schools both before and after her work as Santa Paula's first teacher. Mrs. Thelma B. Bedell, a Santa Paula resident who for many years was teacher, principal and curriculum co-ordinator of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools, wrote the following in

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<sup>1</sup>Jefferson Crane, Historical Paper, Ventura County Pioneer Historical Museum, 1923, p. 3.

a paper entitled, Santa Paula's School District Development: "It's quite possible that Santa Paula's first school was on Briggs property, since Mr. Briggs owned and laid out 20 acre plots in what later was to become Santa Paula Township under N. W. Blanchard's planning."<sup>2</sup>

### Santa Paula's First Public Schools

The first Public School of Santa Paula was located at 1075 East Main Street (then Mupu Street), near Tenth Street, in the year of 1876. This school house, which was built as a dwelling, had one large main room and a small anteroom. The teachers in this school in the years of 1876, 1877 and 1878 were Mr. Crumrine, Mr. Alvord, and Mr. and Mrs. Bartolet, respectively. Mr. Elijah Boor was also an early teacher in this first public school of Santa Paula; he taught in 1879 with Mrs. Guiberson as his assistant. The available historical literature mentions that Mr. Giberson was also a teacher before 1879; although no certain year is given, it was probably in 1875. It does give an account of his tragic death, the result of a rattlesnake bite.

The building that was used for the Santa Paula Public School house was moved from Main Street to the corner of Yale and Mill Streets, the present Santa Paula

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<sup>2</sup>Thelma B. Bedell, Santa Paula School District Development, Curriculum Department, December, 1960, p. 1.

City Hall site. It was used as a school for upper-division students until the construction of the Ventura Street School in 1882. At that time it was moved across the Santa Clara River and used as a dwelling.

A three-room house was constructed on Main Street to replace the little house that was used for Santa Paula's first public school. This new building was used for Santa Paula's Public Primary School for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Everman taught here with Mrs. Guiberson as an assistant; this must have been in the years 1880 and 1881. Miss Victoria Shore taught the primary children there in 1882. On Sunday religious groups of the city met in the building for services; the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Southern Methodists each used the building one Sunday a month. It is thought when the Old South Grammar School was occupied in 1898 this old house reverted to a dwelling.

#### The Old Ventura Street School

"Santa Paula had, in 1881, a hotel, a flowering mill, one liquor store, one drug store, a general merchandiser; there were also a boot and shoe shop, a justice of peace and a constable, but no school house."<sup>3</sup> The next year Santa Paula was said to be second in size to San Buena-Ventura and to have a fine school house and a good

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<sup>3</sup>Thompson and West, History of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, California, p. 10.

school. This was the Ventura Street School which was built in 1882, where the post office parking lot is now located. The upper grades were taught in this building by Mr. T. O. Toland, who later became a prominent California attorney and judge. "On December 15, 1883, there appeared the following item in the County Recorder's Records: 'N. W. Blanchard and Mary E. Bradley to Santa Paula School District. Lot for school house in Santa Paula. Consideration--\$600.00.'"<sup>4</sup> It is thought that the property referred to is the land on the south side of Ventura Street where the Santa Paula City Hall is now located. This was the spot where the original Main Street one-room house, used as a school, had been moved to be used as an upper-grade classroom until 1882. The Ventura Street School, the first school building constructed in Santa Paula, was moved across Ventura Street to the south side soon after this purchase was made. This old city school was in use until 1952, when the Glen City School Building was completed and a new wing had been added to the Barbara Webster School. It was at this time that the old Ventura Street School building was torn down and the present Santa Paula City Hall was built on the site.

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<sup>4</sup>Bedell, op. cit., p. 5.

### The Old South Grammar School

The Old South Grammar School was constructed and occupied in 1898, on the north side of Ventura Street at the one hundred block on South Mill Street. This is where the Ventura Street School was built and originally stood before it was moved across the street, and where the Santa Paula Post Office parking lot is now located. The old school was a two-story frame building, adequate for all the students in the city of grades three through eight. The first and second graders attended the Ventura Street School across the street. Allegedly 200 elementary children were attending these two schools in 1898.

Two sisters, Mrs. Barbara Miller Webster and Miss Elsie Miller, came to the Old South Grammar School to do their first teaching in Santa Paula. Both of these women were teachers and administrators in the Santa Paula Elementary Schools until retirement. Barbara Webster was later honored when an elementary school was named for her. Miss Fannie Merry became the principal of the Old South Grammar School in the year of 1920. She had been a professor at a Teachers Training Institute in Boston. Miss Merry proved to have new educational ideas and the ability to launch them. A departmentalized program, a teacher for each subject, was adopted that year, and all the children of grades four through eight participated.



Fig. 1.--McKevett School facing Pleasant Street in 1967.

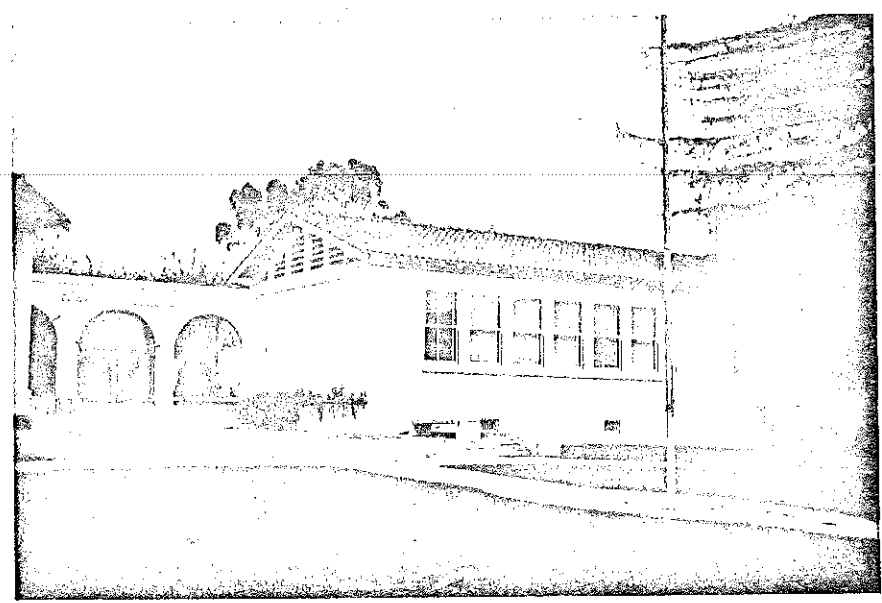


Fig. 2.--McKevett School showing the redwood tree.

It was in the Old South Grammar School in 1915 that Miss Lucy Youngman joined the Santa Paula Elementary Staff as an art teacher. Mrs. Bedell relates interesting details concerning Miss Youngman and another young lady.

The young applicants were met at the train, taken to trustees' homes for interviews, where they were asked questions covering all facts of their lives, not just academic qualifications, and then they visited our schools. The superintendent, Mr. Charles D. Jones, introduced them to various classes, and when he got to the eighth grade, he asked the students to vote on their choice as art teacher. Miss Youngman was chosen and got the job. It may have been a combined opinion of the board and the students, but Miss Youngman still remembers this particular eighth grade class with affection.<sup>5</sup>

Miss Youngman was a teacher for many years in the Santa Paula System and has continued to make her home in Santa Paula. The Superintendent of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools, Mr. Charles D. Jones, had his office in the Old South Grammar School building from 1898 to 1926. It was the year of 1926 that this old school building was abandoned and the students were transferred to the newly-built Isbell School.

#### McKevett School

In 1911, Mrs. C. H. McKevett gave land surrounded by Pleasant, Mill, Virginia Terrace and Tenth Streets for a school to be built. The school was known as North Grammar School. Mr. William Hudson was the contractor and this

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<sup>5</sup>Bedell, op. cit., p. 6.

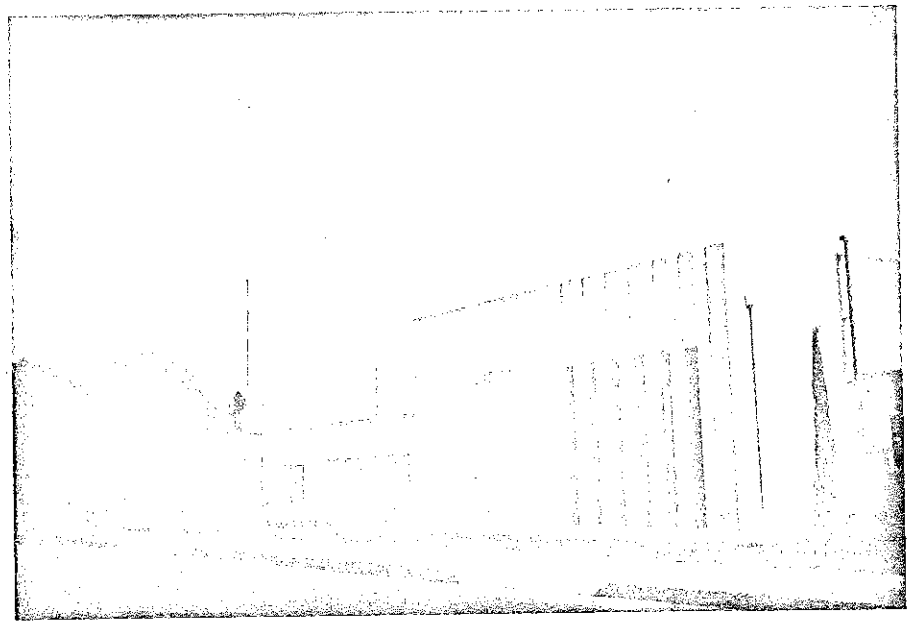


Fig. 3.--Barbara Webster School on Saticoy Street, 1967.

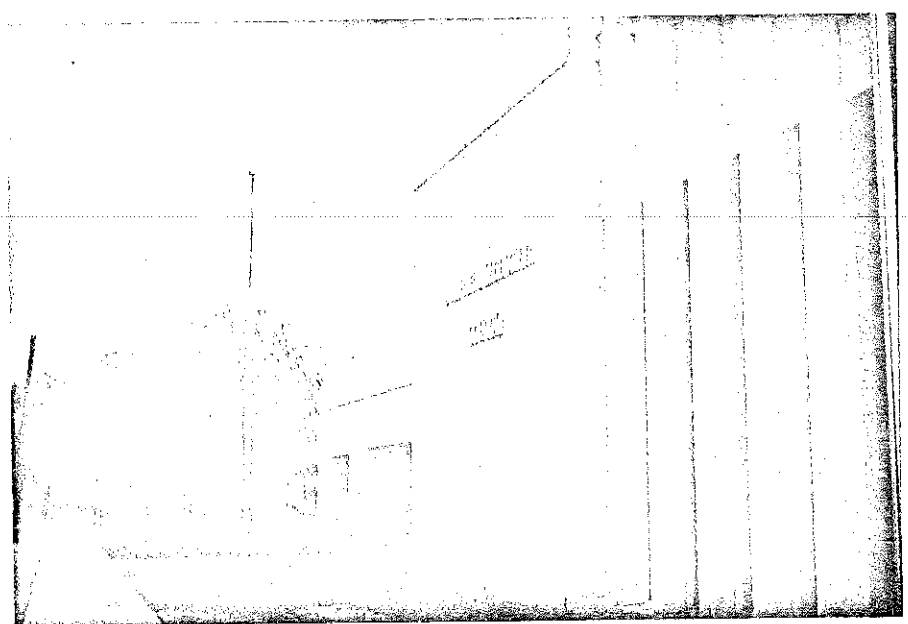


Fig. 4.--Barbara Webster School, a closer view.

eight-room school received a national award because it was the best planned school built in the United States in the year of 1911. The school was renamed to the McKeveitt School in honor of Mrs. McKeveitt in 1927. Participants in the dedication program were the principal, Thelma B. Bedell, the Superintendent of the Santa Paula Schools, George Bond, the contractor, William Hudson, members of the McKeveitt family, and the pioneer section of the Santa Paula Ebell Club.

A kindergarten unit was built at the McKeveitt School in 1929. This was planned by Miss Elsie Martin, kindergarten teacher, and the architect, Roy Wilson. Four classrooms were added in 1938, and the school was completely modernized in 1952.

A memory garden of camellias was planted in the patio to commemorate Superintendent George Bond. This honor was bestowed by friends who realized this man's great love of nature. Native California flowers and shrubs were planted here also to provide a learning situation for the interested of the school. The landscape was planned by a California naturalist, Theodore Payne.

There are 334 children enrolled in the McKeveitt School this year (1966), with twelve classrooms of grades kindergarten through three. There are two classrooms of special classes. Mrs. Wilma Turchik is the principal, and has been for the past four years.

### Barbara Webster School

Barbara Miller Webster, for whom Barbara Webster School was renamed, became the principal of that school when it was first built in 1925, and served in this capacity until her retirement in 1948. This school was known as the Canyon School until it was renamed in Mrs. Webster's honor. Barbara Webster started teaching in the Santa Paula Elementary School in 1911 when she accepted a teaching position at what is now McKeveatt School; at that time the school was known as the Old North Grammar School. She taught there until the year of 1915 when she went with her family to live in Utah. After her husband died in 1918, Mrs. Webster returned to Santa Paula and resumed her teaching career at the McKeveatt School. She taught for several more years, and was teacher-principal for a few years before accepting the responsibility of principal of McKeveatt School. She was principal in the McKeveatt School until she accepted the position of the first principal of the Canyon School in 1925.

Barbara Webster was born in Sparta, Illinois, on September 3, 1883. She came to California to go to San Jose Normal School. After graduating in 1906, she accepted her first teaching position at Saticoy. She was married in 1913 to D. A. Webster, editor of the Santa Paula Chronicle.

This Santa Paula educator organized the first group

of Camp Fire Girls in Santa Paula. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, a member of the National Retired Teachers' Association, and a charter member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She belonged to the Presbyterian Church, the Santa Paula Chapter of the Eastern Star No. 185, and to the Soroptimist Club. She was one of the founders of the Santa Paula Ebell Club, serving as its president in 1915. She was an active worker in these organizations until her death at eighty years of age.

Many Mexican families moved to Santa Paula in the early 1920's to work in citrus, walnut and field crops. The Canyon School was built at 1150 Saticoy Street, in the Mexican section of the city, with their needs in mind. Classes were developed especially for the Spanish-speaking children and were taught for several years, as long as they seemed to be needed. The Mexican parents were taught citizenship, health, and homemaking. The PTA meetings were held in Spanish for many years at this school because many Mexican parents could neither speak nor understand the English language.

In 1948, Thelma B. Bedell became the Barbara Webster School principal and served until 1960 when Arthur Phelan took over the responsibility. Dr. Phelan accepted a position in the State Department of Education in 1962, and Guy Spracklen was the new principal for two years. Mr. Spracklen is now in charge of Educational Services and

Personnel. Mr. Eugene Marzec became principal for the school year of 1964-65. William Schaffer is the present principal of the Barbara Webster School and the Cerebral Palsy School. Mr. Robert O. Funk is the Vice-Principal.

When the Barbara Webster School was first built in 1925, there were eight classrooms, two restrooms and an office. A few years later a bungalow was moved onto the grounds and used for the cafeteria. Additions to the school were built in 1934 and again in 1936. Six new classrooms, a cafetorium with a seating capacity of 400, and new offices were constructed in 1952. There are now twenty-one classrooms, adequate restroom facilities, office space, and the cafetorium at the Barbara Webster School. Six hundred twenty are enrolled at the present time.

#### Isbell School

Mrs. Isaac (Olive Mann) Isbell, for whom Isbell School was named, was a pioneer Santa Paulan. She was the first public school teacher in California. In Santa Clara, on December 15, 1846, she opened the first public school of California in a converted stable. She had several students but only a half dozen McGuffey's readers, a few arithmetic and geography books, quill pens, and three slates.

The next spring in Monterey, she taught fifty-six students in a room over the town calaboose. Two-thirds of these children were Spanish-speaking Mexicans, a language

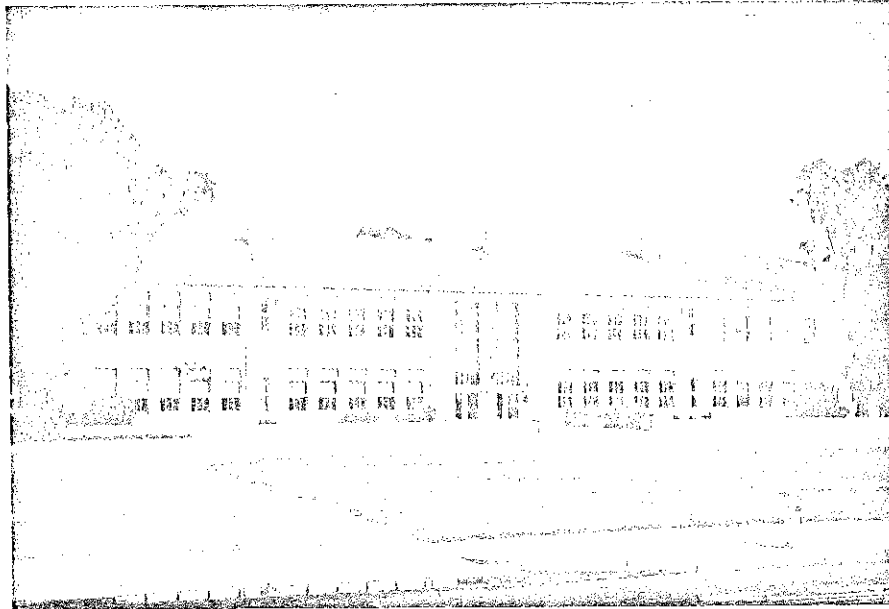


Fig. 5.--Isbell School facing 4th Street in 1967.

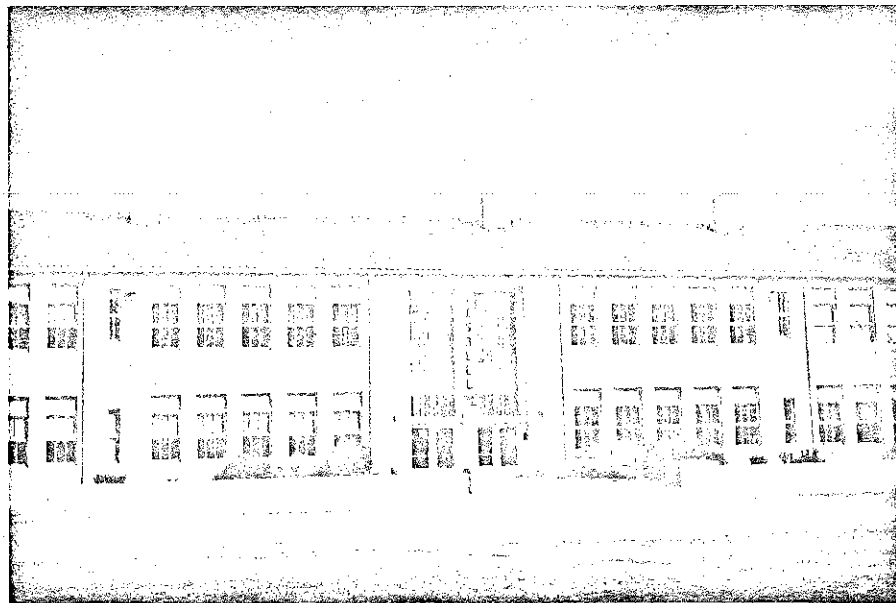


Fig. 6.--Isbell Shop in the foreground and Art Building in the background.

*to be exchanged later*

that she could neither speak nor understand.

Olive Mann Isbell was a relative of Horace Mann, the educator, and the daughter of Warren Mann. She was born on August 8, 1824, in Ashtabula, Ohio. When she was twenty-two years old, she married Dr. Isaac C. Isbell and they set out for California in a caravan of twenty-four wagons. They miraculously escaped the fate of the Donner Party by a last-minute decision not to team up with them; they put their trust in a Truckee Indian guide who took them to the Humbolt sink. The men of this party were persuaded to join General Fremont in the war against Mexico, with the exception of Dr. Isbell who was left in charge of the women and children. When the war was over, the remainder of the party went on to Santa Clara. In the spring the Isbells moved to Monterey. Then after purchasing land in San Jose, they lived on the ranch in a log cabin. Mrs. Isbell cooked for the men who were on their way to the Sutter's Fort and Stockton gold mines. She often took care of their gold and had, on occasions, 150 pounds of ore hidden in the cabin. Dr. Isbell sold the Indians beads and raisins, pound for pound, in trade for gold. Dr. and Mrs. Isbell moved to Texas and accumulated land and cattle valued at \$75,000. This they had to leave behind because when the Civil War erupted these two Union sympathizers escaped into Mexico toward the hangman's noose from the South. They went to Mazatlan and took a steamer

to San Francisco. In 1865 the Isbells moved to Santa Paula. Dr. Isbell died in 1866 and Mrs. Isbell died on March 26, 1899, at 74 years of age.

This item came from the Ventura Star Free Press on Thursday, March 2, 1967, in "Our Yesterdays" column:

Seventy-five years ago, March 1897. Mrs. Olive M. Isbell of Santa Paula was honored as the first public school teacher in California. She taught at the Santa Clara Mission School in 1846. Mrs. Isbell says she once entertained Kit Carson and Gen. John C. Fremont in her home.<sup>6</sup>

Isbell School was constructed in the years of 1925 and 1926, at the corner of Fourth and Harvard Streets. It boasted of twenty-one classrooms, an auditorium, a cafeteria and administrative facilities. Children of the old South Grammar School were to attend the newly built Isbell School of Fourth Street and Harvard Boulevard. A few days after the Isbell School was completed in February 1926, and at the end of a farewell assembly at the Old South Grammar School, the teachers and pupils of grades one through eight walked to their new classroom at the Isbell School. Miss Fannie Merry, who had been Principal of the Old South Grammar School, was now the Isbell School Principal. Grades six through eight had a departmentalized program. This school was dedicated to the community in this same month, February 1926, with the following groups presiding: the Adolph Camarillo Family, the Pioneer

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<sup>6</sup>Star Free Press, March 2, 1967.

Section of the Ebell Club, and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

"1824--1899

In Memory of Olive Mann Isbell

First American School Teacher in California"

This is a copy of the plaque that was laid at the Isbell School entrance. "The mortar contained sand from every county in California and water from every California Mission."<sup>7</sup>

The Isbell School Shop was built with funds obtained from the sale of the Old South Grammar School. The old school was sold to the city to be used as the City Hall.

In 1928 the St. Francis Dam Flood water came almost to the first-floor windows, causing extensive damage. Massive debris, even houses, were deposited on the playground; as a result an enormous amount of cleaning was necessary. Because of this and because the water running down Harvard Street (the River Street) during the rainy season overflowed the school grounds, the dikes around the school were made. Extensive remodeling has been done throughout the years and a cafetorium, stage, and nutritionist's office were completed in 1956. It was this same year that the core program was adopted.

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<sup>7</sup>Bedell, op. cit., p. 7.

In 1929 there were 667 students occupying the twenty-one rooms of Isbell School, which consisted of grades one through eight. Thirty-six students graduated from the eighth grade in that year. In 1951, because of increased enrollment, only sixth through eighth graders attended the Isbell Junior High School. In 1960 there were 756 students in the twenty-eight rooms of Junior High School, including only sixth, seventh and eighth grades; 250 eighth grade students graduated.

Since 1962 only seventh and eighth grades have been at Isbell School. This year there are 654 enrolled in seventh and eighth grade and 319 expect to graduate from the eighth grade. Mr. Eugene Marzec is the principal of the Isbell School.

#### The Cerebral Palsy School

The Santa Paula Cerebral Palsy School, operated by the Santa Paula Elementary School District, opened September 16, 1946, with Miss Geraldine Martin as the teacher of ten students. Those most responsible for its beginning were the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools, Dean Triggs, and his staff, under the direction of Mrs. Olivia Hathaway who was Coordinator of Health at that time; the staff of the County Health Department, under the direction of Dr. Frank Gallison; the Santa Paula Elementary School Board, which at that time consisted of Mrs. Ellis

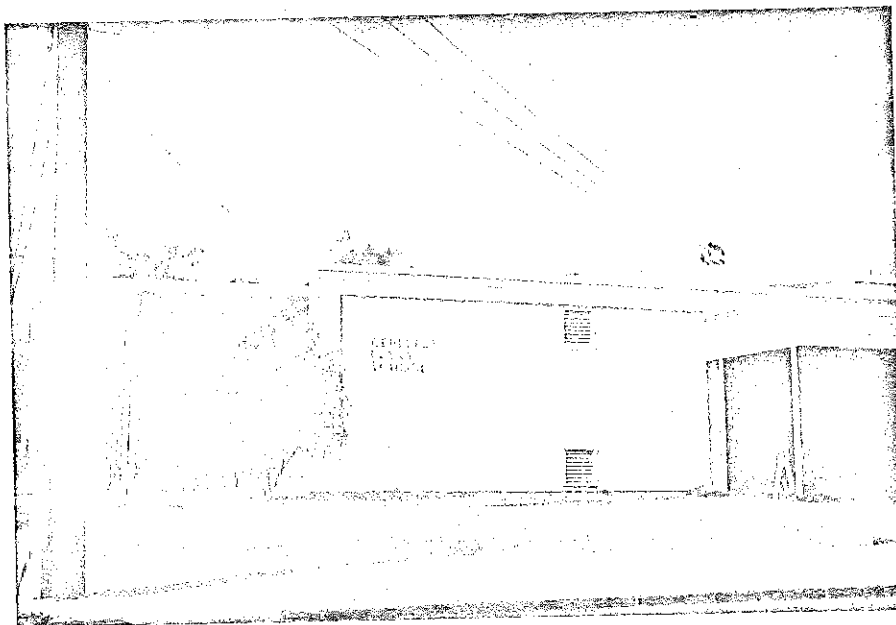


Fig. 7.--The Cerebral Palsy School on Santa Paula Street in 1967.

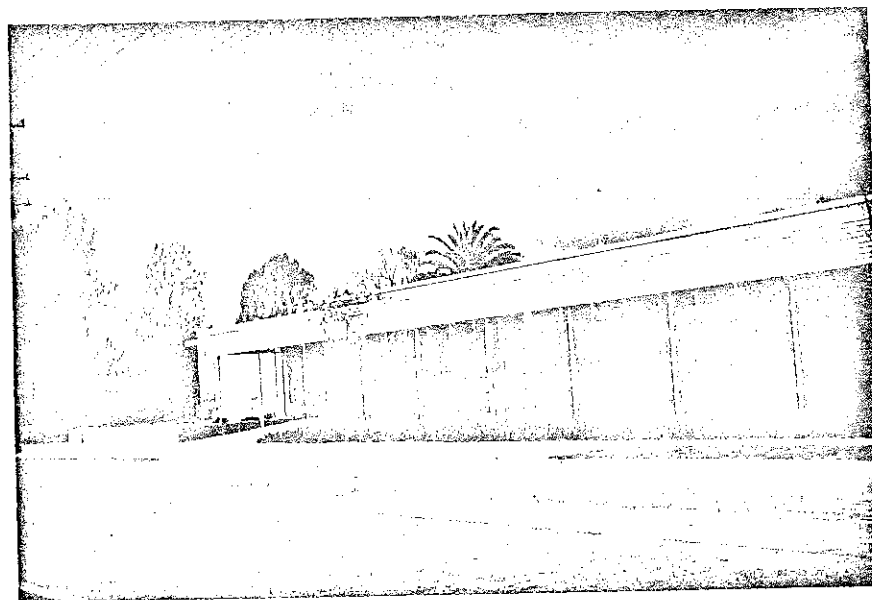


Fig. 8.--The Cerebral Palsy School on 11th Street in 1967.

Giacamazzi, Louis O. Hager, and Fred Udall; Santa Paula's Superintendent of Elementary Schools in 1946, Ray Denlay; and the Crippled Children's Society, with Richard Bard as president and Mrs. Margaret Bohler as executive secretary. Many service clubs and organizations of Ventura County, as well as many individuals, gave much help in establishing this special school. Just a year before this school was organized the California Legislature provided extra financial aid for cerebral palsied children. It costs about three times as much per pupil to educate a student in the Cerebral Palsy School as in regular public school. To this end, the state reimburses each school district \$910 per child per year above the regular cost of education. The high per pupil cost for this special school distorts statistics on the cost of education for the Santa Paula Elementary District. The figures look somewhat higher for the regular pupil than it actually is.

The Cerebral Palsy School leased the United States Government Nursery School Building at the corner of Santa Paula and Eleventh Streets, on the same campus as the Barbara Webster Elementary School. In 1949 the building was purchased from the federal government and remodeled. The remodeling was done at a minimum fee because of the donated labor and the generous building material dealers who provided supplies. A new wing of three classrooms and restroom facilities was added in 1958. The physical

therapy and the occupational therapy rooms were enlarged, the old building was again remodeled, and a fence to enclose the school was added.

It is thought that this is the oldest Countywide Cerebral Palsy School in California. Until recently it served all districts in Ventura County. (Simi Unified School District now sends its orthopedically handicapped children to an institution in the San Fernando Valley.) Forty-eight pupils are enrolled at the Cerebral Palsy School at the present time; there are seven on the waiting list. There are thirty-two cerebral palsy cases, eight muscular dystrophy victims, and eight with miscellaneous orthopedic handicaps enrolled. Twenty of the pupils are in wheelchairs. Besides the regular enrollees, others come each day for special speech therapy only. There are four special credentialed teachers in the Cerebral Palsy School. Twelve is the maximum class load, with an age span of only four years. It is a nongraded school, with a close parent-teacher relationship for the pupil's progress evaluation. The County Health Department pays for physical, occupational and speech therapists to help the children of the school. In addition, each teacher is provided with a lay helper. A medical team consisting of a pediatrician and an orthopedic surgeon visits the school to review the medical progress of the students once a month. Referrals for prospective pupils are presented to the admissions

committee who decides which children can profit most from the academic program of the school, as academic subjects are stressed. Admissions are on a trial basis. The minimum age is three and the maximum age is eighteen.

The Cerebral Palsy School has what is probably the most active PTA unit to be found anywhere; it was organized about a month after the school opened. Much special equipment is needed for the students and the PTA has purchased endless items for the school. The horse show, staged annually in Ojai and presented by the Ventura County Saddle Club on the first Saturday in June, has proved the biggest money-maker of all the fund-raising events. It brought in over \$2,000 last year. The PTA landscaped the grounds in 1949, furnishing equipment as well as plants. The Ventura County and Santa Paula Garden Clubs and the American Begonia Society also helped with the planning and the planting of this project. The PTA has been trying to change the name of the school, although no decisions have been made on the new name.

"Our goal is to make a child reach his potential in all areas and to make him a productive member of society," said Principal Bill Shaffer, who is also the principal of the adjoining Barbara Webster School. The Barbara Webster School Cafeteria provides the food for the Cerebral Palsy School and some of the older students eat there. Food is brought for the other students, who eat in one of their

classrooms. The diet is the same as for all other children in the Santa Paula Elementary School System. The Cerebral Palsy School is on an acre campus and cannot be further expanded. County Superintendent Dean Triggs says that Ventura County will eventually have to supply additional facilities in this area of education. "Triggs said he feels the Santa Paula district has done 'an outstanding job' and because of its general location in the county, the facility probably will continue there indefinitely."<sup>8</sup>

#### Glen City School

The Santa Paula Elementary School District purchased property on Steckel Drive for a school site. The land purchase was made from Dana Teague; years ago this land was owned by George Briggs. When the purchase was made the school board was not aware that this site was the identical location of the first school in Santa Paula, a private school taught by Miss Augusta Stevens.

Construction of the Glen City School (then called West School) was completed in 1952. It consisted of one kindergarten building, nine classrooms, and an administrative unit. Three classrooms were added in 1954 and another kindergarten classroom and a storage room were completed in 1958. It was at this time, when Raymond Denlay was serving

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<sup>8</sup>Star Free Press, December 4, 1966.

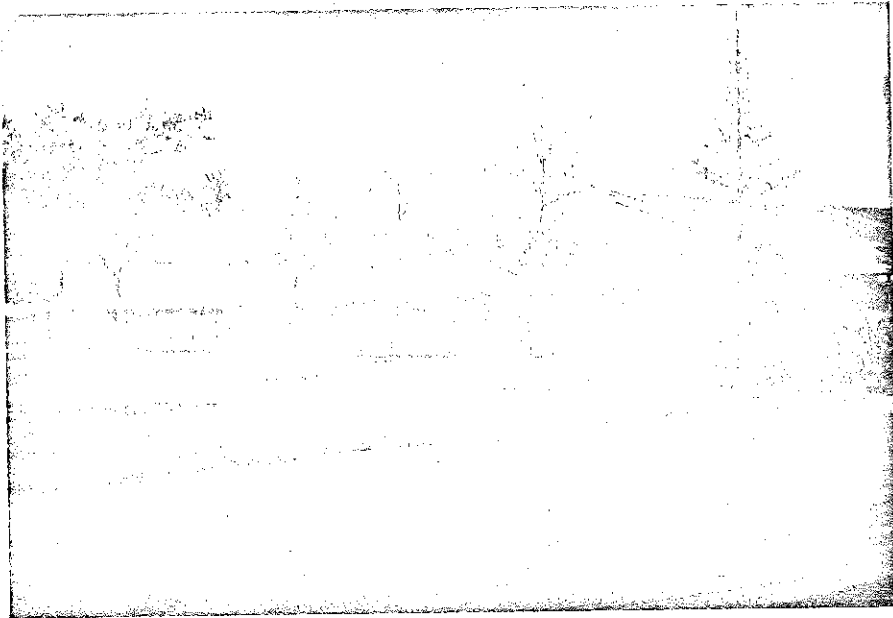


Fig. 9.--Glen City School classrooms  
on 141 Steckel Drive in 1967.

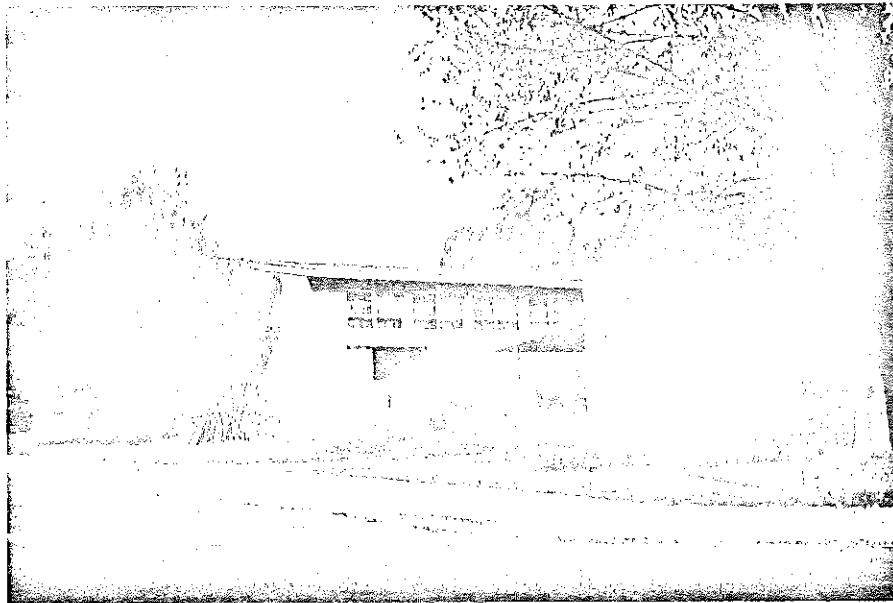


Fig. 10.--Glen City School Office Building  
and Kindergartens in the background.

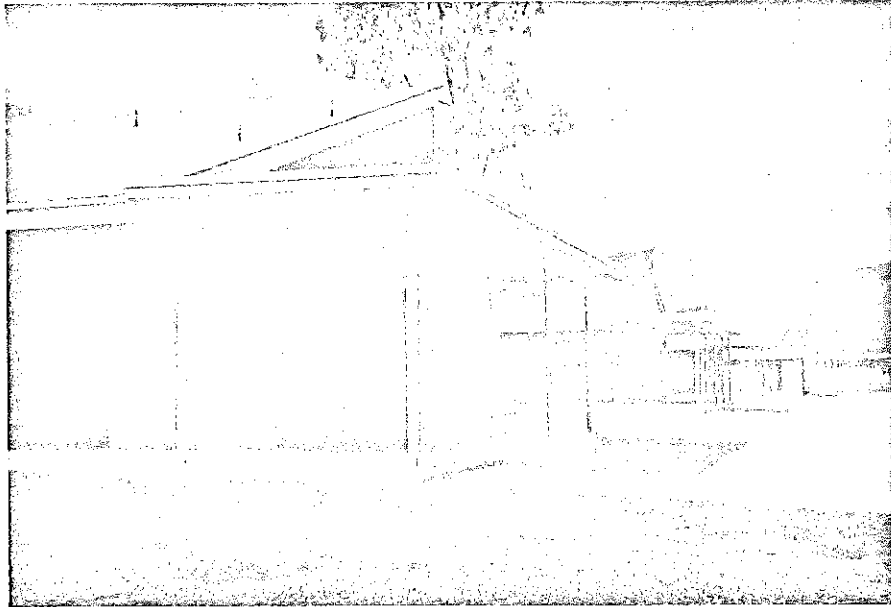


Fig. 11.--Glen City School Classrooms  
from the playground area.

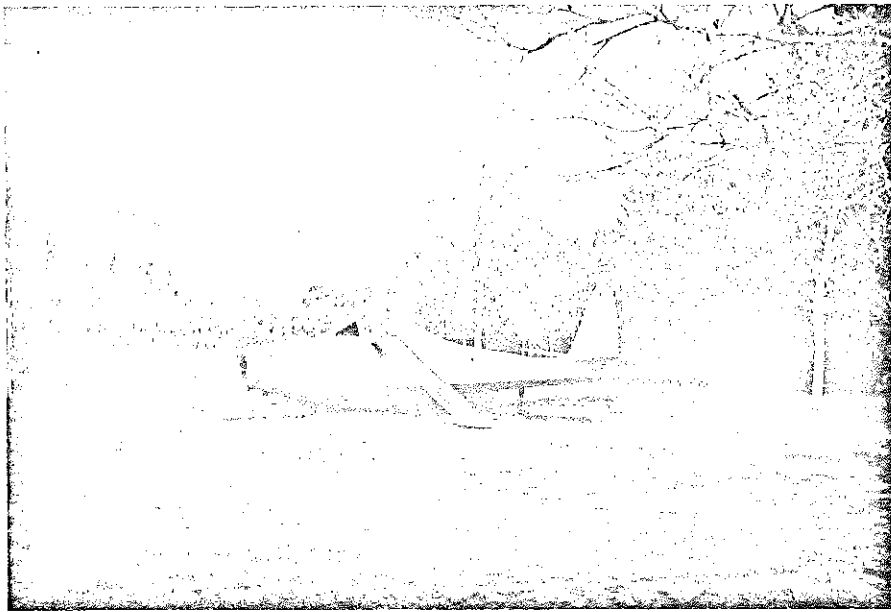


Fig. 12.--Unique Playground Equipment  
at the Glen City School.

as Superintendent of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools, that the name of the school was changed to Glen City School.

In 1956 the United States Government offered to give a few surplus airplanes to schools for playground equipment. The advertisement in the "Weekly Reader" stated that certain schools would be chosen according to particular letters received. It was the letters of Mrs. Ethyl Hamilton and her class that acquired the plane. This project was at the time an educational undertaking as it consisted of letter writing experiences, enthusiastic excursions, and extensive study in history and science. This unique learning process spread throughout the classes and continues into present classes who are still corresponding with an airplane crew.

Construction of a small patio classroom of brick and redwood was completed on June 12, 1961. In dedication the PTA served coffee to faculty members and parents the next morning. The patio was in use that very afternoon. The district speech therapist, Dr. George Linn, used this room to teach speech classes and both he and his student appreciated the pleasant, sky-topped classroom with its southern exposure. Formerly he had been teaching among boxes of play equipment and other school supplies in the school storeroom. The patio opens off the teachers' lunch room and the use of it is at their disposal.

Mrs. Dorothy Pinkerton is now the principal of the

Glen City School and has been since it was built in 1952. This beautiful school has seventeen classrooms and 513 primary students.

#### Grace S. Thille School

Dr. Grace Sharp Thille, for whom Santa Paula's East School was renamed at the beginning of the 1964-65 school term, was a pioneer doctor in the area. She was only a child when she moved to Santa Paula with her family, from Santa Rosa, in 1876. Mrs. Thille was the first woman doctor to receive a degree from what is now Stanford Medical School. "She studied medicine at Cooper's Medical School in San Francisco, then practiced for several years as a horse and buggy doctor in Saticoy, working with Dr. J. C. Strong of Santa Paula and Dr. C. L. Bard of Ventura."<sup>9</sup>

Dr. Thille and her husband have been major contributors and she is now a director of the Santa Paula Memorial Hospital. She has been very active in the Santa Paula Ebell Club, serving twice as president. Dr. Thille has been actively involved in the social, cultural and philanthropic life of the entire community.

In 1952, when Thille School (then called East School) was first occupied, it consisted of a modern

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<sup>9</sup>Santa Paula Daily Chronicle.

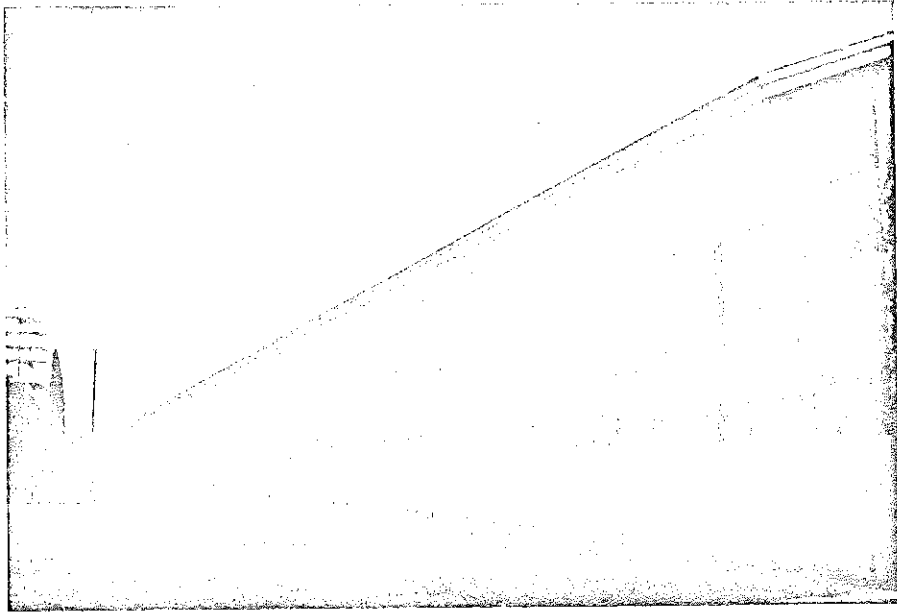


Fig. 13.--Grace S. Thille School on  
Ventura Street in 1967.

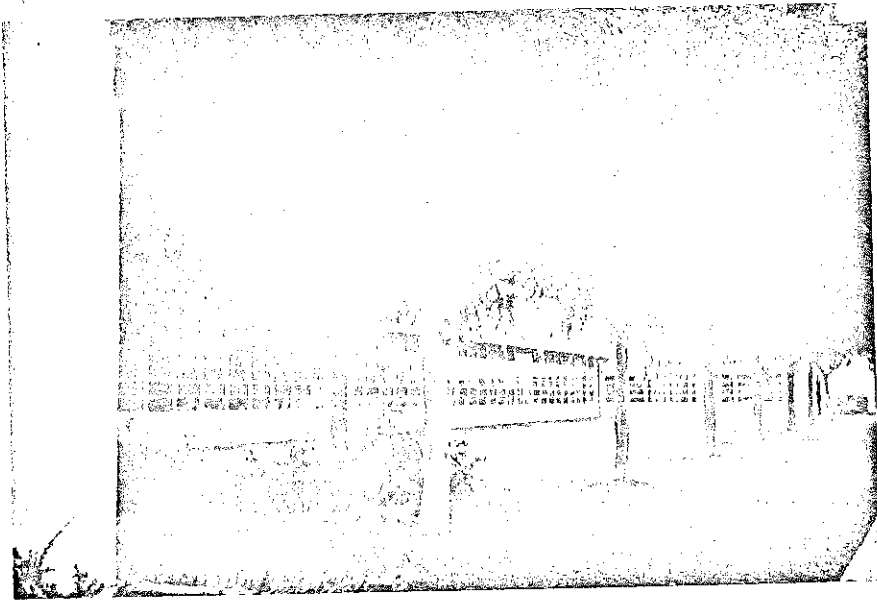


Fig. 14.--Thille School viewed from  
across the street.

kindergarten room and a kitchen. An administrative office and three classrooms were added to the kindergarten unit in 1954. Then in 1955, another kindergarten room and five more classrooms were built. In 1960 there were 279 students of grades kindergarten through third. In 1966, two more classrooms were built. There are presently twelve classrooms from K-3 and 324 students.

When the school was first occupied, Joe Ciochetti was the principal. Then in 1962, when Mr. Ciochetti accepted an overseas position, Mrs. Wilma Turchik became the principal. Then Mrs. Muriel Coleman took over the principalship in 1964, and works in that capacity at the present time.

#### Blanchard School

Miss Sarah Blanchard was presented with a parchment scroll honoring the Blanchard family's leadership roll in developing the Santa Paula Schools and community. This honor was given by the Parent-Teacher Association of Santa Paula and by the Santa Paula Elementary School Board on October 30, 1960. Mrs. Theda Stewart, a board member, puts thoughts into words in her tribute to the Blanchard family, with the following quote: "You simply cannot separate the Blanchards from the development of Santa Paula. It is their interest and one-mindedness in developing the schools of our community that firm our convictions that Santa Paula

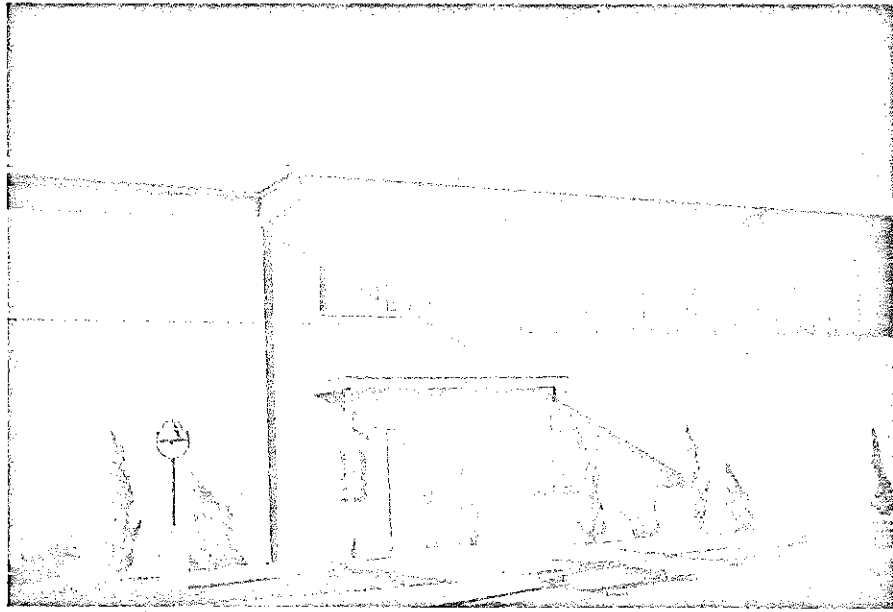


Fig. 15.--Blanchard School Cafetorium in 1967.

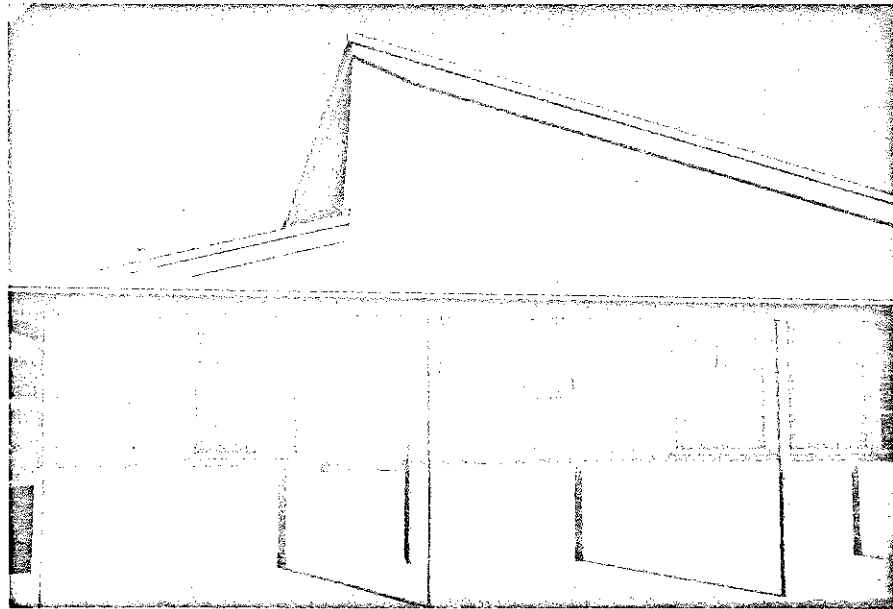


Fig. 16.--Blanchard School Office on South Peck Road.

must have a Blanchard School."<sup>10</sup>

Nathan Weston Blanchard, father of Dean, Sarah, Eunice and Nathan Junior, attended Colby College in Maine for two years. While attending Colby he taught in three different schools to get money for his expenses. He came to California and settled in Dutch Flat in 1858. He served on the education committee when he was elected to the state assembly. He had a lumber business when he married Ann Elizabeth Hobbs in 1864. In 1870 the family settled in Santa Paula. After selling the lumber business in 1872, he and a partner, E. B. Higgins, started raising sheep on 2,700 acres of land east of Santa Paula. The Limoneira Company was organized in 1893 by Nathan Blanchard and W. L. Hardison.

From 1872, as long as he lived, Mr. Blanchard was identified with the development of Santa Paula. He was a trustee on the Santa Paula Board of Education for many years. He was president of the Santa Paula High School Board for several years and was one of the founders; it was called the Academy at that time. He was a member of the Pomona College Board of Trustees for thirty years (until his death in 1917), and was one of the committee who chose the college site. He gave land to the first Protestant church built in Santa Paula, and often preached the sermons.

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<sup>10</sup>Star Free Press, October 31, 1960.

The Santa Paula Public Library building was presented by the Blanchards as a memorial to their first child, Dean Hobbs, who died at the age of six years.

Sarah Eliot Blanchard, who was four years old when the family moved to Santa Paula, went to school only one year. Her mother proved to be a good teacher, however, and Sarah was one of the first school teachers in Santa Clara Valley when she was only eighteen. She had passed the teachers examination at an earlier date but authorities would not issue the certificate until she was eighteen years old. Her first teaching assignment was at the Live Oak School, where the Paul Leavens residence now stands on Telegraph Road. She taught there two years; the former teacher, Mr. Boor, was run off by unruly boys. At the Blanchard School dedication Sarah Blanchard said, "It never would have been possible without those same boys. They looked me over the first day of school and decided I wasn't a worthy adversary so instead of defying me they decided to help this poor little thing." In her tribute Mrs. Stewart declared wittily, "This was the first application of educational psychology in Santa Paula."

Nathan Weston Blanchard, Jr., married a Santa Paula school teacher, Esther McClelland. Their three children were Weston, a former Santa Paula mayor and for the past ten years a teacher in the Coalinga city schools, Dean, a world traveler and lecturer, and Eliot (deceased in 1965),

a Santa Paula rancher. The Eliot Blanchard family were always very active in the Santa Paula community. Mrs. Eliot (Elizabeth) Blanchard was a member of the Santa Paula Elementary School Board for several years, even when the Blanchard School property was purchased. She is now a member of the Santa Paula High School Board of Trustees. Both Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Blanchard graduated from Stanford University. Mrs. Blanchard is planning a teaching career; she is enrolled in California Lutheran College and is now doing her practice teaching in the Pleasant Valley Schools in Camarillo.

In February of 1957, the Santa Paula Elementary School Board purchased a ten-acre lemon and walnut orchard, formerly part of Peck Ranch, to take care of the growth in West Santa Paula. On October 30, 1960 the first unit of the Blanchard School was dedicated. The building of four classrooms with a utility room and a restroom building large enough to serve eight classrooms was completed. The building costs averaged \$12.17 per square foot. The total cost of the construction was \$76,770; this included the preparation of the new school site and the paved area. In the summer of 1961 an additional four classrooms were completed. A cafetorium, four new classrooms, lavatories, an administrative unit and a teachers' room were ready for use in the fall of 1962. This made a total of twelve classrooms at the Blanchard School. Three hundred fifty

fourth, fifth, and sixth graders were enrolled at the beginning of the 1962-63 school term. Last summer (1966) the last four classrooms were constructed, making a total of sixteen classrooms. There are 372 pupils enrolled in the intermediate grades, with a teaching staff of thirteen. Mrs. Lou Lechliter is the Principal of Blanchard School and has been since its beginning.

#### Thelma B. Bedell School

The Thelma B. Bedell School was opened in September of 1963, with first, second and third grades in session. The construction of four classrooms, restrooms, a storage room and a supply room had been completed at that time. On Sunday, February 23, 1964, an open house was held in conjunction with a ceremony officially dedicating the new educational facility to the honor and memory of Mrs. Thelma B. Bedell. Mrs. Bedell, now retired, served forty years in the Santa Paula School System. When the dedication honor was bestowed on Mrs. Bedell, she shared it with others by referring to herself as "only a representative of the many people who helped build Santa Paula Schools."<sup>11</sup>

Bedell School is located on Laurel Road. It is in the northern part of the city, where natural beauty of the area is serene with a constant view of majestic South

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<sup>11</sup>Star Free Press, February 24, 1964.

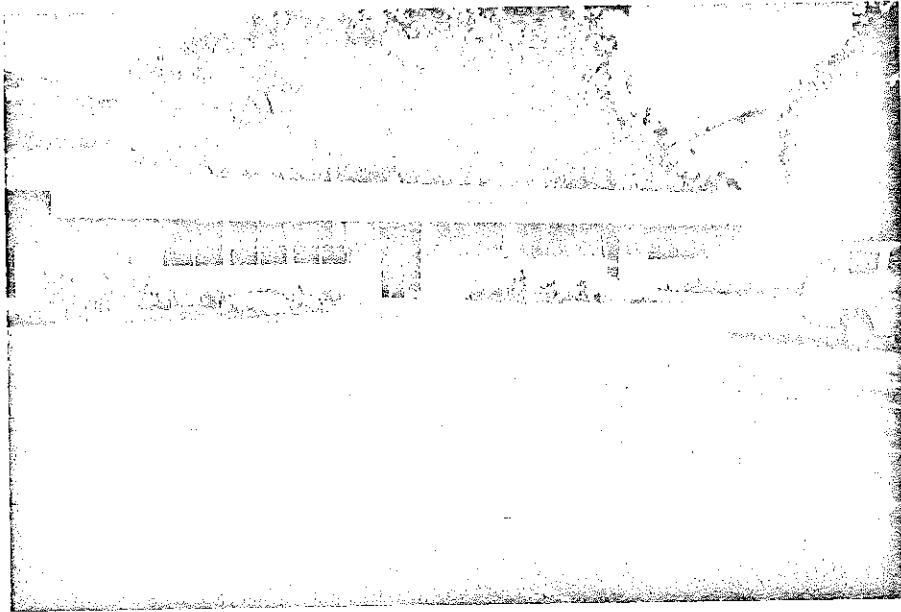


Fig. 17.--Thelma B. Bedell Kindergartens  
from the front in 1967.



Fig. 18.--Bedell Kindergartens from the playground.

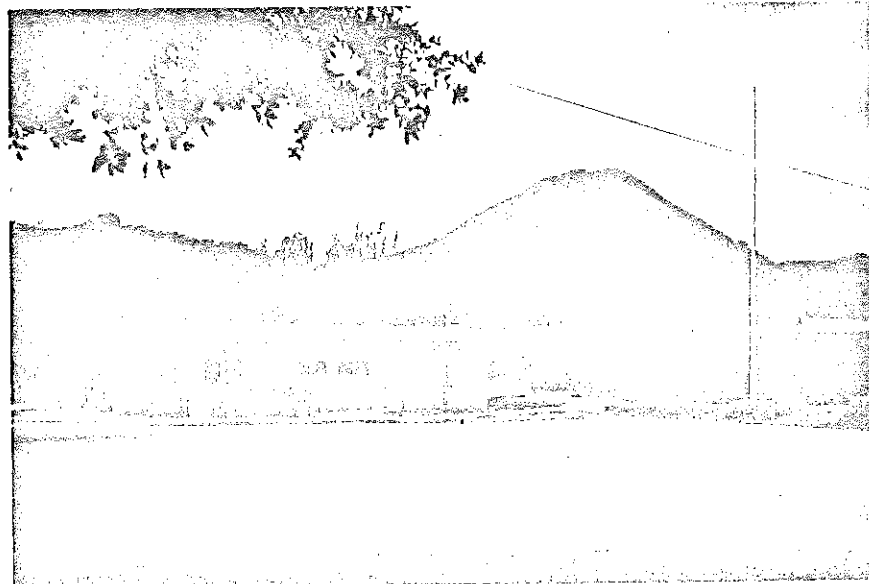


Fig. 19.--The New Office Building at  
Bedell School in 1967.

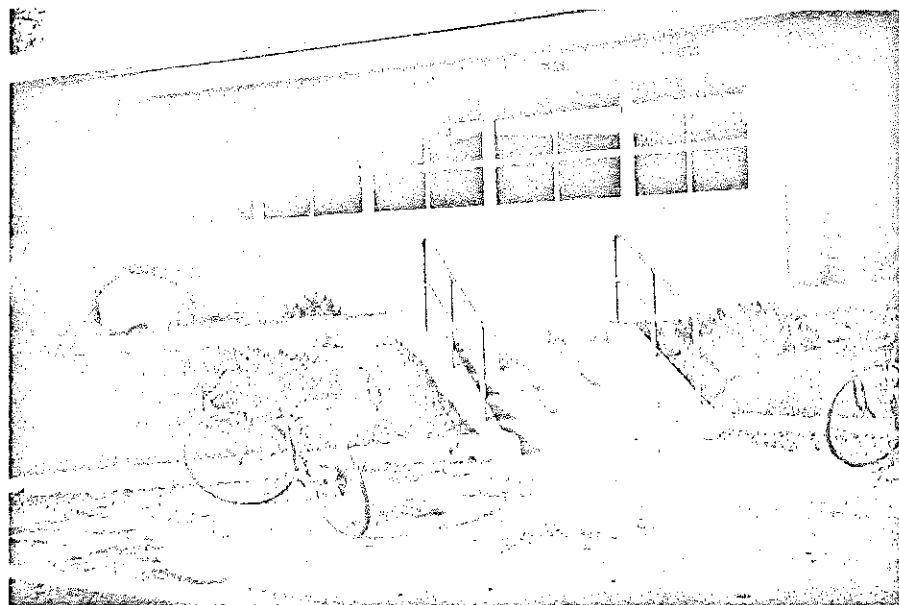


Fig. 20.--Bedell School from the East.

Mountain, the great shoulders of Sulphur Mountain and the graceful Topa Topa Range. The many trees of the vicinity create a rich, restful background.

Thelma Bradshaw Bedell was born on October 30, 1898, in Bishop, California. She attended the University of Nevada and began teaching in that state when she was nineteen years of age. For two years she taught in Nevada before returning to her home town in 1921 to teach for three years before she was made principal of the McKeveitt School. She served the district in that capacity for twenty-two years. She accepted the position of supervising principal of the Barbara Webster School in 1948 and continued until 1961; she also served as administrator for the Cerebral Palsy School. Santa Paula Elementary School District needed an experienced leader of enriched background for a curriculum coordinator; Mrs. Bedell was chosen and worked in that executive capacity until retirement in 1963. She has been instrumental in community activities throughout her active life in Santa Paula. She has established a fund for the purchase of books for the children's division at Dean Hobbs Blanchard Memorial Library. This was done in memory of Doug Stewart, a Santa Paula Elementary School cancer victim. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bedell built their own attractive home which is surrounded by a beautiful garden at 1208 Woodland Drive, in the Thelma B. Bedell School District. It has been their home for thirty

years.

The construction of two kindergarten rooms of the Bedell School was finished in the spring of 1965. Four classrooms and an office building were completed in January of 1967. Mrs. Wilma Turchik was the principal of the Bedell School until February 1, 1967, when Mr. Guy Spracklen assumed the principalship. Earl B. Webster has been the teaching Vice Principal since September 1965. There are now 212 students and eight teachers in the Thelma B. Bedell School. Future plans call for four more classrooms and a cafetorium.

#### The Santa Paula Parent-Teacher Association

A Parent-Teacher Association unit was organized in 1910 at the Methodist Church. It was a cooperative unit for the two Santa Paula Elementary Schools, Old South Grammar School, and Ventura Street School. A group of interested mothers led by Mrs. C. C. Noble was responsible for the organization.

The first major project launched by the PTA was a Day Nursery in the year of 1919, with Miss Lucy Youngman in charge. One of the buildings on the Ventura Street School property was donated for this project by the board. Volunteer labor cleaned and repaired the building and an equipment shower was given so the nursery could be carried on. The day nursery was necessary for the good of the

schools. Many Mexican families had moved to Santa Paula to work in citrus and walnut orchards. Both parents needed to work in order to support the family, so many of the upper-grade children stayed home to care for the younger children of the family. This non-attendance caused state aid funds to diminish drastically, hence attendance laws were enforced. As a result, the school-age children came to school, but they brought their pre-school-age brothers and sisters along. This was the need that prompted the Nursery School Project.

In 1920 the Santa Paula High School PTA was established, and in 1929 the PTA divided into two units--Santa Paula Elementary PTA and Santa Paula High School PTA. For many years each elementary school of Santa Paula has had its own PTA meetings, except on Founder's Day when the Santa Paula Elementary Schools and High School have a combined program.

The Santa Paula Elementary School PTA has been very active since it was first organized. It has been helpful in sponsoring many units of organizations and in donating funds for special projects that benefit the elementary school children.

Summary

Names of early settlers and prominent citizens who made worthwhile contributions in so many ways for the improvement of our city and its people are seen and heard every day in street and building names. The Santa Paula Elementary Schools are examples of this. All of the schools, with the exception of Glen City School, have been named to honor individuals who have gained prominence or made some noteworthy contribution to the community. The deeds of the citizens for whom the elementary schools were named will surely be long remembered by future generations of the community. The Santa Paula Elementary Schools are living memorials to the people whose names they bear.

All of the classrooms of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools are specially designed and oriented to provide the best possible use of natural light for visual comfort and efficiency during school hours. The classrooms are equipped and fitted to provide up-to-date teaching facilities in keeping with the district standards.

The following item was written in 1887:

Santa Paula can boast of the best public school building in Ventura County and one of the best schools. A. M. Gittinger, the principal, shows himself well qualified for the place, and Miss Parsons and Miss Barkla also give the best satisfaction as teachers.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Santa Paula Chronicle, February 12, 1962.

It is gratifying to know that the Santa Paula Elementary Schools got off to a good start, and from all available information the good reputation has been continuous throughout its history.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The Santa Paula Elementary School Curriculum is developed with reference to the needs of children and the needs of society. It is well-rounded, emphasizing mental, social, emotional and physical development. The goal of the curriculum is to help children enrich their lives and contribute to the improvement of our American way of life through the acquisition of essential information skills and attitudes.

The curriculum includes objective study of controversial issues in our society that are appropriate for the pupils. The Santa Paula Elementary School educators agree that student progress through school depends upon age, maturation and social and civic development, as well as achievement in the basic skills.

#### Democratic Principles

Democratic principles and procedures prevail in the Santa Paula Elementary classroom. The development of the child is a cooperative undertaking, involving the best effort of every individual in the school and the community;

and since schools are an inseparable part of the community, the curriculum of the school recognizes local community needs. An integral part of the curriculum is to build good human relationships.

The social studies permeates and gives significance to the entire school program. Experiences are provided which will prepare pupils to function effectively in a democracy. Such experiences will develop ability to attack and solve social problems, appreciation of national heritage, civic understanding, critical and objective thinking according to maturity, democratic attitudes, enlightened intelligence, geographic concepts, historical perspective, personal-social adaptability, personal character traits, skill for acquiring information and social concern.

The social studies instruction is particularly committed to the preservation and improvement of our democratic way of life and to the development of democratic behavior for every child at each stage of his development. The unit method is recommended as the most effective way to achieve the goals of social studies instruction because each child can make a contribution in accordance with his ability; more learning takes place because it is related to pupil purposes; children learn best through life-like experiences; learnings are fused into a whole and this reduces tensions and saves time. Instruction of this caliber helps the student to grow in love and respect for

his family, home and country, to appreciate the contributions of early Americans and to better understand historical heritage; and it helps him to develop attitudes of responsible citizenship. With this type of training our students will be able to perpetuate our American way of life.

### Basic Skills

An important goal of the Santa Paula Elementary educators is to teach the basic skills which are necessary for all citizens to speak clearly, read with a maximum of understanding, write legibly and effectively, spell correctly, and calculate accurately.

### Reading

Each child should be growing in reading skills and comprehension according to his individual capacity. He should enjoy reading books, magazines, and newspapers as he develops reading interest and good reading habits. He should appreciate reading as a way of learning as he uses this tool to solve school and home problems, and to satisfy his curiosity. Word recognition and understanding are basic aims in the reading program. Reading should contribute to each child's personal happiness and development through giving him the satisfaction of successful achievement, and through opening up broader vistas of knowledge and experience.

Individual differences call for grouping according to ability; three groups are usually practical. Reading ability depends upon background of experience, language development, physical and emotional health, physical and mental maturity, adjustment to the school situation, background of skills and a desire to read.

For the past three years Santa Paula Elementary Schools have participated in the Modified Joplin Reading Program and team teaching in language arts. A special class in phonics is also being taught.

#### Spelling

In spelling groups are formed as the need arises. Word lists that children are expected to learn are usually the words they use and know. The California state series is used. The visual, auditory, speech and kinesthetic approaches are all used in studying words because most children use a combination of sensory skills. Daily experiences of writing for which the child has real use provide valuable practice.

#### Mathematics

This is one of the basic skills in the Santa Paula Elementary School Curriculum. It helps each child develop understandings and skills involving quantity so that he may apply them effectively in his daily life. It is both satisfying and fascinating when a basis for computational

skills is laid by an understanding of number concepts and quantitative relationships. The teacher's job is to meet the child's mathematical curiosity simply, directly and intelligently, to provide him real learning experiences and opportunity for drill. Drill is vital to a good mathematics program; it must follow the understanding of the process to clinch the meaning.

A balanced mathematics program exists in the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. There is a close relationship between the mathematical processes and their social applications; neither phase is neglected. Team teaching is used in the modern mathematics and accelerated mathematics programs. Varied group assignments are important because of the individual differences in ability, rate of learning, and background of experiences. The trend of the mathematics curriculum is a challenge to promote adequate preparation in skills and understanding, elimination of material that is seldom used, and introduction of more difficult topics as soon as the child is ready.

The Santa Paula Elementary Schools claim to teach the basic skills and more, by providing an educational system that helps children develop strong bodies and sound minds, ethical and moral character, and attitudes of responsible citizenship.

## Other Instructional Goals

### Moral and Spiritual Values

The Santa Paula Elementary Program includes the teaching of moral and spiritual values. Teachers strive to develop a set of moral and spiritual values in every pupil to enable them to live with others successfully.

### Health

Well-organized physical education programs develop good physical and emotional health. Instruction in health and safety is an integral part of the curriculum. The aim is for the development of good physical and emotional health and joy in wholesome recreation which will continue into adult life.

A contribution is made toward enjoyable and profitable use of leisure time by helping the students to develop an appreciation of beauty by utilizing literature, art, nature, music and drama. This important aspect of human nature has not been overlooked in setting educational goals in the curriculum.

### Science

The Santa Paula Elementary Curriculum plans for a balanced science program which provides stimulation, guidance materials and opportunity for the child to achieve competence in scientific thinking and activity as he solves

problems in all curriculum areas. It provides opportunities for the children to observe, question, manipulate, experiment, listen and discuss as they react to their ever-changing environment. The annual science fair gives zest to the scientific program with ever-increasing interest.

#### New Undertakings

The Santa Paula Elementary Schools started new classes at the beginning of the school year for emotionally handicapped children. They have been engaged in a program for the culturally deprived children as well as a special class for non-English-speaking children since the beginning of the second semester.

#### Santa Paula Elementary School Educators

The superintendent is responsible for the entire school system. Principals are executive heads of their schools and are responsible to the superintendent. Vice-principal, classroom teachers and special service workers are responsible to the principal.

Principals are both instructional advisors and community leaders. Their greatest duty is to guide the teachers. They are community representatives to the superintendent and the board and interpreters of policies and program to the community. The main prerequisite to becoming a principal is possessing ability and success in

classroom teaching. Most of the Santa Paula Elementary School principals started as teachers in the district. The principal is continuously responsible for the curriculum in his school. It is his job to see that the curriculum is modified to meet conditions in the local unit, and he is responsible for the selection of materials and their coordination with the changing curriculum.

The Santa Paula Elementary School Curriculum plainly states that teachers act and speak in conformity with the highest ethical standards of the profession in their relations with patrons, pupils, and co-workers. They have met high standards of character, personality, ability, and preparation. All have the minimum of four years of college preparation. Our teachers and administrators are well informed concerning new development in the field of education. They are ever alert in using the best research available in determining curriculum organization content and instructional procedure. They are continually evaluating the curriculum and quickly changing as the need arises. Good teaching in our district is made even better with educational equipment and materials.

The Santa Paula Elementary School educators recognize individual differences and varying rates of learning among children and make continuous provision for the changing needs, interests, and maturity of the learners. The teachers provide many opportunities for first-hand

experience to facilitate the ready progress of children from concrete to abstract learning.

### The Policy of Discipline

Good citizenship is stressed throughout the Santa Paula Elementary School Curriculum. Along with good citizenship is education in self-control. Discipline is viewed as the child's ability to govern himself. Good behavior is expected in the classrooms, as they are organized to promote orderly living. Children are made to feel responsible for the way they behave. Many opportunities are provided so that the students can demonstrate responsibility. More and more responsibility is given as they progress from grade to grade. Children are taught to work with others as well as independently. They are made to feel responsible in helping others to develop good behavior.

Children learn that rules are made when necessary and these rules are important and must be followed. It is of utmost importance that the reasons for the rules are thoroughly understood. Some of the most important rules and regulations are following the suggestions of the teachers, assignment directions, promptness, working up to capacity, working alone without help, following safety rules, being on time, taking turns, and being orderly and courteous.

Discipline problems may be solved before they arise

by giving justified praise to build up the child's feelings of worth and adequacy. Angry resentment will not be built up for later explosions if the child is permitted to express and release his hostile feelings; these expressions should not be held against him. Consistency is very important if the child is to possess a feeling of security. Flexible limits should be set and understood. Cooperative responsibility of home and school is important. Parents are urged to show firmness with conviction, friendliness, and fairness.

#### Homework

The Santa Paula Elementary teachers know the importance of informing parents as to how they can encourage and aid their children's progress in the "Three R's." Homework assignments are used as a means of acquainting parents with the types of work carried on in the classroom. They should create a closer bond between the school and the home. The Santa Paula Elementary School Policy states that the assignments should broaden experiences motivated in the classroom, extend knowledge, stimulate new interests, and develop self-direction, initiative, independent thinking, perseverance and good work habits. The best kind of homework is that which enriches and extends the child's learning experiences.

Homework is based on individual needs as well as

books and materials available. Children in grade five and above should be given regularly assigned homework, for the purpose of developing good home study techniques. The teacher makes sure that sufficient preparation precedes the homework assignment so the child will understand clearly just what he is expected to do. The teacher follows up and evaluates all homework so it will be effective.

#### Guidance Program

Individual counseling and guidance is an integral part of the curriculum. For complete independence later on, children need the guidance of well-trained teachers. Each teacher has guidance responsibilities for all pupils; for special cases the principal is consulted. A qualified school psychologist tests special cases on referrals. All guidance services are requested, reviewed and evaluated by the principal.

#### Summary

The Santa Paula Elementary School District provides an education of the highest quality for the students. Great concern is given in selecting teachers of high standard. The guiding light in the formation of the curriculum is the opportunity for each child to develop his maximum capability. Santa Paula educators are "concerned with changes in children's behavior so that they might be

worthy citizens by being able to solve their social and personal problems as they live from day to day."<sup>1</sup> Curriculum includes all learning experiences that are essential to the maximum development of the child in becoming a useful member of society. Some of the important educational goals to be mastered by Santa Paula youth are democratic principles, basic skills, physical and emotional health and safety, moral and ethical character. The social studies give significance to the entire school program.

A great effort is being made to vary the reading materials and to provide for individual differences. Children read to learn, to be entertained, to evaluate facts, and to solve problems. The curriculum provides for a balanced reading program which includes oral and silent reading, basic interpretation skills, word perception skills, word study skills, solving problems through reading and an appreciation of literature. Children vary in their ability and interest in learning to spell. Spelling and reading abilities are closely related; the child's reading level and spelling book should correspond. Spelling is integrated, rather than taught alone.

Mathematics and science are influenced by many factors and are ever-changing. Children like these

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<sup>1</sup>George A. Beauchamp, Planning the Elementary School Curriculum (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1956), p. 122.

subjects if they understand them. There is an increased demand for mathematical and scientific skills in our schools today. These subjects develop intelligent curiosity, open-mindedness and tolerance.

The aim of discipline and guidance is self control. Consistency, flexibility, and parent cooperation is essential if the child is to be a responsible well-adjusted citizen.



CHAPTER V

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANTA PAULA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Future predictions are always uncertain to a degree, yet they can be fairly well affirmed by studying the patterns established in the past. A main issue in looking to the future of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools is the consideration of unification of the elementary and high school districts. The chapter deals with this matter as well as considering another chief problem of present and future importance, that of constructing adequate buildings for the increase of student population in the district.

A General View of Expected Growth

It is expected that this area will continue to grow. The predicted growth for the Santa Paula Elementary Schools is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
1966	3,070	1969	3,400
1967	3,170	1970	3,510
1968	3,270	1971	3,620

Classrooms were added to Blanchard, Webster, and Thille Schools this past summer, and the construction was finished in time for occupancy at the beginning of this school year, September 1966. Then four new classrooms and an office building were completed at the Bedell School. These rooms and office space were occupied at the beginning of the second semester of the school term, February 1967. There seems to be no immediate need of more buildings in the year of 1967.

Plans have already been made for a central library in the Santa Paula Elementary School System with a qualified librarian in charge. Then branching off from it will eventually be a library at each elementary school. The plan is for the Isbell School (seventh and eighth grades) to enjoy this improvement first, then the Barbara Webster and Blanchard Schools (the intermediate grades) are to be equipped with libraries, and as soon as possible libraries will be established at the McKeveatt, Thille, Glen City and Bedell Schools (the primary grades). These convenient libraries will eventually replace the services now provided by the Ventura County Schools Library. Proposed purchase of the Ventura County Citrus Exchange Building on Davis Street has been discussed and an offer has been made, but nothing definite has been decided at this time. This building has sufficient room and could be successfully used as the office buildings of the superintendent and staff,

including a Modified Instructional Material Center. The decision awaits.

Sometimes there is apathy on the part of the city's citizenry when a bond election is held for the purpose of constructing new schools. Several times in the past Santa Paula Elementary Schools tax elections have had to be repeated; yet, in the end, the support of the community is always rallying to the aid of the schools.

Future Santa Paula Elementary School Curricula are bound to be of a very high quality even though we foresee problems. The problem of growth in the curriculum has been with us for quite awhile and is expected to continue. Those qualified to make an educated guess agree with Stoops and Marks when they predict that "the schools of today face a challenge which is unique and awesome. It has been estimated that the knowledge of mankind will double during the next ten years."<sup>1</sup>

#### A View of Unification

Unification has been studied and discussed extensively; and it is expected to take place in the foreseeable future, unless new legislation is enacted. When this issue was voted on by the Santa Paula citizenry in February of

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<sup>1</sup>Emery Stoops and James R. Marks, Elementary School Supervision (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1965), p. v.

1966, it failed to pass. This year the trustees decided to postpone voting on unification until February of 1968. It seems reasonably certain that, if unification takes place, the schools to be included in the new unified district will be the Santa Paula Elementary Schools, Briggs, Olivelihoods, Santa Clara, Mupu, and the Santa Paula High School District.

#### Summary

Advanced planning in building construction is essential to meet future needs of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. The governing board of trustees should be conscious of the potentials within the district boundaries if building is to keep pace with the increasing school-age population. The population growth of the area will continue to be a problem with which school officials must cope.

Unification may be the answer to many educational problems of the school district. The movement for school unification is basically sound educationally and financially.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY

The major objective of this paper is to present a survey of the Santa Paula Elementary Education System. People who have the responsibility of making decisions concerning problems of the district will be extremely enlightened by better understanding the school's history. This study has value as being the first complete history of the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. This document contains a great deal of information condensed into usable form. Santa Paula citizens would receive a feeling of pleasure and pride by enjoying this historical picture of the area in which they live.

A quantity of information for this project was secured from the tapes made and materials gathered for the PTA Founders' Day Historical Program of 1960. Other useful materials were obtained from the Santa Paula Elementary School Office, the Ventura County Elementary School Office, the Santa Paula City Library, the Ventura Star Free Press, the Santa Paula Chronicle, and the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce.

Santa Paula Elementary School District is located in the Santa Clara Valley, Ventura County, California. It is seventy miles northwest of Los Angeles, forty-two miles southeast of Santa Barbara and fifteen miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. The district is supported mainly by agriculture, oil, packing houses, building materials, paper cartons and a few other industries.

The first inhabitants of the district were the Mupu Indians; none of their descendants are known to be living today. The Mission Fathers started to develop the area in the late 1700's, but their stay was of short duration and the land was again forgotten. This region was a part of Santa Barbara County until the year of 1873 when Ventura County was established; even then Santa Clara Valley was a wilderness. It was at this time that Nathan Weston Blanchard and E. L. Bradley and their families moved to Santa Paula. They built the flour mill at Mill Park and restored the irrigation system, marked off and sold many lots, set out a hundred acres of oranges, produces large quantities of grain, raised big flocks of sheep, and in many other ways helped with the development of the community. Oil was discovered in the area in 1880 and greatly contributed to the wealth of the district. The growth of the city has been moderate and continuous both before and after its incorporation in 1902. Population is expected to accelerate with the completion of the freeway and the

addition of new industries.

The first school in Santa Paula was a private school, founded in 1873, and located on West Main Street. It was the year of 1876 that Santa Paula's first public school was established on East Main Street. This building was moved to Mill Street and used for the upper-grade students until 1882. A three-room construction built on Main Street to replace the first school building was used for the primary part of the Santa Paula Elementary School until 1898. As the community grew, so grew the district schools. The Old South Grammar School on South Mill Street was occupied in 1898 and was adequate for all the elementary children from third grade through eighth grade. The first and second graders attended the one-room school across the street. Classes were held in the Old South Grammar School until the year of 1926. A national award was given to the best planned school built in the United States in the year of 1911. This award was presented to the McKeveitt School on Pleasant Street, a beautiful eight-room Spanish type structure. In 1925 the Canyon School was built on Saticoy Street; this school was later renamed Barbara Webster School, in honor of a teacher and principal who served thirty-four years in the Santa Paula Elementary Schools. The largest school to be constructed in the district was the Isbell School on Fourth Street, in the year of 1926. It had twenty-one classrooms, an auditorium,

a cafetorium, and administrative facilities. The two elementary schools built in 1952 were West School on Steckel Drive, renamed Glen City School, and East School on Ventura Street, renamed Grace S. Thille School. The Cerebral Palsy School on Santa Paula Street was established in 1946; it serves elementary children from all over Ventura County. The first unit of the Blanchard School on Peck Road was ready for use and dedicated in 1960. The newest school in the district, the Thelma B. Bedell School on Laurel Road, opened in September of 1963. The dedication ceremony honoring Mrs. Bedell was held February 23, 1964. Mrs. Thelma B. Bedell served for forty years in the Santa Paula Elementary School System as a teacher and principal.

In the résumé of the school curriculum it is well to observe a quote from Beauchamp's book: "It can generally be said that educational transition in the twentieth century has been a change from formalism toward liberalism. The forces of liberalism in education affected the curriculum."<sup>1</sup> Social composition and cultural heritage continuously dictate change in the curriculum philosophy. Changing with the times is evidenced in the Santa Paula School System by the modern mathematics and the foreign language programs. The Santa Paula Elementary School Curriculum provides for a general education that encompasses

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<sup>1</sup>George A. Beauchamp, Planning the Elementary School Curriculum (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1956), p. 26.

as many of the practical aspects of life as is possible to include. It provides each child with opportunities to work toward optimum personal development as well as to develop feelings of personal obligation for improving social and political conditions. Logan says: "A good curriculum plan has the goal of enriching the life of the child and helping him develop the skills and knowledge he needs for successful living."<sup>2</sup> The quality of education planned by the Santa Paula Elementary School System, with its modern educational techniques and materials, is greatly influenced by what seems to be its motto, "The best education possible for every child." The emphasis guiding the Santa Paula Elementary School Curriculum is the democratic principles and procedures that prevail. The curriculum is permeated with the American way of life.

We can be quite certain that future school problems, regardless of magnitude, will be satisfactorily solved because of the interest of the Santa Paula educators and the wisdom displayed in past decisions. The board of trustees have always been and will continue to be a busy group, planning expansion, securing school sites, solving financial problems, and meting out district policies in the continually progressing community. And so, happily, Santa

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<sup>2</sup>Lillian M. Logan, Teaching the Young Child (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1960), p. 116.

Paula faces a renaissance that will bring even greater status and personal satisfaction to all interested in the Santa Paula Elementary Schools.

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APPENDIX

## AN HISTORICAL ORATION

Excerpts from remarks by Guy L. Hardison, Mayor of Santa Paula, at the opening of the Joint Institute, School Custodians and School Trustees, held in the auditorium of Santa Paula Union High School, Saturday, January 6, 1960:

When County Superintendent of Schools, W. K. Cobb, did me the honor to invite me to make an address of welcome before this body, I, in accepting, advised him that I was not a public speaker and therefore to expect but little.

I am told that when one begins to reminisce it is a sure sign of old age. Well, I acknowledge it. In fact, if that is so, I am well along in my second childhood and you may expect to find me knocking at the door of the primary grade at any time to take up my education.

When my parents, my sister, and myself together with a goodly number of others from the Pennsylvania Oil Fields arrived in Newhall, July 1, 1883, it was hot--in fact it was so hot that one of the good ladies, the mother of a lot of rather strenuous youngsters, was heard to remark that she thought Newhall should be spelled with two E's instead of an A. There was no ice to be had--the water was poor, and all suffered from the unaccustomed heat.

Father concluded that the family would have to be moved to a spot nearer the coast. He would have to spend most of his time in connection with the oil interests of Mr. Lyman Stewart and himself in the Newhall District. Santa Paula was the place selected for the family. The Stewarts settled in Los Angeles--a city of less than 18,000 at that time.

I arrived in Santa Paula with my parents and sister, Augusta, on July 5th, 1883--56 years and 6 months ago yesterday. At that time the schools of the City were conducted in two buildings; the lower grades presided over by Miss Victoria Shore in a building on Main Street where now stands Morrison's Drug Store, which school I attended. Later Miss Shore resigned her position to become the bride of M. H. Anderson, prominent farmer of the Briggs District. Miss Anna Parsons followed Miss Shore as teacher of the lower grades.

T. O. Toland presided over the higher grades in a building just south of what is now known as Ventura Street and the corner of Mill. Mr. Toland, affectionately known as TOT, afterward became one of California's very prominent attorneys. As I remember, he was a member of the first class to be graduated from the University of California at Berkeley.

The old school buildings, having become too small, a new one was built, a three-room building, on the site of

the present City Hall. This building now stands on the original school site at Ventura and Mill Street.

Following Mr. Toland as principal of the Santa Paula Schools came H. S. Adney, a tall, slender man of delicate health, who, because of his catlike tread around the back of the room and general quiet manners, was nicknamed Rip. Due to ill health Mr. Adney resigned his position and moved to Lancaster--there to publish for many years a newspaper.

A splendid young fellow, Will Wright, also of gentle manner and delicate health, filled out Mr. Adney's unexpired term.

The type of principal then changed with the incoming of A. M. Guidinger, a husky six-footer--a good educator, but with a firey temper which at times got completely away from him to the extent that on one occasion he jerked a slat off a recitation bench and used it across the back of one of the male pupils who had broken some rule of his. All in all, Guidinger was a good fellow--not only a good instructor, but a splendid good fellow to be with on trips out into the hills. My memories of him are pleasant.

He was followed by David Snedden, another raw-boned six-footer, raised in the Mountains of Ventura County on the well-known Snedden Ranch. Snedden served a number of years in Santa Paula Schools--afterward becoming a well-known educator in one of the eastern universities. Santa

Paula is proud of Dr. David Snedden having been one of

Another Ventura County boy I would like to mention  
is Dr. David Barrows, past president of the University of  
California. His youth was spent in Nordhoff, now named  
Ojai. Dr. Barrows ranks among the foremost citizens of the  
United States. We are proud of him.

In these early days of which I speak, C. T.  
Meredith, a handsome, polished gentleman, was our County  
Superintendent--making his trips throughout the County to  
visit the schools driving a spirited team of horses, the  
best method of transportation in those days.

As the town grew other schools have been added.  
The old three-room school building, heretofore spoken of,  
having been moved to its present location, a larger build-  
ing was built on the old site--latterly sold to the City of  
Santa Paula, and now used as the City Hall.

Followed the McKevitt School--to a very great  
extent made possible by the generosity of the late Mrs.  
Alice McKevitt, widow of Santa Paula's pioneer banker,  
C. H. McKevitt, and mother of Mrs. C. C. Teague. Followed  
the Barbara Webster School--devoted to the education of  
Mexican children.

When the school building, now the City Hall, was  
sold a new site was purchased on what used to be called  
River Street, now Harvard Boulevard, and a new building  
erected which was given the name of Isbell School. The

building has been entirely rehabilitated and reopened again for the first time this week.

It seems fitting to me that we pause and pay homage to that grand old lady, Mrs. Olive Mann Isbell for whom this school was named, and who taught the first English School in California, commencing about the 15th of December, 1846, at Santa Clara. Mrs. Isbell was related to Horace Mann, the noted educator. She and Dr. Isaac C. Isbell, her husband, were living in Santa Paula when we came here. He was for a time a surgeon in General Fremont's Army. He died in Santa Paula January 6th, 1886. Mrs. Isbell passed away at her home in Santa Paula on March 26th, 1899, age 74 years, 7 months, and 16 days. She was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, August 8th, 1824.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have known Dr. and Mrs. Isbell will never forget this kindly couple. For a more complete history of Dr. and Mrs. Isbell from 1846 on, may I refer you to an interview given Agnes E. Howe and published in The Ojai of April 3, 1895, and reproduced in the Santa Paula Chronicle of March 31, 1899, a copy of which is possessed by Mrs. Clarence Beckley of Santa Paula. This article, in my opinion, should be reprinted and preserved in the history archives of this County.

It was difficult in those days to receive any higher education than that afforded by our elementary

schools up to and including the eighth grade. Some of the leading citizens of the valley headed by Nathan W. Blanchard, C. H. McKevitt, and W. L. Hardison, my father, organized the Santa Paula Academy--its first principal being the Reverend T. D. Murphy, a Congregationalist Minister of high scholastic attainments. A staff of teachers was employed--French, German, Latin, and Greek were taught as well as Higher Mathematics and the Sciences. The Academy afforded a good music department as well as an art department.

In the music department, Miss Nora Fornia taught the piano and Leon G. Sinnard the violin. Miss Bertha Hunt was the head of the art department--teaching black and white, oil painting, and water color. Many of the local ladies availed themselves of the facilities in both departments. I studied both piano and violin and did a considerable amount of black and white work in the art department. If nothing more, these studies have given me an appreciation of both music and art which I greatly value.

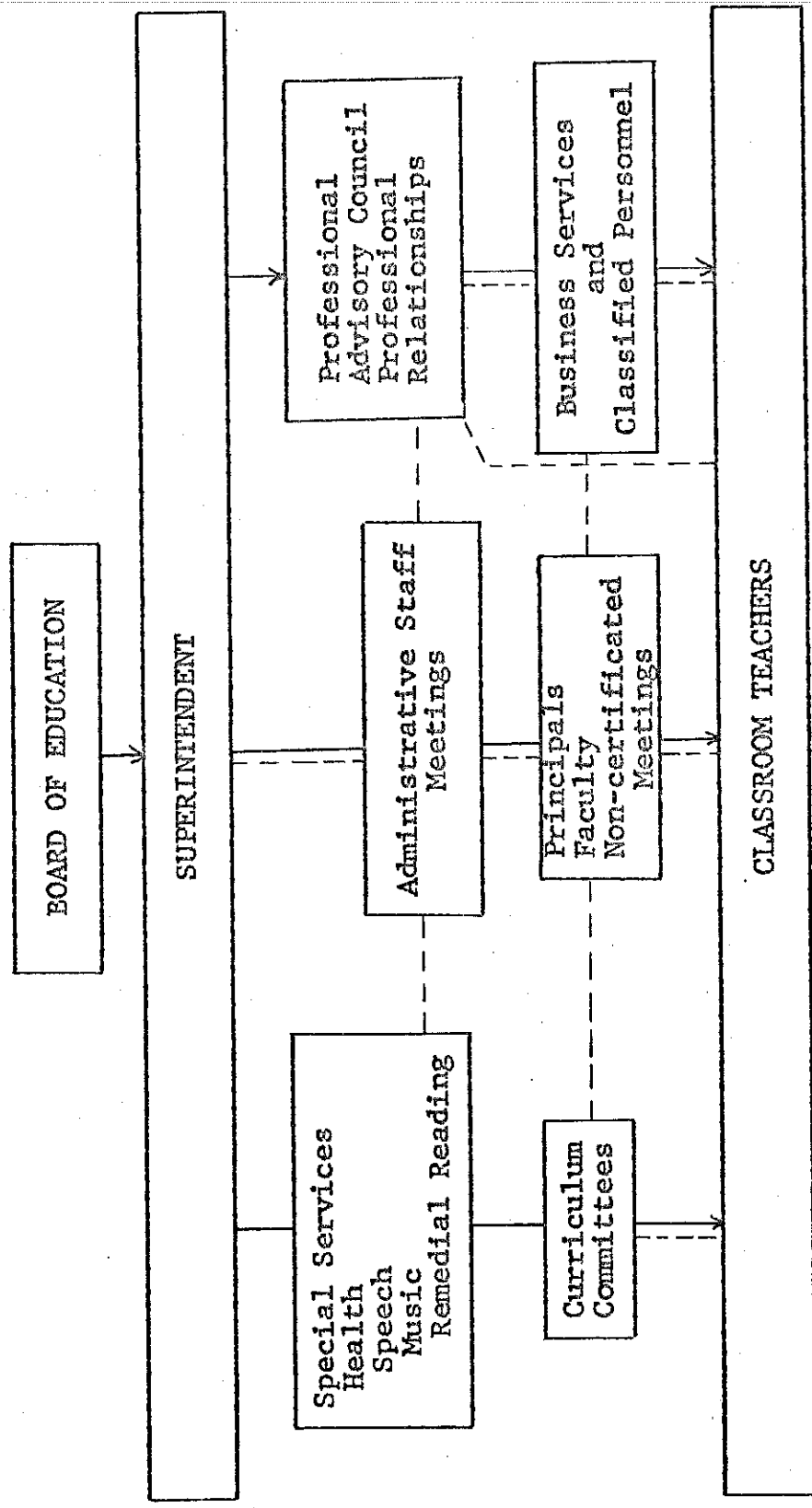
Upon the founding of the Santa Paula Union High School, the Academy was turned over to it--being, as it were, its foundation.

These are the events as I have known them, of what has led up to our present elementary school system presided over by George A. Bond, Superintendent of City Schools, and our fine Santa Paula Union High School, now housed in these

new buildings, and presided over by Mr. F. M. Eakin,  
District Superintendent.

It is to these splendid schools and to our fair  
City of Santa Paula that it is my very great pleasure and  
honor to welcome you.

CHART OF COMMUNICATIONS  
SANTA PAULA SCHOOL DISTRICT



KEY: Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
Communication - - - - -

## A.D.A. COST COMPARISON

	<u>Ventura County</u>	<u>Santa Paula without C.P.</u>	<u>County + or -</u>
1959-60	\$ 366	\$ 364	\$ -2
1960-61	374	390	+16
1961-62	395	396	+1
1962-63	400	412	+12
1963-64	404	402	-2
1964-65	421	421	0
1965-66			

## FINANCIAL DATA

TAX ELECTION, March 1955 - 1.30

	<u>ADA</u>	<u>SECURED</u>	<u>A/W per ADA</u>	<u>TEACHERS</u>	<u>TAX</u>
55-56		17,660,610	8,482		\$1.50
56-57	2,161	19,794,710	9,438	84	1.59
57-58	2,236	23,885,480	11,030	87	1.65
TAX ELECTION 6/58		* (10,022,200)			
58-59	2,280	26,416,140	11,586	91	2.03
		* (12,143,830)			
59-60	2,342	29,429,000	12,566	91	2.02
		* (14,103,780)			
60-61	2,423	31,054,390	12,818	98	2.12
		* (15,615,220)			
61-62	2,489	29,502,320	11,851	103	1.86
		* (16,581,330)			
62-63	2,472	31,845,000	12,882	100	1.78
		* (18,573,330)			
63-64	2,573	31,764,930	12,345	104	1.81
		* (10,679,790)			
64-65	2,688	31,844,200	11,800	108	1.96
		* (9,655,480)			
65-66	2,840	30,209,490	10,600	113	2.09
		* (6,716,000)			

\*OIL WEALTH

## REVENUE

Data from Auditors' Reports

<u>SCHOOL YEAR</u>	<u>PRIN. APPORT.</u>	<u>LOCAL TAX</u>	<u>*OTHER</u>		
1958-59	342,297	525,465 (2.03)	111,070	978,832	REVENUE
				962,298	EXPENDITURES
				<u>16,534</u>	BALANCE
1959-60	363,018	583,851 (2.02)	123,511	1,070,380	
				<u>1,062,111</u>	
				8,268	BALANCE
1960-61	370,627	645,976 (2.12)	246,167	1,262,770	
				<u>1,156,864</u>	
				105,906	BALANCE
1961-62	394,372	534,432 (1.86)	255,323	1,184,127	
				<u>1,108,801</u>	
				75,325	BALANCE
1962-63	417,789	555,353 (1.78)	205,245	1,178,387	
				<u>1,098,701</u>	
				79,685	BALANCE
1963-64	402,239	564,447 (1.81)	241,071	1,207,757	
				<u>1,109,984</u>	
				97,772	BALANCE
1964-65	469,838	613,694 (1.96)	246,904	1,330,436	
				<u>1,211,366</u>	
				119,070	BALANCE
1965-66	521,650	631,362 (2.09)	271,777	1,424,789	
				<u>1,424,789</u>	
				0 000 000	NO BALANCE
1966-67	520,000	716,000 (2.09)	122,000	1,358,000	
				<u>1,565,000</u>	
				-(207,000)	

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\*INCLUDES previous Year Balance and Unsecured Taxes

PERSONNEL OF BOARD BY YEARS

Year	President	Clerk	Other Members
1920-24	Strong, Mrs. Ethel	Bowker	Foster, Cecil P.
1924-25	Strong	Bowker	Foster
1925-26	Strong	Bowker-Lothridge 2/26	Foster - Culbertson 4/26
1926-27	Strong	Lothridge, L. S.	Culbertson, James
1927-28	Strong	Lothridge	Culbertson
1928-29	Strong	Lothridge	Culbertson
1929-30	Strong	Brown, Dr. H. I. Q.	Culbertson
1930-31	Culbertson	Brown	Lundeen, Bert
1931-32	Brown	Lundeen	Lincoln, Leigh
1932-33	Brown	Lundeen	Lincoln
1933-34	Brown	Lundeen	Lincoln
1934-35	Brown	Lundeen-Webster 12/34	Giacomazzi 12/34
1935-36	Webster, L. D.	Giacomazzi, Mrs. Ellis	Farrand, Wm.
1936-37	Webster	Giacomazzi	Farrand
1937-38	Farrand	Giacomazzi	Dodds, Clifford T.
1938-39	Giacomazzi	Churchill, Perry	Dodds
1939-40	Giacomazzi	Churchilli	Dodds
1940-41	Giacomazzi	Churchill-Dodds	Dodds
1941-42	Giacomazzi	Dodds	Hagen, Louis O.
1942-43	Giacomazzi	Dodds	Hagen
1943-44	Giacomazzi	Udall, Fred V.	Hagen
1944-45	Giacomazzi	Udall	Hagen
1945-46	Giacomazzi	Udall	Hagen
1946-47	Giacomazzi	Udall	Hagen
1947-48	Giacomazzi	Udall	Hagen