

Ribbon cutting ceremonies to open new foot bridge

December 30, 1964

Students on the San Diego campus of the University of California, will officially "cross over the bridge" for the first time at noon, Tuesday (January 5) when ribbon cutting ceremonies for the 122-foot wooden arch spanning U. S. Highway 101 are held.

The ceremonies officially opening the new pedestrian overpass will include students and administrative officers of the University and will take place in the middle of the bridge 15 feet above the traffic on the famed Pacific Coast Highway.

UCSD is probably the only university campus in the United States to own a bridge crossing a major U. S. highway. The bridge, constructed of laminated planks of Douglas Fir, is located at the top of Rose Canyon grade about a quarter of a mile south of La Jolla junction. It was hoisted into place by two giant cranes in just 13 minutes on December 18.

The Summerbell Company of Santa Rosa built the two supporting beams, made of two-inch planks glued together. The Nielsen Construction Company of San Diego constructed the three-inch plank deck. Beams and deck were bolted together near the bridge crossing site.

The wooden span, which can handle light vehicle traffic but is designed as a foot bridge, will serve as a quick-- and safe-- route between The First College on the west side of Highway 101 and the recently acquired Camp Matthews site on the east. Camp Matthews, which the U. S. Marine Corps relinquished to UCSD last October, is the site of the University School of Medicine scheduled to begin construction in 1966.

In the meantime, the University is making good use of the former military buildings with an eye toward saving taxpayers' dollars. The campus police department is located near the main gate and a branch of the city fire department is located nearby. Some 22 male freshmen students have moved into living quarters at the camp giving UCSD its first campus undergraduate dorms more than a year ahead of schedule.

Several administrative offices of the University are scheduled to move to the camp from Building B in The First College providing much needed academic space in the seven-story building.

In addition, plans are now under way to make use of the existing camp buildings for educational purposes instead of waiting for new buildings to be constructed. Construction of The Second College at UCSD, to be located north of The First College complex on Torrey Pines Mesa, is scheduled to begin in 1966 with enrollment of students following sometime later. Use of the camp facilities will put the University two years ahead of present estimates in the development of its undergraduate program.