

Renovation of Camp Matthews (for College Management)

November 22, 1968

The dreaded sound of reveille being blown on a bugle isn't heard anymore, and the blur of green-fatigued recruits is gone from the site of Camp Matthews. In their places are the dreaded sound of the alarm clock ringing and the multi-colored clothes of 700 students scurrying about Matthews Campus at the University of California, San Diego.

Matthews Campus, converted from a Marine camp, is the staging area for the students of each new college--the master plan for UCSD includes the construction of 12 colleges, a new one every three years. While each new college is being built, the students for that college will be attending classes, engaging in their academic activities and some living in residence halls on Matthews Campus. They will stay in this staging area for two years.

UCSD is scheduled to expand by an increment of 800 students per year and to reach maximum growth by 1995, with a student enrollment of 27,500. The total enrollment for the fall quarter of 1968 was 3,800. By 1995, 12 interrelated colleges will have been established, each accommodating approximately 2,300 graduate and undergraduate students.

The primary purpose of establishing the 12 colleges within the campus framework is to help the student maintain his individuality within such a large student body and to provide a variety of education atmospheres and philosophies.

It would be a very costly and impractical plan if the university couldn't enroll students for each new college until after the buildings were completed; so when it became known that the camp would be vacated, the university wanted the land for the staging area. Revelle College, the first college, was already being constructed, and it was just across the road.

The Senate Armed Services Committee passed a bill for the transfer in June of 1962. The Senate passed the bill that August, and the House and the late President Kennedy agreed in September. A paragraph in the bill stated that the land must always be used for educational purposes.

UCSD officially received the title to the 580 acres in 1964, when the Marines formerly occupying the site were moved to Camp Pendleton.

While the question of the cost of demolishing the existing buildings was being considered, renovation was suggested. The result was a savings of approximately \$5 million, in contrast with what space would have cost in providing comparable facilities in permanent structures.

The repair and expansion of these facilities was estimated to have cost \$5 per square foot. Normal university building costs run to \$33 per square foot.

A typical remodeling project called for roof reinforcing, new plasterboard walls, paint and new floor coverings. Heating and ventilating equipment for the buildings was minimal. The university made use of several advantages to tile Camp Matthews location, including five or six miles of paved road, water piping systems and landscaping.

The remodeling was started in 1965 and completed, for the most part, a year later. Some remodeling still continues. An example of this is tile building that was first remodeled into a gymnasium-type building. When a new gymnasium and natatorium was completed this year to serve the first three colleges, remodeling was begun on the old building to convert it to offices.

There are approximately 60 buildings on the Matthews Campus at this time. The existing barracks were converted to classroom buildings. They were equipped with "outrigger" type structures to break the railroad car appearance, and the drab khaki color on the walls yielded to light green and peach, with bright orange doors and blue and orange piping.

Twenty-one Quonset huts were renovated for classrooms and art and music studios. These huts are the most unusual buildings on the campus. File conversion work involved the addition of a small, railed wooden entry porch. Front walls were replaced with panels of glass. Paint, lighting fixtures and landscaping completed the job at a cost of \$5 per square foot. The Quonsets accommodate from 16 to 75 students. Some are divided into segments and others use the entire area.

Another conversion project was the student health center. Formerly a large barracks building, it was cut in half, moved to its present site, put back together and outfitted. The building now includes a lobby with adjoining offices, examination rooms, clinical labs and two infirmary wards, one for men and the other for women. Again, the conversion was achieved with partitioning, interior decorating, new wiring and new paint.

The Camp Matthews entry building, where Marine guards were once stationed to screen incoming and outgoing traffic, has been turned into offices for the personnel department. The top floor of the fire station (which, amazingly, is still a fire station) has been converted into offices for the public affairs office. The old post headquarters is now the university business offices. The old mess hall was rightly converted to a cafeteria, and the noncommissioned officers' club became a student recreation center. Three Camp Matthews tennis courts were maintained for student use.

A building equipped with bowling lanes became a museum and art gallery at a cost of \$25,000. An equivalent new building would cost \$130,000.

Artistry also shows up on the old reservoir where a student has embellished the exterior with a multi-color painting. After a first use as a dance hall, it was changed to a storage area--with potential as a classroom site.

Other existing buildings were converted to offices, a library and reading room, a bookstore and dormitories.

All work in the remodeling project was done by local contractors on a time and material basis.

There were 12 new buildings constructed, including administrative offices, extension offices, registrar's offices, a building to house a printing plant and new dormitories. The \$136,000, one-story building constructed to house administrative offices was the most costly aspect of the Matthews project.

The new administrative complex, with offices for the chancellor and vice chancellors and their staffs, is counted as one project. It is a series of attractive single-story buildings, a combination of cedar siding and glass, linked by covered breezeways. Using dry-wall construction on concrete slab foundations, the cost of this complex ran \$12 per square foot, about half what the multi-storied laboratory buildings cost. This cluster of offices is also linked with the former reception building, the place where Marines visited with their families and friends, which has now been converted into an administration conference room.

The remodeled structures are designed to stand as a campus staging area for eight to ten years, at which time the buildings will be torn down so that the eighth and ninth colleges can be built on the site. During the interim, the wooden, single-story structures will serve as temporary headquarters for the students who will form the nucleus of the student body for each new college.

In this way, the students and faculty can be together in familiar surroundings and the buildings for each new college can be built at the same time, rather than moving the students into one building at a time.

The first students moved into Matthews Campus in 1967. They are the members of John Muir College, the second college. In the fall of 1969, they are scheduled to move into the completed buildings on the Muir College site, and in the fall of 1970, the third college students are scheduled to occupy Matthews Campus.

The cost of Matthews Campus to the university was approximately \$2 1/2 million, including the new buildings. Revelle College cost approximately \$24 million, and John Muir College is expected to cost \$22 million. It is believed that the staging area concept saves at least \$3 million for every college that opens.

Marine veterans may shudder when they pass their old camp today, but the remodeling has saved them and other state taxpayers a lot of money. It may amuse them, too, to learn that the general's garage was converted to art studios.