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DISTRICTS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

FOR THE

Santa Clara Union High School

AND THE

Santa Clara Elementary School Districts

EMIL R. BUCHSER, SUPERINTENDENT

1000 MARKET STREET
SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
CHERRY 3-6567

October 11, 1959

To whom it may concern:

The growth of the Santa Clara Union High School District in the past few years has been one of the fastest expanding areas in the entire United States.

In 1947 Santa Clara Union High School had an enrollment of around 700. The present high school enrollment is approximately 2800. This includes Buchser and Santa Clara High Schools. It has been predicted that within 25 years, which would be about 1985, our high school district will have 8600 or more students.

The Adrian Wilcox High School, to be built on the juncture of Bower and Reed Lanes, will be completed and ready for occupancy September of 1961. The Board is still contemplating adding an additional site to the district in the Agnew area.

The original high school of Santa Clara was located on the block which is presently occupied by the Fremont Elementary School. This block is bounded by Madison, Fremont, Monroe and Harrison streets. In 1906 the high school moved to a new two story brick building located on the corner of Washington and Bellomy streets and occupied that building until 1922 when the elementary school located at Fremont as mentioned above was divided and the 6th, 7th and 8th grades then occupied this brick building.

In 1922 a new high school was built on the same block on the corner of Bellomy and Jackson. It was just prior to 1922 that the Santa Clara High School District became a Union District which encompassed the areas of the elementary schools, namely Braley, Jefferson, Doyle, Agnew, and of course, the Santa Clara City. In the 1940's Alviso also petitioned to be included in the Union High School District.

This area was composed mainly of orchards and open land. The farmers in this area were very successful and prosperous in their agricultural enterprises. The open land was farmed for tomatoes, beets, hay, and of course, orchards composed of prunes, pears and apricots. There were many dairies also in this area.

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The expansion of the City of Santa Clara has gone along with this great development and during the 1950's the movement toward an industrial area began to take shape. Santa Clara's population for 1985 is predicted to be 160,000 people. It presently has a population of 44,000.

Much is being done to develop this area. Various streams that have coursed their way through the district are being changed, their channels are cut deeper in order to take off the water that in various times overflow and flood the area, particularly the areas closer to the bay. The orchards are rapidly disappearing and subdivisions are taking their place. Large ranches are a thing of the past.

Unification of schools has been a point of discussion throughout the State of California. This area has been one prominently mentioned as one eventually to be unified. Up to this point nothing has been done in that direction.

Mr. Arvey Hurst is superintendent of the Alviso School District and has been for four years. During his office, the George Mayne Elementary School has been built and Alviso is now also entering upon a great era of expansion.

Jefferson Union District became a Union District and it's first principal was a young man by the name of Max Wilhelmy. The Jefferson Union District is composed of Braley, Doyle, Jefferson and Agnew as mentioned above. The Jefferson Elementary School District is a part of the Santa Clara Union High School District. Mr. Wilhelmy passed away within a few years after his appointment and Mr. Lawrence Curtis was appointed as the Superintendent of that area immediately thereafter. He has been Superintendent of that District for 22 years.

Jefferson District has been growing so fast that its taxpayers have been unable to keep up with the demand for classrooms and schools, therefore, has had to appeal to the State of California for state aid, which has been the practice of all impoverished districts in California. Many besides the Jefferson District in this county have applied for this aid.

This area presently is regarded as a most favorable location for homes. Aside from the industrial area, the development has been in homes but we can still look forward to a greater expansion in homes and industry and thereby more schools to keep up with the increasing population.

Sincerely,



EMIL R. BUCHSER
City & District Superintendent
Santa Clara Public Schools

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