V. Some Early Schools

In 1900 there were more schools in Santa Cruz County than there are now--but they were of a very different kind.

There are now, in 1978, approximately 31,000 youngsters enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade in the county, and 54 schools. At the turn of the century, of course, there were far fewer children, but the School Personnel Directory for 1899-1900 shows that there were a total of 67 schools in existence at that time. Of those 67, 46 were one-teacher schools and 10 were two-teacher schools. The largest teaching staff in the county was 10—at Mission Hill School in Santa Cruz.

Today we usually build a school and then transport the students to it. But in those days schools generally were built where the students were--each of the tiny, relatively inaccessible communities tucked away in remote valleys throughout the county usually had its own
lilute country school. When residents of an area felt there were enough children to warrant it, they would form a school district, pool their resources to build a schoolhouse, and hire a teacher (who often boarded at the home of one of the local citizens).

Thus, while today there are 10 school districts in the county, there was a grand total of 57 districts at the turn of the century. Only two of the districts had more than one school within their boundaries: the "big city" districts of Santa Cruz (eight schools) and Watsonville (four). All the others had only one school apiece.

As the decades went by and travel and communication improved—and as the school bus became more common—many smaller schools were absorbed by larger, better established schools. The little, one-teacher school disappeared.

...Union, Petroleum, Laguna, Powder Works, El Jaro, Seaside, Summit, Agua Puerca, Newell Creek, Bald Mountain, Brown, Ocean View, Cave Gulch... we could go on and on. These are just a few of the names of early schools that are now almost forgotten. (A more complete list appears in the Appendix.)

Obviously, it is an impossible task to trace here the history of each of those schools, even if space permitted. Each one went through various stages of evolution... some prospered, some were annexed to other schools, some burned down or were moved. Some only lasted a few years because they were dependent on the temporary population of a lumber mill or grist mill or paper mill; when all the marketable trees in an area were cut or the grain crops were no longer profitable, the mills moved elsewhere or went out of business, and the schools usually died a natural death from lack of pupils. And of course some of those one-room schools simply led the kind of obscure, unchronicled life that causes the historical researcher to despair.

For these reasons we have chosen here only a handful of early schools to describe and hope that they may serve as examples of the whole...
CORRALITOS (OAK GROVE)

Corralitos school district was organized under the name of Oak Grove. Oak Grove School was one of the earliest in the county, probably established about 1859. (You'll recall that Oak Grove was one of the seven schools described by Superintendent Haslam in his 1861 report, mentioned earlier in this book. In 1868 the Green Valley school district was carved out of the Oak Grove district, and in 1871 Oak Grove became Corralitos.)

"Corralitos" means "little corrals" in Spanish, and this area in southern Santa Cruz County is said to be where the Mission pastured many of its horses and cows. Lumbering began there in 1853, and the population grew as families settled there to work in the lumber mills in the surrounding hills and to raise grain.

By 1861 the thriving little settlement had two stores, a grist mill, a wagon and blacksmith shop, 20 houses, three sawmills, and--a schoolhouse, called the Oak Grove School.

A Mr. Brown taught at the school for only three days, then gave up the position because there were only "small students" in attendance, and he considered them too insignificant to spend time and patience on. A Mrs. Knowles and her husband taught, followed by a Mr. Fall. Others who came at intervals included Mr. Lloyd, Miss Webber, Mr. Burdick, Mr. O'Connelly, F. Cooper, and the Misses Hall and Fallon. E. C. Newell taught from 1869 to 1871 and during those years the attendance blossomed to 130 pupils and the schoolhouse was termed inadequate.

The next schoolhouse constructed at Corralitos in 1870-71 cost about $3,000, and when it was built the district name was changed from Oak Grove to Corralitos.

The school took great pride in its bell. It had cost $125 and had a commanding tone that rang out to all corners of the district, calling the students to class. The school's next great pride and joy was its library of 400 volumes, including the American Encyclopedia.
By 1879 the first schoolhouse had been moved off the original site and a larger one built to hold the growing enrollment.

As the years went by other small schools sprang up in the area. In 1946-47 Corralitos annexed the small districts of Eureka, Hazel Dell, Las Manzanitas, Brown’s Valley, Redwood, and Green Valley. In 1965 Corralitos itself was absorbed into the newly formed Pajaro Valley Unified School District and ceased operation as a school.

SAN ANDREAS

San Andreas School (sometimes spelled "San Andres" in early days) came into existence in 1861. It was given a one-sentence mention in Superintendent Haslam’s report of that year: "San Andres, (new District)–Of redwood; sixteen feet by twenty feet; ten feet high; not very well furnished; average daily attendance, ten."

It was located in the south county area, at the corner of San Andreas and Buena Vista Roads, where it still may be seen today.

After that humble beginning in 1861 it continued to grow. We are fortunate to have a local resident who was a student at San Andreas at the turn of the century and can tell us first hand what the school was like then. She is Miss Clara G. Dickson, 86 years old at this writing and now living in Watsonville.

Miss Dickson was born in 1891 in the Watsonville area. She was one of four children. She began her education about 1897 at San Andreas School, walking a mile from her home to get there. She went on to become a teacher, graduating from the University of California at Berkeley. She taught school for about 47 years, she says--31 of them at Watsonville High School as a teacher of Spanish. Records show she started at Watsonville High in 1923 as a cooking teacher and Spanish instructor and retired in 1954.

Several years ago she wrote down her memories of her school years at San Andreas for the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. She and the Association have given us permission to reproduce excerpts here, for which we are deeply grateful, because Miss Dickson recreates beautifully what a turn-of-the-century school was like...
As I remember the schoolhouse I think of a large, oblong, white building with green shutters and a wide veranda across the front with a number of steps down to the yard. Inside a wide platform ran across the whole front. On this, a cupboard for library books, an organ, the teacher's desk and tables for exhibits and maps. There were double desks, about four rows. Of course the front ones were small and low. There were coal oil lamps and a large clock on the wall above the blackboards. In the back of the room, in the center, a wood stove and wood box, and in the two corners of the room by the two doors many hooks on the wall for coats, lunch baskets or pails. The outhouses were on the edge of the property, far from the schoolhouse. The water supply was a large barrel with a square hole in the top. This was on a sled and hauled in fresh once a week. Later, I understand there was a spigot at one end of the barrel. A common drinking cup was used for many years.

The railroad track ran within a few feet of the school—so a noisy engine was enough to interrupt a recitation. The railroad station—Ellicott—was just a few yards beyond the school. There was a huge grain-storing warehouse there. I can remember Fred Burnside being in charge of this. During my years in school the train on which President McKinley was riding passed by. Of course we were all outside to see it.

The school day usually began with the teacher standing on the front porch—ringing a small bell. Pupils lined up to march in, salute the flag, and often repeat or learn a
new "Memory Gem." The teacher wrote
them on the front board. One I remember
was...

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us,
Footsteps on the sands of time."

There was on the front board too a schedule
for the day. This was very necessary as
there were nine grades under one teacher's
care. We were fortunate in having very
good teachers so we were well prepared for
entering high school. In the lower grades
we received very pretty colored cards as
rewards for good spelling, reading, etc.
Even in the upper grades some teachers
used pretty cards for yearly report cards
and promotion cards. At the end of the
school year we all looked forward to the
"last day of school." In the evening our
families and friends and many visitors
came to hear a fine program--of recita-
tions, dialogue, dances and tableaus. The
county superintendent was there to present
diplomas. He often made an impressive
speech. I well remember Superintendent
Linscott's fine appearance and good addresses.
[J. W. Linscott was county superintendent
of schools from 1885 to 1906.] After the
school program was over the desks were
piled on the platform and dancing was en-
joyed to the music of Sam Gummow's violin
and sometimes an accordion. For the last
day of school elaborate (to us) decorations
were made. Flowers were brought from
home, and flowers were gathered from the
roadside. At that time of year the yellow
lupines were beautiful. Crepe paper was
used too.
Almost everyone walked to school except in real rainy weather. In our fields my father had built stiles to get over the fences. Many walked down the railroad track. Of course the boys and girls enjoyed the companionship of these walks. The games at school were wonderful too. I remember the games Run Sheep Run, Prisoner's Base, as well as Tag, Baseball, and Last Couple Out. Some teachers had good games during class time too--such as Spelling Bees. We surely learned the parts of speech too in diagramming and parsing, etc.

One of the big events was taking the county examinations which came in a sealed envelope and was opened before us just before the examination.

I can't end this without mentioning the warrants which the teachers received. My father was often clerk of the board so I had a chance to see the warrants—which were, as I remember, $60 for a month. Of course board and room were on the same level.

San Andreas School gave me many happy days.

--Clara Dickson

POWDER WORKS SCHOOL

Founded in 1864, Powder Works School served children of the workers at the powder mill which was located on the San Lorenzo River north of Santa Cruz, where Paradise Park is today.
One of the teachers was Lillian Dake, who lived in Santa Cruz with her mother and stepfather, Judge and Mrs. William Storey. Lillian saddled up and rode horseback each day to her teaching job at Powdermill Flat, a distance of about three miles from the Storey home. When she arrived at the schoolhouse she removed the saddle, tied, and fed her horse. Usually there was a boy around who would help with the horse and, in cold weather, carry firewood and build a fire to warm the one-room school. Lillian carried her lunch, of course, and could make coffee or tea on the school stove.

At the end of the day she would sweep out the schoolhouse, perhaps dust a bit, maybe throw a shovelful of lime down each outside privy (there were always two--one for the boys, one for the girls). Then she would saddle her horse and ride home. All this for the princely sum (perhaps we should say "queenly" sum) of about $50 a month. School operated for six months or less, then would be out of operation for the balance of the year.

Lillian had been one of the fourth class to graduate from Santa Cruz High School in 1883. She then had passed a rigorous written and oral examination by the county superintendent of schools in order to receive her teaching credential. Lillian also was a talented artist and later married Frank Heath who became one of California's well-known early artists. They made their home on Beach Hill in Santa Cruz and Lillian gave up her teaching career.

Powder Works School closed in 1900 and its pupils were sent to Grant School first, then to Mission Hill via the company bus--a horse drawn vehicle.

BAY VIEW SCHOOL

Earlier we mentioned the trend toward the absorption of small, one-school districts into larger districts. But some schools, like Bay View in Santa Cruz, resisted this trend and put up a struggle to retain their autonomy. Santa Cruz wanted to unionize the small school, taking it into its district and pointed out that central administration would produce a more efficient operation. But Bay View didn't buy the argument and didn't give up without a long fight.
Bay View school district was founded in 1865 at the "Four Corners," a location that seemed far out of town in those days, although today West Santa Cruz has crept out, engulfed it, and gone far beyond it. The "corners" location is where Mission and Bay Streets come together.

Bay View was a rate school where parents paid a fee to have their children attend. Anna Phillips taught there until 1867 when she built a small house nearby and set up her own private school with Nellie Doxie as a teacher.

In 1876 a three-story wood schoolhouse was constructed at Bay View with a $20,000 bond issue. A high school actually was started there also but failed to compete with Santa Cruz High School.

Bay View was operating independently as a district at that time. But in that year, 1876, the town of Santa Cruz was incorporated as a city, and the new city charter put all the schools within city boundaries into a single district, to be under the jurisdiction of a single board of school trustees.

Parents of Bay View students objected strenuously. They actually carried their battle to the state Supreme Court. Finally, it took a court order to force them to join the Santa Cruz City School District in 1892.

BEACH SCHOOL

A similar sort of losing battle was fought by the parents of Beach School students near Watsonville, established in 1868 or '69. It was part of the Watsonville district. In 1903 attendance had dropped and the Watsonville school board ordered Beach closed.

But parents banded together and "bussed" children to the school via horse and buggy or wagon for several years, drawing other children from a distance in an attempt to keep the little school open. But finally, when they faced the prospect of having to hire their own teacher, they bowed to the inevitable and gave up. The school ceased operation about 1913.
Perhaps a word should be said here about those parents—not just the Bay View and Beach School parents, but many like them throughout the county. Most of them took great pride in the fact that their children were getting an education. They worked hard to keep up their schoolhouses, and it was important to them to have a say in the education of their children. Many of those parents who put such a high value on education never had the chance to acquire one for themselves.

APTOS SCHOOL

Aptos School District was organized in 1867 along with Mountain District. In 1868 Rafael Castro, a member of one of the county's oldest and most distinguished Spanish families, gave land for a schoolhouse which was built in 1871. In 1899 Claude Spreckels, the sugar king who had purchased a large land holding from Castro, gave property to enlarge the school site and financed a new building. Records of a third wooden structure are lost, but the fourth building was constructed in 1929 in the Mission style so popular in those years. In 1930 Aptos unionized Valencia School and, in 1942, La Selva Beach School.

The latter school had been established in 1871 as Hill School. Its name was changed to Rob Roy in 1932, and then to La Selva Beach in 1936.

RAILROAD SCHOOL

Occasionally a school acquired its name in an interesting or unusual way. Railroad School near Watsonville was one of those. In 1868 families living east of Watsonville were looking forward to the day when the Southern Pacific railroad would cut through the Santa Cruz Mountains at Chittenden Pass and come directly to Watsonville. They built a school on what they thought would be the route and with great anticipation named it Railroad School.

Alas—the negotiations between the city fathers of Watsonville and the railroad bogged down, and the railroad declined to build a
bridge across the Pajaro River without more financial support from the city and changed its route. It went instead to Pajaro, across the river from Watsonville. The little school was isolated. But it hung on to its name.

One of the early teachers at the school was John W. Linscott, who later became county superintendent of schools. In his unpublished autobiography he described how, newly arrived in the Pajaro Valley in the spring of 1869, he went looking for his first teaching job in California:

Monday morning, I called on Mr. H. E. Makinney, County Superintendent of schools, at the old Court House and inquired if there were any schools needing a teacher. After looking over my credentials and recommendations, he said that I was somewhat late, as nearly all of the schools had already commenced, but referred me to a small school near Watsonville. He granted me a temporary certificate, valid until the next quarterly examination to be held a few weeks later.

The next morning I started at an early hour by horse and buggy over the tedious, sandy, hilly road which connected the two towns. No paved highways then, and at ten o'clock interviewed Mr. Charles D. Trafton, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of Railroad School District two miles east of Watsonville. In a few minutes I was engaged to teach the school at a salary of sixty dollars per month--salaries were low in Santa Cruz County in those days. I found a boarding place in the home of Mr. O. H. Willoughby, and on the following Monday, began my first school in California. ...

The schoolhouse, only a short distance from my boarding place, was a rough, board
structure, about forty feet long by twenty feet wide. It had been built of unseasoned lumber which, after shrinking, had left quite wide openings so that there was no necessity for other ventilation. The furniture was in very good condition.

The pupils, ranging in age from five to sixteen, numbered about twenty. They were bright and active and gave me but little trouble in respect to discipline.

Two of Linscott's pupils in Railroad School were Willis and Charley Stillman, who later became prominent Pajaro Valley businessmen.

Railroad continued as a school until 1946, when it was unionized and absorbed into Salsipuedes district.

SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL

As we mentioned earlier, the first high school class in Santa Cruz County was conducted on the fourth floor of the Mission Hill Grammar School in Santa Cruz.

The graduation ceremonies for that first class were held at Smith's (later known as Knight's) Opera House on June 7, 1878, with four pupils receiving diplomas: Miss Pope, Miss Cappelmann, John Cooper, and Underwood McCann. School principal Professor Anderson noted in his speech that the annual cost of each high school student in San Jose was $28.91, but in Santa Cruz it was only $21.41, leaving a balance "to the good."

In an article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel several days after the graduation ceremonies, the editor noted: "The Opera House is a large building, but on Friday evening of last week its seating and standing capacity was crowded as thick as herrings in a can..."
Santa Cruzans had turned out en masse to honor their first four high school graduates.

By 1894 the voters decided that a separate high school building was needed, and they bonded themselves for $45,000 by a vote of 530 to 175 in a March election. The money put additional rooms on Laurel and Branciforte Schools—and built Santa Cruz High School's first separate building. It was three stories high and had a cupola.

For nearly two decades it provided "higher education" for the young men and women of Santa Cruz. And then, on October 1, 1913, the high school burned to the ground.

Five thousand citizens gathered to watch the spectacle. Flames leaped high into the air as the wood building burned. Inside, desks, books, all the equipment that goes to make up a high school, was destroyed. Quick action early in the disaster saved 40 new typewriters, and the school's trophies and records. Everything else burned.

Insurance covered only 70 per cent of the loss. George A. Bond was principal at the time and there were 345 students.

Higher education in Santa Cruz ran a hectic course for some months after the fire. Classes were conducted all over town and after hours in the grammar schools. Cooking classes were held in the Odd Fellows Building on Pacific Avenue. Commercial classes were in the Alta Building downtown, and school programs were held in the Opera House or the Armory.

A March 17, 1914, bond issue for $170,000 passed, and the present high school building was constructed and opened its doors to students in the fall of 1915.

WATSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE GAS HOUSE

Watsonville High School began in the same manner as Santa Cruz High School—and suffered the same fate.
It began as an adjunct to the grammar school, when John W. Linscott was the principal. The two-year high school course was sufficient to get pupils into college, with the addition of some Latin and Greek. But as the schools developed and the curriculum improved, college entrance requirements became stiffer. By 1891 the high school course was extended to three years.

By this time the number of high school students in Watsonville had increased to the point where a new, separate building was needed. The district passed a $25,000 bond, and a two-story frame building, designed by W. H. Weeks, was built on the corner of Third and Marchant Streets. It contained eight classrooms and a library.

On November 8, 1901, only about seven years after it was built, the school burned to the ground. Almost everything was lost, and records were destroyed. A week later the school district received the insurance—approximately $15,000.

In December a bond issue for $30,000 to re-build the school failed. But by February the district was able to pass a smaller bond issue for $15,000. Architect Weeks was hired to design a "Spanish style" building, which was constructed on the foundations of the former school plant.

The trustees then turned their attention to the three elementary schools of the Watsonville district, which by this time were in poor repair. Weeks was called in to modernize the buildings.

But money was a problem. Three times in a row citizens turned down school bond issues at the polls. In desperation the trustees rented a building from the Watsonville Power and Light Company in order to alleviate the crowded conditions. This was known as the Gas House School, and students attended there from 1906 to 1909.

Finally, in 1909, a $40,000 bond issue passed and a new primary building, near the site of the old one, was constructed, plus a new building on Beach Road.
Everyone was proud of Santa Cruz High School when it was built in 1895, the county's first high school building. It burned down in 1913 (see below). Its replacement, the present building on Walnut Avenue, was designed by W. H. Weeks (see next page).

The night Santa Cruz High School burned to the ground—Oct. 1, 1913—there was a shutterbug there who recorded the shattering event with this photograph.
Architect W. H. Weeks went all out when he designed Watsonville High School, built in 1902. It was torn down in 1964. Cafeteria was on bottom floor. Cabrillo College began in this building, holding its classes here 1959-62. The present high school's language complex and library are now on this site.

Boulder Creek High School was a handsome building, also designed by W. H. Weeks. It was built in 1905 for $8,245. Granite Rock Company did the work.

Architect W. H. Weeks of Watsonville, who designed many elegant buildings in Santa Cruz County, including the two shown on this page and the main building of the present Santa Cruz High School. Photo taken about 1905.
LIVE OAK SCHOOL

The ups and downs of early public education in Santa Cruz County's smaller schools are well illustrated in highlights from the history of Live Oak School.

It was established in 1872 when Martin Kinsley gave one-half acre of land for a schoolhouse. The Kinsley's had nine children—reason enough to start a school. The land he gave, located at the corner of Capitola Road and 19th Avenue, was originally part of the Jose Rodriguez property.

A schoolhouse 20' by 50' in size was built, and Miss Mary Cooper was hired to teach at $65 a month. Trustees were Martin Kinsley, Uriah Thompson, and Walter Linsky. In 1878 the trustees added another acre and a half to the school property.

Pupils in 1885 included some historic Santa Cruz County names: Arana, Rodriguez, Moran, Maciel, Castro, and Thurber, among the 38 in attendance. Records show that in 1894 Fannie C. Humphrey taught for five months at $55 a month, then for five more months at $50 a month. Expenditures of 1898 included $18.50 to paint the schoolhouse. The janitor got $4.

In 1914 a new two-room brick schoolhouse was built to replace the original one-room wood building. The new school plan boasted a hot air furnace, toilets, a library, waiting room, and two classrooms—cost not to exceed $4,000. Architect William Bray drew the plans which were a "modification of Mission and Spanish Renaissance styles of architecture..."

In 1915 electricity was installed and the school paid $2 a month to Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company for the privilege of having electric lights.

Units of two classrooms were added in 1922, 1926, and 1935. In those years the Live Oak community grew rapidly as a flower bulb and chicken ranching area.
In 1941 a three-room quonset hut was moved onto the school grounds, and eight years later a wing of four classrooms was added, making a total of 15 usable classrooms.

In 1946 Live Oak School was really feeling the population crunch with 333 students in space planned for 200. The Live Oak tax rate was 90 cents per hundred—the highest of all Santa Cruz County rural schools. Assessed valuation was $1,594,795 and bonding capacity was $79,739.

A survey of rural public schools in Santa Cruz County at that time stated: "Unionization is planned in several districts, as buildings are very old and overcrowded. Some districts are too far from others on poor roads to unite, but their schoolhouses date from the 1870s and show it. Even rural schools' enrollment has jumped from 1,515 in 1942 to 2,908 in 1946."

The report went on to say: "We have tried for government quonset huts, paper-covered buildings, and officers' quarters with no success. We are afraid we will have to try for hollow redwood trees."

By 1951 Live Oak's total classrooms were increased to 24 with an emergency grant of $206,000 from the state at no cost to the district. The crest of the World War II "baby boom" had arrived.

In 1956 the old schoolhouse was demolished with the exception of one room, which was used for kindergarten. Two years later, grades kindergarten through fourth went on double sessions.

Today, after years of financial struggle and double session problems, Live Oak School District has three schools: Live Oak School is located on Capitola Road in Santa Cruz on slightly more than seven acres, Green Acres School is nearby on ten-plus acres, and Del Mar Middle School is less than a mile away on about 12 acres.

Live Oak's story of expansion is typical of many other local school districts located in fast-growing areas of Santa Cruz County.
GLENWOOD

Glenwood district, in the Scotts Valley area, was established in 1885. The school was located in the mountains near Lower Tunnel and Mt. Charlie Roads. In 1905 it burned down—a somewhat common fate of schools in those days, it seems. Following the loss of their school, students attended class in a former butcher shop, and during this time Glenwood was commonly called "the Butcher Shop School."

After a brief period in a private home, a new schoolhouse was built in 1920—complete with running water, two drinking fountains, and two inside lavatories, all very modern for its day. While the butcher shop was in use there had been only one outhouse, used by both boys and girls.

Callista Martin Dake, who attended Glenwood School as a child and then returned to teach there in later years, remembers when Glenwood got a supply of textbooks from Seaside School in 1902 when she was in the second grade. Country school teachers in those days often had to make do with what might be available in the way of supplies, even books.

"We considered ourselves very fortunate, indeed," she says. "We were short on books—the pupils had to double up to study."

A wave of excitement swept through the entire school when the gift books arrived via horse and wagon.

Callista later attended high school for two years in Boulder Creek, boarding there with family friends during the school week. Then she attended Santa Cruz High School for two years, graduating in 1914. Two years at San Francisco Normal School followed (today it is San Francisco State University), and Callista had her teaching credential.

"I went back home to Glenwood to teach," she recalls. "I was paid $50 a month."
The coming of the Southern Pacific railroad through the Santa Cruz Mountains not only opened up entire areas to resort vacationers, but also made it possible for teachers like Clara Steinmetz, Harriet Liles, and Edna Young to ride back and forth daily from their homes in Santa Cruz to teach at country schools like Glenwood and others. Prior to that means of transportation, teachers boarded at Glenwood Hotel or with the Martin family.

In 1905 Martin District was formed from part of the original Glenwood District. The Martin School changed its name to Valley View in 1920. Valley View went out of existence in 1938, but Glenwood School stayed open until 1951, when its pupils began attending Scotts Valley School.

More about Glenwood School is contained in the chapter "Christmas in a Mountain School," later in this book.

CHESTNUTWOODS

Lest we forget...

The public school system was not the only source of higher education in Santa Cruz County. In 1884 Professor John A. Chestnutwood brought Chestnutwood's Business College to town. It started in a ground floor room of the Pacific Ocean House, then moved to the second floor of F. A. Hihn's new brick building at the corner of Walnut and Pacific Avenues. It could accommodate 400 pupils, all eager to pursue the mysteries of shorthand and typing.

Historian Leon Rowland notes that all was not business, however: "Chestnutwoods, in the best college tradition, had its baseball teams and gave dances, in addition to teaching bookkeeping and florid handwriting which ran heavily to ornamental scrolls."

The college later was purchased by Heald's Business College and was moved to Berkeley. (Also, we should note in passing, in 1882 W. M. Gardner established a shorthand and typewriting institute in Santa Cruz.)
Most of the early schools described in this chapter could be described as monuments to the determination of Santa Cruz County parents that their children receive an education. But, as we'll see in the next chapter, some parents had to have more determination than others...
The original Amesti School was established in 1879. This building was erected in 1912 on Green Valley Road, not too far from the present Amesti School in the Pajaro Valley District. Two long-time teachers at this school were Marie Knudsen and Hazel Twyman.

Hazel Dell School, built in 1884 and suspended in 1944. Located on Hazel Dell Road, off Mt. Madonna Road. The building is still standing.
Scotts Valley was really "out in the country" back in the 1890s when this photograph of Scotts Valley School was made. Today's Scotts Valley Drive was then a wagon track that ran along between the two picket fences in front of the schoolhouse.

Felton School of the 1890s can hardly be seen in this early photo. The flagpole gives a clue.
Highland School, established in 1881. This building, constructed in 1915, was located off Old San Jose Road in Skyland area. Highland unionized with Loma Prieta Joint District (Santa Clara) in 1950.

Hester Creek School, built in 1906 on Old San Jose Road near Hester Creek. It was suspended from 1943 through '45, then re-opened in 1946. Absorbed into Loma Prieta Joint Union District in 1950.
Green Valley District was split off the original Oak Grove District in 1868. This is the second Green Valley School, built in 1898-99, at 1080 Green Valley Road, Watsonville. Continued as school until 1946, when it was annexed to Corralitos.

Ferndale School, located north of county fairgrounds, was established in 1907, and unionized with Salsipuedes in 1946. This photo taken about 1945.
Gault School, in Santa Cruz, was proud of its dormers, its bell tower, and its six windows on each end of the building. Photo taken about 1935.

A school for blacks in Watsonville was conducted in this building. Dates uncertain. See following chapter.