

GOING TO SCHOOL IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

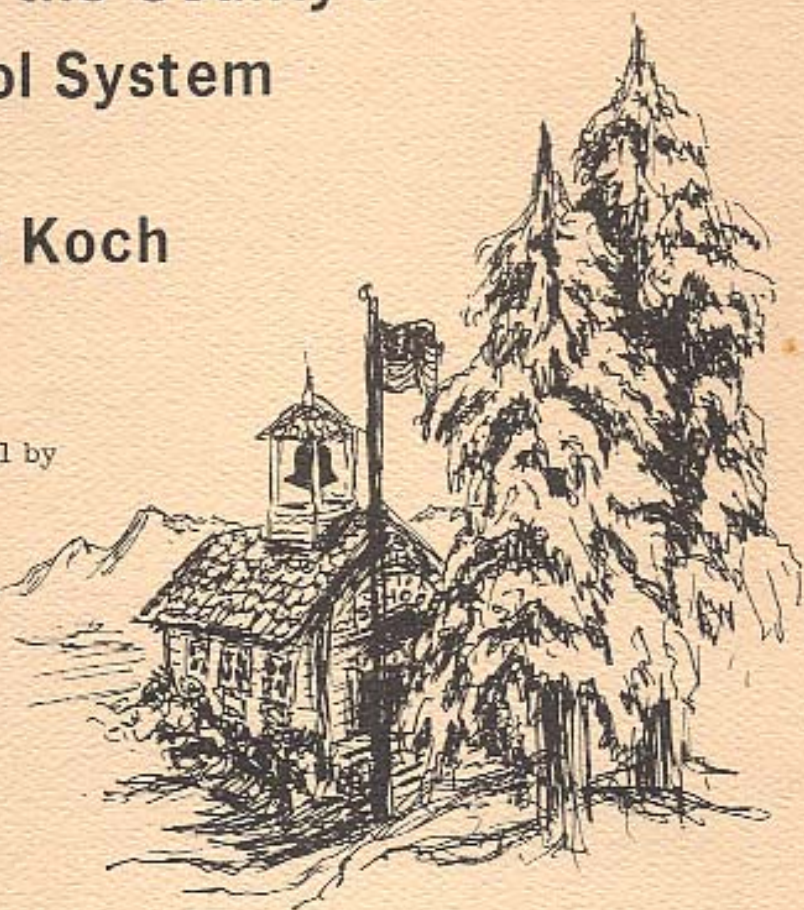
A History of the County's
Public School System

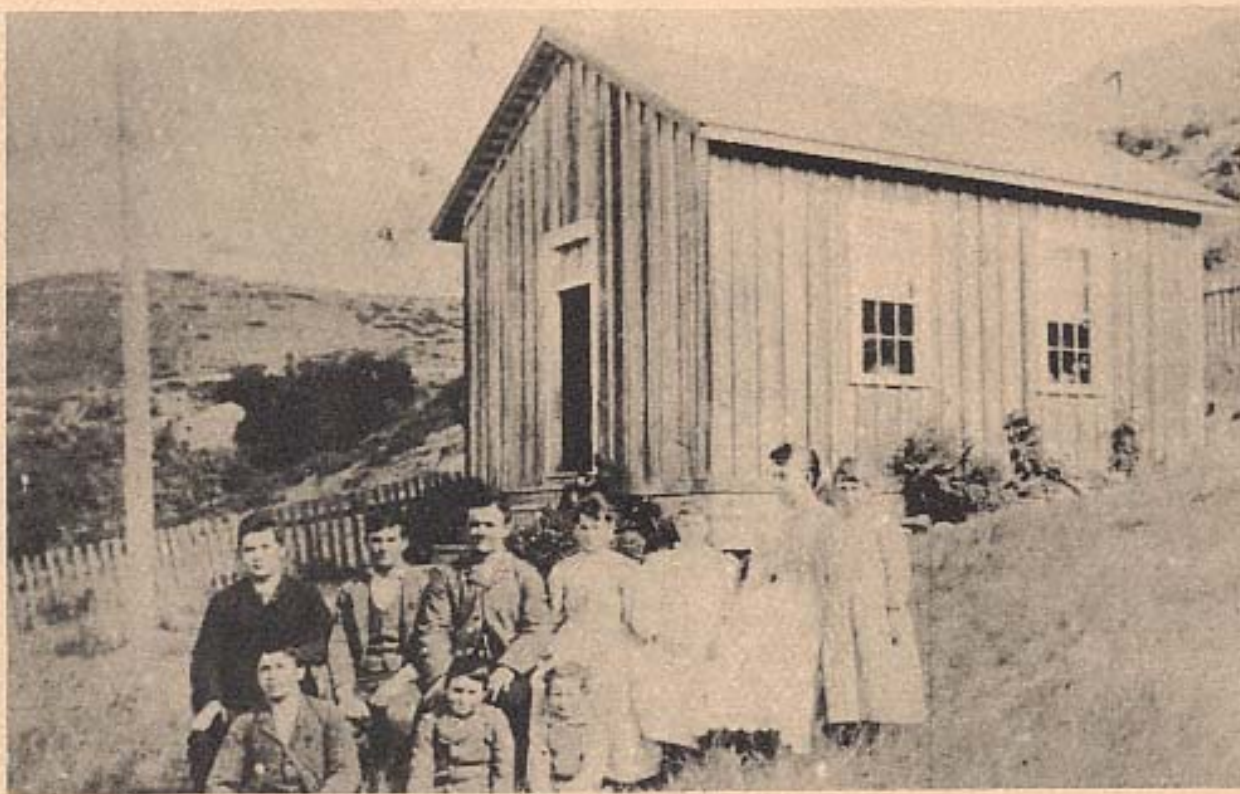
by Margaret Koch

Editing and
Supplementary Material by
Marylyn Painter

Published by
The Santa Cruz County
Office of Education
Richard R. Fickel,
Superintendent

Fall, 1978





Old Laguna School. This school began in 1865 as Petroleum School, one of the earliest in the county's school system. In 1875, when this building was built, its name was changed to Laguna. It closed around 1935, when the district was annexed by Santa Cruz City District.

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the Public Information Office of
the County Office of Education
701 Ocean St., Room 200
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Printed by the
Educational Media & Technology Center
2500 Rosedale Ave.
Soquel, California 95073

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Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Preface

The "School History" project was launched by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education in the bicentennial year of 1976, a year when interest in the historical heritage of this country was high. The idea was to produce a book telling the story of the schools of Santa Cruz County, tracing the progress of local education over the past 200 years. It was to be amply illustrated by old photographs, and provide the reader not only with a chronicle of names, dates, and places, but also, hopefully, with a flavor and feeling of those schools of the past--what the classrooms and curricula were like, and what it was like to be a pupil or teacher "back then."

The subject was a broad one; the task was not easy. The book has been more than two years in preparation. In January of 1976 a committee was selected to begin gathering materials. Early school records--those which were still available--were unearthed. Meetings were held, memories and materials compared and discussed. Several long time Santa Cruzans were prevailed upon to share their recollections of early school experiences.

Members of the original committee included chairwoman Gerrie Haden, G. Darrell Cardiff, Philippa Pfeiffer, Alan Kimball, Al Schadel of the Santa Cruz County Museum, Louise Worthington, Alice Earl Wilder, Ella Anderson, Margaret Hayes, Patty Haden Stocker, Phyllis Patten (since deceased), Maria Carniglia, David McFadden of Cabrillo College Library, Charles Prentiss of the Santa Cruz City Museum, Randall Jarrell of the University of California at Santa Cruz, Clyde Adams, and C. E. "Doc" Fehlman of the Santa Cruz High School Alumni Association. They were later joined by Jeanette Rowland, Frank Cooper, Don Knauf, Vera Hutchinson, and Laura Bahis.

Al Reetz of the County Office of Education coordinated the project. Gerrie Haden did a large portion of the preliminary research and got the project off the ground. Subsequently Margaret Koch,

author of several books on Santa Cruz history, was commissioned to write the manuscript.

Marylyn Painter, public information officer for the county schools office, served as editor, provided supplementary research and material (chiefly Chapters VII, XI, and XII, and the appendices), and supervised the book's layout and publication.

It is impossible to name here all the many people to whom we are indebted for their contributions of reference materials, information, and photographs. Some of them have been acknowledged in the text, but special mention should be made here of Alzora Snyder, curator of the Pajaro Valley Historical Association and Museum collection in Watsonville; Susan Manville and Jane Borg, also of the Pajaro Valley Historical Association; Marion Reynolds of the Santa Cruz City School District staff; Allen Grasso, formerly of the same office; reporter Carolyn Swift of the *Cabrillo Times & Green Sheet*; and the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, which allowed use of its files.

We also wish to thank Susan Sturgis and Sylvia Blazo of the County Office of Education for help in research, typesetting, and proofreading.



Richard R. Fickel, Santa Cruz County Superintendent
of Schools, 1967-1978.