

# Transcript for Centennial Conversations Podcast #4

1

00:00:03,950 --> 00:00:07,070

Dana Young (DY): Welcome back to Centennial Conversations, a series

2

00:00:07,070 --> 00:00:09,800

of podcasts about the first 100 years of Gavilan

3

00:00:09,800 --> 00:00:13,310

College. I'm Dana Young and we're here with Leah

4

00:00:13,310 --> 00:00:15,650

Halper, who just completed writing a history of

5

00:00:15,650 --> 00:00:19,090

Gavilan College. Last time when we were together,

6

00:00:19,610 --> 00:00:22,340

we talked about World War II- the World War II

7

00:00:22,340 --> 00:00:25,580

period, and how it impacted the San Benito Junior

8

00:00:25,580 --> 00:00:29,540

College and the area. Today, we're going to talk

9

00:00:29,540 --> 00:00:33,530

about the postwar era through the 1950s. Welcome

10

00:00:33,530 --> 00:00:35,900

back Leah. LH: Laughs Thank you. You know, I just wanted to

11

00:00:35,900 --> 00:00:38,690

take a minute to acknowledge how early Grant

12

00:00:38,690 --> 00:00:41,240

Richards and Geronimo Garcia have been getting up

13

00:00:41,240 --> 00:00:44,540

to do these podcasts. And you also- who have a

14

00:00:44,540 --> 00:00:47,390

drive. I really appreciate it, and I I hope that

15

00:00:47,390 --> 00:00:51,260

they are gloriously received because some love and

16

00:00:51,260 --> 00:00:53,390

work have really gone into them. DY: Well, thank you

17

00:00:53,390 --> 00:00:56,930

so much for doing the work and for helping us

18

00:00:57,290 --> 00:01:01,520

better understand the work you did. So let's get

19

00:01:01,520 --> 00:01:05,180

started. What changed for the San Benito

20

00:01:05,180 --> 00:01:09,680

College after World War II? LH: Well, I'm going to

21

00:01:09,680 --> 00:01:12,830  
resist the temptation to say everything, even

22  
00:01:12,830 --> 00:01:15,560  
though that would be kind of accurate. Well, you

23  
00:01:15,560 --> 00:01:18,110  
know, the world changed. DY: Yes. LH: That war was such a

24  
00:01:18,110 --> 00:01:20,390  
turning point for the world, for the U.S., for the

25  
00:01:20,390 --> 00:01:23,960  
state, for the region, for the college. So I'll

26  
00:01:23,960 --> 00:01:26,900  
confine myself to briefly mentioning, as every

27  
00:01:26,900 --> 00:01:29,390  
historian teaches in a California history class,

28  
00:01:29,780 --> 00:01:32,540  
there were two booms. There was a baby boom that's

29  
00:01:32,540 --> 00:01:35,420  
going to change everything forever. The GIs came

30  
00:01:35,420 --> 00:01:38,180  
home and had lots of babies and then society had

31  
00:01:38,180 --> 00:01:40,880  
to accommodate, accommodate those babies, and then

32

00:01:40,880 --> 00:01:43,190  
in California, it took a few years actually, it

33  
00:01:43,190 --> 00:01:45,950  
wasn't immediate, but there was a massive

34  
00:01:45,950 --> 00:01:50,750  
conversion to peacetime economy, and all of those

35  
00:01:51,320 --> 00:01:54,410  
manufacturers of ships and planes and so forth

36  
00:01:54,710 --> 00:01:57,980  
converted, and they were making vehicles for

37  
00:01:57,980 --> 00:02:00,710  
consumers, and electronics, and consumer goods. So

38  
00:02:01,370 --> 00:02:03,080  
at the same time, there's a housing and

39  
00:02:03,080 --> 00:02:05,660  
construction boom because schools, and houses, and

40  
00:02:06,020 --> 00:02:08,630  
hospitals have to be built for that huge number of

41  
00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:11,390  
babies who are coming down the pike, and then you

42  
00:02:11,390 --> 00:02:13,670  
need pediatricians and you need teachers. So

43

00:02:13,670 --> 00:02:15,650  
there's a need for colleges to teach these

44  
00:02:15,650 --> 00:02:18,410  
professionals how to handle all these baby boomers.

45  
00:02:18,420 --> 00:02:21,590  
So California really experienced a boom and it was

46  
00:02:21,620 --> 00:02:25,040  
it was in full swing by the mid 50s for sure. DY: And

47  
00:02:25,040 --> 00:02:28,340  
that boom, it still resonates today. Yes? LH: Well,

48  
00:02:28,340 --> 00:02:31,340  
you and I and probably Grant and yeah. I mean, you

49  
00:02:31,340 --> 00:02:34,190  
know, we're all still here that a lot of those

50  
00:02:34,190 --> 00:02:37,070  
gGIs were able to go to college because of the GI

51  
00:02:37,070 --> 00:02:39,530  
Bill and that created a whole different college

52  
00:02:39,530 --> 00:02:41,630  
culture. I mean, from what I've heard, more

53  
00:02:41,630 --> 00:02:45,080  
serious students coming into the colleges, and

54

00:02:45,080 --> 00:02:48,620  
then the Sputnik launch in 1957 frightened

55  
00:02:48,890 --> 00:02:51,530  
Congress into allocating more money to support

56  
00:02:51,740 --> 00:02:54,380  
science and math education, which also gave a

57  
00:02:54,380 --> 00:02:57,290  
boost to education at every level, and then let's

58  
00:02:57,290 --> 00:03:00,560  
not forget, we have a population that can't

59  
00:03:00,560 --> 00:03:03,110  
necessarily afford to go to college on its own

60  
00:03:03,230 --> 00:03:07,310  
today, and back then, in 1958, the first law to

61  
00:03:07,310 --> 00:03:10,280  
provide low interest loans to college students and

62  
00:03:10,280 --> 00:03:12,200  
also to forgive the loans of those who became

63  
00:03:12,200 --> 00:03:14,930  
teachers, which tells you something about the huge

64  
00:03:14,930 --> 00:03:18,260  
need. DY: Oh, wow even back to 58. LH: Yes. So, I mean, they saw

65

00:03:18,260 --> 00:03:20,720  
it coming. They can do the math for baby boom. You

66  
00:03:20,720 --> 00:03:22,400  
know, they could see, oh, there we're going to

67  
00:03:22,400 --> 00:03:24,770  
need a lot of teachers. So they forgave loans for

68  
00:03:24,770 --> 00:03:28,010  
quite a while. DY: Wow, until quite recently.

69  
00:03:30,290 --> 00:03:33,950  
In the in the book that you've just finished, you

70  
00:03:33,950 --> 00:03:37,550  
said that Gavilan had three crises in four years.

71  
00:03:38,570 --> 00:03:42,140  
Three crises in four years. LH: Yeah, actually, three

72  
00:03:42,140 --> 00:03:45,330  
crises and a boogie man. We'll talk about. DY: Oh, wow.

73  
00:03:45,350 --> 00:03:48,050  
LH: The plot thickens. It's really a remarkable

74  
00:03:48,050 --> 00:03:51,740  
survival story there. There's a story to tell

75  
00:03:51,740 --> 00:03:54,500  
about this faculty and particularly about a man

76

00:03:54,500 --> 00:03:57,680  
named Ralph Schroeder who repeatedly saved the

77  
00:03:57,680 --> 00:04:02,510  
college. DY: Wow. So what was- so we're starting the

78  
00:04:02,510 --> 00:04:05,960  
first one was approximately what time frame? LH: Well,

79  
00:04:05,960 --> 00:04:11,030  
exactly. Late at night on May 26, 1955, a large

80  
00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:14,780  
portion of the shared space that the college and

81  
00:04:14,780 --> 00:04:17,480  
the high school had at San Benito High School burned down.

82  
00:04:17,930 --> 00:04:21,050  
DY: Oh, OK. All right. I remember reading about this.

83  
00:04:21,080 --> 00:04:23,300  
LH: Yes. This is a fairly straightforward crisis. You

84  
00:04:23,300 --> 00:04:25,520  
know, they had three buildings. They lost about a

85  
00:04:25,520 --> 00:04:29,570  
third of their space, and unfortunately, part of

86  
00:04:29,570 --> 00:04:31,970  
what they lost besides classrooms- they lost nine

87

00:04:31,970 --> 00:04:35,030  
classrooms. They lost the administrative records

88  
00:04:35,030 --> 00:04:38,480  
for all of the early years of the college. DY: So you

89  
00:04:38,480 --> 00:04:40,520  
were mentioning that there were that there were

90  
00:04:40,530 --> 00:04:43,700  
some difficulties in nailing down things in our

91  
00:04:43,700 --> 00:04:46,700  
earlier podcast. This is the reason. LH: This is it. DY: Wow.

92  
00:04:46,880 --> 00:04:50,180  
LH: And why and it's interesting. They I don't think

93  
00:04:50,180 --> 00:04:52,760  
they ever really solved it. They mentioned, was

94  
00:04:52,760 --> 00:04:54,890  
this arson? They they didn't really know. But, you

95  
00:04:54,890 --> 00:04:57,890  
know, only one building. DY: It's hard to know. LH: And yeah. I mean, the

96  
00:04:57,890 --> 00:05:01,910  
middle of the night. DY: Yeah. Wow. LH: And it was a

97  
00:05:01,910 --> 00:05:04,070  
William Weeks building, which means that it was

98

00:05:04,070 --> 00:05:06,980  
particularly graceful and beautiful and it was

99  
00:05:06,980 --> 00:05:09,740  
kind of iconic. It had this kind of look to it

100  
00:05:09,740 --> 00:05:12,080  
that was really lovely. It was built in 1909. DY: I

101  
00:05:12,080 --> 00:05:16,250  
was going to say- I was going to ask so more so

102  
00:05:16,730 --> 00:05:20,510  
columns. LH: Um, it didn't have columns. It's hard to

103  
00:05:20,510 --> 00:05:24,650  
describe. It had a particular look. DY: Oh, I'm-

104  
00:05:24,870 --> 00:05:26,430  
William Weeks, I'm going to have to look that up.

105  
00:05:26,490 --> 00:05:28,620  
LH: We should put a picture of it on our website

106  
00:05:28,620 --> 00:05:30,360  
because there are lots of pictures of it. It was,

107  
00:05:30,360 --> 00:05:32,640  
it was what people thought of with a few other

108  
00:05:32,640 --> 00:05:34,260  
things when they thought of Hollister. DY: Oh,

109

00:05:34,260 --> 00:05:37,200  
excellent. We'll do that. The Community Matters

110  
00:05:37,740 --> 00:05:40,160  
website. We'll put that on the Gavilan College

111  
00:05:40,170 --> 00:05:46,440  
history section. LH: Good. DY: Excellent. So how did- how

112  
00:05:46,440 --> 00:05:49,200  
did- what changed? How did the college recover from

113  
00:05:49,200 --> 00:05:52,860  
that? A third of their space gone. LH: Yeah, well. I- DY: And

114  
00:05:52,860 --> 00:05:54,720  
all of their records? LH: Actually, most of the

115  
00:05:54,720 --> 00:05:56,430  
college space, most of the classrooms at the

116  
00:05:56,430 --> 00:05:58,970  
colleges, the high school, remarkably, you know,

117  
00:05:59,700 --> 00:06:01,920  
escaped with relatively little damage, which is

118  
00:06:01,920 --> 00:06:03,330  
another reason they kind of think, you know, it

119  
00:06:03,330 --> 00:06:06,360  
was this arson that was going on here? DY: Oh, I see, was it targeted? LH: Yes,

120

00:06:06,540 --> 00:06:10,230  
but this has a happy ending temporarily because

121  
00:06:10,440 --> 00:06:12,270  
that old saying about a problem can be an

122  
00:06:12,270 --> 00:06:14,460  
opportunity. This really became an opportunity.

123  
00:06:15,060 --> 00:06:16,860  
The high school in the college were too

124  
00:06:16,860 --> 00:06:19,560  
intertwined, and we'll talk more about this in a

125  
00:06:19,560 --> 00:06:22,710  
minute, but they were too intertwined, and this

126  
00:06:22,710 --> 00:06:27,540  
gave the officials a chance to separate a little

127  
00:06:27,540 --> 00:06:30,990  
bit. So they looked at some property right across

128  
00:06:30,990 --> 00:06:33,840  
from the high- from the high school on Nash Road,

129  
00:06:34,140 --> 00:06:37,320  
and they were talking to the owners of that

130  
00:06:37,320 --> 00:06:39,810  
property, you know, before the embers were cool. DY: Oh, ok.

131

00:06:39,810 --> 00:06:43,550

LH: And so so they bought I think it was 35, 37 acres,

132

00:06:43,560 --> 00:06:46,200

something like that. The orchards on this property

133

00:06:46,200 --> 00:06:48,840

still had fruit on the trees when when the deal

134

00:06:48,840 --> 00:06:52,320

was closed. DY: Oh my gosh. LH: And it included apparently another

135

00:06:52,320 --> 00:06:55,860

beautiful old building, the old Carol Vessey home,

136

00:06:56,220 --> 00:06:59,010

which was very stately, and they really wanted to

137

00:06:59,010 --> 00:07:01,980

preserve that, and it was just a lovely kind of

138

00:07:02,220 --> 00:07:05,940

setting for some collegiate activities. So they

139

00:07:05,940 --> 00:07:08,760

added three portables, they created a quadrangle,

140

00:07:09,090 --> 00:07:11,670

and here's where they're really trying to

141

00:07:11,670 --> 00:07:14,310

communicate. This is not the same old San Benito

142

00:07:14,310 --> 00:07:17,130

Junior College. They started to call it San Benito

143

00:07:17,130 --> 00:07:21,750

College. DY: Oh, the first name change. LH: Yes. DY: OK. LH: And

144

00:07:21,750 --> 00:07:24,030

they dropped the junior for reasons that you can

145

00:07:24,030 --> 00:07:26,340

probably imagine. You know, Junior, it kind of

146

00:07:26,340 --> 00:07:29,190

sounds- DY: Absolutely. LH: -and it was part of a trend after World War II

147

00:07:29,190 --> 00:07:33,030

nobody today except Santa Rosa Junior College- DY: Yes.

148

00:07:33,390 --> 00:07:35,850

LH: -maintained that in the name everybody pretty much

149

00:07:35,850 --> 00:07:37,440

wanted to get rid of the junior and just

150

00:07:37,440 --> 00:07:39,930

communicate we're a college. DY: We're a college. We're the first

151

00:07:39,930 --> 00:07:44,040

two years. LH: Yes. DY: Yeah. LH: So they had a new name. They

152

00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:47,160

still shared all of the faculty, all of the

153

00:07:47,160 --> 00:07:49,710  
faculty still taught at both, which is going to

154  
00:07:49,710 --> 00:07:53,520  
come back to haunt them, and the music art classes

155  
00:07:54,240 --> 00:07:56,010  
had to be shared because they didn't have

156  
00:07:56,010 --> 00:07:58,680  
facilities. They had to share PE facilities which

157  
00:07:58,680 --> 00:08:01,530  
made the students mad because the high school

158  
00:08:02,040 --> 00:08:06,630  
teams got first pick. DY: Oh, yes. LH: So the community college

159  
00:08:06,630 --> 00:08:09,270  
teams said, well, you know, we're not very good

160  
00:08:09,270 --> 00:08:10,890  
because we never get to practice because they're

161  
00:08:10,890 --> 00:08:15,120  
always in our facilities. So but it was by 1963

162  
00:08:15,120 --> 00:08:18,090  
when they left the site, there were nine buildings,

163  
00:08:18,090 --> 00:08:20,460  
and, you know, it was it was it was functional.

164

00:08:20,580 --> 00:08:24,450

DY: Wow. So from an existing structure and three

165

00:08:24,450 --> 00:08:30,720

portables in eight years. LH: Nineteen years. DY: Yes. They expanded to

166

00:08:30,720 --> 00:08:33,090

nine buildings. LH: Yeah. DY: Is that including the

167

00:08:33,090 --> 00:08:35,670

original building, the Vasey building. LH: Yeah. At

168

00:08:35,670 --> 00:08:37,560

some point that got torn down but I don't know

169

00:08:37,560 --> 00:08:40,950

when we have to ask Cliff Cardosa about that but yeah. DY: Wow.

170

00:08:40,950 --> 00:08:45,540

That's an amazing growth spurt. LH: It is. It sounds

171

00:08:45,540 --> 00:08:49,050

better than it looked at the time- DY: Oh, ok. LH: -because this

172

00:08:49,050 --> 00:08:53,850

actually it didn't happen very fast. The the

173

00:08:53,850 --> 00:08:56,100

growth pretty much came at the end and during the

174

00:08:56,100 --> 00:08:59,310

mid 50s there was a terrible, terrible period of

175

00:08:59,310 --> 00:09:04,260  
low enrollment and the enrollments dipped. Thirty

176  
00:09:04,300 --> 00:09:07,930  
thirty five graduating classes were seven or eight,

177  
00:09:08,380 --> 00:09:12,100  
and this leads us to our second crisis. DY: Yes, and

178  
00:09:12,100 --> 00:09:19,420  
so and so we're now at fifty seven six? LH: 1950. Well

179  
00:09:19,420 --> 00:09:23,980  
it's kind of starts in 54. DY: Ok. LH: But so the second one

180  
00:09:23,980 --> 00:09:26,860  
involves the boogie man that I mentioned. DY: Yes. Who's the

181  
00:09:26,860 --> 00:09:31,060  
boogie man? LH: Hartnell College. DY: I know them. LH: Yeah.

182  
00:09:31,090 --> 00:09:32,860  
DY: Yeah, they're nearby. They're still, they're still

183  
00:09:32,860 --> 00:09:35,830  
with us. LH: I will never go to another athletic event,

184  
00:09:35,830 --> 00:09:38,850  
kind of, you know, kind of impartially just OK.

185  
00:09:38,860 --> 00:09:41,140  
Well, whoever wins, I hope it's Gavilan College. I am

186

00:09:41,140 --> 00:09:45,370  
going to root my voice off against Hartnell

187  
00:09:45,370 --> 00:09:49,360  
College now. I am I am implacable. DY: So what do they

188  
00:09:49,360 --> 00:09:53,020  
do? LH: Oh, my God, they were terrible. So anyway, I

189  
00:09:53,020 --> 00:09:56,320  
have to start back a little bit. DY: OK. LH: So San Benito

190  
00:09:56,320 --> 00:10:01,480  
College was born underfunded- DY: Yes. LH: -and then the high

191  
00:10:01,480 --> 00:10:03,460  
school district, which was responsible for

192  
00:10:03,460 --> 00:10:06,580  
nurturing it, starved it, and in fact the high

193  
00:10:06,580 --> 00:10:08,890  
school district for many years had the nasty

194  
00:10:08,890 --> 00:10:13,030  
practice of using state funds that were supposed

195  
00:10:13,030 --> 00:10:15,700  
to go to the college, using them for the high

196  
00:10:15,700 --> 00:10:19,750  
school, which is not OK. So as we said, you know,

197

00:10:19,750 --> 00:10:23,080  
by 1956, there were very few students, there were

198  
00:10:23,080 --> 00:10:25,840  
very few grads. It was the smallest, quote, junior

199  
00:10:25,840 --> 00:10:29,620  
college in the state, and, you know, it's ironic

200  
00:10:29,620 --> 00:10:32,050  
because everywhere else colleges were booming. I

201  
00:10:32,050 --> 00:10:33,610  
mean- DY: Yes. LH: -they were there were moments were growing up.

202  
00:10:33,610 --> 00:10:36,520  
Everybody was doing well, and parents started to

203  
00:10:36,520 --> 00:10:40,960  
feel angry at how small, how limited the community

204  
00:10:40,960 --> 00:10:44,050  
college was, and this discontent started to

205  
00:10:44,050 --> 00:10:48,850  
percolate. OK, so that's happening in Hollister.

206  
00:10:48,880 --> 00:10:52,540  
Meanwhile, in Salinas Hartnell, which is bigger,

207  
00:10:52,540 --> 00:10:56,530  
Salina's was and is a bigger town and Salina's

208

00:10:56,530 --> 00:10:59,680  
drew students from Hollister. Now, by law at that

209  
00:10:59,680 --> 00:11:02,170  
time, a high school district had to give its

210  
00:11:02,170 --> 00:11:04,600  
students junior college opportunities, whether it

211  
00:11:04,600 --> 00:11:06,880  
operated a junior college on its own or whether

212  
00:11:06,880 --> 00:11:10,000  
there was one nearby or whether it had to pay

213  
00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:13,480  
busing costs and any other costs for students to

214  
00:11:13,480 --> 00:11:16,330  
go somewhere else. That was the law. You had to

215  
00:11:16,690 --> 00:11:21,070  
make that opportunity available. DY: So. Oh, well, OK.

216  
00:11:21,070 --> 00:11:26,590  
LH: So a number of students went to Hart- Hartnell, and

217  
00:11:26,590 --> 00:11:31,720  
in 1954, Hartnell started a campaign to force

218  
00:11:31,720 --> 00:11:35,740  
Hollister to pay for any San Benito County

219

00:11:35,740 --> 00:11:39,280  
students who came. Now, what was seen as fair is

220  
00:11:39,460 --> 00:11:42,700  
we pay for any who go to Hartnell who are going

221  
00:11:42,700 --> 00:11:44,620  
there because they can't get what they need at our

222  
00:11:44,620 --> 00:11:47,530  
college, that everybody thought was fair, but

223  
00:11:47,530 --> 00:11:52,540  
Hartnell wants Hollister- the taxpayers to pay for everybody.

224  
00:11:53,140 --> 00:11:58,120  
So, in fact, Hartnell told the six students who

225  
00:11:58,120 --> 00:12:01,240  
were there from- or told six of the students who

226  
00:12:01,240 --> 00:12:04,150  
were there that semester to leave that, you know,

227  
00:12:04,150 --> 00:12:06,670  
they were going to kick them out because Hollister

228  
00:12:06,670 --> 00:12:08,470  
wouldn't pay for them and kind of said to the

229  
00:12:08,470 --> 00:12:10,450  
students, will blame blame your own school board.

230

00:12:10,450 --> 00:12:13,390  
They're not paying for you. So the San Benito

231  
00:12:13,390 --> 00:12:16,450  
County School Board was outraged and-

232  
00:12:16,450 --> 00:12:18,910  
DY: Understandably. LH: Yes, I think so, too, and they

233  
00:12:18,910 --> 00:12:21,520  
stood up to this and the position they took was

234  
00:12:21,760 --> 00:12:24,130  
they would pay for any legitimate student who

235  
00:12:24,130 --> 00:12:27,490  
couldn't get classes in Hollister that they needed,

236  
00:12:27,610 --> 00:12:29,650  
but they were damned if they were going to pay for

237  
00:12:29,650 --> 00:12:33,670  
everybody. So they stood up to it, and Hartnell

238  
00:12:33,670 --> 00:12:37,420  
back down, and at the time, there were ten

239  
00:12:37,930 --> 00:12:41,140  
Hollister students total at Hartnell, although the

240  
00:12:41,140 --> 00:12:43,810  
Hartnell president said, well, you know, we had to

241

00:12:43,810 --> 00:12:45,910  
do this because we have so many students from

242  
00:12:45,910 --> 00:12:47,850  
Hollister. DY: Right. LH: Well, there were ten. DY: They're all

243  
00:12:47,860 --> 00:12:51,940  
over impacting our- oh right. LH: Oh, it was a story, and

244  
00:12:52,120 --> 00:12:55,390  
it didn't hold up to. Yeah, so so, by the way, the

245  
00:12:55,390 --> 00:12:58,090  
president of Hartnell at this time. DY: Oh, yes. Let's

246  
00:12:58,090 --> 00:13:02,530  
give him credit. LH: Yeah, his name was Cheng and he's

247  
00:13:02,530 --> 00:13:06,160  
a very interesting character, J. F. Chang. He

248  
00:13:06,160 --> 00:13:09,070  
seemed to have kind of grandiose expansionist

249  
00:13:09,070 --> 00:13:12,760  
plans, and he had another big idea that he wanted

250  
00:13:12,760 --> 00:13:16,150  
to convert Hartnell into a four year college and

251  
00:13:16,150 --> 00:13:18,920  
become the beacon of enlightenment in the area.

252

00:13:18,940 --> 00:13:21,160

DY: Yes. LH: And it was against state law, but he

253

00:13:21,160 --> 00:13:23,950

persisted, you know, state officials actually

254

00:13:23,950 --> 00:13:26,050

visited him and said, knock it off. You know, it's

255

00:13:26,050 --> 00:13:28,270

against state law. You can't do that. So he asked

256

00:13:28,270 --> 00:13:31,030

his local legislator to float a bill that would

257

00:13:31,030 --> 00:13:33,250

change state law so that Hartnell could do that

258

00:13:33,370 --> 00:13:36,010

anything. It never came to anything, although it did

259

00:13:36,010 --> 00:13:39,490

come to something actually. They did start a board

260

00:13:39,490 --> 00:13:42,130

to kind of talk about, well, you know, there isn't

261

00:13:42,130 --> 00:13:44,380

a four year college very close. DY: Right. LH: There is San

262

00:13:44,380 --> 00:13:46,120

Jose, and then there's Cal Poly and there's

263

00:13:46,120 --> 00:13:49,210  
nothing in between, and it eventually led in the

264  
00:13:49,210 --> 00:13:52,390  
60s to the establishment of UC Santa Cruz. They

265  
00:13:52,390 --> 00:13:55,120  
did not choose Hartnell. DY: Thank you, Hartnell. LH: Yes.

266  
00:13:55,120 --> 00:13:58,120  
Or Salinas, they chose Santa Cruz. So anyway, he

267  
00:13:58,120 --> 00:14:01,600  
had these big ideas. So in 1956, Hartnell came

268  
00:14:01,600 --> 00:14:05,110  
back. More seriously. A more serious threat this

269  
00:14:05,110 --> 00:14:08,530  
time, the board of trustees at Hartnell voted to

270  
00:14:08,650 --> 00:14:12,730  
charge San Benito County students, no matter who

271  
00:14:12,730 --> 00:14:16,420  
they were, what they- so charge for all. DY: So only

272  
00:14:16,420 --> 00:14:18,790  
San Benito? LH: Only San Benito. They didn't do this with

273  
00:14:18,790 --> 00:14:21,160  
any of the students from Monterey or from, you know-

274

00:14:21,160 --> 00:14:25,330  
DY: Oh, interesting. LH: So, so now people in Hollister

275  
00:14:25,330 --> 00:14:27,250  
get really mad because this is going to go. DY: It's a

276  
00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:30,160  
target. LH: It is, and the costs are going to be huge,

277  
00:14:30,400 --> 00:14:32,590  
and it's clear that there's an ulterior motive,

278  
00:14:32,590 --> 00:14:36,100  
and and so what they said the ulterior motive was,

279  
00:14:36,520 --> 00:14:40,690  
was to bankrupt San Benito College so Hartnell

280  
00:14:40,690 --> 00:14:45,430  
could swoop in and take over the people, you know,

281  
00:14:45,640 --> 00:14:48,520  
the buildings and the college and so forth. So

282  
00:14:48,520 --> 00:14:50,580  
that was apparently what they were- You know, it's

283  
00:14:50,680 --> 00:14:53,860  
bullying. San Benito County was furious because

284  
00:14:53,860 --> 00:14:56,140  
they knew they would be easily outvoted if it ever

285

00:14:56,140 --> 00:14:58,570  
came to a vote. Salinas was bigger, and then

286  
00:14:58,570 --> 00:15:01,870  
there's this group of parents in Hollister who are

287  
00:15:01,870 --> 00:15:05,630  
supporting this. DY: Because they want their kids to

288  
00:15:05,630 --> 00:15:07,940  
go to the bigger school. LH: Yes, they want more

289  
00:15:07,940 --> 00:15:12,980  
opportunities. So the Frank Bauman, who was

290  
00:15:12,980 --> 00:15:15,980  
usually very he was an official at the college

291  
00:15:15,980 --> 00:15:19,220  
starting in 1938, very circumspect, very kind of

292  
00:15:19,220 --> 00:15:23,090  
proper, very uncharacteristically he spoke at a

293  
00:15:23,090 --> 00:15:26,990  
meeting, and this is what he said. There's no

294  
00:15:26,990 --> 00:15:30,140  
sense in any of this. J. F. Chang has precipitated

295  
00:15:30,140 --> 00:15:33,140  
all this. He wants to destroy this junior college,

296

00:15:33,440 --> 00:15:35,780  
and there was a real sense I mean, there was

297  
00:15:35,780 --> 00:15:38,900  
thirty five million dollars in assessed tax

298  
00:15:38,900 --> 00:15:42,230  
valuation in San Benito County, and they saw

299  
00:15:42,230 --> 00:15:44,400  
pretty clearly that this is what Salinas wanted.

300  
00:15:44,690 --> 00:15:48,500  
DY: OK. LH: So there was- there were- and then Salinas and

301  
00:15:48,500 --> 00:15:50,810  
the parents had an advocate on the board who was

302  
00:15:50,810 --> 00:15:52,820  
trying to- you know, she got nowhere, by the way,

303  
00:15:52,820 --> 00:15:57,080  
but she tried. So eventually the the board decided

304  
00:15:57,080 --> 00:16:00,140  
again, we're going to we're going to look at every

305  
00:16:00,140 --> 00:16:02,300  
student who petitions us to go to Hartnell and we

306  
00:16:02,300 --> 00:16:04,490  
will decide on a case by case basis. We're not

307

00:16:04,490 --> 00:16:06,960  
going to pay for everybody who goes to Hartnell.

308  
00:16:07,820 --> 00:16:13,190  
So now the real crisis. DY: Yes. Well, may I just

309  
00:16:13,190 --> 00:16:18,080  
ask one question about- was anybody able to go to

310  
00:16:18,080 --> 00:16:20,870  
any college? I noticed you said the word petition

311  
00:16:21,680 --> 00:16:25,040  
to go to Hartnell College. So did they have to get

312  
00:16:25,220 --> 00:16:29,390  
a release in some way? LH: By now they did. I think it

313  
00:16:29,390 --> 00:16:31,730  
was looser before this, but once Hartnell started,

314  
00:16:31,730 --> 00:16:34,070  
I don't know for sure, but this is my sense of how

315  
00:16:34,070 --> 00:16:36,560  
it worked. I think by the time Hartnell was, you

316  
00:16:36,560 --> 00:16:38,870  
know, passing resolutions and saying, I think they

317  
00:16:38,870 --> 00:16:42,620  
tightened up and said- and in fact, the real crisis

318

00:16:42,620 --> 00:16:47,240  
came in May of 1956. San Benito College had 35

319  
00:16:47,240 --> 00:16:52,970  
students, that month 15 of them petitioned to go

320  
00:16:52,970 --> 00:16:55,620  
to Hartnell. Which would have- it was a body blow.

321  
00:16:55,770 --> 00:16:58,340  
DY: Yes, absolutely. LH: It would if it would have been the end.

322  
00:16:58,340 --> 00:17:00,530  
They were, the paper said they were a vociferous

323  
00:17:00,530 --> 00:17:03,860  
group of prospective Hartnell Panthers, and this

324  
00:17:03,860 --> 00:17:06,620  
is a real financial threat. Plus, how bad does it

325  
00:17:06,620 --> 00:17:10,450  
look when 15 of your 35 students decamp? DY: Exactly.

326  
00:17:10,460 --> 00:17:13,460  
LH: So the board okayed the board looked petition by

327  
00:17:13,460 --> 00:17:16,400  
petition. It okayed six of the petitions and it

328  
00:17:16,400 --> 00:17:20,120  
told the rest of them to basically shut up and go

329

00:17:20,120 --> 00:17:23,090

back to class- DY: Yes. LH: -at San Benito College, but everybody could

330

00:17:23,090 --> 00:17:26,570

see that they you know, they were just going to

331

00:17:26,570 --> 00:17:28,340

keep coming back and trying, and this could wear

332

00:17:28,340 --> 00:17:30,710

the college down. It was battered. It was tiny. It

333

00:17:30,710 --> 00:17:34,370

was a critical moment and the board knew it, and

334

00:17:34,370 --> 00:17:37,940

so they started to talk to the acting director of

335

00:17:37,940 --> 00:17:40,280

the college, James Luddin, wonderful, wonderful

336

00:17:40,280 --> 00:17:42,980

renaissance figure who could do everything and who

337

00:17:42,980 --> 00:17:46,070

probably was sorry that he agreed to do this.

338

00:17:46,310 --> 00:17:49,220

Anyway, he recommended new courses. He talked

339

00:17:49,220 --> 00:17:52,970

about hiring new teachers, estimated cost 20,000

340

00:17:52,970 --> 00:17:56,000  
more dollars, and and he basically said, you know,

341  
00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:57,950  
put up or shut up. You know, if we're not going to

342  
00:17:57,950 --> 00:18:00,710  
pay for college, then shut it down. DY: So almost a

343  
00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:03,950  
renaissance. LH: He was, and he was good at what he did,

344  
00:18:03,950 --> 00:18:05,960  
but he also had a great faculty. They wrote a

345  
00:18:05,960 --> 00:18:10,430  
pamphlet. They got busy, and when San Benito

346  
00:18:10,700 --> 00:18:13,850  
School Board, a board of education, stood up to

347  
00:18:13,850 --> 00:18:17,930  
Hartnell, Hartnell backed down. So good the

348  
00:18:17,930 --> 00:18:21,020  
enrollment started to increase and the board

349  
00:18:21,020 --> 00:18:24,410  
started to take actions to save the college and

350  
00:18:25,310 --> 00:18:29,930  
things got a little better. DY: So did any good come

351

00:18:29,930 --> 00:18:33,660  
out of the Hartnell crisis? LH: Yeah, actually, a lot

352  
00:18:33,660 --> 00:18:36,590  
of good came out of it, I guess I have to say the

353  
00:18:36,600 --> 00:18:40,230  
first thing is James Leadin, I think a wonderful

354  
00:18:40,230 --> 00:18:43,770  
person really probably didn't enjoy being in this

355  
00:18:43,770 --> 00:18:47,820  
kind of firing squad type leadership position, and

356  
00:18:48,270 --> 00:18:52,380  
at some point, the board identified Ralph

357  
00:18:52,380 --> 00:18:54,870  
Schroeder, who was a math teacher at San Benito

358  
00:18:54,870 --> 00:18:58,140  
College at that time, and at the high school, as the

359  
00:18:58,140 --> 00:19:02,670  
person who is best qualified to lead the college,

360  
00:19:03,540 --> 00:19:06,180  
and around that time, also Hartnell backed down and

361  
00:19:06,180 --> 00:19:10,650  
San Benito College enrollments increased and Ralph

362

00:19:10,650 --> 00:19:13,530

Schroeder was the single best decision the board

363

00:19:13,530 --> 00:19:16,560

of trustees for either college probably ever made.

364

00:19:17,530 --> 00:19:21,900

DY: Oh, wow. LH: He was brilliant. He was insanely hard

365

00:19:21,900 --> 00:19:25,950

working, and he devoted the next 30 years- 35 years

366

00:19:25,950 --> 00:19:29,850

of his life, ceaselessly unselfishly to building

367

00:19:29,850 --> 00:19:32,370

the college. So it was a good decision. So so

368

00:19:32,370 --> 00:19:34,350

those things he was he was announced that beyond

369

00:19:34,350 --> 00:19:37,140

compare and he had a strong faculty who backed him.

370

00:19:37,590 --> 00:19:41,610

So. Yeah. DY: An important partnership. LH: Yes. So so by

371

00:19:41,610 --> 00:19:45,870

fall of 1957, enrollments are up. We have Clifford

372

00:19:45,870 --> 00:19:48,270

Cardoza, who's a well-known figure in San

373

00:19:48,270 --> 00:19:51,720  
Benito County, energetic, sociable young guy,

374  
00:19:51,720 --> 00:19:56,250  
Portuguese American, talking about his time and

375  
00:19:56,400 --> 00:19:58,830  
his relationship with Schroeder, who recruited him

376  
00:19:59,340 --> 00:20:01,320  
to help the college. So let's listen to that.

377  
00:20:02,350 --> 00:20:07,810  
(Recording of Cliff Cardoza CC) CC: Schroeder, who is my superintendent, asked "Cliff,

378  
00:20:08,260 --> 00:20:11,410  
I want you to start a men's social club, the

379  
00:20:11,410 --> 00:20:13,840  
Junior College Men's Club." LH: He knew the right

380  
00:20:13,840 --> 00:20:16,480  
person to ask. boy. CC: I became the president. LH: I'm

381  
00:20:16,480 --> 00:20:19,450  
sure you did. CC: He was the one that was instrumental

382  
00:20:19,870 --> 00:20:23,320  
in he's saying, can you do this? I said, sure. (Recording Ended) LH: So

383  
00:20:23,320 --> 00:20:26,170  
Clifford Cardoza really, really helped the College

384

00:20:26,800 --> 00:20:29,350  
Institute some student activities which it needed.

385  
00:20:29,860 --> 00:20:33,310  
DY: Oh, wow. That's great. Now, Schroeder, I think

386  
00:20:33,310 --> 00:20:36,700  
I've seen pictures of him. He had the most amazing

387  
00:20:37,180 --> 00:20:42,100  
countenance, the smile and a if I'm remembering

388  
00:20:42,100 --> 00:20:47,280  
the right pictures. LH: He he was energetic, you know,

389  
00:20:47,280 --> 00:20:50,190  
under his leadership in those first couple of

390  
00:20:50,190 --> 00:20:51,870  
years, things really looked up. He had a good

391  
00:20:51,870 --> 00:20:54,090  
staff, he had a strong vision. They finally had

392  
00:20:54,090 --> 00:20:56,910  
money. Things were getting better, enrollments

393  
00:20:56,910 --> 00:21:00,150  
were going up, and then in April of 1958, the

394  
00:21:00,150 --> 00:21:03,750  
third crisis, Dun Dun dun dun! DY: Oh, my goodness. OK, so

395

00:21:03,750 --> 00:21:06,120  
and what shall we call the third crisis? LH: The third

396  
00:21:06,120 --> 00:21:09,270  
crisis was an accreditation crisis, DY: No!

397  
00:21:09,270 --> 00:21:12,030  
Accreditation- they got all kinds of great reviews

398  
00:21:12,030 --> 00:21:16,890  
from Washington in the 20s and the and and now

399  
00:21:16,890 --> 00:21:20,550  
we're. Oh! LH: so there was an accreditation visit as

400  
00:21:20,550 --> 00:21:22,800  
as still happens today, in fact, happened this

401  
00:21:22,800 --> 00:21:26,250  
week. DY: This week, yes. LH: Um, from a state committee

402  
00:21:26,250 --> 00:21:29,430  
and they came in April of 58 and some things

403  
00:21:29,430 --> 00:21:31,860  
didn't go so well. They had a bad start, but they

404  
00:21:31,860 --> 00:21:34,650  
issued a report in October, and Schroeder was

405  
00:21:34,650 --> 00:21:36,480  
confident that, you know, he was going to get a

406

00:21:36,480 --> 00:21:39,990  
good report and in fact, he was wrong. They

407  
00:21:39,990 --> 00:21:43,200  
praised a few things, but there were a lot of

408  
00:21:43,200 --> 00:21:46,080  
deficiencies. They they had a lot of complaints

409  
00:21:46,080 --> 00:21:49,380  
about things that were not being done to a state

410  
00:21:49,380 --> 00:21:54,180  
standard. DY: Wow. So was this the kind of thing where,

411  
00:21:54,180 --> 00:21:57,840  
like today you might get an interim visit where

412  
00:21:57,840 --> 00:22:01,170  
you might get a visit again in six years? Was this

413  
00:22:01,170 --> 00:22:03,390  
one of those where they're setting them up for an

414  
00:22:03,390 --> 00:22:08,280  
interim? LH: They would close down the college or, well,

415  
00:22:08,310 --> 00:22:10,440  
they would close down accreditation. It would only

416  
00:22:10,440 --> 00:22:14,070  
be continued through June 3rd, 1959. DY: Wow! LH: And why and

417

00:22:14,070 --> 00:22:16,440  
to continue without accreditation would mean to

418  
00:22:16,440 --> 00:22:19,020  
lose apportionment funding,- DY: Yes! LH: -which would basically

419  
00:22:19,020 --> 00:22:21,210  
mean plus, you know, who wants to go to a non

420  
00:22:21,210 --> 00:22:23,570  
accredited college? You can't transfer. DY: you can't

421  
00:22:23,580 --> 00:22:26,850  
do it. LH: So it basically looked like the beginning

422  
00:22:26,850 --> 00:22:32,850  
of the end. DY: Wow, and why- what in particular wasn't

423  
00:22:32,850 --> 00:22:35,100  
being done to state standards? LH: Well, they had a

424  
00:22:35,100 --> 00:22:39,990  
list of 20 deficiencies. DY: Twenty! LH: But, but the main

425  
00:22:39,990 --> 00:22:44,220  
ones were the emphasis was on transfer curriculum

426  
00:22:44,220 --> 00:22:47,040  
and there was not parallel vocational programming,

427  
00:22:47,310 --> 00:22:49,680  
and this is a time when two thirds of the

428

00:22:49,680 --> 00:22:51,900  
community college students statewide didn't

429  
00:22:51,900 --> 00:22:55,350  
transfer. People needed vocational education. So it

430  
00:22:55,350 --> 00:22:57,540  
was not an irrelevant point. I mean, this really

431  
00:22:57,540 --> 00:22:59,730  
had been neglected, and it's a small college. It

432  
00:22:59,730 --> 00:23:03,450  
can't do everything. DY: So it had it focused more on

433  
00:23:03,450 --> 00:23:07,950  
the the pre transfer type curriculum. LH: This is a

434  
00:23:07,950 --> 00:23:11,220  
college that was proud of its academic excellence

435  
00:23:11,220 --> 00:23:14,010  
that really, you know, had an eye firmly fixed on

436  
00:23:14,010 --> 00:23:16,200  
UC Berkeley to try to make sure that everything

437  
00:23:16,200 --> 00:23:19,710  
met an academic standard, and, you know, there was

438  
00:23:19,710 --> 00:23:22,710  
no money left over and, you know, they didn't. So

439

00:23:22,710 --> 00:23:24,930  
there were other problems, too, though, that the

440  
00:23:24,930 --> 00:23:27,990  
faculty were probably very happy to, you know,

441  
00:23:27,990 --> 00:23:30,780  
bittersweet, to hear that the accreditation team

442  
00:23:30,780 --> 00:23:33,420  
thought that they were carrying weekly workloads

443  
00:23:33,420 --> 00:23:35,550  
that were far too heavy, that they were

444  
00:23:35,550 --> 00:23:37,650  
inappropriately heavy for college teaching, and

445  
00:23:37,650 --> 00:23:39,120  
that's because they were still doubling at the

446  
00:23:39,120 --> 00:23:41,160  
high school. So- DY: Yes. LH: -you know, they were working their

447  
00:23:41,160 --> 00:23:44,430  
tails off. College art and music students were

448  
00:23:44,430 --> 00:23:46,380  
mixed into classes with high school students. They

449  
00:23:46,380 --> 00:23:49,380  
didn't like that. They the separation had not been

450

00:23:49,380 --> 00:23:52,980  
total and they thought the library was inadequate,

451  
00:23:53,160 --> 00:23:55,320  
along with some portable buildings that they

452  
00:23:55,350 --> 00:23:58,350  
didn't like. They wanted a curriculum for night

453  
00:23:58,350 --> 00:24:01,200  
students. They thought there should be more

454  
00:24:01,200 --> 00:24:04,170  
remedial classes in English and Math. Students-

455  
00:24:04,380 --> 00:24:06,990  
There was a fairly good library, although the

456  
00:24:06,990 --> 00:24:08,940  
building was not good, but the library itself was

457  
00:24:08,940 --> 00:24:11,610  
good, but students weren't going there, and then,

458  
00:24:11,610 --> 00:24:15,000  
despite Cliff Cardoza's best efforts- DY: Yes. LH: -With his men's

459  
00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:17,160  
club, they complained that there were not enough

460  
00:24:17,160 --> 00:24:19,320  
student activities. So there was some pretty

461

00:24:19,320 --> 00:24:21,690  
serious complaints. DY: So they were looking at the

462  
00:24:21,690 --> 00:24:24,870  
holistic experience for the students and they felt

463  
00:24:24,870 --> 00:24:26,850  
like the students weren't getting the full

464  
00:24:26,850 --> 00:24:30,840  
experience. LH: Yes, and, and then when the crowning

465  
00:24:30,840 --> 00:24:33,690  
blow was apparently they had gone into some local

466  
00:24:33,690 --> 00:24:36,150  
stores to interview local people, which I guess

467  
00:24:36,150 --> 00:24:39,120  
they used to do- DY: Uh, huh? LH: -and they walked up to somebody in

468  
00:24:39,120 --> 00:24:40,770  
a store and said, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,

469  
00:24:40,770 --> 00:24:42,990  
about San Benito College, and the person said to

470  
00:24:42,990 --> 00:24:48,510  
them, what college? So- DY: Oh, no! LH: -That kind of gave

471  
00:24:48,510 --> 00:24:50,790  
the impression that the college had not completely

472

00:24:50,790 --> 00:24:53,280  
integrated well with the community and- DY: Yeah! LH: -that was

473  
00:24:53,490 --> 00:24:56,820  
kind of painful. So anyway, college officials were

474  
00:24:56,820 --> 00:25:00,660  
quick to point out that, you know, these city

475  
00:25:00,660 --> 00:25:03,840  
slickers had this highfalutin idea about what a

476  
00:25:03,840 --> 00:25:06,060  
college should be, and this is Hollister. You know,

477  
00:25:06,060 --> 00:25:08,910  
they have a local they're doing this locally. DY: Yes. LH: But

478  
00:25:08,910 --> 00:25:11,730  
they to their credit, although they made the point

479  
00:25:11,730 --> 00:25:13,950  
whenever they could, they didn't waste time trying

480  
00:25:13,950 --> 00:25:16,350  
to fight it or argue they got busy to protect

481  
00:25:16,350 --> 00:25:19,590  
students rights to transfer, and then they got busy

482  
00:25:19,590 --> 00:25:24,000  
trying to save the college. DY: Wow, and so

483

00:25:26,310 --> 00:25:31,470  
what did the report have to do with local control?

484  
00:25:31,860 --> 00:25:34,170  
LH: It has everything to do with local control because

485  
00:25:34,920 --> 00:25:37,230  
as we just said, you know, the commission that

486  
00:25:37,230 --> 00:25:41,040  
visited them, the Accreditation Commission,- DY: Uh huh. LH: -these

487  
00:25:41,040 --> 00:25:43,230  
are people from big college with fancy pants

488  
00:25:43,230 --> 00:25:46,870  
classes. In esoteric disciplines and and, you know,

489  
00:25:47,140 --> 00:25:51,010  
one of the local ranchers, Rocky Liden, became

490  
00:25:51,010 --> 00:25:53,470  
very vociferous. A lot of local people were really,

491  
00:25:53,470 --> 00:25:55,480  
you know, it's like stirring a hornet's nest. DY: Yes. LH: And

492  
00:25:55,480 --> 00:25:58,870  
he thought the accreditation report stinks. By the

493  
00:25:58,870 --> 00:26:00,760  
way, he's going to become a founding Gavilan

494

00:26:00,760 --> 00:26:03,820  
College trustee pretty soon, but he said, "Why

495  
00:26:03,820 --> 00:26:06,190  
can't San Benito County have a small college

496  
00:26:06,190 --> 00:26:09,130  
with modest offerings, a transfer curriculum and a

497  
00:26:09,130 --> 00:26:11,770  
few commercial courses?" And this is this kind of

498  
00:26:11,770 --> 00:26:15,010  
strangled cry for local control, and not having

499  
00:26:15,010 --> 00:26:17,950  
these state standards that city slickers come and

500  
00:26:17,950 --> 00:26:21,910  
impose on you, and it wasn't really heard right

501  
00:26:21,910 --> 00:26:24,370  
away, but this is the argument that eventually is

502  
00:26:24,370 --> 00:26:27,040  
going to win the day, but then in our time, you

503  
00:26:27,040 --> 00:26:29,680  
know, it's it's a quaint relic. DY: Yes. LH: State

504  
00:26:29,680 --> 00:26:32,950  
standardization and state to state control. DY: So much

505

00:26:32,950 --> 00:26:35,170  
are part of our lives. LH: It's it's they won in the

506  
00:26:35,170 --> 00:26:38,440  
end, but but but there was enough of a victory for

507  
00:26:38,440 --> 00:26:41,200  
the local people so that it's it's it's going to

508  
00:26:41,200 --> 00:26:44,970  
rescue the situation. DY: It almost rallied. LH: Well,

509  
00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:48,480  
Hollister rallied-, DY: Yes. LH: -but you can't ignore a negative

510  
00:26:48,480 --> 00:26:50,580  
accreditation report, as you know, they're going

511  
00:26:50,580 --> 00:26:55,230  
to shut you down. DY: Yes. LH: So they had to work hard and

512  
00:26:55,950 --> 00:26:58,530  
that let me lay out their options. So one was to

513  
00:26:58,530 --> 00:27:00,960  
go out, go without accreditation, which means

514  
00:27:00,960 --> 00:27:03,060  
losing the apportionment funds- DY: Right. LH: -and the students

515  
00:27:03,060 --> 00:27:04,440  
wouldn't be able to transfer. The college would

516

00:27:04,440 --> 00:27:07,460

die. Another one is to raise money and improve,

517

00:27:07,770 --> 00:27:11,550

but everybody, especially these condescending city

518

00:27:11,550 --> 00:27:14,220

slickers-, DY: These outsiders. LH: -Right. They were like,

519

00:27:14,250 --> 00:27:16,830

we know you guys are not going to want to pay more

520

00:27:16,830 --> 00:27:19,440

for a college. We know you're conservative about- DY: Oh, ok!

521

00:27:19,440 --> 00:27:21,570

LH: -paying taxes. So we don't think you're going to do

522

00:27:21,570 --> 00:27:24,450

that, but if you do pat on the head, you know,

523

00:27:24,450 --> 00:27:26,550

that's fine. We'll give you all the support we can.

524

00:27:26,580 --> 00:27:29,250

So that was an option. DY: Yeah. LH: Another one was to

525

00:27:29,250 --> 00:27:32,550

just shut down the college and pay what they said

526

00:27:32,550 --> 00:27:34,890

would be about seven hundred and fifty five

527

00:27:34,890 --> 00:27:38,340  
dollars per student, per year to send students to

528  
00:27:38,370 --> 00:27:41,250  
other colleges. DY: Because there was still a

529  
00:27:41,250 --> 00:27:43,800  
requirement that they offer the first two years. LH: Which we

530  
00:27:43,800 --> 00:27:47,580  
discussed. Exactly. DY: OK. LH: Another would be, Hartnell

531  
00:27:47,580 --> 00:27:51,510  
is lurking there, join another district- DY: Uh huh! LH: -which they

532  
00:27:51,510 --> 00:27:54,000  
would rather die. They're not going to do that.

533  
00:27:54,030 --> 00:27:57,270  
DY: There is a lingering- LH: Strike that off the list, and

534  
00:27:57,270 --> 00:28:00,960  
then the last option is to start a new district

535  
00:28:00,960 --> 00:28:04,230  
with more of a population, more of a tax base. DY: Uh huh. LH: But,

536  
00:28:04,230 --> 00:28:06,600  
you know, that's a problem because other colleges

537  
00:28:06,600 --> 00:28:09,540  
already snapped up a lot of the neighboring towns,

538

00:28:09,750 --> 00:28:12,810  
and the only likely candidate to join a new

539  
00:28:12,810 --> 00:28:16,140  
district was Gilroy. They actually looked at

540  
00:28:16,140 --> 00:28:17,910  
Watsonville, and then Cabrillo snapped up

541  
00:28:17,910 --> 00:28:19,800  
Watsonville so they couldn't get Watsonville. DY: Yes.

542  
00:28:20,010 --> 00:28:23,430  
LH: So all of these options are costly, especially a

543  
00:28:23,430 --> 00:28:27,870  
new district, but Hartnell was there lurking so

544  
00:28:27,870 --> 00:28:30,840  
students, dun dun dun dun! DY: Yes. LH: Come to the rescue. Students join

545  
00:28:30,840 --> 00:28:33,600  
the fight. The student government wrote a very

546  
00:28:33,600 --> 00:28:35,730  
strong defense of a local college and three

547  
00:28:35,730 --> 00:28:37,980  
students who I want to name- DY: Oh! Excellent. LH: -Because I think their

548  
00:28:37,980 --> 00:28:41,220  
names should be Rosemary Wynter, who is Muriel

549

00:28:41,220 --> 00:28:44,940  
Winter Brem's younger sister. DY: OK. LH: Gerry Lashley,

550  
00:28:44,940 --> 00:28:48,300  
and a veteran World War II veteran, Alfred Solano,

551  
00:28:49,050 --> 00:28:51,990  
protested any link to Salinas, and explained why

552  
00:28:51,990 --> 00:28:54,180  
students needed a local college, and they went on

553  
00:28:54,180 --> 00:28:55,800  
the road, they went to the Rotary Club and so

554  
00:28:55,800 --> 00:28:59,910  
forth. So. So what happened is Schroeder made a

555  
00:28:59,910 --> 00:29:03,480  
plan. The faculty backed him completely. The

556  
00:29:03,480 --> 00:29:09,480  
students rallied, and amazingly, the community

557  
00:29:09,480 --> 00:29:13,140  
backed them, and without this at all would have

558  
00:29:13,140 --> 00:29:15,630  
gone under. DY: Yeah. LH: But the community responded and

559  
00:29:15,630 --> 00:29:18,690  
enrollments went up. It was like magic. DY: A

560

00:29:18,690 --> 00:29:20,970  
real commitment. LH: It was extraordinary enough of

561  
00:29:20,970 --> 00:29:23,280  
the community stuck by the college. That

562  
00:29:23,580 --> 00:29:26,370  
enrollment topped the mark of 100 students in

563  
00:29:26,370 --> 00:29:29,760  
spring of 59 and then in fall of 59, they were up

564  
00:29:29,760 --> 00:29:33,360  
to 205, partly because they revitalized the night

565  
00:29:33,360 --> 00:29:39,090  
school. DY: Yes! LH: So things were back on track, and then I

566  
00:29:39,090 --> 00:29:41,520  
suspect there was some behind the scenes

567  
00:29:41,730 --> 00:29:45,660  
maneuvering. DY: Uh huh? LH: And Donald Grunsky, who was in the

568  
00:29:45,660 --> 00:29:48,540  
state Senate, he was the local state senator- DY: Ok. LH: -And

569  
00:29:48,540 --> 00:29:51,210  
he happened to be chair of the State Senate

570  
00:29:51,210 --> 00:29:54,780  
Education Committee. DY: Oh! LH: He was a San Benito College

571

00:29:54,780 --> 00:29:58,020  
supporter. He probably got to work behind the

572  
00:29:58,020 --> 00:30:03,270  
scenes, and there was a meeting in October of 1959

573  
00:30:03,270 --> 00:30:06,060  
and the accrediting commission was apparently

574  
00:30:06,060 --> 00:30:09,270  
getting some credit. The free lance said that they

575  
00:30:09,270 --> 00:30:11,970  
had a complete reversal of the group's former

576  
00:30:11,970 --> 00:30:14,490  
stand, that their last check of the Hollister

577  
00:30:14,490 --> 00:30:16,290  
campus was sufficient and they weren't going to

578  
00:30:16,290 --> 00:30:18,960  
come back. Suddenly they announced they're going

579  
00:30:18,960 --> 00:30:22,200  
to reassess their accreditation in December- DY: Oh! LH: -And

580  
00:30:22,200 --> 00:30:24,960  
they even said they're going to have new people,

581  
00:30:25,080 --> 00:30:27,990  
they're going to be other people, very carefully

582

00:30:27,990 --> 00:30:31,190  
chosen people on this accrediting team, and they

583  
00:30:31,200 --> 00:30:33,180  
they said ahead of time, which is, you know, this

584  
00:30:33,180 --> 00:30:36,480  
is- DY: Very special people. LH: Well, this is a pretty good

585  
00:30:36,660 --> 00:30:38,310  
indicator. They said there would be every

586  
00:30:38,310 --> 00:30:40,740  
indication that accreditation would be given. So

587  
00:30:40,740 --> 00:30:42,750  
they said that ahead of time. So they're kind of

588  
00:30:42,750 --> 00:30:46,440  
hinting here that, no, no, you will. DY: Oh my! LH: Somebody

589  
00:30:46,440 --> 00:30:49,830  
pulled some strings. So but on the other hand, the

590  
00:30:49,830 --> 00:30:53,240  
college really, really turned some things around.

591  
00:30:53,280 --> 00:30:57,480  
DY: Made some changes. LH: Yeah. So it was not a surprise- DY: Yes. LH: - in March

592  
00:30:57,480 --> 00:31:01,080  
of 1960, but it was an indication that the college

593

00:31:01,260 --> 00:31:04,260  
was informed that accreditation was being restored.

594  
00:31:04,740 --> 00:31:11,940  
DY: Wow, and so so we're now re-accredited. We're still

595  
00:31:12,160 --> 00:31:17,890  
San Benito College, and um we're still affiliated with

596  
00:31:17,890 --> 00:31:22,350  
the high school in such a way that we're- that the

597  
00:31:22,350 --> 00:31:26,040  
community is required to provide those two years.

598  
00:31:26,970 --> 00:31:30,300  
LH: Yes, although everything's starting to change in

599  
00:31:30,300 --> 00:31:33,300  
the late 50s. DY: That's what I wanted to get to. LH: That

600  
00:31:33,300 --> 00:31:35,070  
affiliation with the school. Yeah, I mean, you

601  
00:31:35,070 --> 00:31:38,280  
still do your district still does have to provide

602  
00:31:38,280 --> 00:31:40,680  
some kind of community college possibility or

603  
00:31:40,680 --> 00:31:43,860  
experience, but a lot is going to get rewritten as

604

00:31:43,860 --> 00:31:46,020  
the educational master plan is rewritten in the

605  
00:31:46,020 --> 00:31:48,960  
early 60s, and everything's going to change and poor

606  
00:31:48,960 --> 00:31:51,330  
Schroeder, You know, he must have cried when he

607  
00:31:51,330 --> 00:31:54,780  
got the accreditation report that it was OK and he

608  
00:31:54,780 --> 00:31:57,390  
must have been ready for a long vacation, and

609  
00:31:57,690 --> 00:32:01,440  
instead, there's going to be one last disaster,

610  
00:32:01,710 --> 00:32:04,650  
and this one finally is going to finish off San

611  
00:32:04,650 --> 00:32:07,950  
Benito College, but out of the ashes, it's going

612  
00:32:07,950 --> 00:32:11,820  
to lead to a new college, Gavilan College, and,

613  
00:32:12,840 --> 00:32:15,150  
you know, eventually that's going to lead to us

614  
00:32:15,150 --> 00:32:18,180  
sitting here with well-established college. DY: So our

615

00:32:18,180 --> 00:32:24,550  
first 50 years. Were an amazing story of survival

616  
00:32:25,180 --> 00:32:31,580  
and reinvention, and now we are on the cusp of the

617  
00:32:31,580 --> 00:32:34,460  
community college movement, the community college

618  
00:32:34,460 --> 00:32:39,200  
movement, and I guess we'll pick up there next

619  
00:32:39,200 --> 00:32:41,630  
time. LH: Yeah, we'll talk about the birth of Gavilan

620  
00:32:41,630 --> 00:32:45,050  
College. DY: Excellent. Thank you so much for letting

621  
00:32:45,050 --> 00:32:50,240  
me be a part of this podcast and telling the story

622  
00:32:50,240 --> 00:32:53,510  
of the first half of our first hundred years. LH: It's

623  
00:32:53,510 --> 00:32:55,240  
been a pleasure. Thank you. DY: Thank you.