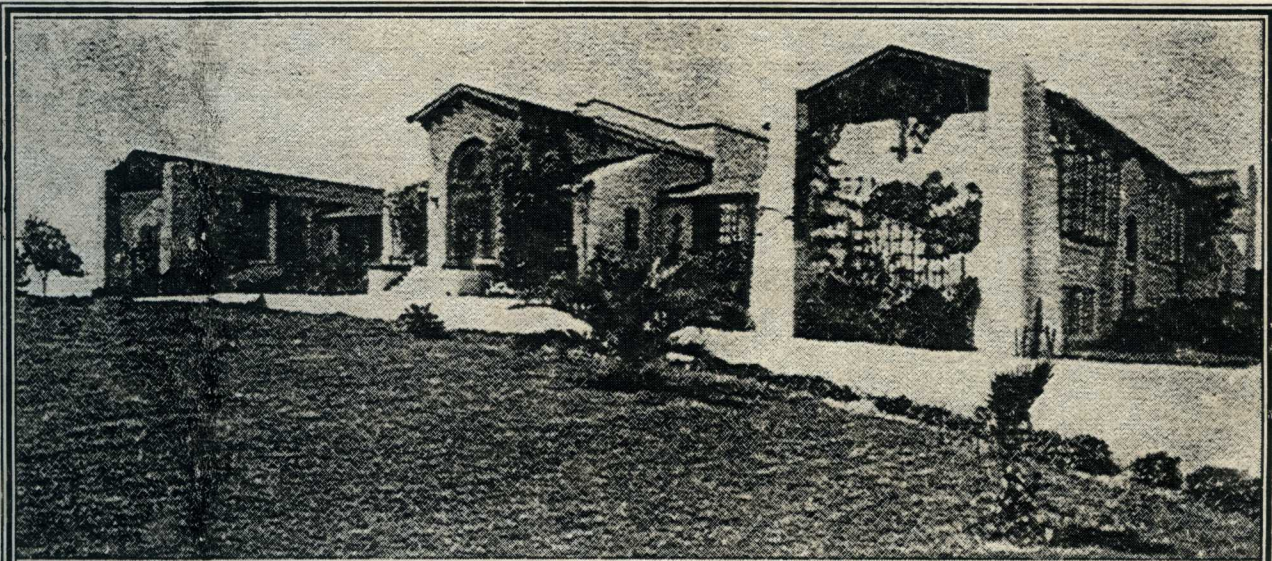


**A History Of The Formation Of
THE SAN JUAN UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Of Sacramento County, California**



The Original San Juan Union High School Building
photograph taken in 1924

by James R. Cowan, Ed.D.

Errata

The David Hammond mentioned in the last paragraph on page 51 is David J. Hammond.

In the subject index, the reference to Janet E. Smith can be found on page 110.

Acknowledgments

Without the assistance and contributions of the following people, this history could not have been told or published:

Original San Juan Unified School District employees Joe Ferrera, Maude Larson Burns, Ellis "Perk" Schuler, Leona Schmidt, Shirley K... and Paul... for their recollections of what it was like for the people and department... began operations.

A History of the Formation

Other unified district employees (at one time or another):

THE SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

... Cornelia Whitaker and David Hammond who provided their insight into the effects of unification on curriculum and instruction;

of

Ed Larson -- for creating the front and back covers;

Sacramento County, California

Judith A. Brown -- for scanning the photos;

Kathy Glaeser -- for the final layout; and

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Others...

Nick Tensch -- for furnishing photos and recollections from early residents and school people;

Mary Cowan, my loving wife -- for her patience and support throughout this project; and

Anyone else I may have inadvertently not mentioned.

Thank you all for your assistance.

by

James R. Cowan, Ed.D.

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of
THE SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
of
Sacramento County, California

Errata

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James R. Cowan
last paragraph on page 77 is David J.
Hammond.
In the subject index, the reference to
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Without the assistance and contributions of the following people, this history could not have been told or published:

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Mary Cowan, my loving wife – for her patience and support throughout this project; and

Anyone else I may have inadvertently not mentioned . . .

Thank you all for your assistance.

About the Author

James R. Cowan was born in the city of Sacramento, California, and the family moved to Carmichael when he was one year old. He attended Carmichael Elementary School and graduated from San Juan High School in 1933; graduated from Chico State (now known as California State University, Chico); and earned his doctor of education degree from University of California, Berkeley.

His first teaching position was in Codora School in Glenn County in 1937, and in 1939 he was hired by the Arcade School District as its first male teacher. In 1940 he was named principal of the school and later superintendent of the Arcade District. In 1959 an elementary school was named in his honor. With the exception of serving during World War II from 1943 to 1945 as a flight instructor, Dr. Cowan remained in that position until 1960 when the district became part of the San Juan Unified School District. After unification, he was appointed to the position of assistant superintendent of business services and remained in that capacity until he retired in 1971, when he became an educational consultant.

An avid student of history, Dr. Cowan has written and published histories of the Arcade School District; public school districts in Sacramento County; Carmichael Elementary School; and the story of homes, buildings, and barns of Shenandoah Valley, Amador County, California, where he and his wife Mary now live, farming the land by raising sheep and growing 2,000 walnut trees and zinfandel grapes.

egb

PREFACE

In 1969 Ferd. J. Kiesel, San Juan Unified School District's first superintendent, put together a brief history of the district. This was the first history of the district, but it didn't provide information about the communities that made by the newly formed district. Below is the first history of the district, with figures reflecting the year when it was written, and including subsequent revisions to figures regarding enrollment and budget to bring us to the current time, the year 2000.

The San Juan Unified School District is located in the northeast area of Sacramento County and constitutes an area of 75 square miles, extending approximately from Sacramento City to the Placer County line and from the American River to Interstate 80 and Business 80 (Capital City Freeway). It is predominately residential and, when saturated, will take care of a population in excess of half a million people.

An area population increase of more than 400 percent since 1950 has raised the district population from 35,000 to more than 245,000 in 1965. This increase – caused by high defense employment at McClellan and Mather Air Force bases, the establishment of Aerojet-General Corporation, and an large expansion in state and county employment – raised elementary and high school enrollment from 7,800 in 1950 to 48,800 in March 1965. According to recent projections of population, the district will ultimately serve 167,000 school-age children. The current average increase in school enrollment per year lies between 3,000 and 4,000 students.

The unified district was established July 1, 1960. It was created by joining the San Juan Union High School District with five elementary school districts: Arcade, Arden-Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, and Sylvan. These districts have historical ties dating back to the 1800s.

Sylvan School District was the first to be established, taking form sometime before 1866 on sites that were part of the original Spanish land grant known as Rancho San Juan. It was followed by the old San Juan Elementary District, which was formed in 1880 but disbanded in 1911, to be re-established later as the San Juan High School District. Residents of that newly formed district soon voted a tax for the purpose of erecting their first high school on Greenback Lane near Mariposa Avenue (the same location as the present San Juan High School). This was the only high school in the district until 1950 when El Camino High School was constructed at El Camino and Eastern Avenues.

The next elementary district formed was Arcade in 1885 on part of the old Rancho Del Paso grant. Orangevale and Roberts districts followed about 1890; the Fair Oaks district was established in 1896. The Arden School District, formed from part of the Arcade district, emerged in 1914, and the Carmichael district was formed in 1916.

By 1928 the San Juan High School District included the same area as the Orangevale, Roberts, Fair Oaks, Sylvan, and Carmichael Elementary School Districts. Arcade and Arden joined a few years later to make a total of seven school districts in the San Juan area prior to World War II.

Most of the districts started with a handful of students and one small school house. They progressed through the years, increasing slowly in enrollment until after World War II when Sacramento received its portion of the population explosion experienced by most California communities. In this immediate post-war period, four of the elementary districts unionized: Roberts with Orangevale and Arden with Carmichael. During the same period, five more elementary schools were built, bringing the total number in the San Juan area by 1950 to 12 elementary schools and one high school. By 1968, the district had expanded to 66 elementary and intermediate schools and 11 high schools, one adult center and one technical-vocational center serving the ever-increasing school-age population.

The San Juan Unified School District, in its initial stages of operation, was the seventh largest school district in California, with an enrollment of 34,100. It employed approximately 2,200 people and expended a budget of slightly more than \$17 million for the 1960-61 school year. During the 1968-69 school year, it was still the seventh largest district in California with 52,725 children enrolled, 3503 people employed and a \$37.3 million budget allocated.

FJK:eb 3/69

P.S. In 1997 the district was the eighth largest in the state with 48,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students enrolled, plus 890 children in preschool programs and 15,570 students in adult education programs. The district employed approximately 5,200 people in full-time positions at 82 sites, and had a general fund budget of \$246 million.

There are now 85 school sites and the general fund budget is \$ 341 million for the year 2000-20 01 school year.

Elaine Bonnington, rev. 10/95, 12/97, 2/98, 9/2000

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