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## The Development of the Landscape of the College of the Pacific

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE  
of the  
COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

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Blue Key Campus Guide Brochure



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE  
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The original plan for the Campus was drawn up by John McLaren, a landscape architect who developed Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. This plan, however, did not include selection or arrangement of shade trees. The original planting of trees and shrubs was mainly under the direction of Dr. John Burcham, vice-president of the College from 1921 to 1931. Later this work was supervised by O. H. Ritter, executive vice president and comptroller, who came in 1926 and retired in 1953. The actual planting and the collection of many of the trees and shrubs was done by Santino Bava, head gardener for the College until his retirement in 1955.

The oldest trees on the Campus are a group of five Valley Oaks, Quercus lobata, near the main Campus gate. These were in the grounds at the beginning, and represent the only native species of tree commonly found on the floor of the Valley under natural conditions.

Of the planted trees and shrubs, some of those without especially conspicuous flowers have been used for street and specimen planting, the employment being determined in part by apparent suitability to local soil and climate conditions, and in part by the character of the tree itself. Thus some species are used primarily for shade and general landscape purposes and others for the brief beauty of their flowers.

Among the earliest plantings were the Eucalyptus trees surrounding Baxter Stadium and running along the north boundary of the Campus. These trees were killed to the ground by a severe frost in the winter of 1929, and have come up to their present stature by sprouting from the roots. Arizona Ash,



Fraxinus velutina, also among the earliest species established here, was planted along Stadium Drive and on Pacific Avenue. The principal tree used on walks and avenues of the Campus is the London Plane, Platanus acerifolia. The original trees were contributed by the Park Department of the City of Stockton. The supply was later augmented by Mr. Bava, who grew from cuttings a large number of the plants which have bordered walks and avenues. Some of these trees have failed to thrive under Campus conditions and probably will be replaced as the years go by. The nursery on the College grounds is now rearing a supply of Hackberries, Celtis, sp., which are intended as the principal replacement of the Plane trees.

Some of the notable tree groups and trees are as follows:

Conifers: The most numerous representatives of these are the Coast Redwood, Sequoia sempervirens, and the Sierra Big Tree, Sequoia gigantea. There are notable redwoods near Weber Hall, on Pacific Circle and near the Conservatory. A large one, surrounded by a circle of Big Trees appears south of the Administration Building, and there are similar less conspicuous groupings of these two species near the north and south corners of North Hall.

There is a small grove of Redwoods northward from the West Memorial Infirmary. Large Big Trees are on the lawn near the steps toward the main gate and others appear near the Conservatory and South Hall. The large specimens of Sequoia gigantea used came from the area which is now Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Small Big Trees have recently been interplanted between London Planes along the main walk leading eastward from the Administration Building. Many other small trees of this kind have been recently planted in similar locations and may eventually replace many of the London Planes as these are removed from time to time during the coming years. This spring (1957) we expect



1958 now 2 on campus -  
one in Pass. back yard,  
other west of West Hall

to plant a Dawn Redwood, Metasequoia glyptostroboides, somewhere on the Campus.

Three species of the genus Cedrus occur on the Campus. Most of the specimens represent Cedrus deodara. This tree originated in the lower Himalayas of India. Two deodars stand eastward from Weber Hall; others occur on Pacific Circle near the Conservatory and elsewhere. Of the few Atlas Cedars, Cedrus atlantica, that have been planted, the best representative is near the southwest corner of Epsilon House. Two species of Lebanon Cedar, Cedrus libani, grown by the University of California from Turkish seed were planted in the spring of 1956, one westward of Weber Hall, the other on the main lawn near the corner of Burcham and Pacific Circle. It is quite possible that these may become less attractive in habit than the other cedars, but their association with Scripture and tradition, as well as the rarity of authentic specimens, should justify their retention.

Small columnar trees appearing near buildings are Italian cypresses, Cupressus sempervirens. Two trees of similar form at the west entrance to West Hall are Yews, Taxus baccata. Other conifers represented include: Spanish Fir, Abies pinsapo; Incense Cedar, Libocedrus decurrens; Port Orford Cedar, Chamaecyparis lawsoniana; Junipers, Juniperus, species, and one pine, Pinus sabiniana. The last is rearward of the dining hall and apparently grew from a seed brought in with earth from the river bottom in the early days of landscaping.

Broad-leaved Trees: Besides the Oaks, London Planes and Arizona Ash trees previously mentioned, many species of other broad-leaved trees, not grown primarily because of their flowers appear on the campus. Among these are several specimens of Cork Oak, Quercus suber, and one or two small Valley Oaks. A row of Silver Maples, Acer saccharinum, lies along the south side of Chapel Lane west of Weber Hall, and more appear westward of the Administration



Building. Conspicuous small trees with purplish leaves are a form of Plum, Prunus cerasifera var. Pissarti. Other broad-leaved trees include Albizzia, (Albizzia julibrissin; Black Locust, Robinia pseudo-cerasus; Box Elders, Acer negundo; Birch, Betula pendula, and various kinds of walnuts.

We have two kinds of poplars, the columnar Lombardy Poplar, Populus nigra var. italica, and several White Poplars, Populus alba. A pair of evergreen

Grecian laurels, Laurus nobilis, are on either side of the main walk to the

Conservatory. These were <sup>secured</sup> planted by Dr. Knoles from J. C. Smith, donor of the principal portion of the original college campus.

Flowering Trees: Of the "flowering" trees there are numerous beautiful species of Cherry, Prunus spp, originating in the Orient. There is a notable specimen of Redbud, Cercis occidentalis, near Archania House. This tree represents one of the most showy plants native to California. It was obtained by Mr. Bava from Lake County, where the trees grow rather abundantly under natural conditions. Other showy trees and large shrubs include Crab Apples, Magnolias and Laburnums. In their seasons of bloom, the Albizzias and Black Locusts also add to Campus beauty.

Memorials: Several trees have been planted as memorials, or are in one way or another associated with organizations or personalities. These include a Sierra Big Tree near Weber Hall, which is accompanied by the following inscription:

This Sequoia Gigantea  
was planted on Arbor Day  
March 7, 1944, by the people  
of Stockton in honor of  
AMOS ALONZO STAGG  
the grand old man of football

The presentation was initiated by the local chapter of the Knights of the Round Table. Two Port Orford Cedars near the main Campus gate were dedicated by Alpha Chi Delta, a fraternity no longer active on the Campus, in memory of



Professor George Lawrence, former assistant dean of men, and a member of the Romance language department, who died in 1928. A large hybrid walnut near the south set of steps of Pacific Circle was contributed by Luther Burbank shortly before his death. It represents one of his principal achievements in the "creation" of plant kinds by hybridization. Another walnut tree of similar hybrid origin stands near the new library building. It was contributed by P. R. Wright, former proprietor of the College Book Store. In view of his long connection with the College of Pacific it might be appropriate to dedicate this tree to his memory.

Several eastern black walnuts, Juglans nigra, between West Infirmary and the Engineering Building, were planted by Dr. Samuel Kistler, formerly of the Department of Chemistry, in memory of his father. A dedication plate by one of the ornamental cherries near the large oak trees reads as follows:

Probably in view of the ivied tradition of American Colleges, the west side of the Administration Building was for several years ornamented by an English Ivy, Hedera helix, said to have been brought from Westminster Abbey. This ivy was later removed. The vines that cover the campus buildings at present, represent another group of so-called ivies. Most of them are the Boston, or Japanese Ivy, Parthenocissus tricuspidata. The Virginia Creeper, P. quinquefolia, climbs on the north side of Weber Hall.

Of shrubs, the Campus has, quite literally, too many species to mention. Especially notable are the many camellias, particularly those eastward of the



Administration Building. These were among the first camellias established in the City of Stockton and might be remembered particularly in connection with Mr. Ritter, who was responsible for their use here, and who took great pride in the selection established under his direction.

Other shrubs include the Oleander, Spiraea and Althaea.

The hedges, of which the best display borders the Greek Theatre, are for the most part, Privet, Ligustrum ovalifolium. Evergreen Euonymus japonica appear near several Campus buildings. Other shrubs include Deutzia, Viburnum and bamboos. Shrubs grown principally for their berries include the California Toyon, Pyracantha and Cotoneaster. Tree roses border the walks leading to Morris Chapel and other roses are located in various parts of the Campus.

As a matter of historic interest, the green lawns of the Campus were, in earlier days, devoted to alfalfa. The grass of many of these is now being replaced by dichondra. The flood-system by which our lawns are irrigated was established under the direction of Dr. Knoles. Surveying classes of C. L. White, Professor of Engineering from 1924 until 1930-31, did the grading and set up the levees for the first lawns planted to grass. In recent years, work on the campus grounds has been carried on by local labor, but in earlier times much of it was done by the students working out college bills.

Different flowering plants ornament building borders and beds from year to year. Campus tradition remembers beautiful displays of Oriental Poppies which used to be ranked against Sears Hall, and in various beds along other buildings. The last display of these plants was diagnosed by a Federal Narcotic Agent as representing the Oriental opium poppy, Papaver somniferum. These were sacrificed to the demands of Federal law, but during the years of their glory,



the poppies scattered seeds enough so that a specimen occasionally emerges briefly in a flower bed.

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