

Ceremony Planned ThursdayValdese News
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Groundbreaking Set For

Two New WPCC Buildings

Groundbreaking for the second phase of construction at Western Piedmont Community College will be an informal but memorable occasion Thursday at 10:45 a.m.

The groundbreaking will call attention to the realization of dreams of higher education placed in the reach of young people in this area.

To Dr. Gordon C. Blank, WPCC president, and other faculty members there is thought for the promise and challenge of the 1970's as well as the good beginning in creation of the college.

Western Piedmont had about 200 adults enrolled in its first course offerings. This was in October of 1965 and this first door to opportunity was in the adult basic education program.

The college admitted its first full time curriculum students in September of 1966. From enrollment of 432 at that time the curriculum students came to number 884 in September of this year. In addition to curriculum enrollment the adult education program has continued to be important.

The first phase of construction at the college cost about \$1,800,000 and the new buildings were occupied in March of 1968. The first two-year class was graduated in June of that year. The school was fully accredited in December of 1968.

Now there is another groundbreaking. This is for the second phase of construction which will have a total cost of approximately \$800,000 and will provide much needed space for the rapidly growing college.

This phase two construction will include two additional buildings, the expansion of the library on the top floor of the existing "A" Building, and grading and paving a new parking lot with capacity for 244 automobiles.

One of the new buildings will join the present science technology structure while the other will be an occupational shop building to be attached to the existing automotive mechanics building.

The two proposed structures will contain approximately 25,000 square feet of new space which will complement the existing three buildings which contain 70,000 square feet.

The present facilities are operating at near capacity with the 884 enrollment in degree and diploma programs and over 4,000 adult students attending for the fall quarter.

Plans call for the new vocational building to contain a welding shop, machine shop, and general shop. The science technology expansion will mean more laboratory and classroom space plus a very limited amount of office space.

As for the library, now occupying about a third of the top floor in the administration building, it will take in about 3,500 square feet now used by the humanities and social science faculty offices and student personnel. The present programmed instruction laboratory, now on the plaza, will move into the library. The space vacated by the laboratory will become the new bookstore.

Eventually plans call for the

library to occupy the entire top floor of "A" building. But that will come later.

A. G. Odell Jr. and Associates, Charlotte architectural firm, which planned the first phase of the college construction, is also doing the second phase. Also the same general contractor is doing both phases. This is Laxton Construction Company of Charlotte.

Rev. W. Jackson Huneycutt, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, will give the invocation at Thursday morning's groundbreaking. This will be followed with a welcome by Dr. Blank, and greetings by members of the college board of trustees and foundation as well as various other college groups.

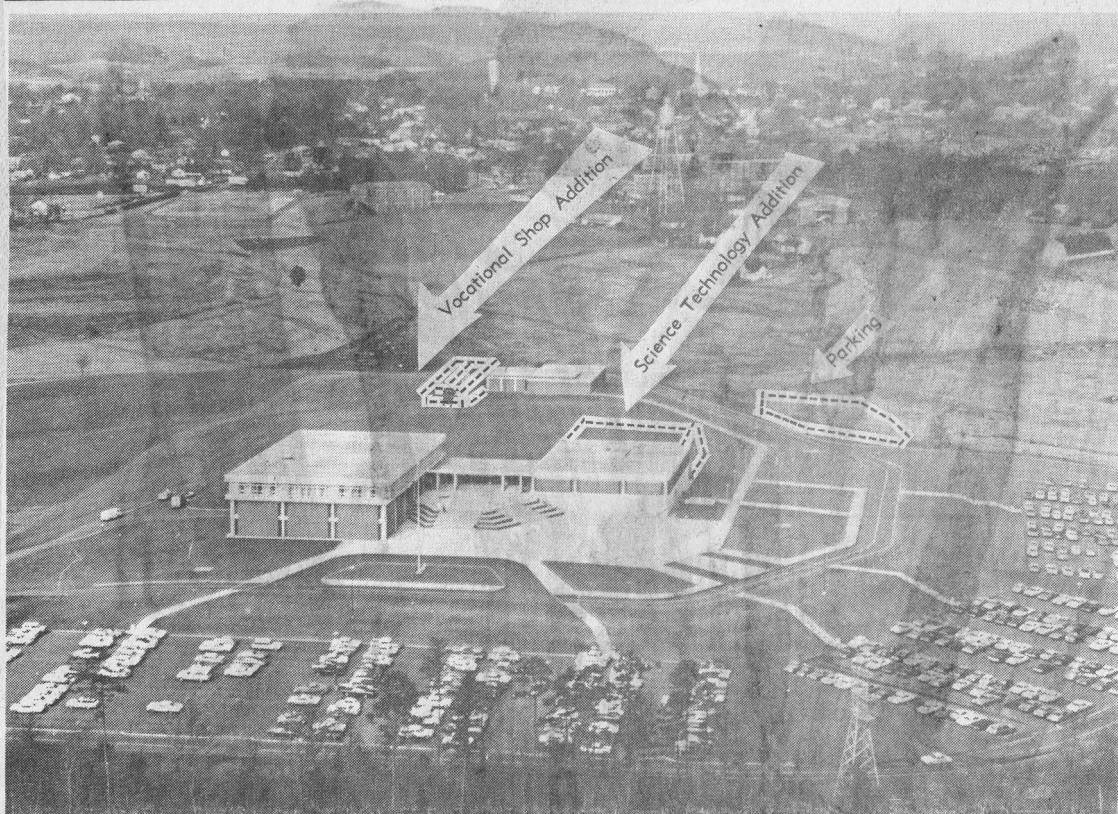
William W. Couch, president of the Western Piedmont Foundation, will bring greetings from that supporting body, while Robert P. Carr will speak as chairman of the trustees' buildings and grounds committee.

Joe Woodell, president, will represent the Student Association, and Tommy Eller will speak as chairman of the faculty senate.

W. Stanley Moore will bring greetings as chairman of the board of trustees. And finally there will come the symbolic breaking of ground.

"We can expect to occupy the new construction in about a year," said Dr. Blank.

Incidentally in case the weather is bad the campus ceremony will move inside to the teaching auditorium.



Western Piedmont Continues To Grow

The concept of a drive-in college to help bring higher education to more of the state's young people is proving successful. This is especially true at Western Piedmont Community College here in Morganton which occupied first phase construction in March of 1968. Now the college is operating at near capacity enrollment and there will be groundbreaking Thursday

at 10:45 a.m. for second phase construction. Dotted lines show where two new buildings will be added and also the location of the new parking field with 244 automobile capacity. The new buildings existing "B" and "C" buildings. In addition there will be expansion in the library on the top floor of "A" building (largest structure located in left foreground.)