

SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

By

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The Board of Trustees has given us an extremely valuable opportunity in offering the sabbatical leave program. It is this type of action that has kept Mt. San Antonio College growing, improving, and developing with the times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and express my gratitude to the Board and the community it represents for allowing me a sabbatical leave. It was refreshing, renewing, and rewarding. I am sure the knowledge gained and the exposure realized will show in my work with the students (that is what it is all about).

I would also like to express my appreciation to my fellow workers in the Agricultural Sciences Department who accepted an additional load in an already busy and, for most, new situation to enable me to be absent from my classes to achieve the work of the sabbatical.

Thank you again. It was really worth it.

Herman W. Weskamp

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SABBATICAL OBJECTIVES

A sabbatical, to me, needed to be a personal achievement that would be of expanded value to the College Community; something that gave a lot of personal satisfaction, improvement, and achievement that the Community would share.

When the idea of taking a sabbatical leave really came to me, it involved the following three concepts:

1. Expanding my knowledge into new horizons that time has not allowed me to explore.
2. I have wanted for some time to do some research work. The need for first-hand updated information of on-job opportunities, methods of obtaining employment, and exposure to job requirements that the students are now confronting was apparent. Time does not normally allow a study of these problems and with the new regulations and classifications within the technicians occupational employment this information will be valuable.
3. I also needed exposure to actual field work to update my understanding of the working world outside the education community. I wanted to go into the field to see and talk to the people productively working and to take advantage of several educational sessions that were to be available.

R E S E A R C H

A study, or research, subject opportunity presented itself at this time and was ideal for seeking a sabbatical. There was a need to find methods to reproduce a unique tree growth condition found in a few special specimens in the Tecolote plantation in the San Gabriel River watershed. This study is in cooperation with Mr. Johnson, a Los Angeles County forester, and Dr. Locher, a Los Angeles County Arboretum researcher.

The specimen trees were grown from seed acquired through the Department of Agriculture from the Eastern Mediterranean area and Southern Russia. Their growth rate has been fantastic and far beyond any previous records. They grew to over fourteen feet in four years. Other specimens from the same seed sources in other locations have also done extremely well.

It was decided to attempt two methods of propagation; cuttings, which would be most desirable, and grafting, mainly for faster seed production.

The cuttings were taken to the County Arboretum, processed, and set out under the misters. The results of this planting were recently potted. Thus far we have been very successful, but this project must go on for at least another year for any assurance of success. A complete report on it will be submitted at its conclusion.

Cuttings were also taken from the grafting portion of the experiment. These are to be kept here on campus. We grafted to Alepo and Monterey pines, using cliff graft and bottle graft. (This work

was done with the forestry students participating.) We anticipated the bottle graft method to be the best with conifers--this did not prove out as both were equally successful and unsuccessful. Several of these are now growing in five-gallon containers in our forest nursery and green houses.

Again, the time allowed for the sabbatical was inadequate to complete the work that is still in progress and will take some time to complete. Reports will be added as the work progresses.

The value here is direct and indirect to the students. Direct in the use and participation of students in the study and giving them first-hand information and procedures as the experiment progresses. It has also been revealing to me to see their reactions to this work. Some show interest and enthusiasm with no desire to participate and others have been overly involved trying to make things happen. It has been very interesting.

Indirect in the exposure, both the participating students and I have gained in expanded knowledge and contact with people in the industry and will continue to gain. This work has brought me in contact with researchers, foresters, and others working in the forest industry. This, in turn, has brought Mt. San Antonio College and its program to their attention, resulting in desirable exposure, especially for future contacts that may be made by our students for employment or for other reasons. It has also given me sources for information and material for use in the classroom. The contacts and exposure in the community have been rewarding. Interest in both the professional and the civil areas has been high.

As the work progresses, I will be available to talk to groups to explain not only the work, but the value of it to our local forests, parks, and homes.

F I E L D W O R K

To get an expanded and updated concept of working conditions and opportunities in forestry and agriculture, I attempted to work with or visit several operations to increase my first-hand exposure.

Arrangements had been made with our four local forest agencies-- United States Forest Service, California Division of Forestry, Los Angeles County Foresters, and private industry--to spend time with them. I spent time working with all but the California Division of Forestry. Time ran out and there were some operational problems. These organizations were chosen because they are local and work with us in our training, class work, work experience, give us much assistance and advice, and employ our graduates. Besides spending workdays in the field with foresters in each area to get on-job exposure, I made special trips and studies with them.

Some of the highlights of these experiences were inspecting logging operations; assisting in the logging, decking, rigging, and shipping of logs; going through saw mills to study the various operations and job requirements; inspecting, updating, and resupplying fire weather stations; timber cruising and selecting sale lots; unloading a shipload of logs from Malasia; grading lumber as it came through the saw mill; going through the California Division of Forestry headquarters and the Department of Natural Resources in Sacramento and meeting and discussing forestry with Mr. Moran, Chief of the Division; spending "a day with the ranger" going through a workday with the

foresters; planning sessions, like the one with Fish and Game, in opening streams to keep water temperature down in the San Gabriel River after weekenders have built dams to swim; was involved in the youth conservation camp from its inception to teaching the student participants; and had a session with Mr. Hill, secretary-treasurer for the Western Equipment Dealers Association.

All of this has improved my knowledge for teaching my classes, as well as bringing that knowledge up to date. There were so many new and improved methods, all of which will be valuable to our students' needs in preparing them for their futures in the industry and expanding their knowledge and abilities.

Some side values obtained were in expanding the understanding of our programs in forestry and agriculture here at Mt. San Antonio College and finding direct and indirect opportunities for our students and graduates. For example, we have been able to expand work experience opportunities and hope to further expand and improve them with the County Division of Forestry and private enterprise.

Another important factor learned was the need for more field work and field exposure for our students. This is becoming more and more apparent with the rapid changes and the shortage of this exposure in some areas for our students. Also, our students are coming to us with fewer abilities and lesser understanding of working conditions in the field. I hope we will be able to grow in this direction.

A few activities which I had hoped to undertake, but will have to wait for available time, were spending a day at the United States Forest Service and the California Division of Forestry fire stations

of various types and locations in order to understand job requirements and learn more on timber procurement and land management. I would like more time in timber and lumber operations and some time with the Civil Service Commission.

E D U C A T I O N

When time permitted, I attended meetings, short courses, workshops, seminars, and visited people and units in the field. These were selected on the basis of expanding and updating my knowledge in the forestry and agricultural fields. Some were on specific subject matter and others were really just keeping Mt. San Antonio College involved, contributing as well as receiving information.

One of the highlights of this portion of my sabbatical was a seminar on fire weather, a coop effort of the Meteorological Society and the United States Forest Service. It was a week long and took place at Lake Tahoe. Here, some of the new ideas that are working well in research and some that are being developed into the system, which will have definite effects on the future, were discussed at length. We were shown a new portable weather station to enable the inclusion of local weather in the fire weather forecasts. The new fire weather program, partly in use and partly proposed for California, was presented--very interesting information.

We were also able to see some of the forest operations and conditions of the area while there and in transit. They have a very unique visitor information center where you can see through glass a cross section of a stream with all its natural environment. In the correct season the fish even spawn.

It was possible for me to attend the final workshop of the National Science Foundation sponsored series on community college agricultural programs. This program was at Yuba College where they are

building a new campus. They have some very different programing methods and coop training programs with the industry, especially in the mechanical fields. We studied agricultural management and mechanized agriculture. The continuing proposal and discussion of a program between the industry and community colleges in equipment mechanics and operation care and management was ever present--the graduate to be a "Certified Mechanical Technician."

The Agriculture Department of the Chancellor's Offices, along with the Far Western Equipment Dealers Association, presented a workshop on and for the above program relating to the training of mechanics, repairmen, equipment operators, shop foremen, etc. for farm and industrial equipment dealers and truck dealers and operators. There is a need and Mt. San Antonio College should move ahead as one of the leaders in this field.

It was possible for me to attend Dr. Jaeger's palaver where many men of the natural sciences gathered to discuss the Flora and Fauna of the outdoors and desert. I also attended the section meeting of the Society of American Foresters where our students who participated in the job training in New Mexico were recognized.

When trips were made to the various meetings, and it was possible, I would visit facilities, units, and areas which would be of educational value. I spent several days with Mr. R. Mannion, the District Ranger at Orville. He took me on a tour through parts of his district and discussed management procedures, working conditions, employment possibilities, training requirements and such that were of interest. We visited the California Division of Forestry nursery in Magalia,

touring and evaluating their methods. This was valuable for the research part of my work as well as for use in my classes. They gave me some seed for use in our nursery.

It was also possible for me to visit some of our former students and view their working conditions. One former student was Jim Morris who is now a teacher and had previously worked for some time for the United States Forest Service in various fire control positions. He teaches at Angeles Camp so I was able to see much of the type of agriculture and forestry practiced in that area besides learning of his experiences with the United States Forest Service.

I visited the California Division of Forestry nursery at Davis, California. Here, Mr. MacDonald is also working on growing conifers from cuttings. He is also developing seed tree plantation from these and other genetically sound trees. While there, we visited the University of California, Davis, where they have done some research work with trees from the same seed source as ours.

S U M M A R Y

In summary, the sabbatical program is fantastic. I believe it should almost be mandatory in the occupational fields. I did not realize the amounts of information we miss in our routine teaching roles.

This time was extremely beneficial to me in improving my ability as a teacher in forestry and agriculture, and I know the students and the community also will receive their share of value.

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