Million-Dollar Laney Addition Now in Complete Operation

The Oakland Board of Education now has in full operation the million-dollar addition to the nationally famous Laney Trade and Technical Institute.

The new structure consists of two units housing 12 of the 37 different full-time trades courses now offered, together with three new classes expanding the program.

The main two-story building includes foods-trades classes in restaurant cooking, baking, and waitress and soda fountain work; the printing trades which include hand composition, linotype, presswork, offset printing, and other typographical techniques.

Cosmetology, pressing, spotting, shoe rebuilding, upholstery, refrigeration, machine shop, industrial radio repair, radio communications, and a new class in commercial photography complete the trade classes housed in this structure.

AUTO BUILDING

The second one-story building has been constructed for the automotive trades including training for mechanics, body and fender repairmen, and auto painters.

These new buildings represent the result of a unique planning program in which shop instructors, trade advisory committees, and the school administrative, architectural, and engineering staffs all participated.

As the first step in planning, the day and evening school principals and the three trade and apprentice co-ordinators met with the instructors to determine the basic area requirements.

Each staff member then worked with a small group of instructors developing specific housing and equipment requirements for each class. The basic shop principles established by the statewide committee on School Shop Planning, under the chairmanship of Dr. Spencer Benbow, assistant superintendent for the Oakland public schools, were used as the guide in making these preliminary plans.

PREPARED LAYOUTS

Next, the architectural and engineering staff, under the supervision of the late Charles Whitton, prepared layouts from the instructors' recommendations.

These layouts were then submitted to the trade advisory committees for review and recommendations. Layouts acceptable to the instructors, the committees, and the staff were then incorporated in the final building plans of the architect, Geoffrey K. Bangs.

All offices, conference rooms, and related classrooms are in a nearby semi-permanent building at 240 East 10th Street.

The two city blocks of the campus are located within walking distance of the downtown area and near all main interurban transportation lines.

The new structures, comprising 72,000 square feet, are of reinforced concrete construction throughout.

SAFETY STAIRWAYS

The stairways are of cast terrazzo with safety treads, and the walls in the main hallway and entrance foyer are faced with satin-finish pre-cast terrazzo.

Acoustical ceilings are used in all classrooms, the halls, and in many of the shops.

The dressing rooms and lavatory areas are finished in glazed tile in attractive modern colors.

Power and complete heating units are in the basement area of the main building.

The hot-water space heating system includes two fully automatic combination gas and oil-fired boilers with provisions for additional boilers for three buildings to be constructed at a future date.

Both buildings have automatic pneumatic-type temperature controls.

OTHER FEATURES

Other central features of the training plant include: a domestic hot water heating system, a high pressure steam system for the clothes pressing department, a compressed air system, oxygen and acetylene piping systems for the auto shop.

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