

Obie Maler, born in La Jolla, July 16, 1908 was interviewed by Helen Raitt Saturday morning, June 23, 1962, when they took a tour of the grounds.

Mr. Maler has been connected with the building and grounds of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography since 1928. This tour for the first time made known many facts about the planting of the grounds of the area of Scripps and the new campus to be.

The eucalyptus planted in 1909 at E. W.'s suggestion and gift, he is said to have furnished trees, many of them were as large as they are now according to Obie's recollection. These must have been planted in the large groves that are seen now perpendicular to the ocean. There were a few scattered trees on the hill behind Scripps Institution, but not many.

When Dr. Vaughan came he had a true interest in the planting of the campus, walked about it with Obie on Sundays, thought of it in way as a plantation. He believed that trees should be planted along the tops of hills ~~xxxx~~ as a framework. The trees planted directly below La Jolla Highlands where Gustaf Arrhenius and others live show this idea of his. However they had to be watered by hand from a truck with a tank on it. Then also Dr. Vaughan and Obie decided to plant the polyanthus eucalytus trees in a border to the right of the biological grade going down the hill. Obie remembers planting these himself, and how they were spaced so as to be not an even parallel row of trees.

This border adds greatly to the overall planting that E. W. had put in. Then driving down towards the radio shack from the new married student housing, one sees first the acacia grove, what has survived and remained. Dr. Vaughan had apparently decided to have thirty five varieties of acacia all planted here. Some of these by necessity had to be cut down when the housing units were built. (Notes say forty to fifty acacias...)

Towards the canyon from the acacia grove is the house house which has its foundation still there. This was the first house used by Dr. Sumner. It was open to the sky, had shelves and compartments, had hardware cloth on the sides for ventilation, was about 24 feet by 24 feet.

Obie remembers that in 1928 or 1929 Dr. Marshall furnished 20 different kinds of eucalyptus trees from the Torrey Pines Experimental Station. These were planted by Obie, and placed many times down the canyons. There is a large canyon that comes out by cottage 21 and goes on by 28. Obie observes how all the trees seemed to survive best on the south side of the canyons. If one drives out to the radio shack point... Obie shows one where the main water lines once originally ran... these were made of wood in the first world war, because of the shortage of steel, and these wood lines leaked. Therefore Dr. Vaughan and Obie often placed a tree where they saw a leak hoping thus the tree could survive, and get some water.

The second mouse house used by Dr. Sumner was placed down at the bottom of the large canyon away from the water below a small draw where pine trees have survived. This is interesting in light of the fact that the 500 Monterey Pines planted in 1909 did not survive. Obie thinks Dr. Vaughan and he must have put these pines in. The little path to the mouse house went down this canyon by the pine trees.

There is the remains of a reservoir which is on the furthest promontory south where water was stored.

The cypress trees said Obie usually only last 25 years, and then get a cypress bore.

Dr. VAughan and Obie were responsible for many of the trees planted behind the Scripps buildings on the hills. These did well until the drought of the fifties.

Looking from the south boundary over the canyon now being slowly filled one sees the trees which were planted to cover the ridges and stand against the sky line as Vaughan wished in his over all plan. Obie says the water was ailed in a truck in 50 gallon drums to keep these alive.

Where the radio shack is now first was a little farm house, board and bat house where the Hanney(sp.) 's lived....they kept cows and chickens and sold milk to the Scripps people for a number of years.

About 1929 the Scripps Metabolic Clinic built dog kennels up here, used Hanney's house for experimental mice work for nearly 10 years. One can see the cement bases of the dog kennels. They would get mongrel dogs from Tiajuana to use for experiments, on diets, organs, etc. There were sometimes 30 to 35 here, and were very noisy. Had a big fence about the whole place.

Driving over to the building being built for the Science and Engineering School I was shown by Obie where the hog farm was. A Mr. Charles Rimback lived there, now in Sorrento, and I should query him about this hog farm. He thought he lived there from about 1920 on.... and the place where the hogs were slaughtered in a cement platform still on the grounds.

One can see a group of trees on top now near the baseball diamond, where the house was. There were bunk houses for the employees that worked there. It was a regular farm on the city land because the city was responsible for the roads.

In the second world war the men at Camp Callan in fixing up their camp had no budget for plants and so would come and take top soil (much of it was taken from an area of Sea) and they would get seedlings and plants from the gardeners at Scripps. The Australian plants which Dr. VAughan was so interested in were thus moved over to Camp Callan. When the war was over and all the buildings torn down, these plants that survived are an interesting testimony to what can survive a drought....Guy Fleming used to constantly point this out as the best hardy examples of what lives here.

The polyanthus seedlings that Obie planted, the trees now bordering the road down La Jolla Shores Drive were just six inches high and came from the City Farm Obie said.

Riding down through the campus with Obie we finally decided where the original road that E. W. wished called Scenic Cliffs Road, now Discovery Way.... see illustration. The name Discovery Way was given it when mail had to be delivered there rather than to the Institution.

Coat. Crandall lived in the Fox, later Walker house.....

Obie can remember the Community House when two women actually ran it and served meals

Looking Through the scrap Book, assorted notes.....

Jack ROss was the engineer on the boat and Jim R^Uss Building superintendant of building and grounds. His wife was Mrs. Mc Ewen's sister.

W. E. Allen was athletic and played tennis and golf.

Farm Land back of La Jolla Farms was in dry farming, oats and lima beans. Farmers were Handley family (Augue Handley) Joe Capps, and the farm next door to the University down on the shores was George Siguchi (sp.) whose house is at present Ham Craig's home remodeled. After Pearl Harbor Siguchi put in a Urge 200 eatt lamp, and so people shot it down, and was very soon taken away to a camp.

Picture of Kitter's house in 1927 shows the best what trees E. W. planted directly behind the house on the hills... also a picture 1926, taken from the ocean.

The first tennis court was dirt and was further south and the later one that was cement and paved in front of the institution.... dates unknown for these.

E. W. liked to drive... He would go with Jim Ross on temperature runs on the ship out to SAn Clemente. E. W. built the road to La Jolla.

1932.... The picture showing the salt water tank demolished. Obie remembers that when this had to be demolished the dynamite expert didn't pack the dynamite right and so when the shots went off, the tank was demolished, but also the windows in Scripps building were broken.

1925 picture shows the first tennis court.

1932 picture shows what Dr. VAughan did in improving the planting
Sometimes three

He remembers how Dr. VAughan always had a police dog, went for walks Sunday.... A police dog was often in his office.....

Vaughan had T.B. at one time when quite near the end of his term. Obie remembers driving him to the Doctor. R. E. Wilson on the building and ground picture is the father of Spencer Wilson, is 94 and still living, worked here seven years .

Dr. VAughan never drove, and Mrs. VAughan drove him also Obie. Mrs. VAughan was a tremendous person.