

TEEN RAISES \$500 TO SEND KID TO CAMP

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY STORIES



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Hal Hyde helped found UC Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College, the UCSC Arboretum, the Community Foundation and the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County. He's currently working to improve opportunities in higher education for the area's Latinos.

HAL HYDE

Watsonville native a man of many firsts

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Hal Hyde is a man of firsts. He served on the first board at Cabrillo College in the late 1950s and was instrumental in the 1960s in the development of UC Santa Cruz, where he was in charge of nonacademic aspects such as the creation of its infrastructure. He went on to serve as the first vice chancellor of business and finance. "It was quite a busy time," Hyde said. After 11 years on the job he resigned and went to work at Ford's Department Store in Watsonville as senior vice president. He'd been with the company before UCSC. "It was time to go back home," said Hyde, who was recently honored with the Fiat Lux award from the UCSC Foundation for his years of involvement with the university. Committed to education in Santa Cruz County, he continued to volunteer in a large capacity at UCSC, helping to found the Arboretum and the music building. He was also the first treasurer of the UCSC Foundation. "I'm proud of the university," said Hyde, adding that he's proud of all of the projects he's worked on over the years. He also helped found the Community Foundation and Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County. "I have a wonderful wife and life," he said. "The things I've been involved in, most of them are doing well."

Hyde, 88, is a fifth-generation county resident. He was born in Watsonville, where he lived until his early elementary school days. His father was killed in a car accident when he was 3, and he and his mother moved to the East Bay a few years later. He continued to visit Santa Cruz County regularly to see family, including his paternal grandfather, a nurseryman who would pay young Hyde 10 cents an hour to weed begonia fields. "I decided that gardening really wasn't for me," he said. He graduated from University High School in Oakland in 1941 and went on to attend UC Berkeley. Just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hyde visited his grandfather in Watsonville. The two went to a Japanese Presbyterian Church because the elder Hyde wanted he and his grandson to say goodbye to some longtime friends. "We said goodbye to these people my family had been working with since the turn of the century," Hyde said. A couple of years later Hyde entered the U.S. Army as a private and, after serving mostly in Europe, he left the service in 1947 as a captain. He completed his studies at UC Berkeley and went onto graduate school at Harvard Business School before returning to his beloved county, where he was destined to make his mark. "This is the best place to live in the world," he said. "It's great to be a part of it."

GETTING TO KNOW HAL HYDE

BIRTHDAY: Born May 5, 1923, in Watsonville
HOME: Hyde has lived in Corralitos since 1953. He lost his wife to cancer 10 years ago and after remarrying moved from his longtime home but stayed in the same town.
FAMILY: Wife of nine years, Dorothy; daughters Marilyn and Chris Hyde; sons Tony and Doug; and three grandchildren.
CURRENT PROJECTS: Hyde is passionate about education, and is working on getting young Latinos involved in higher education. 'I think that we need to have all elements of our community educated,' he says.
HONORED: Hyde was recently given a Fiat Lux award, a distinguished recognition by the UC Santa Cruz Foundation honoring his volunteer service and work. 'I'm very proud of it and thankful for it. I'm pretty old right now and I've been around a long time and have most of my marbles.'