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Retirement nears for president Dec. 31 last day for Hakanson

By Shelley Ball
Of The Print

He has been with Clackamas Community College for nearly 18 years, but now College President Dr. John Hakanson plans to vacate the Barlow Hall office he has worked in since 1971, when he officially retires Dec. 31.

Hakanson, 64, originally announced his retirement at a press conference in early July. He has been College president since 1969, or nearly 16 years, and he said he is retiring at the end of this year because he is "ready to take it a little easier."

Hakanson first joined the College in 1967, when he served as dean of instruction. He has also served as acting president on two occasions for a total of six weeks before he took over as president in 1969.

Since he has been with the College from its earliest beginnings to now, Hakanson has had the opportunity to see the campus change and expand. He explained that when he started working for the College he did so out of two rented offices at the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce Building. The first College course were being taught in a number of places, including a Presbyterian Church and Gladstone and Oregon City High Schools.

Eventually, building took place on the present campus site. Barlow Hall was the first of the core buildings on campus to be completed in 1971, Hakanson said, and it was at this time he moved into the office he currently occupies.

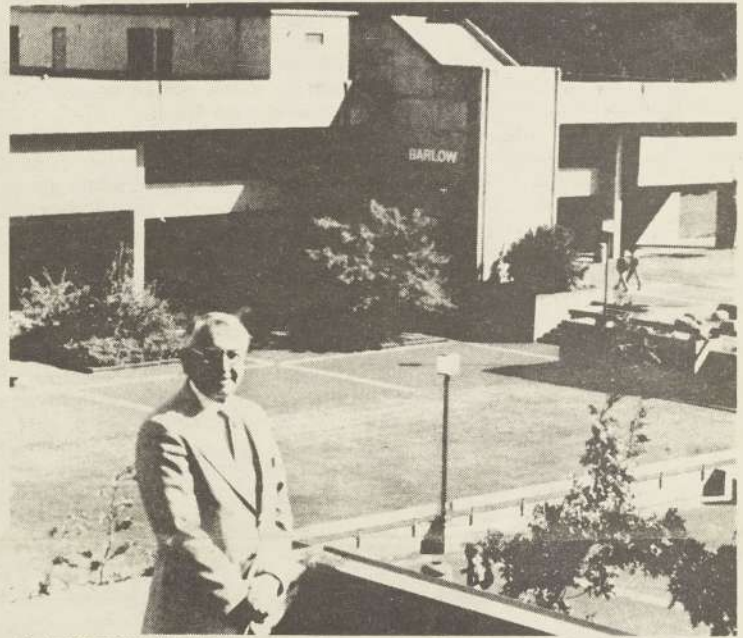
What is known as Clackamas Community College today has only been completed for about three years, Hakanson explained. "It's been a gradual process that took about 15 years," he said.

Throughout his near 18 years at the College, Hakanson listed the development of the rate-based serial levy, forming a comprehensive community school program and gathering money for the construction of the Pauling Center as some of the major achievements he said "happened while I was present."

Hakanson added the College was the first agency in Oregon to use the rate-based levy, and the nearly \$2.5 million need to build the Pauling Center was obtained through a "broad, widespread community undertaking."

The College's record of levy elections was one area Hakanson said was not so positive for the institution. Hakanson explained that during the first 12 years of the College's existence, a total of 33 elections took place, an event he described as "agonizing." He also said he is a little disappointed the College hasn't been able to obtain an auditorium and a new and improved library up to now.

But in looking back on how far the College has come, Hakanson said, "the first time I saw this (College site) it was a cow pasture with a semi-swamp; it has felt good to be here."



AT THE HELM—Clackamas Community College President Dr. John Hakanson stands in front of Barlow Hall. The building houses Hakanson's office, which he first moved into back in 1971. Photo by Joel Miller

As for the selection of the new president, a schedule has been set up outlining the process. Hakanson said the College's Board of Education members will be looking for an "outside" person to fill the job, and he said he will not be involved in helping to choose his successor. The new president will take over in July 1985.

Although Hakanson has no immediate plans made following his retirement, he said he and his wife Helen will do some traveling and he will continue to follow his interest in music and singing. Hakanson said he

will also be involved in economic development programs, reforming school finance systems and the issues and problems faced by aging people.

As for the future of the College, Hakanson said he felt positive about it. He said he has enjoyed being able to make things happen at the College, and he looks forward to the College expanding further as a result of growth in industry and business. "The county will get its act together and be in a position to attract more industries; it (the College) will be twice its size someday," he said.

Picking a new president

Community members voice opinions at selection meeting

Although Clackamas Community College's Board members will make the final decision in choosing a successor to current College President John Hakanson, recent meetings were held in which community members had an opportunity to express their views on the subject.

Participants at these meetings included city council members, superintendents, city managers, business leaders and chamber presidents and managers, in addition to the general public.

The meetings were held on Sept. 24, 27 and Oct. 2, and were designed as a way for the College's Board to receive input from the community in selecting a new president. The following is a list of dates scheduled for the selection process:

Nov. 1—Notice of vacancy, College brochure mailed nationwide

Oct. 23—Board will finalize criteria for selection president

Jan. 31—Last day for applications to be accepted

Feb. 26—Finalists sent to Board

Feb. 27-March 30—Interview finalists, visits made to their previous place of employment to conduct character interviews.

April 1—Hiring of new president

July 1—New president on campus

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