



Opening festivities for the college were held September 17, 1961.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

California Lutheran University is the result of the love and commitment of generations of determined visionaries. The dream of a Lutheran college in California took root in the 1880s when the late Leland Stanford, then a U.S. senator, offered 40-50 acres of his Palo Alto horse farm. But when the early Swedish visionaries also asked for money to construct the school, the offer was quietly withdrawn. The property was later donated as the site of Stanford University.

In 1928, a year prior to the stock market crash, a beautiful 100-acre site in Del Rey Hills (near Loyola Marymount University) was formally dedicated for the building of Los Angeles Lutheran University. But within the year, the country was plunged into the Great

Depression, and the dream of a college receded. Before it was resurrected again, the United States entered

Dr. Dahl unveils the first Cal Lutheran master plan.



Dr. Orville Dahl with the three Pederson brothers (l-r) Richard, Peder, Lawrence.

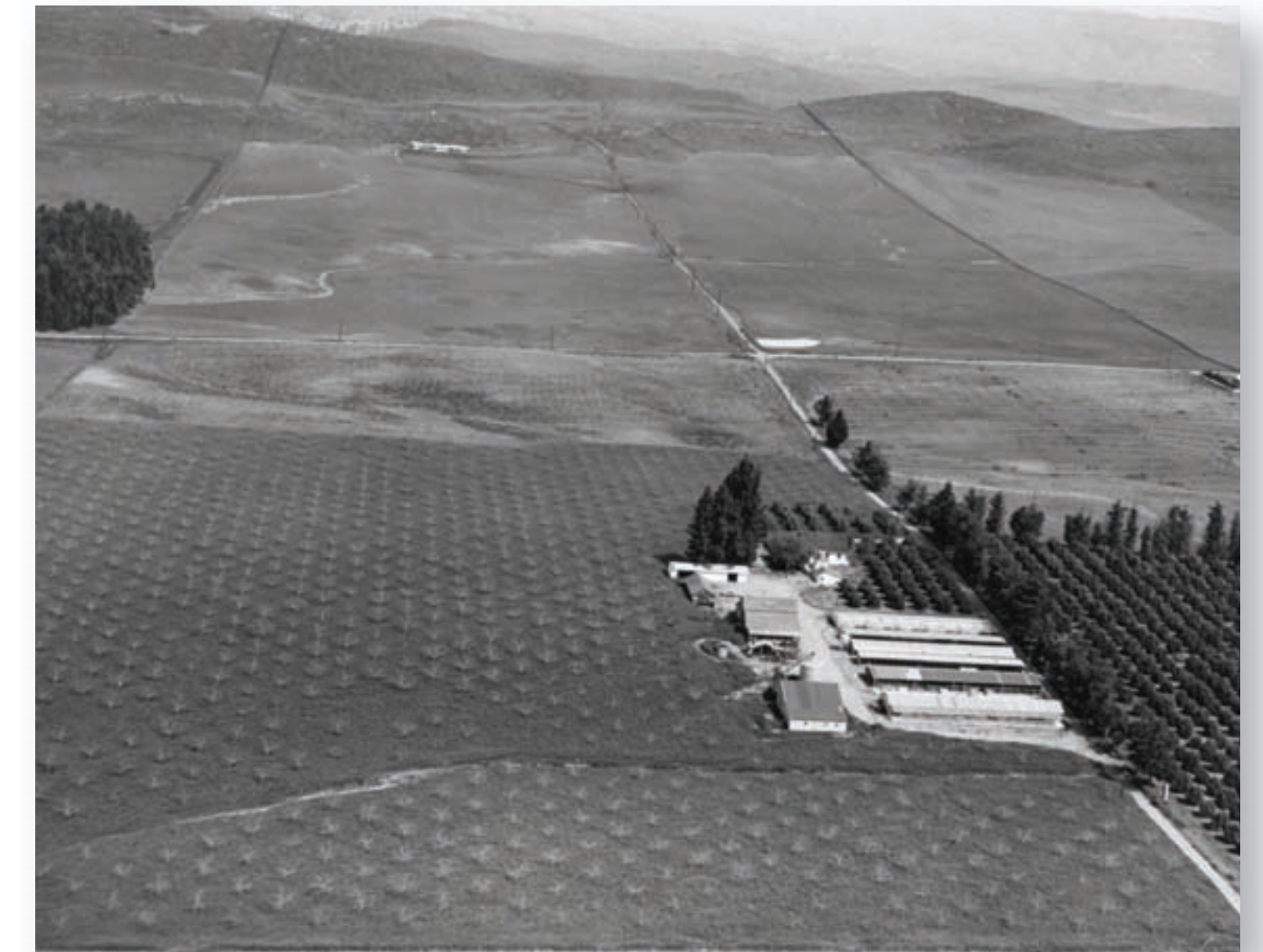
World War II and the West Los Angeles property was sold.

The dream of a four-year college in California had faded, but it never died. A committed group of supporters, the Advisory National Committee on Lutheran Higher Education in California, began meeting in 1955 for the purpose of establishing a Lutheran college in the golden state. Dr. Orville Dahl served

as consultant to the committee.

The committee met and planned for two years and subsequently established the California Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF) on June 4, 1957. Its goal was to promote the development of a liberal arts college somewhere in the Los Angeles area by securing property and adequate funding. Dr. Dahl

was installed as president and, in October 1957, relocated from Minneapolis to the CLEF offices in Los Angeles. His primary

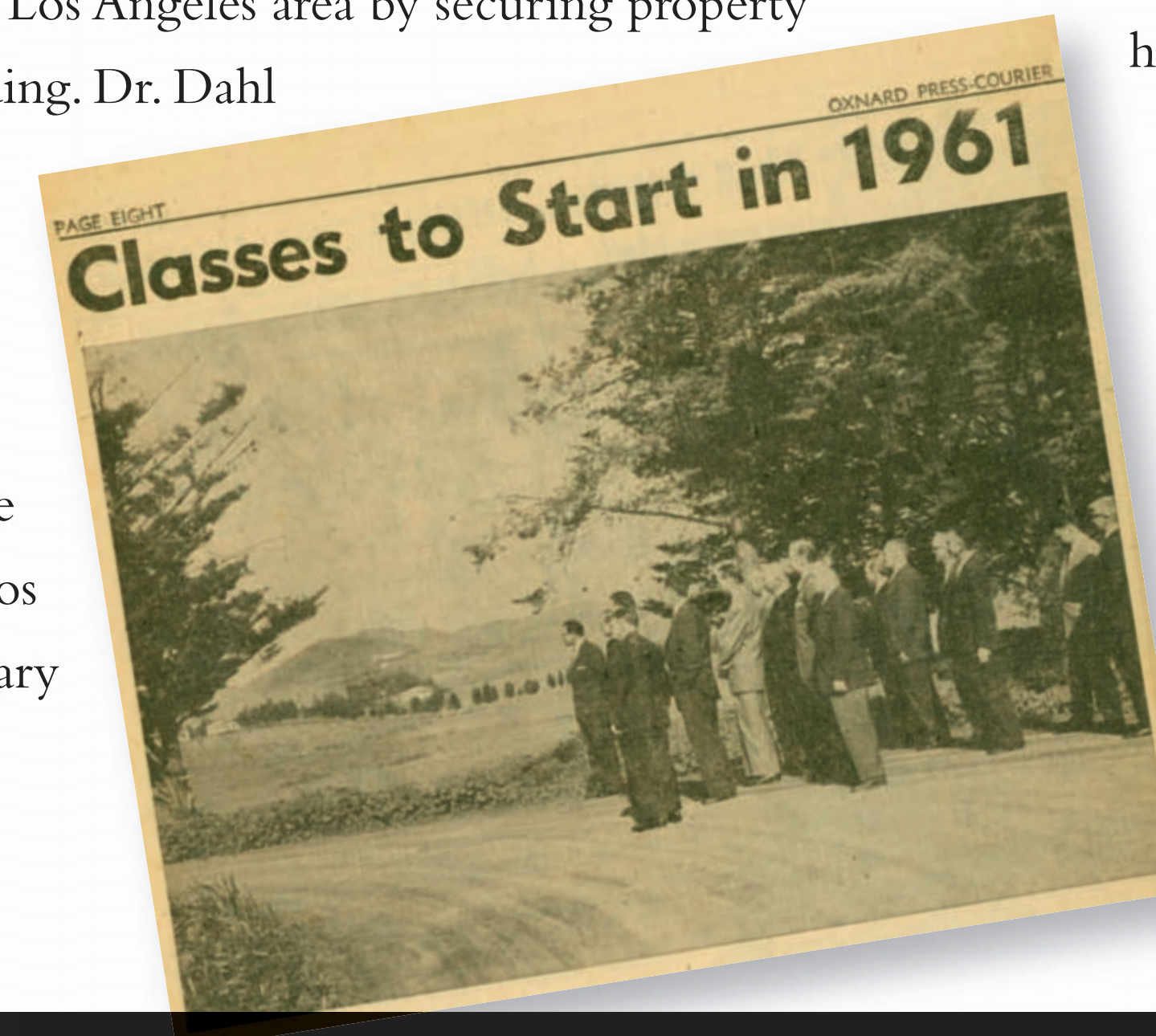


Pederson ranch in 1959.

task was to find a site for the new college.

It was providential when a Conejo Valley rancher and son of a local pioneer family met Dr. Dahl on a bright September day in 1959. Soon after their historic meeting, Richard Pederson offered his 130-acre ranch “to provide youth the benefits of a Christian education in a day when spiritual values can well decide the course of history.”

The land donated by Pederson was later combined with acquisitions of surrounding property thus increasing the campus to 290 acres. Sixty-five acres were sold in 2004 resulting in today’s 225-acre campus.



CLU HISTORY IN THE MAKING PROJECT

Ritch Eich, Ph.D., Chair; Michael L. Adams '72; Carol Keochekian '81; Della Greenlee '82; President Luther S. Luedtke; Penny Yost '83, '99

THIS DISPLAY SPONSORED BY ETHEL RUTH BEYER

Richard Pederson donated his ranch for California Lutheran College.