

# THE VISIONARY YEARS



*Henry Hansen - 1908 to 1996. Several years after the College district was formed, Hansen was recognized by the Oregon Community College Association by receiving the Howard Cherry Award for his work in forming the district. The award is named for a former Portland legislator who was deeply involved in education.*

## **Stubborn Tenacity and Grit**

Fifty years ago, the thought of a community college in southwestern Oregon was but a dream in the minds of a few industrious local people. One in particular was a retired longshoreman by the name of Henry F. Hansen who worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality. Union leaders in general wanted an opportunity for their children to gain access to a college education, but the main universities in Oregon were quite some distance away from the Coos Bay region. In fact, there were no post-secondary campuses on the Oregon coast.