William Malish

Do you remember the sixties? I have a friend who refers to the sixties as "my misspent youth"; though I think this friend might have been a little to young in the sixties to have misspent too seriously. I remember the Cuban missile crisis, the Kennedy assassination and LBJ, class mates who went off to war (in Vietnam) and those who fought the war at home, the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society), Martin Luther King, and "Strawberry Fields Forever". Well, remember them or not, they are history now.

The sixties were much the same in our community as they were in the rest of the country - on a smaller scale mind you and I would expect, more personal. The cold war, the civil rights movement, the "hippie" movement and youthful rebellion touched every neighborhood. Articles published locally in the early sixties document a time when our district was struggling with growing pains. They tell the story of tension between civic leaders, parents, students and educators; and they reflect the community's concern for improved education.

In June 1962 a "changing of the guard" brought William Malish to Schertz-Cibolo I.S.D. in the office of Superintendent of Schools. He held B.A. and M.A. degrees from Southwestern University and brought 22 years of experience in public education;16 of which were as superintendent of schools for other Texas school districts).

Originally contracted for the 1962-1963 school year, Mr. Malish spent the next seven years with the District; until his sudden death in August 1969. During that time his commitment to improving education in the S.C.I.S.D. endured. His many accomplishments directly impacted education programs and curriculum, school administration and the District's financial position. His work won him the respect of the S.C.I.S.D. community as well as neighboring communities; and the appreciation and love of those he served and those who worked by his side.

A look at the History Project Timeline gives us a detailed account of the many construction and renovation projects completed by the District during his term. The Valley News tribute to William Malish, published after his death, describes the wider range of his achievements in S.C.I.S.D. and before his term here.

His sights were set on the future of education and so his influence extended beyond his years with the District. He is credited with the passage of a $1.5 million bond issue in April 1969 that supported growth for the District, into the next decade. In the months before his death, he also acquired federal funding for the future construction of an admin-istrative building.

Before the death of William Malish in August 1969, land for an administrative site was purchased by the District (July 1969) and talk of the District's future included discussions of its construction. At the time of his death, the Board of Trustees meeting in special session to appoint an acting superintendent also voted unanimously to dedicate a building (to be constructed in the future) to the memory of William Malish. At that same meeting the board authorized the acting superintendent to proceed with prelim-inary plans for the administrative building.

In September 1969 The House of Representatives of the State of Texas issued H.S.R. No. 30 to recognize William Malish's success as an educator and to honor his memory. During the months that followed the community continued to openly encourage and support the idea of naming the new administrative building in memory of William Malish and at a regular meeting held on May 21, 1970, the Board voted unanimously to do just that.