

# Names of *Oakland Junior* Colleges *11/8/66* Unchanged

Laney and Merritt will be retained as the names of the two Oakland campuses of the Peralta Junior College District.

The Peralta Colleges Board of Trustees last night agreed unanimously to retain the names when the colleges move into their permanent facilities in 1969. The board had previously expressed some qualms about retaining the names and appealed to the community for suggestions. However there was no mustering of community support behind any alternate names.

Lee Hoge, vice president of the Associated Students of Laney College, appeared before the board with the results of a vote taken last week at Laney in which 68 per cent of the 900 students voting favored retention of the present names.

Merritt College, now located in old University High School at 5714 Grove St., will move to a new campus in the East Oakland hills, off Redwood Road between Skyline Boulevard and the Warren Freeway. Merritt began as the Merritt School of Business in a structure near Lake Merritt and moved to its present site in 1949.

Laney is named for Joseph P. Laney, a long-time member of the Oakland Board of Education who concluded his last term in 1948. Merritt is named for early Oakland pioneer Samuel Merritt.

Trustees lacked enthusiasm for retaining Laney as a campus name because the name was not geographically significant to the civic center site and had become identified in the public mind with old Laney Trade and Technical Institute, which preceded re-organization of Laney into a comprehensive college.

Merritt, they felt, is widely used in Oakland and was not particularly relevant to education.

Supt. John Dunn said inquiries in the community indicated that among those who had an interest in the matter, there was a preference to retain the two names.