

HIP SANTA CRUZ 2

Also by Ralph H. Abraham

**Chaos, Gaia, Eros**  
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**Hip Santa Cruz 1**

# Hip Santa Cruz 2

More first-person Accounts  
of the Hip Culture  
of Santa Cruz, California  
Edited by Ralph H. Abraham  
with the assistance of  
Judy Lomba

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## CONTENTS

PREFACE, vi

Part I. EARLY, 1960-1967

1. Doug Hansen, 3
2. Pat Miller, 11
3. Lee Quarnstrom, 14
4. Lex van Zyl, 16
5. Stan Stevens, 38
6. Raven Lang, 56
7. Jodi Frediani, 75
8. Rosalie Taylor, 87

Part II. PEAK, 1968

9. Estelle Fein, 91
10. Gerd Stern, 98
11. Fritjof Capra 103
12. T.Mike Walker, 109
13. Ralph Abraham, 122
14. Glenn Howard, 127
15. John Livingston, 134

Part III. LATE, 1970s

16. Ray Gwyn Smith, 143
17. Raven Lang, 153
18. Kate Bowland, 182

CONCLUSION, 197

## **PREFACE**

In the 1960s, Santa Cruz was a fountainhead of Hip culture. When I arrived in 1968 to join the new university, UCSC, the creative time was nearly over. By 1980, it seemed to me it had been such a miracle that its birth should be recorded. So I created the Santa Cruz Hip History Project in 2002, collecting oral histories and photographs in a website.<sup>1</sup>

### **Original Concept**

The book *Hip Santa Cruz* published in June, 2016, was a compact summary of the 14 years accumulation of material from that website that was most relevant to the creation of the Hip culture of Santa Cruz. From 1964 to 1968, we followed the stories of some of the main characters of the Hip miracle in Santa Cruz, including 11 men and 2 women.

The book was presented to the Santa Cruz community in a reading and reunion at the Blitzer Gallery on August 6, 2016. Immediately there was a volunteering of additional stories, including several women, and stories into the 1970s. So I decided to create a sequel volume, and here it is.

### **New Concept**

In this volume, I have expanded the time-frame of the prequel volume, 1964-1968, up through the 1970s. My crucial idea was to connect the decline of Hip culture with the ascent of the womens' movement. Further, I wanted a balance of the genders consistent with the emerging equality of women and men, and here 50-50 is achieved. Further, I have ordered the chapters, as in the first volume, according to the approximate arrival date of the author in Santa Cruz.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.ralph-abraham.org/1960s>

## Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to all the contributors and supporters of the Santa Cruz Hip History Project, and especially to Judy Lomba for deep editing, and to Dr. Paul A. Lee for copy editing, of both volumes of Hip Santa Cruz.

## Chronology

Here is a brief chronology of some the main events of the time. To the items from the PREFACE of the preceding volume, *Hip Santa Cruz 1*, I have added new items, in bold, covered in the present text.

- **1958.** The Sticky Wicket, a cafe and gallery on Cathcart Street, was said to be the first Hip hangout. Later it moved to Aptos.
- **1960.** Ken Kesey moved from the Wallace Stegner writing program at Stanford to La Honda. and began house parties, along with LSD, fluorescent paintings, strobe lights, and music. Later, the house band became the Grateful Dead.
- **1961.** Peter Demma, discharged from military service, moved to Palo Alto, met Ken Kesey and Neal Cassady.
- **1962.**
  - Leon Tabory, psychiatrist, moved into Neal Cassady's house in Los Gatos, and opened an office in Santa Cruz.
  - Kesey published *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.
  - **Santa Cruz chapter of the ACLU formed.**
- **1963.** Peter, while running a bookstore in San Diego, visited Big Sur. In the hot baths with Ron Bevirt a plan was hatched to open a bookstore in Santa Cruz called the Hip Pocket Bookstore. The sign was to be made by Ron

Boise, a sculptor living in Big Sur in a bread truck. A set of his works called the Kama Sutra sculptures was then showing at the Sticky Wicket.

- **1964. Beginning of the golden years.**

- Ken Kesey published *Sometimes a Great Nation*, formed the Merry Pranksters. The bus Further took them to New York for a Kesey book event. Neal, Ron Bevirt, Lee Quarnstrom, Stewart Brand, Ed McClanahan. and others were on the trip.
- Peter and Ron Bevirt opened the Hip Pocket Bookstore on September 13 in the St. George Hotel. The Ron Boise sign and two nude sculptures (covered by a sheet) were on hand. Norman Lezin, the mayor of Santa Cruz, had agreed to unveil the sculptures at the opening, which was busted by the police.
- Later, Neal and Leon used to hang out and help out at the bookstore. Neal suggested the bookstore have free speech night every friday. Leon started them off, speaking about marijuana.
- Leon hears Eric '“Big Daddy”' Nord was opening the Loft, a cafe at a barn in Scotts Valley. Leon went there, met Cathy, they married.

- 1965.

- November 21, Wavy Gravy's Lysergic A GO GO in LA , with light show by Del Close.<sup>2</sup>
- November 27, the first Acid Test, in Soquel, near Santa Cruz.
- UCSC opened in the Fall.
- The Hip Pocket Bookstore closed. Ron Lau purchased the books.

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<sup>2</sup>See [www.rollingstone.com/music/news/acid-tests-turn-50-wavy-gravy-merry-prankster-ken-babbs-look-back-20151130](http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/acid-tests-turn-50-wavy-gravy-merry-prankster-ken-babbs-look-back-20151130)



- **1966.**

- Bookshop Santa Cruz opened by Ron Lau.
- In the summer, the Barn opened in Scotts Valley by Leon. It featured dances similar to the acid tests, with fluorescent wall paintings by Joe Lysowski and Pat Bisconti. Great artists such as Janis Joplin and Country Joe performed there. A local band performed on musical sculptures created by Ron Boise. Light shows created by Joe were among the first in the US.
- Paul Lee (philosopher, founding editor of *The Psychedelic Review*) joined UCSC.
- In the Fall, the Catalyst Coffee House and Delicatessen, run by Al And Patti DiLudovico, opened in the St. George Hotel next to the Bookshop.

- **1967.**

- Jefferson Airplane played in Santa Cruz.
- Hippies moved into the Holiday Cabins in Ben Lomond.<sup>3</sup>
- **1000 Alba Road community created (Raven Lang and Ken Kinzie).**
- **Methuselah I summer camp at UCSC.**
- **Alan Chadwick arrives at UCSC.**

- **1968.**

- Spring, I visited UCSC and the Barn, and decided to join UCSC.
- Fall, I arrived with family. Moved into a 24-room Victorian mansion at 724 California Street.
- **Fall, The Kite (cafe) opened at UCSC.**

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<sup>3</sup>See Harman, Holly, *Inside a Hippie Commune* (2015) for the full story.

- **1969.**

- The Barn closed.
- The Catalyst closed.
- Jack Kerouac died.
- I got into trouble at UCSC for political actions, along with Paul Lee.
- **Oddysey Records opened (Rich Bullock) with the Occult Shop (Lew Fein)**
- **Logos Books and Records opened (John Livingston).**
- **Fritjof Capra's epiphany.**

- **1970. The end of the golden years.**

- February 26. In the local alternative newspaper, the *Free Spaghetti Dinner*, I wrote in my regular column "Scientific Advice on the Politics of Life," under my pseudonym, Dr. Abraham Clearquill:

Last Fall I felt that the emerging community in Santa Cruz was at a watershed, and that a development of some importance to the world was possible. Now I am convinced that this opportunity has passed, and the old structure is being recreated.<sup>4</sup>

- June, we vacated the Victorian mansion.
- **The decline of Hip, and ascent of the Womens' Movement.**
- **Santa Cruz Birth Center started (Raven Lang).**

- **1971. Womens' dances began in San Lorenzo valley.**

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<sup>4</sup>Thanks to Rick Gladstone, founding editor of the FSD, for recalling this.

- **1974. SC Birth Center busted (Kate Bowland).**
- **1978. Institute of Feminine Arts created (Raven Lang).**

In fact, the prime motive for this second volume is to balance the voices in the book according to gender, and to foreground the cultural transformation from Hip to Women that occurred in the early 1970s.