

## Project Plaza:

# An Old Town Clock And A Brand New Fountain

The possibility of getting the old Santa Cruz town clock out dual-storage and into view of residents and tourists alike is being pushed these days, most recently as a suggested part of a proposed downtown plaza.

Sydney Styles, a clock hobbyist, and Jim Kruger, Sentinel city editor, with the editorial endorsement of The Sentinel, advocate construction of a clock tower in the center of a plaza to be developed by SCOPE at the head of Pacific avenue.

SCOPE is receptive to the idea, according to both President Edith Rittenhouse and Edward P. Prindle, a member of the judging committee for a fountain design contest called in connection with the plaza's development.

The only problem they envision is architectural height limitations. Styles feels the height should be from 20 to 30 feet if the clock is re-converted to mechanical operation. If present electrical

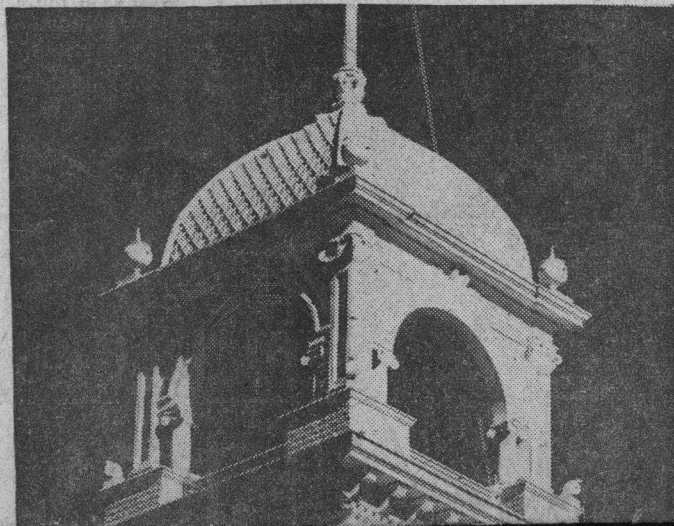
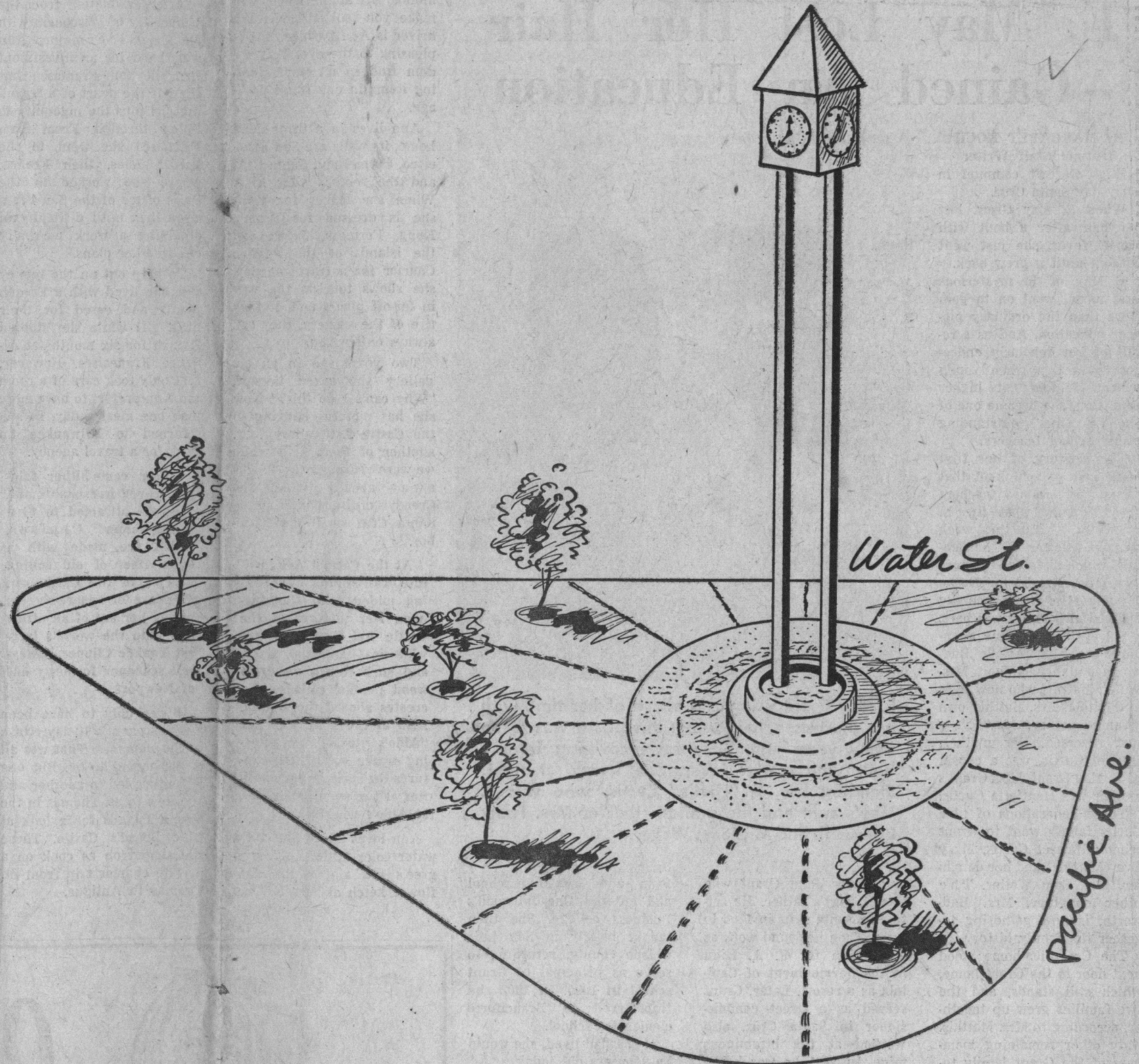
workings were retained the clock could be nearer the ground.

He suggests that both the fountain and clock tower could be incorporated into one structure, with the fountain base serving an additional function as a bench.

Holding the clock tower aloft, he explained, would be two circular casings. The casings would contain the weights required if the clock were converted to mechanical operation.

At first Styles favored an open tower with weights and pendulums remaining visible. The thought of vandals made him change his mind and rework the plan to include protective casings.

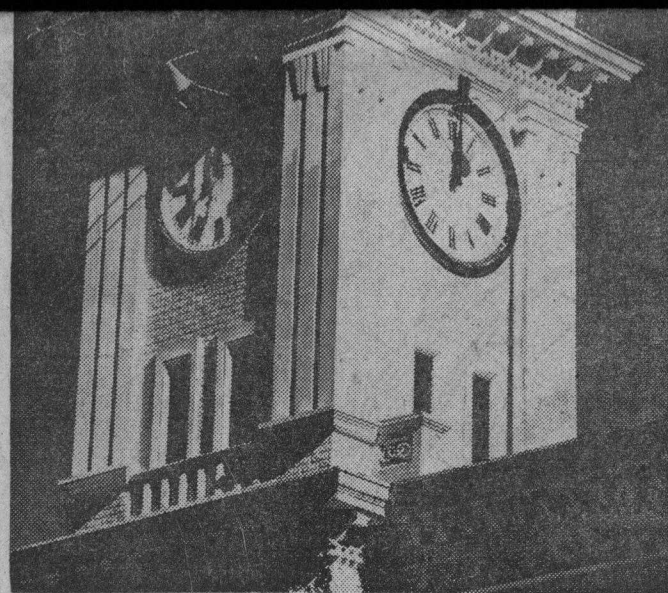
While the town clock idea is acceptable to them, SCOPE officials emphasize all other design proposals for a fountain in the plaza will be judged carefully. The contest ends August 31. Details can be obtained from Prindle at 315 Soquel avenue.



Photos by

Shown above is a sketch by Dennis Simerly of The Sentinel staff, based on an idea by Sydney Styles, who suggests the old town clock be included in the proposed park plaza at the head of Pacific avenue.





For the visitor or new Santa Cruz resident, this is the "town clock" the natives refer to, shown here before its July, 1964, removal from atop the I.O.O.F. temple on Pacific avenue. The clock dates to June, 1899, and was converted to electricity in 1951. A previous town clock operated from 1874 until destroyed by fire on May 6, 1899.



David Craig, a carpenter with the city parks and recreation department, is nearly dwarfed by the wood and metal that comprised the town clock's tower. Covered by a tarp to the rear of

the pile are the four clock faces, while the tower bell, which quit ringing after protests by sleepers in 1929, is in the front. The pile of parts rest beside the DeLaveaga Park shop.

Vester Dick

Text by  
John Elliott

**Treep'n'Sea  
Living**

Santa Cruz Sentinel  
Sunday, August 28, 1966



All the working parts needed to operate the old town clock are still available, although admittedly a bit scattered. The items of iron innards shown here are all in the basement of the

city museum, amid piles of rocks, human skulls and other relics of the past. The city gained possession of the clock with a bid of \$1.01, while the county offered an even dollar.



Looking at the area from the North Pacific avenue side, the proposed park to be developed by SCOPE will be located on the service station site in the middle of the picture. When Water street, running horizontal through photo, is widened the property will be too small for commercial use. The city

will maintain the plaza if SCOPE provides funds for development. The street at the top right of the picture is Pacific avenue. Front street is to the left of Pacific, and Water is behind the service station site. The winning fountain (and/or clock) design will net the suggestor a \$100 prize from SCOPE.