# Aircraft Spotters Conduct 'Operation Skywatch, At Post On Wharf As Part Of Nation-Wide Civil Defense Program

#### Police Lend A Hand



The Santa Cruz police depart-ent furnishes transportation for ground observers to and from duty. Officer Herman Nanna, whose

wife is a spotter at Scotts Valley, calls to take Mrs. Springer and Mrs. Jenkins to the post at the wharf.

### Chief Observer Goes On Duty



Their stint finished, Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Springer greet Dr. Oliver Lee, the chief observer, who prepares to man the station.
Observers receive a pair of

wings after they complete ten hours on duty. The local corps includes 14 active teenage ob-

#### Time Out For Coffee



No ground observer would be without a thermos of coffee in standing a four hour watch at the

Here Mrs. Springer does the

honors for Mrs. Jenkins. They're shown inside the post headquar-ters atop the municipal wharf warehouse.

It was nice and sunny at the end of the wharf Friday afternoon. The omnipresent fishermen were there and four sea lions were attracting attention as they cavorted in the water. Everything was peaceful as could be and the cold war

High in the sky a jet plane, barely visible to the naked eye, etched white vapor trails. A few on the wharf, curious at the vapor trails, watched the plane as it crossed overhead.

Simultaneously two members of the Santa Cruz Ground Observers Corps, on duty at their observation post atop the

municipal wharf warehouse, jottededown the plane's appearance on their daily log.

While Mrs. Doris Springer of 761 Prospect Heights watched the plane through binoculars, Gwen Jenkins of 706 California street reported the plane's pres-ence by phone to the Air Defense Filter center in Ockland Filter center in Oakland.

The two women were standing a four hour watch as part of Santa Cruz' "Operation Sky-watch," a link in the Civil De-fense setup that girdles the U.S.

Mrs. Springer, a grandmother who doesn't look her age (what woman wants anyone to know her age, anyway), and Mrs. Jenkins, who works as a nurse in a local doctor's office, are busy people, yet they're taking time to serve as ground observers.

They're typical of the people who make up the local Ground Observers unit. Short on manpower but blessed with a handful of faithful, the Observers' Corps is carrying on as best it can, despite the

fact that some spotters must stand several watches during the week. Recently the corps, which con-tains but 66 active spotters, com-piled the commendable record of 82.4 per cent observation time, meaning that a spotter was on duty 82 hours out of every 100. Eighty-

four people a week are needed to man the post properly.

Eventually the Santa Cruz corps hopes to have spotters on duty every day, seven days a week, 24 hours a day hours a day.
Mrs. Jenkins became a spotter

Mrs. Jenkins became a spotter last summer after hearing her daughter, Joyce, 13, a member of the Civil Defense cadet corps, relate her enthusiasm for the work. Another of Mrs. Jenkins' daughters, iDane, 17, has an alternate shift. Mrs. Jenkins, who served in an aircraft spotters group in San Antonio, Tex., during the war, has put in 92 hours at the local post.

Mrs. Springer became interested

Mrs. Springer became interested in the Ground Observer Corps aft-er hearing that volunteers were needed. As a matter of fact, volunteers are still needed. Anyone wishing to participate may contact Admiral Harry Hansen, county civil defense director, at his office in the courthouse.

Jenkins summed up the Mrs. Jenkins summed up the need for more volunteers by saying, "I always hate to go off duty if there is no one to take my place. If the post is manned part of the time, it should be manned all of the time."

Of the corps' 66 volunteers, 17

have full time jobs. The group includes several husband and wife teams who stand watches together.

"The busier people are, the quicker they sign up for our pro-gram," says G. St. John Wood, su-pervisor of the local Ground Ob-

"About two-thirds of the people here think this post is only to protect Santa Cruz," Dr. Oliver Lee, chief observer, declares. "They fail to realize that this is but one segment of the nation's defense ring."

The Seventh Day Adventists under the leadership of Dwight Evans take the watches each Thursday.

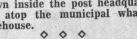
Quick reporting of plane sightings is emphasized at the post. The spotters are interested in seconds, since the object is to enable fight-ers from Hamilton Field to check upon unaccounted planes.

The spotters work in pairs, operson doing the observing and the other the reporting. There's also another reason for the teams of two. That's in case one should accidentally be injured or become ill. The observers are covered by ill. The observers are covered by free insurance against accidents while on duty.

while on duty.

The teams report the presence of planes with three or more engines or jets with two or more engines as well as all unknown planes and all formations of planes.

Since March 1, the post has also recorded all sightings of aircraft as part of the air rescue service to help locate crashed planes.



## Aircraft Spotters On The Job



Mrs. Gwen Jenkins handles the telephone and Mrs. Doris Springer the binoculars as they report to the Air Defense Center in Oakland the presence of a jet plane from their ground observers' post on the roof of the municipal wharf ware louse. Both are members of the local observer corps, which contains 66 active observers.