

Libraries 1960-69

Weather Report

Temperature for 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today — Maximum 84, minimum 48.

Monterey Bay Area — Occasional

rain, then partial clearing with few showers tonight and Thursday; cooler; wind mostly southwesterly 8 to 16 knots.

Santa Cruz

Serving Santa Cruz County

106th Year—No. 239

Second Class Postage
Paid at Santa Cruz, California

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA ☆ WED

Yanks Win On T

Library Land Purchase Okayed

By Sy Berg

Councilman John Daly last night successfully spearheaded a move toward acquiring the land needed for a new and larger downtown library center.

The city council, after some debate, unanimously authorized new City Manager Dave Koester to negotiate with owner John Sigurdson for purchase of two Locust street parcels.

One includes Sigurdson's dental lab. The other is the adjoining parking lot.

Daly, liaison to the library commission, described the library situation as "a complex problem" which has long been deferred.

He noted that the library has stood aside patiently since 1959 to give school and water projects priority.

"Now is the time to push ahead," he said.

Daly explained that the library trustees want to provide a downtown library facility that will

serve as a main, central headquarters for the combined city and county (excluding Watsonville) library system. The county contracts for library service provided by the city of Santa Cruz.

He said that since the county uses about 58 per cent of the library system, it should participate in capital outlays in addition to contractual contributions.

Daly brought slow smiles to the faces of his colleagues when he quoted Supervisors Francis Silliman and Vincent Locatelli as acknowledging this obligation of the county to the library and promising their support "after we have our other difficulties straightened out."

Daly expressed concern that that debate over long-settled questions might start all over again now that new people were joining the political scene.

Warren H. Penniman, president of the Library trustees, who briefly reviewed the library issue:

1. The site of the present main library (called site No. 1) was selected for the new facility after critical comparison with four other alternative sites.

2. Money to acquire land has been raised by a library tax. It cannot be diverted to any other department.

3. The Sigurdson land is available and should be acquired "to round out the proposed library site" before the land is converted to some other use.

Councilman Norman Lezin, argued for location of the library between Center and Chestnut streets, on either Locust or Church street.

Lezin noted the commercial desirability of the present library site east of Center street and said his plan combines a little urban renewal with "more land for less money," as well as promoting a logical unification of the new library with an enlarged city government center.

Penniman said that maximum use of library facilities should be the over-riding consideration. He quoted expert, contemporary opinion as "favoring the downtown site, close to shops and parking."

Lezin replied that the downtown area could be expected to grow out toward the re-located library so that it would still be conveniently located. At the same time, the present site east of Center street would contribute handsily to the tax roles.

He questioned any possible loss by "putting it just one block away."

At this point, Daly regained the initiative "We are not voting to build now," he reminded "but only to acquire this land."

The proposed purchase, he noted, would improve the value of the land currently occupied by the old library structure "whether a new library uses it or not."