

Aptos Legion is homeless

While new development is changing the traditional appearance of Aptos Village, one of its best-known landmarks is now scheduled to disappear within the next two months.

This building is the Aptos American Legion Hall that sits at the edge of the parking lot next to the Bay View Hotel.

According to Mrs. Connie Crawford, wife of James Crawford, commander of Post 778, the Legion owns the building itself, but the land was sold by Southern Pacific last April to the late Fred Hudson, who then transferred the property to developers of the Aptos Station project.

Approximately four months ago, she said, the Legion was told it must vacate the property. Legionnaires heard the developers had planned to use the structure for their own purposes, so Mrs. Crawford did some checking on the history of the building and the Legion post hired a lawyer to negotiate with the developers. The negotiations have produced no results so far, she said.

The tiny structure was built in 1948, and initially served as the Aptos fire station. Legionnaires purchased the building in 1953 and leased the land from Southern Pacific. Mrs. Crawford said the Legion has paid property taxes on it since 1954.

Initially, the Legion was given until Nov. 30 to leave the building. It has now been told the date has been moved to Nov. 1, or else the Legion must pay a \$250 per month fee.

Mrs. Crawford said the Legion has no intention of abandoning the Legion hall for use by the developers. Post 778 has obtained a demolition permit to raze the building. They also plan to advertise the structure for sale if someone wants to buy it and move it to a new site.

In the meantime, Legionnaires are looking for a new home. Many of the members are unable to travel long distances for meetings, Mrs. Crawford said, and a permanent rental is needed to conduct the Legion's many activities. The members are looking for a building they can use as an official Post 778 Legion hall.

Mrs. Crawford also noted nearly all funding raised by the Post and Auxiliary units are used to send midcounty high school students to the Boys and Girls State programs held each year in Sacramento. Therefore the Legion's budget is limited, she said.

Persons with suggestions about a new home for the Legion may call Mrs. Crawford at 475-8735.

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