

4-27-72

Dogs On The Mall

In these days when there seem to be all sorts of major issues awaiting a decision, it's a little refreshing to worry about some of the less important problems.

For example, the classic case of dogs on the Mall.

We're rather inclined to go along with the comment of City Manager Dave Koester who lamented to the City Council this week, "The problem will never be solved. You do your best, but you'll never get rid of all the dogs."

To the merchants on the Pacific Garden Mall and to many of their customers, loose dogs have become a problem.

Being somewhat carefree animals, the dogs romp away to their hearts delights, especially now that the Mall has a garden appearance.

And being carefree, the dogs do create a mess.

It probably has been expanded because the main shopping area of Pacific Avenue has become a Garden Mall. It is a pleasant place to take a stroll and all too many young people appear to be inclined to let their dogs run loose.

Hopefully, one would like to think that in order to keep the Pacific Garden Mall a pleasant place, more care would

be taken by persons to keep their dogs on leashes in such a public area. Unfortunately we have little hope that such a situation will occur.

Unfortunately, too, the dog problem isn't limited to the Pacific Garden Mall. It abounds just about everywhere, including the beaches, and many neighborhoods.

The dog population has multiplied even faster than the people population without any extra effort to keep the dogs under control. It has greatly expanded the duties of the Animal Shelter operation to the point where we have our doubts whether any greater degree of control is possible without excessive expenditures.

There is an unusual correlation between dogs and dog owners; neither seem inclined to obey regulations.

As a result there doesn't seem to be much hope in trying to establish more stringent regulations.

As Don Righetti wrote yesterday "It's a doggone problem" but probably one we may have to contend with until dog owners are willing to accept a higher degree of responsibility.

A Change Of Mayors

Al Castagnola became the Mayor of Santa Cruz this week taking over the post from Mrs. Lorette Wood in the annual change of City Council leadership.

Mrs. Wood, who was the first woman to serve as mayor of the city, did an outstanding job during her term. She will continue as a member of the council.

In the Council-Manager form of government, the mayor's post is more honorary than active in the operation of municipal government. However, through the years it has become a post of leadership on the council as well as time consuming in the wide variety of functions in which the mayor represents the community.

Mrs. Wood devoted an exceptional amount of time to the job, and, in our opinion, did an excellent job.

As council watchers have noted, the Santa Cruz Council is an exceedingly independent group. It is not a council with wide differences of opinion, but it is certainly a council in which each member votes in his own manner according to his own thinking on individual issues.

We congratulate Lorette Wood for a fine job and wish Al Castagnola the best of success in the year ahead.