

## Capitola library depressing

Garfield, Branciforte and Aptos branch libraries were given bright reviews by the Santa Cruz City-County Library Board of Trustees on Monday, but the Freedom and Capitola branches were labelled "depressing."

Board members L. Joseph Wilson, C. Vernon Berlin, Mary Ann Kaplan, Bob Blankholm and Sara Bunnett, chairwoman, each told of their visits last month to various branches.

Aptos was rated by Wilson as "excellent" in physical condition, both indoors and out. However, there is a hazard in the entrance

stairs that has posed a safety problem. There is no hand rail at a point near the center of the stairs where they rest at an odd angle.

City-County Librarian Charles Atkins agreed.

"The solution may be to close that portion off completely," he said.

Blankholm added that the stairs are at an angle that almost forms an optical illusion.

"You can't see where the steps are, or how many," he said.

Mrs. Kaplan said she visited La Selva Beach Library and found the atmosphere cheerful and

the attitude good.

"I'm sure that as an all-volunteer library, there are problems," she said, "But they seem to be coping well."

She found Freedom Library clean and well-maintained, but a bit dismal. It may not be getting the support it needs to attract a greater number of adults from the surrounding community, she added.

"The children use it, but I think the adults are reluctant to go there. It needs some more publicity."

Mrs. Kaplan commented

that the library has a good selection of books for Spanish-speaking persons, but this is little known. The branch is also acquiring additional new books that may also improve its circulation, which has been dropping.

It was discovered during this report that the Bookmobile still makes regular stops at the Freedom School site that houses the branch library.

"Why are we doing that?" asked Chairwoman Bunnett, "If we have a library in the school and we're still running the Bookmobile out there, it seems a bit odd."

Atkins explained that negotiations are under way to secure permission for the Bookmobile to park at a new site.

Mrs. Bunnett praised the Garfield Branch Library and had a special commendation for Elvira Orlando of the Branciforte Branch Library. But when she visited the Capitola Branch, she said, "It was a depressing experience."

"I suppose it is bound to remain an orphan until we get a new midcounty site," she said.

Atkins added that Capitola's library is indeed

too small for a city of its size. He reminded the board that Capitola agreed to continue support for the branch when the county removed its funding last year.

"The only thing we can do is plan for the future," he said.

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