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People

BoP

# Capitola postmaster honored for service

SANTA CRUZ — Mary Parker, a local post office employee for 32 years — the last 26 as postmaster of Capitola — was honored Saturday night with a surprise retirement party at the Elk's Club here.

More than 150 persons including the "who's who" of the postal scene were on hand. Parker officially retires on Friday.

Bill Lawrence, sectional center manager/post master of San Jose, acted as the master of ceremonies. Capitola Mayor Ron Graves presented Parker with a resolution of appreciation from the city and Soquel Postmaster Josie Belville presented a proclamation from county supervisors.

Parker holds the distinction of being one of the postmasters appointed by the president of the United States. Back in the 1950s, presidents appointed postmasters, not the postal service. Parker was appointed by President Eisenhower after being recommended by the Senate.

She was first hired on Aug. 15, 1951 as a temporary substitute clerk at the Soquel Post Office. Four years later she advanced to regular clerk and in 1956 was named acting postmaster of Soquel.

On March 1, 1958, Parker was appointed acting postmaster of Capitola. She officially became postmaster on May 13, 1959.



Mary Parker