

Court House

# County Center Dedication Rites October 21

By Wallace Wood  
Sentinel Staff Writer

A liberal sampling of the discoverers, pioneers, and heros of Santa Cruz county will be reincarnated in spirit for the dedication ceremonies of the new governmental center October 21.

Riding on horseback or in buggies, some 38 prominent Santa Cruzans will wear the costumes and demeanor of this county's ancestors. In some cases, the actors will be descendants of the men who made the county what it is.

The guest and speakers' lists will be topped by Lt. Gov. Robert H. Finch. Over 200 other officials and personages from throughout the state have been invited for the ceremonies.

For the public, the buildings are dedicated "to the Citizens of Santa Cruz County," and the new center will be open for inspection from 10 a.m. on the Saturday of the dedication. About 5000 persons are expected for the ceremonies.

One unusual aspect of the program will be the opening and re-sealing of the contents of a "time capsule" from the present courthouse for placing in the new cornerstone. Other present-day memorabilia is being gathered by Margaret Koch and Hubert Wyckoff of the Santa Cruz and Pajaro Valley Historical societies.

The Masonic lodges from Santa Cruz, Soquel, San Lorenzo Valley and Pajaro are sponsoring the dedication plaque and have invited Dr. Eugene S. Hopp, grand master of masons in California, to present it.

A committee headed by Warren W. (Skip) Littlefield is handling the overall planning of the ceremonies.

The October 21 date represents the week during which Don Gaspar de Portola discovered and explored what is now Santa Cruz County.

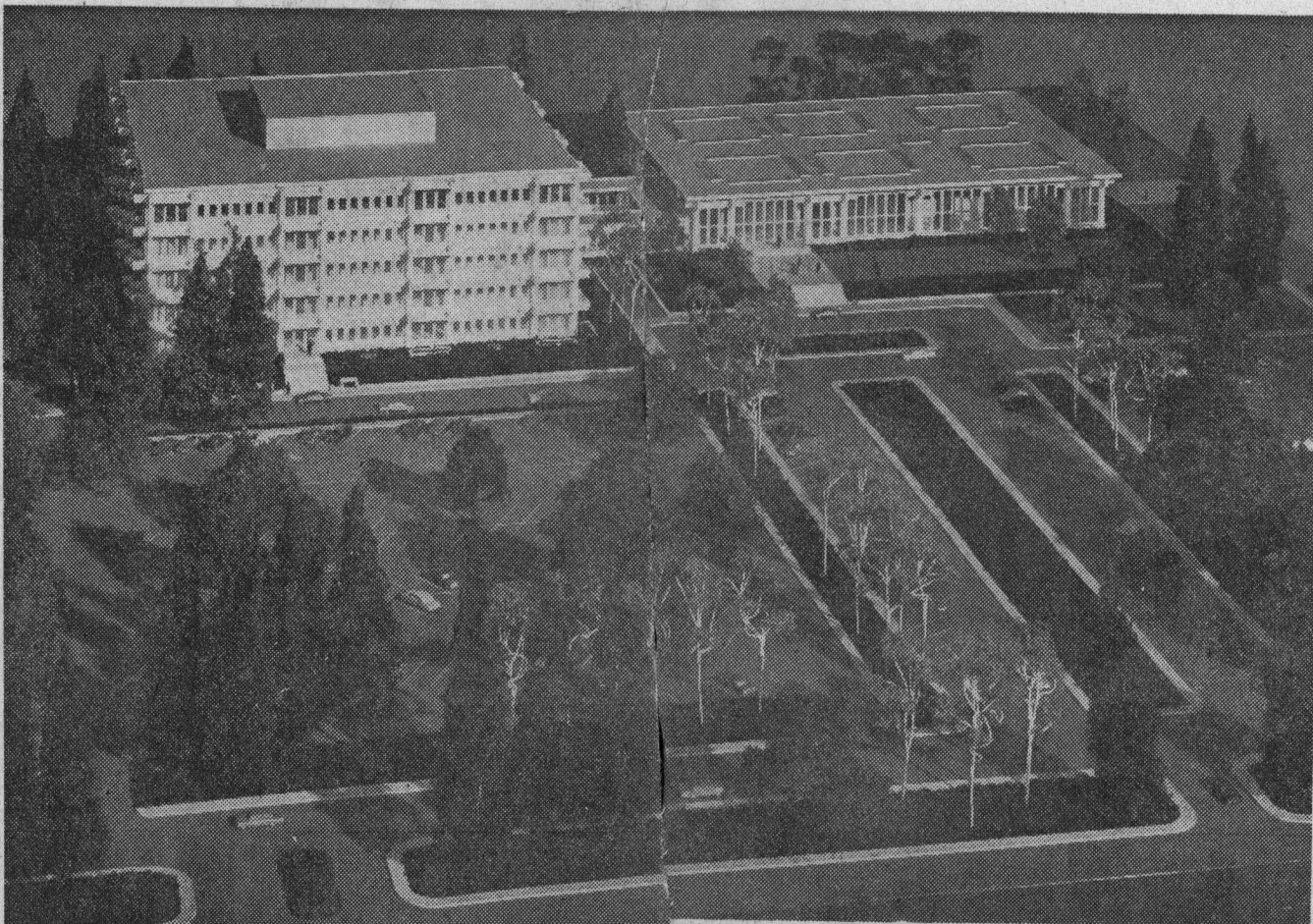
Portola will be portrayed by Neil Whitty of Soquel, with John Righetti as his gun bearer. Other "characters" include Father Juan Crespi, portrayed by Ed Webber; Chief Roxas, a 123-year-old Indian in the form of Malio Stagnaro; Isaac Graham, the "firebrand of Zayante," acted by Don Santos, Jr., "Mountain Charlie" McKiernan, the pioneer settler of Mt. Charlie road who is said to have killed a bear with his hands, portrayed by Leo Frank of the Mt. Charlie ranch; Judge John H. Watson, founder of Watsonville, by J. J. Crosetti; Captain Harry Love, who captured Joaquin Murietta, acted by De-loss Wilder, and many others. Stephen Martinelli, for instance, will be played by his grandson, Stephen Martinelli III.

Alice Earl Wilder will portray Josephine Clifford McCracken, newspaper woman

who agitated for Big Basin Redwoods State Park. When asked if she could ride a horse, she replied, "if those other greezers can, I can, too!"

Supervisor Vincent Locatelli will become Duncan McPherson, an early-day mule-skinner and Sentinel Editor. The present Sentinel publisher, Fred McPherson Jr., however, will portray President Benjamin Harrison, who was the first president to visit this area.

The flags of Spain and Mexico will be flown as part of the "Pageant of Pioneers" celebration.



Plans are now ready to welcome 5000 persons October 21 with an open house and a formal dedication ceremony for the new County Governmental Center, a model of which is shown above. Over 200 officials from throughout the state have been invited to hear keynote speaker Robert H.

Finch, California lieutenant governor, and to see the "Parade of Pioneers" which recalls the county's past since it was discovered by Portola 198 years ago. The open house starts at 10 a.m. Dedication ceremonies will begin at 1:30 p.m.