

A New And 'Grand' Catalyst Opens Tonight

By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

Metaphorically, it is the difference of the caterpillar to the Monarch butterfly that best describes the metamorphosis of the old Catalyst Restaurant on Front Street into the new Catalyst on Pacific Avenue.

And the best single word to describe the new Catalyst is "grand".

Opening night of the 20,000 square-foot entertainment complex—restaurant, dance hall with full stage, 136-foot long bar, upstairs garden patio and upstairs bar and pool room—is tonight, St. Patrick's Day evening.

On stage will be the young musical groups, The Juice and Fly By Night, who will set the tonal matrix for music that will follow four nights a week.

The real catalyst (the word names a chemical that brings about a reaction without changing its own nature) is owner Randall Kane who has spent over three years bringing the new Catalyst out of the ashes of the old Santa Cruz Bowl at 1011 Pacific Ave.

He has converted the bowling alleys into a huge dance hall with a stage that can send forth disco music, seat the largest of young groups and be converted to handle movies.

Kane did not give any cost figures, but it has been estimated the mammoth project cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million.

Running along the sides of the dance floor are hall-length, church-like benches, and over them are balconies running down each side of the hall.

It is the size of a full bowling alley, naturally.

But, that space is nearly dwarfed by the feeling of space and light that comes when patrons walk through the wood and glass doors into the dining

and/or the alternative-culture groups—depending on your viewpoint.

Its interior slowly took on the appearance of Van Gogh's "Potato Eaters" with the ambience of Greenwich Village after the social set quit coming down.

Its mosaic-like facade became the window for groups of the young and the wandering, who without the price of a drink, could stand on the street

and listen to the rock music inside.

The old Catalyst closed its doors for the last time Saturday night.

The liquor license legally transferred to the new Catalyst Monday.

The new Catalyst, with its continued beat of young music, will still attract a younger generation nights and days, but its very spaciousness will obviously give room to a wider society

within its walls.

Kane has hired a young woman to promote a more varied use of the Catalyst, including club banquets, and in August, the Cabrillo Music Festival will present pianist William Bolcom in a concert of ragtime music on the Catalyst stage.

The designer, with Kane, is Ralph Rapattoni, who has called it a 'Comedia dell 'Arte' approach in architecture.

Light from the huge skylights

are reflected down below by sections of mirrors and highlight a bas-relief of a Manet painting done by UCSC students.

Over the cafeteria section is a mural of the old Catalyst—peopled by strange creatures inside and stranger creatures

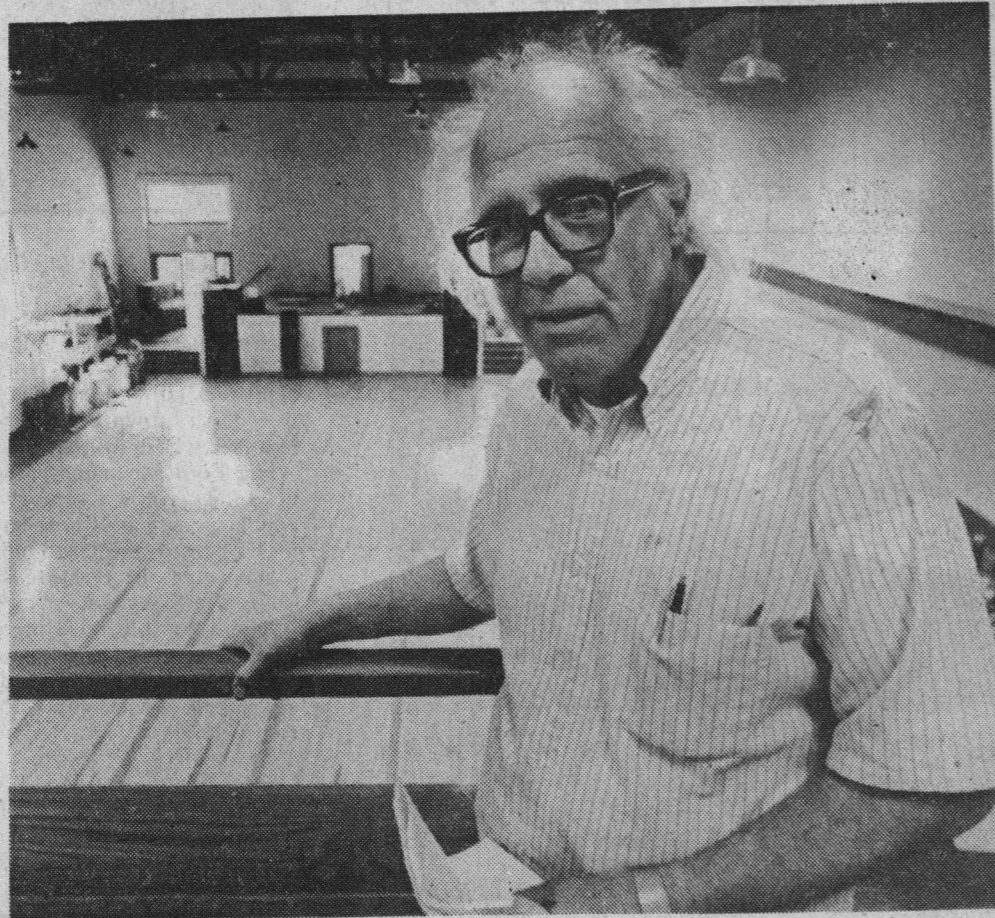
outside—done by Vicki Petrovich. All told, it is a new Catalyst, but like a new bride, it is carrying a bit of the old.

The old Catalyst bar will be in service in the pool room area upstairs, and many of the old Catalyst signs will adorn the walls.

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Randall Kane, the man who put over three years of his life and a lot of his money into creating the new Catalyst on Pacific Avenue, stands on the back portion of the north balcony that overlooks the new dance floor,

created from the alleys of the old Santa Cruz Bowl. The stage is designed to handle disco and live music and can be used to show movies.

Now—
you can enjoy
Freedent® gum in a
peppermint flavor,
too.



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But, that space is nearly dwarfed by the feeling of space and light that comes when patrons walk through the wood and glass doors into the dining hall and delicatessen area that front the street.

Huge vaulted skylights rain down light that opens the space and lights the walls that support grand displays of local art.

The dining and delicatessen areas house 100 handmade tables and their accompanying hundreds of handmade captain's chairs.

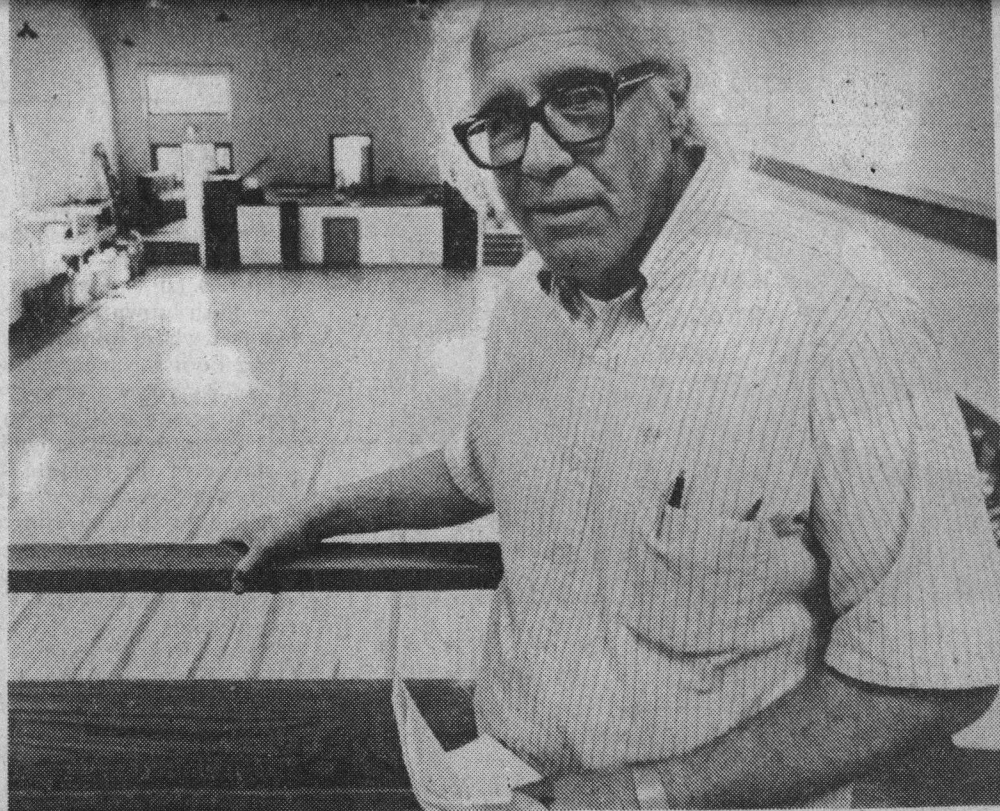
The floors are covered with 8,000 square feet of imported Italian deco tile.

The center of the dining area is graced with a tall tiled planter and water fountain, and at the rear the wrap-around 136-foot long bar ties in the dance hall to the restaurant. "To say we'll have continental cuisine, well, that's a little over done," Kane quipped, while pointing out the kitchen will provide a full delicatessen board with the addition of steaks and other dinner dishes.

Also, among other intoxicants, the new Catalyst features over 50 brands of beer, mostly imported.

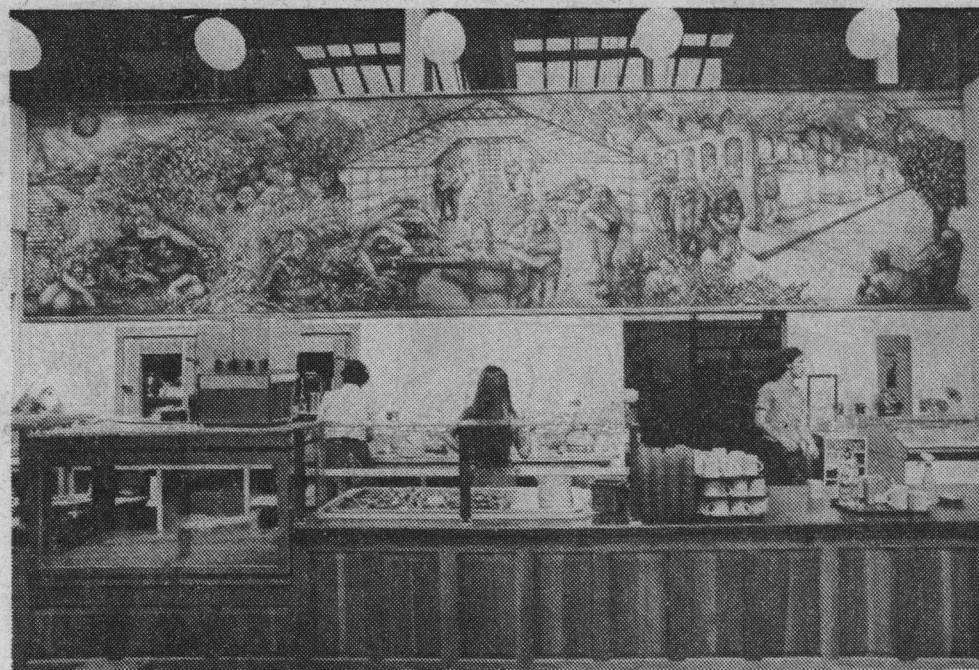
In perhaps the greatest understatement this year, Kane said, "It's going to be kind of nice here."

Kane's old Catalyst on Front Street was born with the emergency of rock music and became a coffee and rock haven for the so-called hippies.



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Vicki Petrovich's mural of the old Catalyst—peopled mostly by out-of-county, one-time visitors—fills the space behind the delicatessen section of the new Catalyst on Pacific Avenue. The restaurant will feature

the delicatessen spreads of the Catalyst, plus the additions of steaks and fish plates. This section, and the full dining hall, was floored with 8,000 square feet of imported Italian deco tile.

County Skirts

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