



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel photos

According to lore, the Grateful Dead used the Aptos inn for a recording studio in the '60s.

# BUYING THE BEAR

## Firm makes offer on Bear's Lair Inn

### Sentinel staff report

A piece of Santa Cruz history is about to change hands. The five-bedroom Bear's Lair Inn, which dates back to the turn of the century, is in the process of being sold.

The Aptos home was used as a winery during prohibition, a cattle ranch through the 1940s and a recording/jam studio by the Grateful Dead in the '60s, according to its history.

A unique feature of the property is the scenic vine-covered remains of the winery.

The inn had been on the market for three weeks when an offer was accepted, according to William Goodyear, broker at Santa Cruz Homes.

The offer came from Premiere Events, Inc. of La Selva Beach, which plans to upgrade the property. Premiere will continue to operate the inn for future private and corporate events, he said.

Current owners Brian Denny and Susan Van Horn want to concentrate on their other property, The Inn at Manresa Beach, Goodyear said.

The asking price for the Bear's Lair was in the \$1 million range.



Real-estate agent William Goodyear stands in the ruins of what was once a winery.