

and a mountain hall, 271.
Polls will remain open until
7:30 o'clock tonight.

Quel	27	25.48	14.32
Scotts Valley	.20	40.70	21.72
Boulder Crk.	.30	19.77	13.31

prushed up to the Moslems from storming out of their quarter to seek revenge.

Grease Paint In The Board Room

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Wicket Hearing Turns Into Comic Opera

By Ron Miller

A zealous attorney, a mountain of letters and a duty-bound local clergyman helped county supervisors decide to grant a use permit for the Sticky Wicket outdoor theater yesterday afternoon.

By unanimous vote, the supervisors conceded the county zoning board committed a cultural faux pas when it decided not to renew the Aptos theater's use permit two months ago.

Or as painfully sementic Bob Bennett—the theater's attorney—put it, the zoners were "innocently, sincerely, but actually and accurately, in error."

But before the harried supervisors bowed to the slings and arrows of outraged culture, they mugged their way through an inspired ceremonial that could well provide many hours of comic entertainment if recreated some summer evening in the rejuvenated mid-county theater.

Barrister Bennett opened his flowery attack with a firm denial that neighbors of the arty theater have been unduly shaken by raucous noises coming from the citadel's late, late shows.

With proper showmanship, Bennett unveiled a massive aerial photo of the neighborhood around the Mar Vista drive and Santa Cruz-Watsonville freeway area where the theater is located. It showed—in garish colors—which neighbors complained and which neighbors didn't.

"But Mr. Bennett," interrupted wily Robert Burton, "this

one big section you have marked off here as being in favor of the theater is nothing but a cabbage patch.

"I'm afraid," the supervisor added, "you're mixing people with cabbages."

But Bennett explained the owner of the property was a great admirer of the theater's musical and dramatic offerings. He went on to show the great number of residents favored the Wicket's offerings.

Bennett protested there would be much more noise from the new Cabrillo college campus across from the theater when it opens this fall. He cited football games, brass bands, screaming students, cheering sections and marching units as potential noisemakers.

"They will make more noise than the strongest coloratura," Bennett said.

But Bennett admitted there were undoubtedly some esthetically displeasing aspects of the theater operation that might bother Wicket neighbors outside of the noise. He explained owner Victor Jowers would endeavor to correct them.

Among the sour notes Bennett confessed were late rehearsals of operatic productions, careless, parking habits along Mar Vista drive by Wicket patrons, and occasional noise during the wee hours when the theater was first built.

But Burton asked if the noise alleged in complaints could not have come from theater spectators who partook too heartily of the vintage spirits sold during intermission at the Wicket restaurant next door.

"I seriously doubt if these productions attracted the boisterous sort of person who might indulge in impromptu musical numbers for the benefit of the nearby community," Bennett countered lengthily.

"I don't think this matter of the restaurant is relevant," said Supervisor Lewis Nelson,

"I think I should be the judge of what is relevant or not," Burton snapped. "I have some more questions, Mr. Chairman."

"All right," said Chairman Francis Silliman, "if they're relevant."

But Burton's questions about the beer and wine served next door to the theater were not necessary after Rev. Alexander Anderson of Calvary Episcopal church stood up to speak his piece.

The rector told the board his two daughters talked him into coming to the meeting to speak in favor of the theater. He said they both go there often and claim it is very well conducted.

"About the liquor being sold," Rev. Anderson said. "My daughters say they've seen the owner asking youngsters for their identification before they are sold beer or wine.

"I don't know if that is done everywhere," the rector said, "because I don't frequent that kind of establishments."

But Supervisor Vincent Locatelli was still not convinced. He told Bennett he thought Jowers should arrange a musical show for the board so the supervisors could decide for themselves if the music was too loud.

"I'm sorry I overlooked that," Bennett said. "But I have a fine tape recording of the last act of 'Orpheus and Eurydice' in my office if you want to hear it."

After Bennett read an avalanche of letters from music and drama lovers all over the state, the board finally acquiesced and voted to grant the permit. An 11:30 p.m. curfew was imposed on shows, no microphones are to be used for singing parts, and there can be no parking on the easterly side of Mar Vista drive for 500 feet from the freeway.

As the supervisors might have admitted as they counted the scores of letters and watched the mob of Wicket supporters leave the room, it was a consummation devoutly to be wished.

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