

## City Of Santa Cruz' Annual Report—Part 3

# A Busy Year For Four City Departments

(Editor's Note: This is the last of three articles listing significant aspects of the recent annual report of the City of Santa Cruz. Today's article covers the parks and recreation, personnel, finance and records departments and the city-county library).

The dedication last Memorial Day of the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse was a highlight of the year for the parks and recreation department.

The New England-type structure was given to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abbott, whose son, Mark, lost his life in a surfing accident.

The facility is a working lighthouse, the first ever built with private funds for Coast Guard use. The lighthouse is open to the public as a museum from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The junior museum addition to Santa Cruz Museum is ap-

proximately 50 per cent complete, and the museum commission is now readying a junior museum to be offered to the public in the near future.

Earl Harris donated a vast collection of North American big game heads for permanent display in the addition.

The new wharf headquarters building on the municipal wharf was completed during the year and received the 1968 Santa Cruz Organization for Prog-

ress and Euthenics (SCOPE) over-all excellence award.

The department's recreation division noted the swimming program at Harvey West Park pool attracted a total participation of 40,000 during public swimming hours. Summer and school year playgrounds recorded 35,000 and 45,000 participation units, respectively, and adult sport leagues accounted for 20,000 more.

Other adult programs racked

up 5000 participation units, and another 15,000 units was recorded by a variety of youth and adult programs.

Among the new programs instituted during the year was a junior lifeguard training program in which boys aged 9 through 13 are given instruction in surfing, paddling, swimming, first aid, marching and beach games.

Other new programs are creative dance for elementary school girls, youth basketball for boys aged 11 and 12 Crusaders Marching Corps for girls aged 13 through 18, drama clinic for teens, adult tennis instruction, teen swim nights, adult swim for fitness and slow-pitch softball.

The city's personnel department notes that about two-thirds of the total operational expenditure of the city are devoted to personnel costs, therefore, "the recruitment and retention of qualified, productive personnel becomes paramount."

During the year the personnel department administered 31 written tests for 65 city positions which attracted a total of 430 applications. The current city staff includes 344 full-time positions.

The finance and records department notes, "Financial success can best be measured in relation to the tax rate of the city and the level of service provided the citizens. The level of service has been maintained or increased over the years while there has been no increase in the city tax rate in seven years."

The financial picture was substantially aided last year by one-time unexpected revenues, including cigarette taxes and the stepping up of collections on sales tax.

Sufficient funds are set aside to increase the general reserve account to \$100,000 and create a cushion for the dry period from July through December until property taxes begin to come in.

Other funds are set aside to create an emergency reserve fund to guard against financial disaster such as the 1955 flood.

The department during the year instituted a change in programs and procedures which doubled the speed of existing data processing equipment. The automation program has reached into other city departments and will include the conversion of the finance and records department's own accounting system during the current year.

Valley and Soquel have shown increased use. All branch collections have been reviewed and supplied with new books.

An agreement has been drafted by the library boards of Watsonville and Santa Cruz to allow any county resident to borrow books from any library in the county.

The pact is expected to be especially useful to residents of the Freedom-Watsonville area where both city and branch services will be available.

## Request Delayed For Variance In C

The mission Smith's ance a ing on

The on the allow S equate Golden pital, 5 Smith permit the ho

Also commis Bemis' wall sign ers build

## Unit



Charl sonnel named Fund d ployes f cording man F. is a mem Bay Ar board o ing Nuy Unite and

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

Thursday, August 22, 1968

Page 13

## Centennial Melodrama



ing such calls him- mental ning is

The department during the year instituted a change in programs and procedures which doubled the speed of existing data processing equipment. The automation program has reached into other city departments and will include the conversion of the finance and records department's own accounting system during the current year.

The records retention program moved ahead during the year with a new filing system for general files. The program, including microfilming, has progressed to the point at which the department is ready to engage professionals to assist in designing a completely new system to handle the high volume of documents now processed by the city.

Dedication of two new library buildings during fiscal 1967-68 marked a milestone in the history of the Santa Cruz Public Library.

The new Branciforte Branch opened in October, 1967, and the facility's circulation of books and reference service use has doubled that of the old branch.

Dedication of the new central library last April 27 marked the culmination of many years of planning and cooperation by residents. Statistics for May and June show a large increase in circulation and reference work.

Branch libraries in both the city and county have shown increased activity as the result of population growth and the stimulation of the new central library.

Larger library headquarters being constructed at La Selva Beach will be completed in November or December. Circulation at Aptos continues to grow, but service is restricted by lack of space. Plans are being made now for larger headquarters.

Facilities at Capitola, Scotts