

and spread next door to a two-story home occupied by five people, Lex Thompson and his

Corraños and Sequel, and Sequel the District fought the flames.

# *Growth* *Seen shut 9/23/81* We're growing too fast; back to drawing board

Santa Cruz County supervisors were wrangling Tuesday over how much population growth should be allowed in the county next year.

The board is obligated under the terms of the county's growth management law — Measure J — to establish an annual growth rate that constitutes the county's "fair share" of the overall growth in the state.

Supervisors learned today that the assumptions that they had been operating on in previous years weren't accurate. Planning Director Kris Schenk said that the figures from the 1980 census reveal that the population of the county is

at least 12,000 above what the projections made at the time Measure J was drawn up indicated it would be.

Consequently, Schenk said, the board faced the choice of either cutting back sharply on the annual growth rate it authorized or of raising the population goal it wanted to reach by the year 1990. Under its original projections, the goal for that year was to be 218,000. But, because that projection was made as a result of some inaccurate assumptions, Schenk suggested it would be more realistic to calibrate the growth rate to accommodate a population by 1990 of closer to 230,000.

Schenk said that with

accurate information supplied by the 1980 census, this would mean a growth rate of about 2.1 percent over that period would be allowable. The rate allowed by the board this year was 2.4 percent, slightly higher than the 2.2 percent of 1980.

Because of complaints from the public that the system has resulted in a large backlog of would-be homebuilders waiting in the building permit line, as well as uncertainty from year-to-year as to what the situation might be, Board Chairman Gary Patton urged the board to set a flat 2 percent growth rate for the rest of the decade.

Patton conceded that the question of whether this

board could lock in a growth rate when Measure J speaks of setting such rates annually would have to be decided by the county counsel.

That's one of the reasons the matter was put off until the afternoon. It was not certain the board would act then either, because a

number of other questions were hanging around, including the assertion of the county Builders Exchange — an organization of builders and their suppliers — that state law requires the county to take into account "regional" as well as just county housing needs.

## Space theme

"Space Time, U.S.A." is the theme this year for Soquel's fall festival — Soquel-o-rama Oct. 17 and 18.

The theme honors America's achievements in science, technology and space, and commemorates Soquel's founding in 1852.

Under the direction of Chairman Charlene Morgan, the 1981 Festival will feature food, continuous entertainment, exhibits, art shows, cartoon festivals, chicken barbeque, a mushroom and wine cookoff and, of course, the great Sunday Soquel-o-rama parade.

Booths and exhibit space can be reserved now by contacting Mrs. Morgan at the Soquel-o-rama, P.O. Box 333, Soquel, Ca. 95073.

Volunteers are also needed, including carpenters and electricians. Call the Chamber office, 475-2977 if you can volunteer.