

Harbor

6—Santa Cruz Sentinel — Wed, August 16, 1978



Stone Witch in SC Harbor.

# ‘Battleship’ Stone Witch Visits Harbor

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Someday, the 70-foot schooner Stone Witch will be a fishing boat. But for now, it's a battleship.

The Stone Witch is currently on a three-day stopover at the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor, en route back to San Francisco from San Luis Obispo, where it participated in the recent anti-nuclear power demonstration at Diablo Canyon.

Flying the banner of the Greenpeace Foundation, the Stone Witch will be open to the public until it sets sail from the harbor Friday morning.

The Greenpeace Foundation is making the stop in Santa Cruz and another this weekend in Monterey to publicize its fight to save the world's whale population from extinction, and to support the movement opposing nuclear energy.

The square-rigged top sailer was built in Alviso by its skipper, Alan Olson, a ship's carpenter who one day would like to turn his efforts toward commercial fishing.

The schooner is currently powered by the winds of Olson's convictions, such as his belief that "nuclear power is not a good, safe means to generate energy."

Olson guided the Stone Witch on the Aug. 6-7 sea "assaults" on the nuclear plant site near San Luis Obispo. Picking up protesters at San Luis, the Stone Witch sailed up the coast to Diablo Canyon, where it launched the demonstrators toward shore in a pair of rubber rafts.

Crew member Nancy Foote of Greenpeace feels the appearance of the Stone Witch at Diablo Canyon was significant in itself.

"If you're demonstrating against an energy source you should be positive and present an alternate source.

"Our alternative is wind power," she says.

Greenpeace's participation in the anti-nuclear demonstration also was significant, she says, for the "Save the Whale" organization actually began nine years ago to protest a nuclear test facility in the Aleutian Islands.

"I guess we've come full circle in those nine years," she says.

Greenpeace was successful in shutting down the Aleutian nuclear facility and also a French test site in the South Pacific.

"It seems easier to stop nuclear power than the killing of whales," Foote says, but quickly notes that Greenpeace has been successful in closing one shore whaling station.

Still, the main objective of the international group is operating two deep sea vessels in its attempt to save whales from the commercial hunt.

The latest confrontation, she said, came Monday in the North Pacific where Greenpeace launched its rafts between a Russian ship and its target whales.

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