

Clamp Down On Enforcing Juvenile Curfew Tonight

Officers To Pick Up Loiterers

Law enforcement agencies in cities and unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz county were ready today to clamp down this evening on any youths under 18 years of age found "loitering" in violation of curfew laws.

Sheriff's deputies, and police officers of the three cities, will maintain a tight curfew patrol from now on, according to juvenile authorities. Bob Mondelle Jr., county juvenile officer of the sheriff's office, his assistant, Chet Bagley, Sergeant Charles R. Derby and Officer Tor Spindler of the Santa Cruz police department juvenile bureau, as well as the police chiefs of Capitola and Watsonville have mapped out a joint campaign.

Curfew hours are 10 p.m. in Santa Cruz, 10:30 p.m. in Watsonville, and 11 p.m. in Capitola and the unincorporated areas. The variance in hours is due to the respective curfew ordinances in force in the several areas.

The curfew does not concern such youths who return from theaters, ball games, or any other recreation, entertainment, friends or legitimate business. Nor does it affect those who are out on emergency errands, or are accompanied by their parents, guardians or other adults who temporarily have custody of the minors.

The juvenile officers reiterated that the measure is directed solely against those found loitering aimlessly away from their homes after the curfew hours, and those found in or around places specifically forbidden by the ordinance. This includes taverns, restaurants, and bars which dispense intoxicating liquors.

Aside from making violating youths liable for punishment, parents will be held responsible. The juvenile authorities today asked again that parents cooperate with this endeavor to control delinquency.

"Normal and wholesome activities are in no way curbed by this measure," said Officer Mondelle today. "Cities and county have adopted curfew laws to keep a check on vandalism and petty thievery that trouble these areas, and we are asking the help of parents and minors in making the drive a success."

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