

Central Water District Differences Aired

BY DON RIGHETTI
Sentinel Staff Writer

A group of residents of the Central Santa Cruz County Water District is madder than a wet hen.

And it's the district's water—which they claim is replete with rust, oil and dirt—which got them wet.

Soaked clear to the pinfeathers is Harry Gregg, a former director of the district who

Housing Project To Aid Traveler

While seeking a permanent facility, the Emergency Housing Project of the University Services Agency is organizing a volunteer-based HOST (Help Out Someone Tonight) program for this fall.

With the closing of the summer hostel, Switchboard finds that it has numerous requests for travelers and others needing temporary housing for a night or two.

In the past, Switchboard, through Project HOST, has been able to refer persons in need to those in the community willing to take someone into their home.

There is need now for volunteers to interview people in need of shelter before they are sent to the HOST homes and there is need for homes. Volunteer HOSTS can specify whether they prefer to house men, women, foreign travelers, etc.

For information and to volunteer, call Mary St. Clair at 427-0792 or leave a message at 426-4161.

Uncovered Tops Lose In Court

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A law requiring women to clothe their breasts while men are allowed to go barechested is not unconstitutional, a state appeals court has ruled.

"Nature, not the legislative body, created the distinction between that portion of a woman's body and that of a man's

has been serving as its outspoken conscience for the past few years.

But he will have to go some to be more outspoken than a new ally, Mary Holbrook of 429 Pleasant Valley Road, Aptos, who signed herself "a disgusted water user" in a recent letter to the board and maintains the title still is an accurate one.

Some other members of the group of malcontents are Carol Mulder and perennial governmental gadfly Ted Schulz.

They claim their ranks are far wider than that, but they don't want to mention more of their members by name.

Mulder and Holbrook criticized the board's "lack of response to inquiries and complaints" and its cavalier "autocratic" attitude.

Their primary goal at this point is to transform the district more into their own image by changing around its board of directors in the November election.

Of course, they want Gregg, who has been a director most of the time since the district was founded more than 25 years ago, to assume a spot again at the steering wheel.

In addition, they'd like to see Schulz and John Randolph, both of whom live in the Aptos hills, at the helm.

Nor would they feel too badly if Walter Hickey, who also has declared his intention to give it a try, got on. They said they'd be pleased to support Hickey in any future elections.

The three seats up for grabs, which the discontents want to take over, are held by Jim Patterson, Sam Rogers and former county clerk Tom Kelley.

None of them, the disturbed voters pointed out, was elected in the first place. All three, they noted, were appointed, and so have served less than one full four-year term.

Board Chairman Ray Amrhein, object of a good portion of the dissidents' distaste, answered the assertion that he had hand-picked the board in his own image through appointments by explaining that two of the appointees had sought directorships at the last meeting.

Amrhein said that as well as he could remember, Patterson

doesn't agree, he tells Silva so—frequently at public meetings.

The detractors say that another problem is the capacity of the water system—that the directors don't know what it is and are "constantly" taking on new customers to the point the whole system might run short, as it has in the San Lorenzo Valley district.

Amrhein says the directors are aware of the capacity of the district and that no water shortage is foreseen at this time.

He added that the district is raising its rates—a move the dissidents hold in wholehearted contempt—in order to accumulate funds to expand the system and accommodate the many new customers who want to use it.

That's not where the malcontents think the money is going. In fact, they kind of wonder where it's going.

They claim the fund reserves which should be kept aside to replace deteriorating equipment and facilities are being used for day-to-day expenses and salaries.

But the dissidents claim they can't get any answers about money, or anything else.

"The treatment we get is not up to par at all," said Holbrook. "The manager is morose and

never answers any questions. Mr. Amrhein is his spokesman. When he (Silva) starts to make a statement, Mr. Amrhein takes over before he has spoken more than about three words. So we never get any answers."

She recalled how Silva had advanced with clenched fists on Gregg during the August board meeting following an argument over the capacity of a water tank.

"He was going to pound him," Holbrook maintained, but Tom Kelley intervened and said, "No, no, George, now go back to your seat."

She said happily that Silva ultimately looked up the tank capacity in the district records and that Gregg had been right.

Another beef is the amount of water the dissidents maintain the district is wasting and the erosion it causes when it runs out of leaks.

Gregg pointed out that Silva's August report noted that the district had wasted 29 per cent of its water. Most of that, he declared, would have to be due to leaks, although a little of it might be caused by flushing operations.

The periodic overruns at a big 50,000-gallon tank in the Cox Road horseshoe have furrowed out quite an erosion canyon.

The start of the erosion area

is liberally sprinkled with old tires, chunks of concrete and other rubble, which the dissidents maintain was dumped there with Silva's permission.

Holbrook says she doesn't know whether Silva personally was paid for the dumping rights, "but it's very suspicious."

Pish posh, said Amrhein in answer to the charge.

The erosion is "at least" 15 years old and predates both him and Silva in the water district. Moreover, Silva is working on an anti-erosion program under the auspices of the county, including the county watershed manager. And the effort to prevent further erosion includes the dumping of tires and other rubbish on the bare spots.

As a parting shot, the dissidents cautioned the public not to vote for A. L. Lease, another candidate seeking election to the board in November.

They think Lease is disqualified because of his close friendship with Amrhein and Silva and because Lease operates a plumbing concern in Watsonville.

Since he sells plumbing equipment, the malcontents sniffed, he probably is not running for the board just to fulfill any



The big 50,000-gallon storage tank pictured here is a sore spot with the people who think the Central Santa Cruz County Water District is leading them down the tire-strewn brimstone path. They think the erosion is a shame in the first place, and that the tires and rubble which

have been dumped on the erosion spot are a bigger shame. The district's board chairman says the tires and other junk are there to prevent further erosion. The tank is located in the horseshoe curve formed by the two sections of Cox Road.

inner need to perform a public service. Amrhein, meantime, thinks

the malcontents are doing more harm than good with their rantings. He said the complaints

are financially costly to the district, since they interfere with its efficient operation.

Leask's SPECIAL OCTOBER VALUES



General-Electric's "Digital"

Fine Bohemian China

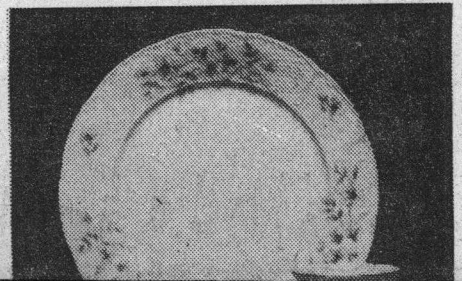
Europa® porcelain dinnerware made in Czechoslovakia.

The delicate 'Natalie' shape has a broad rim with basket weave tracery in gentle green "Blossom" or vivid oriental "Imari" patterns.

Service for 4 includes 4 each dinner plate, salad plate, soup plate, tea cup and saucer.



"Imari"



w a s t h e h i g h e s t
out-of-the-money finisher in the
election and Rogers was the
second highest.

But not all the dissident
animosity is reserved for
Amrhein. A lot of it comes down
on the district manager, George
Silva.

"The manager is definitely
unqualified," the chorus ran,
"but he is protected by Amrhein
and the board."

Amrhein responded that
someone like an over-qualified
hydraulics engineer is not wan-
ted for the manager's post
because such an individual
would cost the district too much
money.

"Admittedly, Silva is not an
engineer, but he has had
experience in building,"
Amrhein said, "and I think
George is doing a pretty good
job keeping water in the lines."

Amrhein said he didn't
always agree with what Silva
does, either, and that when he