

Grand jury

Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Picked for 1970

Santa Cruz - A Santa Cruz-dominated Grand Jury was quietly installed by Judge Gilbert Perry in Superior Court last week.

William J. Meidl, President of the Watsonville Federal Savings and Loan Association, was handpicked by Perry as foreman. Secretary is Judith

Ann Webber, a Santa Cruz housewife.

Other members of the 1970 grand jury are:

Ralph Bargetto, a real estate salesman, and Joseph Stagnero, a restaurant manager, Soquel; Aubrey Bonham, retired, and John R. Montanari, retired, Boulder Creek;

Isaac Bonora, nurseryman; Charles Crouch, hotel manager; and James R. Wylie, geologist, Aptos; John J. DuFour, electrician, Watsonville.

The rest of the grand jurors are from Santa Cruz. They are:

Louise Anderson, insurance salesman; John Bowen, tannery employee; Donald T. Clark, librarian; James F. Conover, aggregate company employee; Louis Keller, buyer; Lawrence Langston, engineer; John E. Nohrden, title company employee; Edward Prindle, real estate salesman; Raymond Vigil, anti-poverty program employee.

A charter for Santa Cruz County and fewer elected officers are among the recommendations of the 1969 Grand Jury in its report submitted to Santa Cruz Superior Court Judge Gilbert last week.

The Grand Jury made a total of nine recommendations, some practical, some avoiding any mention whatsoever, as to why they should be adopted.

Included among the latter was the recommendation that under the County Administrator, consolidating the District Attorney and County Counsel offices, making up organizational charts of all County offices, development of job descriptions and detailed plans for County service areas.

Several recommendations made have already been put in operation. For example, the Jury suggested that if the District Attorney does not take over the County Counsel's office then a Chief Deputy County Counsel should be appointed. This has already been done and a Chief Deputy is now employed.

The Grand Jurors also recommended that the Clerk of the Board be placed under the County Administrative officer, but gave no reason why this should be done.

In general, the Grand Jury found little was wrong with the operation of the County government last year, at least.

"We found overwhelming evidence that our County government is composed of basically honest, efficient and capable employees," the report noted.

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