

# Chamber awards in Aptos

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**APTOS** — The mood was electric Friday night as more than 175 people celebrated the Aptos Chamber of Commerce's 60th anniversary at the group's annual installation and awards dinner at Aptos-Seascape.

The electricity was apparent — Pacific Gas and Electric Co. was named the organization of the year for its work on Aptos Village's \$2.2-million underground utility project. Two people who worked to ensure the project became a reality were honored as the chamber's man and woman of the year.

Tim Cleary, who worked with village business owners to coordinate the project, was named the 1987 Man of the Year. Second District Supervisor Robley Levy garnered Woman of the Year honors for coordinating the county's involvement in the project.

Both received plaques from outgoing Chamber President Pat Davis and proclamations from Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Carmel, and Victor Marani, aide to state Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville. John Fisher, incoming chamber president and formerly with PG&E, accepted the utility's award.

While the actual work on removing the utility poles along Soquel Drive in Aptos Village began during the summer of 1986, the project had begun several years ago. Levy worked with Cleary and the Chamber of Commerce in coordinating the massive project, which wasn't completed until last March.

Utilities lines, including cable television and telephone lines, were buried. The Aptos Neighbors Association also helped design the Victorian light fixtures that were installed as part of the work.

The project was made possible through PG&E, which collects money for underground projects through a rate-payers' fee. County supervisors then allocate the money to specific areas.

Cleary, who served as president of the chamber in 1983-84, said later that he remembers going door-to-door downtown seeking merchants' support of the project, and he thanked those merchants.

"Without their help, none of this would have been possible," he said.

"What's visible is what isn't there today — all those huge ugly wires. You don't realize how bad it looked until you're able to go out there and see it today."

The award took Levy by surprise. She had been at the celebration to present the chamber with a 60th-anniversary proclamation from the county Board of Supervisors.

"This is really yours," she told the audience, holding up the Woman of the Year plaque, "because the Aptos



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The Aptos Chamber of Commerce honored Tim Cleary and Robley Levy for their efforts to bury utility lines.

community did it together."

The utility project went so well, in fact, that a smaller phase — at an estimated at \$700,000 — began late this summer on an area of Trout Gulch Road that includes the Aptos post office. That project is nearing completion, Levy said.

Other awards went to the past year's chamber directors. Recognized were: Linda Eskel, Georgia Sparks, Bob McKenzie, Dick Jamison, Tim Welch, Mark Adams, Bob Bailey, Al Forbes, Chuck Holcomb, Mark Hucklebridge, Beverly Moore, Julie Parsons and Cleary. Terry Streller, who had been a longtime chamber secretary, and Lucile Aldrich, originator of the Aptos Fourth of July "World's Shortest Parade," also received certificates.

Underlying all the hoopla, however, was the chamber's 60th anniversary. Started with a handful of business persons in 1927, the chamber has grown to include 375

businesses today, according co-managers John and Karen Hibble said.

Singer Colleen Chanel provided entertainment by singing several specially written Aptos songs. Many of the chamber's past presidents attended the gala and were introduced. They included Davis (1986-87); Welch (1985-86); John Hibble (1984-85); Cleary (1983-84); McKenzie (1981-82); Glenn Specht (1980-81); Aldrich (1978-79); Virgil Kester Jr. (1977-78); Ted Colton (1976-77); and Holcomb (1975-76).

President Fisher's fellow chamber officers also were installed. They included Linda Eskel of Wells Fargo Bank, vice president; Georgia Sparks of Pacific Western Bank, treasurer; and Mark Adams of Aptos High School, secretary.

New chamber directors included Dianne Forster of ERA-Bayside Properties and Sparks. Re-elected were: Moore, of Kudos; Jamison, of Rainbow Bay Properties; and Adams.

REFERENCE

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