

Wednesday, March 14, 1956

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Council Hears City Needs New Library Badly

Santa Cruz is in dire need of a new main library, Councilmen Carl White and Dick Farrar told their colleagues last night.

And if they don't believe it they should drop in at the library and see for themselves, White said in passing along the findings and recommendations arrived at by Farrar and himself as a committee assigned to inspect the condition of the city's buildings.

Farrar and White added a recommendation that the city should consider building a new library in the urban renewal project being planned for the flood-battered Front-Water-Ocean-Soquel quadrangle.

This suggestion ran into opposition from Councilman George Penniman, who said he thinks the library is admirably situated at its present site opposite city hall across Center street.

The library is a "good addition" to civic center and has a more central location than it would enjoy in the San Lorenzo park project, Penniman said.

White conceded that it was probably a violation of jurisdiction for the committee to propose a new site. But he offered the dual recommendation that the council take two actions with respect to the library—visit it and replace it.

And so the lawmakers will inspect the old structure the morning of April 5, date of the next library board meeting.

Some of the clutter presently filling space in the old building should be gone by then — the council by resolution authorized the city manager to sell scrap items from the library, including old books, old magazines and some dilapidated window shades.

"There goes the library," commented Mayor Tom Polk Williams Sr. as the resolution was passed.

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