

guy Crisis

You Will Need Luck To Find Gas Today

By TOM HONIG
Sentinel Staff Writer

Seek and ye shall find, although if it's gasoline you're looking for today you'll probably need a lot of luck as well as effort.

Nearly all gasoline outlest will be closed today, and only a few will be open Monday—President's Birthday. If you do find a station open today, chances are you'll be paying about 60 cents a gallon to fill your tank.

Traffic jams and a few short tempers marked the gasoline picture Saturday around Santa Cruz, although no major incidents were reported to local police.

Long lines of cars at service stations greeted motorists around the state as well as around the county Saturday, according to the Associated Press. AP said dealers were doing such a large volume as the three - day holiday opened that the

number of service stations open Sunday around the state might be even lower than expected.

The Automobile Club of Northern California said about 60 per cent of service stations were closed — 10 per cent more than usual for a Saturday. AP reported that the auto club estimated that about 90 per cent of the stations would close today.

In Los Angeles, Gov. Ronald Reagan urged Californians not to engage in panic buying. He said it isn't necessary, AP reported, and will only hasten state - imposed restrictions.

"In the last few days — simply because we have had to consider a contingency plan — this has created panic buying and panic lines at service stations," Reagan said.

The governor told the California Newspaper Publishers Assn. that if drivers in the state would reduce their driving by

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Gasoline dealer Fred Pfyffer and his worker, Joe Thomasello, kneeling, toiled for several hours Saturday at Pfyffer's Shell Service on Mission Street pumping gasoline into a steady stream of cars which began rolling in at 10 a.m. Pfyffer's station was one of the few which remained open Saturday in the Santa Cruz area. He kept his pumps operating until he ran out of gas early in the afternoon. Frustrated motorists, some of whom had waited nearly 20 minutes for gas, wouldn't believe he had run out and the police had to be called to help Pfyffer close. Bicyclist Walan Chilos, below, appears oblivious to the madding crowd of cars surrounding him as he pumps air into his bicycle tire.

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Photographer Bill Lovejoy

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Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Mostly fair through Monday. Lows tonight in mid 30s to low 40s. Highs today and Monday in mid 50s to low 60s. Small craft advisory for northwest wind 15 to 25 mph decreasing tonight.

Temperatures for 24 - hour period ending at 5 p.m. Saturday: High 62, Low 35.

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20 per cent, obey the speed limits and join carools, the state would have 80 per cent of the gasoline it needs.

Lines of cars waited outside the few open service stations locally Saturday, causing traffic problems but no major difficulties.

Pfyffer's Shell on Mission Street at L Service Laurel Street

Kissinger Meets On Syria-Israel Disengagement

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singer also was postponed until Sunday. Kabani had requested the meeting.

Fahmy and Sakkaf are bringing with them the Arab conditions for Syrian participation in negotiations with Israel. The talks could lead to an easing of the Arab oil boycott and production squeeze.

"They will be discussing the Middle East situation and all aspects of it," said Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary.

Kissinger flew to Key Biscayne from Washington late Friday, detouring about 1,000 miles to brief Sen. J. W. Fulbright. D. A. ...

diate a disengagement much as he worked out an agreement last month between Egypt and Israel to separate their armies near the Suez Canal. But he is known to have told Assad in Damascus Jan. 20 and Israeli leaders a few days earlier that he would first have to see evidence that the two sides were serious about reaching a settlement.

City Employees Vote To Retain Social Security

City employees voted Friday to reject a measure proposing that

was aswarm with cars from 10 a.m. until it closed early in the afternoon. Station manager Fred Pfyffer blocked off all the entrances to his station except one, through which all the cars filed.

Motorists faced a wait of about 15 to 20 minutes before reaching the pumps. A majority of the waiting drivers reacted calmly, although they weren't so philosophical when Pfyffer ran out of gas and was forced to close the station.

"The people were getting wild," Pfyffer said, "although I guess you can't really blame them." With the help of Santa Cruz police, station workers were able to block off the entrance and shut down the station.

But those able to buy gas really didn't seem to mind waiting. "You have to wait in a store, so why get mad when you have to wait at a gas station?" one man commented.

A skeptical young woman, a smile on her face, commented, "You know there's no gas shortage. So you can either get up-tight about it or just play their game. I hardly ever drive — I only get gas about once a month. People drive too much anyway — there's cheaper and better ways to get around. If I couldn't get gas today for my trip to Los Angeles, I'd just take the bus."

Another motorist, a young man who said he had driven all over town looking for a gas station, was furious. "The government should allow station owners to raise their prices so they could distribute gas when they want. That would end waiting in this long line."

Today, gasoline should even be more difficult to find. Pumps at different Santa Cruz Dairy outlets will be operating, but prepare to pay about 60 cents a gallon.

Bob DiCiano, spokesman for the local gasoline dealers association, listed some of the stations which earlier in the week said they'd be open Sunday: Robo Car Wash on Laurel and Front streets; Pete's Chevron Service on Commercial Way; and Gas - O - Mat on Soquel Avenue.

DiCiano said his station — Bob's Chevron on Ocean Street —

will open for business Monday.

A few stations will also open up Monday — including the Disco gas station on Bay Avenue which pump gasoline for about 60 cents a gallon as it did Saturday.

Despite the fact there were no local outbreaks of violence, there were scattered incidents of trouble statewide.

AP reported that an Oxnard man was arrested on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon following a dispute at a gas station. Police officers said Roosevelt Henderson, 22, ran over a service station manager who tried to stop him from barging in front of 150 cars waiting to get gasoline.

The manager of the station was treated for leg injuries, AP reported.

On the national scene, John C. Sawhill, deputy administrator of the Federal Energy Office, said that station operators whose allocations have been cut by more than 15 per cent can add another penny per gallon to the price of fuel beginning next month.

In New York City, the wait for gasoline was almost unendurable, according to AP. "This is absolutely the worst I have experienced," said one driver who said he waited two hours and five minutes for gasoline.

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