

Weather Report

Temperatures for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today: Maximum, 56; minimum, 49.

Monterey Bay Area — Showers to night and tomorrow. Southwesterly wind 15 to 25 knots.

Five-Day Forecast through Wednesday: Recurrent showers. Temperature range 5 to 10 degrees below normal.

Santa Cruz

Serving Santa Cruz County for

th Year—No. 59

Second Class Postage
Paid at Santa Cruz, California

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA ☆ FRIDAY

Fire Destroys Old SC Mansion



A massive fireplace stands stark in the bed of embers, the result of a fire which destroyed an old Santa Cruz mansion last night. E. O. McCormick, the president of Southern Pacific railroad, built the mansion in about 1912. It was later the home of Mrs. H. L. Remington of the Remington Arms

company family and her two sons. The mansion had been vacant since her death some years ago and vandals had reduced it to ruins. Firemen said a prowler may have dropped a cigarette, setting off a spectacular fire seen for miles.

By Ron Reeves
Sentinel Staff Writer

Fire last night destroyed a vandalized redwood mansion built by E. O. McCormick, one-time president of the Southern Pacific railway, which was later the home of Mrs. H. L. Remington of the Remington Arms company family.

The house, which was located on a hillside between Pogonip Country Club and the UCSC perimeter road, went up in a mass of flames visible over a wide area. Firemen were unable to do anything to save the house, which was to be torn down in the near future.

State Division of Forestry crews from Felton stood by until about 3:30 a.m., extinguish-

ing spot fires which flared up in trees around the house.

"We feel it was probably somebody wandering around in the old building who dropped a cigarette," stated a spokesman at the forestry station.

Santa Cruz Fire Chief Ted McEwen said the house, which was abandoned after Mrs. Remington died in 1958, had been hit by vandals and was worthless. He said it was a hang-out for young people and was considered to be a fire hazard.

"We've been afraid this might happen for quite some time. We contacted the Cowell company manager and the company had decided it was a liability to the property and were going to do

something about it," the forestry spokesman said.

Harold Richey of Santa Cruz, a former Cowell company employee, said the house was built as a guest house by E. O. McCormick of San Francisco, the SP president. He said McCormick organized special trains in San Francisco and brought friends and business contacts to spend time there. Robert Lincoln, a long-time Santa Cruz resident, said he thought the house was probably built around 1912. McCormick had taken a long-time lease on the property, part of the Cowell purchase of 1865.

The Cowell company later resumed ownership of the house and one of the company super-

intendents, A. S. T. Johnston, lived in it. Mrs. Remington and her two sons lived there in seclusion for some years.

"Vandals had completely destroyed the house and it had no value," the forestry spokesman said.

When firemen arrived at the scene at about 10 o'clock, the house was totally involved, McEwen said. There was worry that the fire might spread because of gusty winds. McEwen said it was lucky that the fire started when the woods were green and damp.

"If it had been in the summer time, August or September, we'd have had a real fire," McEwen said.