



Heart Of CALIFORNIA Hosteller



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COUNCIL of AYH, INC.

OCT - NOV - DEC 1992

IT'S HAPPENING IN SANTA CRUZ SEP 2 5 1992



Saturday, August 1st marked the official beginning of the remodelling of the Carmelita Cottages site located near the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. The Carmelita Cottages are vintage beach houses located in a quiet neighborhood park setting. The groundbreaking was attended by many notable people who have been instrumental in getting this project far. In attendance: the Honorable, Don Lane, Mayor of Santa Cruz; Mark Beyeler, California Coastal Conservancy; Katherine Beiers, Santa Cruz City Council; Debbie Lee and Jim Lang, Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department; Jan Sorge, Central California Council President; and many other invited guests. Many thanks to Debbie Lee and Jim Lang who have worked with us on zoning and permits; and the Board of Directors of the Central California Council without whom we wouldn't have realized the Carmelita Cottages dream. Special thanks go out to Jan & Larry Sorge, Peter Kambas, Hostel Development/Operations Chair Deitrich von Dohlen, Peter Pethoe for finding this project many years ago, and to Barry Ochrach, the current Santa Cruz Hostel Society President.

Nearly 20 years ago Santa Cruz was a loosely knit hostel type accommodation which some reports state was charging a rate as low as 25 cents a night. In the early 80's, the hostel progressed to a more organized, summer-only project utilizing Mission Hill Junior High School with a couple of summers spent at the Branciforte Junior High gym. In more recent history (1988) the Santa Cruz Hostel Society went big time and moved into a year round permanent hostel at its present location at 511 Broadway. The old Victorian has seen literally thousands of travelers, not only from every corner of the globe, but as hostelling has gained in popularity here in the States, we've seen a substantial increase in American travelers using the hostel as their primary source of lodging.

Travelers have been treated to the wondrous sights in and around the Santa Cruz county area, and the greater part of the State as well: hiking in the age old redwoods of the local and State Parks; relaxing and enjoying the sun at one of the numerous beaches in the area. Some have tried their hand at surfing, hang

gliding and roller blading along some of the most picturesque spots in California. A few brave souls have even attempted the newest craze...bungie jumping. Word has spread that Santa Cruz is a great place to visit. The new project should make it even better.

With great leadership, a dedicated board of directors, and energetic volunteer staff and the unwavering and much appreciated support of the Central California Council, we are moving into a new era of hostelling in Santa Cruz. Prices are a tad higher than 20 years ago, but once the renovations are completed at our new home, the friendly camaraderie and thirst for knowledge will continue to be top priority at our new Carmelita Cottages location.

The Santa Cruz Hostel Society would like to recognize the following groups who have lent their financial support and good wishes to the Carmelita Cottages project: Golden Gate Council, Merced Hostel Society, Columbus Ohio Council and the AYH Western Regional, all having loaned \$10,000 each to the project. Special thanks to the Central California Council for guaranteeing these loans. A \$375,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy in conjunction with the above mentioned loans will go far in making the Carmelita Cottages the hostel we've all dreamt of.

Architect, Terri Fisher and Allen Hasty, our General Contractor have already put in many hours on the project, and are still looking at many more. This dedication to the cottage project has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. And last, but certainly not least, Hostel Manager, Bill Jones is commended for his untiring devotion. His years of experience in hostelling around the world and hard work on the Broadway location and now the Cottages will make things go smoothly. It's happening in Santa Cruz, and the Santa Cruz Hostel Society wants to invite everyone to come-on by and check out the Carmelita Cottages project.

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By Cindy Fairhurst