

Historic Buildings

Weights-Measures Finally Has Own Home

Sentinel

Sunday, March 4, 1973

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County Supervisors' opening dedication ceremonies of the new Weights and Measures building near the corner of Capitola Road and Seventh Avenue.

Chairman Henry Mello was one of several speakers at Friday's

"It's been a long time in coming, but I'm grateful that the day has finally arrived," commented Gerald Anderson, sealer of Weights and Measures, to a crowd of 75 persons Friday.

Anderson made the statement as the county's new Weights and Measures building at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Capitola Road was officially opened during dedication ceremonies. The 4,000 - plus square foot building that cost some \$170,000 will house offices of consumer affairs and the agricultural commissioner, as well as weights and measures and include 10 employees.

Anderson made his comment of thanks to county taxpayers in general and county officials for meeting the crucial need of a new weights and measures facility.

His statements followed comments by Jim Evans, assistant county administrative officer, who noted that plans have been in the hopper for about a half dozen years to build the new facility, but it always was cut out at budget sessions. Evans mentioned that the weights and measures building has had its home in an old church building, former beauty shop, an old shirt factory and finally at the hospital

before getting a real "house."

Architect for the Spanish-style structure, was George Kuska and the builder was K.J. McGranahan.

Matt Mello, agricultural commissioner whose 35 years with the department is the only to surpass Anderson's 21 years with the county, said it was fitting that a new building for agricultural, weights and measures and consumer affairs is built at this time since all topics mean so much to this county. For the first time, Mello said, agricultural business in this county is expected to top \$50 million (1972 figures are still coming in) and he noted rich soils allow 65 different commercial crops to be grown here.

Advisor in the consumer affairs office is Gloria Lorenzo.

Several state dignitaries spoke to the group that included weights and measures chiefs from as far away as Riverside County. Speakers included John Kehoe, state director of consumer affairs, C.B. Christensen, director of food and agriculture, Edward Dietz, regional weights and measures coordinator, and Walter Watson, chief of state Bureau of Weights and Measures.