

Soquel Fund Established

1-12-82

# Assistance Is Available For Senior Storm Victims

Senior citizens were among the hardest-hit victims of last week's storm, and private and government assistance is available.

In Soquel alone, two mobile home parks, wiped out in last week's flood, housed a large number of seniors, and Soquel residents have formed a relief fund.

Many senior citizens are without homes, and several lost everything they had.

At the Federal Emergency Disaster Center in the Veterans Building on Front Street, the Area Agency on Aging has representatives to provide transportation to and from centers, escort and clean-up services, legal aid, temporary housing, and people to help seniors through the lines and with the forms at the center.

The agency's telephone number is 688-0400.

In Soquel, merchants and citizens have formed the Soquel Flood Disaster Relief Fund.

The fund will "provide assistance to Soquel-area flood victims who through circumstances created by the flood have no means of recovery," according to Dave Tunno of Soquel, president of the fund's board.

These include elderly mobile home residents on fixed incomes, disabled persons

with limited means of recovery, and others deemed eligible for assistance by the fund's board of trustees.

The trustees include Tunno, Brad Walsh, Ed Pettyplace, Robert Meyer, Brian H. Herman and Jerard Opray.

"What really brought this to light was one of the first mobile homes to go out in Soquel was a little senior citizen who was renting," said Tunno. Now staying in temporary donated quarters in Soquel, "she lost all of her personal belongings, all of her means of survival," he said. "On a fixed income, it's going to be hard for her to replace these items."

Even with government and other help, "there will be times when these persons can't get the financial relief to survive," Tunno said.

The fund began today with a \$500 donation from the Soquel Lions Club, and by noon had swelled to some \$1,500, according to Tunno.

"We're reaching out as far as we can reach," he said, "and hopefully we can reestablish the fine people we had in Soquel back in Soquel."

Requests for assistance or donations to the fund may be mailed to Soquel Flood Disaster Relief Fund, in care of the Soquel office of County Bank, P.O. Box 98, Soquel, 95073. For further information, call 475-5458 or 476-2929.