

# Supervisors To Seek Answers On Courthouse Site Tomorrow

9-13-69

A San Jose architect who designed the new multi-story Santa Clara county courthouse and a team from the Santa Cruz County Grand Jurors association will appear before the board of supervisors tomorrow morning to answer questions on the courthouse issue.

The board is scheduled to hear a report from Charles Watkins, association chairman, at 11 o'clock on the steering committee's findings that lead to the recommendation for a new multi-story structure on the site of the present main building.

Watkins said that a committee will face the questions since he has to report today to the USS Rochester in Long Beach for two weeks of navy duty.

A commander in the navy reserve, he will undergo training on the launching of missiles from surface crafts.

Architect Hollis Logue will at-

## Cowell Trustees Accept Price For School Site

At last — the Santa Cruz city school district has a site for its new west side elementary school.

Thomas R. Turner, superintendent of city schools, was informed Friday afternoon that trustees of the Henry Cowell foundation had accepted an offer of \$6250 an acre for about 11 acres of land off High street west of the new First Congregational church. Turner has been authorized to finalize the transaction at this figure.

The board originally had offered \$5750. This figure was countered by the foundation with \$7500. Negotiations between Turner and the Cowell trustees reached the middle figure.

Thus ends another controversy over school sites. Plans for the new elementary are expected to proceed and the school should be ready in 1960, according to school officials. Formerly a majority of the board was in favor of building the school below the Bay street reservoir. This was blocked by a minority faction led by A. R. "Dick" Hackbarth, who claimed the reservoir site was unsafe.

tend the session tomorrow with association members Walter Betencourt, Worth Brown, Louis Haber and Martin C. Franich. The architect recently told the association that it would not cost any more to build a multi-story structure than a single floor edifice with the same amount of floor space.

Board Chairman Lewis Nelson explained that he did not believe it would be possible for the board to take definite action tomorrow on all the association recommendations.

Supervisors, hopeful that the association recommendations will pull the board out of a difficult spot on the controversial mounting site question, have been non-committal on the association proposals and want many questions answered.

Two supervisors, Walter G. Merrill and Francis Silliman, have indicated that some definite action could be taken. Silliman explained that following the discussion from Watkins (scheduled last week to appear) a decision could be made.

Silliman wants to question Watkins regarding adequate parking provisions and costs of a multi-story store in connection with the association proposal to build a structure on the present site.

"I am going to move that the board accept the recommendation recommending that the county sell its holdings in the Santa Cruz urban redevelopment project and get out of there," Merrill said Friday afternoon.

He believes that it is imperative for the board to make a final decision on the 3.4 acres of URA property so the agency can wind up the San Lorenzo Park project. The overhead is costing the city and the agency approximately \$375 per day.

The petitions, bearing 3198 signatures, recommends that the board drop plans for a courthouse in the San Lorenzo Park project and look for a site more accessible to the Santa Cruz-Watsonville freeway that does not cost more than \$10,000 per acre.

Merrill said he wants the board to make a study on the petition's recommendations if the supervisors are unable to agree on the association's plans.