

Courthouse

Meanwhile county is paying \$5000 per month in building rentals

Is courthouse complex finished?

Builder, yes, architect, no!

by David Johnston

Santa Cruz county's \$8 million courthouse complex is in another stew. Architect Burton Rockwell and builder Werner Jasper just can't seem to reach agreement on the building's present state of completion. Werner says he has been finished since the first of the year, Rockwell says there are about 750 items left to be corrected.

County government meanwhile is continuing in nine offices scattered throughout Santa Cruz at a cost of \$5,000 a month.

Jasper has begun proceedings against the county to recover \$1 million which he says the county owes him for the "finished" structure. Jasper says the county could have taken over the building at the first of the year, and that the only items holding up the "gray elephant" result from action, or lack thereof, by county supervisors.

Jasper says the county held up mill work for judicial benches and jury boxes a year, and then demanded the work be done at the original bid price. Painting of boilers is another sore spot with Jasper, who claims supervisors delayed use of the boilers by failing to approve a color scheme for them.

Rockwell says the work "is showing much progress toward completion . . . there is very reasonable expectation that the building could be ready for acceptance by August 10, 1967." Poured ceilings are not, as of Thursday, however, up to Rockwell's standards, who wants to meet with Jasper to "see if we can find a basis of acceptance that is agreeable to you and to the county."

Jasper says Rockwell has refused to accept the building because on a recent inspection, "he saw a lone cigarette butt in the hallway." Jasper says the interior is dusty because county landscape workers go in and out to use the restrooms, and that the county has not kept the struc-

ture closed. Jasper says Rockwell refused to complete a recent inspection tour because of the cigarette butt. According to Jasper it wasn't his men who left the smoke -- he hasn't had one at the site "for months."

Supervisors themselves are not so pleased with the court-

house or the dispute. Supervisors discussed Jasper's suit at Monday's meeting and not all are satisfied with the way things are going.

County Counsel Henry Faltz recommended supervisors make no formal inspection of the site until Rockwell approves the building, something Jasper says may never occur. Supervisor Robert Burton objected that "the architect places himself in the position of not giving us any say." Burton called for an inspection by the public works department. Faltz said he is against a "formal inspection." Jasper says he wants an inspection - formal or otherwise. Rockwell claims his contract says he will do the inspecting, along with project manager Bill Shaffer.

As things stand now Jasper is still suing. Rockwell is not accepting. Supervisors can't act until Rockwell says the deficiencies are corrected. Jasper says there aren't any deficiencies. Rockwell says they do exist so he won't approve the building. Where do we go from here?

County's 'cat man' threatens courthouse!

Supervisor Vincent "the blade" Locatelli told fellow supervisors Monday he is getting an itchy tractor finger again.

Locatelli said he saw no reason for the twin steps leading down from the courthouse to a "lawn" on the Ocean avenue side of the structure. Locatelli said, "I just may get a cat out and take it away."