

# Gangs Growing

## FROM PAGE 1

with about 30 members. Los Chicos consists of younger boys who aspire to be full-fledged gang members.

Gang members are generally identified by their Pendleton shirts, baggy tan trousers and well-shined shoes. Many members wear hair nets.

At least two gangs have been identified in the Santa Cruz area, according to the report.

The Westside Locos are a relatively new gang which was formed in 1979 and is drawn from the beach and westside areas of Santa Cruz. The group, which numbers about 30, usually meets at Neary Lagoon, Garfield Park or Lighthouse Field.

A rival group, the Asitos (little aces) is in the formative stages, according to the report. Its members are drawn from the Leibrandt Street area and the group was formed to counter the influence of the Westside Locos.

The report predicts an increase in gang

membership and competition between the rival groups.

Youth gangs are not new, the report said.

In 1964, a group developed in the mid-county area which became known as the "Tola Rats." Initially, the group was not criminally oriented and revolved around the surfing craze.

Later, the gang turned to narcotics and burglary activity. At its peak, the gang had 35 members, but it dissolved in 1975.

During the late 60s a similar group formed in the Rio Del Mar area and became known as the "Rio Rats." This group, too, eventually turned to small narcotics and burglary activities.

The San Lorenzo Valley also has seen the rise and fall of gang activity around the River Park area of Ben Lomond. But the groups have never been cohesive and eventually dissolved.

At least 10 gangs have been identified in Salinas and fighting has often erupted between the Northside Locos and the Las Lomas Boys in Las Lomas.

## FROM PAGE 1

Seven other youths, all believed to be part of the Eastside youth gang, are still being sought by police.

According to reports, four teen-age members of the rival Westside youth gang were near their disabled car on Maple Street when they were spotted by eight youths from the Eastside gang.

The eight youths stopped their car and began walking toward the four teen-agers. One of the Eastside gang reportedly fired two shots at the other youths.

One of the victims dived under the disabled car while a second ran to a nearby apartment.

Another youth, 16-year-old Danny Lopez of Live Oak, tried to lock himself in the car.

Police said the members of the rival gang broke out the car windows with chunks of concrete and threw a full can of Coca-Cola at Lopez. The can hit him in the head.

Lopez suffered facial cuts from flying glass, said reports.

Another victim — 16-year-old Martin Alvarez of Santa Cruz — was stabbed in the chest during the incident.

There were no details about his stabbing.

He was taken to Dominican Hospital where he was listed in stable condition in the intensive care ward today.

Following the attack, police found a car which matched the description of the suspects' vehicle and had it towed from its parking place in the beach area.

When Delgado came to the police station this morning to report that his car was stolen, officers took him into custody, said detectives.

Investigation into the attack was continuing this morning. Lt. Dan Fite of the Police Department said this was not the first incident of violence between the two gangs.