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CIRCUIT RIDER

BY LEON ROWLAND

The first parking lot for the convenience of customers in Santa Cruz was installed 24 years ago by Leask's store.

Today there are one or more parking lots in virtually every block in the business and beach district, numbering into the scores.

The Leask lot was not the first in Santa Cruz. The city had installed one on the old Ennor place next to the library, but it was supposed to be for municipal employes and now serves the library.

Conceiving that sufficient of his customers came down town by car to make a lot desirable, Samuel Leask in 1925 bought the old William E. Miller home on Church street west of his store, paved it and announced it was available to his patrons to the extent of six at a time.

Leask tore down the Miller home which, dating from the sixties, had been built by William E. Miller, who came to California in 1851 as a lad of 16. After working in the timber near Searsville he came to Santa Cruz in 1858. His first employment was at the Waddell mill on Blackburn gulch (today's Branciforte drive), after which he became one of the city's leading building contractors.

Miller, who died in 1913, left two sons. Hugo died in a Japanese camp in the Philippines during the late war; William E. Jr. was a contractor in Santa Cruz until his death six or seven years ago. A daughter of Mrs. Miller by a previous marriage was Mrs. W. B. Parsons.

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COSTS MOUNT FASTER THAN PUPILS INCREASE

The extent to which school expenses are growing faster than the number of pupils, even in the rural schools, is disclosed in this year's budgets. In every case the apportionment expected from the state, which is based on average daily attendance and therefore reflects the number of pupils, shows an increase relatively less than the budget boost.

The comparison, of course, is not strictly fair, as A.D.A. figures and the state apportionment are always a year behind, and cannot indicate expected growth for which the budget must provide.

At Soquel the budget is \$127,253, a gain of 22 per cent over last year's \$104,241, while the amount expected from the state is \$78,277, an increase of only 13 per cent over last year.

At Live Oak this year's budget is \$104,112, a gain of 25 per cent over last year, while the state apportionment expected is \$55,333, only 11 per cent up.

The Scotts Valley school is more in line, with an increase of 20 per cent in total budget and an expected gain of 18 per cent in the state money.