

New Boulder Club may reopen

Historic theme planned for notorious bar

By MARIA GAURA
Sentinel staff writer

BOULDER CREEK — The recent closing of the Boulder Club bar — and a plan to reopen the notorious watering hole — has become the focus of enormous interest in this mountain town.

The Boulder Club was ordered closed June 8 by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board after years of complaints by area residents and the county Sheriff's Office. Boulder Club owner Frances Gualtier has been ordered to sell her liquor license or the ABC will repossess it.

Boulder Creek businesswoman Sharon Boumis hopes to buy the license and convert the tough little club into a cheery bar with a country-store theme — complete with historic photos, a pickle barrel, wood-burning stove and gingham curtains. The nostalgic theme will emphasize the colorful past of the historic Rex Hotel, which houses the bar, Boumis said.

But before Boumis can begin work on her dream, she'll have to convince neighbors and merchants that the reopened bar won't create the same problems as the Boulder Club. Area merchants complained that the Boulder Club's downscale clientele frightened and intimidated shoppers, and women complained they were routinely harassed by drunken men in front of the bar. Brawls and other disturbances were common, according to police reports.

Boumis plans to remove the pool table and jukebox, remodel and

clean up the interior, add tables and table service, decorate with antiques and throw open the windows for extra light.

"I think the physical change will help," Boumis said. "We can improve the nature of the business."

Boumis wanted to offer food service at the club, but was told the building's limited sewer capacity cannot accommodate restaurant uses, she said.

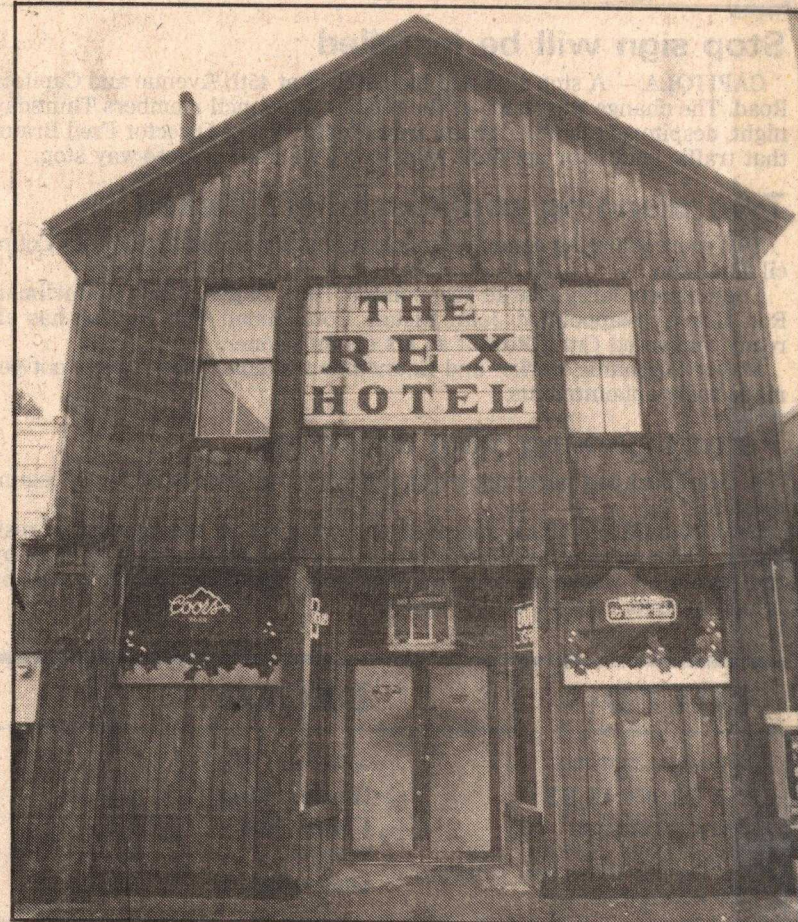
The Boulder Creek Business Association has scheduled a public meeting to discuss Boumis' plans at 8 a.m. July 3 at the Boulder Creek Grille and Cafe, 13040 Highway 9. Comments, complaints and fears aired at the Tuesday meeting could have a significant impact on the future of the Boulder Club.

The ABC will thoroughly review Boumis' proposal, but the key element in the agency's decision will be responses gathered from the Boulder Creek community.

The agency has the power to approve, deny or add conditions to the sale of Gualtier's license, according to ABC Investigator Robert Farrar.

The agency will accept only written comments — both pro and con — on the proposal to reopen the club. The letter writers will be interviewed on their concerns and an ABC official will sit down and try to work out a compromise that will make everybody happy.

If a negotiated settlement can't be reached, a public hearing will be held, with only the letter writers and the prospective owner testifying. If enough negative com-



Dan Coyro/Sentinel file

A businesswoman has new plans for the old building.

ments are received, Boumis could be denied permission to open the club.

Letters pertaining to the sale of the Boulder Club's liquor license should be mailed before July 18 to:

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 11 West Laurel St., Suite 203; Salinas, CA 93906, Attn: Lupe Tellas.

For more information, call 1-443-3001.

REFERENCE

C. Senf 1-7-90