

# The Mercury

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## BRIGHT COLORS REPLACE DUST

# Davenport Dresses Up

By DON WILSON  
Staff Writer

DAVENPORT — "Some day," says Francis Gregory wistfully, "this town is really going to boom."

"We're going to get so much tourist trade we won't know what to do with it."

Gregory, who owns the town's one grocery store and its attached service station, and who has acquired the town's one bar, thinks a little increase in business wouldn't hurt his community at all.

Already there are signs that things are perking up.

For many years, Daven-

port was "that place on the coast that's all covered with cement dust."

The cement plant was notorious for the clouds of cement dust which poured out of its high stacks and fell on cars and houses and flowers and roadways and people. It "set up" with the slightest rainfall or heaviest fog, and drain gutters fell off houses because they were full of concrete.

But progress, technological social pressure, lawsuits and a few other things got the cement dust stopped. Now, the town no longer is a uniform

cement grey color, but is blossoming out in gaily-painted houses and other buildings.

The generally rundown appearance of the town in past years, however, has led indirectly to what may turn out to be a real step toward the boom which Gregory anticipates. Houses and other buildings in the town generally have rented for far less than what a comparable building would rent for in, say, Santa Cruz.

So low-budget craftsmen have quietly slipped into Davenport and set up shop, at the low rent that may mean the difference between success and failure in the early years.

But these craftsmen (glass blowers, iron workers, shoe makers, to name a few) would like to keep their presence quiet so as not to upset the low-rent appellation.

They want this so fervently, in fact, that most of them are downright unfriendly to people who might want to write about them in newspa-

pers or magazines or take their pictures. They're also unfriendly to just plain tourists who want to wander around and gawk at the intricate manufacturing processes, but who get in the way and slow down production.

So Davenport is staying pretty much the same on the surface, if you don't count the bright paint on the houses (even the Catholic Church is now a sedate pink).

The big trucks still stop and the drivers have coffee in the Ocean View cafe, across from the cliff top where Fire Chief Elio Orlando conducts his whale-watching rites every winter to chronicle the migration of the great grey whales.

And the fishermen go down to cast their hooks into the surf where old Captain John Davenport once had his whaling station below the town.

Gregory may be right when he says Davenport is going to boom, but most visitors hope he's wrong.



Sign along the coast road (Highway 1) marks Davenport's heritage as whaling area

## Santa Cruz Transit Hearing Set Tonight

SANTA CRUZ — A "do nothing" approach to handling transportation problems in Santa Cruz County could hopelessly clog existing roads at key points in a few years, a proposed transportation plan says.

The plan is set for a series of public hearings starting tonight at Soquel High

School. All the hearings are scheduled at Aptos High School Feb. 13, Watsonville City Hall Feb. 19, Westlake School in Santa Cruz Feb. 20, and San Lorenzo Valley High School Feb. 27.

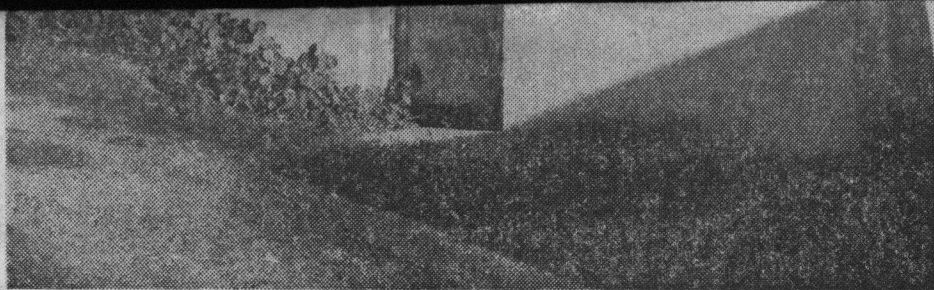
The proposed plan reportedly is the result of studies by the County

Transportation Commission after gathering data for the past year and a half about the travel patterns of people traveling in, out of and through Santa Cruz County.

The plan calls for improving existing roads for the convenience of residents driving on them, building a number of new and improved bicycle trails, a bicycle transfer system and parking facilities.







Davenport's old county jail dates back to 1914

—Staff Photos

## Fired Chief Wants Hearing

GREENFIELD — Ousted Police Chief Troy Allred, 44, has demanded a public hearing on his dismissal a week ago by City Mgr. John Edgerton. Meanwhile, petitions and counter-petitions supporting both Allred and Edgerton, are circulating in the city.

City Atty. John Hutton said the City Council is under no legal obligation to hold such a hearing but added the council could agree to it. which have been denied by the chief.

The letter charged the chief, who joined the police force 23 years ago, with "emotionalism and lack of judgment, insubordination, disloyalty, inadequate performance of duties, professional deficiency, general incompetence, and unwillingness to cooperate with ty personnel and other governmental agencies."

Edgerton said he fired Allred after the chief refused an offer to place him on "administrative leave" so he

## Salinas Man Convicted On Manslaughter Count



Edy Rayfield carries daughter, Jemaa, for walk in Davenport