

# He Saves The Past For The Future

By WALLACE WOOD  
Sentinel Staff Writer

"Thank goodness, it's mine," says Max W. Walden, a heavy-set good natured man, as he caresses the cold marble of the old county courthouse.

Walden wants to bring the chilly, empty rooms back to life again by refurbishing them into a classy set of specialty shops.

The building — the "county's old dog, shop" — really is Walden's now.

A salvage firm already is clearing out furniture, shelving, and other items by the pickup load.

The 1894 brick building is no unwanted dog to Walden. He gladly paid \$75,000 for the building and property downtown at Cooper Street and Pacific Avenue. He also has to come up with an extra \$8000 to refurbish the little park area between the courthouse and the county's future museum in the 1882 Hall of Records next door.

"I'm going to call it Cooper House," says Walden with immense self-confidence. "I hope it will be the cornerstone for Cooper square, and the beginning of a whole downtown effort to save what's good from Santa Cruz' past."

The man who helped sell Walden on the idea of buying the old courthouse and keying it to downtown redevelopment was Chuck Abbott, free-lance photographer who has taken Santa Cruz as his own foster child.

Abbott was asked to do what he could to sell or save the old building when two city-county committees could not come to any agreement on turning

Old Shep into a park. Walden's purchase was the result.

County officials are delighted with the sale, since it saves them more than \$20,000 in demolition costs and provides hard cash to buy a parking lot for the sheriff's office in the courthouse annex on Front Street. The county also has the right to review Walden's plans, and he is forbidden to tear it down for 20 years.

Walden developed some 20 shopping centers "just to make money" before he hit upon the idea of creating and building an Old Town in Los Gatos. Built largely from an old school, the Los Gatos center was a roaring success with its Gay 90s atmosphere of small specialty shops.

Santa Cruz can have the same thing; in fact, Walden is convinced he's going to like it better here.

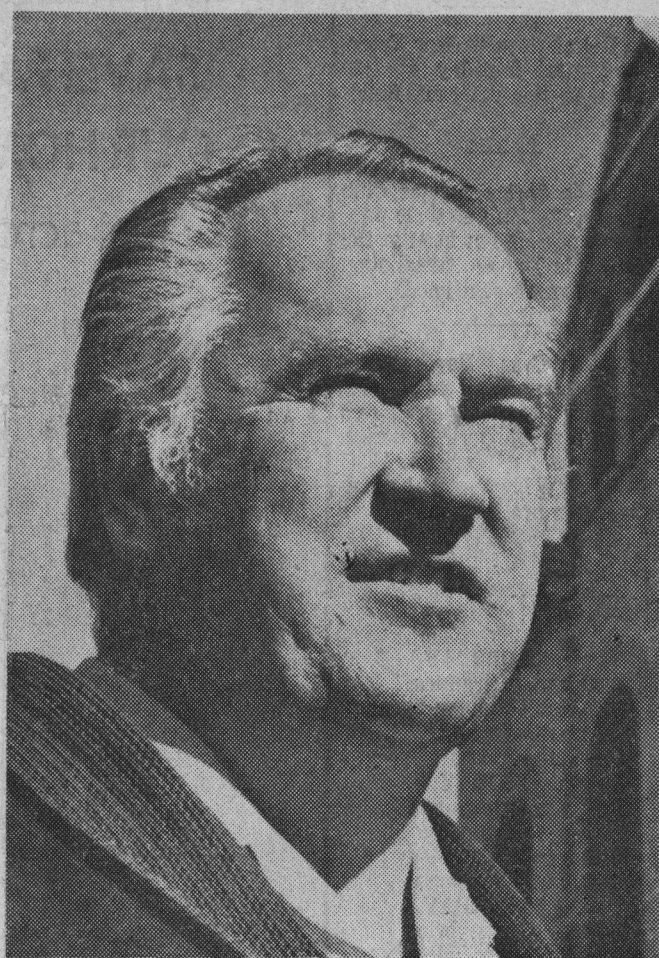
He told another reporter that "one of the greatest realizations I have had in my 48 years is that Santa Cruz is a whole community, really concerned with unemployment and a better life style."

The silver-haired sideburned developer is enthusiastic about Abbott's ideas for downtown, particularly PROD (Private Redevelopment Of Downtown). "I'm going to call this my PROD-W project," he grins. The "W" presumably is for Walden.

Even though he hasn't had time to lay out plans for redoing the courthouse and grounds, Walden isn't worried. "I think I know what I want to do. I can lease this space three times over."

Walden went into the Los Gatos project single-handed. "But now, for the first time, I have a group of people who want to work with me." These people include commercial artists such as Mary Ann Groe and Don Saxby.

He already is showing concern for other buildings in the area which might be destroyed, such as the McHugh and Banchi building on Pacific Avenue. "Unless some people get concerned, we're going to lose some wonderful things here," Walden says.



Max Walden, developer of Los Gatos' Old Town, looks up as his newest acquisition — the county's old Cooper Street courthouse. It will become "Cooper House," says Walden, and will be restored into a series of downtown specialty shops.

## WATER BOARD MEETS

Extensions of water service, system improvements and discussion of needs of the Riverside Grove subdivision will be discussed by San Lorenzo County Water District directors at a regular meeting tonight at 8 in the district water office on Central Avenue, Boulder Creek.

## CAR CLOUT

Thieves took about \$50 and personal papers from a auto owned by Peter Partridge, of Los Altos, while parked on Palm Beach at the end of Beach Road out of Watsonville Friday, according to sheriff's deputies.

## Western Stocks

Courtesy Of  
Baikie Alcantara

Albertson's	14%
AmerExpress	96 — 96 1/2
BankAmericaCorp	66 1/8 — 66 1/2
BankCalif	29 3/4
CalPacUtilis	17 1/8 — 18 1/8
CalWaterSvc	28 — 28 1/2
CalWestStsLife	18 1/4 — 18 3/4
CrockerNatlCorp	36 3/8
DataTechnology	53 1/4 — 6
1stNIBkSJ	24 — 24 3/4
KaiserSteelPfd	20 1/4 — 21
LongsDrugs	77 — 78
PacificPlantronics	17 1/8 — 17 3/4
TICorp	32 3/4
WellsFargo&Co	42 1/8
PAS	26 — 26 1/2
WatkinsJohnson	31 3/8
GoldenWest	14 1/2 — 15

## Dairy and Poultry

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Butter market continued steady; supplies ample for the normal retailer demand.

Grade AA & A one-pound prints 83 1/2-86 1/2 cents per pound, one-quarter pound cartons 84 1/2-87 1/2 cents.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Egg market steady. Prices to retailers:

Extra large AA 41-49, A 40-48; large AA 39-47, A 37-43; medium AA 35-43; small AA 27-35.

FRESNO (AP) — FSMN — Poultry market firm. Light type hens 3.00-3.75.

## HEAR!

A FAMOUS BIOCHEMIST  
CARLOUS MASON, PhD

on

## HYPOGLYCEMIA

(Low Blood Sugar)

7:30 P.M. TUESDAY

March 9th, at  
the PALOMAR HOTEL