

6/27/83

# Brookdale 'Healer' Sentenced To Jail For Fraud, Forgery

By JAMIE MARKS

Sentinel Staff Writer

Calling it a case of "classical white collar fraud work," Superior Court Judge Harry Brauer on Friday sentenced a Brookdale man to six months in County Jail and five years' probation for consumer fraud and felony credit card forgery.

In addition, the judge said he would seek an order from the probation department that would prohibit James Augustine Dooling, 50, from any further healing or "pseudo-healing" he may endeavour to do.

"When he gets out...he should either earn an honest living in the state of California or find residence beyond the borders of my jurisdiction," the judge added.

Assistant District Attorney Jon Hopkins has

called Dooling a charlatan who has been putting over a charade on the public by advertising himself as a nutritional specialist.

Dooling began operating the National Environmental Health Center in Brookdale in 1979, said Hopkins. Dooling also runs the Church of the Gift of God, he added.

At the so-called health center, Dooling advertised that customers were to be treated to 50 private rooms, a heated swimming pool, pure redwood spring water and a nutritional program that could cure them of many ills.

In fact, Hopkins said, customers — may of them old and ailing — were treated to a diet of lettuce juice and a rundown home.

Hopkins said he received so many complaints from customers that he had reached the conclusion that

Dooling should not be treating anyone.

Until Thursday — one day before his sentencing — Dooling did not even have a permit from the County Health Department, Hopkins said.

According to the probation report, a former employee of Dooling's said Dooling could feed quite a few people on \$14 worth of watermelon and grapefruit juice a day. That was his basic operation, the employee said.

Brochures sent out by Dooling indicated he charged \$35 to \$50 a day for his treatment plan.

Hopkins said Dooling offered hair analysis and computer printouts on diet information. But Hopkins said the computer printouts were standardized for everyone and that the hair samples (which were to be analyzed) were merely

dumped in a trash can.

Chief Investigator Dick Verbrugge of the district attorney's office was instrumental in gathering evidence against Dooling.

One of the chief complaints against Dooling was that a 79-year-old woman, Anna Adams, of the Los Angeles area, died after a stay at his center. She died of hepatitis, an autopsy report indicated, but Hopkins said he cannot prove she died of neglect while being in Dooling's care.

Shortly after her death in Jan. 1980, Dooling took the deceased woman's credit card and charged more than \$1,500 worth of goods on it. He also posed as her nephew to hospital officials, Hopkins said.

Dooling's attorney, Thomas Wichelmann, said Dooling has repaid the money from the credit card charges. He also said Dooling had used the card because he was working on behalf of the woman, and Dooling knew of no other living relatives.

Wichelmann urged the judge not to send Dooling to County Jail, as Dooling has no prior criminal record.

And, the attorney said, the money had been paid back.

But Judge Brauer said it was a case of someone designing to extract money from people while feeding them lettuce leaves.

Saying he has a great distaste for robbers and the like, Brauer added that he has an even greater distaste for people "who prey" on the weak, the ill, the aged and the gullible.

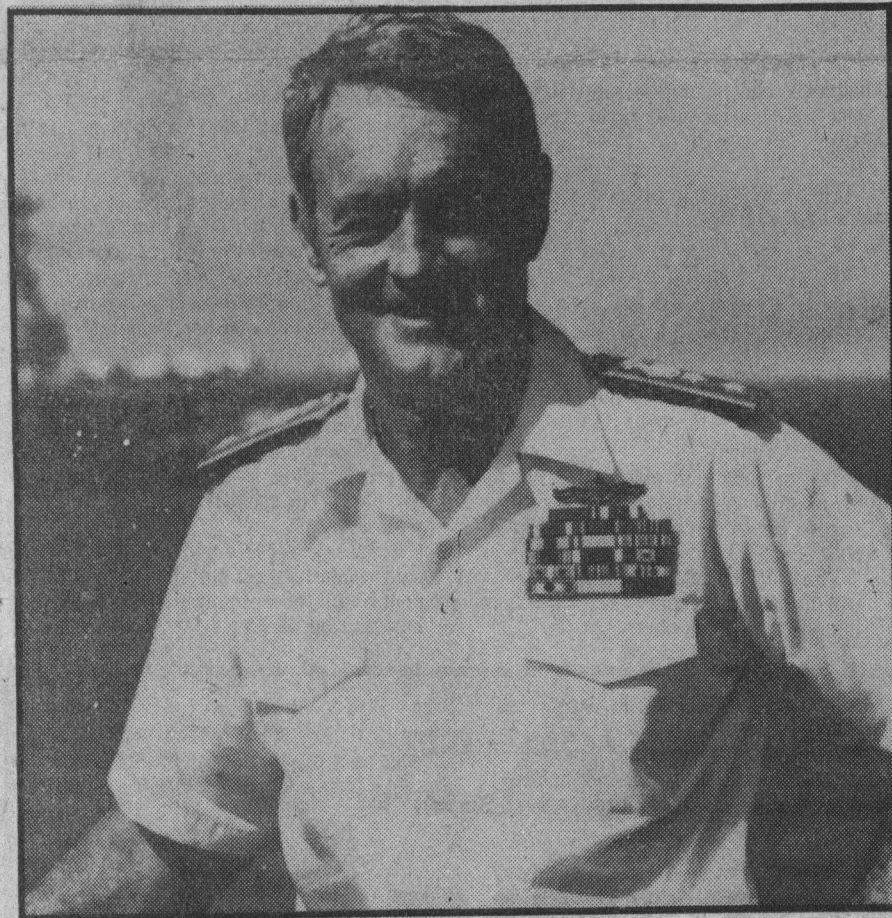
Dooling was given a 30-day delay before the sentence takes effect.

Hopkins said he was pleased with the sentence, as he had wanted to shut down Dooling's operation all along.

Hopkins added that he supports the holistic health movement, but that an operation like Dooling's impedes the serious holistic health practitioners.

Dooling had originally faced 19 misdemeanor and felony counts, and labor practice violations, for not paying employees the minimum wage.

Judge Brauer noted that the former employees could seek relief from the Labor Commissioner, if they choose to do so.



## Admiral To Retire

A naval career spanning 37 years will come to an end this month when Santa Cruz native Alexander M. Sinclair retires from the United States Navy June 30. Rear Admiral Sinclair currently is serving in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. A 1944 graduate of Santa Cruz High School, Sinclair was one of many from the Santa Cruz area to leave school early to enlist in the Navy. Sinclair, 55, was graduated and commissioned an Ensign from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1951. He subsequently earned his Masters Degree from San Francisco State University. At sea, Sinclair's assignments have been in nearly every major combatant type ship in the Navy. Ashore, he has served as an instructor for the submarine force, directorate for undersea warfare, and held various assignments in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. His mother, Mrs. A. Malcolm Sinclair, still lives in the family home on