

San Lorenzo Park Apartments Offers A Home And Hope For Senior Citizens

By TOM HONIG
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If you're over 62 years old and don't have much money, where do you turn for housing?

Often — too often — those caught in that spot turn to low-rent dives that just sort of add to the feeling of hopelessness. A few of the lucky ones, however, have escaped that plight, thanks to a 78-unit garden apartment complex in Santa Cruz that is testimony to the fact that private enterprise, municipal government and federal government can all work

together.

The apartment house is called San Lorenzo Park Apartments, and it lies across Dakota Street from San Lorenzo Park. Its residents range from low income to very-low income, yet they live in a fashion acceptable to anyone from any walk of life.

The corridors are bright; the decor is tasteful. Most important, the interior of the apartment house is clean. Harold Jordan, the manager of the apartments, said during a tour of the apartment house on Friday that the residents of the building are treated to a tight security system, and safeguards against fire and accidents.

Entrances to all the rooms are indoors, behind the locked doors of the complex itself. Sprinklers and fire alarms are throughout the building. Hand railings line the corridors, so residents have something to grab hold of while they walk, and every room is equipped with emergency pull-cords to signal the manager if they have fallen or need assistance in their rooms.

The developer and owner of the project is Jack Baskin. The apartment was built on an 80-acre parcel of land which had lain vacant since the devas-

tating flood of 1955. It was the last section of downtown land to be rebuilt under the city's redevelopment project; construction began there last September.

Although the construction was part of the Santa Cruz City's redevelopment project, it was the federal government that came up with the money for low-income residents. Through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, low-income residents have to pay only one-quarter of their monthly income for rent. Any difference between the one-quarter figure and the actual rent is paid by the federal government.

To qualify for the program, a person must be 62 years old or more, and must earn less than \$7,500 a year. Couples must earn less than \$8,400, according to Jordan.

"I would say that 70 per cent of the persons living here would be considered on very low income," Jordan said.

Of course, every happy story has a dark side; this one's is that only 78 units are available. Jordan said that a day rarely goes by that someone — often a visitor to the apartment house — will inquire about renting an apartment. But the apartment house was fully booked last autumn when it was announced that it was under construction. Since then, every apartment has been spoken for, and many poor, elderly persons are on a waiting list.

Those lucky enough to be living at the apartment house are offered more than their 600-square-foot rooms. There is a small lobby on each of the three floors, and there is a card room on the second floor. That room is also used as a meeting room by the residents, who have formed a residents' association.

The rooms themselves are fully carpeted, and are heated by a hot-water system. Outside the rooms, the hallways are well-lighted, and are equipped with emergency battery-powered lights which ensure that the corridors will not be



Bonnelyn Walpole, a resident of the San Lorenzo Park apartments for senior citizens, fetches her mail.

plunged into darkness during a power outage.

Behind the apartment house is a large recreation room, complete with a piano, fireplace and kitchen. There are gardens surrounding the building, including colorful patches of flowers in the private grounds behind the building.

The flowers and lawns are irrigated by a novel watering system which a Gilroy landscaping contractor says will save a huge amount of water.

The contractor, John Brauns, described the watering system as the "water-efficient drip system" in which water lines are placed under the ground. The water is released directly into the ground, and not into unplanted soil or onto open ground where it can evaporate.

The apartment house was dedicated in April. The project cost about \$2 million to build, and the construction crew was made up mostly of Santa Cruz residents.

Jordan and his wife, Pat, are the managers of the the apartments.

Photos By
The Sentinel's
Bill Lovejoy

Pizza Company Offers Variety

A skylight-filled loft and garden patio are just a few of places you can choose to eat 18 varieties of pizza at the new Pizza Company of Scotts Valley.

Located in the King's Valley Shopping Center, 226 Mt. Hermon Road, the new restaurant is run by Larry Chew and John Chambers.

It features a loft, a front room lined with leather booths, a cozy cellar and garden patio.



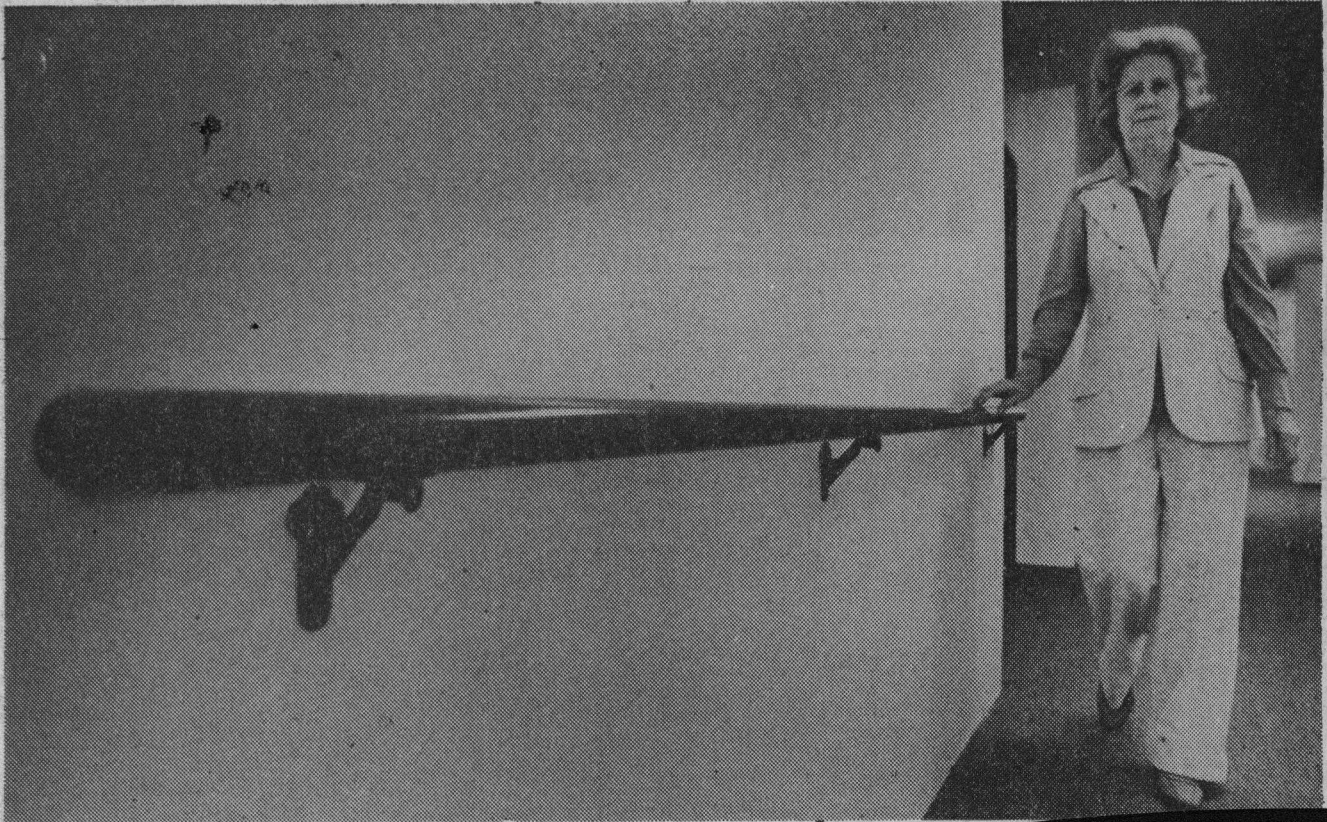
Entry into the San Lorenzo Park Apartments on Dakota Street is restricted to the residents.

Located in the King's Valley Shopping Center, 226 Mt. Hermon Road, the new restaurant is run by Larry Chew and John Chambers.

It features a loft, a front room lined with leather booths, a cozy cellar and garden patio.

Salads and sandwiches are also served.

Entry into the San Lorenzo Park Apartments on Dakota Street is restricted to the residents. All the entrances are locked 24 hours a day, keeping the building off-limits to anyone who is not supposed to be there.



Helen Scofield, a resident of the Dakota Street apartment complex for senior citizens, walks down a hallway at the apartment house. All the hallways are equipped with handrails.

Capitola Planners

The Capitola Planning Commission will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Capitola City Hall, where they will discuss several requests for zoning variances for single-family residences.

Private Audience

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Paul VI will receive U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in private audience next Saturday, the Vatican announced.