



Dome House On Mar Vista Drive Has Caused Some Traffic Problems.

Too Much Publicity

Dome Home Creates Traffic Problem

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Sometimes extensive publicity can be too much of a good thing.

Most businessmen may not agree with that assessment, but no argument will be ventured from the Cathedralite Dome people, who are based in a stunning model of their concept on Mar Vista Drive in Rio Del Mar.

After an Associated Press story on the Aptos-based company's success in marketing their various sized domes, a steady stream of visitors began to wind their way up the Rio Del Mar hills to visit the structural anomaly.

"Outside visitors don't have much consideration for local parking," admitted Tate Miller, one of the partners in the growing firm. On weekends, between 12 and 15 cars would line the narrow street the dome occupies, snarling traffic and upsetting some neighbors.

All the fuss was the farthest thing from what Miller wanted. "We built this house a year and a half ago with the idea of selling it, but we were unable to get in our other offices."

Miller promises that by January 10, 1977, a date set by the Zoning Administrator's office, Cathedralite will vacate its offices from the premises, hopefully to larger quarters. The house, meanwhile, will be put on the market for \$85,000, which might shoot down the

theory that domed houses are less expensive.

They are less expensive to build, Miller asserts, because there is less surface area. Also, many dome owners do the finishing themselves, using one of a variety of kits that Cathedralite sells. There are additional savings in time, heating costs and materials, along with the soaring, "cathedral-like" effect of the skylight interiors.

"We've made Santa Cruz the dome capital of the world," Miller proudly states of his \$2.5 million business. While most of the projects are sold to out-of-area home builders, there are currently five domes being built in the county, with about 40 others standing testimony to the popularity and efficacy of Cathedralite's designs.

Cathedralite has its sights set on foreign soil, too, with planned expansion into both Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. Miller recently returned from a Nigerian sojourn, where he huddled

with government and private officials to start dome construction there.

Back on the local scene, Miller and his partners, Barry Nottoli and Scott Hewett, are looking forward to their new

offices, which may temporarily be relocated to Larkin Valley, where another domed house is taking shape. "It's a remote place, so there should be no parking problems," smiles Miller.

"We're very sorry if we caused the neighbors any problems," Miller continues. "We consciously tried not to." But sometimes the publicity bandwagon gets the best of dome builders, too.

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