



The stark realism and minute detail manifested in the wax figure portrayal of "The Last Supper" are shown in the concerned face of the disciple Andrew and the resigned countenance of Christ.

## Biblical Tableau Marks 20th Year

Long-time Santa Cruz residents may be surprised to learn that their local religious and art treasure, "The Last Supper," is marking its 20th season at its location in the Santa Cruz Art League galleries, 526 Broadway.

The life-size wax tableau, depicting Christ and his disciples, has evoked inspiration and awe for nearly one and a half million visitors since its beginning in 1951.

While the crowds intensify

during the Easter season, the display is a year-around favorite for local persons and out-of-towners as well.

Going to view "The Last Supper" is a popular field trip for Sunday School classes and other groups.

Mrs. Nina Eskridge, curator, says many people return again and again to admire the work, or simply to meditate.

The wax figure interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's

famous painting was sculptured by two Katherine Stuberghs, mother and daughter, of Los Angeles.

It was purchased from Harry Liston, who owned a Santa Cruz-Watsonville highway.

Purchase of the work was effected through a Santa Cruz citizens' committee, including Mrs. Fred D. McPherson Sr., Dr. Ruth Ashworth and Lillian and Walter Huebner.

Among the first board of directors were Mrs. Eskridge, Mrs. Huebner, J. H. Garrett, Fred McPherson Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harry Trost, the Rev. Ed Cunningham, R. E. Cady, F. T. Roseberry, C. M. Aldrich, Mrs. Louis Jenkins and George Penniman.

Current board of directors includes Herb Cunningham, president; Melvin McRae, vice president; Mrs. May

Garrett, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Eskridge, Eugene Prolo, Fred McPherson Jr., C. M. Aldrich and Mrs. Huebner.

Entering the quiet room where "The Last Supper" is on permanent display, there is an atmosphere of reverence which moves some people to tears.

Letters to Mrs. Eskridge, as well as comments in the visitors' book, verify the impact which many viewers experience.

The figures, table setting and background are so rich in detail it takes more than one visit to fully appreciate its artistry.

There never has been an admission fee, but a box is available for donations.

The gallery is open daily, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

—B.B.

**CAPITOLA  
YARDAGE**

DOWNTOWN CAPITOLA 475-9931