

by the mother from the complainant.

Oh, the misery that some people know.

Courthouse

Old Courthouse Put Up For Sale

8-27-69

Fate continued to take a closer grip on the county's old Cooper Street courthouse Tuesday, as county supervisors put the building up for sale.

The board called for bids beginning at \$90,000 to be opened September 16 for purchase of the 75-year-old structure as it stands.

It wasn't a final decision to sell, but it was close to it. Supervisors had little to say about a letter from Lillian Huebner, backed by 98 persons, asking the county to turn the courthouse into an art center and downtown meeting place.

They also had little to say about selling the property to the City of Santa Cruz, though the minimum price was within the range talked about by city and county committees.

"We promised the city the first right of refusal and they refused it," Supervisor Dan Forbus noted.

Nevertheless, the county board will have until September 30 to decide whether it wants to sell the building as it is, tear it down and sell the vacant land, or possibly keep it. Bids to tear down the building are good until September 30.

A committee which included Supervisors Russ McCallie and Forbus recommended a minimum sale price of \$107,000 if the county tears the building down, since demolition would cost the county \$17,000.

The committee also said the bids to purchase could include a three month lease-purchase arrangement, for an option price of \$1500, with a provision to renew the purchase option for \$500 a month up to three extra months.

Supervisor Ralph Sanson opposed the county's minimum purchase price of \$90,000 for building and land, calling it too low. He noted an independent appraiser hired by the county and the city had set the price at \$100,000. "It may be as much as \$20,000 low," Sanson declared. "Someone might be getting a very good deal."

Forbus told Sanson the price is low because it would cost the county more to demolish the structure. Sanson pointed out the county also is offering to pay a \$10,000 assessment for the Santa Cruz mall project, and commented that the mall may very well raise the value of the property.

Fellow supervisors outvoted Sanson 3 to 1 on the sale. However, a later check of the law by Assistant County Counsel Mike Johnston showed at least four of the five supervisors must vote to sell county property, so the vote was blocked. McCallie was absent from the meeting at the time.

Sanson changed his vote to approve the sale, after wryly commenting that McCallie would undoubtedly cast the deciding vote anyway if he returned, so opposition was useless.