

AUG 19 1983

Man with 'miracle' bank account sentenced

Crime & Criminals 1980-89
SANTA CRUZ — Stanton Powers, the man who claimed he ~~meditated on~~ fame and fortune and was rewarded with an ever-growing bank account, was sentenced today to 15 days in County Jail and ordered to perform 750 hours of community service.

Powers, 40, was convicted by a jury in July of one felony count of grand theft for taking \$2,080 from County Bank's automated teller machines.

Superior Court Judge Harry Brauer, in imposing the sentence, said, "In view of his (Powers') delicate mental health and his absence of prior criminal record, I will impose a jail sentence far less than I normally would for this offense."

Brauer followed the recommendations of the probation office in ordering Powers to perform 750 hours of voluntary service for the community, placing him on five years of probation and imposing strict conditions of probation.

These conditions include orders that Powers make restitution monthly to County Bank (approximately \$50 per month), stay away from bars, abstain from alcohol and seek counseling. Also, Powers is to take the medications prescribed to him.

The jail sentence will be delayed one week to give Powers time to put personal business in order.

Powers' attorney, Lisa Martin, told the court Powers has been doing volunteer

work for the Elderday Senior Center and Girl Scouts. She presented a letter from a director of the senior center, saying Powers' work has been so good that he may be offered a paying job after his volunteer hours are completed.

Brauer cautioned Powers to "understand how extraordinarily lenient this sentence is in view of the amount of money that was involved."

The judge also said he never believed the "canard" put forth by Powers and his one-time attorney, Marcello DiMauro, that Powers had prayed to God and was rewarded with \$4.4 million being placed in his bank account.

Said Brauer, "I don't believe for a

minute that even he (Powers) believed it himself."

To ensure that Powers' money from disability benefits goes toward restitution — and not alcohol or drugs — the judge ordered the Probation Department to "make sure he is living on a subsistence level."

This could be accomplished by having the restitution checks deposited directly into County Bank, suggested Brauer.

Assistant District Attorney Bob Patterson was not asking for a lot of jail time for Powers. His main concern, he had said earlier, was seeing to it that County Bank was reimbursed the money Powers owed it.