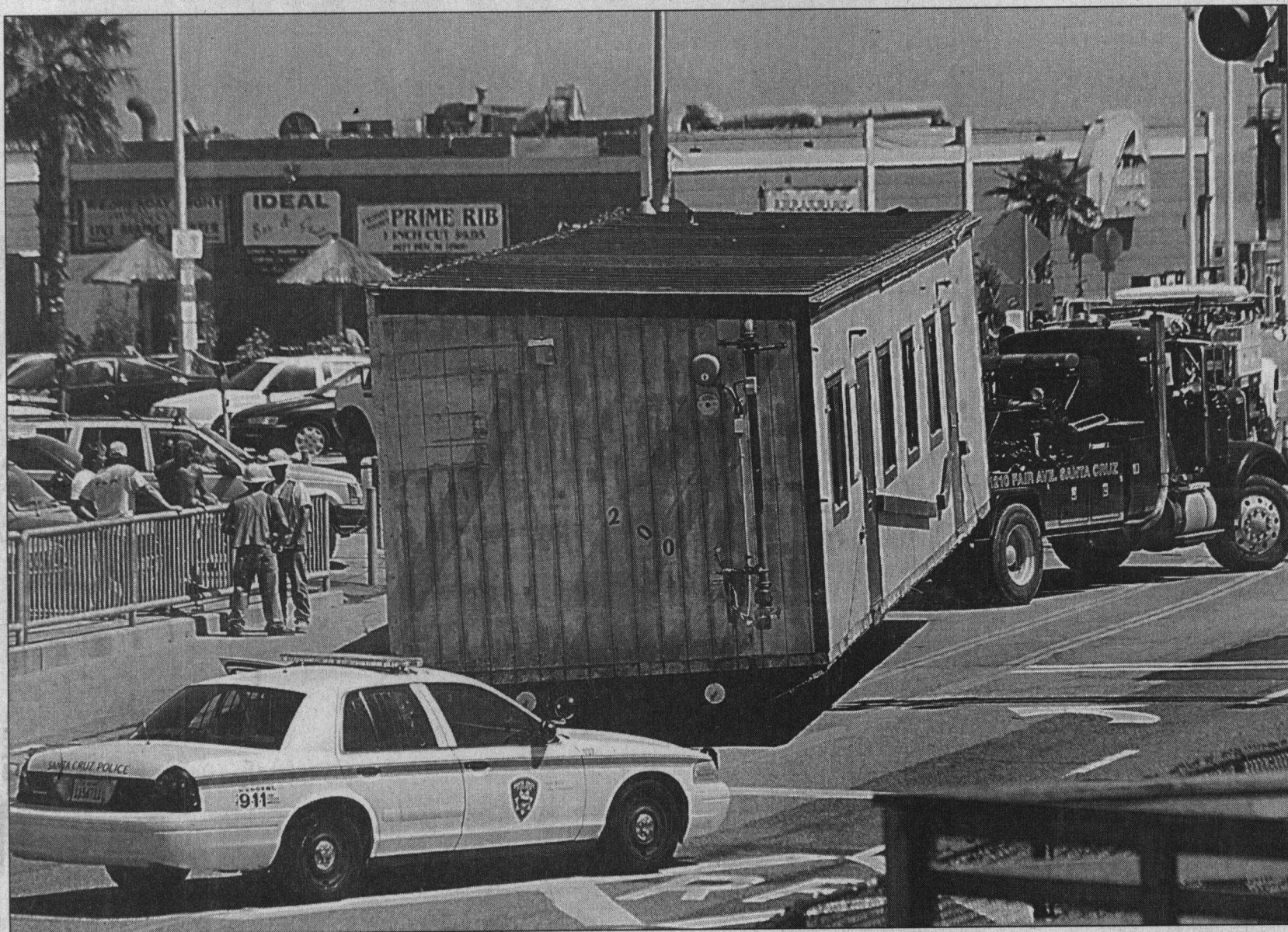


A LONG, HARD GOODBYE



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Moving crews work to negotiate beach-area streets as they move half the former Beach Flats Community Center out of the community.

Old community center's move from Beach Flats hits a few snags

By CATHY REDFERN
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — The former Beach Flats Community Center became a bit of a community headache Tuesday as it was towed, piecemeal, to the city dump, knocking out some utility wires, a parked car and any idea of a traffic-free trip to Main Beach.

The portable building was bought 10 years ago for \$50,000 as a temporary center for the neighborhood and

finally became obsolete with the February completion of the 48-unit Nueva Vista apartment complex. The low-income complex at Leibrandt Avenue and Beach Street includes a permanent home for the community center and a new child-care center.

Tuesday afternoon, two trucks laboriously pulled the split-in-two building from Beach Flats over the Riverside Avenue and Laurel Street bridges up to Bay Street en route to Highway 1 and the portable's final resting place off Dimeo Lane.

Along the way, it knocked down

some wires on San Lorenzo Boulevard and hit a parked car as police officers, who had not been warned it was moving through town, scrambled to close streets and redirect traffic to let it pass safely.

"It's unfortunate," Lt. Colleen McMahon said. "Anything that disrupts traffic is not the perfect way."

Malissa Kaping, of the city's purchasing department, said the city had hoped to move the trailer downtown and use it as a computer training center, but found that the floor and siding were worn out.

She said the materials are recyclable. Meanwhile, those who hang out at the new and improved center are just glad to have a permanent home.

"It's beautiful," said Laura Scribner, who supervises the Beach Flats and Loudon Nelson community centers. "We're happy to be here."

The Nueva Vista project was built by Mercy Housing California with \$8 million from the city's Redevelopment Agency.

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