



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Arnold Wechter

## Sentinel News Editor Arnold Wechter retires

SANTA CRUZ — Arnold B. Wechter, long-time Sentinel news editor, has retired after more than 35 years with the newspaper.

His retirement was announced today by Sentinel Editor Bruce McPherson. At the same time, McPherson announced that Mel Bowen, also a long-time Sentinel staffer, has been named wire editor.

Wechter, 62, joined The Sentinel staff as a student reporter in 1949, and became a full-time staff member the next year.

Said McPherson, "Arnold Wechter has been a major contributor to improving the Sentinel for some time. His professionalism both as a writer and an editor will be missed. At this point, all we can say is we were very fortunate to have his services for 35 years."

He has been news editor since

1963, and was city editor from 1957 to 1963. Before that, he was The Sentinel's sports editor.

First as city editor, and then as news editor, Wechter has had considerable influence over every aspect of The Sentinel's news coverage. For nearly 30 years, it was Wechter who decided what stories ran on the front page — and which didn't.

Marty Thompson, San Francisco bureau chief for the Associated Press, said today, "Arnold got into the business back when pay was low and people did it because they loved the news. Times have changed, and editors have changed, and even though Arnold now works on a computer, he has kept his love of the news. We have looked to Arnold over the years for good story ideas and for his comments on how the news is covered. His

instincts are particularly sharp."

His co-workers were mindful of his instincts — even when they didn't agree. His disagreements with co-editors were as legendary as they were short-lived. "I've never minded arguing over a story with Arnold," Sentinel City Editor Tom Honig said today. "I might not agree with him, but I always respected his judgment and knew that the disagreement would never last after deadline."

Added Thompson: "Make sure you say this. He's a great guy."

Wechter first came to The Sentinel in 1949 as a student reporter from San Jose State. After spending his first seven years as sports editor, he continued covering sports events — primarily San Jose State football — for the next 28 years.

He also wrote weekly columns on boating and on automotive matters; his accounts of automobile test-drives will continue to be published. They will be included in the Business section of the Sentinel on Sundays.

In addition to his association with The Sentinel and the newspaper business, Wechter is active with the Santa Cruz Yacht Club, having once served as commodore.

Bowen has been Wechter's as-



Mel Bowen

sistant for the better part of 10 years.

He was sports editor for 10 years, having succeeded Wechter in that job. He left The Sentinel in 1967, working in the industrial public relations field for four years. He became wire editor for the Salinas Californian in 1971.

Bowen returned to the Sentinel in 1975 and has served as its assistant city editor, as well as entertainment editor and business editor. Currently, Bowen is also the Sentinel's travel editor and home-garden page editor.