



Pete Amos/Sentinel

Falling trees miraculously miss houses

SANTA CRUZ — Two redwood trees in the backyard of 118 Hugus Avenue came crashing to the ground within minutes of each other shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday, miraculously missing three homes, barely damaging the eave of one, and smashing a storage shed. (See photo at left.)

Neva Van Dyke, who shares the house with her sister and brother-in-law, said they had asked the city of Santa Cruz "two or three years ago" if they could have permission to remove the trees. "They were uprooting the garage," and she said an inspector from the Parks and Recreation Department examined them, pronounced them 'safe' and refused to give them permission to remove the trees "because they were redwoods" Van Dyke said.

She said they had to tear the garage down and build a carport farther back on the driveway to accommodate the trees, and had them trimmed. The owners of the home, May and Milo Carlin, are on vacation in Reno, according to Van Dyke.