

Government Center 11-21-67 A Shakedown Cruise For County

By Wallace Wood
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Clockwatchers excepted, most county employees seemed pleased as punch with their new quarters yesterday, giving the new Governmental Center the air of a cruise ship coming into a new port.

The lack of clocks anywhere in the five-story office building (they have them in the courts building) and an unfamiliar telephone system are drawbacks which probably won't be felt until workers settle into their routine.

Otherwise, the massive task of moving tons of files, records, and equipment from the county's old, scattered quarters went "exceptionally well," County Administrative Officer Carl Millar said. He added that clocks will be selected and installed later.

The wake behind the move was felt strongly and immediately by commercial-minded Pacific Avenue yesterday, which was the street most employees went to for coffee breaks, luncheon shopping, or purchasing odds and ends during the day.

Major offices in the old PG&E building and old telephone building were left empty yesterday.

Drug stores, a cigar store, and coffee shop-restaurants reported an immediate and significant drop in business. Like the wake of a ship,

many of the merchants hoped it would pass, and that the customers would drift back.

The coffee breaks probably are out, however. CAO Millar said he has issued informal orders that employees in the building at Ocean and Water Streets will take their coffee in the basement cafeteria. A formal list of employee regulations was to be presented to county supervisors today.

"This operation in one building will have a terrific impact on the efficiency of government," Millar declared. "Employee morale has gone up quite a bit by getting the county family together. Contacts are more easily made and it gives employees a better opportunity to see what other departments are doing, and what county government is all about."

Millar said there were the usual number of minor problems during the move, and reporters noted that some equipment wound up in the wrong offices, and some cleanup work remained to be done. County Counsel's office became a kind of cardboard box dumping ground because it has large amounts of room.

Room, in fact, was what the county now has the most of in its new quarters. There are some offices where spaces don't fit, but partitions can be moved around as desired. "It was some-

thing we knew was going to happen," the CAO said.

Millar estimated it will be five to 10 years before the now-empty third floor is used.

The much-argued air conditioning system still had its mechanical problems yesterday, but few offices were actually uncomfortable. The sunny south side did get too warm and the north side stayed too cool. Again, county project inspector Bill Shaffer says the problems were expected and normal.

Shaffer, who is staying on at the request of architect Burton Rockwell, leaves the county when the building is finally complete.

Some of the county's furniture looked distinctly out of place in the modern quarters. A miscellaneous assortment of file cabinets of different sizes and colors occupied most offices.

A file reshuffling and repainting program to cost about \$15,000 is soon to be worked out.

One major concern of the project inspector probably will be eliminated today. This is the oak-topped surface of counters and cabinets throughout the building, which have no protective cover. Shaffer recommended glass covers for the cabinets and supervisors were asked to approve them this morning.