

Hostel



Kate McKelvey checks her feet before setting out on another day's journey.

—Staff Photos

## SANTA CRUZ REST STOP

# Open Road Leads To, From Hostel

By DON WILSON  
Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — On motorcycles, in cars, on bicycles or walking from where the car dropped them off while hitchhiking, youngsters out to see the world stop at the youth hostel here to spend the night.

Some awaken sleepy-eyed and reluctant in the morning, not willing or ready to face the world. But by 8 a.m. the doors of the hostel close and don't open again until 8 p.m.

The rules allow a traveler to spend two nights at the hostel, so some of the youngsters come back again.

But a lot of them head for the open road and somewhere else.

Like Peter Bellamy and Brock Dunsdy, who set out hitchhiking from Montreal, Canada, a month ago and are headed for "New Mexico, or just about anywhere that's sunny and warm."

They, like the dozen or so other young people, paid their 75 cents each for a night's lodging and a breakfast in the morning. But they weren't too happy about it.

"This isn't the best hostel we've seen in the country," Bellamy said as Dunsdy nodded "and the others only charge 50-cents." Then Dunsdy added, "And some places they give you supper as well as breakfast, and don't limit you to two nights."

But Kate McKelvey disagreed.

"This hostel is great," she said.

And Bellamy grinned and

said, "Well, it is right next to the beach."

Kate said, it's so much better than before. The night before some friends put us up at the college. But they had to sneak us in and hide us all night. It was a hassle. And the night before that we were at the Mission House in San Francisco. In comparison, this is a luxury hotel."

Kate said she's traveling with a boy about her own age, "just for convenience." She's heading for Arizona, then New Mexico and up through Colorado and eventually to Chicago. The young man she's with will head south when they get to Arizona, because he's going to Mexico.

Others who climb off the mattresses on the floor of Marellio High School near West Cliff Drive were less ready to talk. Some simply put their belongings into their backpacks, rolled up their sleeping bags and walked out.

Some helped straighten things up before they left.

Most stopped at the table set up outside and had a couple of slices of whole wheat bread with peanut butter and a banana or an apple for breakfast.

Those who had come in cars or bicycles or motorcycles put their belongings on them and headed for wherever they were doing. Few had any plans or any definite destination.

A few were concerned about the time.

Kate McKelvey had been on the road for six days and was unconcerned about how long it might take to get to Chicago.

She and other young women filled out questionnaires offered to them by Wanda Moser, one of the proctors, who oversees the hostel at night. Wanda, a student at the University of California here, said she's not very happy about the results of the questions.

"I had hoped," she said, "that there might be some correlation about women traveling alone, as compared with traveling with some guy or some other woman, with the women's movement. But there doesn't seem to be any."

Is there, perhaps, some significance in the fact that at least of all the travelers are women?

"Maybe," said Wanda thoughtfully; "Maybe just the fact that they're on the road at all is significant."

She's working on a research paper for a psychology class.

And, meanwhile, the hostel is not quite breaking even with its 75-cents a night fee, and must be subsidized by such local agencies as the City Council and the Board of Supervisors.

It's director, Rhonda Levine, is looking for a permanent home for the hostel — since the reopening of school in September will force the hostel out of the classrooms where it now operates.

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early morning departure is in store for Kate McKelvey, who packs up her gear