

## Weather Report

Temperatures for 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. yesterday. Maximum, 65; minimum, 48. For 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today: Maximum, 77; minimum, 53.

Monterey Bay Area—Fair through tomorrow. Warmer today. Low both nights 45 to 50. High today 65-75. Northwest wind 10 to 15 knots afternoons.

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

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FORTY-FOUR PAGES

## Woodsman Vince Refused To Heed Pleas To Save Those Trees

By Wally Trabing  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Boy, is Vincent Locatelli ever in hot water with the tree people.

It is not too clear what exactly happened.

The landscaping firm of Royston, Hanamoto, Mayes and Beck are preparing the courthouse landscaping around the existing large old trees.

There was Supervisor Vincent Locatelli standing on the site Friday and then there was this big Caterpillar sitting around, and all of a sudden there was Vincent Locatelli sitting on the Caterpillar, pulling levers and pushing peddals and when all the clatter ended, three large trees had fallen, a walnut, an avocado and a fir!

Well, where does one start when there are so many people fit to be tied?

Dr. Carl Nelson, director of the Redevelopment Agency said:

"He had no legal right to kill those trees.

"It was premeditated, illegal destruction of public property—a violation of the contract with the Redevelopment Agency!

"That walnut tree had a 48-foot spread!" he said.

Landscape architect Robert Royston of Mill Valley, said:

"This is an outrageous act! It is completely contrary to the advice of this office.

"The entire concept of the courthouse landscaping was built around those trees and others. Such irony that one man can destroy the work of many, many months!!

"He had no right to do that without consulting our forester. We were counting on their growth until the

young new trees would come into size—about 10 years.

"In terms of what we can do now, the cost is not less than \$50,000 to replace that effect! Outrageous!"

Landscape architect Roy Rydell, a member of SCOPE, said that "these trees are valued by the thousands of dollars."

"SCOPE wanted to take another look to check their condition. I think this is wanton destruction," said Rydell.

The tree slayer was called.

Supervisor Vincent Locatelli, said: "Aaaw heck, they were all ol' half dead trees.

"That walnut was dead at the top and I think it was a seedling anyway."

Yes, he started up a caterpillar at the site and headed for the trees and "BAAAAM." "It only took 15 minutes—half hour," he drawled.

"Y'know, by removin' that ol' walnut we have six more parking places.

"I'm gonna get a cork tree. Me and Tom Kelley (County Clerk Tom Kelley) got a cork tree and we'll get prisoners to move it over near where the walnut tree stood. It's 20 feet high!" he said.

Yes, he said he knocked down a Douglas fire. "You can't doctor a rotten fir. I had a logger with me."

The avocado tree?

Yes, he bumped that over too.

"Oh, it was an ol' half dead avocado. Burton was there and he had a great landscape architect out of Los Gatos and he (the architect) said the avocado tree was half dead."

I'm gonna put more trees in there."

"Where'd you hear about this thing, anyway?"