

Trabing

# Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing



If, with a weird, low hum, a time machine could focus its lense on Santa Cruz county's past, in terms of millions of years ago, what might you see?

No, not the county court house!

John C. Kepper, geology instructor at Cabrillo college, has an educated imagination about what a time machine might see.

So has Berry Alan Kite, Cabrillo anthropology instructor.

**During the past 4000 to 5000 years the area has remained relatively unchanged.**

Man in this spot has been traced back to at least 3000 years. Indian mounds around San Francisco bay have been scientifically given this age.

\* \* \* \* \*

But the time machine is barely warming.

The earliest trace of humans in North America, according to Kite, was found near Las Vegas. Bones, definitely cave man material, have been dated back to 30,000 years. (Archaeologists have no way of knowing whether or not he was a gambling man.)

**Kite said that the earliest man migrated down from northern Alaska.**

Why hasn't trace of early man been found in the Santa Cruz area?

Well, Kepper believes that 20,000 to 30,000 years ago the sea covered where you are now sitting.

Santa Cruz, Aptos, Soquel, Rio del Mar, Watsonville, sit on broad terraces that were sea bottoms at one time. These terraces bounce up like three giant steps to the upper foothills of the Santa Cruz mountains, and all were under water.

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However, Kepper said, there are indications which point to Ben Lomond mountain as being an island 60 to 70 millions of years ago.

The Empire Grade area was also probably out of water. It contains the oldest rocks in the area, dating back some 90 million years, according to Kepper. Igneous rock is found here, rocks formed from molten masses from within the earth.

If these local areas were islands as far back as 100 million years, they were far at sea, for Kepper said the sea extended inland over most of California to the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas.

Kepper said fossils of single celled marine animals 75 to 100 million years old have been found near the Pigeon point light house.

\* \* \* \* \*

You've probably read in the paper of the ancient sea cow fossil found a couple of weeks ago in a Zayante sand quarry, dating back some 25 million years.

Kepper said teeth from a Mammoth, and huge hairy extinct elephant which apparently roamed this area during the Pleistocene and Ice age periods sometime during the past million years, were found a few years ago in an excavation along Mission street.

**It is very common to find fossilized rock along the present seashore.**

Kepper said the present coast range is slowly rising and our area is slowly moving northward, one or two inches a year.

Some geologists say the total movement has covered about 300 miles over umteen millions of years.

Which means, heaven forbid, that Santa Cruz was once Los Angeles.

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## SOQUEL HIGH SCHOOL

### BOOSTERS MEET TONIGHT

The Soquel High School Boosters club will meet at 7:30 tonight at the school faculty dining room, president Gary Jones has announced. All parents of Soquel students and friends of the school are urged to attend.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING