

10-7-71 Green Sheet Boys' Club  
**Santa Cruz' lucky windfall**

By MARY BARNETT

How would you like to belong to a club that provided you with an indoor-outdoor swimming pool, library, gymnasium, showers, dressing room, billiards, ping pong, library, craft room, dark room, snack bar, kitchen, seasonal sports, varied recreational programs and congenial friends — all for \$2.50 a year?

Adults would have a hard time finding such a bargain, but it's available to Santa Cruz County boys from Aptos north to Davenport at the Boys' Club of Santa Cruz.

And if a boy doesn't have the \$2.50, it's no problem. Just a word to a staff member, and he can arrange to do a few chores to earn the membership. Not a word will be said about it.

This recreational bonanza for boyhood is provided through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Mallery and through annual donations to the United Fund of Northern Santa Cruz County.

The late John T. Mallery, who died in 1967, was a San Francisco hotelman. He and his wife, who survives him, spent much of their time in Santa Cruz, and two of their children went through school there.

They wanted to do something for the community. In 1965, they established the Boys Club of Santa Cruz, with a \$1 million endowment fund. It was the Mallerys who provided the funds for the building at 543 Center St., valued at \$450,000. The Mallery endowment fund pays most of the operating cost of \$65,000 a year.

A minor portion of the costs is provided from the \$2.50 annual membership fee paid by the approximately 1,000 members. The United Fund of Northern Santa Cruz County will give the Boys Club \$14,150 next year if it meets its \$128,500 goal.

Mrs. Mallery maintains her interest in the club, and when she is in Santa Cruz she drops by every day or two to see what is going on. Right now, she is on a trip around the world. The boys are following her travels with cellophane tape on a map in the club auditorium.

Without the Mallery endowment, there would probably be no Boys Club in Santa Cruz, but the community as a whole rallied around the project through the efforts of one Ernest Damkroger.



Gary Ware helps George Heim assemble a model airplane at the club.

United Fund for 20 years; and now, at 77, devotes his remarkable energies to the Boys Club.

The first board of directors of the Boys Club was formed in 1965, and two years were spent on the preliminaries. Then, in 1967, work started on the clubhouse. Labor union members donated their services. Members of service clubs also pitched in. And

spent seven in Santa Barbara and 13 in Fullerton.

The local club is a member of a national organization, the Boys Clubs of America, but Fankouser emphasized that each club has complete autonomy.

"The only thing common to the Boys Clubs is the name," he said.

in Brooklyn, it might be wonderful.

Summing up his concept of the Boys' Club, Fankouser said, "We would like boys to think of the Boys Club as a great place they can go when there's nothing else to do."

The idle hours are the dangerous hours in boyhood, Fankouser said.

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After 32 years in community service work in Hawaii, Damkroger 21 years ago retired to his native Santa Cruz and immediately plunged into community service work there. He was executive director of the

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The executive director of the Boys Club is Bill Fankhouser, a veteran of 25 years in Boys Club work. He is going into his sixth year at the Santa Cruz club, and

"The only thing common to the Boys Clubs is the name," he said. "Each is supposed to determine the needs of the community, and serve its particular needs."

For example, he feels a camping program might be hard to justify in Santa Cruz County, with its beaches and mountains right in the boys' backyards. But

hours in boyhood, Fankhouser said.

"It's in his unplanned time that a boy generally gets into difficulty," he added. "This is the reason we're open six days a week. We have a daily program available. A boy can always be absorbed."

"He knows he's going to be greeted at the door by a guy who's going to be tickled to death to see him, and to listen to him. He knows he can always find a friendly ear."

Some people are dubious about the pool tables at the Boys Club, thinking they will somehow lead boys into idle and dissolute ways. But Fankhouser is all for pool tables.

"A pool table is the greatest piece of equipment you could have for a youngster," he said. "It incorporates excitement, color, and it has staying power. Few activities have such staying power. I don't know anything better for hand-eye coordination. I've watched some amazing things happen to boys over a pool table."

A grey-haired woman bustled by, asking for the disinfectant. Damkroger introduced her as Fankhouser's mother, Mrs. Edna Fankhouser, who "donates 70 hours a week to the Boys Club as a volunteer."

"Nonsense," said Mrs. Fankhouser. "It's hardly ever over 45."

## Outing Saturday

Bicycle enthusiasts will meet at Soquel High School Saturday at 8:15 a.m. for a 20 to 25 mile bicycle outing sponsored by the Santa Cruz Regional Sierra Club.

Ten-speed bicycles are advised. The group will travel up Old San Jose Road, south along Summit Road, with a side trip into the Forest of Nisene Marks

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Water baseball is one of the activities that takes place in the club's swimming pool.