

# Historic Mountain Church To 'Dig'

Back in the 1880's, cash, labor and land were donated by residents of Skyland and Highland areas high in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Land for the church was donated by Judge George Miller; the building program was sparked in 1887 by a Rev. Mitchell. Skyland Community church was the result.

By 1902, the thriving little village of Skyland consisted of post office, general store, Highland School, a winery, the F. Lawrence Box Mill, Skyland Church, Hotel Miltonmount, Hotel De Redwood, and many attractive homes. San Francisco families spent their summers there and the fruit and grape industries were famed nation-wide.

Early church records were lost but worship services were carried on by the Presbyterian church until 1920. After World War II the church building was in poor condition but a continuing series of Harvest Festivals provided — and still provide — funds for repairs. In 1945 a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, paid up the mortgage and presented the property to the community.

Visiting ministers conducted services until 1964 when Dr. John Hochstatter was named pastor of the church.

Whitaker Hall, a recreation



Historic Skyland Community Church, located in Highland District of Santa Cruz County, needs a new water supply. A pancake breakfast tomorrow will raise funds for the project. Serving will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited.

and social hall, was built in 1964-65. The Sunday School addition was constructed by men of the church in 1960. Present membership is approximately 60.

Latest project up at the church "on top of the mountains" is drilling a new well to alleviate a water shortage due

to increased membership and church activities. First fundraising event is a pancake breakfast tomorrow, at the church.

As usual, folks up in Skyland are rallying to work together for their community's good.

**Margaret Koch**  
Church Editor