



Mike McCollum

Yesterday, Joseph Lucas, left center, and Bill Lentfer, both of Santa Cruz, steady the tent supports as Barry Cruse of Montana works at the top and two other workers look on.

Another kind of tent city rises in Santa Cruz

By CHELA ZABIN
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Through Saturday's heat and Sunday's fog, some 200 members of local trade unions volunteered their labor to raise seven huge tents in the parking lots along Cedar Street behind the Pacific Garden Mall in Santa Cruz.

The tents, or Phoenix Pavilions, as they're called, will provide about 30 of the displaced downtown merchants with 35,000 square feet in which to sell their wares. One pavilion will be dedicated solely to restaurants and food concessions. The tents, 5,000 square feet each, will all have light and heat.

Early Saturday morning, hard-hat-wearing crews of men and women, some wearing brightly colored T-shirts with "Phoenix Pavilion, 35,000 square feet in two days," embossed on the front, scurried to assemble the long aluminum frames that hold up the tents. Crews were roughly organized by union locals, and signs designating which locals were at work were posted on nearby fences. In back of them, wrecking crews were at work taking down the downtown.

"Hopefully we'll get some paid work at some point," said Jonathan Boutelle, former president of the Carpenters Union Santa Cruz Local 829 and one of the

main organizers of the tent mall, "but now's not the time to go for it."

Boutelle said originally he and other union representatives had agreed to volunteer labor to put up a 5,000-square-foot metal building to house some of the businesses, but when he heard that the business people were close to a deal on the pavilions, he volunteered a work force to do it.

Shortly after agreeing to construct the pavilions, he went to talk to a friend, Harold Evans, of the Ironworkers Union Local 377.

"I said, 'Hal, you know that 5,000 feet we were going to construct? Well, it's grown a little.'" he said.

Boutelle praised the way everyone has worked together on the project. He also said the unions would like to be able to do the same type of thing for Watsonville, and are especially concerned with getting some type of housing built for people in South County. In fact, he said, he felt a bit bad working on the commercial structures first, but everything came together quickly, and it was obvious that the tents could be put up right away.

PJ. Warner, a member of Laborers International Local 270, had been on the job since 7:30 a.m. Saturday and was planning to work all weekend. Today, she was

REFERENCE

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