



Customers at Mt. Cap's New Creation.

Mt. Cap Thrift Store In Boulder Creek— A Place To Fill Many Needs Of People

Some Boulder Creek residents have taken the idea that their town needs a place where people can gather, shop for bargains, take classes and come for help. They have made that idea a reality in New Creation, a combination thrift store and community center in the old Burl Theater building.

New Creation is run by a group of volunteers called Mt. Cap, explained Judi Gremminger, one of the originators of the novel idea. Mt. Cap stands for Mountain Community Assistance Project.

"Mt. Cap, or at least the idea of reaching out to neighbors to help meet some basic needs, came to fruition several months ago," Gremminger explained. "A group of Christians of various denominations looked around and saw hurting people and wanted to do something to help."

The group came up with the idea to hold a huge flea market in the old theater building, which had come up for lease about three months ago. This would not only provide money for those wishing to get rid of goods, but would provide inexpensive goods for those who were struggling financially.

"Within five weeks, donations of clothing and goods had filled up the entire first floor of the huge building and it became a thrift shop," Grem-

mingler related.

"For the last few months, most of our resources and energy have gone toward making the thrift store self-supporting. The work is done entirely by volunteers and the support of the project has been subsidized by donations from concerned people in the community."

Mt. Cap now has received its non-profit status, so all donations to the thrift store are tax deductible. Any profit from the sale of goods will go toward community projects designed to help the needy.

The group already has lent a helping hand to a professional woman who found herself destitute and living out of her car because a government check she was expecting hadn't arrived.

"The thrift store is going to fund projects," Mt. Cap member Stella Browne explained. "For instance, we want to be a resource center and a place where people can come, for instance, if their house burns down or if they can't afford clothes. In cases like that, we'll give things for free."

While the entire downstairs section of the vast theater building is filled with thrift store items from clothing to household goods, the upstairs portion is nearly empty. But, Mt. Cap members have great plans for the

spacious upstairs section.

Gremminger pointed to a comfortably furnished office area upstairs which the group hopes to use as a counseling area for those who need guidance. There's also a space which the group plans to use for pre-school speech and language screening.

Youngsters already are using a corner of the upstairs area for after-school tutoring.

But the big plans for the upstairs area involve community classes. Gremminger will start out this summer by offering what she calls Crafsplosion for adults.

This eight-week course will begin June 18 and will include classes in stained glass, dough art, banner making and applique, candy making and music application.

Summer classes for children also are being planned, as well as music nights for young adults.

So, as Gremminger and Browne point out, those involved in Mt. Cap see the old theater becoming much more than just a thrift store. They hope it becomes a gathering spot that many San Lorenzo Valley residents consider a home away from home.

Anyone desiring to volunteer time to the project or who has any donations of goods or money should call



Stella Browne sells used women's clothing. 338-2164 for more information.