

Chamber Is Santa Cruz' Own Almanac

By Alan Pugh
Sentinel Staff Writer

About 5000 letters a year are received by the Greater Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce with a variety of requests ranging from the usual "I would like to have information on your city and community," on up—or down, as the case may be—to oddities such as the one reporting "radiation almost killed me on my visit there."

Don Fultz, chamber manager, who screens such letters, said the "odd ones are in a vast minority, but their oddity makes them stand out." Sort of like a bad apple in a barrel of good ones.

Fultz and Mrs. Hazel Cleveland, office secretary who answers all such inquiries, declare the vast reams of letters could tell a story much more

interesting than any fiction.

Mrs. Cleveland picked out a letter written in a shaky, old-style penmanship. The writer asked for information on housing "for two or three days. It will have to be near the beach, because I do not drive, and it can't be too expensive."

"I can just see the nice, little old lady writing that—looking forward to a brief vacation here," Mrs. Cleveland said. At the other end of the letter-writing category, Fultz drew out a secretary-typed business letter from an industrialist asking about possible industrial sites. "One the antithesis of the other," Fultz said.

At times, Mrs. Cleveland finds herself called on to perform the duties of a detective agency. Take for instance the letter from an Oakland attorney.

"I would like to have the following information," he wrote.

"Is Henry Garrett still living? . . . Who is the pastor of the First Methodist church? . . . Is E. W. Field still with The Sentinel? . . . Is Mable Wheeler still a secretary at the chamber of commerce?" The writer explained he and his wife lived in Santa Cruz some 40 years ago.

Mrs. Cleveland, after some calling around, answered all of his questions.

Another that had her almost stymied was one from Long Beach. It read in part: "We are trying to find our first cousin, Georgie Davies Costa. Her name is not Georgia and we do not know the first name of her husband . . ." The writer added he had received a list of "Costas" from the telephone company, "but there was no Georgia."

"But here is the best yet," he said, and handed over a letter on which a boy's picture had been pasted.

"Thank you for the information on your county. And I am a boy, not a girl." The youngster continued his thanks and signed: "Kris (a boy, not a girl) see . . ." and an arrow pointed to the boy's picture.

Mrs. Cleveland said the folder mailed to him must have been addressed "Miss Kris . . ."

Another type of thank you letter in Mrs. Cleveland's file is the one from Westmount, N. Y. "Thank you for your prompt answer in regard to me father-in-law. I am very glad he is cared for."

Fultz said he knew the name "Greater Santa Cruz" took in a lot of territory for the chamber of commerce, but one San Diego man apparently had an idea the

chamber's range was state-wide.

The writer asked for information "as to a small town of about 500 population named Opal. It is supposed to be near the Opal range of mountains and is visited by rock hunters for its semi-precious stones."

Mrs. Cleveland "farmed" that letter out to a Santa Cruz rockhound and shortly was able to answer that Opal is between Barstow and the Mohave on U.S. 91.

One lady wrote that she enjoyed camp meetings here some years ago and wondered if there are any going on in July or August.

A man wrote that his wife was suffering from emphysema and wanted to know the pollen count. "We asked the county health department and shot that information back to him," Fultz said.

"We are tempted," the chamber manager declared, "when we get a letter asking send us all available material on Santa Cruz."

"It would take the library to furnish all available information and it would take a lifetime to read," Fultz said.

And there always is the "name dropper."

A letter from Sarasota, Fla., asked for information on Santa Cruz and then continued that the writer was the son of so and so, a big-time hotel operator in Florida.

"He got the same treatment as anyone else, big name or not," Fultz said, and then, in true chamber of commerce style, he amended:

"I mean, he got the same excellent, A-1 treatment we give everyone else."



Chamber manager Don Fultz and office secretary Hazel Cleveland go over just one week's pile of mail requests that come into the Greater Santa Cruz Chamber of Com-

merce office. Some 2214 had been received up to June 30 this year, and the annual average will be well above 5000.

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No Jobless Insurance

Los Angeles (AP) — The District Court of Appeal has ruled that union members are not entitled to unemployment insurance if they force their employer into a lockout.

The decision yesterday, described as unprecedented, reversed a State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board ruling

in a case involving Coast Packing company. The ruling had been upheld in Superior Court.

Justice Mildred Lillie, writing the decision, said:

"An employee is entitled to compensation if he is prevented from working through no act of his own."

Areas Need Common Interests

By Toni McKay

"The areas in a Congressional district need a common interest in order to give the representative a chance to voice the needs of the majority of the people with as little conflict as possible."

That is the opinion State Senator Donald Grunsky (R-Watsonville) voiced at the Santa Cruz board of Realtors luncheon yesterday at Facelli's.

According to Senator Grunsky, when the state legislature tried to reapportion the Senate as ordered by the federal court, too many areas were divided so that

Parking Committee Study za Withdrawal Authorized

op," Adams explained. He said restrictions of the rede-

ing that these businessmen did so at their own discretion, not

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Mrs. Cleveland declared there "almost wasn't a Mrs. Cleveland," so hard did she work in attempting to unravel the mystery. What she did do was dig into the city directory and forward what information was available there.

When school starts, Fultz and Mrs. Cleveland can almost follow the course of study around the state. "As each school opens its books to California, we begin to get letters asking for information on Santa Cruz. School children seek chamber folders with which to complete their notebooks."

The kids are quite polite . . . They write "thank you letters," Fultz said and pulled a few of them from his file.

"I am sure I will get an 'A' on my book because of the beautiful material you sent," one student wrote. "Thank you very much for being so prompt," another said .

Fultz sat back and laughed.