

# Department Stores Leask's \$900,000- Plus Expansion Nearly Complete

## Sentinel

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### Pacific Store Stays Open During Work



Cosmetics section has been expanded at Leask's to provide greater selections.

Completion of Leask's \$900,000-plus expansion program on the Pacific Avenue Garden Mall is virtually complete, according to Samuel Leask III, managing partner of one of the county's oldest family-owned businesses.

Some 9,500 additional square feet of space are now in use to provide Christmas shoppers more choices on what to give family and friends this Yuletide season.

To get that space, Leask's bought the former World Savings and Loan building adjoining it, then integrated the two floors into the store's sales and display area.

Two other buildings between World Savings and the Locust Street corner were bought also by Leask's, but these were leased for the foreseeable future to Pacific Pantries and Apothecaries.

The store expansion was designed by Chaix and Johnson of Los Angeles, one of the foremost store designers of today, Leask said.

And crowds in the store are taking time out to notice more spacious surroundings, new carpeting and tile, the bigger, more diverse displays . . . and saying they like the improvements.

"Reaction has been tremendous, just tremendous," Leask said Friday. "We are extremely pleased with it."

The first floor renovation included shift of a greatly expanded men's store to what used to be the main floor of the savings and loan building. Numerous lines of men's clothing and furnishings were added.

On the second floor of the savings and loan building was placed an expanded boys' and girls' shop. Cuts through the walls of the two buildings were made to effect interior passage from the popular Fashion Village on the second floor of the original store into the shop for the youngsters.

Then on the main floor of the store there was a complete remodeling and refixturing. Here, the sportswear, accessory, hosiery, cosmetics departments were expanded. All this with the store staying open.



Luggage and leather goods section in Leask's expanded and remodeled pioneer store on Pacific Avenue.

Staying open while important remodelings or expansions are in progress is an old Leask's tradition, the records show.

Samuel Leask and his partner, Johnston, bought the store in 1892 at the present site. Leask bought out Johnston in 1896 and built the main part of the present store in 1906. Until that construction was done, Leask sold goods for a short time at another location.

Then came a series of building purchases and expansions with business in progress as usual. Today's stationary store and loading zone, along with executive offices above, are really housed in a building on Church Street that served for years as a fire station for the city.

That was in 1938, when expansion without closing the store was accomplished and the buildings integrated by wall cutthroughs.

There were other remodelings in 1926, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1971. That 1971 expansion was into a Locust Street property where The Sentinel offices and printing plant were located.

This latest expansion came at only the second time in the store's 85-year history when three generations of the Leask family are involved in its operation: Leask's father, Samuel Leask Jr., and Leask's son, Samuel Leask IV. Also involved in the family ownership are

Haswell T. Leask and Sherwood R. Leask, brothers of Samuel Leask Jr.

The Santa Cruz store operates two branches in the Rancho Del Mar Shopping Center in Aptos: the Mid-County Branch and the Rancho Corral Branch.

### Watsonville Firm Gets Cabrillo Bid

G.W. Davis Construction of Watsonville was awarded the low bid of \$467,700 for construction of the new Public Services Building at Cabrillo College.

Construction on the structure is due to start Dec. 15.

The building is part of the Cabrillo Occupational Training Center, and the center's Joint Powers Board recommended granting the bid. The Cabrillo Governing Board made the actual award.

The building will house police, fire, forestry and wildlife management programs. It is due for completion by next summer.

Funds for the project come from \$800,000 set aside by the Economic Development Administration. The rest of the funds will be used for furnishings and equipment. Architect Mel Calendar had estimated a bid award of \$550,000.

### General Says Reserves Needed

DALLAS (AP) — The United States' military reserve, needed to maintain a war effort until the draft could be reinstated, is about 400,000 soldiers short of the needed number, says the U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

"The active Army, now one half the size it was 10 years ago, cannot alone cope with the needs of a European defense even for a relatively short period of time," Gen. Bernard W. Rogers told the Dallas chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army Thursday.

Charges Dismissed  
PASADENA (AP) — Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer has obtained dismissal of three misdemeanor charges against him by appearing briefly in Municipal Court.

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