

Grand Jury Report No Shocker ^{1/23/64}

The 1963 Santa Cruz county grand jury final report was released at noon today, and anyone who peruses its 83 pages will find the report anything but startling.

Foreman H. Verne Jones, in his preface remarks to Superior Court Judge Charles S. Franich, about sums up the total:

"We adopted as policy that all matters brought before us, except those of a criminal nature, would first be discussed with the department head or employe involved. We found this to be a very satisfactory approach and in practically every instance this brought forth a satisfactory solution."

The major points:

1. The county health department should extract fees for performing such services as inspecting swimming pools, septic tanks and private water systems.

2. A parts man should be hired for the Brommer street equipment yard. There is \$25,000 worth of spare parts there to which 10 people have access with-

out adequate controls on how the parts are distributed.

3. The only way roads ever will be repaired in Rio del Mar is for property owners there to form some type of assessment district to get the job done themselves.

4. A thorough audit of the mental health program should be conducted and, if the audit shows the program should be continued, a more vigorous program with more aggressive leadership should be initiated.

5. Sheriff Doug James needs three more deputies and two more patrol cars to maintain adequate patrol service throughout the county.

6. A new juvenile hall is a "necessity."

7. The Aptos fire protection district "could be" in for some "trouble" in light of its expanding population.

8. The Branciforte fire protection district, on the other hand, just needs "good housekeeping."

9. And the Davenport fire district needs some expert "advice"

on how to proceed in enlarging its facilities.

10. The courthouse annex on Front street—it houses the sheriff's office and county jail—is not suitable for a jail.

Of all grand jury statements, probably the preceding one will raise the most eyebrows.

The grand jury recommends the annex site be sold. The proceeds could be used to pay for a new law enforcement complex that would include Santa Cruz city facilities to avoid duplication.

During 1963, the grand jury passed a resolution advising the board of supervisors to investigate the possibility of including a law enforcement complex in the new county courthouse - office project.

Supervisors politely answered that such just isn't in the offing now.

11. The county hospital needs a new kitchen and laundry unit. The approach to the hospital, Emeline street, should be im-

proved and extended to connect with the Pasatiempo juncture of the Santa Cruz-Los Gatos freeway.

12. The proposed, huge \$28-million Soquel creek multi-purpose dam appears to be a "desirable" project because of the long-time method suggested for paying for it.

13. A north Monterey bay water district of some type was suggested. Some small water districts now overlap and others are in extreme financial difficulty.

14. A more efficient internal audit should be set up within the county family to provide better financial controls.

15. The collections office under the county counsel's responsibility should take over collections for the health, probation and welfare departments as well as the hospital.

16. The district attorney needs another investigator to help in investigating welfare recipients suspected of fraud.

17. Welfare department salaries should be brought in line with welfare departments in other counties so Santa Cruz won't continue to lose its qualified personnel.

18. The public works department should aid in putting to work the unemployed men whose families will get welfare help this year.

19. A lay committee should be formed to figure out how to stop high school drop-outs. Also, the schools should provide more vocational training, work closer with Cabrillo college in the vocational field and get under way some industry oriented work projects for high schoolers.

20. Santa Cruz needs a new library.

21. The county planning department was "commended" for its efforts in maintaining natural beauty. Also, the department needs another planner in the office.

22. The sheriff's office was praised for "excellent" service.