



Electrical mishap blamed in clock fire

Town Clock 8-8-55
Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — A blaze that damaged portions of the Town Clock on Sunday night was caused by an overheated electrical part, investigators said Monday.

The fire caused about \$10,000 damage. It came a day after a new statue — named Collateral Damage — was dedicated beside the Town Clock on Water Street at Pacific Avenue.

The statue was a remembrance of civilian casualties of war. Investigators said there was no connection between the fire and the sculpture.

"The timing seems really suspicious, but it appears to have been nothing more than a coincidence," said Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Director Jim Lang.

Fire Chief George Lopes said the fire started in the second-story cornice of the clock, when an electrical part of a light heated up and caught fire. It quickly burned portions of the 100-year-old structure. Automatic sprinklers saved the clock.

An insurance adjuster will inspect the clock this week.