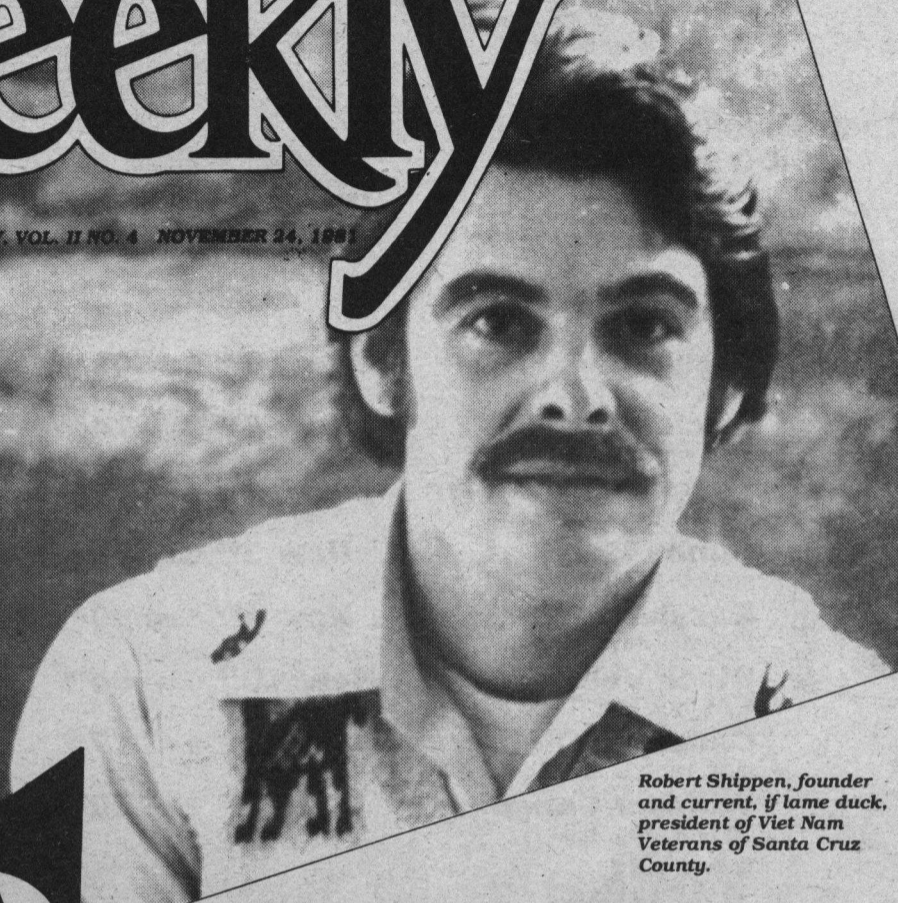


SANTA CRUZ

# Weekly

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Robert Shippen, founder and current, if lame duck, president of Viet Nam Veterans of Santa Cruz County.

## A political fire-fight on front street

GAVIN BOURNE

ON AUGUST 3, 1981 THE VIET NAM VETERANS of Santa Cruz County came into existence. It was a quiet event. Robert Shippen, the founder and current president, put the word around town that any interested Viet Nam veterans should meet at the Loudon Nelson Community Center. Twenty-eight men showed up at that first meeting. It felt good and they decided to meet again the following week.

As the group grew larger and took on a stronger sense of purpose and permanence, it was felt that they should have some sort of presence in the Veterans Memorial Hall on Front St. in Santa Cruz. It was not the first time that a Viet Nam veterans' organization had tried to do this.

Three years ago the Viet Nam Veterans Co-op had done just that. This had not been a popular move with some of the older veterans who also used the building. The Viet Nam Veterans Co-op was eventually expelled amidst accusations that non-veterans (i.e. street people from the Mall) were using the Co-op as a way of gaining access to the Vet's Hall. "Things got way out of control," one vet recalled of the Co-op.

COUNTERCULTURE  
CAPITALISM

20 YEARS AFTER

John Hummel

COUNTERCULTURE CAPITALISM: the term conjures up images of hirsute hippies dipping candles or milling redwood burls, but these are cottage industries, offering subsistence at best. The real capitalists of the Sixties were more like impresario Bill Graham, concealing behind an Aquarian lifestyle a rapacity as great as that of any robber-baron of the gilded age.

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