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Tuesday, May 8, 1973

Library Budget Okayed

A preliminary 1973 - 1974 budget of \$819,874 was approved unanimously Monday by the city and county board of library trustees.

The budget is \$40,753, or around five per cent, higher than the 1972 - 1973 budget of \$779,121.

The final budget will have to be approved both by the county board of supervisors and the Santa Cruz city council, inasmuch as the library system is operated jointly by the county and city.

"I think this is a good budget, that the library can live with it," Librarian Charles Atkins told the trustees. "I would like to have more money, of course. But in view of talks with the county budget analyst, it does not appear we could get more."

Atkins several times pointed out that under terms of Senate Bill 90, which was passed last year, neither the library nor the county can raise its tax rates.

"Under these circumstances," Atkins said, "we were forced to come in with a very close budget. It should be noted that until this year the county could increase its tax rate if need be, that it could raise or lower the rate at will. This is no longer the case. And it must also be remembered that next year the county will contribute 67 per cent of our budget."

Atkins drew a chuckle from

FLOOD - - The "flood" of last June in the central library cost the system approximately \$10,000 in all. Atkins told the trustees in explanation of a budget transfer asked from the city for maintenance work in the system.

This cost included buying and laying new carpeting in the arts and music room on the second floor, as well as removing the original carpeting from that location and laying it on the main floor.

During this "flood," which was caused by a plumbing fixture malfunction, the carpeting on the main floor was ruined.

REVENUE SHARING - - An application for \$350,000 of the county's revenue sharing funds to build the proposed Mid - County Library in Aptos is being considered by county agencies, Atkins reported.

"I discussed the application with a citizens' committee that is screening requests for these funds, and I was not optimistic at all when I left," Atkins said. "But perhaps we should be optimistic."

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New Book

Soon to be available at the Santa Cruz Central Library is the **HORIZON CONCISE HISTORY OF JAPAN**, by Noel Fairchild Busch. The book contains many photographs, some of which are in color. The purpose of this book—and the rest of the series—is to provide the