



The small box held by Margaret Koch, left, of The Sentinel staff, contained a wide variety of information about the county and its new courthouse in 1895 after the sealed capsule was removed from the courthouse cornerstone yesterday. Mrs. Koch, and Hubert Wyckoff, second from left, are members of a county committee to select docu-

ments to be sealed in the new Governmental Center cornerstone. Other officials looking over the old documents are Superior Court Judge Gilbert Perry and County Clerk Tom Kelley, right. A picture of the box being removed is on page 5, and a history of former courthouses, with pictures, is on page 9.

An Old Courthouse Now Joins History

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Santa Cruz County's old courthouse took the first step toward death yesterday.

Stones just beneath the cornerstone were removed and a tin-plated copper box of records sealed there in 1895 was taken out.

Many of the documents in the box will go into a new time capsule as part of dedi-

cation ceremonies Saturday for the new governmental center.

But the old building probably won't be around now that its deepest memories are gone.

A county committee recommended yesterday it be demolished and that a park or some other public use be found for the property.

Its neighbor, the 79-year old Hall of Records, should be pre-

served, the committee said.

The hall could become an office for the new county parks and recreation department, and also be used as a museum.

As for the 1895 courthouse, anything not of historical value should be sold at public auction, the committee said. The land it is on should be sold, preferably to the city or other public agency for use as a park or part of a mall plan. The sale would include the sheriff's driveway, since a new, wider driveway now is planned.

When committee recommendations came before county supervisors yesterday, Supervisor Robert Burton said he does not want to sell the driveway until he is sure the sheriff has no use for it. Though no final decision was made, most supervisors seemed to agree with the committee.

But there were no tears shed for the old building.

However, two workmen startled a passerby the night before last when they were removing the corner stones to get at the records box.

"If we hurry, I think we can have the whole building down by morning," one remarked to the other. Eyes wide, the woman pedestrian stared in disbelief as the pair chipped industriously away at the building.

Found in the copper box were the following items, all in excellent condition: names of presidents of the United States; names of California Governor James H. Budd and Lt. Gov. William T. Jeter of Santa Cruz (with photos); names of District 6 Congressional representatives and Santa Cruz County officials of 1850 and 1895.

By-laws and names of members of the Pioneer Society of Santa Cruz County, constitution and by-laws of Pajaro IOOF Lodge, names of officers of Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of State of California for the year 1895 and officers of Santa Cruz Masonic Lodge.

The following newspapers were found: Santa Cruz Sentinel, Santa Cruz Surf, Watsonville Pajaronian, Watsonville Rustler, Watsonville Transcript, Santa Cruz Evening Record, Santa Cruz Penny Press and Salvation Army War Cry.

Other pamphlets included one on Santa Cruz County, another on the 1895 Venetian Water Carnival and a badge of the Santa Cruz County Union. Two coins were found, a Columbian

Inspector 'Leaves' County Center Job

The project inspector for the new \$6.7-million governmental center and the county have parted company.

Whether Bill Shaffer was fired by Public Works Director Warren Harrison for refusing to "work on three jobs at once" is a matter of terminology.

But both Shaffer and a source in the public works department say the termination of the inspector's employment after more than two years on the job has nothing to do with the governmental center as such. Public Works Director Harrison is attending a conference in Fresno and could not be reached.

"It's a fine building, and one I'm particularly proud of," Shaffer said when contacted about his "resignation." He added, "This thing has nothing to do with the courthouse."

Shaffer explained he was asked to complete work on the courthouse, oversee construction of the new \$750,000 juvenile hall facility on Graham Hill road, and also inspect construction of the new Glen Arbor bridge which begins shortly, all at the same rate of pay he now gets.

"The state law requires a full-time inspector on that juvenile hall job because state funds are used. I have been in this business 25 years and my reputation is at stake on

every job. I know I can't split my time and do a good job on each project."

Shaffer confirmed that state officials have complained of his absence at the juvenile hall.

"This courthouse still takes between 40 and 60 per cent of my time. I'm staying on this week to help out the architect and get the building ready for the dedication."

Though the county is anxious to take possession of the new structure, Shaffer declared it will take "several weeks more" to have the complex finished to the last detail. Though the major contract work has been done for many months, minor details and additional contracts remain. Such items as door numbers, name signs, seals, and woodwork for the courts building delayed by county change orders all require close attention, he said.

Bill Williams, the new director of mechanical services for the county, will take over inspection of the three projects.

Public works officials say, however, that not very much remains to be done in the new governmental center. "Since the thing was finished for the most part, Mr. Shaffer felt he could leave. He is much in demand, and has other jobs waiting for him that pay more," one official, who asked not to be named, said.

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