

1978

Larry Edler Is Elected New Mayor Of Santa Cruz

By **BILL NEUBAUER**
Sentinel Staff Writer

Larry Edler Tuesday was elected 1978-79 mayor of the city of Santa Cruz.

He is the city's 53rd mayor since 1876, when the city switched to the mayoral system.

Edler began his term on almost a grim note, saying:

"I anticipate a very tough year ahead. It will not be easy to get the new general plan done, to get the charter revised. And the city faces a very difficult financial year if the Jarvis Initiative is passed."

Edler called for the council to "work together in a spirit of cooperation to do all we can" to meet the challenges of the year ahead.

Edler was elected to the city's top political post by a unanimous vote of the Santa Cruz City Council. He was the only candidate nominated.

A council member since August 1974, Edler succeeded Joseph Ghio.

Edler praised Ghio's work of the past year, saying: "I feel it's appropriate to say thanks to you, Joe. You have done a great job."

On behalf of their colleagues, Bert Muhly, Charlotte Melville, Carole DePalma, John Mahaney and Jim Hammond, Edler gave Ghio a key to the city, an engraved gavel and a stained-glass artwork featuring an iris. The latter gift was in acknowledgement of Ghio's world stature as an iris hybridizer.



Larry Edler

For Ghio the close of his term "put a lump in my throat, a tear in my eye." He told the crowd, "I'm unashamedly proud of my city and I was unashamedly proud to be the mayor of the city of my birth . . . It was a great experience, it was tremendous fun, and regardless of whatever future office I'll hold, I'll treasure this one most."

Ghio said he had tried to move things along a little faster in government, had tried to develop a more useful council agenda and had tried to improve the accessibility of the mayor to all the people.

"I loved this job very much," Ghio said. Edler was appointed to the City Council to replace Vice Mayor Virginia Sharp in 1974, then won easily an election to a full four-year term as councilman in 1977.

Edler is director of secondary education in the county Office of Education, has a doctorate in education. He was instrumental in launching the Cabrillo Occupational Training Center to give vocational training to high school and others seeking careers.

Edler held a well-attended reception later in the evening at the Holiday Inn.

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