



Tom Cleveland, Charlotte Smith and Lucille McKenzie work at Holy Cross Church

Archaeological Survey Under Way On 52 Parcels In Santa Cruz City

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society is currently conducting a surface survey for the City of Santa Cruz.

The group is checking some 52 parcels within the city limits where there is some likelihood of prehistoric sites being found. In this way, it can be discovered whether any of these parcels have significant archaeological treasures buried in them.

On Saturday, several teams of amateur archaeologists, each teamed by an experienced club member, set out to methodically assess each parcel to determine whether there are any cultural remains present. Many of the members have received training either by the local society or at Cabrillo College.

They look for rich black soil, which generally indicates a village or gathering site. They search the surface for stone, shell or bone artifacts which be concealed there. They note changes in vegetation patterns, which sometimes give clues to sites not obvious to the naked eye.

A report on this work will be presented to the city Planning Department. Planners, that way, will have a better idea of where parcels are located which could be rich with archaeological finds.

By identifying such resources early in the planning process, the society hopes to eliminate the need for "salvage" or emergency archaeological operations at the onset of construction work. Such work, said a spokesman for the group, is "costly and frustrating to all concerned."

The spokesman added: "It's expected that most parcels will not have sites on them, but this check will verify that assumption, and allow this issue to be avoided in the development process."

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society was created in 1972. Its primary purpose is to learn as much as possible

about the prehistoric inhabitants of the Santa Cruz area. The society conducts projects and educational programs that focus on Santa Cruz' archaeological heritage. Members locate, map and record local sites and participate in local prehistoric and historic excavations.

The society will have a display booth at the upcoming Mission Fiesta celebration on Oct. 3 in Santa Cruz. At the booth will be a variety of displays, as well as copies of books by Malcolm Margolin, "The Ohlone Way" and "The Way We Lived — California Indian Reminiscences, Stories and Songs." Margolin himself will be at the booth to autograph the books.