

# Wingspread dominated headlines in '85

By NANCY BARR  
STAFF WRITER

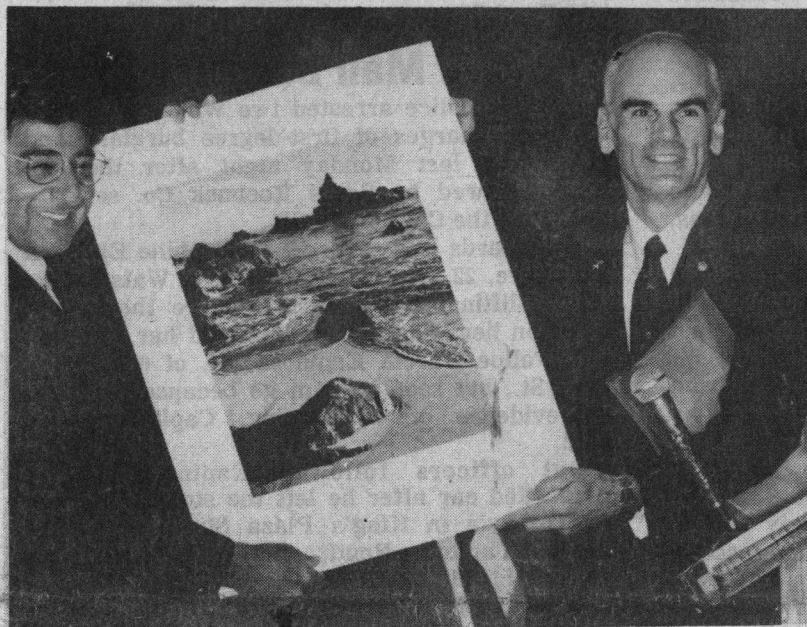
For Santa Cruz County, 1985 was the year of Wingspread hearings, cable television, new regulations on smoking and toxic materials, and the close scrutiny of the way county supervisors spend the county's money.

Although the Wingspread Beach development proposed for the Porter Sesnon property has been in the works for years, this year it moved much closer to a final resolution. The county Planning Commission held several public hearings on the two Wingspread alternatives, and near the end of the year approved the larger one, which includes a performing arts center. The commission denied the smaller Wingspread proposal, known as Plan A. The board of supervisors has scheduled hearings on both proposals for early next year.

The debate over who should run the cable television system in most of Santa Cruz County raged furiously all year long, and is yet to be resolved.

Even as Group W Cable went to court to fight for what it believes is its right to continue providing the service, the city and county of Santa Cruz began reviewing competitive proposals to run the cable system. A consultant hired by the county said the Cable Co-op made the best proposal, with the Cable TV Associates a close second, and the county Grand Jury got in the act by proclaiming the Associates's bid as the best.

Group W continued to come under fire for what many called its inadequate service; the firm began a \$3 million improvement of the cable system in the



Congressman Leon Panetta, left, and Interior Secretary Donald Hodel appeared to be friends when Hodel came to town, but by the end of the year, they were again opposed on the offshore drilling issue.

city of Santa Cruz, and promised to make further improvements in the rest of the system down the line.

The Santa Cruz City Council and county Board of Supervisors held two lengthy hearings on the cable proposals, and will hold at least one more in 1986.

The past year saw more conflict between the county and the city of Watsonville, this time taking the form of a lawsuit over the Landmark Industrial Park, which was approved by the City Council. After some harsh words from supervisors and council members, the two sides agreed to sit down, along with the developer, and try to work out a solution. A settlement was reached in which the county succeeded in requiring that the development be phased

in rather than built at once.

At the county level, the biggest development proposals to come before the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission were all in Aptos. In addition to Wingspread, the two boards busied themselves reviewing and deliberating over the first of Seascope Corporation's applications for building a total of some 1,500 units in its development in Aptos, the demise of the La Mirada senior housing project in Aptos Village, and preliminary review of the large senior community planned for the Polo Grounds, also in Aptos.

For the county, it was a slow election year, but matters began heating up for next year, starting with the announcement in July by Pajaro Valley Super-

visor E. Wayne Moore Jr. that he would seek another term on the board.

Moore later became the focus of numerous news stories, and for a time was the topic of many conversations about town, when it was discovered he had not only used a county car at the same time he accepted a stipend for using his own car on county business, but had also charged hundreds of dollars' worth of long-distance personal phone calls on his county credit card. The final tally on the phone calls was close to \$1,300. Moore reimbursed the county for both the car and phone bill.

Moore's troubles grew over the following months, as three people announced they would run against him next year — including a man who was formerly one of his closest supporters. Ed Hall, who had served on Moore's informal group of advisers and had been appointed to the Planning Commission early in the year as Moore's representative, decided he could no longer support him, and announced his own candidacy.

Also declaring their candidacy for supervisors were Jack Edsberg, a water engineer, and Russ Oaks, a former minister.

Local officials also closely followed the progress on the offshore-oil-drilling front, and led a fight against allowing any oil or gas exploration leases off the Santa Cruz County coast. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel came to Cabrillo College to take local testimony, but after he left, he decided not to support an agreement that would have kept oil drilling out

See COUNTY page 14 ►

REFERENCE

GREEN SHEET  
December 31, 1985

# COUNTY

► From page 1  
of this area.

Two issues to surface and gain public attention during 1985 were the plight of the homeless and the problems many of the county's Hispanics were having with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The supervisors held hearings on both subjects, and appointed task forces to work on each matter. By the end of the year, with freezing temperatures at night, the homeless issue had grown to crisis proportions, and shortly before Christmas the county opened an emergency shelter in downtown Santa Cruz.

The county's health staff pursued two ordinances aimed at protecting the public health — one prohibiting smoking in many public or work places, the other to regulate the use of toxic materials. The no-smoking ordinance went into effect in September; the hazardous materials law received preliminary approval at the Board of Supervisors' last meeting of the year.

The county also tackled a sweeping animal-control law, but failed to come to any decision as the year drew to a close.

Although the county seemed to be in good shape financially when the year began, as the year wore on there were several predictions of bad times to come. Federal revenue sharing will soon be discontinued, the supervisors learned, which means the county will be out \$1.7 million it has used to help local social service agencies.

During budget hearings came the bad news about property and liability insurance — the county's property insurance almost tripled and liability insurance premiums jumped by 40 percent. The county continued to shop around for the best policy it could come up with, and will have to make a decision by February, when the current policy expires.

County Administrative Officer George Newell also warned the board that money is getting tight, blaming much of the county's problems on the many mandates placed on the county by the state, which doesn't provide the money required to carry them out. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that under the terms of Prop. 13, California's counties have little opportunity to raise their

own money now.

Because of the tight finances, the board began talking about putting a measure on the ballot next June to ask people if they'd be willing to pay a tax to support the expansion of the county's judicial system and sheriff's patrols. The board almost put the matter on this year's November ballot, but decided it would be a political advantage to place it on the June ballot, when many county offices would be on the primary ballot.

To make matters worse, the Supreme Court ruled this year that local governments must abide by the regulations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which meant new rules for county workers, and more overtime expenses for the county.

Some other county happenings making the news in 1985:

—The county was deluged with complaints when it was learned the Arts Commission wanted to put on the top of the county building a large statue of an Indian poised for attack. The proposal never came to fruition.

—The county supervisors and planning commissioners got into their usual debates over the county's growth rate, and ended up adopting a 1.5 percent growth rate for 1986.

—The veterans who use the Santa Cruz Veterans Building got into a dispute with the staff of the county parks department, culminating in the parks department setting down new rules about the use of the building. In response, the veterans filed a lawsuit, and now both sides are trying to work things out.

—The county's Planning Department continued to come under attack, both from the Grand Jury and the Board of Supervisors. The supervisors approved plans for the department's reorganization and planned the renovation of the department's work space.

Almost all these major issues will continue to be of concern to the county, so next year there will be plenty more happenings on Wingspread, cable TV, county financial problems, Seascope, and of course the political battles for the Fourth (Wayne Moore) and First (Gary Patton) District seats on the county Board of Supervisors.