

Supervisors Aim Building Razing Law at 'Transients'

12-2-70 Mercury

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SANTA CRUZ — An estimated 1,000 tumbledown shacks and other structures of Santa Cruz County's bygone era were declared a safety, fire, and health hazard by County Supervisors Tuesday.

Supervisors ordered start of a program to force demolition of the old buildings, starting first with those now unoccupied.

Supervisors made it clear that the action, at least in part, is aimed at stopping

"young undesirable transients" from commandeering mountain cabins.

What supervisors did was adopt Volume 4 of the 1970 edition of the state Uniform Building Code, which gives the county a club in ordering demolition of buildings unfit for human habitation.

After some soul searching on what Chairman Dan Forbus referred to as "selective" law enforcement on buildings, the supervisors decided to move only on unoccupied, unsafe dwellings.

Supervisor George Cress got no support for his proposal to have the law apply to abandoned dwellings that are occupied without the consent of the owners.

Forbus said this would be "selective" enforcement of the law and in effect would make a policeman of the building inspector.

Cress, who represents San Lorenzo Valley on the Board of Supervisors, has been plagued with numerous complaints from valley residents about young people occupying old cabins in the remote mountain areas.

Supervisor Ralph Sanson said that if occupied cabins were included under the enforcement law, this would place a hardship on many elderly persons, including those in San Lorenzo Valley.

Forbus said that the owners of structures being occupied by unauthorized persons could have them vacated under existing laws.

However, Cress held that unauthorized persons living in such cabins pose a health and safety hazard to themselves, as well as a fire hazard to the county forest lands.

The vote to adopt the 1970

building code was unanimous, but Supervisor John McCallie and Cress voted against a policy measure on enforcement of the new law. McCallie and Cress said that the law should be enforced against occupied cabins as well as those unoccupied.

Winners Game

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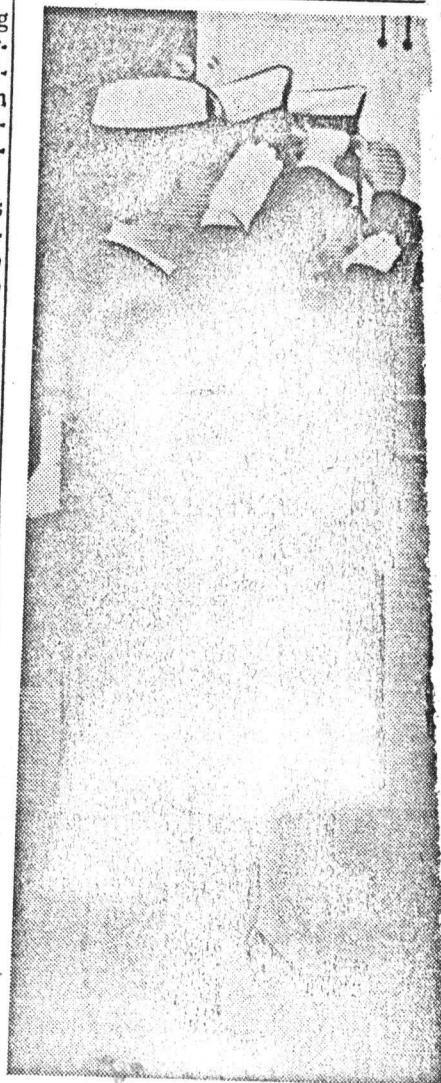
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