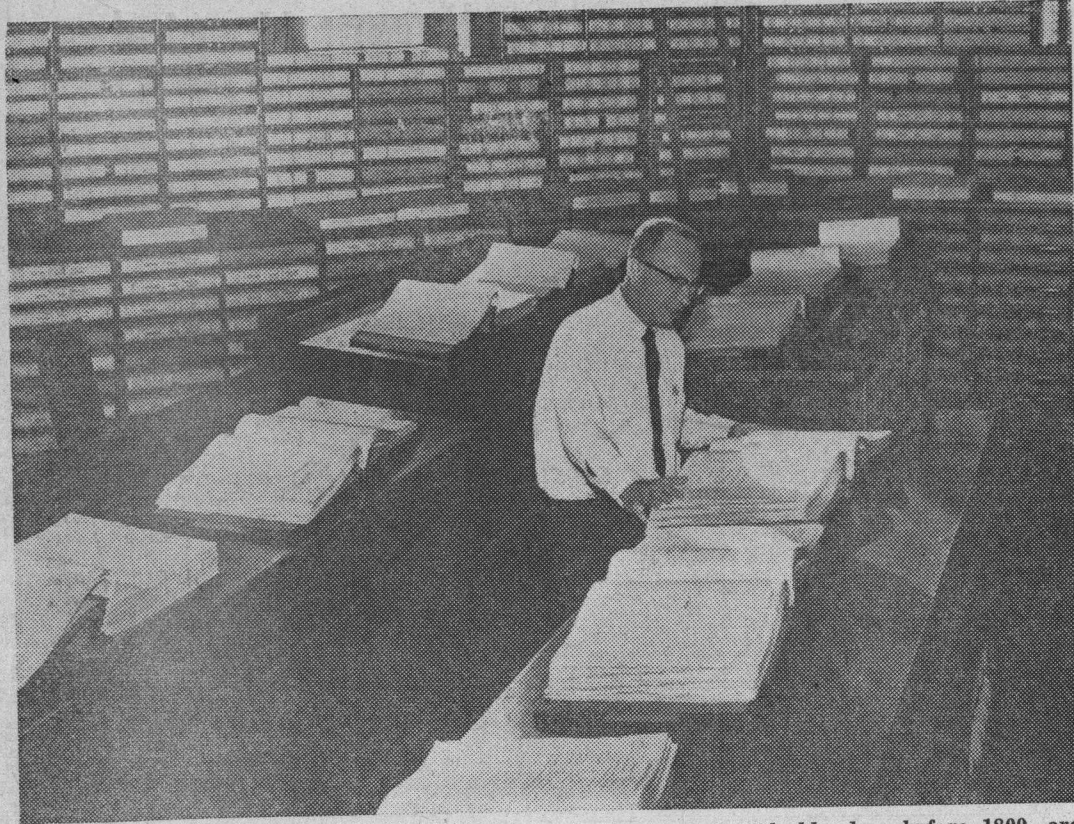


Armory—Strong Building Guards County Records



Old method of keeping the county's records was to enter them on books similar to the one Chief Deputy Recorder Dick Neal is leafing through. Surrounding Neal are stacks of

old volumes, each costing over \$100 to make. Over 2000 of such volumes are still kept in the Hall of Records. Almost all county occurrences of legal important, dating to the Spanish

Alcalde days before 1800, are on file. The hall itself is modeled after an eight-sided \$50 gold piece, popular when the building was constructed in 1882.

By Wallace Wood
There's a money-making office here.

Heavy steel plate shutters its windows.

The door can be barred from the inside.

But any citizen can enter the office and carry on his business.

Money is not what the armory-strong building was made to protect. It protects the precious records of the county.

Few persons today, however, give much thought to the theft or destruction of the leather-bound, cloth-wrapped books in the Hall of Records, located next to the Cooper street courthouse.

Modern thievery has gone on to greater mischief and methods.

Records have gone modern, too, since the heavily defensive hall was built.

Armed with a battery of microfilming equipment, the County Records office now turns a neat profit. Almost every occurrence of legal importance — outside of taxation — is recorded there. Filing fees start at \$2 and go on up, according to the number of pages in a document.

Last year the county recorder took in over \$80,000 in fees. His office spent only a little over half, \$48,000.

How, the weary taxpayer may ask, is it done?

Tom Kelley, who acts as both county clerk and recorder, says the answer lies in an ample

fee — set by the state — and modern methods in an old building.

The octagonal-shaped Hall of Records was modeled after an eight-sided \$50 gold piece popular in 1882, and built the same year. It cost \$10,000. A paltry sum today.

The octagonal shape is obscured by a later brick addition on the Front street side of the building and a connecting passageway to the courthouse annex at the rear.

Inside, \$10,000 worth of microfilming equipment saves \$5000 yearly in time and materials.

On an 8 by 5-inch sheet of film, up to 30 pages can be photographed. A file cabinet two feet high can replace shelves of books. A master file is kept separately from the public file, and anyone can view the films.

Since October, 1961, all documents are photographed. Most of the originals then are mailed back to the applicants. Births, death, and marriage certificates are sent on to Sacramento, where permanent records are kept.

Many of the older records have also been microfilmed. These films are kept in the "atomic" safety vaults at Zayante, in case the originals are destroyed.

"We still have some 2000 volumes dating back to the Spanish Alcalde era though," Chief Deputy Recorder Dick Neal says. The Alcalde was a

combination governor, judge, and clerk of the former Spanish villa de Branciforte.

In one of the oldest records, Prefectura del Primo Distrito Estradas ordered that a man named Bucklis "need not pay taxes on his lumber." That was in 1798.

The volumes had outgrown the octagonal building by 1961, and many were stored in the courthouse and its annex.

Standing in the center of the high-ceilinged room of the original hall, Neal is surrounded by eight-foot high stacks of books that contain the births, deaths, marriages, service discharges, deeds, other property transactions, court judgments and decrees, and board of supervisors' property resolutions for the past century.

Oddly enough, it would be difficult to find the owner of a certain piece of property in the hall, Neal relates. The recorder's office files by name and date, not by location.

"We list records chronologically and alphabetically by grantor and grantee," he says. Grantor and grantee, Neal explains, corresponds roughly to seller and buyer, with owners usually listed as grantors.

That does not include marriage licenses, where "grantor and grantee" might be suggestive, but the groom is usually listed first.

Officially, the recorder's office was established with the first blush of statehood in 1850. In spite of its age, the office keeps up with the latest developments in procedures. Though the work load has gone up 50 per cent in four years, the recorder has fewer employees than 10 years ago.

The office just goes quietly and efficiently on its money-making way.

And the taxpayer and parent can even breathe a further sigh of relief for the recorder's efficient but kind methods.

Birth certificates aren't listed by "grantor and grantee" either.



New microfilming machines, installed in 1961, cut record-keeping costs in half and make the Recorder's office one of the few profit-taking agencies in the county. Dick Neal demon-

strates the duplicating machine, which makes and processes copies of 8 by 10-inch microfilm sheets. Each sheet contains up to 30 pages of legal documents in condensed form.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CERTIFICATE OF DOING BUSINESS UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME

FORREST D. PHELAN, who resides at 503 Miramar Drive, Santa Cruz, California is conducting business as a Sole Proprietor in the County of Santa Cruz, California, under the fictitious name of "THUNDERBIRD REAL ESTATE".
DATED: This 15th day of NOVEMBER, 1963.

FORREST D. PHELAN

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ)

On this 15th day of NOVEMBER, 1963, before me, JERRY L. STANLEY, a NOTARY PUBLIC, in and for the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, residing therein, duly commissioned and

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TIME APPOINTED FOR PROVING WILL, ETC.

No. 18787
In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of OSCAR SCHWAB, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the probate of the will of OSCAR SCHWAB, deceased, and for the issuance to petitioner, OLIVE M. WOLFE, of letters testamentary has been filed in this court, and that December 6, 1963 at 10 o'clock A.M. of said day, and the courtroom of said court, in the courthouse, in the city of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, have been fixed as the time and place for the hearing of said petition, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest the same.

On Sale Beer
Anyone desiring to protest

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date November 29, 1963

To Whom It May Concern:
Subject to issuance of the license applied for, notice is hereby given that the undersigned proposes to sell alcoholic beverages at the premises, described as follows:

261 Center St., Aptos, Calif.
Pursuant to such intention, the undersigned is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for issuance by transfer of an alcoholic beverage license for these premises as follows:

On Sale Beer
Anyone desiring to protest

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

No. 18,745
In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of NAOMI H. CHAVOYA, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given by the Undersigned, ISABEL TOSTEVIN, Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of NAOMI H. CHAVOYA, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, or said estate, to file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the above named Court (which said office is situate in the Court House in the City of Santa Cruz in said County and State), within six months after the date of this notice made on

Wing Models



FOR A VERY MERRY SEASON



christmas cards
candles
children's books
gift wrappings
unusual gifts

the plum tree
417 capitola ave.
capitola