

The Butterflies Are Back



Santa Cruz' most exotic visitors are back. The Monarch butterfly, which may fly up to 2000 storm-tossed miles on tissue paper wings to get here, is again hanging in great clusters in local trees, Ranger Bob Perkins of Natural Bridges state park reports "bigger and better" clusters than they have had for the past four years. The showy orange and black in-

sects congregate out there in eucalyptus trees in a ravine. Visitors are welcome — but "leave nets and collecting jars at home." Monarchs also may be seen in the cypress and eucalyptus trees in the little park behind the Santa Cruz Museum and public library branch, on East Cliff drive. But hurry—they don't stay long after the first good rain. A few remain,

but most of them lift their gossamer wings to the breeze and take off. No one is sure just where they go. After all, did you ever try to track a butterfly? But chances are they cross the bay to settle in pine trees ("butterfly trees") at Pacific Grove. The great winged insect has been observed locally for about the past 18 years.