

Statue gets new home



Statue of the saw-playing Tom Scribner is lowered into place Friday outside the St. George Hotel.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Scribner likeness installed on Pacific Avenue

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SANTA CRUZ — Tom Scribner — lumberjack, union organizer and downtown's famed musical saw player — is back on Pacific Avenue.

The bronze statue of the late street performer was installed Friday in front of the St. George Hotel, and was greeted with smiles and "Tom's back" from passers-by.

"He wasn't that great a musician, but he was a very colorful character," said Tim Shea, who stopped to watch the work. "I think it's great."

A dedication ceremony, including a Musi-

cal Saw Festival, is planned for next Saturday at 1 p.m.

Scribner, who died in 1982 at the age of 83, was a familiar site in front of the old hotel throughout the 1970s. Almost daily he would perch on the red brick planter under a tall liquid amber tree, his bowler-covered head dipped as he bent and bowed his saw.

Since 1978, Scribner's likeness had been tucked away in Scope Park across from the Town Clock. At the time, conservative city leaders objected to placing the statue near Scribner's old haunt, apparently because of his radical past as a rabble-rousing organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World, said

Dave Rosener, with the city Parks and Recreation department.

"But the statue outlasted the politicians," said Rosener. "... He's back where he belongs."

Artist Marghe McMahon, who sculpted the statue, has spent recent weeks cleaning it and putting a new patina on the bronze. "Hopefully, it's fixed up for another few years," she said.

On Friday, Parks and Recreation crews also installed the small female nude statue that had been in front of Lily Wong's before the earthquake.