



Built in 1914, jail has been renovated.

12-10-87

Doors open at Davenport jail

Two cells become coast museum

GO TO JAIL, go directly to Davenport Jail. Don't stop along the way north on Highway 1, if you want to get in on the ribbon cutting at noon Saturday that will establish the tiny building as a museum of north coast history.

The opening ceremony will be followed by four hours of open house in the two former jail cells and tiny foyer. Opening exhibition is called "Building the 20th Century, a History of the Portland Cement Works at Davenport." Alverda Orlando and Micki Ryan researched it using archives from Lone Star Industries.

Role of the cement industry in development of the coastal town is shown through development of primitive limestone quarries, up through various consolidations, expansion and modernization. Ryan is a Bonny Doon resident and a member of Santa Cruz County Historical Trust, sponsor of the new museum. Orlando is a longtime Davenport resident. The exhibit was produced by Frank Perry.

Historically, the jail played a small part in maintaining law and order in Davenport since its construction in 1914. It is made of Portland cement from the nearby plant. But it was used just twice, that anyone knows of. It housed two boys from San Mateo who were held overnight for stealing horses and a drunk once was detained there until he sobered up. That's it.

After county jail facilities were built, there was little need for a

It housed two boys once, and a drunk. That's it.

jail in Davenport. In 1979, the private owner gave it to Santa Cruz Society for Historic Preservation and it since has been maintained by the Historical Trust.

Refreshments will be served Saturday afternoon, and a new selection of north coast history items will be available, including T-shirts, postcards and a brochure with walking tour of Davenport.

The jail-museum will be open from noon to 4 p.m. weekends or by special arrangement for tours and school groups. Although admission is free, donations will be appreciated. Also, volunteers and donations of other historical photographs or artifacts are needed.

Saturday also will be the kick-off for the Trust's annual fund raiser, "Whale of a Jail," a contest in which people guess the exact time the southbound migrating whales will first be spotted off the coast of Davenport. Tickets are available at the jail, at Davenport Cash Store and at the Octagon Museum on Cooper Street. Over 15 prizes will be awarded, including a ride over the north coast area in a private airplane.

For more information, call the Octagon Museum, 425-2540.



Historical Trust archives

Historic Cash Store burned in 1954.