

Corporation yard

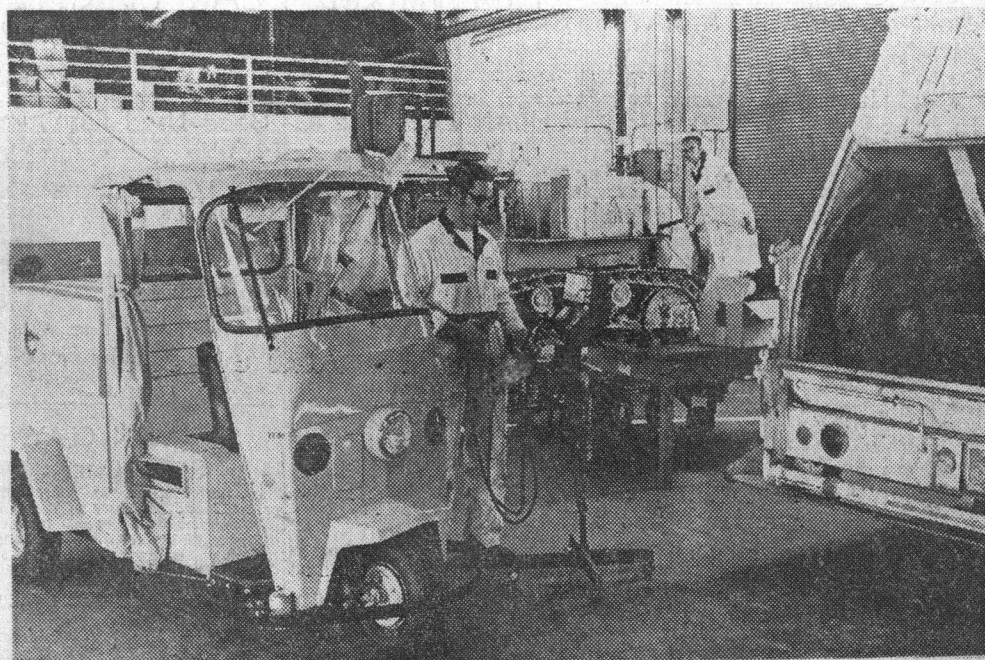
SC Corporation Yard--Where The Job Get Done



Painting and "pressing" street signs, as shown here by Ed Withrow, left, city superintendent of streets and equip-

ment, and Gene Cowley, is one of the many functions carried out at the Santa Cruz corporation yard on Highway 9 (Riv-

er Street). Street crews may have a damaged sign replaced within 30 minutes after it is reported.



Repairing the conventional automobile isn't a regular

about anything on wheels, from a parking meter scooter

Santa Cruz has nearly 200 pieces of "rolling stock" that

By BRUCE McPHERSON
Sentinel Staff Written

For the City of Santa Cruz, the corporation yard's where the action is.

It's from there that the numerous and varied jobs of city service, maintenance and repair take place.

The yard might best be described as the workers' den. While plans and discussions on policy may be determined at city hall, the 75-plus employees at the yard are the ones who actually get many of the city's jobs done.

The corporation yard clock doesn't run on an eight-hour day.

Garbage collection and street sweeper crews begin their days at 5 a.m., and the gates may not close at the yard until 8 p.m.

Street paint and improvement crews sometimes begin their work at midnight or 2 a.m., or when they can be "working on the road, when most of the traffic is off the road."

Functions of the corporation yard, located on Highway 9 (River Street) just north of Salz Tannery and across the street, are broken down into six divisions, according to Ed Withrow, city superintendent of streets and equipment.

And, each of the divisions is dependent on at least one of the others, from the storekeeper-purchaser to garbage collection.

Sammy Gaub is the street foreman, and also in charge of the sign shop.

There are about 100 miles of improved streets with curbs and gutters (and many with sidewalks) in the city, and about 50 miles of unimproved streets. Its objective of the street division to see that the improved streets remain in that category. And, the city has an annual "overlay program" to upgrade the unimproved thoroughfares.

Street sweepers cover commercial areas daily and include residential sectors with improved streets twice a month.

If a stop sign is reported down someplace in the city, it will take about 30 minutes usually to have it either repaired or replaced.

The communications system, under the direction of Dave Taylor, is an essential item in the city's ability to "get the job done today."

Said Withrow, "When I first came here, we had two radios. Today, all of our crews have radios at their disposal. We've

involved with the city's sanitation (garbage collection) system, with Floyd Wolf as general foreman. Withrow considers the smooth operation of this division high in importance of all the city services, right alongside the police and fire departments.

"Our garbage collection system probably is the most important service we provide from here. It may sound silly to some, but if we ever miss one day's collection, it throws the entire system back. And, you had better believe that city residents don't like having leftover garbage around."

The city has been fortunate, however, in that two garbage trucks haven't been down at the same time in at least 10 years.

Withrow gives the credit for that record to garage foreman Shay Gilmore and his crew of eight.

From diminutive parking meter scooters to buses, caterpillars, Gilmore's men have kept the city operation in motion.

Said Gilmore, "We've got the best mechanics around in leadman Stan Mendoza, mechanics Joe Horton, Roy Spidel, Joe Portella and Dale Baker. Cliff Otto and Ernie Clausen keep us going too on the grease rack, gas station and in tire repair."

The garage crew makes a lot of its own parts and much of its materials are from surplus. "This is a business, and we don't like to farm out jobs," Gilmore said.

Economy is uppermost in Gilmore's mind, and he's proud of the yard's record.

"In the past 10 years, we doubled our (city) fleet, and just this year we've added the first man since I've been here (11 years)," adds Gilmore. The city has 190 pieces of "rolling stock."

The economy theme continues with storekeeper-purchaser Truman Wildman and the water maintenance foreman Jim Lee and Water storekeeper Bob Cummings.

Said Wildman, "I figure that if I haven't saved the city my salary through proper purchasing in one day, I haven't done my job."

Added Withrow, "The name of the game here is economy, and this is exactly what we have followed."

"The people working here are sincere. They are trying to cut



City street sweepers have a good portion of their job completed for the day by the time the sun comes up. Here, street

sweeper Ray George covers the beach area with a sunrise in the background. Activities from the city's corporation

yard hardly run on a eight hour day, beginning at 5 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m. or later.

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SC City General Plan Reaches Final Hurdle

Adoption of a revised Santa Cruz City General Plan reaches its final hurdle Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at city hall when the city council opens public hearings on the document.

It has taken nearly two years for the proposal to get this far, since a 73-member Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) was appointed to make initial recommendations for the general plan update.

Public hearings at the council level may will take more than one hearing before a conclusion is reached.

In its present form, the proposed new city general plan is most commonly referred to as a "policies document."

In it are included literally hundreds of policy statements, destined to guide the future development of the city, and or

studies and "implementation programs."

The text of the new general plan is all-important, according to city planners, since a new map hasn't been recommended from the one drawn with the 1964 original city general plan.

The most controversial items in general plan discussions thus far have been the north coast, population limitation, transportation and CPAC complaints that not enough "specifics" are included in the

proposal by the city planning commission. Commissioners have replied that many specifics are included if the plan is read entirely — which they want it to be—and that more will come in the implementation programs.

After six months of study and numerous meetings, CPAC presented its recommendation in the summer of 1970. The planning commission then made revisions and held public hearings before passing it on to the city council last month.

Three Hurt In One-Car Accident

Three young people were seriously injured late Sunday afternoon when their auto went out of control on China Grade near Boulder Creek.

Milton Dowse, 20, of 215 Blue Ridge Drive, Boulder Creek, and

foot bank before coming to rest against a second tree.

He was taken to General Hospital by the Boulder Creek Rescue Unit for treatment of multiple scalp injuries. His passengers, Paige Morikawa, 18, of Los Angeles, and Paige

event (or expected) by the garbage crew at the city corporation yard. The nuts and bolts have to be known on just

to a garbage truck. So, in the foreground, Roy Spidell and foreman Shay Gilmore begin their "diversified talents."

must stay in running condition if a smooth-running city service operation is to be attained.

round this has proven out in saving time and money, and is an important safety factor."

There are some 25 employees

expenses when possible and give city residents the level of service they deserve.

"We have fewer employees here today than we did five years ago. We've been fortunate the city council has been able to provide us with good equipment because it has allowed us to hold down our manpower and still do the job," Withrow concluded.

After observing the operation at the corporation yard, one realizes that the diversified city projects that often are taken for granted don't just happen — somebody gets them done.

And, they are often completed before you drink your first cup of coffee in the morning.

upgrading of it. Through continued citizens' group participation, the plan proposes that the policies be reached through

parently lost control of his sports car on a curve before it struck a tree, veered across the roadway and rolled over a four-

Dowse, 16, of 200 Sullivan Drive, Boulder Creek, were taken to the hospital also by ambulance. Both suffered head injuries.

Davenport Town Meeting Thursday

Seaside District Supervisor Phil Harry has called a "general town meeting" for Davenport area residents, Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Pacific School.

Main topic of the evening will be the proposed nuclear power plant on the north coast, about three miles above Davenport.

Santa Cruz Gardens Offers Different Education 'Brands'

Not all customers want the same brand of peas when they go to the supermarket.

Neither do all parents want the same kind of education for their children, reason Duane Beaubien and the staff of Santa Cruz Gardens School. So, there are different "brands" of educa-

different things, so we're on a dual-track system at Santa Cruz Gardens this fall," the principal explains.

Translated, that means there are graded, conventional and coeducational classrooms, in grades 1 through 4 at Santa Cruz Gardens, as well as some

system or another — or sometimes just a strong feeling about a teacher — Beaubien and his staff listen and attempt to make the change which leaves everyone happy.

After Grade 3 the more tradi-

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