

Live Oak 2-9-69

LO's 'Suitors' Press Case

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

The wooing of Live Oak and its tax-rich 41st Avenue area began this morning with the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola squaring off like rival suitors.

Actually, the two cities were only seeking "daddy's" approval of a marriage by annexation. "Daddy" would be the county Local Agency Formation Commission, which controls all city annexations.

The LAFC is holding hear-

ings to decide where the two cities' eventual boundaries should be. No action was taken after hearing both sides today. More hearings are set for next month.

Santa Cruz city officials say they would like to annex right out to 41st Avenue.

Capitola wants to take only part of Live Oak, crossing 41st up to Rodeo Gulch, leaving the rest to Santa Cruz.

Both made proposals and promises for a kind of dowry to be given to Live Oak as part of

annexation in the form of new parks, police protection, sewers, better garbage service, street sweeping, erosion control and other points. Santa Cruz city officials appeared to present the most comprehensive list of proposals.

Though their arguments were put to the LAFC, both cities realize Live Oak herself is listening just out of sight. Whatever the LAFC decides, approval of the area's residents is still required for any major annexations.

A meeting of the Live Oak Improvement Association is set for March 10, and the LAFC will hear Live Oak's desires later that month.

It didn't take long for the two rivals to begin sniping at each others' proposals this morning.

Generally, Capitola's position was that a "gentleman's agreement" existed for years between the two cities that Rodeo Gulch would be the eventual boundary.

This lasted only until it became clear 41st Avenue would be a major commercial hub, providing a rich sales and property tax harvest for the city lucky enough to claim such businesses as the Emporium, Sears, Albertson's, King's Plaza, and others, Capitola claimed.

Capitola officials pointed to early Santa Cruz City master plans which showed the Rodeo Gulch boundary as the eastern city limits.

"Santa Cruz has revised its plans because of the lucrative tax base of 41st Avenue," Capitola City Administrator Ryder Ray said.

Santa Cruz freely admitted that it couldn't possibly support annexation of Live Oak's 11,800 residents south of Highway 1 freeway without going over to 41st Avenue and picking up the shopping areas.

However, Santa Cruz promised a long and detailed list of additional services for Live Oak which would raise the average cost to a typical homeowner

Treated Like An Animal By Viet Cong, GI Claims

Lancaster, Pa. (AP)—A 21-year-old Pennsylvania GI recounted today the seven months he spent as a Viet Cong prisoner. He told of sleeping in damp holes, overrun by rats and spiders and the agony of not knowing what was to happen.

Pfc. Donald Glen Smith, Akron, Pa., was one of three American soldiers released by the Viet Cong in early January.

Smith said he often felt more like an animal than a man during his imprisonment. He was chained by day and slept in a hole at night.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," said Smith. "I'm home. The others are still over there."

Smith said he doesn't recall much of the attack or his capture at Nui Ba Den about 55 miles northwest of Saigon May 13, 1968.

He said after his capture he was marched for several days, but he suspected the Viet Cong were taking him in circles. "I'll bet I wasn't more than 20 miles from Nui Ba Den," he said.

Throughout the interview, Smith was careful not to reveal other prisoners' names or much detail on how many there were.

"The days were interminable, the nights

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