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END OF AN ERA -- Mid Town Market, which has served Soquel area residents as a general store and then later as a grocery and meat market for 117 years, will close its doors on April 19. Cliff Medinger, operator of the store for ten years, says his lease expires and will not be renewed. "I know this store offers an important service to Soquel residents and many of my customers have expressed their sorrow at losing Mid Town market." Medinger was a Purity Stores district manager before coming to Soquel and had been with Purity for 27 years. "I plan to hitch up my trailer and Mrs. Medinger and I will drive up to Canada and take our first real vacation," Medinger added.

The store was organized as "Angell Bros." in 1852 on the same site by Fenner and Horatio Angell, grandfather and uncle of Fenner Angell. Later on Fenner Angell bought out Horatio and Clarence Angell became associated with the firm, returning to Soquel after driving a dog sled carrying U.S. Mail in Alaska.

The current building was constructed in 1934 and then rebuilt in 1966 after the disastrous flood of 1955. At that time eight feet of water flowed through the building. The building is owned by Ray, Earl and Jack Willbanks and was previously owned and operated by Clarence Angell, father of Fenner Angell of Pacific Lumber co., Soquel. Ray Willbanks had worked for Mr. Angell for 15 years and then purchased the store with his brothers, who operated it for another 15 years prior to Medinger's taking over in 1959.

There has been no announcement of what will happen to the property but it is rumored the building will be torn down and a gasoline station constructed there. Any change in the use of the building or site requires releasing 16 feet on the Porter st. side to the county for the projected Porter st. widening job. -- News Photos