

APTOS VOICE 12-18-74

## Whatever happened to plans for Aptos Post Office?

By Mary Barnett

For the sixth Christmas in a row, the Aptos Post Office is making do with facilities so inconvenient that former postmaster Charles Spencer won a special award for putting up with them.

Wasn't Aptos supposed to get a brand new post office so it can get its postal station and its mail-handling quarters together again at last? What's going on?

"I have no idea," John Tarr, Aptos postmaster, said this week as the Christmas mail rush bustled about him.

He did report, however, that western regional headquarters of the U.S. Postal Service has decided that the site purchased about two years ago at the corner of Mar Vista and Soquel Drives isn't big enough for the new Aptos Post Office.

"They came down and took a hard look at us and changed their way of thinking," Tarr said. "That site is

slightly over one acre, and they decided it's considerably smaller than we'd need in the next 10 years."

A representative from western headquarters in San Francisco has been in the Aptos area in the past few months to see what's available in the way of post office sites.

"But I have no first-hand knowledge of what's going on," Tarr said. "The way the post office operates is on a 'need to know' basis. If they think I need to know they tell me."

The Mar Vista and Soquel site was purchased at a cost of \$60,000. At the time of its purchase, the site was controversial. Some persons in the community would have preferred that the post office be located in Aptos Village, or at least closer to the center of the delivery area.

Tarr said the latest finding of the Postal Service is that there are approximately 17,000 persons in the Aptos

Continued on page 10



Aptos postal workers face the crowds every day, but during the Christmas season it is particularly congested. What happened to plans for a larger post office for Aptos residents? Voice Photo