

...preparations. The automobile tax would be cut three percentage points.

...then presentation of defense evidence on evaluation of the property.

...the American flag ... day.

Courthouse Is On Its Way

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

County officials happily broke ground yesterday for a new \$6.3-million courthouse complex at Ocean and Water streets.

Grins defied a rain-threatening sky as Supervisors Chairman Russ McCallie ceremoniously smashed a bottle of champagne over a 10-ton carryall and then piloted the machine around the site with four other supervisors aboard.

Werner Jasper, head of Jasper Construction, Inc., of Santa Cruz, said rain won't interfere with immediate work to regrade and set back the courthouse site from Water street. It will be the first step in a 20-month construction program.

Rising from the 10-acre riverfront site in the San Lorenzo redevelopment park will be two major buildings: a five-story office building to house most county departments and a single-story courthouse.

About 50 persons, most of them official guests, watched

the groundbreaking and applauded several brief speeches.

"On this rather bleak alluvial plain will be constructed a magnificent courthouse complex, in the center of what will be one of the greatest educational and cultural communities on the face of this earth," Pajaro Supervisor Francis Silliman predicted.

Silliman recalled that efforts to build the governmental center since 1957 have resulted in "years of frustration" before a successful \$4 million bond issue passed by a large margin in 1964.

He noted that other supervisors in past years had worked hard on the courthouse project, including Supervisors Vincent Locatelli and Lewis Nelson, who negotiated for the present site from the redevelopment agency.

His words were echoed by McCallie. "This would not be possible without the cooperation and help of so many people — from county supervisors to the man on the street who voted for

the bond issue," he said.

Architect Burton Rockwell agreed the county "is becoming an educational center," and promised his design "will take care of county government for many years. It has plenty of room for expansion — through foresight not always present in public buildings."

Jasper added that "being a local firm, we intend doing all we can to give the people a building they can be proud of and look forward to."

Superior Court Judge Franich said county judges "are looking forward to this with great anticipation — not for ourselves alone, but for what it will mean in greater efficiency. It will allow us to coordinate our activities."

There was in Franich's speech no hint of the dissension between judges and supervisors over the courthouse design that had split the two groups early this year.

William Woodward, representative of the state office of civil defense, praised the county for

including "one of the largest" civil defense and disaster installations in the basement of the office building. The federal government is contributing \$400,000 to the project.

Dignitaries included Santa Cruz Mayor Norman Walters, Councilmen Sam Leask and Raymond Goodrich, Watsonville Mayor Fred Flodberg, Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce Manager Don Fultz and President Keith Shaffer, Watsonville chamber Manager Alden Schattler, Redevelopment Agency member Lela Swasey and Executive Director Martha Gion, University of California at Santa Cruz representatives Harold Hyde and Jack Wagstaff, and Philip Clarkin, head of the county's citizens bond committee for the courthouse, hospital and juvenile hall.

All county supervisors attended — Branciforte Supervisor Robert Burton, Soquel Supervisor Tom Black, Silliman and McCallie, from Seaside district.



The traditional bottle of champagne shatters on the corner of a large 10-ton carryall grader at courthouse groundbreaking ceremonies yesterday. Supervisors' Chair-

man Russ McCallie swung the ceremonial blow, splashing the bubbly on himself and newsmen. McCallie then ferried his fellow supervisors

around the governmental center site on the grading machine, "breaking" ground in the process. Construction will start immediately on the \$6.4-million complex.