

# Santa Cruzans Kept Watch On San Lorenzo



## Weather Report

Temperature for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a. m. today — Maximum 57, minimum 54.

Monterey Bay Area—Partly cloudy tonight with decreasing showers; cloudy tomorrow with chance of occasional light rain; southwest winds, 15-30 m.p.h.

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

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Storm Pictures  
On Pages 6-7

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TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES

# Sun Shines - River Flood Threat Ends

## Bonds Lose By 44

School Trustees Plan Second Attempt After Narrow Defeats In Both School Bond Issues

Storm May  
Ease Tonight

The Morning-After Smile



## Night Of Suspense

Boulder Has  
'Real' Rain

Residents And Stores Alerted  
As San Lorenzo Neared Peak

By Don Becker

Flood-frightened Santa Cruzans relaxed today as the storm which swelled the San Lorenzo river within inches of



by a nerve-wracking narrow margin, "no" voters yesterday defeated the Santa Cruz high school and elementary district school bonds issues.

Unofficial results from the 30 precincts revealed the \$2,725,000 high school proposition lost by 44 votes and the \$600,000 elementary proposition lost by 68 votes.

Even the 109 absentee ballots cannot save the issue, according to Ed Hill, director of attendance for city schools, who helped compute the vote returns last night.

Despite heavy rains throughout the day and a light morning poll-attendance, a comparatively high voter turnout decided the issue. An estimated 41.4 per cent of those registered turned out for the high school district vote; and 44 per cent voted on the elementary proposition.

The totals were as follows: high school proposition, 6672 yes; and 3417 no; total vote, 10,089. Elementary proposition, 4161 yes; 2182 no; total vote, 6343.

Mid-evening the returns gave a slight edge to the high school proposition of more than 100 votes, but that lead soon slid down to a minus figure. The elementary issue was doomed throughout most of the evening.

Most of the school board trustees indicated last night that they would proceed with the proposed school planning and present the issue before the public again as soon as possible. The board must wait 60 days.

Reaction from trustees and school officials was direct and hard-hitting.

Trustee Pegie Johns: "I am more disappointed in the people who would have voted 'yes,' but didn't vote than I am with the people who voted 'no.'"

"The 'yes' voters who didn't vote were the people who lost the election on both issues."

Trustee John McBain: "Well, you know how I feel. There will be a special board meeting Tuesday night and we are seeing to it that the agenda includes a request that another bond election is held as soon as the law allows."

"We are going to proceed with the regular plans and take the next step in line. I believe that we will have the same property for the proposed mid-county high school."

"This election cost \$4000, and the next election will cost \$4000."

"The point is that we still need these school facilities for the kids of the school districts."

Board Chairman Richard Hackbarth felt that the vote was "an overwhelming vote of confidence"

by a nerve-wracking narrow margin, "no" voters yesterday defeated the Santa Cruz high school and elementary district school bonds issues.

"To me the results were encouraging. We will evaluate the circumstances in this election and undoubtedly place the issue before the people again as soon as possible. I think the next one will go," he said.

For Dr. Lawrence Magee, city schools superintendent, the defeat was a bitter one. He said:

"I am glad that I am not the one who has to look into the eyes of these boys and girls today and try to explain to them why I didn't vote, or why I voted against giving them equal educational opportunities with the rest of the junior citizens in this state."

"From an educator's point of view, and also from the point of view of a citizen of this democracy of ours, I feel that the failure of these bonds to pass is one of the saddest and one of the most tragic happenings in the history of Santa Cruz."

Dr. Magee went on to express his appreciation for the citizens who worked on the campaign and the hundreds of parents who went door to door in an effort to get residents to the polls.

"The fault, if there is a fault, lies with apathy and lethargy. There just were not enough people interested in the boys and girls of this community to successfully pass this bond issue," he said.

"However, there will be another, and while I am terribly discouraged I know that tomorrow will bring new courage; because this money is needed, and these children must have adequate educational facilities."

Trustee Margaret Reed said briefly: "I think there's more work to be done. I am in favor of bringing this bond issue back to the public as soon as possible."

Trustee Adrian Gory: "I would like to have the people who voted 'no' to write me and tell me just what we can do to satisfy their desires concerning the building of new school buildings which I think we all agree have to be built."

"When the issue is presented again these points will be presented for consideration. I think we will have to go ahead and continue our plans and see if we can satisfy the public."

## Undersheriff Tara Is Only Casualty

Undersheriff Paul Tara, who put in a gruelling 22-hour day yesterday, last night and early this morning, was the first reported flood casualty. He suffered a gash on his head. The mishap occurred when Tara was investigating possible flood danger in Felton Grove, just off Highway 9. His patrol car got stuck in the saturated earth. While he was attempting to push the car, he cracked his head into the tail light. Blood gushed from the wound, but Tara offered only a "blank-blank" and kept on working.

San Francisco (AP). — Three weeks of almost constant rain continued through the night with an exceptionally heavy fall in California's northern counties.

The weather bureau held out a hope that the storm would diminish tonight.

There was no serious flooding in the northern and central parts of the state.

Santa Cruz, alarmed at the prospect of the San Lorenzo river flooding through the city, reported the stream hit a peak of 13.8 feet about 2:30 a.m., and by 7 a.m. was down to 11.9 feet.

The weather bureau predicted the Russian river would rise above flood stage of 29 feet today at Guerneville, and would continue to rise to 32 or 33 feet by late in the day. "This crest," the forecaster said, "still does not mean any serious flooding."

The snow level in the mountains has been quite high. It was raining this morning on U.S. 40 and U.S. 50 into Reno.

Gale warnings were lowered on the north coast but still were flying from Point Conception, on the Santa Barbara coast, southward into Mexico.

## Several County Roads Are Closed By Heavy Rains

Heavy rains set off slides in various parts of the county yesterday and caused the closing of Eureka canyon and Empire grade.

Road Commissioner Fred Pracht reported this morning that extra help is being employed and additional equipment used to clear roads. He anticipates having the Eureka canyon and Empire Grade passable sometime this afternoon.

Felton grade and Jameson creek road, hit by a rock slide, are reported to be passable.

Pracht, who said the situation "was not too bad," indicated that the heavy storm served notice storm drains are direly needed in urban areas. Opal Cliffs is one sector that was hit with the brunt of the storm.

"There is a crying need for storm drains out there," he declared.

He said as building continues, the problem will only increase.

A slide on Highway 9 in Brookdale blocked the road for a short period and a fallen tree hampered traffic, but the highway was quickly cleared.

Don Bruce, superintendent of the city street department reported this morning that all streets are in good condition and no damage has resulted from the heavy rainstorm.

## SPY DOES 'WELL' AFTER OPERATION

New York (AP). — Confessed Russian spy Jack Soble was reported doing very well today following an emergency operation to remove a number of bolts, nuts and rivets he swallowed in an attempted suicide.



Andy Mekis exemplified the feeling of many Santa Cruz businessmen this morning with his smile of relief as he removed the sand bags from the front

of his store at 819 Pacific avenue. The rains stopped, the San Lorenzo dropped and the city returned to normal after a night of suspense.

## Bond Election Precinct Results

Precincts	Total Vote	Elementary		High School	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Grant School	257	147	108	145	111
2. Branciforte Junior High	376	247	131	242	134
3. East Side Library	385	226	159	219	165
4. Tibbot Garage	466	282	183	273	191
5. Costella and Caiocca	315	166	148	156	156
6. Fink's Hardware	251	155	96	154	95
7. Riverside Hotel	279	158	118	149	130
8. Gault School	338	208	130	201	136
9. Seabright Post Office	214	147	66	141	72
10. Sea Esta Cottages	192	122	70	123	69
11. Laurel School	186	118	66	114	70
12. High School	280	182	98	178	102
13. Redman Hall	293	180	112	163	128
14. Garfield Park School	357	258	99	248	107
15. Bay View School	370	264	104	255	113
16. El Dranei Motel	466	341	123	338	125
17. 208 Van Ness Ave.	323	225	97	229	92
18. 433 Van Ness Ave.	397	303	94	303	95
19. Mission Hill Junior High	399	307	91	301	96
20. SC Frozen Foods	216	125	89	120	94
CITY TOTAL	6360	4161	2182	4052	2281
21. Live Oak School	1389			879	504
22. Soquel School	778			601	172
23. Capitola School	700			518	181
24. Mountain School	102			81	21
25. Happy Valley School	86			44	42
26. Scotts Valley School	545			367	173
27. Bald Mountain School	28			18	9
28. Bonny Doon School	79			58	21
29. Pacific School	51			44	7
30. Seaside School	16			10	16
RURAL TOTAL				2620	1136
GRAND TOTAL				6672	3417

Highest rainfall recorded in the northern county during the last 24 hours was recorded at Boulder Creek with 7.4 inches.

The downpour in the Santa Cruz area came to 3.90, making this month so far the third wettest since 1902, according to Weather-map Robert Burton.

John Cruze of Live Oak reported the 4.37 inches there boosted his records for the season to date to 33.30 which he says is the second highest on his records. He recorded 34.99 at this date in 1952.

For Boulder Creek, its 7.4 was surpassed December 23, 1955, with a 9.11 reading for 24 hours. George "Hoot" Cress of Boulder Creek recalls that it hit around 14 inches in the 30s.

Rainfall reports are as follows:

	24 hrs.	1958	1957
Santa Cruz	3.96	32.60	12.80
Ben Lomond	3.90	53.08	16.56
Boulder Creek	7.40	53.42	17.23
Live Oak	4.37	33.30	9.56
Empire grade	5.00	53.75	19.55
Felton	6.25	44.66	12.41
Soquel	4.08	29.66	9.95
Cave gulch	6.00	44.03	20.65
Davenport	3.05	27.10	7.85
Capitola	3.89	28.78	
Aptos	3.80	34.61	11.21
Watsonville	1.81		

## Six Evacuated From Capitola

Six persons, including one cripple, were reported evacuated from Riverview avenue in Capitola early this morning as the Noble gulch flue fell several thousand gallons of water behind and sent the usually placid creek over its banks.

According to Capitola Police-man Dave Esty, the six were taken to the homes of friends on higher ground before water began running under the houses. When the flue near city hall was cleared, the flooding receded and little damage was reported. At its highest point, the water lapped at the corners of the city hall about 1 o'clock.

Volunteer crews spent most of the night at the flue yanking out drift wood with clammings forks to prevent clogging and more flood waters from flowing through the city.

## How The River Reacted To Rains

Police kept a tight check on the rising waters of the San Lorenzo last night. Here are the hourly readings at the Water street checking station.

4 p.m.	7.3	5 p.m.	7.8
6 p.m.	8.3	7 p.m.	8.9
8 p.m.	9.3	9 p.m.	9.6
10 p.m.	9.9	11 p.m.	10.2
11:30 p.m.	10.6	12: a.m.	10.1
12:30 a.m.	11.2	1 a.m.	11.5
1:30 a.m.	12.1	2 a.m.	12.5
2:30 a.m.	13.1	2:45 a.m.	13.5
3 a.m.	13.8	4 a.m.	13.4
5 a.m.	13.1	6 a.m.	12.1
7 a.m.	11.7	8 a.m.	11.3
9 a.m.	10.9	10 a.m.	10.8

its banks in many critical areas subsided into a welcome aura of clouds and near-misses.

Seven inches of rain in Boulder Creek brought the San Lorenzo up seven feet to a dangerous 13.8 foot level at the crest at 3 a.m. today.

The weatherman predicted partly cloudy skies for tonight with decreasing rain.

At noon today, the river had dropped to 10.1 feet at the

Water street marker. In Boulder Creek, where the water stood last night at more than three and a half feet over the dam, the flow had diminished to only a foot and a quarter over the barrier.

Unless unexpected heavy rains strike tonight, the flood danger is over, at least for the present.

Only apparent danger now is that the predicted winds of 15-30 m.p.h. may blow harder than expected, endangering soggy-rooted trees throughout the county.

Today's sun, at times obscured by clouds, made the flood threat nebulous, but to the hundreds of city and county officials and workers, the danger early this morning was grave indeed.

The swirling waters of the San Lorenzo rose to within inches of many bank areas and managed to slip over in other sectors. No damage was reported within the city, however, and county-wide, the destruction was slight.

Yesterday's storm, which drenched Boulder Creek with 7.4 inches of rain in a 24-hour period and Santa Cruz with 3.96 might have proved almost as disastrous as the 1955 flood had not the tide been ebbing when the flood waters reached their peak at 3 a.m. today.

Top reading at the Water street bridge was 13.8 feet. Prior to last night, the city said a reading of 11.5 could cause a flood in some areas and, as the waters arose, the city and northern county sturdied for the worst.

Stores on Pacific avenue and Front street were warned to clear out lower floors of merchandise and stay on the alert for the night. Businessmen complied. The alert went out at 9:30 p.m.

As the waters continued to rise, the city was put on an emergency status at 1 a.m. by City Manager Bob Klein. Coordination among the police, city, county, sheriff's office, highway patrol, civil defense and other agencies, was slick.

"We're in a lot better shape than last time," Klein said last night.

The first break came at 1:25 a.m. when water started spilling over the bank at Burnett street and slapped at the street where the houses have been moved due to the redevelopment project.

At the foot of Broadway, water circumvented levees and washed along the foundations of several houses. The bank was surmounted at both Laurel street extension and Garfield street at 1:35 a.m. and the city street department offered sandbags to any businessmen who wanted to protect their property.

The water continued to rise with the continuing rain in the San Lorenzo valley until 3 a.m., but it was moving swiftly into the ocean.

In the valley, where the hills are saturated and where big and

little tributaries fed the river with almost every new drop from the sky, the rain began to wane near 3:15 a.m., and the flood danger started to subside.

Damage in the valley consisted mainly of slides along Highway 9. At one point above Ben Lomond, a redwood toppled across the highway and closed the road until workers could chop the tree. The tree slashed power lines and electricity was out in Boulder Creek for several hours. A short blackout also was reported in Felton.

Below Boulder Creek, in the lowlands, houses were lighted as residents kept a wary eye on the water until early morning.

In Santa Cruz, streets along the river were crowded as hundreds of fearful residents came out to see first hand the threat to the city.

## Trailers Move From River's Danger Points

Some 20 to 30 house trailers were towed from the El Rio Mobile Home Park, 2120 North Pacific avenue during last night's flood threat.

The El Rio was one of the hardest hit areas during the 1955 floods. Five trailers were lost and some 30 were damaged as flood waters swirled through the area at depths up to six feet, according to Mrs. Gertrude Tindall, park assistant.

Huge mounds of mud dikes bulldozed by the Granite Construction company held back any overflow that might have resulted if rains had been heavier last night.

While tractors pulled the trailers slowly out of the park, a corps of some 20 trailer owners decided to stick it out.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chase, whose trailer and car were damaged in the last flood were sitting pat.

"We've put so much work in our patio and barbecue area we just don't want to leave. We're hoping the banks will hold. We've hung up our lucky horseshoe," said Mrs. Chase.

Mr. and Mrs. August Tostman at about 2 a.m. were still undecided. Most of the trailers are attached to such outside equipment as awnings, water heaters, climbing vines, etc., and to pull them away causes a great deal of repair work later.

Many sat calmly by their radios in their trailers, shouting any news of the river's subsiding across to each other. Roy Linden, whose trailer was wrecked in 1955, got out early. He came back to offer help to others.

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