

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

County for More Than 100 Years

MONDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 31, 1964

10c Sunday and Daily  
Excepting Saturday

FOURTEEN PAGES

Guaranteed Paid Circulation

of The Sentinel yesterday was

18,879

The County seat daily read by more than 50,000. Every edition presents buyers and sellers classified and display advertising news of the area.



## Dies At Age 102

### Civic Leader, Merchant Began SC Career In '92

Samuel Leask Sr., venerable Santa Cruz merchant and civic leader, died yesterday afternoon at the age of 102.

His death in his home at 120 Green street, ended a career that spanned the centuries from the Victorian age to the space age, from a rock-bare croft (farm) near Aberdeen, Scotland, to Santa Cruz, where he founded what was to become the city's largest department store.

Mr. Leask's death came quietly at 1:15 p.m., following a week of gradually failing health. His daughter, Mrs. R. P. Franklin, was present at the time of death.

The road that led to the modernized department store at the corner of Church street and Pacific avenue began in 1874, when Mr. Leask left the family farm to apprentice as a "draper" in Aberdeen. After four years' apprenticeship, he secured a job as a draper's clerk in London and in 1883 took passage for the United States.

He was employed in Boston and Memphis before reaching California in 1884. In 1885 he joined Charles Ford and company in Watsonville and was employed there seven years before coming to Santa Cruz.

Mr. Leask established a home in Watsonville and brought his widowed mother and his sister over from Scotland. His sister later married Stephen Martinelli, who established the apple cider business still carried on by members of the Martinelli family.

Early in 1892, Mr. Leask acquired the former Seaside Store in Santa Cruz, which he opened in partnership in June of that year. It was during this period also



Samuel Leask Sr.

that he married the former Clara Johnson of Watsonville.

His public service began about 1899, when he was appointed to serve on a committee to secure financial assistance from the Carnegie foundation to build a public library in Santa Cruz.

This and later endeavors led to the construction of the present library. Mr. Leask served as a library trustee for 40 years. He also served as a member of the school board from 1906 to 1909 and again from 1911 to 1914.

He was named by Gov. C. C. Young in 1929 to a commission to survey educational conditions in the state.

He twice served as a member

of the board of freeholders to write a charter for the city of Santa Cruz and was instrumental in negotiations in 1909 which brought about partial relief from a \$265,000 judgment which jeopardized the title of the city water works.

Mr. Leask never sought nor held paid political office. On the state level, he had served as a member of the first board for minimum wages for women and the park commission. In the latter role, he was instrumental in establishing the Henry Cowell Redwoods State park (Big Trees) at Felton.

Locally, he was a member, along with his wife, of the committee which led to the founding of the Visiting Nurses association. He also was a member of the Odd Fellows and the Elks.

In addition, he had the distinction of being the oldest member of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

Mr. Leask had served as president of the California Retail Dry Goods association and during the years of World War I as a member of the board of exemption, the draft board of that day.

He was a director of the Santa Cruz Boach company for 50 years and a director of the Santa Cruz Lumber company during its formative years.

Active well into his 90s, Mr. Leask eagerly followed the growth of the community he helped build from a village in the 1890s to the booming city it is today. A 100th birthday reception in 1961 found him still active and alert, the recipient of accolades from leading merchants.

Mr. Leask's wife died in 1947. He is survived by all his children, four sons and a daughter. They are Samuel Leask Jr. of Sacramento; Haswell and Sherwood Leask, both of Waterford; James B. Leask of Santa Cruz and Mrs. R. P. Franklin (Margaret Leask) of San Carlos. In addition, he is survived by a niece, Mrs. Anna Martinelli Dondero of Stockton, 10 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow in Wessendorf and Thal chapel, with the Rev. Thomas D. Ewing of First Presbyterian church officiating. Private inurnment will follow in IOOF crematory.

Leask's department store will be closed tomorrow in memory of its founder.

## California Officially Top State

Washington (AP).—California received official recognition today as the No. 1 state in population. But it is ahead of New York only because of the military men stationed there, the Census Bureau said.

In its annual estimates of state populations, the Census Bureau said California's population on July 1 was approximately 18,084,000 compared with 17,915,000 for New York.

It said New York retains the No. 1 position on the basis of civilian population alone — 17,870,000 to California's 17,749,000. The difference between these figures and the total population represents armed forces in the two states.

New York had been the largest state in population since the census of 1910. Pennsylvania led in 1890 and 1900.

California has claimed the No. 1 ranking for some time. A year ago, the Census Bureau's annual estimate showed California in front by a nose.

The bureau estimated that since the 1960 census, California's population has increased by 2.4 million while New York's population has grown by 1.1 million.

The national population increased 2.7 million over the past 12 months and on July 1 it was 191,334,000, the bureau estimated.

In the ranking of states, Texas displaced Ohio as No. 5, Florida moved from 10 to 9, replacing Massachusetts.

## Battle For Life

Nashville, Tenn. (AP).—The doughboy hero of World War I, Sgt. Alvin York, appeared to be losing ground today in his long battle with ill health.

## Inside Today

	Page
Amusements	7
Bridge Column	2
Classified Section	9-12
Comics	8
Editorial Features	13
Junior Editor	8
Markets	5
Radio Programs	12
Society, Club News	3
Sports	6
Television Programs	5
Vital Statistics	5

## Neary Lagoon Proposal Faces Uphill Battle

Plans for a "15 million development" at Neary lagoon will be a long time coming to fruition, city officials predicted today.

Owners of the 44-acre parcel, Boulder Creek contractor Gerald McGuire and Kelly Wood of Felton, announced development plans Saturday. McGuire said the

visory" approval of the development's concept, but such approval is against city policy.

The city general plan proposes the lagoon be used for beach parking and a heliport. Development of the sewage treatment plant will leave less than half the present lagoon unused, however.