

# Rotarians' Adobe Project Completed

A combination dedication and wine tasting party was given Friday evening by Santa Cruz Rotary Club in the garden of Santa Cruz' oldest adobe structure, to mark the completion of a club project.

Club members constructed a redwood fence and iron gate on the Mission Street side of the School Street Adobe property (also known as the Neary-Rodriguez adobe.)

A year's work has gone into the project, according to club president Edward W. Prindle, following approval by the club's board of directors. A preliminary plan was prepared by landscape architect Roy Rydell.

For several years the club has taken on a major project based on what the directors feel solves a need in the local community.

"This year being the Bicentennial, it seems only fitting that recognition be given to the only remaining building of Mission Santa Cruz," Prindle comments.

Members hope this will be the first step in getting the community to recognize the importance of this adobe which is located so close to the Pacific Garden Mall yet has been virtually forgotten, in the years since the Santa Cruz Historical Society was instrumental in its purchase by the State of California.

The Rotary board includes Prindle, John Byrne, secretary; Lionel Stoloff, Dr. Ted Foster, Moreland Johnson, Tom Jackson, Spiro Mellis, Bert B. Snyder, Wayne Matthews and the Rev. Don Munro.

A special committee for the fence project was headed by

Pete Schipper.

The actual work on the fence was done by Milt Macken, Rotarian and building contractor, assisted by Kermit Darrow, Moreland Johnson, Les Ley, Tom Reese, Jerry Todd, Ed Penniman and John Huffman.

## Summer Bible School Opens

The summer vacation bible school will begin at the First Baptist Church, 411 Roxas St., on Monday.

The school will continue through July 2 and classes will meet Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to attend.

For further information call Ann Cummings at 423-1674.

On Schipper's committee were several non-Rotarians including Rydell, Skip Morris and Hal Bradshaw who represented the State Division of Beaches and Parks which currently has jurisdiction over the historic property.

The adobe was constructed some time between 1794 and 1810, it is believed, although the date is not recorded in any historic accounts known to be in existence.

It is believed to have been used as a garrison for the Mission Santa Cruz soldiers and was originally a one-story adobe. It is probably Santa Cruz' oldest "duplex," as it is two separate dwellings with a five-foot thick common wall between them.

The pioneer Neary and Rodriguez families acquired the former church property af-

ter Mission Santa Cruz was secularized. The garden behind the adobe, overlooking the downtown area, is particularly attractive, according to Prindle, and made an appropriate setting for the wine tasting party for members and their wives.



Pete Schipper, Connie Mellis, Tom Jackson and Carole Jackson were on hand Friday evening when the Santa Cruz Rotary Club's School Street Adobe project was dedicated. They're holding a placque which will be placed on a gate, which was part of the project which took a year to complete.

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