-Santa Cruz Sentinel - Friday, May 19, 1978 Chehwlogy Construction Still Suspended For Archaeological Dig

By BILL NEUBAUER Sentinel Staff Writer

An archaeological mystery in the historic Mission Hill district has stopped work on a townhouse development there finds already made. and could lead conceivably to a complete re-evaluation of the project by the Santa Cruz City Council.

The mystery is associated with the discovery in April of thought to be part of the original Santa Cruz Mission com-

The discovery of these and

Santa Cruz Archaeological So- condition that "in the instance to speak on the project within ciety members and other resi- of foundations of Mission build- the context of the major disdents to tell the developer and ings or the garden walls speci- coveries last month on the site.

city planning department of- fied in the archaeological surficials they want more com- vey these objects shall be replete information on the total site before they can consider further excavation on that porlogically measures proposed by the developer to safeguard the

Rob Edwards of the society and a Cabrillo College instructor on archaeology, told one of the developers, Roger Gintert: "It is not our thrust to stop the two yellowed foundation walls project. We are concerned to protect structural and cultural materials of our earliest

Under terms of the special other artifacts on the 10-lot use permit granted for the ninedevelopment site at the end of unit cluster development, the Adobe Street has created con- developer was required to stop cern that other structural or work on the project if signifi- the circumstances of the cultural materials linked to the cant archaeological resources area's prehistory or early his- are discovered. The term "sigtory may lie buried on the nificant archaeological reproperty and be lost inad- sources" was defined by the vertently because of the city Zoning Board to "include the present report should be planned townhouse construct the foundation of Mission build-required ings or human burials."

corded and mapped prior to tion of the site. In the event that human burials are discovered during excavation, work shall ing about going to court?" be halted and the county coroner, the Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (NICPA) and other appropriate authorities shall be notified and mitigation measures developed . . . "

At Thursday's meeting of concerned citizens with the developer and city officials. Jennifer Anderson took the position that the finding of the foundation walls last month represents a substantial change in project and that under the California Environmental Protection Act a new environmental impact report or big changes in

Anderson contended the pub-That concern Thursday led It is then specified in this lic should be given the chance

Anderson said some of the issues in this call for a new report and city council hearing "are in a gray area and perhaps have to be settled in court."

Gintert asked: "Are you talk-

Anderson replied she was not threatening legal action, but she went on to say that if there were precedents involved and there were no other choices she could see where she might be willing to take that to court.

Peter Katzlberger, Santa Cruz planner, deplored what he termed "threats of lawsuits." saying he was more interested in getting suggestions on mitigation measures the developer could take to lessen project impact on the archaeological values of the

A more thorough inventory of artifacts on the site was suggested by Tom Jackson, director of the Sanchez Adobe in the San Mateo Historical Register.

"New archaeological evidence has come forth." Jackson said. "Mitigation is

posal to place two to three feet posed was Charlotte Melville. the suggestions given and sub- until acceptable protective of fill to prevent further dis- Absent were Carole DePalma mit a more detailed mitigation work is proposed. turbance of cultural material is a good approach. Ideally, he said, the thing to do would be to leave the site undeveloped. He noted that the developers could gain tax advantages by giving the property to an agency for preservation.

But much more may be needed to satisfy mitigation measures. Jackson said, and he stated it is only after the resources are known that logical decisions can be made on what mitigation will be acceptable.

William Roop, the architectural consultant who did the original environmental impact report, told the group: "There is no question but that foundation walls are part of the original complex.'

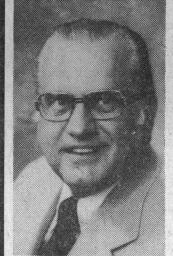
He said, however, that scraps of bone found on the site are not of human origin and he added he has found no evidence the site was used as a burial

Roop was reminded by Anderson and Jackson that in his original report he had noted only a so-called Mission garden wall and that the two walls since discovered were not suspected by him.

The project go-ahead was given when the city council approved the project's tentative map in April of 1977. Councilmembers at that time first approved the environmental impact report by a 4 to 1 vote. For approval were Joseph

Ghio, Sally DiGirolamo, Bert and John Mahaney, Jackson agreed that a pro- Muhly and Larry Edler. Op-

The developer will consider The project is stalled at least



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Fireman Utters A Sigh Of Relief

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