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**'Happy Cop' Quits To Be Cartoonist**

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Dick Rogers, Santa Cruz' "Happy Cop" is ending a 15-year career with the Santa Cruz Police Department to become a cartoonist.

Rogers has created a comic Sunday feature, "Johnny Wonder," which has been syndicated and already is appearing in more than 90 newspapers throughout the nation.

Rogers' ability to make

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people laugh has helped the Santa Cruz police out of several "sticky" situations involving youths.

Some 300 young anti-draft demonstrators recently surrounded a bus load of draftees bound for the induction center and at first blocked its departure.

Rogers, keeping up a steady flow of chatter with the youths, opened the way for the bus by walking into the crowd.

As the bus left, Rogers got heavy applause from the young demonstrators. He also got praise from his superiors and other city officials.

The week before at a similar anti-draft demonstration, the youths refused to move and had a confrontation with officers.

Rogers, 41, said acceptance of his feature, Johnny Wonder, is the "realization of a lifelong dream."

He had done free lance cartooning for many years, with little hope of hitting the big time.

But success came fast — after about three years of developing his idea for Johnny Wonder.

The feature was syndicated the first of last month and it already appears in more than 93 newspapers.

Rogers has been flooded with fan mail, now averaging between 200 and 300 letters a week.

"Wow," said Rogers, in commenting on the mail, "I'm gonna have to answer all of this."

Rogers lives with his wife,

Alma, son Greg, 13, and daughters, Sandra, 16 at 360 Branciforte Dr., Santa Cruz.

Johnny Wonder differs from comic strips in that it gives youngsters something to do — and learn — rather than just reading a story.

A typical feature consists of a pictorial or crossword puzzle, an illustrated scientific fact such as "only female mosquitoes bite" and an item on nature.

It also has a "mail bag" spot, in which children write in to have questions answered. A prize is given for questions accepted.

In recent years Rogers has assisted cartoonist George Crenshaw, Aptos, whose comic strip "Nubbins" has been syndicated for many years.

Rogers gives Crenshaw credit for much of his (Rogers') success.

Rogers has also assisted on other syndicated strips.

During his 15 years with the police department here, Rogers worked eight years as a detective and earned the rank of sergeant.

Rogers said he has been working on the average of 65 hours a week, together with his police work and cartooning.

"I'm looking forward to a 40-hour week again," said Rogers. I'll have time for golf and I can sit around all day and listen to the radio, drink coffee and draw."

"And help with the dishes and wax the floors," Mrs. Rogers added. Rogers had no comeback.