

A historic wedding: Society and trust will merge



Pete Amos/Sentinel

Harriet Deck and Fred Palmer helped with merger.

TWO local historical groups — Santa Cruz Historical Society and the Octagon Historical Trust — will merge into a new entity, the Santa Cruz County Historical Trust, officers of both groups have announced.

Goal of the merger is "to unite local history and historic preservation efforts in Santa Cruz County," said Harriet Deck, president of the Octagon Historical Trust for the past two years. "We're entering an exciting new era."

Fred Palmer, president of the Historical Society for 1986, termed the merger "an idea whose time had come."

"For years, Santa Cruz has been widely recognized in the fields of local history and preservation. This will make a strong program even stronger," he said.

Deck will be president of the new organization through April, and Palmer will serve as vice-president.

Other officers of both boards will serve on the executive committee. They include Karen Sinsheimer, Jill Miller, Cynthia Mathews, Pat Keifer, Stan Stevens, Sara Boutelle,

'We're entering an exciting new era.'

— *Harriet Deck*
Octagon Trust president

Marsha Shanle and Marcella Hall. Other current board members of both groups will serve on the board of the new organization.

The newly created Santa Cruz Historical Trust will combine the assets and activities of both partners. The Octagon Historical Trust, itself a result of a recent merger between the Friends of the Octagon and the Santa Cruz County society for Historical Preservation, has focused on operating the Octagon Museum and other historical properties such as the Davenport Jail and Evergreen Cemetery.

Santa Cruz Historical Society, established in 1954, has maintained a variety of programs although it doesn't have a headquarters. Past activities have included printing a

monthly newsletter, collecting money for historical projects and offering speakers on historical subjects.

Members of either group will automatically become members of the new organization. The first joint board meeting is set for Dec. 11.

Many activities are planned for December, according to Deck. In addition to the regular organizational meetings, there will be the annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show Dec. 6; release of a new book, Don Clark's "Place Names of Santa Cruz County," in mid-December; and a benefit contest ending Dec. 20 to guess the arrival of the first migrating gray whales off Davenport.

The current exhibition at the Octagon, "The Chinese of Monterey Bay," will continue through Dec. 20. Planning is underway for the January exhibit, a collection of recently acquired photos from the collection of Paul Johnson with a focus on the mid-county area of Soquel and Aptos.

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