

Dedication Ceremonies Held For SCO Building

A hope which became a reality in 18 months for some 800 members of the Senior Citizens Opportunities in the form of a senior citizen center was dedicated this morning.

Over 250 persons filled the auditorium of the new addition at 224 Market street. The new building dwarfs the little scout house which served as the SCO's first general meeting place.

Women and men, the majority of whom are starting the second half of their lives, turned out in their Sunday best for the ceremonies.

Louis Kuplan, chairman of the state committee on aging, who has adopted the Santa Cruz senior citizen program as a prime example for the rest of California, was the main speaker.

Kuplan said: "Never have I heard of so much being accomplished in so short a time.

"The fact that you have had such a willing community behind you does not relieve you of your responsibility. Age does not release you from this—to give as well as receive.

"You should take on the responsibility of participating in helping to solve the needs of the community. You have the experience and you have the time. As your distinguished editor has said, 'aging starts at birth.'

"I have traveled extensively throughout Europe and only in the United States is there such an organization as you have."

The new addition, besides the auditorium, has a brightly-decorated and well-equipped kitchen, a room for the blind, meeting rooms, rest rooms, an office and a connecting door into the original scout building.

Thomas Twohig, president of the SCO, opened the dedication ceremonies with a review of the organization which was started 18 months ago by Elaine Walbroek, former executive secretary of the County Tuberculosis and Health association, who now is in Europe.

Twohig said it was a non-profit group which charges dues of \$3 a year. "However, if 25 cents a month works a hardship on any member, and he cannot pay it, we still welcome him with open arms," he said.

He brought up housing as "one of our biggest problems," and suggested a non-profit organization to plan a suitable community housing project for hundreds of senior citizens at prices they can afford.

Introduced at the ceremonies were Norman Lezin, president of A. K. Salz company, and Mrs. Lezin; Mrs. A. K. Salz, City Manager Robert Klein, Gordon Sinclair, managing editor of The

Sentinel; Keith Shaffer, president,

Rotary club; Dent Snider, Santa Cruz Committee on Aging member; Robert Darrow, president, Exchange club; Gordon Boyes, Santa Cruz chamber of commerce field representative; Mayor Carl White, and Tom Cutting, president, Santa Cruz Lions club.

Klein gave credit for most of his work to his wife Kris, who has been one of the busiest boosters of the organization. She worked on the project with Mrs. Walbroek, T. R. Hyde and Dr. Oliver Lee from the start.

Mrs. Salz, who with other members of the Salz family contributed \$6000 toward furnishing the building in memory of the late A. K. Salz, spoke briefly. She said she was highly impressed with the new building and the only thing she objected to was the word aging in connection with the group.

Sinclair told the group "you start aging when you are born." He said he considered the dedication of the new senior citizen center only the first step in a long stairway of successes.

The original scout house was donated to the city by the Exchange club for the SCO to use part time. Those who helped match the \$6000 given by the city included, Santa Cruz Lions, \$2000; Rotary club, \$2000; A. K. Salz company, \$1000, and SCO, \$1000. An additional \$3000 was borrowed by SCO for the building.

Music for the affair was furnished by the SCO chorus under Charles Tipper. Refreshments were to be served throughout the day.

Researcher

By Alton L. Blakeslee

New York (AP)—Heavy cigarette smoking speeds death seven to eight years before your time, a cancer researcher estimated yesterday.

Dr. Daniel Horn, made this "rough guess" on the basis of statistics from a massive human study just concluded by the American Cancer society.

The study declared:

Regular cigarette smokers die from lung cancer 10 times more frequently than non-smokers.

Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, who directed the study with Dr. Horn, declared he believes the study and other evidence "proves smoking is the cause of lung cancer, but not the only you can get it."

Smokers run a 70 per cent greater risk of fatal coronary heart disease than non-smokers, the study finds. Coronaries are the nation's leading killer.