

# They're Playing Number Games At The Downtown SC Library

By Margaret Koch

They are playing the numbers game at Santa Cruz public library. Or maybe it's musical chairs.

What do you do when you've got 30 seats and 80 people show up?

It's simple. Fifty of them stand. Or wander around waiting to grab a chair the minute it's empty—maybe some of them get tired of waiting and go home.

This simple problem in addition and subtraction is faced every day and every evening at the main branch of Santa Cruz public library during peak-use hours.

Only it is getting to be more and more a problem of addition instead of subtraction.

"An increased number of customers plus the same old number of chairs don't add up to satisfied customers OR to efficient service," Librarian Geraldine Work pointed out.

"How many people can only get their book and go home with it. There's no room for more chairs if we had them."

Things get worse when school lets out.

The kids arrive to look up special material for reports and what happens? Kids being kids, there is likely to be SOME kind of communication going on among them. And kids being kids, they are likely to forget to keep the din down.

This situation doesn't make for a happy feeling of togetherness in the library.

## Capitola Man Arrested After Entry Reports

A 28-year-old Capitola man was arrested early yesterday morning after sheriff's deputies received three reports of a man entering Aptos residences attempting to molest sleeping women.

Leopold Avitia Molero Jr., 28,

A few days ago one of the unhappy ones wrote a letter. It went to library trustees. They read it and passed it on to Mrs. Work. She read it and passed it on to—well it really doesn't matter. Except that it is a very tired looking letter. It even SOUNDS tired.

"This letter is written by a retired man. I enjoy reading the magazines and papers in the evening at the library. However, with all the high school children all talking and moving around it is impossible to think. The place should be used by students for reference purposes and not as a place of social gatherings. Kindly look into the matter."

Mrs. Work has looked. And she agrees, in part, with the disgruntled letter writer.

"He's right, but it's still mainly a problem of space," she said. "The boys and girls who use the library are generally pretty well-behaved."

The main public library building was constructed in 1903 to serve about 10,000 readers and—eventually—to handle about 30,000 books.

Today there are more than 85,000 books housed in the building—quite a housekeeping problem in itself. And it is serving approximately 66,000 people per year. Circulation runs about 1200 volumes per day. Eight years ago it averaged about half that.

The letter also pointed up another local library problem, exaggerated here because of the number of retired people who have discovered the good life by the bay.

The letter writer himself was a "retired man."

About one quarter of the city's population is aged 65 years or older. The county population averaged close to 19 per cent over 65 years of age in 1960. These figures are all contained in a library survey report compiled by Arlene Hope, principal librarian with state library consultant services.

And so, Mrs. Work feels that when the new Santa Cruz library

building is planned it should have an area for research and privacy—away from the noise and comings and goings of in-and-out borrowers.

"I have visited new libraries for miles around to see how they are solving some of these problems," she declared.

A library advisory committee is working on it, too. It includes Lionel Lenox of Soquel; Don Clarke, University of California at Santa Cruz librarian; Jane Winegar, Mary Kinzie, Murial Merman, Jack Norton, and Len Gerkensmeyer.

They met just the other day.

Plans will be made.

Problems will be met.

Progress will come.

So be patient, dear readers. Because until there's more room down there, 2 plus 2 will add up to 22 instead of 4.