



*"The Charles E. Moore Memorial Boy Scout Building"
The Council Service Center*



Charles E. Moore

Council Service Center

The land at 2095 Park Avenue was purchased on May 9, 1953 from Tract 262 of Kaiser Community Homes by the Boy Scout Memorial Foundation.

Plans for the headquarters building were drawn by Sobey and Green, Architects, and dated May 26, 1953. The Architectural Committee was composed of David Slipher, Paul Frechette and J.J. Reiter.

After the building was completed, the Council was able to buy a small adjoining parcel in June, 1954, bordered by Park Avenue and Highway 17. It was purchased from the State of California when the Highway Department decided it wasn't needed for widening the highway.

The Santa Clara County Council had survived for almost 35 years in rented space, and its staff and volunteers were more than ready to have a place of their own. A committee of enthusiastic businessmen, headed by Charles Moore, the president of Joshua Hendy Iron Works in Sunnyvale, went to work to solve the problem of putting up a building—without any cash!

The cost of the completed building was estimated to be \$42,000. It was built through the support and financial efforts of the businessmen of Santa Clara County, and by the generous donation of time, material

and services by the Scouting volunteers and their friends.

Ground was broken on June 14, 1953. Unfortunately, Charles Moore, the man who had spearheaded the building drive, died unexpectedly a week later at the age of 59.

Although Moore was sorely missed, his friends rallied to complete the project. The construction of the building was undertaken by Cliff Swenson, who served as general contractor. He was assisted by Bill Ondrasek, also of Carl N. Swenson, Inc. Their foreman, Al Stevens, took over as job superintendent.

The financial contributions that Moore and his committee had solicited came rolling in as promised. Cliff Swenson was also heavily involved in requesting and coordinating the contributions of time, material and money from approximately 175 business firms, individuals and labor organizations. These, and other "in-kind" contributions ensured completion of construction in time for the February 7, 1954 dedication. The new Scout Headquarters was named "The Charles E. Moore Memorial Boy Scout Building."

In 1965 floor space on the property was increased through the generosity of the Westminister Presbyterian Church of San Jose. Frank Brown, a City of San Jose building inspector, knew that the building on the church grounds was no longer needed. He was instrumental in getting it moved to the back of the

Council property. Again, with the aid of volunteer Scouters, the building was refurbished; it served as the Council Field Office until 1982.

(A list of building contributors may be found in the Appendix.)