City Planning Commission yesterday upon viewing Draper Companies' Northgate Shopping Center in San Rafael.

view board, made a day-long field trip to inspect the center.

The commission traveled round-trip by air to San

by Draper to take the city delegation to the Marin County site on the north side of Golden Gate.

Developers

Draper Companies is the developer of Del Monte Shopping Center on Carmel Hill in Monterey, a project which Draper hopes to open in the fall of 1966.

Purpose of yesterday's field trip: to show the city officials what Draper can do in shopping center development. E. P. Anderson, a Draper vice president, said, "We are proud of Northgate."

Commissioners and staff spent about three hours at Northgate, strolling along malls, studying building design, inspecting interiors of stores and merchandise. Some even did a bit of shopping.

When the tour was over, the general reaction of the Monterey group that Draper has good reason to be proud of Northgate.

Impressed

Commissioners were solidly impressed. Typical comments were those of Commissioners Kathryn Ragsdale and Peter Coniglio. Mrs. Ragsdale said the center *"has great warmth."* Coniglio said, "I am very impressed . . . but I hate to think what the center on Carmel Hill will do to downtown Monterey."

It was a lovely day for the trip. Skies over San Rafael were clear, sunny and warm. The rolling hills surrounding the valley floor on which the center is located were richly green following the spring rains.

Commissioners insisted that it wasn't just a pleasant day and an enjoyable junket that gave them a favorable opinion of the 55-acre Northgate site.

They liked landscape architect Lawrence Halprin's generous splashing of lawns in and about the parking area. They like the 400-some trees planted and which give promise of handsome growth.

Warmth

Commissioners were pleased with the brown, warm character of the exposed aggregate sidewalks, the clay brick walls of the buildings, the clay-tile roofing on the steeply-sloping eaves and the use of wooden soffits under the eaves.

Bright colors were everywhere, both outside and inside of stores. Commissioner Robert C. Littlefield enjoyed a Florsheim Shoe Store with a green pastel rug and 20-foot-wide entryway which gave a feeling of airiness and spaciousness to the shop. At the rear of the shop—and actually a part of it—was a Florsheim Gay Nineties Barber Shop.

The major department store at Northgate is an Emporium, the major grocery a Purity.

Other stores and shops include City of Paris, Frank More Shoes, Gallenkamp Shoes, Ross-Adkins, Liebes, Hastings, Modern Eve, House of Nine and See's Candies. There also are many smaller shops selling jewelry, silverware, sporting goods.

Not Completed

The center is not yet complete although it had its grand opening in early March. Some buildings remain to be built and some buildings which exist remain to be occupied.

An art feature—a large pool and fountain in the heart of the center—is not quite finished. When it is completed, sloping steps will lead down to the water and the area will be used for such purposes as fashion shows and band concerts.

If there was a feature at the center which caused a diversity of opinion, it was the Emporium. Some commissioners did not like the square block - like appearance, the use of large concrete blocks in wall construction.

Planning Director Richard Garrod said Macy's of Monterey should look much better. Sloping roofs create a better - looking building, he said.

Difference

He also noted that while the top of Northgate's Emporium is 55 feet above mall level, Macy's will be 35 feet above mall level. Macy's will be done in a natural adobe color which Garrod said should be more attractive than the green finish on the Emporium.

Planning Commissioner David D. Muir summarized the view of his colleagues in saying, "I am certainly impressed but I think the Monterey center is going to be much nicer. Certainly Monterey has a more beautiful site."

Draper Companies entertained the city delegation at lunch at the shopping center and for dinner at Draper's elaborate Peacock Gap Country Club in San Rafael.

Was the lavish treatment of the commission part of a selling pitch? Not so, said Draper representative Joseph Bacheller III.

He said that Draper, as far as the Del Monte Center is concerned, already has "just about all the approvals we need from the city . . ."



(AP Wirephoto)

Gets LBJ's Phone Calls

Mrs. Rose Brown, New York City housewife, enjoys phone calls of folks asking to talk to President Johnson. She gets many such calls because her number—456-1414—is the same as the White House number. Callers get Mrs. Brown when they dial area code 212 instead of 202. She wrote the President about the situation and he answered, thanking her for her diplomacy in handling the calls. She said, "He didn't ask me to change my number."

Occidental Students Elect Roger Magyar

Roger Magyar has been elected student body president of Occidental College on a first ballot vote, reportedly the first requiring no runoff election since 1961.

Magyar, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Magyar of Pacific Grove, is a junior economics major. He was a member of Tiger Claws, a service organization for sophomore men based on leadership in student activities. After graduation, the plans a career in law.

Insanity Plea Entered in Fatal Shooting

SALINAS — Providencia Gonzales, 52, of Salinas has pleaded not guilty and not guilty because of insanity in superior court to a charge that she murdered her common-law husband March 20.

The court ordered a psychiatric examination of the defendant and set a jury trial for June 1 at 10 a.m.

Mrs. Gonzales is accused of fatally shooting Antonio H. Perales, 51, in the head with a .22 caliber pistol on Market street in Salinas.

The couple reportedly was walking home shortly after 8 p.m. when an argument began. At one point in the argument, Perales allegedly said, "I know you have a gun. Go ahead and kill me."

With that, Mrs. Gonzales drew the pistol from her purse and shot Perales in the side of the head, police said.

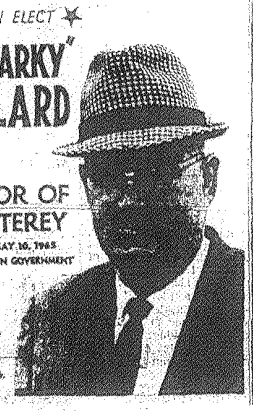
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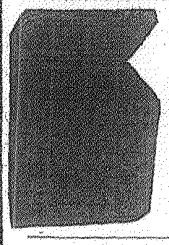
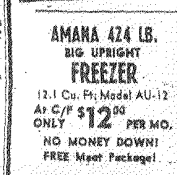
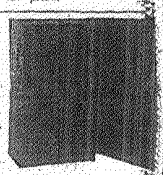
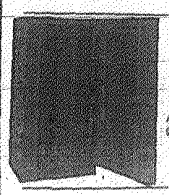
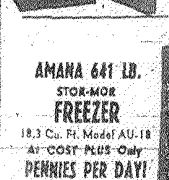
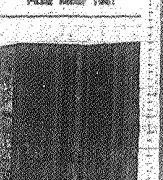
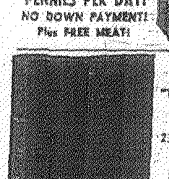
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