

## Age Discrimination Suit Nets \$1.25 Million Award

*From Staff Reports*

A Contra Costa County jury has awarded \$1.25 million to a Hercules man who claimed he was demoted and then fired to make room for younger managers.

The jury of 10 women and two men awarded Frank Tetzschner \$495,000 for lost wages and emotional distress on Feb. 1 and \$750,000 in punitive damages on Feb. 7.

Plaintiffs attorney Jonathan Siegel said he believed the award in *Tetzschner v. Unitank*, C89-00232, was the largest in the county, where lawyers generally expect more conservative juries and more moderate awards than in Alameda or San Francisco counties.

The jurors voted 12-0 on lost wages, 10-2 on emotional distress and 9-3 on punitive damages.

E. Garth Black, a partner at Cooper, White & Cooper in San Francisco who

represents Unitank Terminal Service, Tetzschner's former employer, said Friday his client was considering an appeal but no decision had been made.

Black said Tetzschner's job transfer was actually a promotion.

Tetzschner was 59 years old when he was fired in January 1988, four days after being transferred from his job as superintendent to what Siegel said was "a nebulous management job."