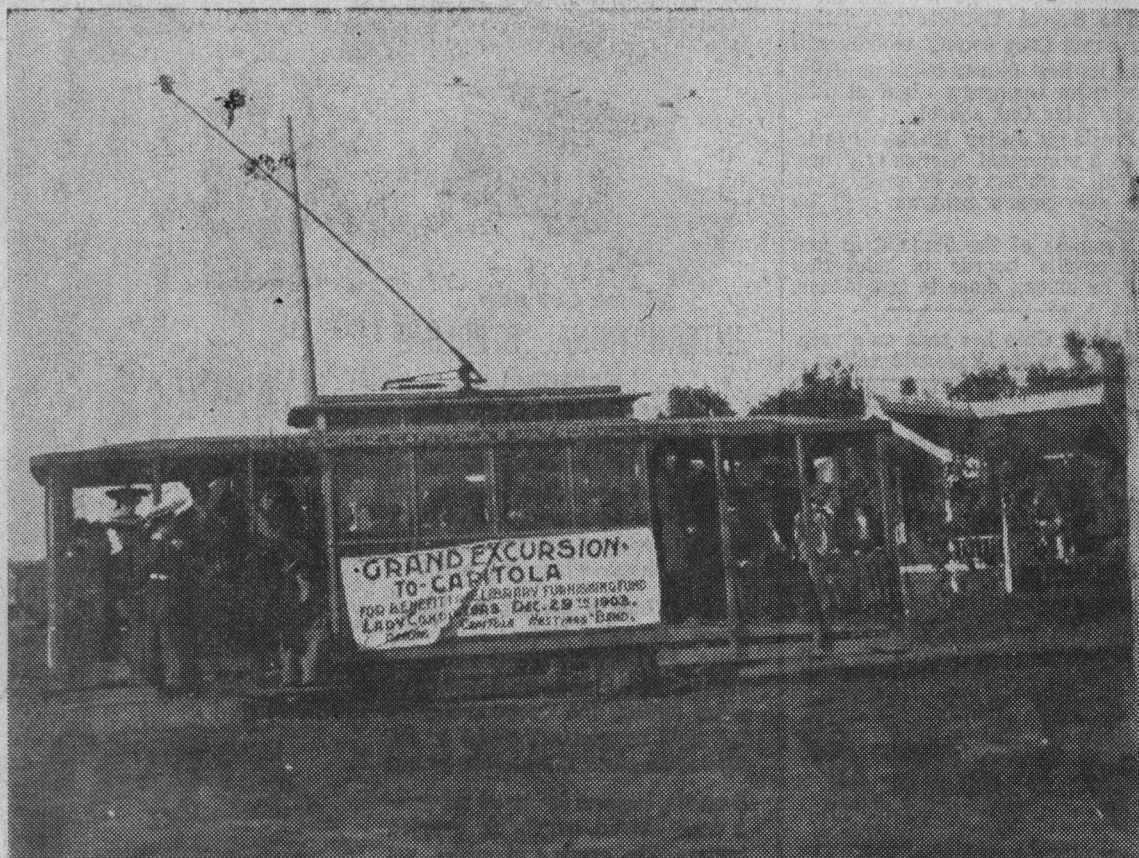


Santa Cruz Yesterdays



CAPITOLA CARLINE HELPS LIBRARY, 1903

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville Railway company had its tracks laid as far as Opal, on the hill west of Capitola, when, on December 29, 1903, it turned over the bulk of its day's receipts to a group of Santa Cruz women who were starting a fund to be devoted to furnishing the new public library.

Andrew Carnegie had given the city in all, \$20,000 with which to erect the building which is today's main library. The land was provided by F. A. Hihn at a modest cost with payments like rent. Construction had started September 29, just three months before, and now public spirited citizens were alert to findings ways and means of furnishing the fine new structure (which opened in mid-April, 1904).

The electric line, predecessor of the Union Traction company which converted to buses in 1926 before its demise, had operated for some time as the Santa Cruz, Garfield Park and Capitola railway. By the time the picture was taken (at Twin Lakes on Capitola Excursion Day), the line had finally made a start for the apple city.

Leaders of Trolley Line

At this time the officers of the newly designated company were: M. V. McQuigg, of Los Angeles, president; John M. Gardiner, of Santa Cruz, vice president and general manager; W. R. Porter, of Watsonville, treasurer R. C. P. Smith, Los Angeles, secretary, and E. A. Cole, local superintendent.

The line never reached the southern end of the county. But in the

summer of 1904, after the Southern Pacific did some slight realigning of its tracks at Opal, the electric road entered Capitola, making a loop around by the Capitola Hotel, to start the cars back to Santa Cruz, with half-hour service. A wooden trestle had been built to carry the cars over Soquel creek at the west side of the resort town.

Many Respond To Need

Furnishing of the new Carnegie library was a project that had been estimated by some to come to about \$2000. A thrilled citizenry, proud of its first library building, after years of smaller quarters in rented rooms, was responding finely to the need, in various ways. Existing quarters were on the second floor of the new Williamson & Garrett building (built 1899) now local Native Sons and Native Daughters headquarters. The books had been moved there from a room in the St. George Hotel.

For the railroad's participation in the fund-raising, a group of young lady "conductors" were named to ride the cars from 9 a. m. to 9:30 p. m. on the appointed day. All the fares they collected were the line's gift to library furnishing activities. Special cars were chartered by some social organizations to augment the regular service.

At Capitola there were special events, with dancing at the rink to

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