



Courtesy Special Collections, University Library, UCSC

Workers at the old Davis & Cowell kilns, located at what is now the UCSC campus.

ten chapter in local history — that led the Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Commission to champion the tree-removal project. With their vote, the commission members distanced themselves from some of their natural allies in the environmental community, who, despite their like-minded dedication to conservation, are unwilling to advocate preservation of the works of man at the expense of the works of nature.

For historic preservationists, the lime kilns are stone symbols of the city's past. Believed to be among the oldest in the

state, they represent a transitional phase in the evolution of limekiln technology. They represent, as well, the entrepreneurial acumen and brilliant success of local pioneers such as Isaac Davis, Albin Jordan, and especially Henry Cowell, whose huge fortune sprang in part from these kilns. Perhaps most important, they represent the dreams and aspirations and toil of countless workers, many of them Portuguese and Swiss-Italian immigrants, who came west in search of a better life and helped build the community in which we live today.

This is a legacy that should be honored and preserved, a legacy that the City Council must ponder when on Tuesday evening it weighs the relative values of a renewable natural resource and an irreplaceable historic resource.

■ Anthony Kirk, who received his his doctorate in American History from UC Santa Barbara, chairs the Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Commission.