

11-27/50

# Old Santa Cruz

● ● ● By Ernest Otto

One of the highest bulkheads along the San Lorenzo river was near the upper bridge, which was there in the 70s. It was more to protect the low land in times of flood but fills were made behind it.

Despite its height flood waters would sometimes back up on Water street as far as the lower plaza and spread over a big area. Water street had been filled in and the old Swiss House was about 10 feet above the land level but its basement and winery would be flooded yearly.

The Griffenson house to the west was also high above ground so that its basement and attractive garden would be flooded.

The original Swiss House burned and was replaced. Below it was the place of Madame de Pauline, high above ground.

## Eagle Street Laid Out

In the low land below the upper bridge was a forest of trees but this land was filled in. It made a site for a woodyard. Eagle street was laid out, too, on made land. Facing it for a time was a macaroni factory but later residences were built there, among them those of the Palottis and Brunellas. The county yard and repair shops are there now.

The old bridge, remembered by this writer, had no spans but piling extended from Bulkhead across the river to the entrance of the camp grounds. Flood borne logs would take out the middle of the bridge.

Above the bridge a stream entered the river from the west. It was from the Louis Dodero place on Spring street after it had gone into and overflowed from the reservoir on School street.

## Indians Hanged From Bridge

The first bridge was all wood. The small boy who could remember would point out where the two Indians were hanged who had killed a white man on River street to get money to go to the Montgomery Queen circus. About opposite where the man was shot is a tall water maple tree as though to mark the spot.

The second bridge, built in the 80s, had a steel center span across the entire river, held by braces so that it made a semi-circle which was covered with heavy tin. Daring boys could climb up one of the circular sides and down the other. It was a dangerous feat but no lad ever lost his life doing it.

The present concrete span followed the old wooden and steel bridges. Its graceful curved arches were built when Billy Thompson was city engineer. The piling at the west end was filled in and made a paved approach. No fill was made on the east side, where the land was low. To the north was a beautiful grove of maples, sycamores, alders and willows, through which shady paths ran to Pryce street. The grove now stops at Edgewood way. On the south side was another forest with a road going down some distance.

This low land, east of the river and south of Water street, was planted mainly to cherry trees and produced wonderful crops. Many of the trees still produce.

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