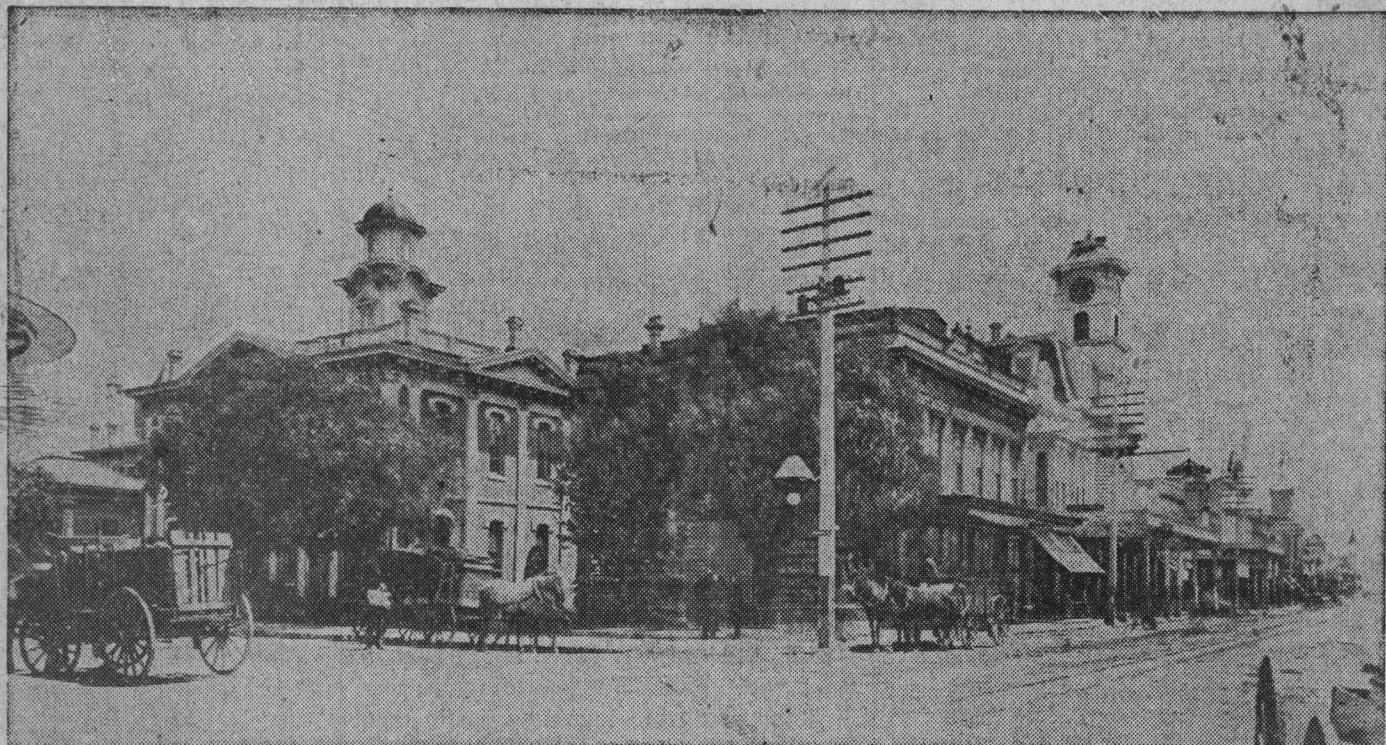


# SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN SANTA CRUZ IN 1893

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Two of the town's most imposing structures dominate the scene in today's picture from the past, taken on a languid afternoon in the early fall, 63 years ago.

It would appear that, judging from the three wagonloads of wood and "split stuff" awaiting purchase, the cool weather has arrived. But still, cooking hadn't yet gone to gas here—wood stoves did the cooking as well as heating.

Present day Santa Cruzans will have no difficulty in recognizing it is the corner of Cooper street and Pacific avenue, for today's court house and town clock, though newer, stand in the same locations. The originals, strangely

enough, both were to face the same fate, destruction by fire.

The imposing court house, completed in 1867 and the pride of the community, at the time the camera looked, had only a few months remaining in its existence. The April holocaust of 1894 reduced it to a tumbling and disintegrating shell of brick.

#### Also Would Burn

In the case of the 1874 town clock (and Odd Fellows building), the structure had some five

years longer before it, too, bowed to consuming flames (May 1899).

Superior Court Judge Ferdinand J. McCann, in office from 1884, had died shortly before, so he was spared from seeing his headquarters demolished. Charles Steinmetz, who served as county treasurer in the old days, plus W. T. Jeter, onetime district attorney; O. J. Lincoln, H. E. McKinney, Horace Wanzer, Enoch Alzina and many other court house figures of the period probably all witnessed the disaster.

The large business building between the two public structures is the William Ely building (called Ely Block No. 1), which appears to be seated on the court house lawn, facing Church street. It escaped both fires and was transplanted to Front street, where it stood until the late 1920s when it was dismantled to help make way for the Palomar hotel project.

#### Year of Exposition

Eighteen ninety-three was the year of the great Columbian World's Fair in Chicago and numbers of Santa Cruzans were returning from the east with rosy tales of the wonders of the magnificent wonderland on the shores of Lake Michigan. California and Santa Cruz were represented in the exhibits in the California building, the Art Palace and in agriculture and manufacturing.

Here in Santa Cruz, active in the business world the day above depicted, were, to name a few:

S. A. Palmer, druggist; J. Bernheim & Co.; Drs. C. L. and C. H. Anderson, physicians and surgeons; Benjamin Knight, M. D.; Pacific Ocean House; Stikeman & Canfield, grocers; J. A. Tait & Co., grocers; E. Lukens, carriage-maker.

The celebrated and colorful land rush of 300,000 people into the Cherokee strip had just occurred and was front page news.