

# Old Santa Cruz

• • • By Ernest Otto

During the spring kite season, the Cooper lot was a favorite spot for the boys of Santa Cruz. All of the boys made their own six-pointed kites, some covered with newspapers, some with butchers' paper, and some (for those who could afford it) made with tissue paper. The latter were in all colors, particularly the brighter tones.

Sometimes, the kites proved not properly balanced and when they got well up into the air would suddenly dive and land in a high tree, demolished.

No one could equal the Chinese when the kite-flying season arrived. For hours they would prepare their bamboo splits in the Chinatown on Pacific avenue and later on Front street and when they finished the manipulation, would have their favorite designs in the form of kites. These would have the forms of dragons, snakes, beetles, fish, butterflies and birds, and they would be far above the plainer types of kites produced by American boys.

From some of their kites music and buzzers could be heard. They had a way of placing circulating buzzers which moved in the air currents in their kites, producing sounds.

How the American boys did long to own a Chinese kite. Some of the American boys had a way of attaching to their kite strings, some distance up, slivers of sharp glass. With these, they would cross the strings of the Chinese boys' kites, and cut them and the Chinese kite would fall to the ground. The mischief makers would watch it fall and then run to it and sometimes be able to carry home the profit of their vandalism. The quiet and painstaking Chinese boys would watch their kites cut down without a change of expression or a move.

The Cooper lot also was the baseball ground for boys of the Santa Cruz vicinity. It was not large enough for a real baseball diamond, but it had plenty of space for a game of three and nine out. The rules were the same as baseball with three players in at bat and each baseball position filled. When

or  
C  
ne  
ne  
ne  
The  
Santa  
at iss  
matte  
tion cre  
tense  
Them  
were he  
neede  
per in-  
was the  
tain f  
Sup  
know r-  
went,  
cussias  
agree t,  
pairs.  
"Bin  
to tal  
futur  
board  
It d  
were ay  
when  
of cu  
\$20.  
the o-  
were rs  
Mr ve  
oned  
the  
Long  
turn  
reaso  
venti  
as  
"clea  
Santa  
conve  
Sho  
worri  
m  
ters  
Beach  
service  
All  
street  
tion  
winds  
throu  
ne  
Ac  
glass  
ed bes  
glass  
whic  
hence  
Th  
curvo

a batter was out, he moved to right-field and each player moved up one position and the catcher went to bat, so every player would fill each position before taking his turn at bat.

"Over the fence was out" so many moved along not by making a real play but by hitting the ball so hard that it landed outside four surrounding fences.

When only a few players were available, they chose "One-Old-Cat" or "Two-Old-Cat" or sky ball for their game.

When this writer was a lad, the Cooper lot began at the residence of Sheriff Robert Orton, being separated from the home by a high picket fence. The house was moved from that location to Church street, and for years the board and batten building was used as a residence and then a dressmaking establishment and then became a restaurant which it still is.

Adjoining on the west was the Patterson residence, with another high picket fence separating it from the Cooper lot and enclosing an orchard, mainly of apple and damson plum trees.

This house, when taken over by W. F. Meyer, was moved to the rear of the lot and was retained as part of the present business block.

Mrs. Jesse (Nellie) Cope and Ben Patterson were the children in the Patterson home.

On the south end of the Cooper lot was the A. M. Peterson residence. It was moved about 1878 to Church street to the first lot purchased for residential use from E. Kunitz in the section bounded by Church street, Chestnut avenue and Locust street. This attractive residence remains much the same as it did when it was adjoining the Cooper lot.

The Peterson chicken yard and a few trees of the orchard also adjoined the lot.

Another boundary was the Unitarian church lot. This church later was moved to Pacific avenue and Cathcart street, and parts of the early church were incorporated in the First Presbyterian and Trinity Presbyterian churches of today.

The Joseph Scott residence lot was the dividing line on the south and Sheriff Elmer Daken's lots were the western boundary.

What's To Eat?

not  
tra  
Al  
wind  
tami  
pock  
Cl  
disti  
got  
the  
befo  
Free  
Per  
extr  
Th  
of O  
the  
Br  
have  
forci  
the  
were  
pant  
bills.  
Th  
the  
wasn  
tion  
At  
some  
ment  
tome  
his 1  
to.  
"Y  
made  
perha  
your  
Mu  
the  
it—sa  
rema  
derin  
"Co  
of the  
times,  
The  
to acc  
gized  
Hea  
jury  
case,  
Maag  
death  
other,  
convic  
of the  
victio  
Job  
In S  
Las