

Soquel Home Passes 110 Years Of Age In Wealth Of Memories

By Margaret Koch

"Back in the 'good old days': The word 'teen-ager' hadn't been invented yet . . . Rivers and creeks had to be 'forded' . . . Houses were heated by burning firewood . . . and lighted with 'coal-oil' lamps.

The Daubenbiss home on the westerly hill above Soquel was just a youngster. It housed 11 teen-agers — the children of its pioneer builder, John Daubenbiss, who arrived in Santa Cruz county in 1849. He built it into two parts, hauling lumber from the hills behind Soquel. And the oldest portion the house, constructed in the 1850's, was torn down recently during a "face-lifting" job on the ancient building. Still standing is the larger main section of the home which he built as his family increased.

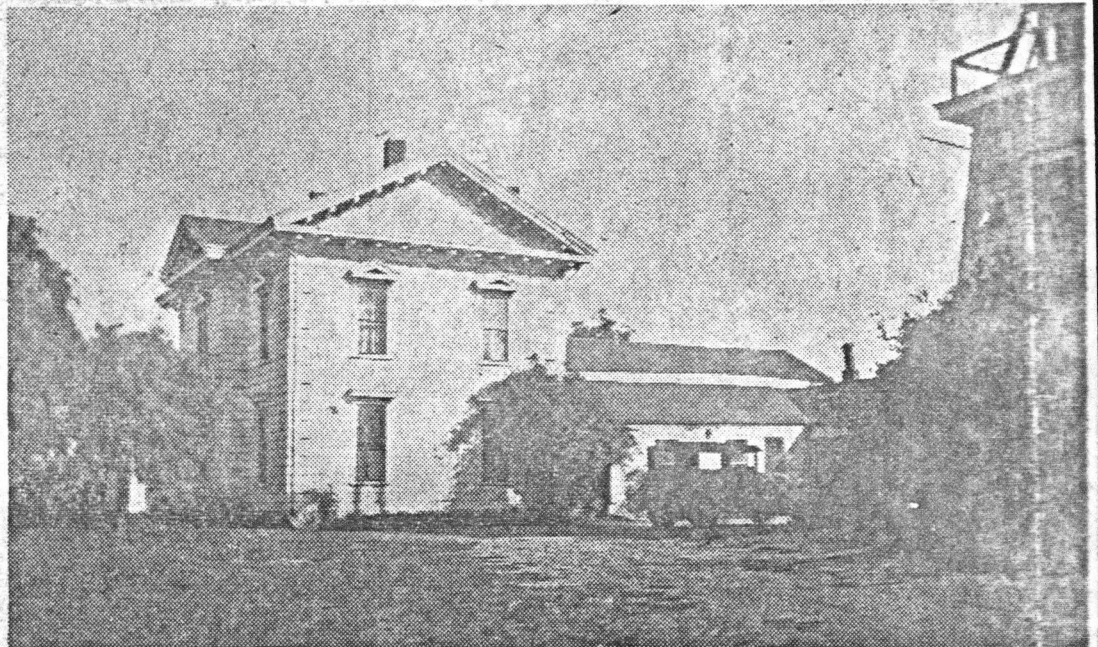
The old place also occasionally housed traveling friends and neighbors who were halted temporarily by high waters in Soquel creek and the San Lorenzo river.

Mrs. Albert Thorp, a granddaughter of John Daubenbiss, wasn't around in those earlier days. Her memories of "visits to grandfather's" date from later years before her aunt, Mrs. Rachel Swann, sold the house to the Cushing family. Only the two families have owned the place and they think a lot of it—even the younger generation.

"Parties, weddings, funerals—the old house has been the scene for all of them," Mrs. Thorp recalled. "My grandfather had five daughters and six sons. Each child had his or her own horse—it was a very active family. The boys all slept in one large upstairs room—it was heated by the chimney that ran up through it."

John Daubenbiss owned and operated the first grist mill in the Soquel area. It was located on the creek about a quarter-mile above

State Elegance Was Theme In 1850



the town site. He also owned land that stretched from Soquel creek to Rodeo creek (please pronounce it "Ro-day-oh"). He prospered and was able to have a big grand piano brought around the Horn for his wife's parlor. Mrs. Daubenbiss also had a Chinese cook.

"When Ben Walker tore down the older portion of the house he found a letter written in Chinese still in the attic," Mrs. Thorp said.

Her father was born in 1858 in the older section of the place and his wedding in 1878 took place in the newer portion.

"I was in the house a lot as a child—in fact I had more fondness for it than for the home where I was born," she recalled.

In 1916 Charles Cushing, a Nevada school teacher and farmer arrived in Soquel with his wife and three children. They bought the old home from Mrs. Swann and settled down to "a lot of good times," according to Mrs. Helen Walker, a daughter.

"We owned the whole block in those days—six or seven acres went with the home—and there wasn't another house on the entire hill," she noted.

Her son, Ben, who now owns the old place, recently resided and repaired the remaining portion.

Back in the days when the "beach buggy" parked above was the last gasp in elegance, the Daubenbiss home in Soquel was already antique. The state-ly, square old house dates from

the 1850's although the oldest portion (shown on the right) was recently torn down.

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Know All Men by These Presents: I, the undersigned, Karl B. Clark, do hereby certify:

That my name in full is Karl B. Clark and that my place of residence is 730 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz, California;

That I am transacting business in the State of California under the fictitious name of Camp Evers Variety, that I am the sole owner and proprietor of said business; that my principal place of business under said name is situated at 50 Mount Hermon Road, Building No. 3, Santa Cruz, California.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of March, 1962.

KARL B. CLARK

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, County of Santa Cruz—ss.

On this 15th day of March in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two, before me, James J. Thomas, a Notary Public in and for the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Karl B. Clark, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal in the County of Santa Cruz, the day and year in this certificate first above written.

JAMES J. THOMAS, (SEAL) Notary Public in and for the County of Santa Cruz, State of California. My Commission Expires January 19, 1964. Mar. 18, 25; April 1, 8 (5422)

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