

50 Years Ago—Runaway Horses, Church Fires

Last Thursday afternoon Mrs. C. E. Peckham came near being trampled under foot by a runaway horse attached to a cart. She was riding her bicycle near the corner of Union street and Grant avenue, on which she lives, when she suddenly heard the animal behind her. She jumped off her wheel and got over the low garden fence just in time to save herself. The wheel was considerably damaged. The runaway animal was a colt belonging to P. N. Lettunich.

For the second time in its history the congregation of the Christian church in this city has lost a church edifice by fire. At 3:40 o'clock last Friday afternoon an alarm of fire was turned in which summoned firemen and hundreds of other citizens to the corner of Main and Fourth streets, where they discovered the Christian church in flames.

The fire broke out in the southwest corner and worked its way between the walls to the roof. It was just two hours from the time the alarm was sounded until the building was burned to its foundation.

It is a heavy loss to the members of the Christian church and adds another chapter to the unfortunate fire record of that church. In 1892 another church edifice was burned on the same lot just as it was about ready for occupancy.

The city council met in adjourned session on Tuesday evening. All members of the Board were present.

Ordinance No. 140, new series, to be known as Section 21 A, Amending Ordinance No. 13, pertaining to the speed of railway trains and driven vehicles within the corporate limits of Watsonville, was read for the first time. The new ordinance is intended to regulate the speed of automobiles, locomobiles, motor cycles, bicycles, etc., on the public streets. The maximum speed of these machines is to be reduced to eight miles an hour in Watsonville.

Yesterday evening the team attached to Laporte's milk wagon became frightened in front of the Mission House and ran up Main

street about fifty yards, striking an electric light pole, a cast iron gas light post, breaking it off level with the sidewalk, and finally struck a hydrant which stopped the rig suddenly and caused the horses to break loose from the vehicle. Fred Lacrabere, the driver, was thrown violently to the sidewalk but fortunately no serious injury resulted. Milk cans and milk were scattered along the street and the horses, wagon and harness fared badly. One of the horses had a frantic kicking spell and could not be stopped until it was thrown and held down. During its wildness it kicked the other horse on its head and broke its skull.

The improvements which have been made this year on the fronts of wooden blocks on the east side of Main street, south of the city hall, are very creditable to the property owners and to this city.

The remodeling and brightening of those blocks has added much to their value as desirable business quarters. R. P. Quinn, who was the pioneer in the improvement work in that block, has done much to keep up the good work of improvement advancement.

J. R. Dorsey, a graduate of the Watsonville schools, and who was for a time a law student with Judge A. Dickerman, of this city, has been nominated by the Republicans for Assemblyman from Kern county. The PAJARONIAN trusts that Jesse will overcome the usual Democratic majority in Kern county and be sent to Sacramento with a decisive majority.

The plaza lawn is looking unusually well this spring and the geranium plants along the walks have shown a more vigorous growth. Plenty of water, the use of a lawn mower and "keep off the grass" signs have done the work.

Architect Weeks has received bids for the construction of F. S. Austin's residence on Maple avenue. The contract was awarded to Chas. B. Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wyckoff

returned last Friday evening from a trip to Yosemite Valley. They made the trip in a buggy. They were six days going, remained eight days in the valley and were five days on the return trip. Mr. and Mrs. Wyckoff had a pleasant trip, but found the weather very warm in the San Joaquin Valley.

At a meeting of the directors of the Fourteenth District Agricultural Association held in Santa Cruz Tuesday, it was decided to hold the county fair in Watsonville from Oct. 8th to 11th inclusive. The Executive Committee is composed of C. W. Clough, O. S. Tuttle, F. A. Hihn, John Kenaugh and W. S. Rodgers.

Edwin Rodriguez, who was ar-

rested about 1 o'clock Sunday morning for stealing a silver watch belonging to Chris Hansen, had his preliminary hearing before Justice Hawkins Monday morning and was held to answer in the Superior court for burglary.

Edwin Rodriguez appeared before Justice Hawkins Monday afternoon on a charge of stealing a bicycle and was held in the sum of \$500 to answer before the Superior Court to a charge of grand larceny.

Chas. Mackrell and J. E. Willoughby biked it to Santa Cruz and back last Sunday. Mackrell set the pace with his motor cycle on the return trip and the boys covered the distance in one hour

and one minute.

Henry Rogge, Chief Engineer of the Watsonville Fire Department, was above Olive's Springs on the Fourth of July, when the Christian church burned, and although he feels that he could not have prevented the burning of the building had he been present, yet he regrets he was not in town.

The Postmaster General has issued an order that no mail shall be delivered by rural mail carriers on July 4th, so that the carriers may have a holiday.

The Aromas district is rapidly coming to the front as a berry section. From 150 to 200 chests a day have been shipped from Aromas for the past ten days, and

it is conservatively estimated that the record will be kept up for at least two weeks more.

This week has been the heaviest cherry shipping week since the season commenced, and will probably exceed any other week this year. Last Friday night 3,500 pounds of cherries were shipped by express to Los Angeles. This week the daily shipments have averaged nearly three tons.

J. P. Miovich & Co.'s new packing house has been completed and the front has been painted. It is one of the largest packing houses in the valley, and is capable of holding thousands of boxes of apples. More than 100 wagon loads of sand have been used about the lot and in leveling up the floor of the building.

The telephone company has issued a new phone directory and persons who desire to call up people must give the number they wish or they will not be connected.

The town will be quiet tomorrow. There is a big rush of our people to Salinas.

W. H. Rice of Woodstock, Canada, has arrived in Watsonville and will accept the principalship of Lindley school, which opens next Monday. Mr. Rice's wife, who is a sister of E. H. Zimmerman, will join her husband here in the near future.

Crude oil is to be tried on the roads near Santa Cruz.

first trial is to be on the Capitola road.

The flag flies from the house at Santa Cruz. The Supervisors are in the city. A. Hilson of San Jose, who was here Monday, attracted a large crowd. The sale of the property on Union street was made.

The four arrests of up-county dealers made last week and one of the cases is being tried at Santa Cruz. We understand that over twenty saloon-keepers, whose places are outside of incorporated cities, are to be arrested for violation of the county liquor ordinance. To date the prosecutions under that ordinance have seldom reached conviction.

Last Friday at the fire drill Will Rogge was accidentally run over by a hose cart and received bruises that gave him pain for a time. One of the cart wheels passed over both his knees.

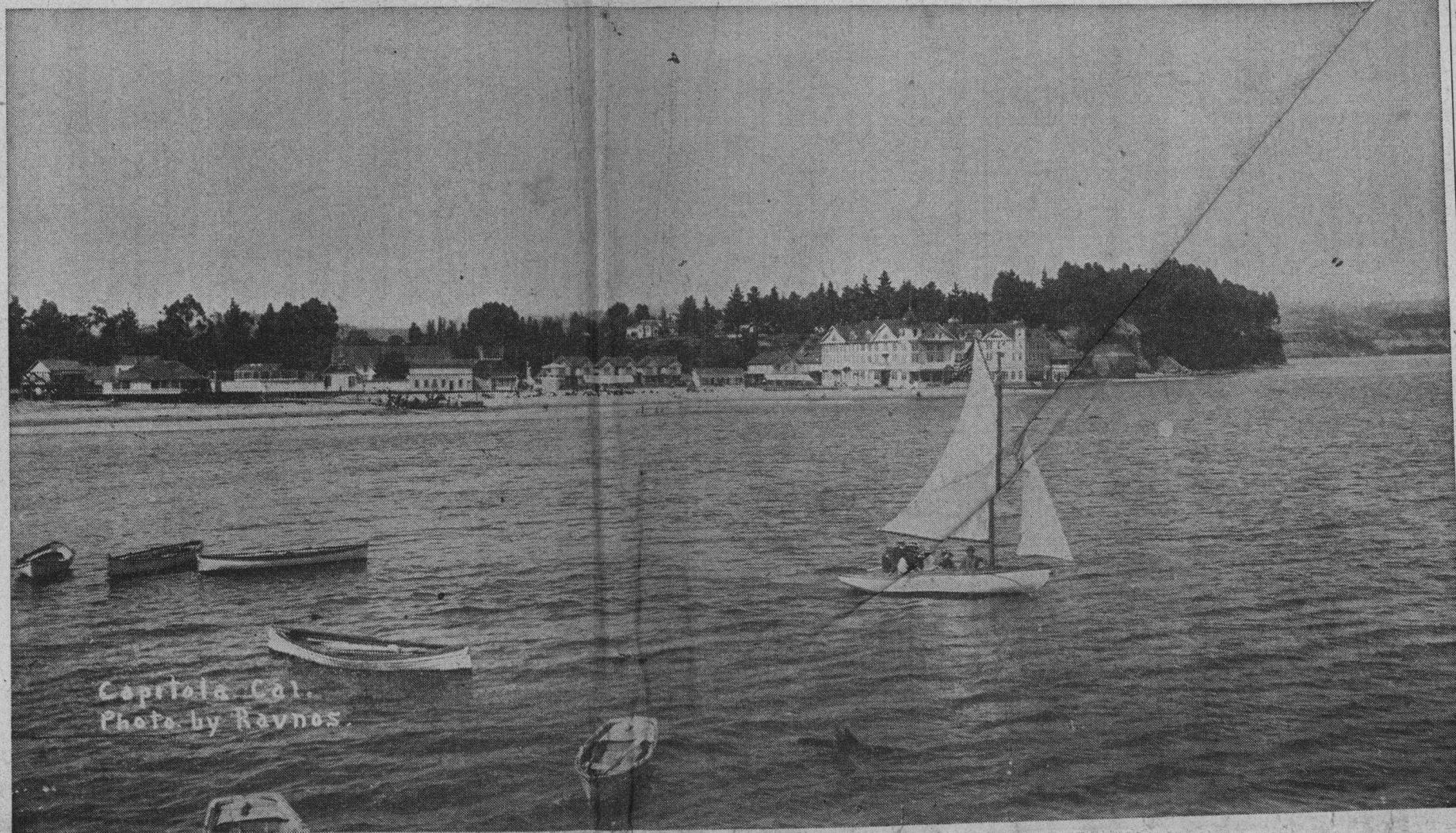
Street Superintendent Enos has been placing fine gravel about the crosswalks this week so as to make a more gradual approach for the vehicles. The street being lower than the walks caused an abrupt drop of vehicles that was not pleasant to occupants.

The county coin was counted Monday with the following result: Gold, 84,280; silver, 1,926.18; vouchers, 21,544.15, total \$107,750.33.

J. R. Kitchen has been putting in bituminous crosswalks at the junction of Main and Fourth streets this week. The walk across Main street is eight feet wide and the one across Fourth street is 12 feet wide. Such walks are needed in different parts of the town.

ONE OF THE BEST BARGAINS IN PAJARO VALLEY

38 acres full bearing apples, yearly income over \$2,000, near town. Price \$15,000. Terms, \$5,000 cash, balance \$5,000 one year and \$5,000 two years. Low interest.



The hotel at Capitola was a famed resort at the turn of the century

McGrath, C. M. Neal, and others.

Area's Last Hop Field Is Torn Out

During the last year an agricultural product which had been intimately connected with the history of the Pajaro valley disappeared from this area. The last stand of hops in this valley, on the George McGrath property in Casserly district, was removed.

At one time there were 400 acres of land turned over to that crop. In recent years the McGrath family hop yard was the only one left. Even so, within the last 10 years during August and September some 200 hop pickers were given employment.

J. C. Smith had the first hop yard, planted in 1866. Owen Tuttle bought it in 1868 and increased it to 50 acres. The McGrath company yard was planted around 1885.

At the peak of the hop business here, 400 acres yielded 4,000 bales of hops, about 200 pounds of dried hops to the bale. The yards were owned by Charles Rodgers and Owen Tuttle, both on East Lake avenue; M. B. Tuttle, on San Juan road; Godfrey M. Bockius, on the present William Cumming place; Charles Smith, near Aromas; Percy Morris and John Baxter, outside of town on the Riverside road; Tynan's, near Tynan lake; Chesley Stowe, on the extension of First street; Charles Cornell and the McGrath company, both in Casserly district.

In the early '80's hops sold for over a dollar a pound. But in 1890 and 1891, prices fell below cost of production. When the apple trees which had been planted between rows of hops, came into bearing, prices were still low, and all the growers, with the exception of Cornell and McGrath's, dug up their hops. Cornell did too in 1907, leaving the hop-growing industry to the McGraths, who now have finally abandoned it.

The land on which the last hops of the Pajaro valley were grown was originally owned by Eugene Casserly for whom the district is named. William McGrath, a native of Ireland, came here and purchased it from Casserly. His sons, William J., Bob and George McGrath carried on in the farming business.