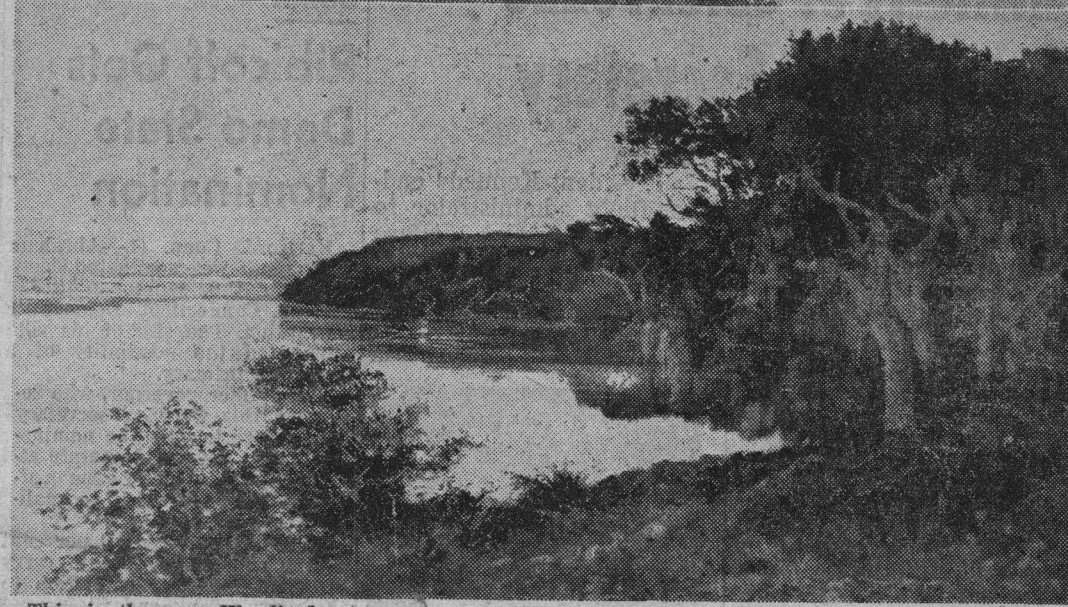
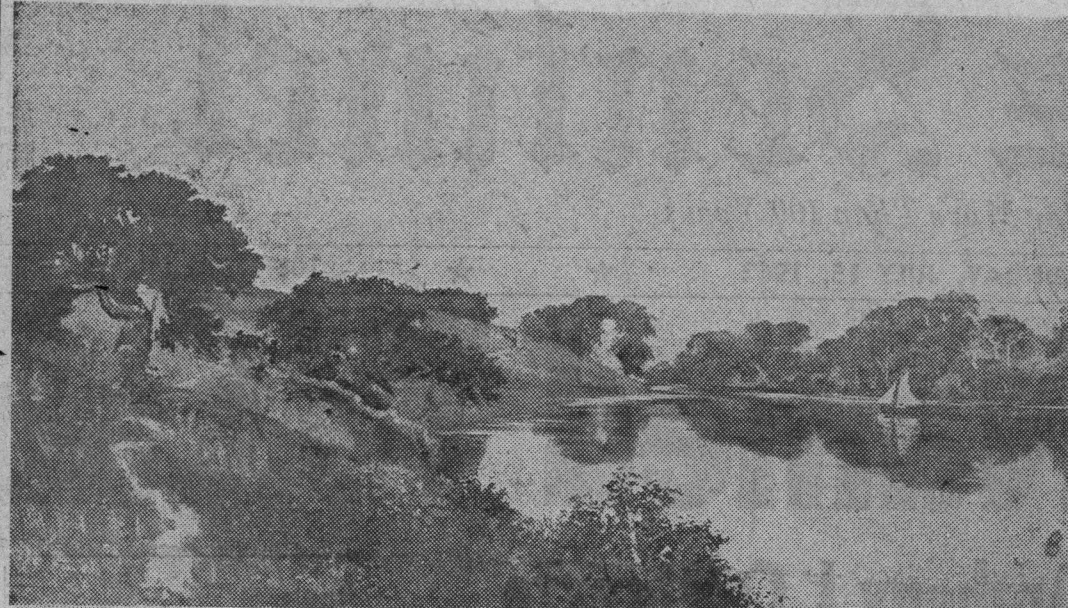


Twin Lakes

Alfred

7/15/62

Woods Lagoon Was Scene of Old-Time Subdivision



This is the way Wood's lagoon (top) looked about 60 years ago when the cow trail visible on the left shore ran through what was known as "Seabright Park," early-day subdivision. Loma Prieta mountain, invisible in the old picture, looms in the distance behind the sailboat which sails where, today, bulldozers rumble back and forth over the lake bottom. The bottom view shows "Peerless Point," and looks from the railroad trestle south toward the bay where the entrance channel to the small craft harbor will be cut through. Pictures from the collection of Roy Boekennoogen.

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Bet You Don't Remember Woods Lagoon Subdivisions?

By Margaret Koch
"Subdivision" is a popular word today in Santa Cruz County.

In the old days it was "tract" or "park" but it meant the same thing. And the Santa Cruz area had plenty of promoters "way back when."

There were subdivisions in the immediate area of Woods lagoon which is today turning into a small craft harbor.

One of the tracts even included the west lagoon shore.

Three of them — for many years — were considered "financial flops."

Things have sure changed today.

The early-day subdivisions might not have come to light except for several old picture post cards labeled "Seabright Park." They turned up in the newsroom where no one had ever heard of a park by that name.

It turned out not be a park at all, but a subdivision, as explained by L. C. Scholl. At 74 years of age, he is a life-long resident and unofficial historian of the Twin Lakes and Seabright area. He looked at the post cards carefully.

"It was laid out as a subdivision when I was a boy—that's more than 60 years ago," he explained. "I flew kites in those fields and pastured the family cow there."

Scholl also recalled that the survey stakes were handy for tethering the cow. The tract extended from the railroad tracks to the beach and from First Avenue to the lagoon. Lots were small and sold for \$10 and \$20 apiece.

"Those who bought usually took two so as to have a decent-

sized piece of property," he explained.

But for many years not many people bought and the "Park" was considered a financial folly. First avenue served as the main "cow trail." Second, Third and Fourth avenues didn't exist, except for the survey stakes which gradually disappeared due to impatient and hungry cows.

When a man named Van Dusen went out on Third avenue and built four small rental cottages, people wondered what ailed him.

"There were no other houses around for quite a distance, but surprisingly his little houses rented," said Scholl.

For years a hermit squatted close to where Fourth Avenue comes near the lagoon today. He had a hog farm there.

"Didn't know his name but he had a long white bear and all of us boys called him Santa Claus," Scholl recalled. "He drove all over Santa Cruz in a wagon, collecting swill for his hogs. Finally he just disappeared."

Building restrictions and zoning laws hadn't been heard of in the Twin Lakes-Seabright area in the early tract days. One man built a barn for his horse; all of the residents kept chickens and cows.

Scholl's family had a large home at the corner of Hall and Bronson streets, now the Stokeley cannery site. He says that in the 1890's you could count the homes in the Seabright Avenue area on ten fingers. Easily.

Mott's tract was the most successful of the early-day real estate ventures, according to Scholl. It included the main strip of Seabright from the railroad tracks

down through the "horse barn gulch" that runs behind the library and museum.

Alhambra tract ran from the horse gulch west to the bluff overlooking the mouth of the San Lorenzo river.

Wood's tract ran from the railroad tracks north toward what is Broadway today.

Still another, called Cottage City tract, was modeled after the Cottage City tehat grew up on the flat behind the Santa Cruz casino. This tract ran from the railroad along Buena Vista drive, down to Cayuga street, to take in what is now Pine street and Mountain View avenue.

"These subdivisions were mainly aimed at the summer visitors — people who might want a cottage or tent site. And most of them just didn't go over as intended — they flopped," Scholl reminisced.

For many years they existed as fields and pastures with summer cottages scattered here and there and an occasional farm.

But take a look today.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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