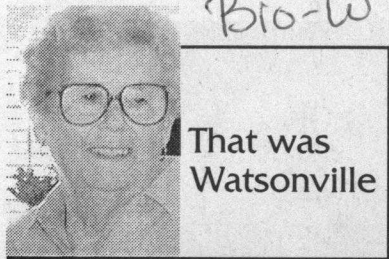


The life and times of popular Watsonville architect William Henry Weeks

RP-3-27-03



That was
Watsonville

Betty Lewis

Following is the fourth column from the Progress Edition of 1916:

"In the great building era which has wrought so marked an improvement in the character of our architecture, the architect and designer has been performe an important factor, and in looking over this city, noting the many fine business and public buildings and beautiful private homes which grace its streets. Then recalling the architect who designed same, one is impressed with the fact that architect W. H. Weeks has been, and is, a decidedly active factor in Watsonville's building development, even though he no longer maintains offices here.

"Notable among them are the splendid new four-story Hotel Appleton, the four-story Lettunich Building, devoted to stores and offices, the beautiful new T & D. Theater, all built within the past year or two. Then there is a long list of such structures as the Watsonville High School,

the grammar schools of this city, the YMCA Building, Brewington business block, Christian Church, Catholic Church, W.W. Ford block, etc.

"Coming to Watsonville at an early age; after fitting himself for his profession, Mr. Weeks opened offices in this city and for many years made his headquarters here, building up a fine clientele in this portion of the state.

"Seeking a larger field for his activities he removed his headquarters to San Francisco several years ago, having offices at 75 Post St. There his high-class ability was soon recognized and in and around the Bay district. Mr. Weeks has to his credit scores of fine buildings, office buildings, homes and public buildings. In designing school buildings he has been particularly active and markedly successful, and length of time considered, he doubtless has designed more fine school structures than any architect in the state.

"A noteworthy fact regarding Mr. Weeks' activities, and one which speaks convincingly and conclusively of the character of his service is that when he once brakes into a community he gets the big bulk of the important work there as same develops.

"For instance, the writer happens to know that from the time he designed his first structure in Eureka a few years ago Mr. Weeks has handled practically everything



Courtesy of Betty Lewis

Moreland Notre Dame Academy was built in 1899.

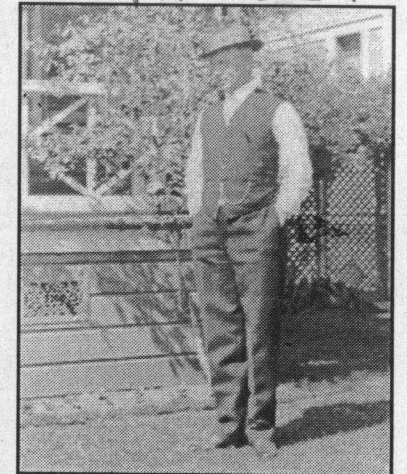
worth mentioning in Eureka and Humboldt County since, including hotels, bank and office buildings, schools, etc. It is perhaps only natural that Mr. Weeks should have the first call on the work in his line in Watsonville, for he made his start here, is well known and personally popular with our people, who have abundant opportunity to

judge the excellence of his work.

"In a sense this is still his home town, members of his family residing here still. Mr. Weeks is himself heavily interested in Watsonville realty, and takes an active interest in matters effecting the advancement and development of this city and valley, among his holdings being the Weeks Building and the Jones Ga-

rage Building on Main Street. But the fact that he has achieved an equal measure of success in other cities where the conditions were entirely different demonstrates conclusively that superior ability and thoroughly satisfactory service were and are the prime factors in his splendidly successful career.

"We have heard it said of Mr.



Courtesy of Betty Lewis

W.H. Weeks.

Weeks by several of his local clients that the only people he came in contact with in a business or professional way who were dissatisfied, and who having put up one structure under his supervision never wanted to repeat the experience, is the type of contractor who expects to 'skimp' his work, to 'get by' with inferior workmanship or materials. Or both.

"After one round with in that kind of contractor either adopts a different system when working under Weeks or else he quits bidding on jobs where Weeks is the architect, confining himself to architects who are easier to 'slip something over' on."