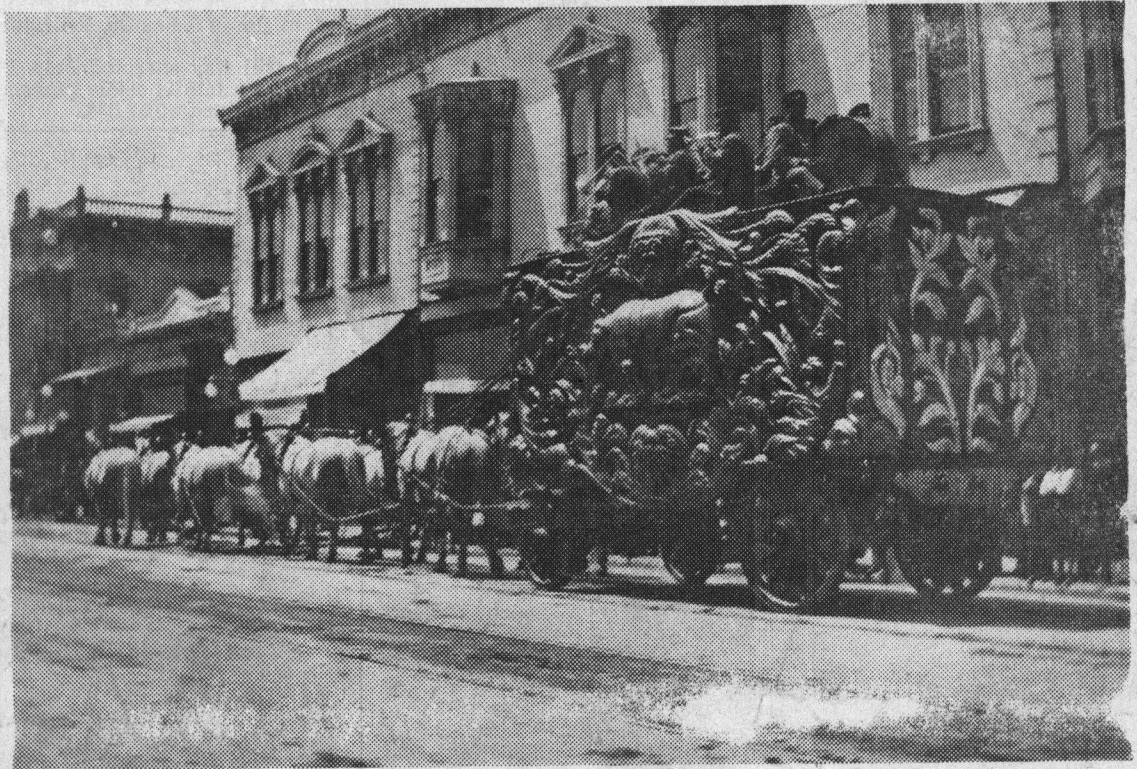


Sunday, May 20, 1951

Santa Cruz Yesterdays



CIRCUS PARADE—PACIFIC AVE. 40 YEARS AGO

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Circus season has come again. And devotees of Spangle-land and the Big Top will doubtless gather as of of yore on Monday morning to watch the unloading operations along Chestnut avenue. In any event that and the late evening's return procession will be the only outdoor "parade" to be witnessed, these days.

Oldtimers hereabouts like to tell of the colorful displays along Pacific avenue, when town and country folk used to line the avenue to witness parades of years gone by. Until forced to abandon public parading due to increasing hazards and traffic difficulties coupled with mounting municipal fees for the privilege, circus folk made quite a feature of their morning pageantry, usually followed by a "free show" at the circus grounds.

Street Parades Dropped

Parades were abandoned just before the middle twenties. So there are many grown Santa Cruzans who never have seen or heard the huge ornately carved wagons as they rumbled by, the variety of bands, and music, novel displays,

animal wagons, clowns, striding animals—passing in review.

The picture shows a fine example of parade wagon, drawn by eight horses, passing the Bernheim block (now Rittenhouse building), Pacific avenue near Church street, about 40 years ago. Riding on top is one of several bands, which ranged from oriental and military to clown. The one shown happens to be an eight piece negro organization Bringing up the rear was always the steam calliope.

Camels, buffaloes, zebras, yaks and "herds" of elephants have tramped the streets here, while dangerous wild beasts rode behind bars. Most unique sight of all was "Lotus", the "blood-sweating behemoth" (hippo), drawing a two wheel cart of odd design in which rode a smiling circus beauty holding a parasol.

Early Day Circuses

Some of the early day circuses, such as Montgomery Queen's pitched their tents near Pacific avenue, entered from there just north of Walnut. Part of the "lot" included today's Leask's parking lot, ad-

joining the Sentinel-News building.

The huge Barnum & Bailey shows came twice: September 20, 1905 and September 7, 1910. Ringling Bros. Circus was here 6 times in nine years. Buffalo Bill Cody brought his Wild West & Far East here October 3, 1910. He was here again in 1914 and 1915 in conjunction with Sells-Floto. The latter was his final tour. Forepaugh & Sells, Sells Bros., W. W. Cole's Great New York & New Orleans Circus & Menagerie (the latter in 1880 featured electric lights causing a sensation here), John Robinson's Tom Mix Al G. Barnes and numerous others

Beach Grounds Popular

The Leibbrandt property near the beach was scene of the greatest circuses and many of the smaller ones, but earlier locations include King and Walnut; Blackburn tract near Chestnut and Laurel; Bus League Park, now the High School Memorial Field; Barrett tract of Encinal street, and more recently the Water street site at Market street, bordering Branciforte creek.

Santa Cruz even had a circus "in residence" when Norris & Rowe took up winter quarters here in 1905-06. Buildings were built and fences erected on a 6-acre tract at Vue de l'Eau, Garfield (now Woodrow) and Pelton avenues. It was an animal circus, and had performed here often. This show was about the last to use the Bausch lot for performances—at Ocean street and Soquel avenue.

The Norris & Rowe deal provided for a zoo for Santa Cruz that winter, which opened Sunday, December 17, 1905. Location was the end of Vue de l'Eau carline.

re-elected with 502 votes to 110 write-in votes for Rev. Raymond P. Murray and one write-in vote for Fred J. Morris. The vote for Morris was cast at the Mission Hill precinct.

A tabulation of the vote by precincts for Hauschildt and Murray follows:

ed, receiving all 14 votes cast.

Soquel Union, William J. Finta, re-elected with 61 votes; Hauschildt 59, Rev. Murray one for the Santa Cruz High school district.

Watsonville Joint Union High School district, Frank L. Kellogg, with 807 votes and Hugh Keturakat, 771, re-elected. The tabulation of incomplete unofficial returns follows:

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	26	25

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