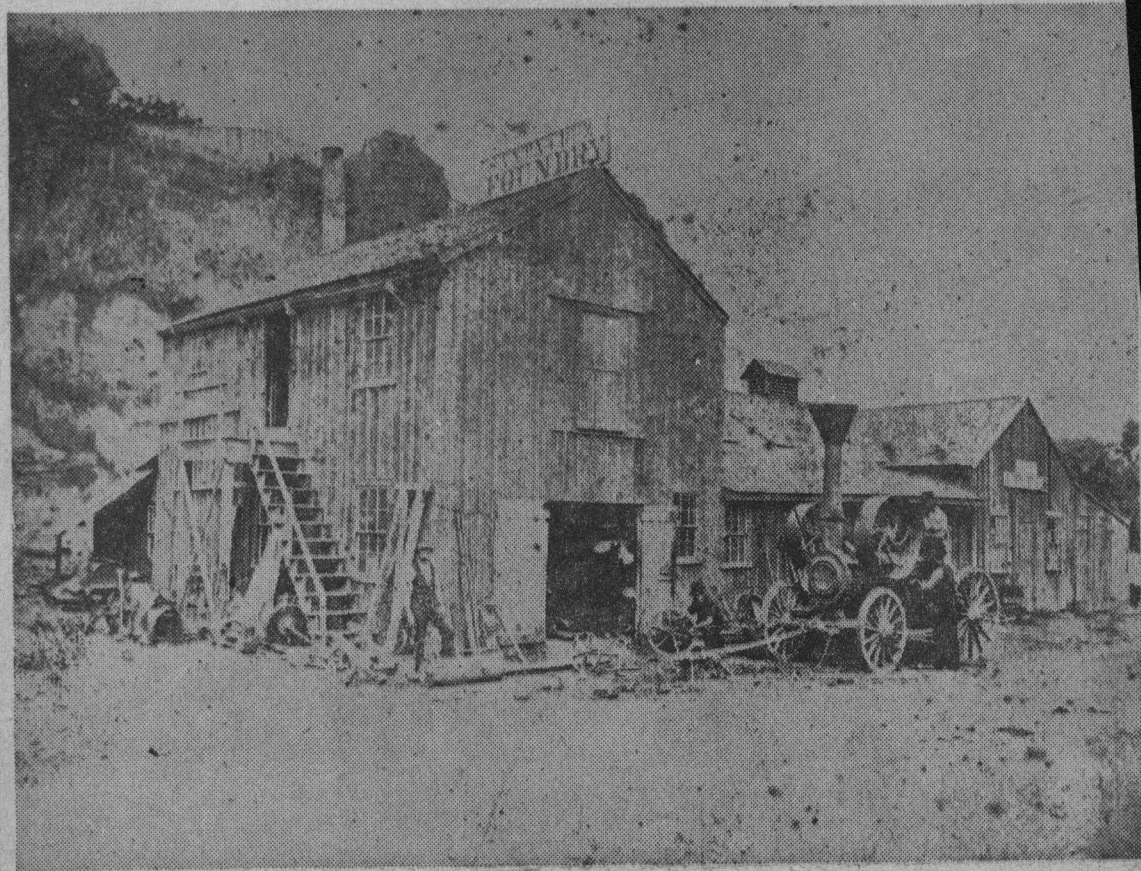


# Santa Cruz Yesterdays



**SANTA CRUZ FOUNDRY IN 1879**

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

When gold was discovered at Coloma in the spring of 1848 Elihu Anthony had a little blacksmith shop in Santa Cruz in which he hammered ships bolts into 87 picks which he sent to the Georgetown diggings by Thomas Fallon, who sold them for three ounces of gold each.

The little blacksmith shop of 1848 was the nucleus of the foundry pictured, from a photograph taken in the late seventies, by which time it was being operated by Thomas Amner. Its location was against the hill on the west side of what is today North Pacific avenue. The hill back of it looks much the same today. The location was just beyond where water cascaded off the hill from the old mission ditch.

## **Elihu Anthony As Smithy**

Anthony, a New York state man, had crossed the plains from Iowa with his wife in the summer of 1847 and, at Santa Clara, had received word that the government was hauling timber from Santa Cruz for buildings at Monterey and there was an opening for a blacksmith.

A picturesque story of Anthony is that, after riding horseback across the hills, he was met on Christmas eve by James G. T. Dunleavy who took him goose shooting in a marsh about where the present city hall stands. Dunleavy was living in a shack of split boards approximately where Bosso's store stands at Vine and Mission streets, and there his wife, Mary, cooked the Christmas geese.

Anthony, after a short trip to the gold fields, returned to his blacksmith shop which stood on part of

his holdings, which today would extend along the north side of Mission street about half way up the hill, also down the east side of Front street to Cooper. He had obtained the land as an "American alcalde" grant from William Blackburn at a cost of \$3.62½ for a filing fee.

Back from the mines Anthony cut his land into 60 by 100 foot lots which he offered for \$100. The town was then "on the hill" about the ruins of the old mission but influx of disappointed miners looking for a home on the coast created a demand for the Anthony lots on which were built the city's first business establishments.

Anthony's original home was on today's Knight street, off of Water street, but he later built on the hill above his foundry a mansion of 14 small rooms which was torn down about 20 years ago.

Anthony's blacksmith shop and foundry passed in 1872 into the hands of Thomas Amner, a Civil War veteran who came down from San Francisco. Thirteen years later Amner died by accidental gunshot while firing at squirrels on the hill back of his establishment.

When the Monterey and Salinas narrow gauge railroad was built in the middle seventies the wheels for its cars were cast in Amner's foundry, the nearest in the state to the old capital.

In the picture Tom Amner stands near the closest corner of the building, surrounded by products of his plant. "Bounce," his favorite hunting dog, lies on the ground by the front door. Kneeling just to the right of the door is Frank Bartlett, showing a large iron wheel obviously cast at the foundry.

The quaint piece of ranching equipment at the right seems to be undergoing some repairs. The plant building at the extreme right is indicated by a sign as the "boiler room." On the second floor of the main building was the pattern shop.