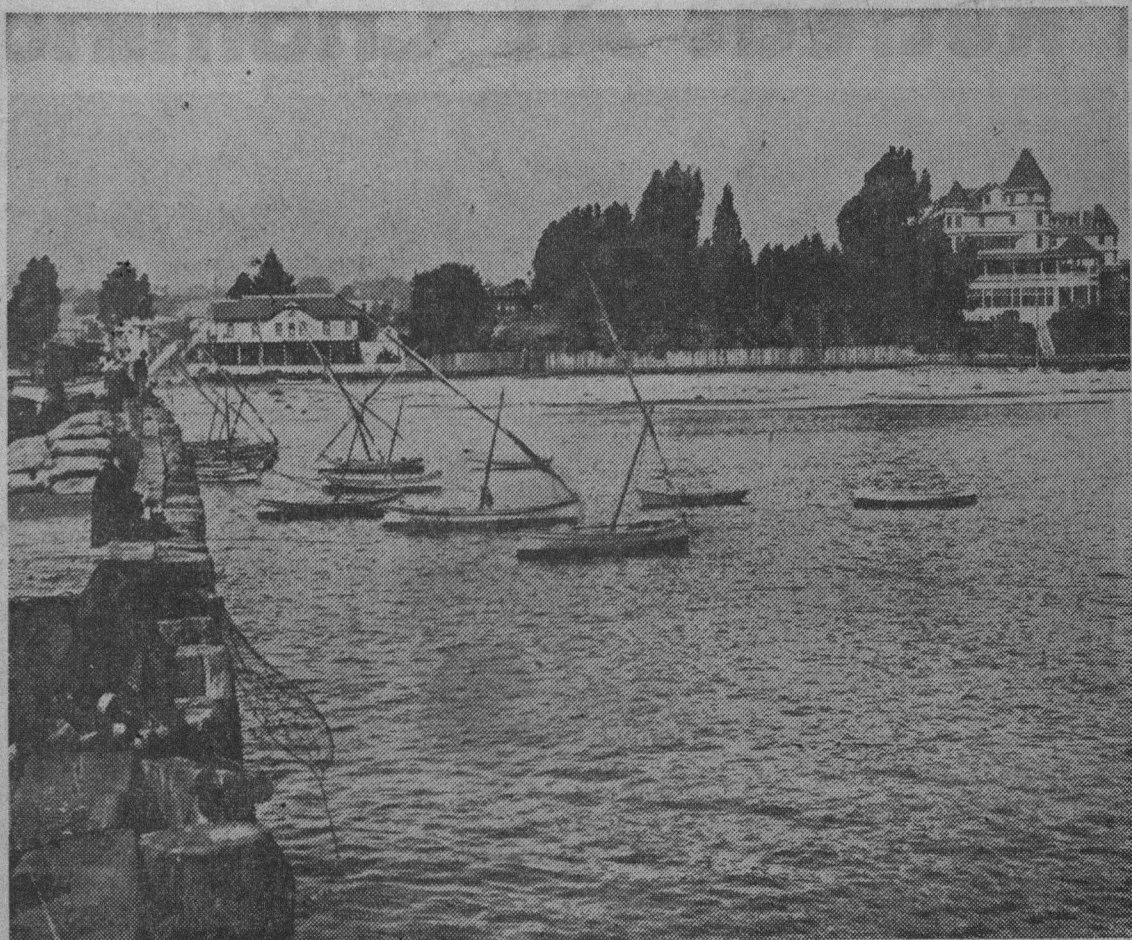


AUG. 21, 1949

# Santa Cruz Yesterdays



**EARLY FISHING BOATS AT OLD WHARF**

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

A descriptive writer in 1896 reviewing the scene from old railroad wharf at the beach, commented that it was "a tranquil summer day, when the waters of Monterey bay were a dazzling blue against the dim-colored cliffs to the west." But when he wrote, "Looking shoreward toward Beach Hill I saw the fishing boats which had been out all night, rocking idly to and fro with sails furled. They seemed to be sleeping in the shadow of the wharf," he was actually writing lines to go with today's picture.

These are the lateen sailboats whose triangular canvases took the breezes for pioneer Genoese fisherfolk hereabout in the days before the power boats. The craft shown in this middle-90's shot belonged to the pioneer fishing families of Stagnaro, Perez, Faraola, Chiappe.

## Wharf History

"Fisherman's Wharf" in its latter days but in '96 still commonly called "Railroad Wharf," the structure had been built by David Gharkey in the early '70's. Santa Cruz & Felton Railroad took it over about 1875 and South Pacific Coast enlarged it in 1880. The first wharf here was that of Elihu Anthony, built in 1853, which wound up as the Cowell wharf. Located just west of the one pictured, extending from the end of Bay street, its remains collapsed at the end of 1907.

When the old Railroad wharf was finally dismantled in 1922-'23, almost nine years after the comple-

tion of the present municipal wharf, it had had a career of some fifty years of service. Just before the end it had been serving as an adjunct to a sardine cannery then active here.

## Piscatorial Variety

Fifty years ago large jewfish and sunfish, now seldom seen, were often brought in. Ten years earlier a writer in a promotional booklet issued prior to formation of the original Board of Trade (today's Chamber of Commerce is lineal descendant) said, "A vast natural resource, the possibilities of which are as yet almost undeveloped, is the most wonderful and abundant variety of food fishes in Monterey Bay. Save the work of a few Portuguese and Italian fishing boats, whose lateen sails dot the bay, nothing is done in the way of catching or preserving this delicious article of food, but it has undoubtedly a future."

Dr. C. L. Anderson, in 1887 listed

about 150 species of food fishes in Monterey bay and entering streams.

The early fishermen used nets and later drag boat operations. Salmon were first caught with rod and reel off Santa Cruz in 1878 but trolling for salmon as a sport for amateurs did not "catch on" until about 1894.

## Landmarks

Prominent in the right background of the picture is the old Sea Beach hotel which burned in 1912. At this time (1896) it was being operated by John R. Chace, who had succeeded J. T. Sullivan. The latter opened it in the summer of '88. Chace was succeeded by J. C. Leonard in 1901.

Across the background to the left standing opposite the wharf approach is the present Trovatore hotel. Built in 1888, it was long known as the St. James.

Between the latter and the old Sea Beach hotel, several beach resorts seen in earlier pictures have disappeared. The Liddell House and its bath house have vanished, also the popular Seaside Home long kept by Mrs. Frank (Patty Reed) Lewis. Many of the trees visible were removed only a few weeks ago to make way for a parking lot now entered from Second street. When this tract and the Liddell property were purchased by Mrs. D. D. Colton, wife of an early day railroad tycoon, the property became known as "The Cabins." A few years ago was the Grace estate.