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SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



QUEEN'S THRONE AT WATER CARNIVAL, '95

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The Santa Cruz Venetian Water Carnival of 1895 honored Santa Cruz school children on Thursday of Carnival "week" both in the street parade along Pacific avenue and in the procession of floats and barges on the river near Queen Anita's throne (above).

In the photo participating school children are assembling before the Queen, who, with her court, is seated on the throne at the head of the stairs.

Kids' Day

Most, if not all, of the youngsters had just had their parade through downtown Santa Cruz. Scene of the pictured activity is near the bend of the river where Beach hill sends the San Lorenzo temporarily eastward, under the old "Cut-bias" bridge at Riverside

avenue. East of this was the island which became the "Pageant Island" of modern times at the last bend of the river before it flows into the bay of Monterey.

There was day and night pageantry along the river as far up as the covered bridge at Soquel avenue, according to early accounts in the Sentinel. "There were large crowds," it said, "to see the rose regatta. Beach hill, the shore and the covered bridge were crowded.

"The Queen's gondola, boats, barges, which were in the night parade, were decorated with flowers, etc.

"For two hours the procession moved up and down the river, to the music of the bands, presenting a pretty sight. In the electric launch were Gen. Dimond, Col.

Pippy, Col. Stone, Major Cluff and Director-General J. P. Smith. They were heartily cheered along the route. As they passed the throne they saluted her majesty."

Evening Pageantry

The evening pageantry was witnessed by thousands of people. Fog caused no interference "due to its absence." Electric fountains played, and under the bridges colored lights were shown.

An interesting evening feature of the river activities was the projection of lantern slides on a large screen built over the water. Double and triple dissolving lanterns were used. Of course, movies were still something for the future.

Trees visible in the background of the picture are on the Barsons' Riverside hotel property.