

GHOST TOWNS OF THE S

John Schultheis and Wife Early Settlers In Summit District

Home of Split Lumber Erected by German Cabinet
Maker in 1852 Weathers 82 Years and Stands
Today as Firm as When It Was Built.

Careers of Volney Averill, Foster and Joseph Chase,
"Uncle Jimmy" and "Aunt Margaret" Taylor
and Other Early Pioneers Described.

Chapter III.
SUMMIT DISTRICT.
By JOHN V. YOUNG.

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The tops of the mountains, with their park-like clearings, fine erect stands of timber and their lagoons attracted early settlers as did no other part of the mountain region.

Hence it was by a lagoon which lies at the present intersection of the Los Gatos-Santa Cruz highway with Summit and Soquel roads that John Martin Schultheis and his wife, who had been Susan Byerly, took up a homestead early in 1852, and erected a home of split lumber that stands today as sound as it was 82 years ago.

SKILLED CRAFTSMAN.

A German cabinet-maker by trade, Schultheis was a skilled workman, transforming his crude materials into finished lumber that defies the unpracticed eye to detect it from the machined lumber that conceals the exterior of the old house at the present time. Mortar made of lime packed on mule-back from the natural quarries near where the town of Felton was later located was used to chink up the squared log walls and to cement together the home-made bricks of the chimney which has since been removed.

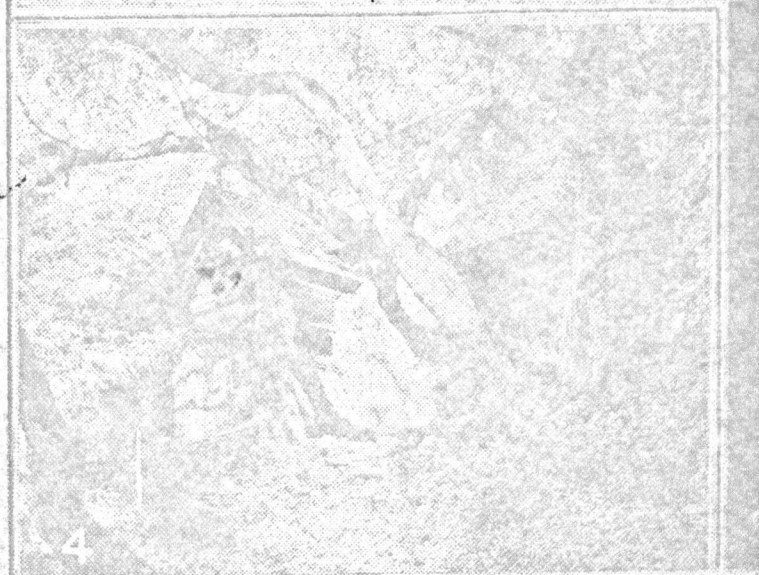
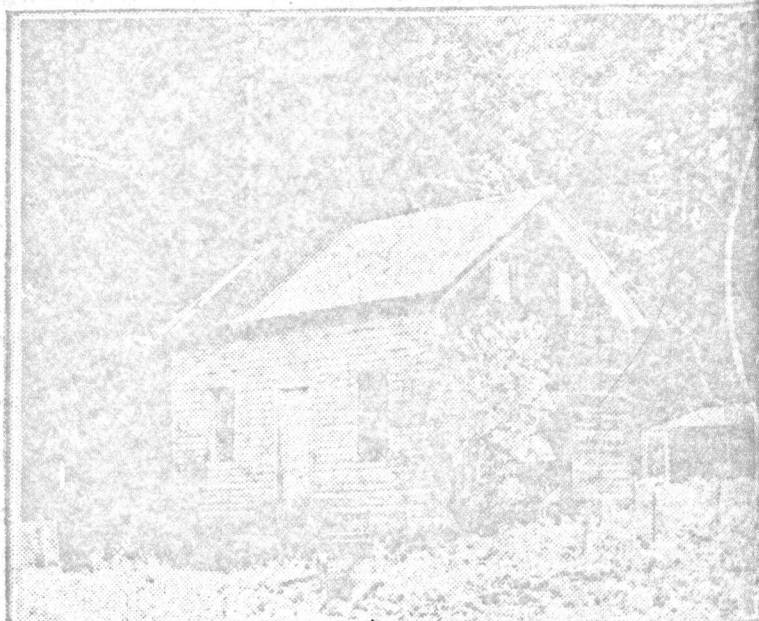
The lagoon, from which the Schultheis family obtained its water for many years, was soon named Schultheis Lagoon, and by that name is known today. The little pond in its setting of redwood trees has been almost unknown for many years, having dried up, but heavy rains during the past winter replenished the springs that supply it, and a considerable body of water has been visible this spring.

DAUGHTER MARRIES.

After the Civil war, Volney Averill, a Union soldier, wandered out to California and came to the mountains in 1869. He departed, but returned again in 1873, this time to stay, for he had met Miss Alice

William Dennis Taylor, as he was known, grew up to be a popular and prosperous mountain rancher, a trustee and clerk of Summit school for years. He died in 1919. His foster parents had died many years before "Aunt Margaret" March '90.

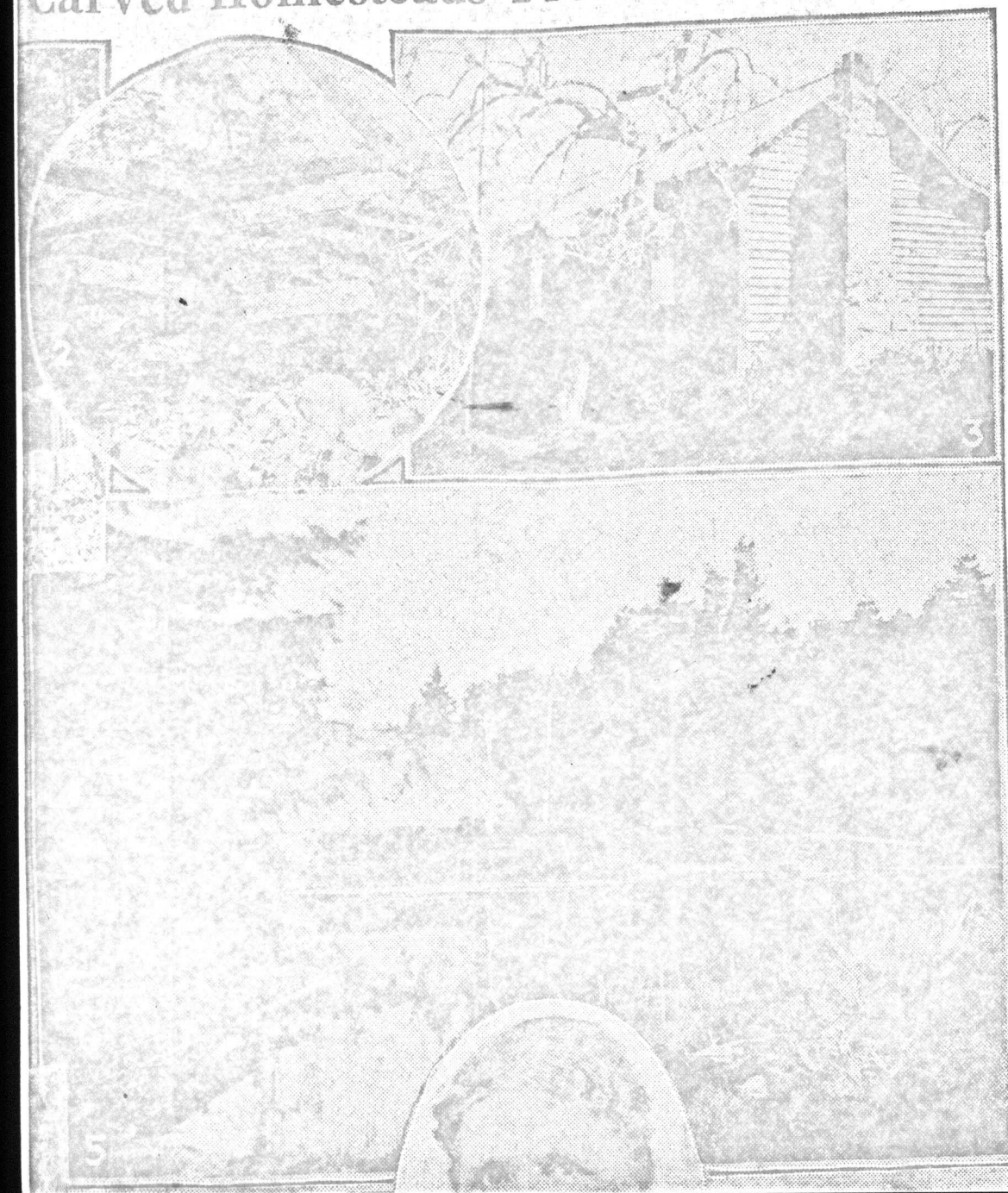
Where Early Pioneers C



WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 29, 1934.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Carved Homesteads From Wilderness



PATCHEN FAMOUS 'PERAMBULATING' MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Woodcutter Mending Trousers Gave Town Its Name, Old Legend Explains.

Established In No Less Than Four Different Locations Before Abandoned.

Chapter IV. PATCHEN.

* The perambulating postoffice for the Summit district, stage stop for the Santa Cruz run, and important intersection of the Mt. Charley road and the San Jose turnpike, as the Soquel road was known, was Patchen, a diminutive village.

Not the least strange among Santa Cruz mountain legends is the story of the naming of the place. Located at Fowler's summit, in a little house built by Josiah Fowler in 1876, many thought the postoffice should be called Fowler's station, while others agreed that Summit was the logical choice.

Confronted with this battle was a postoffice inspector who arrived in 1871 to settle the dispute - and establish the postoffice.

HENCE THE NAME.

The story goes that when the inspector stepped from the stage coach he discovered an old woodcutter sitting in front of Fowler's place making emergency repairs on his trousers.

"What are you doing, my good fellow?" queried the official by way of breaking the ice.

"Patchin'," replied the woodcutter.

Cruz mountains, by minor changes centurious pioneers

first permanent and his wife, Susan lagoon where the h the Los Gatos-hand-hewed from tely by a modern aned with an axe as built in 1852—ate.

before nails and there. A portion ay still be found ase, pioneer mill

ky-tah Social and Improvement Club." "At this time," it is noted, "offi- in-ns were E. T. Smith, president; J. ub. W. Smith, vice president; Mrs. it Sarah B. Smith, secretary Mrs. ten Mary B. Smith, treasurer.

ght "The lack of any musical instru- in: ment hampered the program com- pse mittee sorely, so for a time a piano ch was rented. This was unsatisfactory, as as soon as the continued exist- ed ence of the club became reasonably ut certain, it was voted to buy a piano. in August, 1905, Mrs. M. B. Smith was appointed to make the purchase, and succeeded in obtaining a \$400 Hartzell for \$250.

in During this period, from July to ed December, 1905, the club was govern- bg ed by Mrs. Laura J. Sears, presi- ill dent; Mrs. D. D. Emery, vice presi- et dent; Mrs. B. Hannaford, secretary, and Mrs. A. M. Goodwin, treasurer. They had succeeded Mrs. Mary B. Smith, president; Miss F. E. Beecher, vice president; Miss Isabel Wilson, secretary, and Mrs. A. M. Goodwin, treasurer, who were in office from January to June, 1905.

Housekeeping of the club, rendered more difficult by a decision to serve refreshments and suppers at the meetings, brought the decision at a meeting April 6, 1906, to make arrangements to pipe water from the Wrights place, and H. W. Grunsky was given charge of the job.

man, bought a rustic home (3) nearby, early in the 60's, and it still preserves much of its original charm.

Hidden in a grove of oaks, redwood and madrone is one of the mountain's most picturesque churches, the Patchen Episcopal church (4), built in 1899 as a branch of the Los Gatos Episcopal church. It is located east of the lagoon, just above Sequel road.

Not until 1936 will the Santa Cruz Mountain Improvement company, incorporated in 1886, expire, although its chief structure, the Summit opera house (6), a few hundred feet south of the church, has long since become nothing but an occasional dance hall.

All that is left of the tiny town of Patchen, at Fowler's summit where the present Mt. Charley road intersects the highway, is shown in (7) and (8). The old Patchen stage barn stands on the east side of the road; the original home of Josiah S. Fowler, built about 1876 and used as a post office and stage station, is on the west side, behind the present home of Mrs. Elizabeth Laddick. This was the first of several locations of the post office, which went out of existence after it was finally transferred to Edgemont, famous mountain resort half a mile south on the highway.

Refreshments, however, still involved a great deal of work, it appears, especially in clearing up afterward, and most of the work fell on the shoulders of the few who lived nearest the church, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mrs. Sybil Shain and Mrs. M. B. Smith being mentioned in this connection. As a result, William Hill was employed as janitor.

Gifts presented to the club at this time were noted, including a range presented by Mrs. J. B. Burrell, badges made by Miss Maggie Davis, and a file of the Skyland Ready given by the editor, J. J. Bamber.

"The last improvement undertaken is the erection of horse sheds, for which the Rev. A. F. DeCamp and R. P. Edgcombe are responsible. Owing to the unusually bad weather of the winters of '06-'07, work of all kinds was so delayed that the sheds have not yet been finished, but the site has been leveled and the lumber is on the ground.

"The meetings are usually held in the 'Burrell Hall,' as it has come to be called, but three convened in the Summit Opera house and two lawn socials were held in the beautiful grounds of the Hotel Jeffries upon invitation of its proprietor."

Club officers from January to June, 1906, were H. W. Grunsky, president; Mrs. Sarah B. Smith, vice president; Miss Leona Lawrence,

secretary, and Mrs. M. L. Burrell, treasurer. From June to December, 1906, officers were re-elected, while from January to June, 1907, H. C. Walker was president; Mrs. A. Van DeMark, vice president; Miss Florence E. Beecher, secretary, and Mrs. M. L. Burrell, treasurer. H. C. Walker continued as president from June to December, 1907, the ninth term of the club, with Anson Miller as vice president; Miss Florence Beecher, secretary, and R. P. Edgcombe, treasurer.

The club roster included J. J. Bamber, Mrs. J. J. Bamber, Florence E. Beecher, Mrs. M. A. Burrell, R. Borelli, R. E. Cairns, Mrs. R. E. Cairns, A. J. Dickie, M. A. DeCamp, A. F. DeCamp, Mrs. A. F. DeCamp, D. D. Emery, Mrs. D. D. Emery, R. P. Edgcombe, E. J. Finnie, H. W. Grunsky, Mrs. Lizzie Hall, Mrs. B. Hannaford, William Hill, Miss Helen F. Hurd, H. L. Lawrence, Mrs. H. F. Lawrence, Leona Lawrence, Mrs. L. Lindsey, Mrs. E. Meyer, D. J. Moulton, John Miller, Anson Miller, George Miller, Mrs. George Miller, Ed E. Smith, A. L. Sears, Mrs. L. J. Sears, E. T. Smith, M. B. Smith, J. W. Smith, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mrs. Sybil Shain, Mrs. S. Shultze, Miss J. E. Shultze, Nina V. Taylor, Mrs. A. Van DeMark, Miss J. E. Watson, I. C. Walker, Mrs. E. H. Walker, E. N. Williams and Miss J. Wilson.

ernment record as established at Patchen March 23, 1872.

As mentioned, its first location was in Fowler's house. Fowler was the son of Jacob Fowler, who purchased 240 acres in 1872 to establish a ranch, which he sold to his son, Josiah S., just before his death in 1875.

Fowler cleared some 40 acres for fruit, but sold 30 acres, it is recorded. In 1882 he married Abbie A. Proseus, and two years later built a larger home, now known as the Laddick home, on the Santa Cruz-Los Gatos highway at Mount Charley road. The original post-office and home stands behind the larger place.

Roadmaster for Lexington and Wright's precincts from 1884, Fowler was well known in the region. He died in the 90s and is survived by his widow, who lives in San Jose.

PERAMBULATING PATCHEN.

But Patchen didn't stay put all these years—it went bounding merrily around the landscape, and was established in at least four locations before its abandonment in 1903.

From Fowler's it went to the home of D. C. Feely, widely-known mountain resident who, upon his death, bequeathed his \$40,000 estate to the board of trustees of the Socialist party. This was about a half-mile north, on the present Harry Ryan ranch.

Next stop was a half-mile south of Fowler summit, where Joshua Norris presided on a ranch known as the White and Gibson place.

From there it went to a summer resort maintained by Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Scott in 1892. Scott, as postmaster, maintained the office as Patchen, although his resort was called Edgemont, under which title the place is still operated. Scott died in 1907, and his widow now lives in Saratoga.

Patchin was the home of the Patchin Social club, which later grew into the Santa Cruz Mountain Improvement company, which was incorporated in 1886 for 50 years, and has two years yet to run, although it is almost completely forgotten.

THE "OPERA HOUSE."

A stock company headed by Volney Averill, with Charles Aitken as secretary, the corporation was formed with the intention of building a community hall. This was soon accomplished, with the finished product promptly labeled "Summit Opera House," because of early operatic programs held in it. The building is still used as a social center, Saturday night dances frequently being held in it.

Shakespearian drama coached by Charles Wilkinson, an Englishman and former actor, provided stage talent in the 90's, while traveling road companies played often and neighborhood socials and musicales were held.

Next Sunday: Lyman J. Burrell and the founding of Burrell; the James Richard Wrights and Wright's station; Bohemia, resort of the literati.

adding more land until he had 75 acres planted, including 35 acres in prunes. This ranch was directly on the Santa Cruz-Santa Clara county line, just outside the Soquel augmentation rancho. Averill's son, Arthur, and his wife, are operating the old place at the present time.

Next door neighbors of the Schultheis and Averill families were the Chases, who arrived in the '60s. Foster Chase came in 1867 to join his brother, Joseph (Josiah) W. Chase, who had established a saw-mill near Hall's bridge early in 1860, and who owned a ranch just south of the Averill place.

In the spring of 1868 Foster took charge of his brother's lumber mill at Lexington, and continued in this job until 1873, when the distributing plant was moved back to the Summit district, where he remained in charge until it was abandoned late in the '80s.

Foster then took over his brother's ranch and managed it until he was able to purchase the place in 1890, making many improvements. He then owned 180 acres along the present Soquel road, including 36 acres in prunes.

OLD FAMILIES LINKED.

In 1870 he married Miss Nancy Howell at Lexington. She was the daughter of a valley pioneer, Watkins F. Howell, who had previously settled on the Reservoir ranch in 1856, and for whom the Howell reservoir of the San Jose Water company above Lexington was named. They had six children.

Foster Chase was very active in the affairs of the little community that had grown up around the lagoon, and for several years was a trustee of historic Summit school, which the children of many mountain families attended at its various locations around the summit district.

A portion of the original home of Joseph W. Chase, built late in the 50's by a man named Taylor, is still standing, with additions and changes made by Chase when he bought it in 1862. It is occupied by Ralph and Maude Chase, son and daughter of Foster Chase.

Well known in the Summit district was another Taylor family—"Uncle Jimmy" and "Aunt Margaret" Taylor, who attended all of the weddings and funerals in the mountain region for nearly 40 years. Kindly and benevolent, they were beloved throughout the region. Their home was off Soquel road, south of the Chase home.

EARLY SETTLERS.

James Taylor, "Uncle Jimmy," came to the mountain in 1857, moving about several times before finally locating in 1864. He had married Margaret Higgins, "Aunt Margaret," 10 years before. They had no children, but adopted William, Dennis son of William and Ann Tillman. Dennis, early settlers in the Burrell region. The boy's mother died in childbirth, and with their customary open-handedness, the Taylors gave the child a home and raised him to manhood.

the famous Summit hotel, a small hostelry operated by Fred Loomis which flourished for years as a summer resort supplied principally by stage from the railroad station at Wrights.

REBUILT AS HOME.

It was taken over in 1893 by A. N. Nichols, and maintained by Nichols and other owners until about 1910, when it was rebuilt as a private home.

On the other side of Soquel road Rasmus Neilson had a blacksmith shop. Neilson, a widower, went east in 1888 to marry a second time, according to an old funeral record held by E. E. Place of Los Gatos.

While he was away his son George, a boy of 18, went hunting and was accidentally killed, providing a tragic home-coming for his father.

Another early rancher in the region was Moses M. Hanger, who settled on the south side of the road, near the lagoon, in the 70's. Judge W. H. Aiken of San Francisco came here in the 80s after he had retired from practice.

"THE CHURCH."

In 1899 the corner stone was laid for a branch of the Los Gatos Christ Episcopal church, and the building, a fine example of miniature Gothic architecture, was completed in the same year with the aid of public subscription.

Pastors from Los Gatos and supply pastors from other towns held services regularly for years, but in the past decade a sharp decrease in population has caused a loss of interest.

Hidden in a dense grove of redwoods and oaks atop a little knoll across Soquel road from Schultheis lagoon, the church is within a stone's throw from the Los Gatos-Santa Cruz highway, but remains unsuspected to thousands of motorists who pass by.

STRIPPED BY VANDALS.

Vandals, however, have long since discovered it, and have stripped much of the fine interior work, defaced the marble altar, broken windows and marred the walls. Tramps used it for a "hotel" from time to time in recent years.

Not far from the church and behind the Opera house, which faces the church, is a clearing on the Averill ranch where one of the first stage depots in the Santa Cruz mountains was located.

Burned down probably a half-century ago, the barn served the stage run which was established in 1863 by the Santa Cruz Gap Turnpike Joint Stock company, which was incorporated December 18 of that year and obtained a franchise from the supervisors of Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties.

Built up the west side of the Los Gatos canyon and replacing the old Jones hill stage road, the San Jose Turnpike, as it was called, joined at Woodwardia the route of the stage line started in 1856-58 by F. A. Hihn and associates.

Constructed by a William Hall of



Present day scenes in the Summit district of the Santa Cruz mountains in the region adjacent to Schultheis lagoon (5) offer only a glimpse in view from the day when they were created by the advent of the settlers from whom they derived their names.

Close on the heels of Mountain Charley McKiernan, first settler in the mountains, came John Martin Schultheis and his wife, Byerly Schultheis (inset), to settle by the side of a large lagoon. The old San Jose Turnpike (Soquel road) now intersects with the Santa Cruz highway near Woodwardia. Their house, hand-hewn redwood cut on the spot, still stands (1), concealed completely by a covering of machine-cut lumber. Within, its timbers, planed by Schultheis, are today as they were when the house was built, one of the oldest wooden structures in this part of the state.

Rail fences, erected to keep deer from the corn fields, and wire made fence-building easier, still are found here and there. One of a fence built by Schultheis sometime prior to 1860 may be seen near the lagoon, and is pictured in oval (2). Foster Chase

San Jose for the Hihn company as an opposition road to the Mt. Charley stage line, it dipped down over approximately the same route as the present Soquel road, which is now being widened and straightened for a modern highway.

Originally it followed the "Morrell cut-off" swinging off to the west from the Morrell homestead through which it once passed, and emerging at the Sears place.

NEW ROAD.

But in the 60's Smith and George Comstock, who were cutting timber on the McMillan (Young) holdings, found the grade too steep, and cut a new road across the back country to the Chase mill at Hall's bridge. This was later joined with the main road, past the Morrell place and connected with Burrell and Wright's station when they came into being.

Hiram Morrell built the section now in use as the main road to eliminate the ruinous dust which spoiled his grape crops from the passage of teams and stages through his front yard.

"SOCIAL AND IMPROVEMENT CLUB."

The summit region was the center of social activity of the early part of this century, an old booklet published by Joseph J. Bamber, edi-

tor of the Mountain Realty at Skyland reveals.

History of the Santa Cruz Mountain Social and Improvement club, which as it was called, from the time it started in 1904 through 1907 is given in length.

Its introduction gives an insight into history of clubs in the region.

"When we first came to these mountains we used to hear much about the literary society which once flourished on these hilltops. The Floral society did good work as long as it lasted. A grange existed long enough to build a church but not to finish it."

Mrs. M. B. Smith, prominent in the former literary society, is named as one of those active in founding the new group. "Mrs. J. B. Burrell kindly consented to open her house for the first social, which was set for January 22, 1904, but as it rained heavily the social fell through," the booklet relates.

The trustees of Wright's Presbyterian church at Burrell then offered free use of the church parlors and on the evening of January 29, some 59 people gathered there and inaugurated the "Friday Night Club," as it was called, with Mrs. Arthur L. Sears as president.

Under a new constitution, adopted March, 1905, the name was changed to "The Santa Cruz Mountain