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Charles Lewis Anderson

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History of Santa Cruz
County Thursday 1-4
Sandy Lydon
March 29, 1975

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INTRODUCTION

Charles L. Anderson was an important early settler in Santa Cruz. He arrived with knowledge of medicine, botany and zoology, and also had interest and curiosity regarding his new place of residence. Santa Cruz County is in his debt because of his early studies of the natural aspects of the area.

My sources of informations were old newspapers from both the Cabrillo and Santa Cruz libraries. I also obtained some facts from the Special Collections Library at the University of California, Santa Cruz. One of Dr. Anderson's books is included in E. S. Harrison's book on Santa Cruz County, and this was a primary source of information.

As for Dr. Anderson's life, most of my information was obtained from various books which repeated the same general information. With the use of the "Courier Item", and the "Santa Cruz Sentinel" I was able to understand Anderson's life style.

Brief Biography of Charles Lewis Anderson

Charles L. Anderson was born near Salem, in Roanoke County, Virginia, on September 27, 1827. When Charles was ten years old his family moved to Indiana. It was in Indiana that Anderson attended Franklin College until completion, after which he chose to enter the medical department of Asbury University where he studied medicine. Before Anderson graduated from Asbury University in 1852 he practiced medicine in Saint Anthony Falls, Minnesota. Following his graduation Anderson moved to Minnesota and lived there from 1852 to 1862.

Dr. Anderson was married in Beloit, Wisconsin to a woman whose name was Merial Howe. They were married in October of 1854. They had four children, one of whom died at a very young age.

Anderson was the first superintendent of public schools in Hennepin County, Minnesota, and as a trustee, helped build the first public school in Minneapolis.

In 1862 Dr. Anderson moved to Nevada, where he lived in Carson City. He practiced for four years there, and then came to Santa Cruz. In Santa Cruz, Dr. Anderson became interested in nature when he took botanizing expeditions with students from Yale and Howard Colleges. In his studies, Dr. Anderson came in contact with several famous and intelligent people, among them Henry D. Thoreau, D.C. Eaton, M.G. Farlou, Horace Mann, Jr., and Asa Gray.

During Dr. Anderson's life in Santa Cruz, he held the office of school trustee for seven years and helped establish Santa Cruz's first library, which was a free city library. He was also a prominent member of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, the Masonic Fraternity, and the Sons of Temperance. He was also president of the City Board of Health, and United States Examining Surgeon for Pensions.

Dr. Anderson lived in Santa Cruz until his death in December of 1910.

Library, Schools and C.L.S.C.

The first library of Santa Cruz was organized in 1868, two years after Dr. Anderson's arrival in Santa Cruz. It was at the second meeting, after the library first came into question, that Dr. Anderson was chosen as one of the trustees. The first city library was called the Free City Library because when it was first opened it was established and sponsored by a few people from Santa Cruz (one of them being Dr. Anderson) and not the city itself. It was for the use of people who lived in Santa Cruz.

In 1881 the trustees decided to turn the library over to the city for a Free Public Library and Reading Room. The first tax for its maintenance was levied on October 2, 1882. By April 14, 1884 Charles L. Anderson was chosen to serve on the board of trustees for the new Free City Public Library. By 1896 the Library was located in the Hotaling Building on Pacific Avenue. The contents of the Library exceeded twelve-thousand volumes. The Library itself consisted of two reading rooms, besides the main room.

Along with his interest in the library, Dr. Anderson held the office of School trustee for seven years in Santa Cruz. It was in October, 1876 that Dr. Anderson presented a twenty thousand dollar bond issue to the city of Santa Cruz, hoping that the voters would accept it and build a new public school. Dr. Anderson had much public support from the town's people.

For some time Dr. Anderson had a column in the Santa Cruz Weekly Courier called the "Educational Department, Dr. C.L. Anderson, Editor." In this column he discussed the betterment of schools, how subjects should be taught, and what should be done to keep the schools open because of the lack of funding. To give an idea of Dr. Anderson's way of thinking he once said in his column " We spend more money on some of our immoral and dirty vices in one week than our school taxes would amount to in a year.¹"

¹Santa Cruz Weekly Courier Educational Department, Charles Anderson Editor, April 1, 1880

Dr. Anderson was a prominent member of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. This club met during the whole year and entertained different groups, but during the summer months, after school was out, served as a recreational and educational center for children. The programs provided by the group included concerts and many lectures. The Circle derived its name from its beginning which was in Chautauqua, New York.

Dr. Anderson became an officer of the CLSC in 1886. Among his contributions to the CLSC were chemistry lessons which he gave in his own home. A book of reminiscences by a Miss Forbes tells of Dr. Anderson's visits to her Eclectic Club of the Seabright area in Santa Cruz. "The Chautauqua Society met with us once a month. Dr. C.L. Anderson was a tower of strength to us, bringing over his microscope, and giving us practical illustrations of the wonder of nature hidden to unassisted eyes. He also gave us talks along other lines, one of special interest being Thoreau, with whom he was intimately acquainted."²

²Reminiscences of Seabright By Miss Forbes, Page 14 Seabright, California, 1915

Santa Cruz's Man of the Land and Sea

Among Dr. Anderson's favorite branches of study were botany, geology and zoology. He made Santa Cruz his speciality. The list of papers which he wrote on Santa Cruz's natural surroundings are numerous. He wrote of the geology of the county, fish and seaweed of Monterey Bay, and birds, flowers, plants, and ferns of the area.

Dr. Anderson studied the layers of earth in Santa Cruz and classified them as follows:

	LAYERS	SOIL COMPOSITION
from fresh water and decay of organic matter	7	alluvium
from ice	6	conglomerate or drift
	5	shale
from the ocean	4	sandstone
	3	limestone
	2	metamorphic
from fire	1	granite

3

Dr. Anderson thought that it took a little reading "between the lines of the earth's surface to come up with both answers and questions."⁴ He wrote of the above minerals and stones and explained further how they contributed to the Santa Cruz area

1. Granite - The granite of this area is composed of crystals of different colors and shapes, which Dr. Anderson describes as follows: "Now there is one thing we can read with absolute certainty in the granite. Composed as it is of crystals and a cement, we know that at some time it was held in solution, for all crystals are formed out of solutions. As examples, we

³History of Santa Cruz, County, California E.S. Harrison 1892
Pacific Press Publishing Company Page 90

⁴IBID

have the numerous and various kinds of salts from solutions. Water is the solvent aided by heat. Our reading of granite tells us that previous to its present condition it was in a state of solution, and out of that came the beautiful granite crystals.⁵

Dr. Anderson states that the granite content in Snata Cruz is low, and where it is found it is mixed so thoroughly with other rocks that it is confusing to tell apart from other stones

2. Metamorphic- This rock is in the cliffs of Soquel and Aptos, in the foothills, and even in the summits of the highest ranges in the county. There are remains of shells, whales, seals, sharks and other forms of life from the sea.

3. Limestone- Limestone which is also a form of metamorphic rock differs because it is a more recently formed rock. Also the conditions in which it was formed are different from metamorphic rock itself. It is highly crystalline and is a very pure carbonate of lime. Limestone has been a difficult type of rock to study because of the many metamorphorisms that it has gone through.

4. Sandstone- Sand and sandstone are the result of the rubbing of all kinds of rocks to a fine powder. Sandstone was formed when the earth was in a very turbulent stage. Its result was that of beaches and sand dunes

5. Shale- Shale which lies above sandstone is believed to have been produced in the same matter as sandstone. It is the debris of organic matter, such as shellfish, sponges, and other sealife. Since the shale has gone through many changes, it is rather difficult to find traces of fossils.

6. Conglomerate or drift- The next layer of earth is that of Conglomerate or Drift. It is those big rounded boulders which appear near rivers and streams.

The reason supposed for these rocks being where they are is that when the Ice Age began to thaw; rocks were carried many many miles with the water, thus making the rocks smooth and molded.

7. Alluvium- The final layer of earth which gives all libing things life is soil and Alluvium. Dr. Anderson states

⁵ Op. Cit Pg. 91

that Santa Cruz County has the best soil in the world, so far as the variety of constituents is concerned.

Dr. Anderson ends his chapter on Geology with " Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee"⁶ One of Dr. Andersons biggest wonders was why people have to travel to the eastern countries to find ancient artifacts, when the relics within the rocks of Santa Cruz County are older than any pyramid, older than the creation of man.

Marine Botany of Monterey Bay

Dr. Anderson proposed that to study Marine botany one has to deal with the beginnings of life. In that we find protoplasm and the cell in its simplest form.

Vitality of the life principle is what takes hold of matter and rearranges its elements, forming them into definitely shaped bodies that move, grow and eventually die.

Impressions of seaweed are found on the oldest sedimentary rocks, and are considered to be the oldest organized living thing. The sea brought fourth plant-life before any animal, and in doing so created a pathway for living animals.

Dr. Anderson says that with all but one or two exceptions , all Marine plants belong to the class known as Algae. These plants are cellular with no system of canals or tubes to carry fluid through them. The roots of seaweed are used for positioning rather than gaining food. Although, there are a few forms of Algae that have roots, stems, and leaves.

Another type of plant is of fresh water, too delicate to survive the salt water or roughness of the ocean. This plant belongs to a small clan called the Nostocs. It consists , instead of seperate cells, of a filament distinctly beaded , and lies in a gelatinous firm mass of somewhat irregular shape.

⁶Op. Cit. pg. 97

Dr. Anderson confirmed that in his twenty years of studying abundant Algae species many of them had disappeared from the locality of Monterey Bay, and also there were none to replace the ones which were gone.

Dr. Anderson described in detail the four different types of algae; Blue Algae, Green Algae, Red Algae, and Brown Algae.

He spoke of utilizing the Algae that grows along the coast of Santa Cruz. He knew that if people started eating the kelp everyone would be in much better shape.

Fish Native to Monterey Bay

Because it would have been rather difficult for Dr. Anderson to catch and name every fish in the Bay of Monterey his main sources of information were derived from papers done by Prof. David S. Jordan, and the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

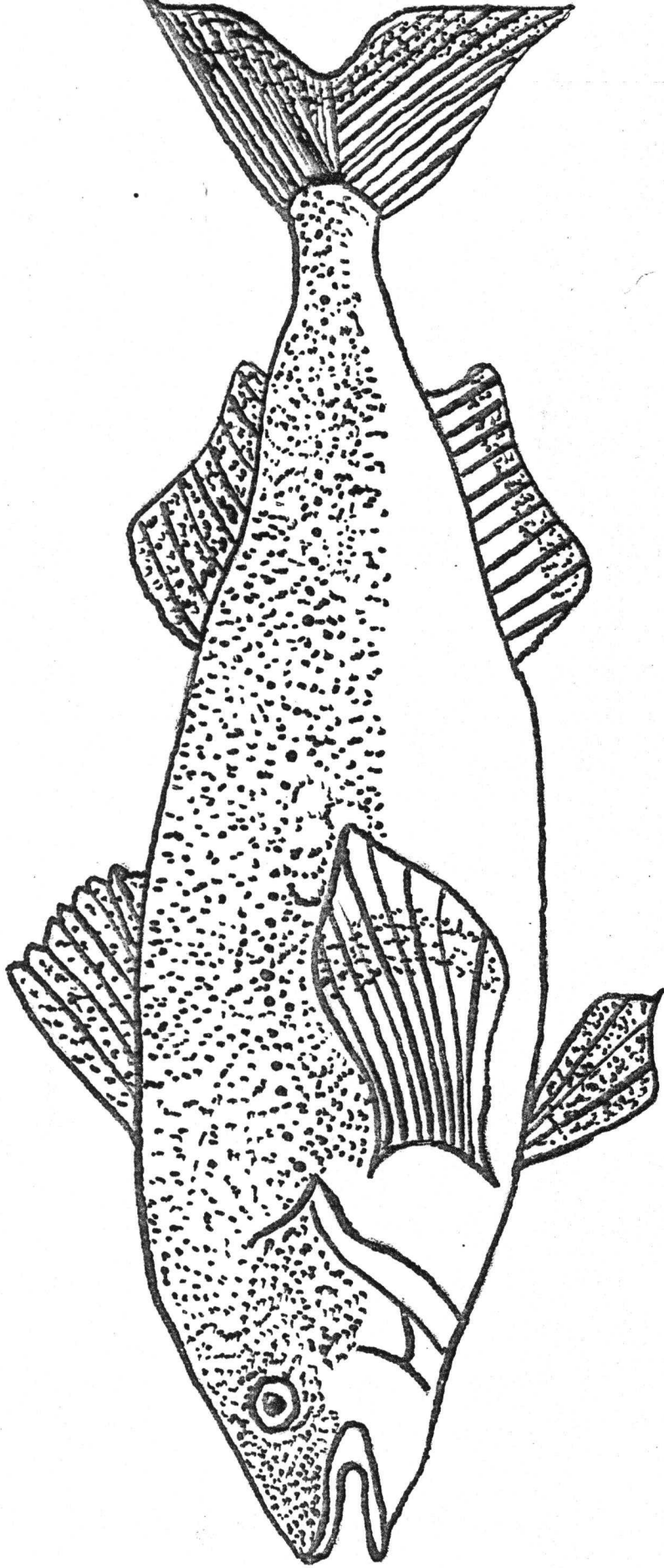
It has been said that at one time there was no area of the same size which contained as great a number of species of fish on the Pacific Coast as Monterey Bay.

Reason for the over abundance of fish in Monterey Bay was because Santa Cruz has a bay, and the waters tend to be warmer than the ocean itself. Also warmer waters grow more plantlife, thus increasing the number of fish. The plantlife also provides good breeding grounds and growth life for young fish. Some of the fish located in Monterey Bay are; green rock trout, spotted rock trout, black candle fish, monterey mackerel, long-finned tunny.⁷

Native Flowers, Plants, Ferns and Grasses

Dr. Anderson was one who certainly knew the flora and fauna of Santa Cruz County. He was a very dedicated person, who left us with a list of numerous names and descriptions of the plant life native to Santa Cruz County. Dr. Anderson notes that "Perhaps no one county in California has a greater variety

⁷Op. Cit. pages 111-117



Black Candle Fish
Anoplopoma fimbria
Reaches a weight of 5 pounds
length - 20 inches

of flora than Santa Cruz County, in proportion to its size, that is equivalent to saying that no equal area in the world exceeds our county in this respect."⁸

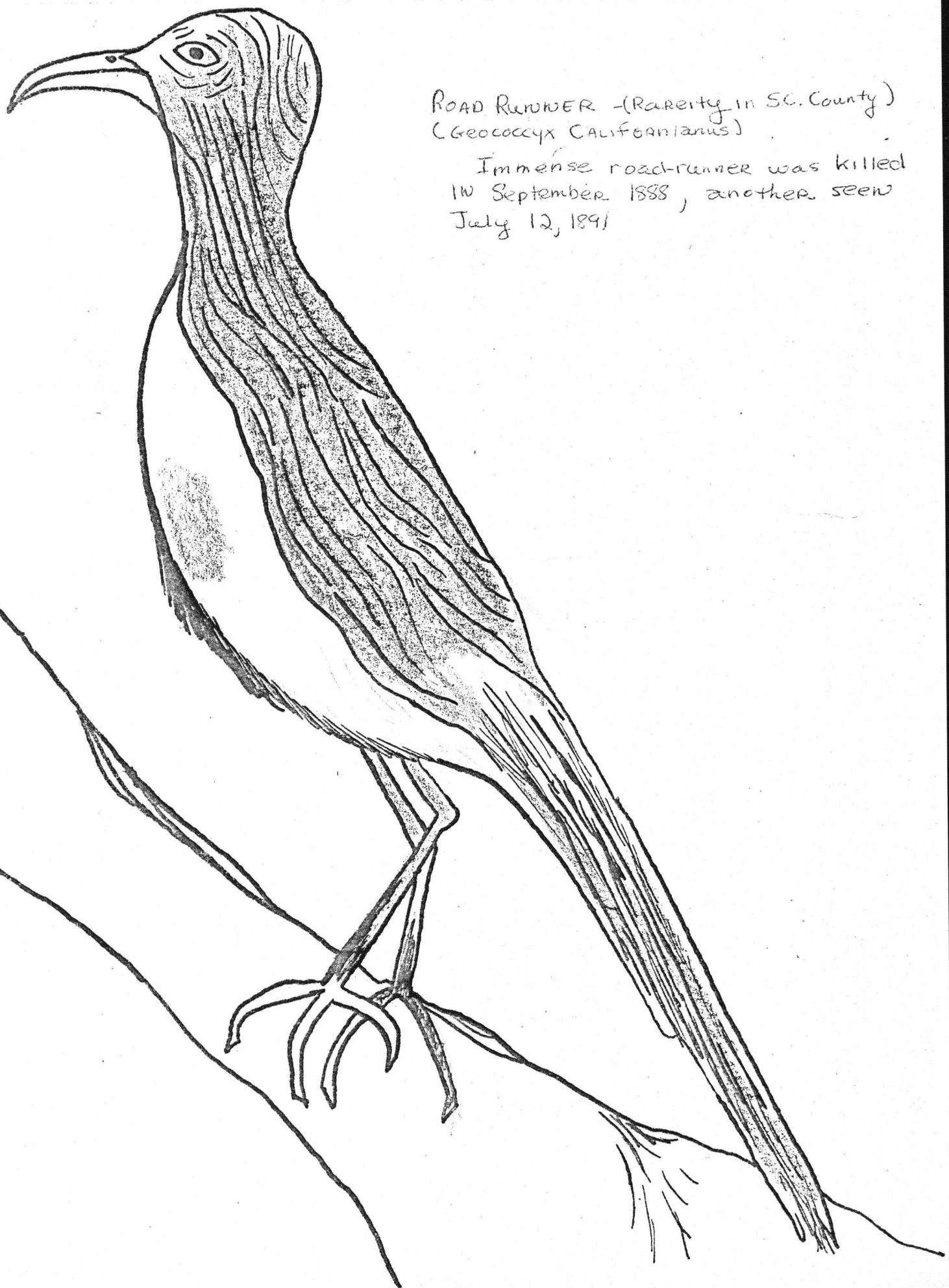
Dr. Anderson in his studies named and described many of the native and migratory birds in Santa Cruz County. He identified one-hundred and fifty-four types of birds which were in the county at that time.

⁸Op.Cit. Page 118



Heermann's Gull
 (Larus Heermannii)

California Gull, resident,
 and very common - during
 the fall and winter months



ROAD RUNNER - (Rarity in SC. County)
 (Geococcyx Californianus)

Immense road-runner was killed
 1st September 1888, another seen
 July 12, 1891

CONCLUSION

Dr. Charles L. Anderson died at the age of 83 on December 23, 1910. His death was of natural causes from old age.

At the time of his death, Anderson was noted as being one of Santa Cruz County's most prominent citizens. His contributions to the county were of present and future importance. His support of schools and education furthered people's interests in the school system, making an education for a child in Santa Cruz important.

Dr. Anderson has left us with a background of knowledge regarding Santa Cruz County. It is my hope that the Santa Cruz Historical Society will give him the prominent position he deserves. He was a collector of facts and a supporter of growth, without expecting personal gain. To my knowledge there are no streets nor buildings named after C.L. Anderson but he has left us a far more lasting record of his achievements.

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