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Old Santa Cruz By Ernest Otto

Early Day Streets Were Lined With Shade Trees Which Made Them Beautiful Features Of City

Streets with the greatest changes in the city include those which were at one time shaded from one end to the other.

King street is likely one of the most changed as it was in the seventies a street without a sidewalk, without a shade tree, the greater part of the street grass and only square unpainted picket fences. Now it is paved from end to end and is considered one of the most beautiful streets in the city with the attractive homes, lawns and gardens.

One who looks down Columbia street does not realize that at one time both sides of this street were lined with eucalyptus trees adding beauty to the surroundings. When taken away the small houses hidden by the lovely trees were out in bold relief.

The same may be said of Garfield street. When it was Pleasant street it was well named as on both sides were rows of elms. With dirt walks and dirt street it was then much more attractive than at the present time.

OLD TREES REMOVED

Locust, Church, Maple streets and Walnut avenue, by the remov-

al of the trees, were given a great change.

The least changed street in the city without question is Pelton avenue between the West Cliff drive and Columbia street. A number of houses are there but the same cork elm trees remain. It still has no sidewalks and it has the same picket fence along the Phelan property with its grove of eucalyptus.

Lighthouse avenue still retains many of the cork elms placed in early days. Of side streets there is no question but that Church street, once lined with trees, with quite a graded hill in front of where the present city hall stands and with a factory at one end, vacant lots and plank walk and dirt street, has had the greatest change with the addition of the city hall, the auditorium, the Wessendorf parking space, the First Methodist church and attorneys' and physicians' offices and the Meyer, Sentinel and Leask buildings.

FISHPONDS

In the seventies and eighties fishponds with fountains were quite common in the gardens. Some were quite large in size and in the center of each were sprink-

lers which were usually spouting water in the air. The center sprinkler was usually built in a rockery surrounded by growing and blooming plants.

The ponds were for goldfish of various varieties. On Church St. were four—in the S. A. Bartlett, Charles Bern, A. J. Hinds and Hihn gardens.

The one in the Bern garden was an immense one and was surrounded by a circle of huge cypress trees which were kept well trimmed and were one of the sights of the city.

Hundreds of goldfish in this pond were supplanted by carp but the carp were later removed.

HOMES ON PACIFIC AVENUE

Imagine Pacific avenue, now a business street the entire distance, with most of its business houses frame, with residences where the upper section of Hotel St. George now stands, and where the lower section stands a barnyard with barn and horses running around the rear part of the Bernheim store. There was not a store on the east side and only a single store below Lincoln street; only shacks for Chinatown on the block below Walnut avenue and with shack stores at the corner of Walnut. Between Walnut and the present brick store at the corner of Church street were two residences and the large empty Cooper lot.

PLANTING IN CYCLES

Tree planting went in cycles. In the early days numbers of shade trees in the city were native trees such as water maple and alder. It was the home of the redwood yet none planted these in front of their property. For a time, especially along Columbia street and in that section, the eucalyptus lined the streets.

The cork elm had roots which spread everywhere and then the suckers came up and soon were trees. They were planted along what was then Pleasant street but is now Garfield street, also along Pelton avenue and Lighthouse avenue.

The dracena palm came in with the placing of paved streets and gave a new touch. Beautiful locusts, walnuts, English walnuts, mandy poplars, maples, native laurels were planted, palms, never as beautiful as others, took their places. There were on Walnut avenue