


Let's Go...



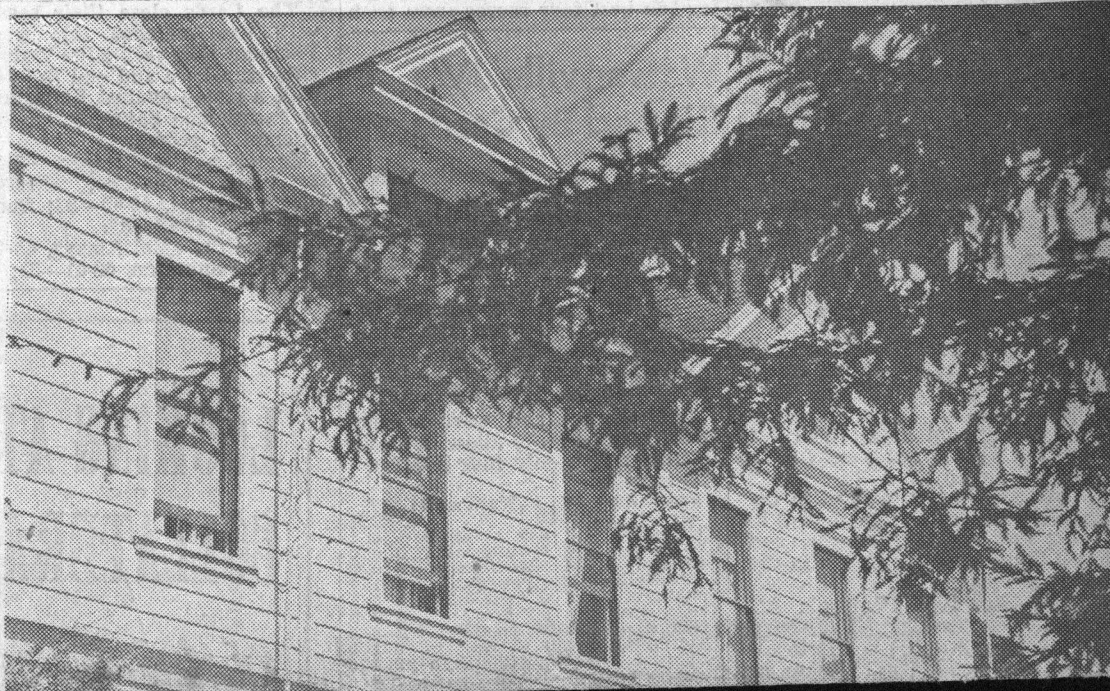
Wild flowers on the hilltop above the Seventh Day Adventist conference grounds at 1931 Old San Jose road vie with the panorama of orchards and forest for the attention of Nancy Trimble (right) and Irene Pletschet.

Vine Hill To Soquel Route Is Fascinating


Between Soquel and Vine Hill lies an area as captivating today as it was in the colorful past when stage coaches trundled up the canyon and over the ridge.

The route through this portion of the countryside is by way of the Old San Jose road or the Soquel-San Jose road, which begins at the north end of Porter avenue in Soquel. A left turn onto Mountain View and Laurel Glen road and then a right turn onto Vine Hill road will take the motorist to the Santa Cruz-Los Gatos highway (No. 17) just north of Scotts Valley.


The variety of interests along the way is amazing and to those



To the Captivating Countryside



On Vine Hill, Miss Trimble finds old grape vines removed and new ones thriving on the old Fusari place, now the property of Dr. L. J. Schermerhorn.



Mrs. R. B. Bernard (left) shows the girls the Alaskan Indian totem pole which is part of her husband's remarkable collection.

He died at his home place June 30, 1874.

A son, Edwin Bernard,

side roads, the reward in things to see is never-ending.

Loggers and one or two early settlers had the area much to themselves a century ago.

Then came the battle for turnpikes.

The move for a stage coach road linking the coastal area and the Santa Clara valley or Santa Cruz and San Jose began in 1855 when Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties named three men each to select a route.

On January 5, 1858, at a meeting in Soquel five men were named to investigate a route to meet the road proposed by Santa Clara residents, from Santa Clara to Santa Cruz gap. Two months later the Santa Clara Turnpike company was organized, with the leaders being Elihu Anthony, Santa Cruz merchant and postmaster who came to this city in 1847; Samuel A. Bartlett, then a resident of Soquel but later a furniture dealer and banker in Santa Cruz; Nathaniel Holcomb, farmer and lumberman of Soquel since 1850; F. A. Hihn, the Santa Cruz merchant who later developed Capitola; John Hames, the pioneer mill man and a large land owner; J. F. J. Bennett, John Daubenbiss, George Parsons, A. W. Rawson and F. M. Kitteridge.

The Soquel company's route started at Holcomb's place, went up the hill west of Soquel creek, where traces of it still can be seen high above the present Old San Jose road. The road followed the ridges until it reached gaps in the mountains.

It was completed at a cost of \$12,000 and until the county took it over as a public highway December 15, 1873, it operated as a toll road from Soquel to the summit.

Historians record the tolls as: Wagon and span of horses, 50 cents; each additional span, 25 cents; wagon and yoke of oxen, 50 cents; each additional yoke, 25 cents; horse and buggy, 37½ cents; horse and rider, 25 cents, all loose stock, per head, 5 cents.

The Santa Cruz turnpike, which was started two months after work began on the Soquel route, traversed the Graham grade (now the Graham Hill road), what is now the Glenwood road and the Mountain Charlie road to meet the Santa Clara project near the summit of the Santa Cruz mountains. This road cost half as much as the other.

The Soquel turnpike won the race for completion, however, and for many years the San Jose stage coaches came over the summit, down the ridges and canyon to Soquel, stopped at Tom Mann's hotel there and then drove west to Santa Cruz.

With the completion of the road the settlers who saw a great future for the wooded mountain sides as a main artery of transportation. Many sold timber from their redwood stands, some operated their own mills, until the best were gone. In addition to sequoia the area has many oaks, madrones and some

the many shrubs, the wild lily with its spicy scented lacy blue flowers is the most beautiful at time of year. The grassy hillsides and open flats dotted with many prairie flow-



The famous old resort, the Mountain View Ranch, now is a Catholic retreat for women. Miss Trimble resides at 1751 Glenwood highway, Miss Pletschet at 209 Laurel.

ers, while in the shade of the forest are ferns and woodland blooms.

Squirrels scamper in the trees. Deer go with mincing steps to the brink of the streams to drink. Trout play in the cool ripples and quiet pools today much as they did when stage coach passengers exclaimed at the beauty of the countryside which was evident even through the dust swirling up from the horses' hooves.

A short way out of Soquel is the new home of Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Bernard. In the beautiful garden is an Alaskan Indian totem pole—a sample of Dr. Bernard's amazing collection of Indian clothing and handcraft.

He first became interested in North American Indians through his grandfather, Henry Blaisdell, who once farmed the historic Barson tract here and who later became the first governor of Nevada. It was while he was governor that Blaisdell became interested in the welfare of Indians, particularly in his state, and did much to better their lot.

Dr. Bernard is recognized widely as an authority on North American Indians and his collection is known for its authenticity and its completeness.

Beyond the many cherry orchards bordering Soquel, are the first of the numerous ranches which specialize in dairy cattle, sheep, goats, beef cattle, poultry and nearly every kind of fruit.

At 1931 Old San Jose road is the property of the Central California Conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

Its 100 by 300 foot auditorium, said to be the largest in Santa Cruz county, occupies the center of a grassy slope. While part of the auditorium is used for storage and other purposes, it is equipped to seat 3700 persons. At one end is a Bible House, where books are dis-

played during the conference season.

The principal meeting of the year is the camp meeting which begins the last of July and continues for 10 days. Attendance has been as great as 12,000 in one day, with 1900 cars parked in the conference grounds.

The grounds containing 87 acres were purchased four years ago by the church. Buildings in addition to the auditorium include a garage, dining hall and four rest rooms.

Part of the hillside is terraced and piped for watering.

The water system consists of one well 277 feet deep which produces 100 gallons a minute and provides 60 pounds pressure at the auditorium. Two covered tanks provide between 70,000 and 90,000 gallons storage capacity.

Since purchasing and developing the Old San Jose road site, the church has acquired Camp McQuaide and conducts the Monterey Bay Academy there.

J. I. Conley, caretaker at the conference grounds, said it was decided recently to sell the 87 acres, the auditorium and other improvements and conduct the camp meeting at the academy in the future. The price being asked, he said, is \$300,000.

For the adventuresome motorist, who isn't afraid of little traveled trails, the drive through the conference grounds and up the steep hillside to the flat, grassy and flower dotted mountain top, affords one of the most spectacular views of the numerous panoramas which feature this Soquel-to-Vine Hill trip. For those who do not wish to drive the trail, the hike to the top is quite easy if taken slowly.

Among the many livestock farms the E. C. Linder place at 3015 Old San Jose road is one of the most fascinating. Mr. and Mrs. Linder are milking 44 goats now, sell-

ing the milk to the condensary at Ripon.

And they are bottle feeding 35 kids, with six of them still on the three times a day schedule while the others are large enough to thrive on two feedings.

As carefully as a mother prepares the bottle for her baby, the Linders mix the formula, fill a soft drink bottle half full, put on the sterilized nipple and warm the milk, testing it on their wrists to see if it is the right temperature.

But there the comparison ends. No mother ever had a baby as greedy as the kids on the Linder farm. The feeding is over in a matter of seconds.

Linder's goats are of the Saanen breed. However, he recently purchased some Nubian goats for crossbreeding purposes in an effort to increase the butterfat content of the milk. The Saanens are white and short-eared. The Nubians have black and white coats and long, floppy ears.

At the junction of the Old San Jose road and the Mountain View and Laurel Glen road, is the George Casalegno place, which once was the property of Benjamin Cahoon, an old sea captain.

The old two-story house still stands back in the trees.

Captain Cahoon, who was born in 1803 came around the horn in 1840 and again in 1852 from his native New York. In 1866 he came from Utica to stay. He bought a sawmill and 960 acres from his nephew, Benjamin Cahoon Nichols.

The captain built a big house on the mountain place in 1874, and named his new home Pinos Altos.

The captain was a familiar sight in those days, wearing a silk hat and driving a barouche into Soquel. Cahoon was one of the leaders in organizing the Santa Cruz grange and was one of its first masters.

to a time. The property remained in the family for many years.

A short distance up Laurel Glen road from the Cahoon place is the well known Laurel Glen Fruit Farm, at one time one of the show places of the area.

The property was purchased in about 1860 by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Dakin (Laura Jameson) who had come west from New England with the Jameson and Locke families, other well known early settlers in this vicinity. The Dakins lived for a time at Knight's Ferry before coming to Santa Cruz.

The Dakin place once included land on both sides of the Laurel Glen road and extended far up the canyon to the east.

Dakin planted a large cherry orchard and raised some apples, the most popular variety being known as the Christmas apple. It was a small red apple which sold readily during the Yuletide season.

His sons, Wilber Jameson Dakin and Henry Dakin, helped him on the home ranch. He also had a daughter, Mrs. Alice Loomis, who resides in San Francisco now.

His sons added to the knowledge of horticulture they had acquired from their father. The fruit from the Dakin place was widely known for its quality.

Wilber left the home place, moving to Santa Cruz. Later he took a position as manager of the Hearst ranch at Pleasanton, a post he held for 20 years. Upon leaving the employment of the Hearsts, he bought a ranch in Yuba county. He died in 1947 in Alameda.

Henry worked for a time, too, for Phoebe Hearst and in 1907 was sent to Mexico in search of trees and plants which would be adaptable to California climate.

After 12 years with the Hearst ranch, Henry returned to the old home place.

He developed his father's orchards and was the first to grow avocados commercially in Santa Cruz county. His avocado orchard was in the canyon at the east side of the property. One tree netted \$300 in one year.

Lemons, guava and Chinese loquat are other fruit trees he added.

As a sideline he grew English holly, supplying a large holiday market in the San Francisco bay area.

His reputation as a horticulturist spread. He put in vineyards in Sonoma county. He made several trips to Southern California where he grated and pruned avocado and walnut trees.

His fresh fruit and preserves were perennial winners at the Santa Cruz county fair. He was president of the Santa Cruz County Fruit Growers union and one of the first horticultural commissioners of Santa Cruz county and at one time president of the county fair.

As he became older and less active, he sold portions of the property until today there are many residences along the once private road and none of the property is owned by members of his family.

Much of the orchard still remains, however, and many Santa Cruzans have fine large trees which once were seedlings given them by Dakin.

Henry died November 28, 1945. His daughters, Mrs. Ruthalee Mauldin and Mrs. Alice Irene Arata, reside in San Jose.



Visitors at the E. C. Linder goat ranch at 3015 Old San Jose road are likely to be the objects of curious gazes by spry kids.



Miss Pletschet gives Whitey his lunch at the Linder ranch.

At 2381 Laurel Glen road is St. Clare's Retreat and Convent, operated as a retreat for women from all over the state and particularly from the Fresno-Monterey Catholic diocese.

It once was the Mountain View Ranch Hotel, a famous resort for nearly a half century.

Most of the original buildings, with numerous repairs and additions still are in use. The terraced and landscaped grounds include a swimming pool.

It was operated by Frank Dann before the turn of the century but reached the high point of popularity during the time it was run by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Phillips and Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Brant. They purchased it from Dann in 1902. After Phillips' death, Mrs. Phillips and the Brants continued it.

Both Phillips and Brant were known throughout this section of California as great hosts.

Carriages and later cars from the hotel met the train at Glenwood

and brought the guest over the Vine Hill road to the hotel. In addition to the hotel facilities, there were cottages for guests.

From 1925 to 1942 Mr. and Mrs. Brant were the hotel keepers and from 1942, when Brant died and Mrs. Brant moved to Santa Cruz, until 1945 it was operated by their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Brant.

They sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Buffon, who ran it for a

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