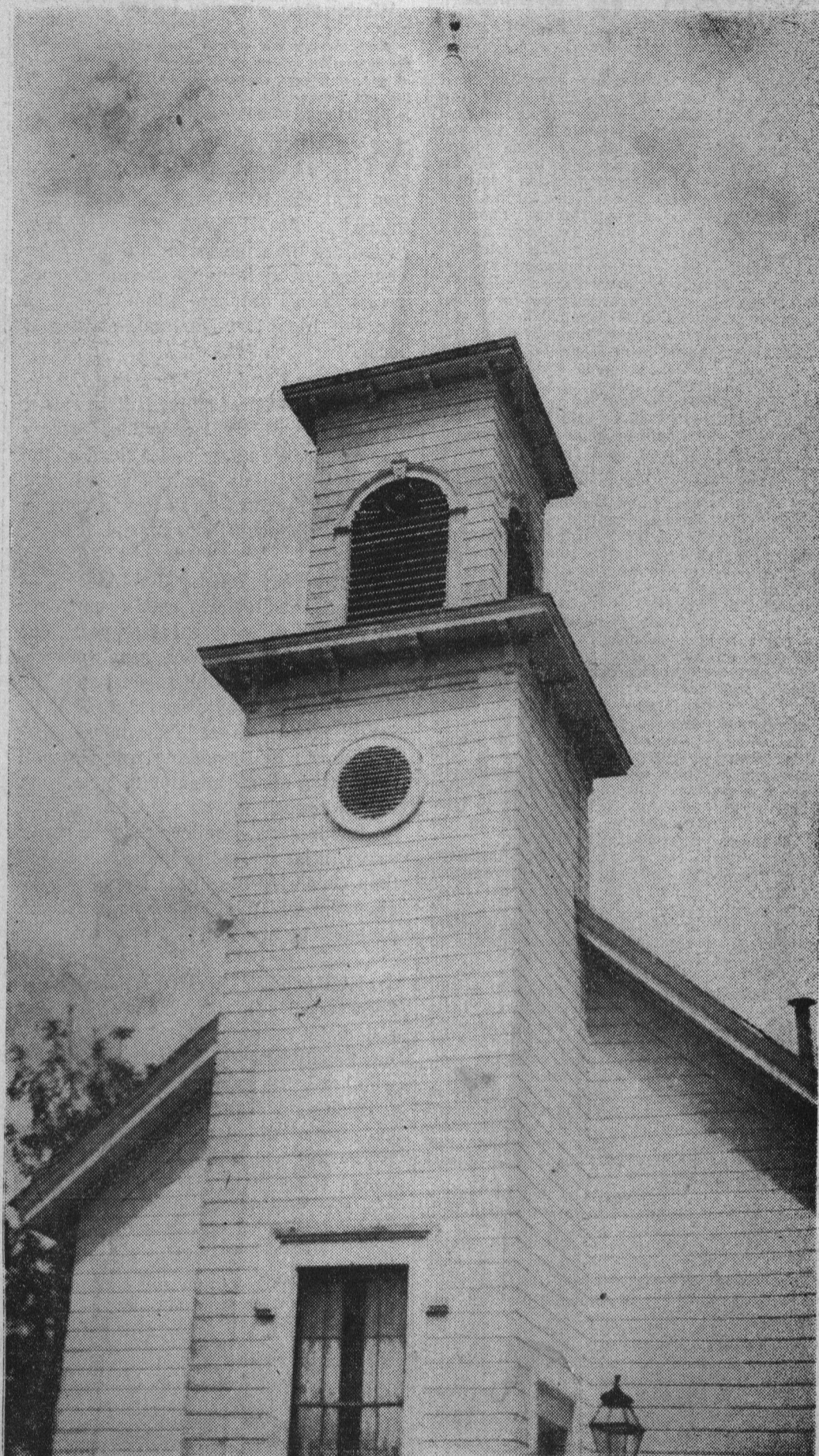


SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



QUAINT CHURCH MARKS SOQUEL

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Soquel has been called the "old home town" which lives in every traveler's dreams but which seldom exists in reality.

Rich in history and old in years, the neighboring community is no longer the sleeping village it used to be, yet it is intensely proud of the quaint little church that has served its faithful for so long.

Soquel Congregational church was built 85 years ago on land given by Joshua Parrish in 1869.

The small group of founders had taken form the year before, meeting in the school house and the Parrish home, where Sunday school had been held for several years.

From the adjacent mountains in the early days came vast supplies of lumber, by four and five-span ox teams, to the Soquel sawmill, paper mill and chair factories which flourished during the pioneer town's industrial boom period. S. A. Hall, a former ship's carpenter, who built so well, the little church had the finest of materials to build with.

Busy Town

Long before the turn of the century, Soquel boasted four hotels, several stores, a tannery or two, and a grist mill, in addition to the activities noted above. Stage coaches once swayed around the mountain curves of Old San Jose road, of which Soquel was a terminus.

Coastwise schooners discharged and received freight at the wharf at Soquel landing (now Capitola).

In 1868 the people of Soquel invited the state of California to move its capital there. The building offered had been erected by the town band, a vigorous organization of the day. Later their hall was purchased, moved to a different location and became a Methodist church. This Methodist group later united with the Santa Cruz church.

But the New England-type

Congregational church carried on. The membership growth was gradual, adding to the original membership of eight: Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mattison, Mrs. Narcissa Parrish, Mrs. Phoebe Feeley, Mrs. Lucy M. Burrell, Mrs. Augustus Noble, Mrs. Rachel Eall and Mrs. Jane McKay.

Pastor Roll

Pastors of Soquel Congregational church have been: W. A. Tenney, J. H. Strong, R. A. Duncan, L. N. Barbour, G. M. Dexter, A. B. Palmer, Howard Mudie, James Parsons, A. B. Snyder, G. H. Wilbur, F. M. Washburn, Franklin F. Pearse, W. J. Spears, J. W. Griffin, C. J. Godzman, Silmev W. Wilcox, W. A. Hensel, Frank A. Bissell, Arthur A. Kidder, John J. Kelley, J. C. Bolster, Jessie G. Heath, T. Davis Preston and now Norman Head.

"The Little White Church in the Vale" is still growing. Proof of this is reflected in numerous

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