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Aptos' Hotel Bayview about

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Joseph Arano came to California in 1852. He had been reared in New Orleans in a family that had emigrated from the Basque country in France, the region that was later to give that country its Marshall Foch.

Unlike most new Californians of the period, Joe came with enough capital to set up a grocery store. Unlike them too, he was serious and proper in deportment and carefully groomed. And despite his short stature, he exuded dignity and competence.

Arano had the proper credentials for inclusion in the small circle of friends that Don Rafael Castro entertained at the

hacienda of the Rancho Aptos. He was a devout Catholic. He was fluent in Spanish, as he was in French, English and the complicated Basque tongue. There was a European polish to the little man. So no one was surprised when he took as bride the fiery little Augustia Castro.

By 1870 the couple had accumulated enough capital to build a hotel designed to lure a prosperous clientele. Don Rafael gave them a large lot at the intersection of Valencia Road and the county road (today, Trout Gulch Road and Soquel Drive), cynics said, in settlement of his grocery bill.

Arano had planned carefully. Through cousins in Spain, he had

brought out a bright Basque teenage boy, taught him English, and trained him to run the grocery. He had ordered beautiful and efficient marble fireplaces from France, massive bedroom furniture from Spain, the latest in dining room and kitchen equipment from San Francisco. And he had visited local mills to choose the timbers for his building.

Before 1870 was over, the big wooden letters that still proclaim Bay View Hotel were securely fixed just below the great Mansard roof, every piece of furniture was in place, and Arano could climb to the covered window's walk on the roof and raise a big flag above it.

The grocery was housed in the

big central room on the ground floor and the fireplace alcove at its rear became the first Aptos Post Office. Swinging doors on the east side led to the "gentlemen's bar". No cheap saloon, this, with its gleaming, S-shaped mahogany bar. No plebeian 10-cent drinks here! Gentlemen would willingly pay a quarter for vintage liquors. The main hotel entrance on the west opened into the main hall, off which were the formal parlor and the family parlor. At the end of the hall was the entrance to the long dining-room wing.

The second story offered twelve guest rooms and two baths, and the third contained the six-room family quarters, with an attic above them.

A formal garden invited guests to stroll among box-lined flowerbeds and sculptured cypresses. A gazebo, equipped

to enter second century

with desk and chairs offered shade and a place to write letters. In inclement weather, guests could view the garden from the bay windows on the parlors.

A veranda on the south and east side afforded a strolling place from which to view the bay and the life of the village. A line of captain's chairs on its lower deck served in place of lobby seats.

Behind the hotel was an enclosed utility yard containing the necessary dairy, chicken yard, and storerooms. Here also was a stable to care for the horses of visiting persons and to rent horses and carriages. As the family grew, part of this space was used to erect a home.

Klaus Spreckels was impressed enough with the hotel to quarter his guests and to give banquets there. Before he built his own elaborate hostelry in what is now the Rio del Mar Beach area, he

was Arano's best customer. Beginning with Hawaii's playboy king, Kamehameha V, the Bay View was host to a number of prominent singers, actors, and political figures.

The coming of the railroad in 1876 gave the hotel a long period of prosperity. But at the end of the first decade of the 1900's its lustre had dimmed, Joe Arano was an old man who spent most of his time sitting on the veranda, and Augustia was an invalid. Their daughter, Amelia, cared for the few guests.

In 1944 another war was on. Lumber was scarce. Fred Toney, Aptos plumber and hardware man, had just acquired the Menefee Grocery. He wanted to build a group of stores to expand his business. The Bay View, completely closed since 1919, contained enough good wood for

the project. The Arano heirs were ready to sell.

Chance stepped in to preserve the old building. A P.G.&E. construction crew needed living quarters for several months. Their foreman talked Fred and Elma Toney into opening the old Bay View. At the behest of the men, the Toney's put in kitchen equipment and began serving meals. Aptos had no restaurant, and soon local people and travellers began stopping and asking for meals. Without planning it, in fact, with some dismay, Fred and Elma found themselves in the restaurant business.

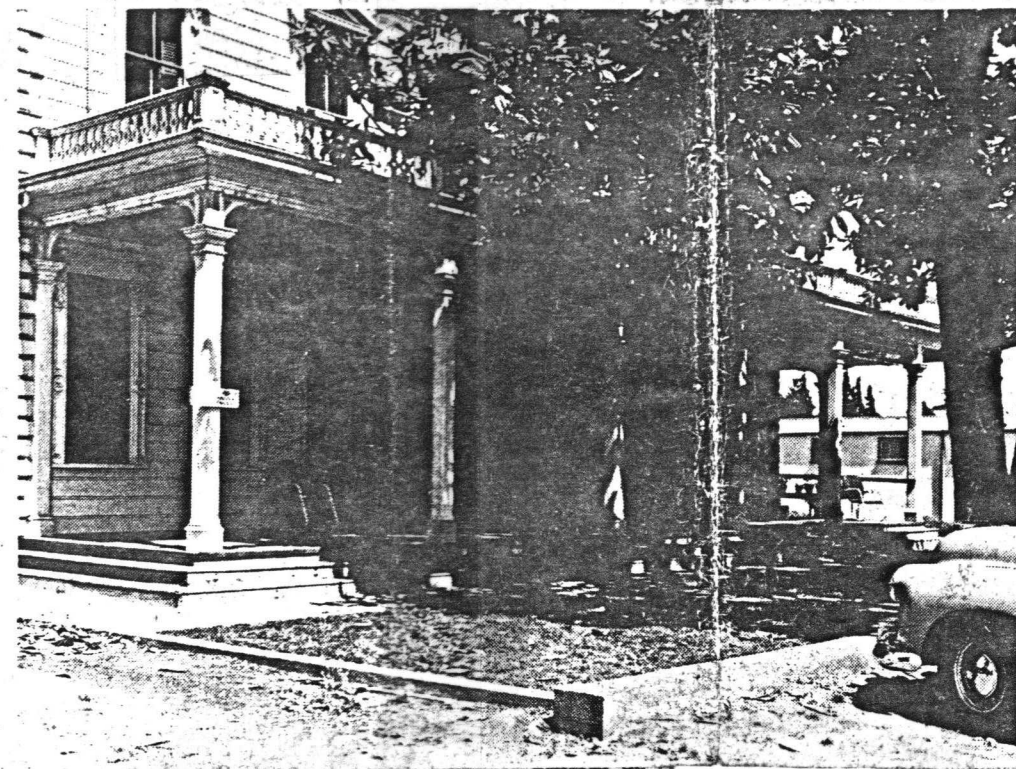
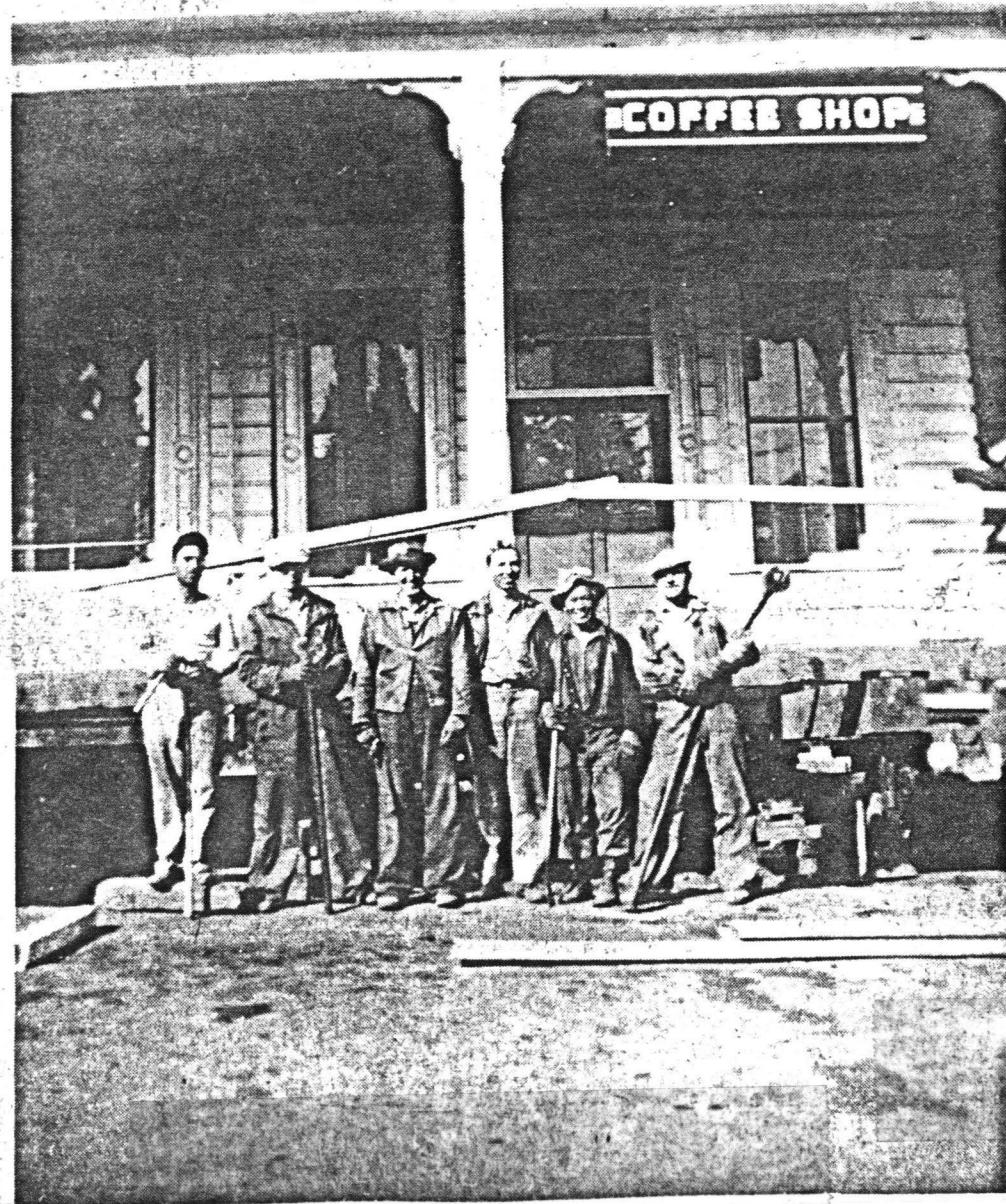
Fred was determined to have his stores on the corner. He tried to get the hotel moved, but movers said the heavy fireplaces and chimneys made a move impossible. So he bought used equipment, assembled some local men, and moved it himself. Using expandable plumbing and water connections, he accomplished the job without moving a guest or omitting a meal.

Starting with a counter and a few tables in the old bar, the restaurant soon expanded to fill the old grocery room. Then the verandas had to be enclosed.

During the summer now, the restaurant frequently serves over 400 meals.

Joe Arano and his August sleep beneath a massive stone cross in the Aptos Catholic Cemetery. Around them sleep their children, Amelia, Ros Joaquin, and Edward. Stella and Joe live in San Francisco.

The Toney's have breathed new life into their beloved hotel, and have preserved much of the charm they gave it—the jalousie windows, the ornate ceiling even the quaint old prints and deep "hair pictures" they put on the parlor walls.



The Hotel Bayview is seen above after it was moved to its present site, but before the veranda was enclosed for a dining room.

The Hotel Bayview is seen at left all ready to be moved, with the crew that performed the feat. Fred Toney, owner, is at the far right. Next to him is Victor Aguirre, and next to Aguirre is Martin Rickard. The other three could not be identified.