

2-22-42

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# Old Santa Cruz . . . . By Ernest Otto

## Residences Had Fences Of Many Types With Privet and Rose Hedges At the Better Places

From split rail fences to no fences and then the comeback of the fence, is the history of fences in this section.

Here and there in the out of the way places, are to be found surrounding fields of some of the farms, the split rail fences such as one reads about especially in the days of Abraham Lincoln. These zigzag fences were built in this section of the country and the long split rails were laid horizontally one above the other, in zigzag fashion. There is a comeback of this fence as seen in the ultra-fashionable Pasatiempo only smaller and lower than the fences of early days.

The fence which was everywhere and is seen in some sections of the city and especially throughout the country districts was the upright rail fences, instead of the horizontal rails which preceded. All through the city especially the lower flat, on the east side and on Mission hill these picket fences were smooth finished and square in shape with a rail along the top.

### SPLIT RAIL FENCES

In the country sections these fences were of split rails. A good sample of this fence is on upper High street along upper Spring street and around the C. C. Moore, Henry Cowell Lime and Cement Co. properties. These are from the old days, but here and there these have been placed around the most finished residences and the comeback of these fences seems to be only a matter of taste. Some of us did not like them when in vogue and like them no better at the present time. Many remember the time when these fences were the prevailing ones throughout the city owing to so many farms within the city limits. These fences have invaded fashionable Pasatiempo around beautiful homes, Miramar Heights, lower Spring street. They are in front of homes and it seems the older they look or the more moss they have, they are the most highly prized.

### ALONG PACIFIC AVENUE

With these picket fences were the board fences especially between residences and some between family homes where once in a while it was a spite fence and mighty high which made it impossible for the neighbors to look over. Numbers of these flat board fences were at places along Pacific avenue.

Another popular fence was long horizontal boards nailed to posts, about three horizontal boards, the fence high enough for three boards. This sort of fence surrounded the court house in the boyhood days of the writer and in front of the court house were long hitching posts for the horses. The highest board fence was around the county jail, now the site of Holy Cross hall.

### GARDEN FENCES

Fences in front of the gardens started with the upright picket fence with a sharp point at the top. These were of varied heights and it is this fence coming back to its own at places where fences are again being reintroduced. Some

of these were quite high and some so sharp it was almost impossible for the small boy to climb over.

The next fence for the garden front was the one of the boyhood days of the writer. It was of small square pickets with a wide board at the base usually painted to match the residence. This was the very popular fence and was in every section of the city and is frequently seen now. One on Church street was recently removed on the Drennan place to make way for the Wessendorf parking lot.

### IRON WAS USED

Then in front of many of the best homes the wooden picket fence was replaced by combina-