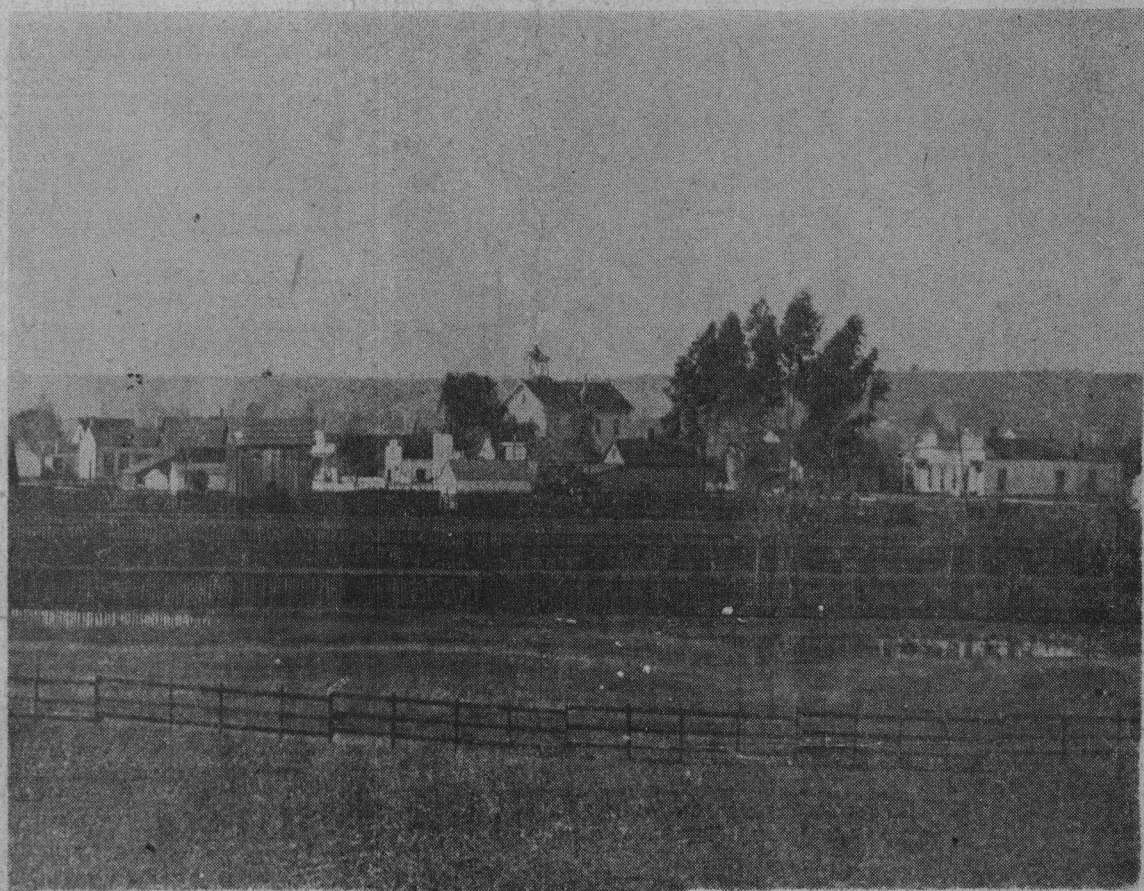


Santa Cruz Yesterdays



THE SOQUEL ROAD IN 1890

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The old Spanish Camino Real was, in 1890, still the Soquel road, but the time had passed when four-horse teams plodded along it to the Santa Cruz wharf hauling wheat and lumber from the Soquel valley. Train service had ended ocean traffic.

Most prominent building in the picture is the Branciforte school, which was on the site of today's Santa Cruz hospital. It stood back from the road, which wallowed muddily up from the river, and clung to the brow of the hill looking down on Branciforte creek. A few small residences stretched along the road beside it.

The school house had been started as a one-story building in 1869, and later made two stories high as it is shown. Four years after the picture was taken a front section was added which more than doubled its capacity. It was replaced in 1915 by the present Branciforte school.

The clump of eucalyptus stood near the corner of North Branciforte avenue, which was occupied by Williamson & Garrett's east side store. Just west of their establishment was Mike Harrington's original store and saloon, in a little wooden building which still stands, occupied as a residence.

The little one-story dwelling nearest the camera was that of Amanda Olson, the "goat woman," who tethered her ruminants anywhere along the road and sold milk to her neighbors. Her home still stands, much changed, now occupied by "The Stork Shop" at 285 Soquel avenue.

The camera of 1890, to get its splendid view of back yards and barn lots, was at a point which today would be somewhere between Pennsylvania avenue and Pine street, a little north of Broadway, perhaps at some point on Hanover street.

Near the left side of the picture, fronting north on the Soquel road, was Mike Harrington's second business building which he erected in 1886 between South Branciforte and Ocean View avenues. It still stands, a decrepit two-story wooden structure, unoccupied and adorned with circus posters. Just beyond it was D. J. Bertola's grocery.

Under the clump of eucalyptus, east of Branciforte and north of the Soquel road, long stood a small building which was a popular refreshment place for passing teamsters. Today the site is occupied by a service station, with Kaiser's

upholstery and the Mission Printers just east of it.

The back yard in the foreground, with its puddle of water, was probably that of Pat Poile, son of Francois Poile, the French sailor who in late Mexican days deserted a whaling vessel at Monterey and came to live in Santa Cruz. The site later was that of Gebhart's grocery and today is occupied by the Hamelin Furniture Exchange at 325 Soquel avenue. Poile, who had been baptized Patricio Arcangel in 1852, moved to Paul Sweet lane and built a big gabled house which has been torn down to make room for the new highway.