

EARLY SANTA CRUZ HISTORY RECALLED

The vegetable garden on the extreme north end of Walnut avenue located below the bluff of Escalona heights, now the property of C. C. Moore, is being cultivated to provide additional acreage for the growing of garden truck. The soil on part of the land is of cement formation and many years ago the clay like substance was quarried and sent to be burned in the kiln of a cement factory that was located on what was then known as the Towne tract and at present referred to as the Turner subdivision. The plant stood for many years after its abandonment and was the home of the Santa Cruz municipal electric light plant, one of the first plants in the state in which public ownership figured. The land where this plant stood also figured in the days of militia division encampments and as one of the strategic positions of the famous sham battles of Tripe Hill.

On the land where the cement deposits are still to be seen the quarry pit from which the cement clay was taken. Close by, on the same property near the creek, stood the old Majors' grist mill, which was one of the famous landmarks of Santa Cruz history. In the same location was an early Indian settlement and close to the grist mill and at one time occupied by the original Butler hothouse cucumber gardens, was an Indian burying ground. Even to this day occasional arrow heads and pieces of flint are occasionally turned over by the plow.