

Development of schools in Live

(Second of a series)

By CAROLYN SWIFT

While Live Oak had no school until 1872, public education in Santa Cruz County began with the arrival of American settlers that came west with their families about 1848.

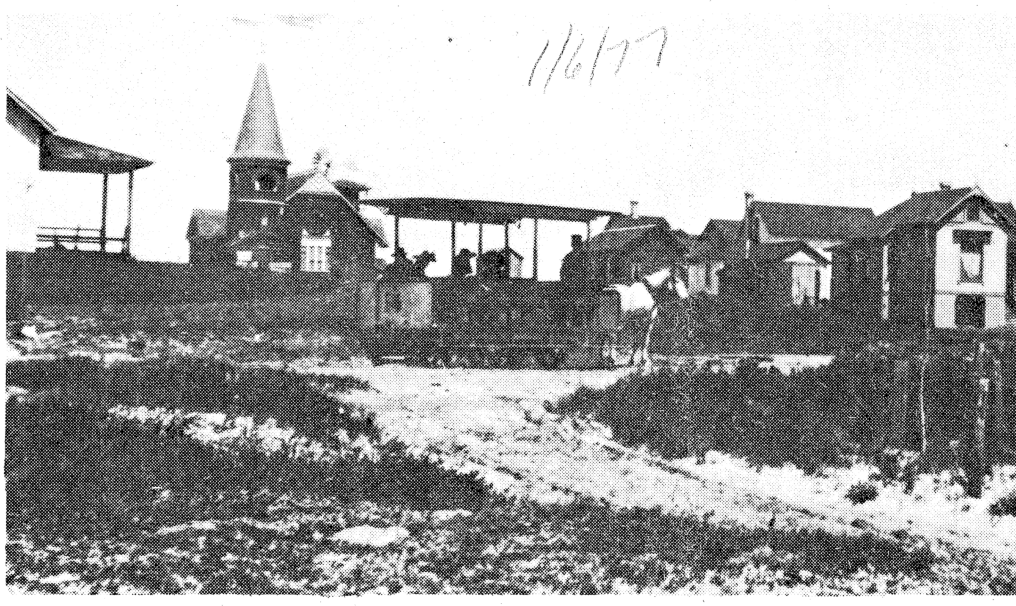
Mary Amney Case is credited with teaching the first school at her home in Santa Cruz during the summers of 1848-49. By 1851 there were about 200 white, English-speaking children of school age in the county.

Schools were supported through subscriptions and rate-bills, and tuition was paid on a basis of the average number of days a pupil attended. Only parents who could afford tuition fees sent children to school regularly.

During the next decade, Santa Cruz County developed as a center for shipping and was known for industries in lime, lumber and agriculture. Commercial centers began to appear in Santa Cruz, Soquel and Watsonville. The number of school-age children increased an average of 200 per year by 1860.

In 1861, there were seven schools in the county — Pescadero (which shortly became a part of San Mateo County;) Santa Cruz School No. 1 and No. 2; Soquel, San Andreas, Oak Grove and Pajaro. Only Santa Cruz No. 1 — with an enrollment of 58 children — was large enough to be a "graded" school.

If Live Oak children went to school at all in the 1860s, they could travel either to the Branciforte District, established in 1860 but without a building



Twin Lakes Baptist Church, conference grounds and summer resort was established in 1891, and was provided with ser-

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until 1869; or to Soquel, also established in 1860. By 1870, the districts of Aptos, Hazelbrook, Mountain, Summit, San Andreas and Union had been taken from Soquel boundaries, which had once contained nearly all of midcounty.

In 1870, there were six towns in Santa Cruz County — Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Felton, Corralitos and San Andreas, near Manresa Beach. Total county population was 8,743.

Live Oak farmers could ship their produce from wharves at Santa Cruz or Soquel, but to send it out of the county by rail they first had to haul it southward to the Southern Pacific Depot at Pajaro.

Those who lived close to Soquel could obtain needed supplies in

that town, which was becoming a successful center for shipping and lumbering. Live Oak residents who lived west of Rodeo Gulch more likely chose Santa Cruz for major shopping excursions.

While Martin Linsley was donating land in Live Oak in 1872 to provide a school for his nine children, another father-of-nine, F. A. Hihn, was building a railroad — a narrow gauge line that eventually crossed the southern edge of Kinsley property in the most direct route possible through Live Oak.

F. A. Hihn was a Live Oak neighbor of sorts, although he never took part in the development of that community. Indifference from Hihn is further evidence that Live Oak lands were less-than-best, as Hihn generally managed to take an active and enterprising role in the growth of the county's more prosperous communities, with the exception of the Pajaro Valley.

In 1874, Hihn designed and completed his "Camp Capitola," a summer resort surrounded in the early days by sugar beat fields that extended into Live Oak. For the next several generations, Live Oak children had a clear view from the school of passing trains that deposited a season's tourists on Capitola beach.

While Santa Cruz and Capitola made money off propaganda that the 1960s two—John and Anna Santa Cruz County was free of disease and a healthy place to visit, all Live Oak obtained from this reputation was an occasional student sent there from towns like Hollister or Fresno for a stay with relatives during a period of ill-health.

County school enrollments were increasing at a rapid pace by the time Live Oak acquired additional 1½ acres for school property in 1876.

By then, there were 55 county schools, with an enrollment of 2,272 white children, 29 black children and one Indian. Another

high school was built in Santa Cruz, with 86 students the first year.

In the next year, the organized anti-Chinese movement spread to Santa Cruz County with the Workingman's Party. Two "Mongolian," children were included in the annual county census report, but neither were allowed to attend public school.

Live Oak School was open for a 10-month term in 1877. School property and all the equipment was worth a total of \$600. The year's expenditures were \$764 and the district had \$500 "cash on hand," at the end of the term in July 1878.

During the year, the school enrollment was 45 pupils — but the average daily attendance (ADA) was only 27 children, about half of those eligible. Throughout the district, there were 53 children of school-age, and 18 more under five-years-old.

Martin Kinsley was a cattle rancher interested in breeding stock. In 1881, he built a new home for his family on Ivy Lane, not far from Live Oak School — which rested on the edge of Kinsley pasture bordering on Lower Soquel Road. Kinsley lands extended from that road (now Capitola Road) to the railroad tracks.

Martin, Johnnie, James, Lettie and Emma Kinsley were all Live Oak pupils in 1885. There were nine children altogether, and in the 1960s two—John and Anna Letitia Kinsley — still lived in the family home, although by then there were only 3½ acres remaining of the original farm. Live Oak School became a center for business and social activity as well as education, and school sessions were sometimes cancelled when other community affairs took priority.

During the 1886-87 school year, for example, there was no school held on Oct. 1 and 2 or May 12, since these were election days

and the school house was Live Oak's polling place. Live Oak was a grammar school that served all school-age children in the community. Of an

Proposed bingo law returned for overhaul

An ordinance setting up procedures for licensing bingo games in Santa Cruz County was referred back to county counsel for some additional amendments Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

California voters approved a ballot issue last June allowing the Legislature to adopt a statute authorizing cities and counties to approve bingo games for charitable purposes. The Legislature subsequently adopted such a law.

The county staff was directed to work closely with lawyers for the cities in order that a uniform bingo law can be adopted throughout Santa Cruz County.

Bingo licenses would be limited, under the county proposal, to nonprofit organizations, which could operate the games no more than once a week. A procedure would also be established for licensing bingo games on a one-time basis. County counsel was also directed to draft language calling for an investigation and audit of bingo operators when they renew their county permits.

In other business Tuesday,

meeting room into two courtrooms. Supervisors Gary Patton, Ed Borovatz and Phil Baldwin voted not to reconsider the board's previous decision to modify the chamber into the two courts.

—Directed the employment commission to act quickly to take the necessary steps to qualify the county for more than \$1.4 million in CETA public employment funds.

—Approved rezoning to smaller building site designation property owned by William and Sandra Waltrip on Wildwood Road about one-quarter mile north of Larkin Valley Road.

—Rezoned land on Browns Valley Road, near the start of Hazel Dell Road, from UBS-40 to a "recreational" zone. The land is owned by Francisco Coll.

—Approved multiple-family residential zoning on land presently classified as industrial on the west side of Paget St., north of Felt St., in Live Oak.

—Rezoned land owned by Ben Chirco, on Rodeo Gulch near Heide Lane, from 40 to 10-acre building sites.