

Intriguing Happy Valley...

Let's Go...



Happy Valley school is the center of community life. Mrs. La Salle Bachelder (center), the teacher, tells Sandy Carpenter (left) and Frances Burkley of Santa Cruz of some of the events which made history in that area.



Sam Bachelder shows the visitors the cook house in which loggers ate more than a century ago. Bachelder, whose hobby is his collection of 100 guns, was born on the old home place 61 years ago. Frances is at the left.



The beautiful M. P. Aune home is rustic and intriguing.



At the Double S ranch, Barbara Summer introduces Frances to her peacock.

Bernadine Lorenzana, had resided previously on the San Vicente Rancho which extended along San Vicente creek inland from where Davenport now is located. The rancho was a Mexican grant of 10,802 acres made to Escamilla in 1843.

Blas was born in 1823 at Monterey, the son of Joaquin de los Santos Escamilla and Francisca Vicente Rodriguez, the latter being a daughter of Jose Antonio Rodriguez who had come to Villa de Branciforte (East Santa Cruz) in 1797. Joaquin was born at San Francisco, the son of Tomas Escamilli, who, with his wife, Ygnacia Alva, both natives of Guadalajara, also had come to California in 1797.

Shortly after Blas Escamilla



Fine Modern Ranches Share Hills, Dales With Sites On Which History Was Written

The past and the present live side by side in Happy Valley.

The combination gives an air of intrigue and romance to the beautiful hills and dales which are traversed by Branciforte drive, which joins Market street at the north, city limits; Granite Creek road, which forks off the west side of the drive, and Happy Valley road, which forks to the east.

Happy Valley also is a paradox in spirit. Independent and self-sufficient in community matters it is eager to do its part in Santa Cruz city and county affairs.

Many of its residents are employed in Santa Cruz or have business and professional standing here. Yet its school, its community club and its fire department are proud examples of what the valley people can do for themselves.

This attitude is not new.

From the days of its first settlers, the Happy Valley area residents have been identified with the cultural and economic growth of not only the city and county but also the state and nation.

Today the valleys of Branciforte creek and its tributaries, which two decades ago before the gold rush were producing a wealth of lumber, are peopled with many enterprises.

There are old farms, like the Trevethan and Bachelder places, where the dignity and romance of the past cloak wooded hills and flower dotted meadows, where cattle graze and the tinkle of sheep's bells breaks the stillness.

There are redwood homes, a rustic air partially disguising the most modern conveniences, built on old homesteads which have been subdivided and resubdivided from the great acreages of by-gone landowners.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Aune of 401 Happy Valley road is an outstanding example of the modern dwelling carefully appointed to harmonize with the woodland surroundings. Cultivated shrubs and other plantings are grouped among the native growths in realistic pattern. Ivy covers the terraces of the hillsides, tulips raise their bright heads among the moss covered rocks along the creek.

The gateway to the rustic bridge which is the entrance to the place suggests the mystery of the past with its name-plate, "The Hideout."

One of California's newer developments, private summer camps for children, is located in Happy Valley. Owned and conducted by

the Robertson family, Fern Canyon Lodge Children's Camp adjoins the north end of DeLaveaga Park.

It is in its fourth year of operation. Girls from 8 to 17 years and boys from 8 to 12 years may spend their summers at this lodge for the younger set, learning to ride horseback on mounts owned by the lodge, swim in the big private swimming pool, hike on the lodge's property or in nearby DeLaveaga Park, fish in Branciforte creek, take beach trips to Santa Cruz and enjoy nature study, crafts and other recreation and amusement.

The lodge averages 40 to 50 guests each season and has facilities for 60. The 1951 season will be eight weeks, from June 24 to August 19.

The property on which the camp is located once was part of the holdings of Judge Henry Rice, southern born and one of the leading Democrats in the politically explosive days of the Civil War. Rice was elected county judge in 1856. He had built the hotel, the San Lorenzo House, in Santa Cruz in 1852. The site now is occupied by the Coast Counties Gas and Electric company.

Another valley enterprise of note is the bird farm of Mr. and Mrs. B. Allvin at 2693 Branciforte drive. They have 250 canaries, 100 parakeets and 25 lovebirds. They have been raising birds since 1941 and in nine years have achieved the amazing array of 20 trophies, including three certificates won in international competition in Cuba. The Allvins have resided in Happy Valley for about 18 years.

The Anita Sporup Home, at 4573 Branciforte drive, in a pretty clearing between the creek and the tree-covered slope, is a sanitarium for mentally ill and senile. Mrs. Sporup, who has conducted a sanitarium in the Happy Valley area for 10 years, purchased the present site six years ago. The property is the former Montgomery estate which was known as one of the show places of the vicinity.

On a little side road is the famous Mystery Spot, intriguing with its phenomenon which seems to defy all laws of gravity. It was developed by the late George W. Prather. It has been attracting large crowds of curious visitors since it was opened in June of 1941. A son, Bruce Leonard Prather, now is in charge there.

Happy Valley has a number of rest homes.

What was once old Mason place now is the home of the Hammond sisters, Miss Ida Mae, who teaches piano in her home studio and also teaches music three times a week at the Happy Valley school, and

Miss Grace, who is a retired librarian. They purchased the property three years ago.

Several chicken ranches are in operation in the valley.

Horse ranches are gaining in number.

At the lower end of the valley is the Daniel DuPertuis place, known for its Palomino horses. Mr. and Mrs. DuPertuis purchased the property four years ago, moving there from Merced. Their stallion, Branciforte Kid, who is a registered Palomino and a registered quarterhorse; the three mares, Goldie, Kitten and Francesca, and the three colts, Branciforte Rey, Branciforte Mischief and Ronchita, attract many visitors.

At the upper end of the valley, near the junction of Branciforte drive and the Jarvis road, is another horse ranch—the Double S. It is owned by W. L. Shelton and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Summer.

Its pheasants and peacocks attract as much attention as its fine livestock.

The Oneto hog ranch, conducted by the Oneto brothers, is one of the largest hog ranches in this part of the state. The Onetos maintain a herd of 50 sows for raising pigs and also buy hogs for fattening. Their average herd is 500. They ship the fattened porkers to livestock markets.

The hog ranch was established four years ago.

There are places which sell dogs and places which sell cats.

There are orchards in which many varieties of deciduous fruits and berries grow.

Deer often are seen in the "back orchards" and other creatures of the forest share the hills and dales with the domestic animals.

Happy Valley also has a mystery story writer, Russel T. Branch Jr. He is the author of a large number of science fiction stories, mysteries and detective stories.

The Happy Valley Resort, a beautiful guest ranch, is on the site of the old Blackburn mill.

William Blackburn, a wood worker and cabinet maker born in 1814 at Harpers Ferry, Va., came to California in 1845 and was building a sawmill four miles from Santa Cruz on Branciforte creek when gold was discovered at Coloma.

Blackburn, who had been appointed alcalde (mayor) of Santa Cruz in 1847, resigned the position and joined the many other Santa Cruzans in the rush to Sacramento. Jacob Blackburn, one of his brothers who came from the east to join him in the search for gold, completed the mill which in 1856 became the property of a New York-

er, Alex McPherson, brother of Duncan McPherson, who became publisher of the weekly Sentinel. Alex later became county surveyor.

Others who participated in lumbering in what still is sometimes referred to as Blackburn Gulch, and the adjacent hills, were William W. Waddell, a Kentuckian who came here in 1850 by way of Missouri; F. A. Hihn, Santa Cruz' enterprising early day millionaire; James Brennan, the ship builder of Santa Cruz' great shipping era; and Davis and Jordan, wharf builders, limestone miners processors and shippers.

Waddell operated a sawmill in Blackburn Gulch until 1860 when he moved to the coast at the north end of the county, where a creek now bears his name.

Charles P. Bachelder, who came to Santa Cruz in 1868 from Old Town, Me., bought a large acreage on which Waddell had cut timber. The skid road, on which logs thundered down the slope to the mill site, was visible on the Bachelder place for many years. It now is overgrown with grass, shrubs and small trees.

Bachelder's brother, John Bachelder, a sea captain and also a lieutenant in the First marine regiment, joined his brother in the early '70s. He purchased what now is the Mattingly ranch which joins the Bachelder ranch on the north.

The sons of Charles P. Bachelder, Charles L. and Samuel, were born on the old home place and still reside there.

Still in use—as a storehouse for harnesses and other ranch equipment—is the cook house in which a Chinese cook and his helpers prepared and served the meals for Waddell's timber cutting crews.

The building, more than 100 years old, once contained a large dining room and five smaller rooms. A portion of it is intact, with a lean-to having been added many years ago.

The oldest resident of the Happy Valley area is Mrs. Agnes Trevethan, who lives on the place which her parents purchased in 1875.

The first Trevethan, William, a young Briton who sailed from Plymouth in 1822 on a four-year whaling voyage, decided to remain in California when his ship, The Rover, docked at Monterey the first year out.

He married Antonia Perez and settled down on property which included that part of Santa Cruz in the vicinity of Trevethan avenue.

The first Trevethan died in 1875. His son, Miguel de los Santos Trevethan (Michael Trevethan), born in 1853, worked as a millman in the timberlands of the county.

On October 20, 1881, he married 18-year-old Ynes (Agnes) Escamilla, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Blas Escamilla of Happy Valley. Escamilla, and his wife, the former

moved his family from the San Vicente Rancho to the 160 acre place in Happy Valley, a typhoid epidemic struck the area.

Three of his sons died, leaving only Agnes and Jose (Joseph). Jose now resides near Mattison Lane.

The mother died in 1877 or 1878, leaving Agnes to keep house for the father and Jose. When Agnes married Mike Trevethan, the couple made their home on the Escamilla place, rearing their four sons there.

Blas Escamilla died March 30, 1906, on the Happy Valley place. Death took Mike Trevethan in October, 1949, at the age of 96.

His widow, who now is 87 years of age, resides on the old home place with her sons, Frederick and Lawrence. Her other sons, Francis B. and John L., live in Santa Cruz.

The Stanley ranch, where Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stanley and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Vierra reside, is another focal point of valley history.

The place then was owned by Matias Lorenzana.

The bandit chief, Tiburcio Vasquez, was reported hiding out in the Happy Valley area. Sheriff Charles H. Lincoln organized a man-hunt. The possemen tracked Vasquez to the Lorenzana place and surrounded the barn in which the bandit was believed to be hiding.

As Vasquez jumped from the hayloft in an attempt to escape, he was shot by Sheriff Lincoln.

This occurred in 1871. The barn, a tall narrow building between a huge redwood tree and the hillside at the head of the gulch, now serves as a garage.

Next to the Stanley ranch once was the small farm owned by Dave Hoffman, known to the community as "Nigger Dave." Hoffman, who was a slave in Missouri, bought his freedom for \$1000 and came west as a cook for an emigrant party, arriving here in 1852.

He was a favorite among the children of Happy Valley, who would listen for hours to his tales of plantation life. The big white haired man, who always went barefooted, was known for his great strength. His plow broke down one day. He hoisted it onto his back and carried it to Santa Cruz to have it repaired.

"Nigger Dave" lived alone on the farm with his dog "Watch," who died in September 1893.

Happy Valley was one of the first 12 districts in the county to have sufficient population to warrant a school. At that time the county extended north along the coast as far as Half Moon Bay.

The Happy Valley district was founded in 1865.

The present building was erected 30 years ago. The first teacher in the new structure was Mrs. LaSalle Bachelder, who was a member of the board of trustees when the decision was reached to replace the old historic structure. Mrs. Bachelder, the wife of Charles L. Bachelder of the early day family, has taught in the Happy Valley school continuously since her first term there.

There are 18 pupils this term, in grades 1 through 8.

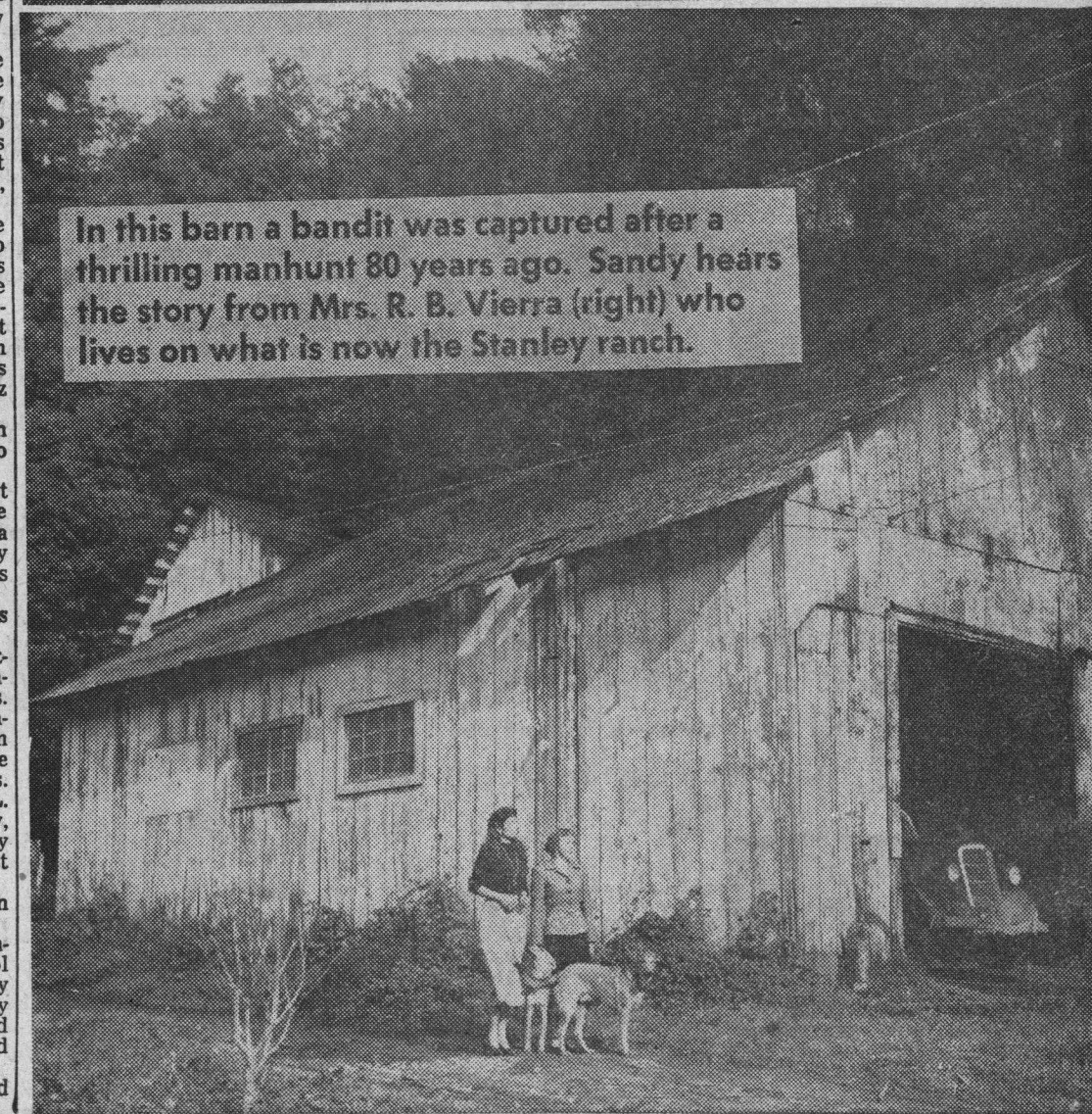
While the building is the community meeting place, the school also is the center of community interests. In it new community projects are mapped. Current world problems as well as neighborhood affairs are discussed.

Graduates who have done proud

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Sandy makes friends with Goldie, a Palomino, at the Daniel Du Pertuis ranch.



In this barn a bandit was captured after a thrilling manhunt 80 years ago. Sandy hears the story from Mrs. R. B. Vierra (right) who lives on what is now the Stanley ranch.

Let's Go . . .

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deeds are known and honored there.

On display are the pictures of the Happy Valley school graduates who served in World War II, including two who gave their lives for their country.

The school again is serving as a clearing house for letters and other news from Happy Valley graduates who are in uniform.

It is through the school that the neighborhood's problems are solved, tragedies softened and happinesses celebrated.

In addition to the school, a fine example of community cooperation is the Branciforte Fire district and its volunteer fire fighters. As a part of the Eighth Area Fire district (Scotts Valley), the residents of Happy Valley believed their area would be better served by having its own fire truck.

By public subscription a fund was started.

A truck was purchased. Then the pumper and other equipment was bought and a Santa Cruz shop employed to install the equipment on the truck. By this method the community obtained a good fire engine with a minimum of expense.

A fire house was the next project.

It was built by volunteer labor. The county road department laid the surfacing on the driveway.

Last April a fire district was formed, permitting taxes for future fire fighting facilities.

Gino Delucchi is the fire chief. Glen Vaughn, Irby Burton and Fred Weilenmann are the fire commissioners. There are 15 trained volunteers, but every man in the valley is prepared to lend a hand in an emergency. Several women of the valley also have been known to help.

The fire department has the reputation of being able to get any place in the district within five minutes after the alarm is given.

The Branciforte Drive Community club, the other principal organization in the area, is headed by Glen Vaughn, president; Irby Burton, vice president, and Mrs. Thomas B. Mattingly, secretary-treasurer. Starting as a social get-together group, it later became a farm bureau as the community embraced farming as its major industry. When large properties were subdivided and the residents represented a variety of interests, the organization became the Community club.

It has approximately 50 members. It meets in the Happy Valley school building the first Saturday of each month. Every third meeting is in the form of a potluck supper.

The club was organized February 9, 1928. Previously the community organization was a Farm Center. One notation in the old minute book tells of a supper party given by the men of the community on January 1, 1927, at which 100 persons were present.

With its aura of history and romance, its beautiful scenery, its wide variety of enterprises and its attractive old and new homes, Happy Valley hardly needs a special scenic spot.

However, it has one.

On the creek above the fire house and the school is a favorite recreation site—Minnehaha falls.

During the summer months and in late spring and early fall, the

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