

SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



CAPITOLA BEACH AND WHARF, 1903

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

It was a bright, but cool afternoon in late summer when a peripatetic photographer paused for this shot at Capitola beach. Little did he realize, probably, that 53 years later the product of his camera would cause broad smiles for both sexes. Well, styles DO change!

Obviously fancy shirtwaists with high collars were then vogue for the feminine gender — and “hair-dos” full in the back, with switches or rats in use to add to the effect. Jaunty straw hats were worn well to the front of the head and carefully pinned on with long hatpins. The ever-present parasol of the period was always handy to keep the sun shaded.

Short Pants

Straw hats, short pants with suspenders, and long stockings were just right for the small boy. And the young girl wore her hair in a braid down the back.

Few have ventured into the cool water, and those who did remain near the raft line.

At first glance the scene looks like Santa Cruz, with the former “Soquel Landing” wharf in the

background resembling the old railroad wharf here. The contour of the distant cliffs even resembles our own Lighthouse point.

There had been a wharf at the “landing” for some time, even prior to 1856 when an older one was repaired and lengthened. In 1860 it was extended to 1100 feet but a storm in 1865 took away 500 feet of it and left the remainder unsafe.

At that time the report was that it had cost \$6000 and belonged to F. A. Hihn and the Pacific Coast Steamship company. It was rebuilt but in 1879 wheat and lumber shipments began to move by rail and the company posted notice it would no longer be responsible for the wharf or any accidents on it.

“La Playa” of Soquel

Soquel Landing was La Playa de Soquel in Spanish days, finally becoming Capitola after F. A. Hihn had applied the name Camp Capitola when he first developed the resort on the pattern of European watering places. The pioneer Santa Cruz county developer, promoter of the county's first railroad to Watsonville, had acquired his large holdings east of the Soquel “river” from the Castros, original grantees of Soquel Rancho.

The Soquel Landing road then, as now, ran along the height west of the stream. Near this road and the “landing” was built in 1852 a warehouse for potatoes waiting shipment by boat to San Francisco.

New Transmitters In Manila Give World Radio Coverage

Speaking before the missionary conference last week at Mt. Hermon conference grounds, Robert Bowman, vice president of the

languages and dialects. With the addition of the new powerful transmitters, the gospel not only will penetrate the Iron Curtain