

S. N. 5-3-42 Historic Homes
Old Santa Cruz - Pt. Ernest

Enoch Alzina Home Fronting On Plaza Is One of Oldest Frame Resi- dences In City

One of the oldest frame houses in the city is the one occupied by Enoch Alzina, on Sylvar street, opposite the upper plaza, which for 97 years has been occupied by some of the family of which he is a member. His mother was a Gonzales, one of the early families. His father, the late Francisco Alzina, was born in Spain.

About the place is much remaining from the early days. The one-story house with the long porch in front is much as it was when first built.

Enoch Alzina, for years deputy sheriff, and his wife are now living there. Many know this place

by the marvelous row of hydrangeas across the entire front which, when in bloom—the greater part of the year—cause many to stop and admire.

OLD-TIME PLANTS

In the wonderful rear garden are many old-time plants. One the Castilian rose, probably the

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 7)

Old Santa Cruz By Ernest Otto

(Continued from Page 5, Col. 6)

about as long as the house itself. No Spanish garden in the early days was complete without this rose. Not only were petals dried and placed in jars for the fragrance, but the buds were used for a medicine, and at different stages the rose was also used for medicinal purposes. Mrs. Alzina knew every herb which grew here for its medicinal properties.

Of course there is a Mission fig tree among the three varieties of fig trees. Mrs. Alzina's lavender bush still grows; also her choice fuchsias, as well as many other flowers.

MOTHER ALZINA

In the days of Mother Alzina, in a part of the rear garden, one of the prettiest in the city, were rows of red chili peppers and tomatoes, and no one could use the sauce from the peppers and make better tamales or enchiladas than Mrs. Alzina. She had a reputation for them, and on occasion did much for her church in preparing Spanish meals.

In this back yard at the present time are numbers of Indian mortars and pestles used for grinding corn. Here, also, is a relic of the Santa Cruz-Watsonville railroad, as Mr. Alzina was in the employ of the company from the beginning. There is a section of a wheel of the first engine, the "Betsy Jane." It had no driving wheels nor cow-catcher.

INDIAN RELIC

In the home is a relic much prized by Mr. Alzina, a sort of cannon exploded by Indians on holidays. Mr. Alzina had used it afterwards and it is a highly prized relic and ornament. It is made of bronze.

PAINTING FROM SPAIN

The most highly prized of the many antiques in the home is an oil painting from Spain, 300 years old, which was presented to Mother Alzina by her grandfather. It is of the "Madonna and Child," coming from Spain by way of Mexico to California. Touches of gold add to it, and the crown of the Holy Mother is painted in gold. It is a large painting and occupies considerable space on the wall at one end of the living room. There are also other pictures of value.

The leather-covered trunk from Spain is marvelous. It is in brown tone, ornamented with border figures. Much of the finish is in brass. The trunk is of great value and is prized very highly. This occupies a place in the hallway of the home.

Likely no one ever attended mass more frequently than Mrs. Alzina. She was baptized and confirmed in the old adobe mission, attended services in the adobe, frame and brick churches. When the writer delivered papers on Mission Hill as a boy, about 6 o'clock in the morning the bell for early mass would ring, and he was sure to see Mrs. Alzina leave her home, go across the plaza and enter the church. The priest was always sure Mrs. Alzina would be there.

On Sundays she left her home for the first mass, and again at 10:30, attended high mass, this time in a complete change of raiment.

SUNDAY VISITING

On Sunday after church her sister, Mrs. Baptiste Dabadie, who lived on Beach Hill, would always visit her. The daughters, Mrs. A. Rodriguez and Mrs. J. Arellanes, would drop in, as did others.

Two of the children helped to develop new country. A daughter, Pauline, who was referred to as the most beautiful young woman in the city, married Ed Taylor and helped to develop the Cholame valley country in lower Monterey county, when it was opened for settlement. Albert went to Alaska during the gold rush and was a prominent citizen at Fairbanks.

BOYS GOOD ATHLETES

All the boys were prominent in the local fire department and in fraternal life of the community.

Even now when digging about the yard tiling from roofs of adobe homes in that vicinity during the mission days are unearthed. The lot at the corner of Mission street was for years a part of the Alzina holdings and was the barnyard, surrounded by a high board fence. In the yard was the barn and here also was kept the cow.

This property was sold to Henry Willey and upon it was erected the residence now standing there.