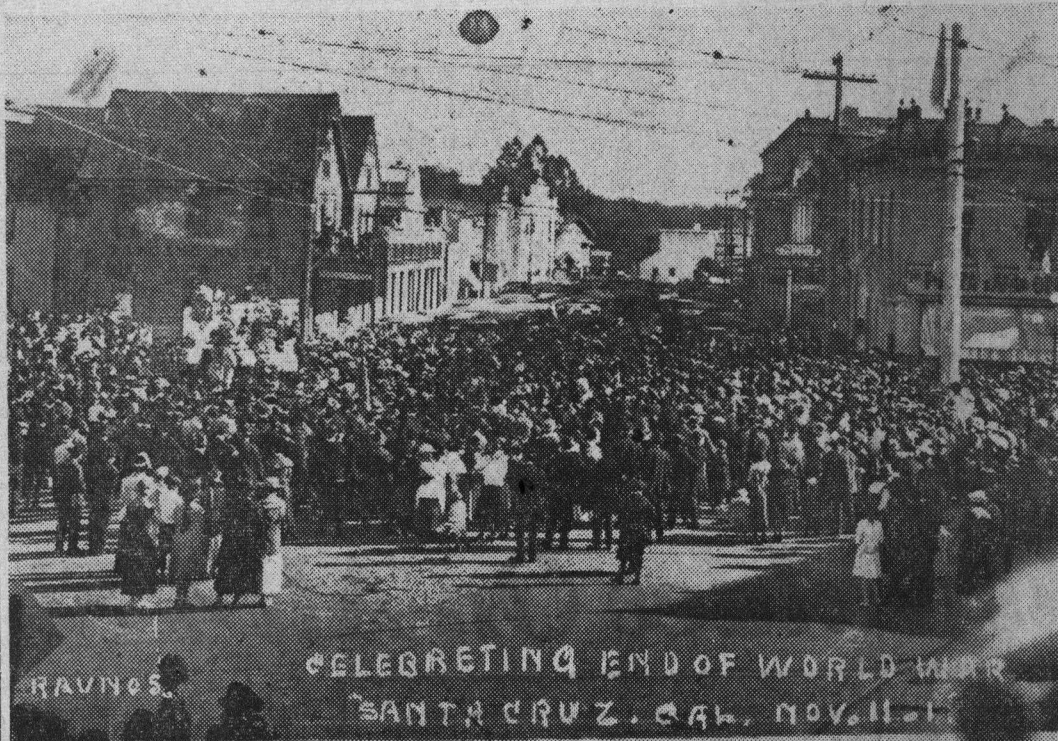


Santa Cruz On Armistice Day



Hats flew into the air — an impromptu parade formed and several public officials hastily brushed up on their war statistics in preparation for speeches, on November 11, 1918. Armis-

tice Day had been proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson and several thousand Santa Cruzans gathered at the "plaza," area in front of the main post

office. This old postcard photo from the Roy Boekenooogen collection was taken in front of the post office and shows the crowd gathering almost solid down Front street.

A Great Crowd Gathers On SC Plaza —It's Sunday, November 11, 1918

By Margaret Koch

Tomorrow is Veterans Day.

But the national observance began 45 years ago with a different name — Armistice Day — and the Armistice itself, following World War I, was erroneously announced three days early — on November 8.

Regardless of the initial confusion about the date and the change in name in 1954, the meaning of the day has not changed. Because Sunday, November 11, 1918, was a day of great rejoicing all over the nation.

The "war to end all wars" had ended at 6 a.m., New York time, by official proclamation. Americans went wild with joy.

In cities all over the United States parades were formed on the spur of the moment, factory whistles blasted out the good news, cannons boomed, flags waved, people laughed — and wept.

Headlines of the New York Times were heavy with black ink and exclamation marks:

Armistice Signed, End of War!
Berlin Seized By Revolutionists, New Chancellor Begs For Order; Ousted Kaiser Flees To Holland, Berlin Troops Join Revolt! Son Flees With Ex-Kaiser, German Dynasties Being Wiped Out, Throngs Demand Republic!

The United States had declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, and the first American troops landed in France on June 26 of the same year: 116,516 of these men were killed; another 4500 were listed as missing.

Germany had declared war on Russia three years earlier, on August 1, 1914, following the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand.

On November 8, 1918, United Press had sent out a premature dispatch from Paris, reporting that peace terms had been settled.

On November 11, the good news of armistice again traveled fast over the nation, even without benefit of radio or TV. And this time it was true.

California's governor, W. D. Stephens, proclaimed a state holiday. Santa Cruz church services were canceled; the local ministers' association announced that no attempt would be made to hold services that Sunday.

Also in Santa Cruz a patriotic program was quickly put together and several thousand people gathered at the "plaza," the area in front of the main post office. Speakers were Judge Benjamin

Knight and District Attorney George W. Smith. Knight read President Woodrow Wilson's armistice message; Smith described the terrors of the long-range German gun which bombarded Paris, the "Big Bertha."

But a few years later the big guns became as obsolete as the moustache cup with the advent of World War II and the development of the Nazi "buzz bombs."

In 45 years man has gone from "Big Bertha" to the hydrogen bomb, from the terrors of trench warfare to the chilling anxieties of the cold war.

County Planners To Consider Aptos Area Rezoning Issues

A mass of proposed rezonings in the Aptos area will be considered Wednesday by the county planning commission.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. in the board of supervisors' chambers in the courthouse annex on Front street.

Major item is the "back nine" of the Aptos Beach golf course. Zoning being recommended is R-1-B-S (one-family residential with 20 acres minimum per dwelling unit).

Purpose of the large parcel size would be to prevent further lot splits off the golf course. The Rio del Mar Improvement association requested the zoning, according to Planning Director Bert Muhly.

1. A request to change an almost one-acre size lot from rural-agricultural (RA) to multiple-family residential with 1500 square feet required per building unit (RM-1500) will be considered. The property is on the southwest side of Soquel drive, about 700 feet northwest of Mar Vista drive and approximately 350 feet southeast of Borregas road.

2. Santa Cruz Building and

Land association is seeking RM-1000 zoning (1000 square feet per dwelling unit) for five parcels on the north side of Bennett road, between Moosehead drive and Aptos Beach drive in the Rio del Mar "flats."

3. The commission will consider rezoning properties on the northeast side of Treasure Island avenue in the "flats" area to RF-3000 (3000 square feet per unit).

4. Consideration will be given to zoning deemed appropriate for the area north of the Santa Cruz-Watsonville freeway, between the town of Aptos and Freedom boulevard, including Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Knolls, Monroe Estate, Rio del Mar Poultry Farms and Rolling Green Estates. The board of supervisors remanded the area's precise zone plan to the commission. Supervisors felt further consideration to the plan should be given at the commission level.

Other items on the agenda include:

LA SELVA BEACH — The commission will continue its public hearing to consider a preliminary zone plan for Area 8 (La