

10-21-71 Green Sheet

Aptos teacher was first woman in office

By VINCENT LEONARD,
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of Monterey-Fresno in 1933.

Cecil Marie Davis (the late Mrs. Hollis B. Peck of Santa Cruz) one-time teacher of Aptos Grammar School, was the first woman to gain elective office in Santa Cruz County.

She was Superintendent of Schools from 1918 to 1926. A graduate of the University of California, she was the daughter of a Soquel physician.

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Monterey was the principal city in Mexican California, as it had been during Spanish dominance. The Father President of the Missions presided over Catholic Church affairs from nearby Carmel. When the first bishops were named, two diocese were created—San Francisco, and Monterey-Los Angeles. Santa Cruz County was put under the Bishop of Monterey-Los Angeles.

In 1922, the northern part of that diocese was cut off to form the Diocese of Monterey and Fresno, which was split again in 1967 to create a bishop's seat in each. Capitola's St. Joseph's Parish was proud to see its beloved pastor, Father Philip G. Scher, become the second Bishop

In an editorial dated March 5, 1940, The Soquel Press explains to taxpayers that, while 1,591 pensioners drew \$60,000 from the County treasury in January, an average of \$38 per month per pensioner, the Federal Government supplied \$31,820 of the total. The principal tax-eater, the editorial contends, is the school system, which cost \$77,000 during the same month.

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When the body of Joseph Pasha, Aptos World War I hero, was returned from Europe in 1921, it was taken from the train at Santa Cruz and carried in solemn procession to Holy Cross Church.

An American Legion band and color guard led the way, and Legionnaires formed a guard of honor. Pallbearers were members of a Santa Cruz dramatic club, among them its president, John O'Keefe.

An automobile cavalcade of prominent people joined the funeral procession to the Aptos Catholic Cemetery.

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Aptos men maintained a 16-piece marching band from 1890 to 1900.

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Young people have always liked noisy vehicles. They were

delighted with early automobiles that came without mufflers. When relatively quiet muffled cars appeared shortly before 1920, young drivers saw to it that the family cars were equipped with "cut-outs," sections of the front part of the exhaust pipe that could be lowered by chain or rod to allow the exhaust gases to escape in front of the muffler. The legend grew that mufflers cut the car's horsepower and fouled the spark plugs. To be sure that the cut-outs were not left open, lawmakers imposed a \$5 fine for driving inside city limits without using a muffler.

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In the late 1930's a vein of good coal was discovered on the Johansson ranch on San Andreas Road, about a half mile south of Rob Roy Junction.

After a few exploratory diggings, the owner decided that mining the vein would not be profitable. The ranch, now bisected by the Cabrillo Highway, is no longer in operation.

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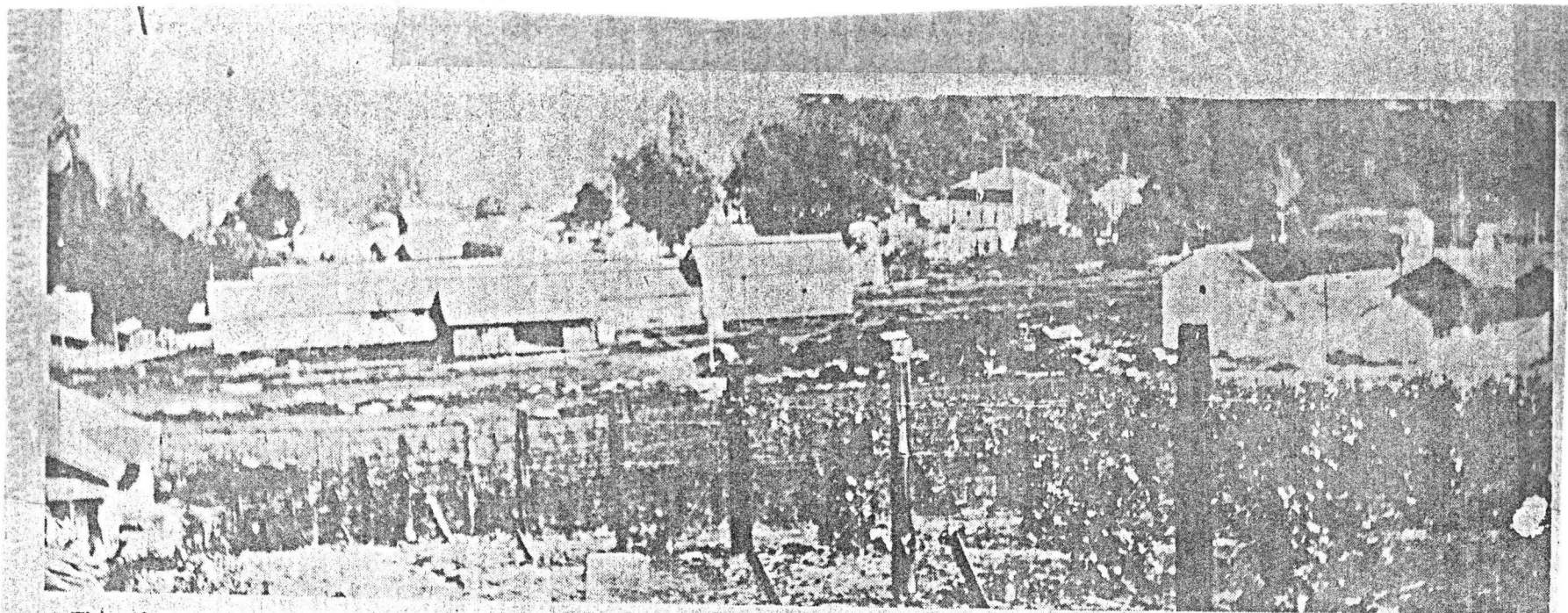
May 19, 1938 was a red-letter day for Santa Cruz County post office, for it marked the beginning of airmail service from the county airport, near Capitola, to San Francisco.

Postmasters offered prizes to

school children for the best posters advertising the event and for cachets (decorative seals). Each postmaster sought a novel means of getting the mail to the airport.

Jane Warren of Aptos was a "pony express" rider, guarded by her father and Henry Menefee

to "ward off Indians." John Nicol brought the Capitola mail in a spring wagon. Santa Cruz letters arrived in an armoured car with a police guard. Watsonville sent its contribution in a small plane. The entire student body of the Soquel School hiked to the airport to witness the event.



This 49-year-old picture was taken from the Haines Brothers' Bushberry Farm on the slope where Cathedral Drive now rises. The Mattison fruit-packing sheds are on the right. The roof of old

Hihn Hall shows above the center of the Hihn packing house (now the Village Fair). The white structure behind the Bay View Hotel is the dining room wing, burned in 1929.