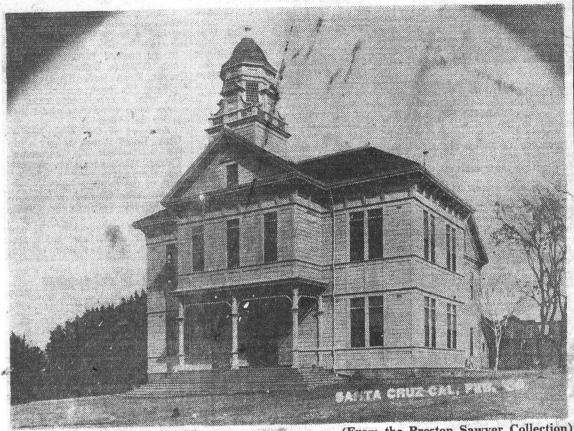
Sanja Cruz Yesterdays



OLD BRANCIFORTE SCHOOL

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The people of Branciforte, Santa levied, of which half was to go for a still bigger plant, which was ready hool district out of Santa Cruz Trustees F. J. McCann, F. M. Kitt-Cruz' east side, carved their own school district out of Santa Cruz District No. 1 in 1860, but had failed to raise money for a building when, in 1868, the territory was taken back into the Santa Cruz fistrict and a \$4,000 special tax

redge and Dr. C. L. Anderson found the site on the brow of the hill where the present Santa Cruz hospital stands. For \$310 the big lot owned by the widow of Dominic Snitzler was bought and augmented by a \$60 purchase from Henry Bausch and \$50 worth of land from Joseph Enos. The site, commanding an excellent view, overlooked the valley of the San Lorenzo and other educational institutions on the western (Mission) hill.

First Teacher

Contract for a one-room building was let to Silas Randall, who erected the first floor part of the rear portion of the building shown Santa Cruz, not only at Branciforte, in the picture. May Cooper, who a bond election was held on March had been teaching in the lower 27, 1894. It carried, 530 to 175, profloor of Temperance Hall, rented to care for overflow of pupils, was transferred to Branciforte as its first teacher.

Eight years later Joel Butler was hired to enlarge the building and Miss S. Perry from the Beach (Laurel) school was made the second teacher at Branciforte. In 1887 a fine high school at Walnut ave-

By 1894 the hilltop building had been developed into a two-story, four-room edifice whose front porch and "steeple" faced west, with one side toward Soquel avenue, where several homes and buildings stood along the street. The north side was not far from the embankment which dropped down toward Branciforte creek. The area was deve-loping rapidly. More and more pu-pils were straining the school's facilities.

Bonds Voted

To meet the demand for additional schools and improvement of existing equipment, in a growing a bond election was held on March viding \$45,000 for educational improvements. Mayor W. T. Jeter, James Budd, and the school trustees, namely O. J. Lincoln (later postmaster). Bart Burke and Dr. P. F. Fagen, were jubilant. For it made possible a new Laurel school,

nue and California street (b. rned in 1913), and a substantial four-room addition to Branciforte.

Completed toward the end of the same year, the new part of Branciforte, most prominent in the pic-ture made in 1909, was built in front of and joined to the existing four-room section. Above the porch was the office of Prof. Will T. Forsythe, principal. Above this, the bell tower housed the great bell, fund for which wa started by a donation of \$50 from Attorney Bar' Burke, one of the school trustees.

Building Razed in 1919

In 1915 the present Branciforte school building at Branciforte and Water was built and about 1919 the old building was torn down. The grounds, bought in 1869 for \$420. were offered for sale for \$7,500.

When the building was razed the bell was stored in a shed until

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naughty boys on Hallowe'en rolled it down hill into Branciforte creek. Some time later it was recovered. Today it stands on a pedestal in the modern school, viewed by some/unnoticed by others, of the pupils of 1948, whose parents and grandparents were called to studies in the old Branciforte school by its tones

today for the surciae or alice mother of two children.

The body of Mrs. Gloria Hastey. 23, was found in the bedroom of her mother's home. It is said shot the her

chest with a German a see vi-fie. A note said she couldn't live apart from hen lushand.

The note asked someone to care for 20-months-old fulle Di-anne and five-months-old Caro-lyn Joy. She said she couldn't stand the forced separation from her husband, who works in Monher husband who works in Mou-