

# Business Changes, Etc.

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On Pacific Av., between the intersections therewith of Cathcart and Elm Sts., important store changes are taking place, the major one being the conversion of the McMillan furniture store into a barbershop and billiard hall, to be occupied for a term of years by Baxter & Bishop. This building is the property of A. G. Lay and was erected by Dr. Marshall, who purchased the lot on which it stands from James Prewitt, and it has been occupied by a bowling alley, theatre, real estate office and store, and owned by different parties.

The next important transformation is that of the Grand Theatre, which today is an auto sales room, the proprietors being Bennett & Boyns. This building was erected by Charles M. Stevens, a native son of Santa Cruz, but who is now residing in far away Boston. This building, too, has been occupied as a theatre; is on land once the property of James Prewitt, but for years was devoted to different commercial lines, and Bennett & Boyns are seemingly now taking advantage of the demands of a rising auto center.

There are other improvements that are liable soon to be made in this division of our city, and the theory is advanced that the day is not far distant when the pioneer Grand Central block will give place to a modern and up-to-date hotel. The lot on which this ancient landmark stands, and which was first built on by ex-Secretary of State Thomas Beck, and who was once senator from this district, is 112x240 ft., bounded on the south by Lynch lane, and which lot and driveway, at little cost, can be extended west to Cedar St., thus furnishing room for an hotel and a garage, and, take our word for the statement, a free garage is already the necessity of a modern tourists' caravansary.

The Grand Central block is a part of the Packard estate. It was converted into an hotel by Peter Wilkins, enlarged by H.D.C. Barnhart and sold by him to William Russell, transferred by Russell to Mrs. Elizabeth Green, and purchased from her by J. Q. Packard, in the interest of the Ocean Shore Railway.

In the days when the Grand Central Hotel was young it was not supposed that visitors to Santa Cruz appreciated other bath tubs than supplied at our open beach, where the salt surf of the Pacific Ocean eternally sings. There was no railroad or auto in those days, no local sewer system, no plumbing to speak of; only the best rooms in the house had clothes closets; running water to these rooms was considered an unnecessary luxury, and it was a dream that all sleeping rooms were to have outside ventilation! Well, that necessity was not in the law till the other day, but here we are, and the year 1920 but forty days distant, and that freighted with conditions that our fathers sneered at as extravagant and nonsensical.