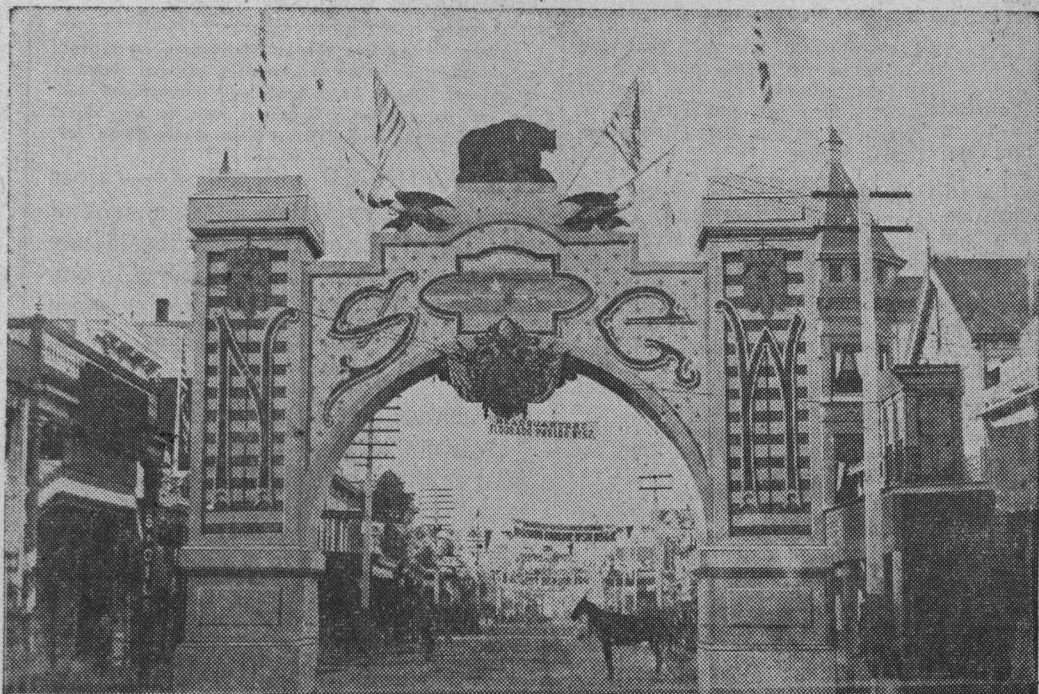


SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



DOWNTOWN PARADE ARCH IN 1891

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Horses still provided most transportation power 65 years ago when this picture was made. Downtown Santa Cruz was calm and serene on a lazy late summer afternoon at Pacific avenue and Walnut.

But all was in readiness for one of the biggest events in years. For on September 7-8-9, 1891, the second statewide Admission Day celebration held here was about to begin.

This was the calm before the storm—when more than 3000 celebrating Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West took over a welcoming host city, for their observance of the 41st anniversary of California's statehood.

Not a horsecar was in sight; the electric lights did not come until the following year. The lone horse just beyond the arch is hitched to a delivery wagon being loaded in front of the grocery store so long at the corner where stands today the Santa Cruz theater building.

Parades and Arches

Parades were always celebration highlights. And arches such

as this were a popular adjunct. A huge California Grizzly bear and two American eagles surmount this historical and allegorical structure. Huge letters "NSGW" are featured on this north face of the great arch.

At the crest of the arch itself, below the figures is a painting of the Golden Gate to California at San Francisco. Below it appears a decorated version of the California state seal.

The hundreds of marchers that Admission day moved under the arch and also under hosts of banners strung overhead at intervals. Most of these indicated the locations of the headquarters of numerous visiting parlors of the lodges.

Porches were quite the thing then. That at the extreme left, which appears to stand quite close to the east pillar of the arch, marked the business establishment of a Santa Cruz pioneer, B. C. Gadsby, a few doors north of Walnut. Gadsby was a longtime dealer in paint, wallpaper and artists' materials, also a sign and showcard artist of ability.

Ben Vrooman, Santa Cruz surveyor, is his grandson.

While the former Gadsby location was in a two story building still standing, the flag pole visible between porch and pillar flies a flag from a one story structure removed after last winter's flood.

Alta's Tower

Rising above the right pillar is the imposing tower of the F. A. Hihn business block for many years known as the Alta building, site of today's J. J. Newberry corner. On an upper floor of the Alta, was located the Chestnutwood Business College, long a famed institution of commercial learning.

The historic structure to the right of the power pole was, on the second floor, longtime location of Decorative Art & Women's Exchange, so long presided over by Miss Sarah Morgan. The Exchange was later moved to its own building on Walnut avenue. Ground floor occupants were Harris Brothers' clothing store for years. Closeby was Peterson's Harness shop.