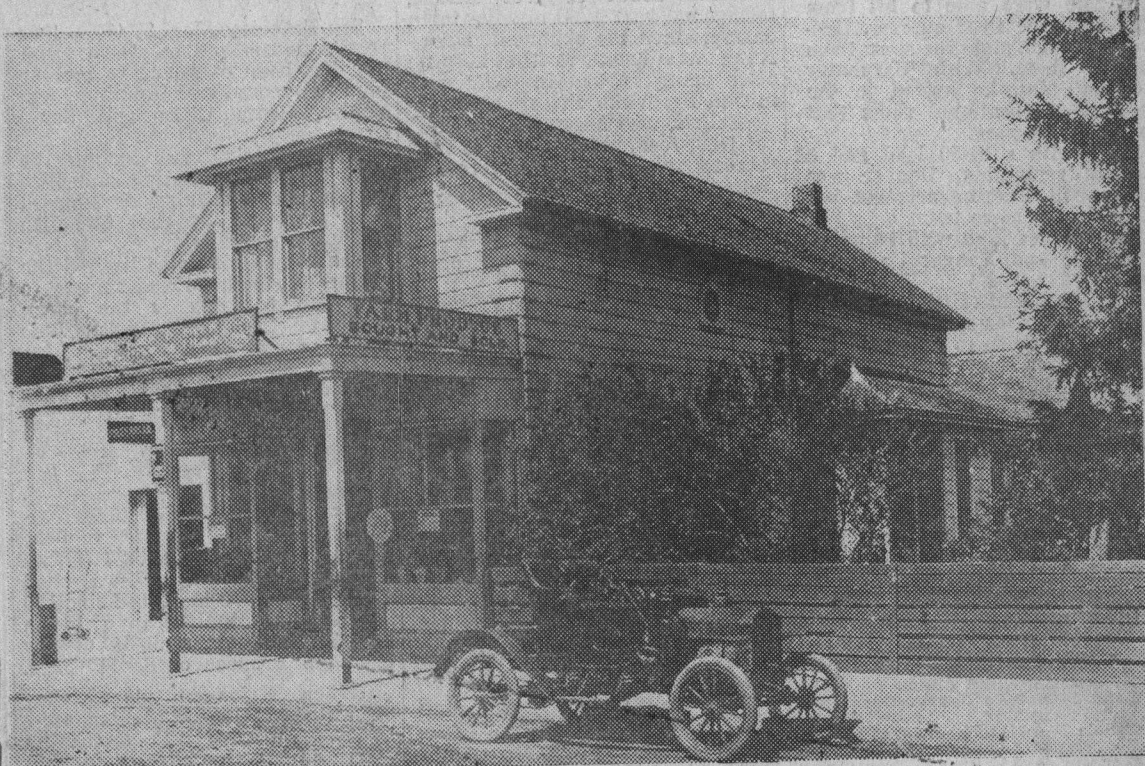


Santa Cruz Yesterdays



JULIUS BIEDENWEG'S AT WATER & OCEAN (From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Water and Ocean streets' north-west corner was known as "Horn's Corner" in 1875—and up to about 1890.

Then William H. Horn sold his grocery to Paul and William H. Wenk.

Water street was still the San Jose road. And at the Horn corner it turned north on what is now Ocean street, then a sandy thoroughfare with the appearance of having been an old stream bed. East of the corner today's Water street was being cut by the county as a road up "chalk rock hill."

The store was an early day bid for the patronage of east side residents. Probably a dwelling before it was a store, the building, with its corners in imitation of stone, could well have been the work of John B. Perry, the carpenter and contractor who followed that architectural

style in erecting numerous dwellings in and around Santa Cruz from the early fifties through Civil War times.

The Wenks acquired the store about 1890, moving into the upstairs living quarters and cultivating the garden on the corner where lately a Standard gasoline service station has been moved back for the state highway project of widening the turn from Ocean onto Water.

Biedenweg Came In 1904

In 1904 Julius Biedenweg moved in from his farm in Scotts Valley and bought out the Wenks. In early stages of his ownership he had a partner, L. King. But when the picture was taken a few years later, the big sign overhead was lettered: "Biedenweg & Field."

The Biedenwegs continued to cultivate the corner garden but the

new fangled horseless carriages began turning the corner in such increasing numbers he was eventually prompted to transform a triangular slice of it into what is generally credited with being the first gasoline station in Santa Cruz catering to passing autos.

The Biedenweg store and gas station continued through the twenties and into the early thirties, when the corner was acquired by Standard and the old buildings torn down or moved away.

Election Polling Place

The smaller, plain front building to the left in the picture was "Biedenweg's warehouse," frequently used down through the years as an election polling place. Often Biedenweg himself presided as a leading member of the precinct staff. More to the left was located a shoe shop run by the father of Stanley R. Smith who today operates his market on almost the same spot.

The small round sign on the front of the store offers eggs two dozen for 35 cents.

For many years after his retirement from the grocery business Biedenweg was a deputy assessor. He died only last July, at the age of 80 years.