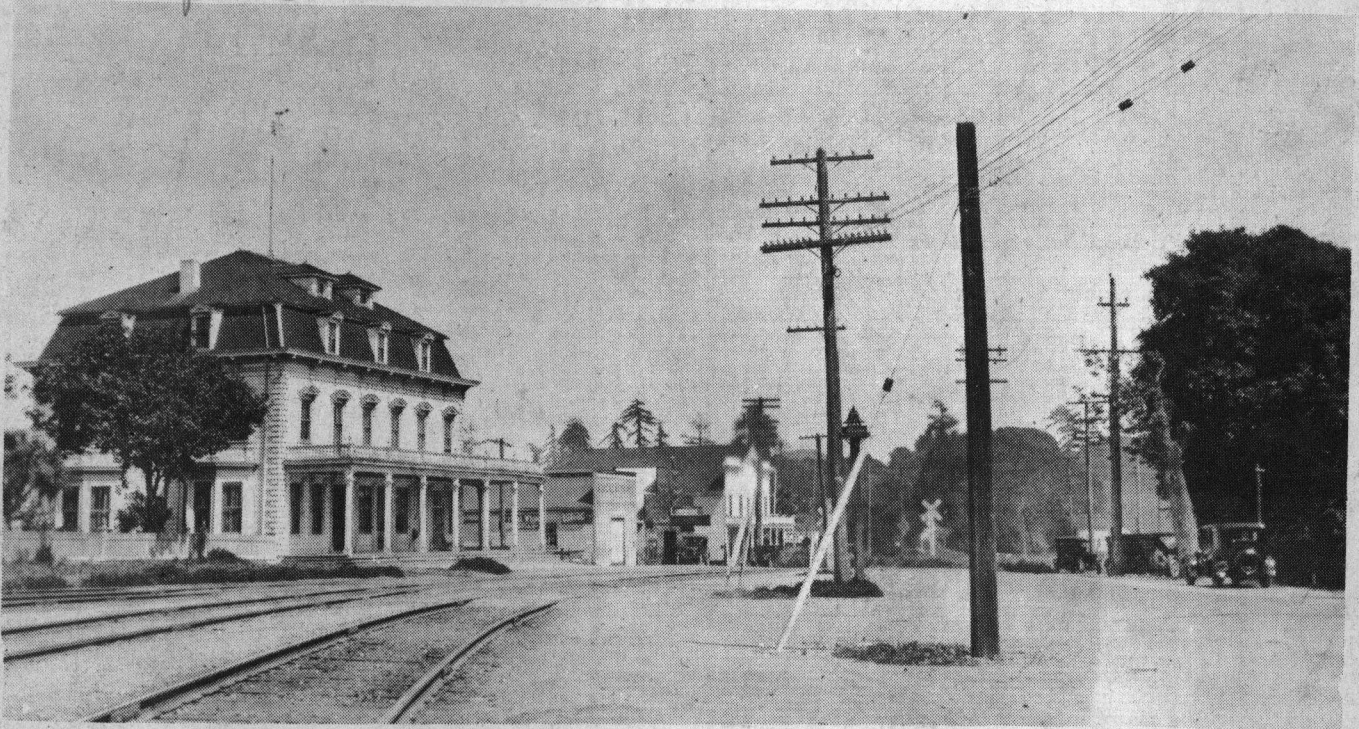
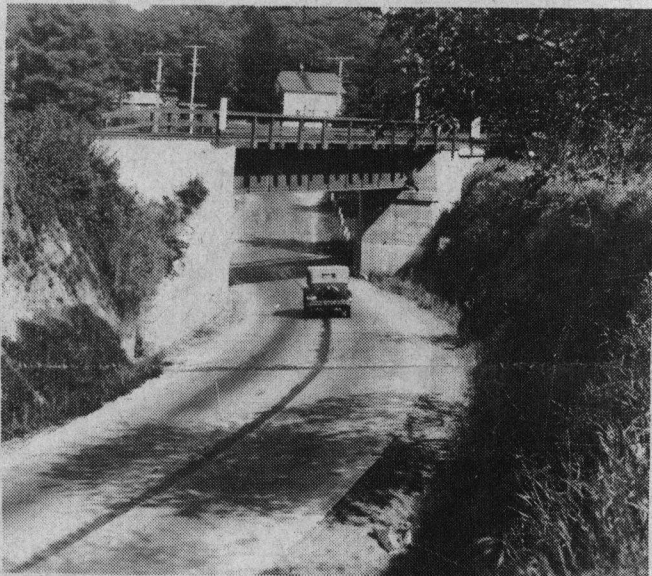


Aptos



The old County road of rolled gravel crossed the SP tracks at Trout Gulch Road. (1918)



The State Highway, built in 1919, (now Soquel Drive) ran south of the railroad. The oak-covered hill in the background was cut through by Cabrillo Highway. (1924)

Old County road full of hazards

By VINCENT T. LEONARD
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Prior to 1919, Aptos Village clustered along the graveled County Road, which cut diagonally across the busy Southern Pacific tracks at Trout Gulch Road.

The 14-foot cement highway that replaced it followed the same hazardous course, went along the present Aptos Street to Bernal, then followed the creek bank to a bridge near the present Andrews home. There it intersected with Valencia Street to form a triangular field, known locally as the circus lot.

The bridge terminated near the present van Kaathoven home in a curved, ungraded approach that produced a long series of gruesome automobile accidents. On the western side of the village, the bridge over Aptos Creek met the county road at a right angle, at the foot of a steep grade. When the highway was built the right angle was modified to a sharp curve.

As the population increased, the accident rate on both sides of the village soared, and public protest became so intense that highway officials made some important changes in 1928.

They erected the present curved Aptos Creek bridge and deepened the cut above the railroad underpass to eliminate the steep approach. On the east side of the village they restored the highway to the route the county road had followed until it was pre-empted by the railroad in 1876. Thus the unguarded railroad crossing was eliminated.

Villagers responded to the changes with a community parade and barbecue and with a general sprucing up of the community that involved building new homes and moving old ones to more suitable locations.

Russian reception

The "back street" was surfaced and renamed Valencia Street. The little-used, sketchy lane across the circus lot assumed the dignified title of County Road, which cut diagonally across the busy former Matt Oreamuno and John Hansens built new homes on the highway just east of the Valencia Creek crossing.

From the same noisy, often quivering location, the steep-roofed Verhoeff house found welcome in the quiet of Valencia Street. And the C. van Kaathovens and the Norman Andrews home. There it intersected with Valencia Street to form a triangular field, known locally as the circus lot.

About the same time what is now Spreckels Drive ceased being a private lane lined with "No Trespassing" signs of the Christina Investment Co. (the Spreckels estate) and became a thoroughfare to the beach esplanade that had been created by filling in the old swamp at the mouth of the Aptos.

Twenty-two years later, Cabrillo Highway cut a wide swathe through the area, without the nice regard for property lines and buildings that had created the numerous twists and turns of earlier roads. It by-passed the village, cut acres out of coastside artichoke fields and inland orchards, moved or demolished buildings that had stood for generations, gouged its way through hillsides covered with ancient trees, and even forced the Southern Pacific to lengthen its Valencia Creek trestle to accommodate an underpass.

The older streets and roads were usually built in response to local needs. In recent years they have often been built in response to demands from the larger community — the whole state.

Or they have been laid by subdividers to attract buyers or by prosperous people as access roads to remote but attractive building sites.

'Partnership' device attractive

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A financing device long familiar to oil, gas and real estate interests is becoming increasingly attractive to investors hunting profit opportunities in agriculture, economists report.

The device is the "limited partnership" in which an outside investor buys a partnership share in a business, but is legally liable for potential losses only up to the amount of his original investment.

The limited partnership has become the chief legal device for attracting outside investor capital into farm and ranch ventures, Agriculture Department economist William H. Scofield reports.

Scofield and Prof. John A. Hopkins of Texas A & M University both noted the growth of the limited partnership scheme in separate articles published by the Agriculture Department here in the current issue of its "Agricultural Finance Review."

For individual investors, Hopkins wrote, the limited partnership is more effective than the

partnership interests to raise money for commercial cattle feeding reached a "significant" scale in 1970 and 1971.

Investors buying partnerships in feeding ventures, the economist noted, do not get the same tax-shelter advantages as those who invest in breeding herds where losses can be written off in early years and profits converted into capital gains. But limited partnerships in feeding "do provide a mechanism for tax-deferral from high to lower tax-bracket years."

"This is possible through prepayment of expenses for feed and possible buildup of capital invested in successive lots of cattle, which can postpone taxable income for several years," Scofield said.

Another attractive feature for limited partners in cattle feeding, Scofield added, is the chance to pyramid profits through "equity leverage." This means, simply, that the lead, or "general partner" running the operation and his limited partners may invest only \$1 out