

Memories of Manresa's factory



Meyers family collection

Marian Meyers, left, and Harry Meyers used to play in the sand below the factory at Manresa, 1930.

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS are often as important for what is in the background as they are for the folks in the foreground. Harry Meyers gave me this photograph several years ago because behind him and his sister loomed the paint factory that was located on the bluff beside the railroad tracks at Manresa.

As early as the 1870s, miners had been fascinated by the black alluvial sand that cascades out of the arroyos between Aptos and the Pajaro River. The Leonard family of Aptos was involved in separating gold from the sand during the 1880s and 1890s.

In 1919 a factory was built on the bluff at Manresa to extract the iron from the sand and use it to make the base for paint. The conveyor belt that

**SANDY
LYDON**

**Déjà
view**

carried the sand is clearly visible in the photograph.

The factory increased its production during World War II, but closed soon

after the war's end in 1945. One building and the concrete footings were all that was left of the factory when it was purchased by the state park system in 1948.

This is one of the few photographs of the Manresa iron factory I have ever seen. Does anyone out there have other photographs of the factory they would be willing to share with our readers?

If you have a favorite photograph you would like to see used in this column, or one that you would like some help identifying, send a copy (never send original photographs) to Deja View, Sandy Lydon, care of the Santa Cruz County Sentinel, 207 Church St., Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060.

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REFERENCE