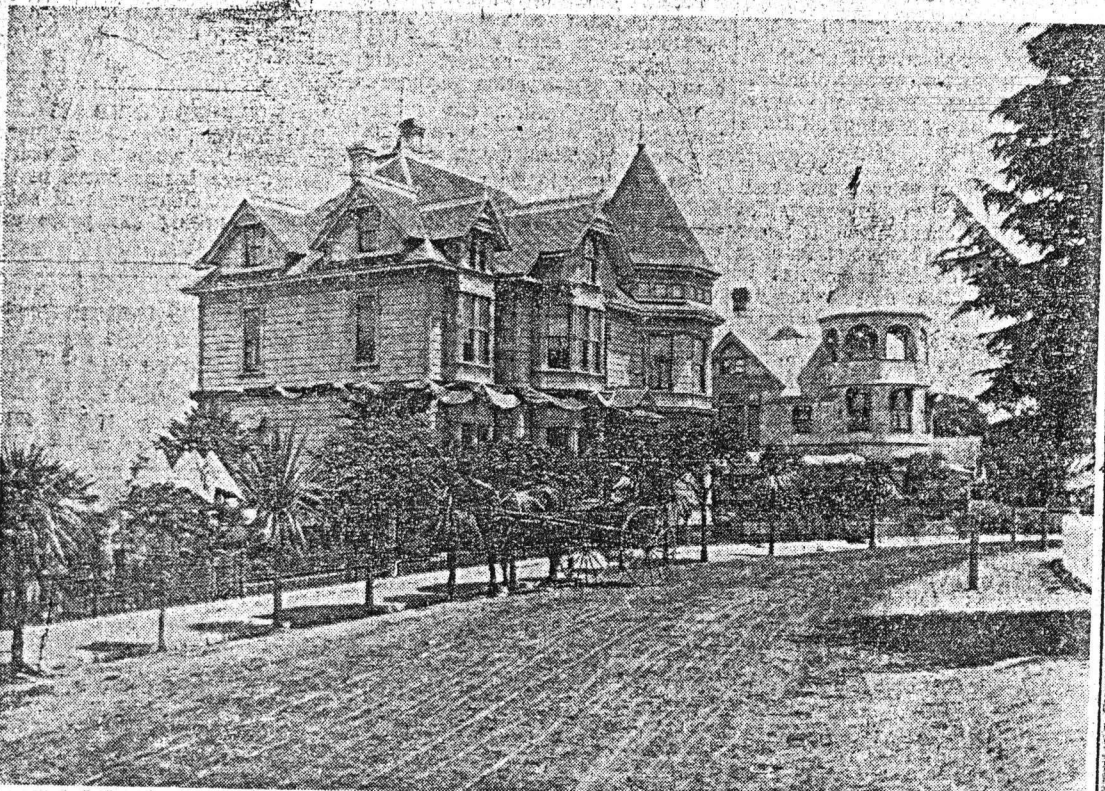


*Historic Houses*

# Santa Cruz Yesterdays



**VICTORIAN MANSIONS ON BEACH HILL**

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Gustav Bowman, a native of Ohio who came to California in 1852, had prospered as a hardware merchant in Santa Cruz for 15 years when in 1884 he bought a lot on Third street, Beach Hill, to erect a fine Victorian home.

He had been a merchant for 15 years in San Andreas, Calaveras county, where he erected its first brick building before coming to Santa Cruz in 1868 to visit Benjamin F. Kooser, one of the owners of the Weekly Sentinel, whom he had known in the mining country.

Impressed with this thriving village, Bowman decided that San Andreas was about played out as a mining camp. He leased a store room from Alex. McPherson, at Pacific avenue and Locust street (the present location of Melvin's drug store) and opened a hardware establishment.

His first wife, Louisa Steward, whom he had married in San Francisco in 1856, died in Santa Cruz and in 1882 he married Mary L. Jones in Vallejo.

**Buys Rennie Land**

To provide a home he bought from Mrs. William Rennie part of what had been the Captain J. J. Smith lot, on a commanding posi-

tion on Beach Hill, next door to Captain Smith's little New England cottage. The latter was yet to be replaced by Major Frank McLaughlin's residence, shown in the picture, which was first known as Golden Gate Villa, and today is the Palais Monte Carlo.

Bowman was mayor of Santa Cruz in 1888 to 1892. He was owner of business property on both Pacific avenue and Front street.

A brother of Gustav, John Bowman, established himself as a hardware merchant and tinsmith in Soquel, and two half brothers, Edward and William, lived here. Edward, a carriage maker, died here in 1914, and William, a carpenter, died from a fall in Salinas in 1898.

**Replaced With Modern Home**  
Gustav Bowman died in 1914. His big home of the 1880's was replaced over ten years ago with a modern residence by State Senator and Mrs. H. R. Judah (Eva Bowman).

The picture, taken in 1895, shows ex-Mayor Bowman in a one-horse cart on what was still a dirt street. The little garden house with the four-peaked roof of iron still stands in the Judah yard, but the fancy iron fence along the front of the property was removed during a

drive for metal in the early stages of World War II.

A bunting decoration on the house at the second story line is probably relative to the first Venetian Water Carnival here — in progress when the photo was made.

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