

Aptos to 1979

Aptos . . . It's Still a Village

By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

A name that conjures up an ancient Ohlone Indian settlement...a Spanish Don...a Spanish Senora...clamming on the beach...wagonloads of redwood lumber rolling down from the hills.

Perhaps the most picturesque structure in the Village of Aptos is its Bay View Hotel, built around 1870 by Jose Arano as a two-story hotel. He added the third floor and mansard roof about 12 years later.

Jose was the son-in-law of Don Rafael Castro who, in those days, owned a fair piece of the real estate that is Aptos today.

He put a fancy bar into his hotel and earned a reputation as a bar tender of the first water, although in those simpler days many of his customers took theirs straight.

Arano was, according to one Soquel pioneer, a scene shifter who came from New Orleans to San Francisco in the early 1850's to work in the theaters. He also worked in the mines briefly before coming south to Aptos where the pretty and youngest daughter of Don Rafael caught his eye. They married about 1860.

It has been said that Jose personally inspected every redwood board that went into the building of his hotel and he also selected

every piece of furniture bought to furnish it. Most of the furniture is there today — although about 100 years have passed and the old hotel has even been moved about 100 feet to the west of its original site. It was bought in 1944 by Fred Toney and his wife, after standing empty for a few years; they moved it to its present site behind the ancient magnolia tree.

The Bay View recently underwent another change of hands — it is now leased by Francisco Fontes Leal (more usually known as "Frank") and Pietro Joseph Marchese (Pete.) Concerned about the hotel's famed atmosphere of the 90's, and wishing to do nothing to change it, the two have engaged Tanner Wilson as consultant. Mr. Wilson's long-time study of local history and interest in it is well known. He is the descendant of two pioneer Santa Cruz families.

An interesting note is the fact that Frank Leal's great-grandfather, Joseph Leal, is buried somewhere in the mountains above Boulder Creek — no one knows where. He worked in the Doherty Lumber mill up there and in those days many ranches and mill settlements had their own burying grounds.

Leal has a real personal interest in the old hotel.

"My wife's parents came here to eat years ago — it was one of their favorite places. Now their grandchildren are coming to it."

Pete Marchese is known from his days at the Riverside Hotel in Santa Cruz which he and his wife's family operated. Leal formerly operated the Surfrider in Santa Cruz.

"I intended staying at the Surfrider, too," he said, "but when I heard that Mr. and Mrs. Toney were about to release the hotel I came out and talked to them and we reached an agreement."

Fred Toney, whose knowledge of the hotel goes back years before he bought it, has seen it change from kerosene lamps to gas lights to electricity. Otherwise, very little has been

changed except the kitchen equipment which, of course, could not be wood stoves in this day and age.

The whole idea is "restoration," not reconstruction or remodeling, according to Leal.

"We are not going to harm or alter it in any way and wherever possible we intend to replace modern items with authentic antiques. People who have loved it and liked coming to it will find it the same."

Leal and Marchese are collecting old photos and maps which will be framed and hung in the hotel. They have installed a bar in what was formerly the gift shop and cashier's desk.

Over a period of time the partners intend to spend about \$150,000 on the hotel, putting in a forced air heating system — again without changing appearances or ripping into old walls. About November 1 the electric and telephone wires will be underground, out of sight.

The very name, Aptos, is one of the county's most historic. According to CALIFORNIA PLACE NAMES, a Rancho de Aptos, a sheep ranch of Mission Santa Cruz, is mentioned in church Archives in 1807... "It was probably the Spanish rendering of the name of a Costanoan (Indian) village or its chief" the book states.

Jose Arano, who built the Bay View, ran it with his daughter Amelia until about 1914 when Aptos had ceased to be the busy lumber center it had been. She carried on alone with two little nieces, doing the cooking and serving herself for a few years. Eventually she closed the hotel and went to live on a small farm near today's Deer Park Tavern.

A son, Edward Arano, was an engineer for Southern Pacific until he retired in 1935 to a home he built on Monte Toyon Road. (today it is Cathedral Drive.)

Jose and his children would no doubt be pleased to know that the hotel they owned for so many years is getting a whole new lease on life in 1973.

HISTORY

Calling All
Home Makers
By Kenneth Recker
NSID

TABLE ACCESSORIES

In past columns, we have discussed ideas and thoughts concerning wall accessories — but we must not neglect the equally important consideration of table accessories. Properly selected table accessories will help give your home a decorator look and complement your major furniture.

Aside from the usual decorative ash-trays, candy dishes, etc., a whole new world of table accessories is now available.

But there's more to consider about table accessories than just selecting them. To be really effective, and to give your home a truly decorator look, you must use and display them properly.

One rule is to avoid a cluttered look and not use too many jumbled items on your tables at one time. A cluttered look can take away from the beauty of each individual accessory.

If you have more items than you can use at any one time, why not use fewer pieces — but then change them around frequently, which solves that problem, and gives your rooms a fresher look more often.

And, in using table decor make sure the colors harmonize with other things in the room. That way you'll truly be using table accessories to add to the overall decorator appearance of your home.

For ideas, and for a wonderful display of furnishings — and furniture — we invite you to stop in.

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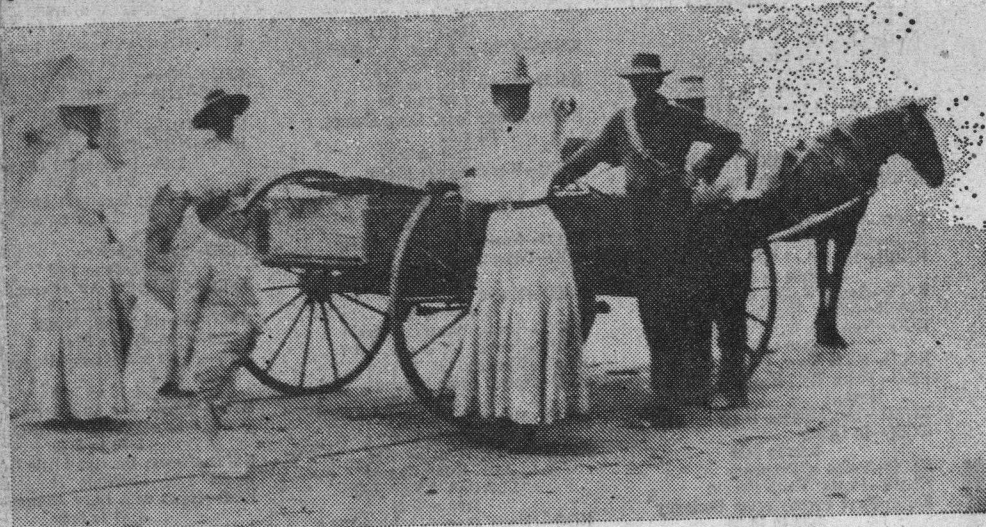
Aptos' historic Bay View Hotel dates from early 1870s, was moved in 1946 by Fred Toney and crew of five men, to its present location. The move took several days and many said it couldn't be done.



Above, old view of Don Rafael Castro's home at Aptos. Below, Bay View kitchen crew from left: Peter Marchese, Myrna Bautista, Henrietta Rojas and Jesus Rojas.



Charlie Brown Leal, guardian of the Bay View.



Clamming in the old days on Aptos beach. Photo from Bay View Hotel's collection.

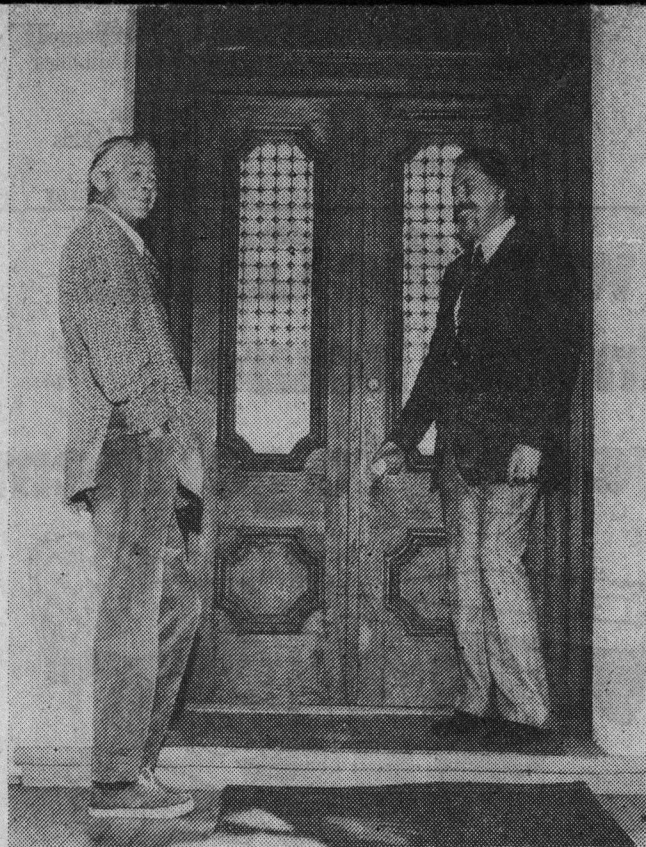


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Co-partners in
historic planning are
Tanner Goodspeed
Wilson, left, and
Frank Leal.

It's Still A Hotel Too

The Bay View, under Mr. and Mrs. Fred Toney's management, became famous all over again for its food and Mrs. Toney's gift shop.

In the days of Jose Arano, builder of the hotel, it was known for its delicious Spanish food.

However, it has always functioned as a hotel too, with quaint rooms furnished with many of the original pices.

Pitchers and bowls have had to be removed, however, according to Frank Leal. They are too "portable" and were disappearing.

YARN! YARN!
Liquidation Sale