

Santa Cruz Yesterdays



TROLLEYS RAN DOWN PACIFIC AVENUE

(From The Preston Sawyer Collection)

The last trip by a trolley car down Pacific avenue was on the night of January 14, 1926. But it was around three years prior to that date when picture was made, showing the Union Traction Company car making a trip to the depot and the beach.

Electric cars were already losing ground to automobiles. Their end in Santa Cruz could be foreseen by the 13 gasoline driven motor vehicles parked on Pacific avenue between the court house and the Palomar site.

The Palomar still was a few years in the future. The two wooden buildings on the extreme right were among those yet to be torn down to make way for the present six-story hostelry. The building at the extreme right, of which only a little shows, was "Ely Block No. 2," built by William Ely about 1880. It was his second property

on Pacific avenue; "Ely Block No. 1" had been erected in 1875 and was moved from Pacific opposite Church to make room for the present court house.

Built In 1905

The brick structure just south of the Odd Fellows building, both still standing, had been erected in 1905 by Patrick Neary, replacing a modern structure which had burned and which began its existence as part of the original school in Santa Cruz. It was moved from the Mission street hill to its Pacific avenue location in 1875. The IOOF building had been rebuilt after the original structure burned in 1899.

County Bank Building, northeast corner of Cooper street, had been built, as well as the St. George hotel beyond it, the latter on its original site, on property which was leveled of earlier buildings by the 1894 fire.

Smaller Cars Came

Cars of the type pictured, long in use, were replaced shortly after by smaller "one-man" Birneys.

These served two or three years until the switch-over to buses on January 15, 1926. Motorman-Conductor Lee Baldwin operated the last regular electric car trip in this city, closing the era which had succeeded horse cars 35 years before.

Near the right center foreground can be seen the Pacific avenue end of "Ely's alley" which ran through to Front street, at which end pedestrians were actually passing thru a woodyard. Canale's Grocery was for many years on the avenue corner in the Ely building.

Erection of the Palomar was completed in 1929, it being formally opened to the public on Saturday, September 7.