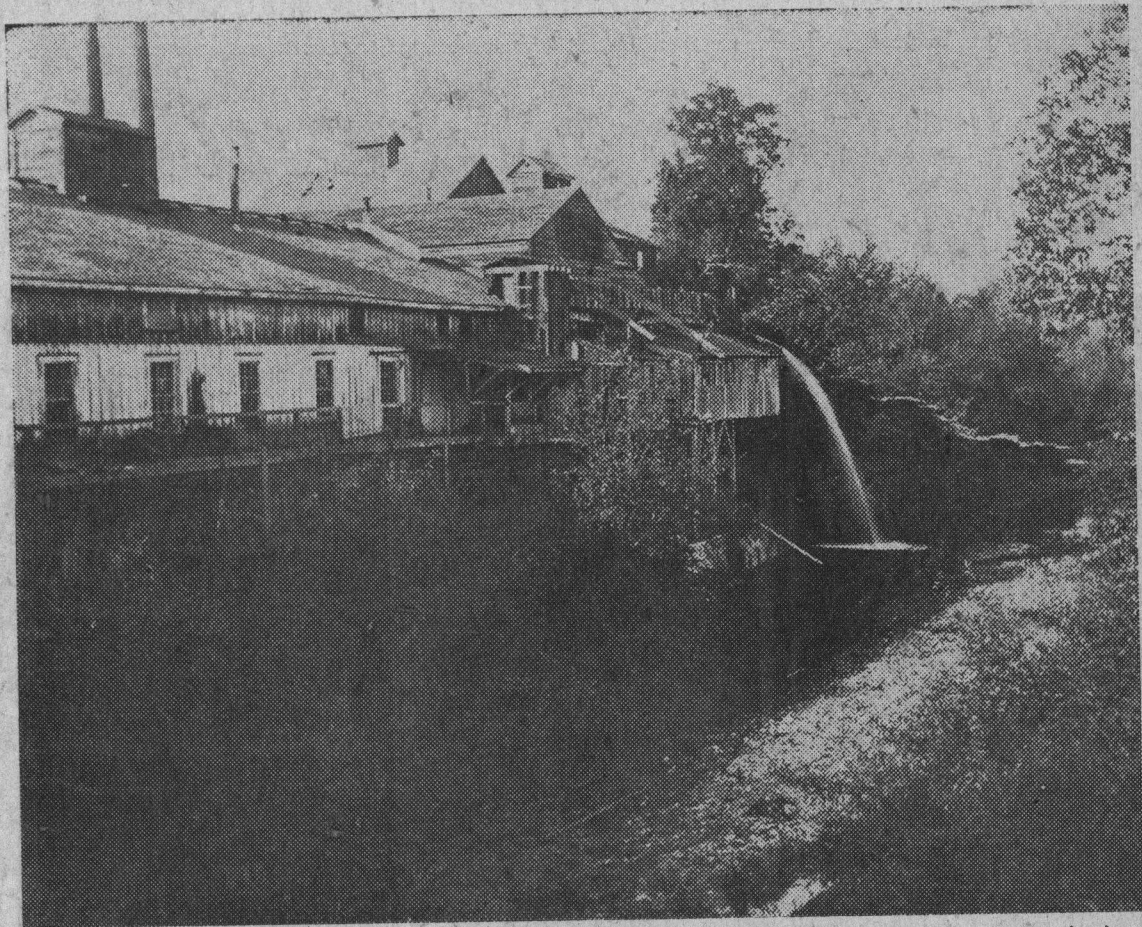


Santa Cruz Yesterdays



OLD SOQUEL PAPER MILL

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Three young paper makers from Massachusetts who arrived in Soquel in 1879 bought the buildings on the Soquel creek which had been built 30 years before by John Daubenbiss and John Hames as a saw mill.

The three young men were Edward, Frank and John O'Neill, natives of South Lee, Massachusetts, who had operated a mill at Middlebury, N. Y., and were attracted by the quantities of straw available from the wheat grown along the Santa Cruz coast.

The plant had been successively a saw mill and then a grist mill for Daubenbiss and Hames, the Soquel pioneers. When it was bought by the O'Neills it was the property of the Porter brothers, who were using it as a wool pulling establishment.

As a saw mill and grist mill its

machinery had been operated by water which came down a flume from the north. The O'Neills rebuilt the flume, added to the buildings and launched a quarter century of paper making.

Made Butcher Paper

Their product at first was brown butcher's paper, from wheat straw. The straw came to them in big wagons drawn by four horse teams and was stored in huge stacks across the Old San Jose road. The stacks several times provided huge conflagrations. The paper making process provided waste fluid material which was undesirable and a long narrow flume was built which led south across the flat to a point far down on the creek.

When, in the middle 80's, wheat growing declined the O'Neills began using rags and old paper as material for their pulp. About 35 people were employed at the mill,

which had an output of 2500 tons a year, much of which was shipped off the Soquel wharf.

During World War I an effort to revive the industry was made with C. W. Callaghan as part owner. The last effort to use its machinery was from 1927 to 1931 when the Alaska Pulp & Paper Company experimented with making pulp berry boxes out of rice hulls.

In the 60's, when the plant was Daubenbiss and Hames grist mill a covered bridge crossed the river at the plant, which gave its name to Bridge street in Soquel today.

The picture shows the establishment as it appeared in the middle of 1894, viewed from the creek side. Passersby today on the Old San Jose road find nothing like the buildings of old on the site. Modern residences have erased the former commercial structures.

The cars of Howard Leroy Hackett, 26, of 114 Seventh avenue, and Charles Bertrand Stewart, 63, of 216 Brook avenue, were damaged when they collided Friday afternoon at Seabright and Soquel avenues.

**Action Is Delayed
On Elevator For
County Courthouse**

The supervisors told Stanford

**'Korea Today'
Again Leads In
Library List**

For the fourth consecutive week