

Small Buildings Housed Early Day Locomotives and Water Wheels Irrigated Gardens

In connection with the early railroad there were numbers of round houses, then "long houses."

When the Santa Cruz-Watsonville road was completed in the middle twenties, the engine house was then at the end of Seabright avenue, then the end of Railroad street as it was called. It was out against the farms.

The "Betsy Jane" would come to the Park street station down town and then back to this engine house. It was a rectangular structure, of straight up and down boards unpainted. A switch left the main track leading into the building.

This was used until a long engine house was constructed at the Park street station. This building was also a work shop and went along Cherry street. The small turn-table was in front of the entrance of the engine house. This engine house was a whitewashed structure.

The next engine house was for the Santa Cruz-Felton railroad and was also built in the seventies. It was similar to the one at Seabright, a plain unpainted structure with up and down boards. It was in use while the tunnel was being excavated under Mission Hill. It was at the side of the track with a switch leading from the main line. The track went along River street and ended at Mission and River. The engines would back to the temporary depot.

The next round house was a small one where the present one is located and when the union depot was erected at the present location in the nineties a larger round house was constructed.

The last depot was a replica of the early days and was that of the Ocean Shore R. R. near Bay St. It was of the same type, a long building which was to be replaced by a better one.

WATERWHEELS

Picturesque waterwheels are seldom seen along the streams as in days past. These were used where irrigation was necessary especial-

ly for truck gardens and larger ones where water power was in use.

For many years at the foot of Laurel street hill was a large water wheel used by the Kirby tannery. On the same creek at what is now Escalona Drive, at the site of the first flour mill, that of Joseph Majors, was another.

Several good sized ones were along the edge of the San Lorenzo river and the water was lifted in cans and emptied at the top into small irrigation flumes. One was about where the Cooper St. bridge connects on the east side of the river, another was at the Pedemonte gardens. These old time methods, used from time immemorial, did good work.

THRESHERMEN'S WHISTLES

There was a time when at the noon hour throughout the outskirts of Santa Cruz, were heard the whistles from the engines of the threshing machines. The greater part of the out country was devoted to the cultivation of grain, mostly oats, barley and wheat. Many of the older boys worked during vacation with the threshers and in the middle of the fields were seen the tall stacks of straw. What a blaze there was when a haystack caught on fire, and this happened frequently.

Boys often secured jobs during vacation at the nearby saw mills. Their work was greasing skids. The skid roads were covered with logs which were greased with mutton tallow making it easier for the movement of logs over them.

TIMBER HOMESTEADS

The writer well remembers when the Ben Lomond mountain section, especially about Bonny Doon, was opened to settlement and many took up 160 acres and settled there. It meant the cutting down of the redwoods and other trees and grubbing the land and to this day scarred stumps of redwoods are seen in the fields in that beautiful mountain section.

Among the early settlers were two Comstock families, Thayers,