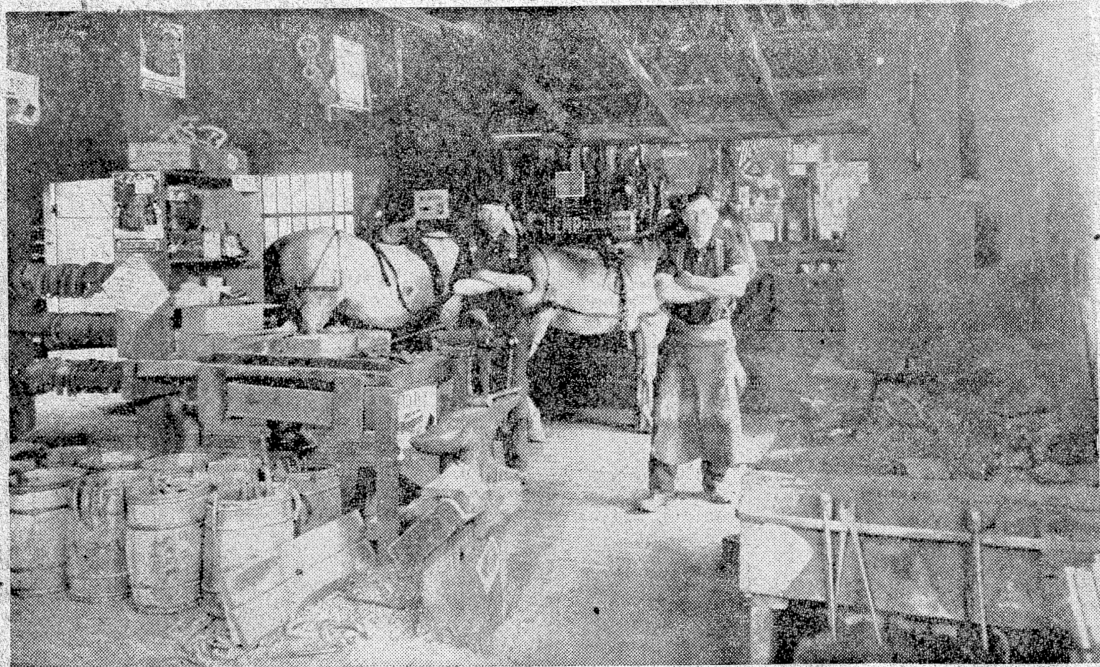


Santa Cruz Yesterdays

CF LIVERY STABLE



HORSESHOEING DAYS OF ANOTHER ERA

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

In the horse and buggy days Santa Cruz was well supplied with blacksmith shops, most of which possessed horseshoeing facilities. At the time the picture was taken, around 1907, there were 16 blacksmith shops here. All but two of these shod horses.

Many of the shops manufactured wagons. There were also carriage works. Automobiles had started to climb to importance, yet by present standards were still very crude. Faithful Dobbin was standing his ground but the peak of his importance had been reached here.

Smithies were to be found in all parts of the community—east side, west side, all around the town.

A Good Example

The one shown was typical of the period of 45 years ago. Its location was then 337 Pacific avenue, a few doors south of the Hagemann hotel (today's Graystone).

Between the anvil and the forge stands Proprietor Fred Wagner wearing the traditional leather apron of the blacksmith. When the

photographer called, Wagner and his helper had been shoeing one of the two horses behind them, in this, the horseshoeing department of his shop, the main part of which was back of the camera.

The horse at left, newly shod, was temporarily off duty from the delivery wagon of G. A. Deiter's bottled goods store several blocks up the avenue. Still in need of shoes, the other equine customer was next in line, probably to be shod with a fine new pair each of front and hind soft steel shoes selected from the kegs of shoes at lower left. Wagner stocked horseshoes, received in 100-pound kegs, from sizes 0 through 7.

Ads On Walls

Anvil, vise and workbench are at left center. On the right is the forge with tongs in front. Apparently traveling billposters valued blacksmith shop space, for many advertising posters are seen displayed. The big one over Wagner's left shoulder is for Murine, an old-time eye tonic.

Beer and chewing tobacco are represented; Swamproot, then widely advertised, and directly above the neck of the first horse is a political card bespeaking the candidacy of W. F. Horstman for sheriff. Horstman was later and for many years a Boulder Creek constable.

Shod Horse Car "Motors"

Fred Wagner had earlier engaged in blacksmithing on outer Soquel avenue, adjoining the carbarns of Ely's horsecar line, which starting in 1890, ran from the plaza down Front street, out Soquel avenue to Cayuga and on to Twin Lakes. He shod many a horsey hoof which tramped between these rails.

Workmen from the Powder Works who drove back and forth were also customers of Wagner's for horseshoeing.

He is today, although no longer in business, very active in community life here. And he remains true to his four-footed friends of old as president of the Santa Cruz Horsemen's association.