

SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS

12/26/54



NATIVE SONS, DAUGHTERS CELEBRATE, 1891

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

On September 7-8-9, 63 years ago, more than 3000 excursionists, mainly Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, descended upon Santa Cruz by "rail, sail and trail," for their second statewide Admission Day celebration here of several, the first having been in 1888.

Committees of local members and boosters had collected from Santa Cruz citizens some \$3500 in donations to help receive and entertain the visiting Natives. Flags, bunting, and various decorations appeared throughout the downtown parade route. Strings of incandescent lights spanned Pacific avenue for night illumination.

Downtown Feature

A great decorative and commemorative arch, saluting the 41st year of California statehood, was erected across Pacific avenue a few doors north of Walnut avenue, about opposite H. E. Irish's "news stand". In the picture it appears near the site of the present Hotel Palomar. Hidden behind the arch and the California Grizzly which surmounts it, is the fan IOOF town clock of many old photos.

The two-story building with a porch directly behind, and to right of the east side of the arch had on its ground floor the store of B. C. Gadsby, longtime dealer in paint, wallpaper and artists' supplies. He also painted signs and showcards. His grandson, Ben Vrooman, is a resident here since boyhood.

National and state flags float prominently on the great arch and

its two proportionate supporting columns. An allegorical group beneath the bear is flanked by pioneer California landscapes. On the column faces visible are scenes depicting a snow-capped mountain, emigrant train and mining scene,

Bear On

Moving into the foreground, the grand Admission Day parade in progress, is Halcyon Parlor's unit of 40 from the Oakland area. A feature was the live bear, seen padding along the avenue pavement on leash, near the foreground, right. Back of the white suited marchers, just passing the arch is Halcyon's elaborate silken banner, borne by four tall straw-hatted men.

Clapboarded buildings in the background bespeak a Santa Cruz yet in its youth. A number of the feminine onlookers have raised parasols, then fashionable to keep off the rays of a warm sun. Early September in '91 had produced some near hundred degree temperatures.

One of the many features of the celebration was the barbecue (Sept. 10) held at the Dolphin Athletic park, Cliff street, where the Casa del Rey now stands. Long tables were placed in the baseball grounds,