



Santa Cruz County Historical Trust

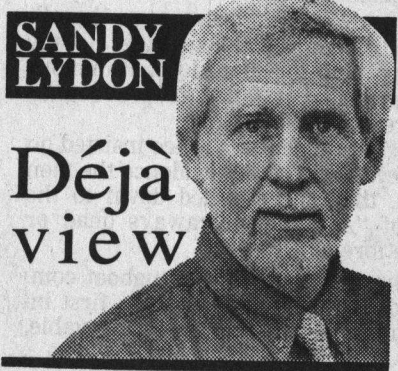
Boulder Creek is dusted in white after a snowstorm around 1895.

Snow brings out cameras

AS I WRITE this column, it is snowing hard on the higher peaks of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and television news reporters are out ooing and aahing as if it had never snowed before in these parts. I guess it is time for the old history grump to drag out a snow photograph and remind one and all that it snows occasionally in the Monterey Bay Region.

Some of the earlier heavy snowfall winters around here include 1852, 1862, 1880, 1889, 1894, and 1911. The snow stayed on the mountains for five weeks in early 1852, and in 1889 there was four feet of snow on the top of the Gabilan Range to the east. And who can forget the morning in early 1976 when we woke to find local beaches covered with snow?

But whether in 1911 or 1995, folks have never been able to resist frolicking in the snow (quickly, before it melts), or taking



photographs of it. Many of the best photographs we have of local cities and landscapes were taken following snowstorms because the coating of snow made the otherwise commonplace scene unusual enough to capture on film.

This photograph of Boulder Creek was taken looking north up what is now Highway 9. The snow has melted off the south-facing hill

in the upper right, but several inches still stand on the road, sidewalks and rooftops of the healthy little lumber town. Stacks of lumber can be seen on the right, and a South Pacific Coast Railroad locomotive is headed south down the tracks. In the mid-1890s, Boulder Creek boasted of having more saloons per capita than any other town in the county, and I'll bet there were more than a few of Boulder Creek's finest leaning up against a bar and "taking the chill off" on the morning this photograph was taken.

If you have a favorite photograph you would like to see used in this column, or one that you would like some help in identifying, send a copy (never send original photographs) to Déjà View, Sandy Lydon, care of the Santa Cruz County Sentinel, 207 Church St., Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060. Sandy Lydon is a member of the History faculty at Cabrillo College.