

'Historic' image has whimsical roots

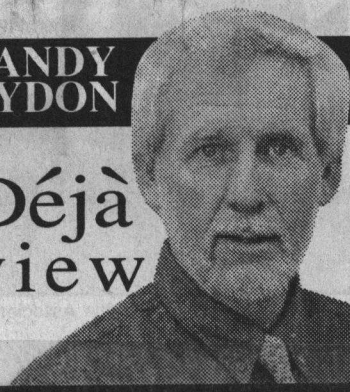


Al Medina Collection

The "ghost town" at Felton Big Trees, pictured here around 1944, was demolished in 1955.

**SANDY
LYDON**

**Déjà
view**



Combine the notion of "ghost town" with the myth of the Pony Express, mix in a little whimsy for the tourists, and you have the above photograph. (It was all very similar to the "history" we used to get at Frontier Village in San Jose, for example.) The buildings were demolished by the state in 1955.

Mail did come into Santa Cruz County via horseback in the 1850s, but it had nothing to do with the Pony Express. Finally, the first outside telegraph connection between Santa Cruz and San Francisco was

completed, via Watsonville, in February, 1862.

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 and will be teaching the history of Santa Cruz County on Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 14.