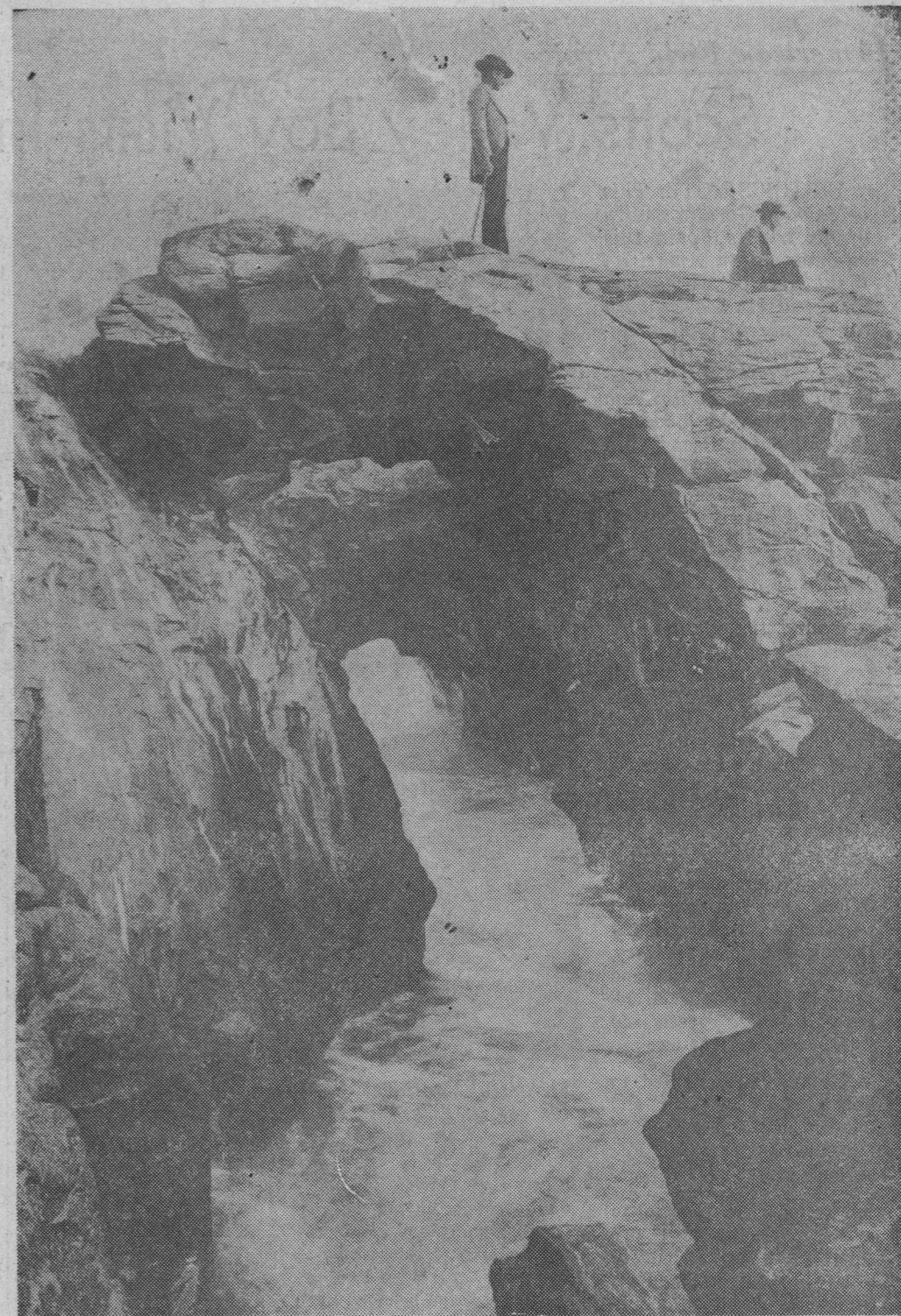


Written in the Rocks



LOCAL CLIFFS are Santa Cruz Sandstone formation.

All
Photos
Courtesy
of the
Roy
Boekenoogen
Collection



THIS ARCH IS GONE . . . You can't stand here today as this fellow did back around the turn of the century. The rock bridge was once one of four in Natural Bridges State park. Today only two remain.

. . . A Changing Coastline

By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

People come to Santa Cruz just to see them . . .

The great natural stone bridges carved by wind and wave.

There are only about 50 natural bridges in the United States—the most famous at Rainbow Natural Bridge monument in Utah. Santa Cruz' Natural Bridges State park has two bridges. Others are—or were—spaced sparsely along West Cliff drive and up the coast toward Davenport, bearing magnificent witness to the sculptural power of water laced with grains of sand.

Monterey Bay's surging, restless force hammered out the local stone arches over thousands of years.

The powerful driving waves wedged and split and wore away the softer stone within their reach. In two places near the foot of Woodrow avenue the bay excavated blow-holes in the cliff rock. Old-timers remember them as dangerous—but highly exciting to watch in a storm or at high tide.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

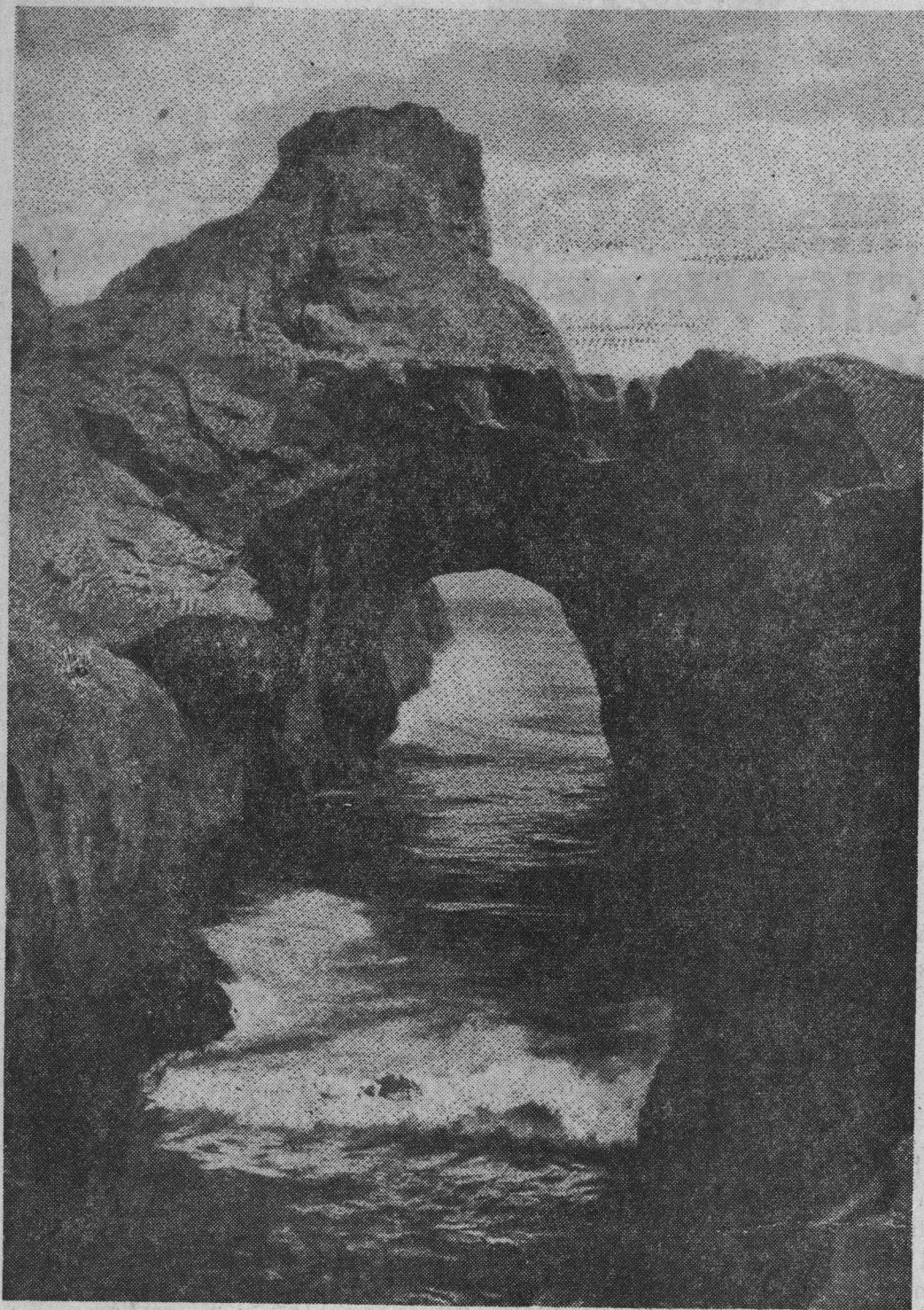
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Sunday, October 25, 1964

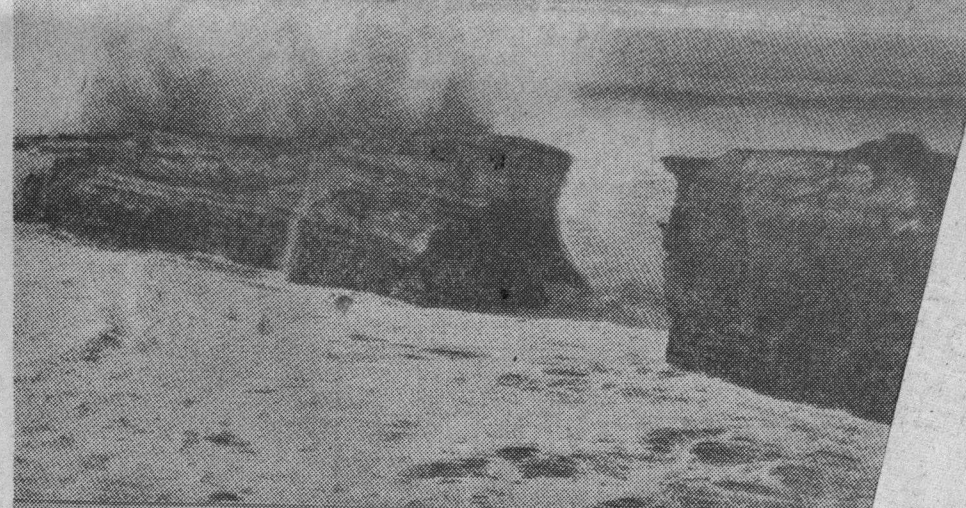
static—not even the stones beneath our feet. And the mighty waves are constantly at work, recreating, re-designing, building up and tearing down.

Not all the stone arches that were here 60 years ago are here today.

They went, grain by grain, bit by bit, piece by piece, rock by rock, into the waves that battered them. It was a gradual process in most cases, sometimes hastened by severe storms. It's difficult to pinpoint just when this or that bridge disappeared . . . victims of the ocean's perpetual motion, the same force that created them.



CROWN ROCK . . . and natural arch, a famous landmark for many years, located slightly to the East of the foot of Woodrow avenue. "It was there when I came to Santa Cruz in 1903," recalled John Strohbeen, local naturalist. The last of it disappeared in a big storm . . ." but I don't remember the year," he added.



POWER OF THE WAVES . . . Caught by the camera in the same action that broke this arch which once existed between Lighthouse Point and the foot of Woodrow avenue in the early 1900s. These rocks are favorites of fishermen, but the water-worn surfaces are dangerous. From time to time the sea takes a life in this area.



FAVORITE STUNT . . . To pose a horse and buggy on the larger arches . . . Another photographer's gimmick—to snap a passing ship framed in an arch.