

# Old Santa Cruz . . . . By Ernest Otto

The modern building which houses the Morris Abrams store was not always at the corner of Pacific avenue and Lincoln street. The writer remembers when a house was moved from there during the late seventies. It now stands on Chestnut avenue, the first house beyond the medical office at the corner of Church street and Chestnut avenue.

This quaint old home was typical of the day, and it was one of many removed from Pacific avenue to make room for the growing business district.

During the middle seventies, before it was moved to Chestnut avenue, the house was the home of the H. E. Makinneys, parents of Miss Pearl Makinney of Union street. The front yard was an attractive garden, and a high white-washed board fence surrounded the back yard, as was customary on corner locations. In back of the house was an apple tree, and children loved to gather 'round and talk to the cockatoo which was often in the branches of the tree. It was almost the only cockatoo in the city then, and it was white with a light yellow topknot.

## THE DUNCAN BLOCK

Following the removal of the Makinney residence, a two-story building was erected, and a plank sidewalk replaced the dirt walk. The new structure was for a number of years headquarters of Exchange and Mart, a real estate and insurance business established by Henry Meyrick, who came from England in the late seventies to make his home in California. He and his family, Mrs. Meyrick, their son, Henry, and their daughters, Kathleen, Geraldine, and Mary, lived on upper High street where the C. C. Moores now have their beautiful residence and grounds.

Although most children of English families here attended private schools, among them Quincy Hall seminary, Miss Porter's, O. W. Follins' and the Jones school, the Meyrick children all attended Mission school.

## LONG WOODEN WALK

Because the thick, muddy black adobe made it almost impossible for them to reach the school after a rain, Mr. Meyrick had a narrow double-plank walk erected down the upper part of High street nearly to where Highland avenue enters High street, then the site of the Greenwood residence, a picturesque early California structure.

Meyrick was the first realtor here to use much printers' ink, advertising in the local papers and also publishing a small paper of his own, the "Exchange and Mart." Through this use of advertising he attracted many new settlers. Many of the finest ranches in this section were taken over at that time, some of them by English families.

Meyrick loved the county in which he had chosen to live and was never happier than when showing it to visitors. He was a distinguished-looking gentleman and, when handling the reins, his presence was outstanding because the seat he occupied was slightly higher than the others.

His office at Pacific avenue and Lincoln street was attractive and along the Lincoln street side appeared large, artistic signs.

## OTHER STORES

A dress-making establishment was for many years located in one end of the building on Lincoln street, and on the other side of the realtors was a barber shop. Frank Abrams, brother of Morris Abrams, for a time had a grocery and fruit store.

On the second floor the build-

ing was known as the Duncan block and contained a well-known lodging house, the Duncan House. The stairway was on Lincoln street, and a hall from the top of the stairs to the center of the building led to the office, which was octagonal in shape and had a glass top for light and ventilation. Halls and rooms radiated from this central octagon.

To the west of the building on Lincoln street was the residence of the Jacob Steen family. A daughter of the family, Mrs. Jennie Logan, now lives at Glen Arbor.

## EFFEY BLOCK

At about the same time the corner structure was erected, the Effey block was built adjoining the Duncan block to the south. This was a plain, one-story building in which the William Effey jewelry store was located for years. The store carried a good stock of watches and jewelry, and Mr. Effey was one of the best watch repairers.

Next was located a stylish dress-maker, Madame Tschienen's, and the Hamlin shoe store, a shoemaking and repair shop. Farther to the south were two residences, that of John Werner, which was moved to the corner of Washington and New streets, now the Wheeler home, and the John Morrow residence which was moved to the south side of Laurel street between Washington street and Chestnut avenue. Next to these two homes came the Wilkins house.

A daughter of the late John Morrows, Mrs. Ella Brazelton, lives at the corner of Washington and Laurel streets next to the home where she resided so many years on Pacific avenue.