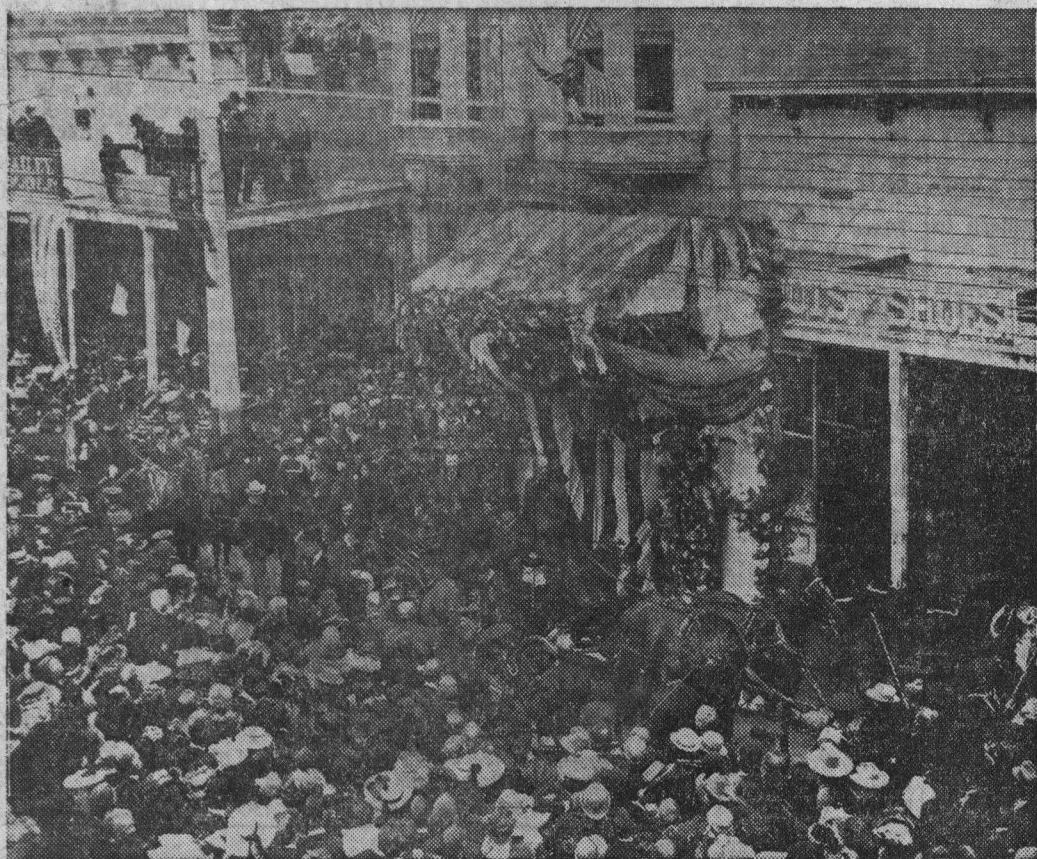


SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



PRES. ROOSEVELT HERE, MAY 11, 1903

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

May 11, 1903, was a big day for Santa Cruz!

For on that memorable day the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was a guest of the city. On a nationwide tour, he included both Santa Cruz and the Big Trees in his itinerary.

Today's picture from yester-years, taken in the heart of the downtown area, shows the national chief executive addressing a gathering of the citizenry. He is speaking from the carriage which had transported him up Pacific avenue from the Southern Pacific

depot, accompanied by the local reception committee.

The spot is near the Court House, opposite Cooper street.

Historical Highlight

According to accounts of the memorable occasion it was, and still remains, one of the highlights of the colorful past of this community.

"It will always occupy a place in the most historical events of our city," said an account of the event in the columns of the old Morning Sentinel.

Incidentally, one other United States President, Benjamin Harrison, had earlier been here.

At an early hour on the day of President Roosevelt's visit, the populace began to gather. When the train arrived at 9:45 a.m. the President and party were escorted to carriages. In the President's carriage, drawn by two black horses driven by John Werner, were also Roosevelt's secretary, Mayor Clark and J. W. Linscott.

Preceded by the Naval Reserves and Hastings' band, the procession moved over part of Beach Hill and proceeded up Pacific avenue, which was crowded. Flags fluttered in the breeze,

strung across the street and displayed on stores and residences.

Pacific Avenue Speech

The Court House was elaborately decorated with bunting. Pupils from the Public, Parochial and Sisters' schools lined the street on both sides. "With their flags and flowers they presented an inspiring sight," said the Sentinel account. "Children strewed the President's pathway with flowers, while the cheers made the welkin ring."

A. A. Morey and W. C. Hoffman rode alongside the President's carriage on horseback.

Included in the address the President made here was the following:

"I am to visit the grove of the great trees, and I wish to congratulate you, people of California, because of this region, and to congratulate all on what you have done to preserve the trees. Cut down giants and you cannot take their place."

After the speech the party was driven slowly up Locust street to the special train, waiting on Chestnut avenue, where they boarded for the Big Trees trip.

The "Roosevelt tree" was dedicated on the occasion of the President's visit to the grove.