

# 3-24-57 Old Santa Cruz

23:2 By Ernest Otto

(Editor's Note: The late Ernest Otto, famed and beloved waterfront correspondent for The Sentinel and writer of the "Old Santa Cruz" column, left a number of columns written before his death. They will be published weekly by The Sentinel.)

Many Santa Cruz children back in the seventies and eighties attended private schools. The writer went to two of them.

The first in the city was taught by Mrs. James O. Wanzer. Her school first was in a residence on Maple street adjoining the home of the W. H. Bias family.

About a dozen pupils would gather around a black walnut table—the same type of table as is now sought so eagerly by lovers of antiques.

The youngest son of the teacher, Harry, was seated in a high chair at the table.

One of the first things the pupils learned was the alphabet. The letters were printed in colored squares on a large piece of cardboard. The youngsters learned not only the alphabet but also the colors which were on the card—red, blue, yellow and green.

The pupils also would sing from the "Golden Wreath Songbook."

Writing, spelling and arithmetic lessons were done on slates with slate pencils, but drawing, which was done with crayons, was enjoyed by the children.

The house was one of the very oldest in that section of the "flats." It likely was built in the fifties or sixties.

The recesses were spent in the backyard which faced to the rear by the Samuel Sharp residence which faced San Lorenzo lane.

The school was moved from there to Park street, across the street from what then was the Santa Cruz-Watsonville railroad station. On the side of the street on which the schoolhouse stood was a row of Normandy poplars and along the open air railroad platform was a row of silver maple trees.

The house where classes were conducted was owned by C. Caplemann, and a daughter, Mrs. Lily K. Pierce, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Marjory Pringle, resided in the residence after the school was moved.

The schoolhouse yard had gardens bordered with fragrant English violets.

The familiar McGuffey's readers were used in the private schools of those days as well as in the public schools.

The next private school in the city attended by this writer was that taught by Mrs. Flora Bradley. It was in a house on Walnut avenue. Miss Bradley had taught in the county schools.

The house in which she conducted her school was in the back of the lot between the residence of O. I. Bradley and B. C. Gadsby.

The long table around which the children were seated was in the center of the room.

Among the students besides the writer were Bert Adams, Maggie Guild and Bess Boston.

Almost all the world crop of jumping beans comes from the state of Sonora, Mexico.