

OLD SANTA CRUZ

By Ernest Otto

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Suitcase travelers were practically unknown in the seventies. When one traveled from a home town it meant a trunk or two. This was especially manifest on the arrival of the summer visitor.

The San Francisco schools closed at the very end of May or the first of June for six weeks' vacation. The San Francisco residents in those days came to Santa Cruz in great numbers and they came with trunks, not one but several; and why not, when one thinks of the styles of those days!

It was the day of the hoop skirts, the bustles and the use of long trains on the street. Then there was the many starched skirts. These things took room. Compare them with the wearing apparel of the present day.

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TRUNKS
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the San Francisco schools all the transfer wagons met the incoming trains and the trunks were piled 15 feet high and taken to the hotels all over the city and 90 per cent of them remained in the hotel until the bay city schools reopened. Furnished houses were rented in every section of the city until the day before the school opening. Then the transfer wagons were filled just as high as they were on the day of the arrival. There were no two and three day stays then. Following the leaving of the San Francisco and Oakland summer visitors came the Sacramento visitors but Sacramento was not a big city.

Then gradually the trunks came from Fresno and valley towns. Finally the season, which was practically ended around the first of August, commenced to extend to about the first of September and the city commenced to depend almost entirely on the trade from the valleys.

Some did have valises, and what were called carpet bags, long slim ones made from bright Brussels carpet.

Trunks came in such numbers into San Francisco at times of national conventions that transfer companies were unable to move them. They occupied all the space in the baggage rooms at the ferry building and at the Southern Pacific baggagerooms. They were simply stalled and some people did not get their trunks until the convention was over. Now it would be possible to carry all they use in suitcases.

MANY CAMPED

Camping was one of the pleasures enjoyed in the earlier days. Santa Cruz had many grounds sought by campers and local people knew the beauty spots of the woods.

Between Felton and Ben Lomond were two of the most beautiful camps along the San Lorenzo, "Camp Thunder" and Camp Lightning," and certain groups for years occupied those grounds.

Felton Grove, as now, was very popular amid the maples along the river. On what is now the Mt. Hermon Drive not far from Lockes dairy, was the Hepsidam camp along Bean Creek.

At Hotel De Redwood, across from the hotel was a beautiful camp ground 'mid large redwoods in a grove. There was a lovely spring there.

Along the beaches were Camp Capitola, New Brighton and Alhambra, where the west section of Seabright is located.

Up the coast was Laurel Grove at Scotts Creek at what is now called Swanton, and a maple grove at Laguna.

STEAMER LANDINGS

In a Santa Cruz county history printed in the seventies is a map showing the steamer landings between San Francisco and San Simeon which included Half Moon Bay, Pigeon Point, Davenport Landing, Santa Cruz (3 wharves), Soquel Landing, Aptos, Pajaro Landing, Moss Landing and Monterey.

At that time the coast division of the Southern Pacific only went as far as Soledad.

DRINKING FAUCETS

Drinking faucets for the use of human beings and troughs for horses were common. In front of the Gustav Bowman store was the town pump. One cup was used by all, and how we boys did pump the water by this pump which was at the edge of the sidewalk. The Bowman store was opposite Cooper street. The store is now occupied by the clothing department of Leask's Seaside store. Mr. Bowman, who served the city as mayor, was the father of Mrs. H. R. Judah.

At the side of the entrance to the court house was a faucet with tin cup to be used by the thirsty. Later a fountain was placed at the corner of Pacific avenue and Cooper street on the court house lot by the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

A faucet, used much, was in front of the E. Foster blacksmith shop at Cooper and Front Sts.

WATER TROUGHS

The horses were also looked after. There was a water trough in front of the Shamrock saloon on Locust street, in front of the Cottage saloon at the foot of Pacific avenue, in front of the Last Chance saloon on River street, in front of Bausch's brewery on Soquel Ave. and at another Last Chance saloon on the Soquel road not far from the top of Arana Gulch hill and a third on that thoroughfare in front of Mike Harrington's saloon.

POTATOES PLANTED IN PARKING STRIP

Lighthouse avenue is about the only street in that section which has parking between the concrete sidewalk and curb. At one place in front of three residences in succession, victory gardens have been planted to potatoes.