

SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



"GAY NINETIES" BARBECUES, B.A. (BEFORE AUTOS)

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Great were the outdoor pleasures of a more leisurely yesterday!

Pictured today is a glimpse of barbecue activities at the old Dolphin Athletic park on Cliff street, scene of many a lively baseball contest in the days preceding construction of the Casa del Rey hotel.

The occasion was part of the extensive Admission Day celebration held here in 1891 with a great outpouring of Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West for the second statewide celebration held in Santa Cruz.

Barbecue day was the tenth of September, the day after the grand memorial procession through the downtown area. Long tables were placed in the baseball grounds, to the right of the tent near the signboard fence. Corn, mussels, coffee and claret punch enhanced the bulls' heads, featured on the menu. More than 1500 were served.

Capitola, Too!

In the month preceding, at least two bulls' heads Saturday barbecues were given by the F.

A. Hihn company to hundreds of guests. Both days were "cool and refreshing, a genial sun shining overhead and little dust beneath the horses' feet."

The affairs were held in a "shady, seated grove." In early August five animals were prepared for the feast, fourteen hundred pounds of beef and mutton, cooked to a turn by expert barbecuers. At the second barbecue, held in the same place two weeks later, hundreds more were served. Twenty-one bulls' heads were prepared for this occasion.

Superintendent Frank Reanier and Wm. T. Cope of Santa Cruz presided at the barbecue and saw

that everybody "received a nice, juicy piece of meat, with a delicious cup of coffee, bread and butter, etc. Fruit, cake and all the delicacies of the season were included in the repast." Five hundred loaves of bread were consumed.

G.A.R. Men Fed

One of the most colorful large barbecues ever held in Santa Cruz was that at the upper Plaza park, atop the hill at Mission street. August 5, 1886, marked a highlight in early day local hospitality. It was "Santa Cruz Day" for hosts of Civil War veterans, then in their 20th annual National Encampment being held at

San Francisco, who joined an excursion to this city.

A pit 70 feet long and three feet deep was dug along High street for the barbecuing. In the plaza park a great bower of evergreens had been erected as their rustic banquet hall. Some 200 upright poles supported a vast overhead framework made of a mile of wire and a mile and a half of rope. Over this was spread six carloads of redwood boughs from the Felton area.

A thousand or more G.A.R. guests were served at 53 tables. The meat, 3010 pounds of it, mostly beef, had been placed in the trench at 6 a.m. About 3000 pounds of bread and cake and 600 gallons of coffee, besides other refreshments were disposed to the multitude.

The welcome arch at the entrance read: "Santa Cruz Surrenders to the G. A. R., 1886".