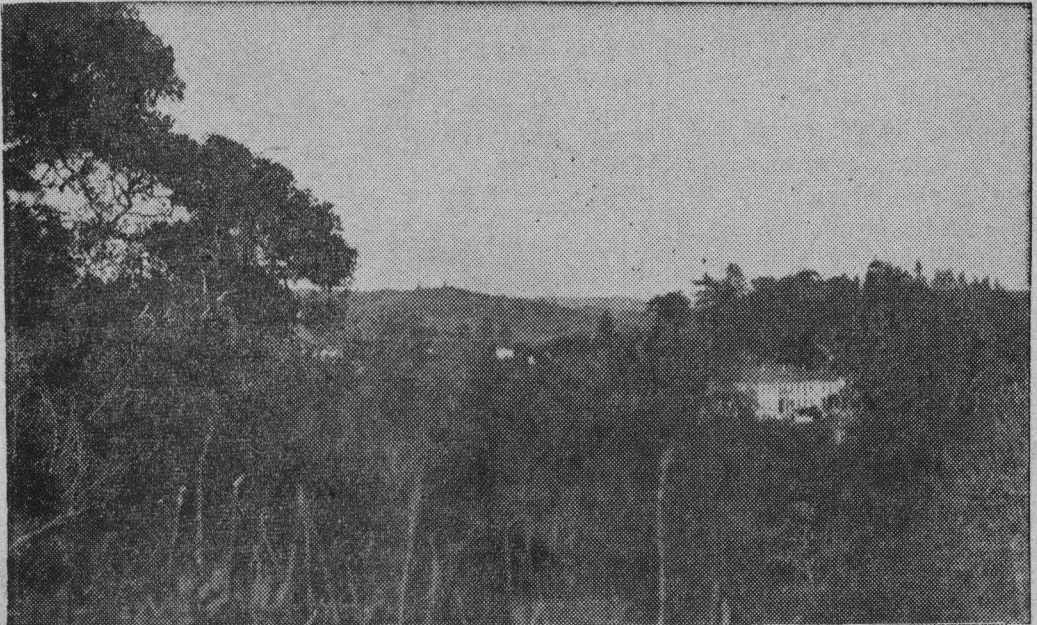


SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



APTOS VISTA IN SPRECKELS ERA

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

In the old days the twenty mile drive to Watsonville along the county "high road" skirted the bay rather closely at times, revealing a varied and beautiful countryside as well as seascape. A glorious marine view was backed by the picturesque ranges of the Santa Lucia and El Gabilan softly rising in the distance.

The curving shores are still a succession of broad beaches, sharp or rounding headlands, and

wave-sculptured cliffs. An occasional stream wended its way toward the bay, bordered by scraggly oak trees and other greenery.

On the left the Santa Cruz range formed the skyline with old Loma Prieta, almost 4000 feet in height, lifting its shoulders serenely above the other summits. The mountains descended to the sea in a succession of round-shouldered foothills, some of them dotted with oaks and redwoods, even in those days here and there showing open areas of cultivated acreage, sown with grain or planted to vines and fruit trees.

All along were farms and homesteads and pretty villages, several of which were on the broad-gauge railway, which in places ran close to the bay's edge.

Aptos' Lure

One of the prettiest of these villages was Aptos, pretty enough to enchant a prominent and moneyed industrialist, Claus Spreckels, the "sugar king." The fabled San Franciscan in 1872 purchased 2390 acres of the original Castro grant from old Don Rafael, and immediately set about developing his holdings.

There grew a fabulous country

estate. Spreckels built elaborately and well. There was the fine country house for the magnate himself, with stables and race track for the blooded horses. Fine homes were built for the two brothers of his wife, who was a Mangels.

He built a hotel-size guest house on the flat of Aptos creek, where were stables for his guests, who drove down from San Francisco. Here also was a club house with bowling alleys, and an outdoor dance pavilion. On the upper place was a polo field.

Today's picture reveals the heavily wooded rendezvous that was the coastside retreat of Spreckels in his years of affluence. At the right can be seen the guest house and grove, along the creek, toward the beach. Other structures peek through the trees to the left in the main part of Aptos, where the Spreckels mansion stood.

Entertained A King

Of all the many distinguished guests Claus Spreckels entertained at Aptos in those palmy days, history likes best to record the visit there, even though it was for but one day, of King Kalakua of the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands—in 1880!

Before the great house in Aptos was taken by fire (in 1929) the movie makers from Hollywood came to film there a story about fine horses called "The Dixie Merchant." Star of the troupe was Jack Mulhall and the director, famed Frank Borzage, whose group made the trek from southern California just 30 years ago.

The estate was sold about 1925 to Monroe, Lyon & Miller, a San Francisco development concern, which created Rio del Mar.



Mac McCune JEWELER says **IT'S A FACT!**

THERE ARE NO SHOOTING STARS



And it is also a Fact

What comes after your purchase is more important than promises made before. Upon that basis ev-

PUBLIC NOTICE

NO. 14803
NOTICE OF TIME APPOINTED FOR PROVING WILL, ETC.

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of EGIDIO G. COSTELLA, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the probate of the will of EGIDIO G. COSTELLA, deceased, and for the issuance to petitioner, LUCY COSTELLA, of letters testamentary has been filed in this court, and that Friday, August 10, 1956 at 10:00 o'clock A. M. of said day, and the courtroom of said court, in the courthouse, in the city of Santa Cruz, County of

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