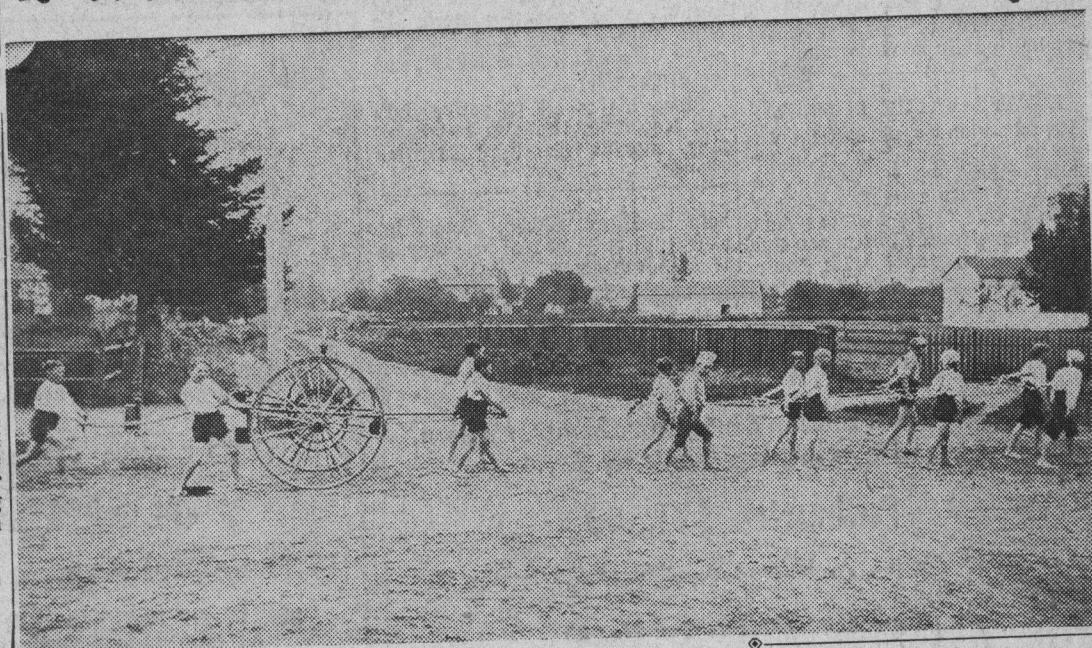


# Santa Cruz Yesterdays



**JUNIOR ALERTS HOSE COMPANY TEAM**  
(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The running teams of hose cart companies of California communities met in annual tournaments through the 1880's and, as is always the way with small boys, they found a way to emulate their elders.

Crack team of the seven volunteer fire companies in Santa Cruz was the Alerts, organized in 1877. The small boys of the town naturally became the Junior Alerts and interested adults built them the hose cart using a couple of light carriage wheels to carry the reel.

There is no record that the Junior Alerts ever found a competitor for a race but its members were ready for it, although their running costumes look suspiciously like knee pants with the legs tucked as high as possible.

## Lincoln and Center

The picture is interesting as showing the corner of Lincoln and Center streets nearly seven decades ago. To the left, back of the trees and fence, not showing, stood then

the present Calvary Episcopal church. The view is down Center street, with the Dreher house in the distance and two barns of the Dreher farm in the nearer foreground. The immediate corner behind the fence is that on which the present Congregational church was erected in 1890.

The hose cart races of the 1880s were major athletic events for the townspeople who turned out en masse to welcome their returning teams, with their carts roped down on flat cars of the narrow gauge trains as they came home from the tournaments.

## Tournament Days

The first tournament in this vicinity, said to have been the first in California, was at Watsonville on November 26, 1880. Entered were the Alerts and Pilots of Santa Cruz, the Alerts and Wideawakes of Hollister and the Pajaros and Californians of Watsonville. The Santa Cruz Hook and Ladder company gave a street exhibition.

Two succeeding tournaments were at Hollister, but Santa Cruz took the lead in forming the California Firemen's Association, which staged a tournament here June 12 and 13, 1882.

Last of the tournaments came in the latter part of the decade, with Watsonville winning. In one of the Watsonville banks today is the "gold belt" which signified victory.

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## Four Classes In Home Nursing Are Active In County

Four home nursing classes have been organized in the county, it was announced yesterday by Harry J Hansen, Santa Cruz county civil

Speakers Bureau