

62-Year-Old River Street Gas Plant To Be Destroyed

An old work horse that has labored for Santa Cruz more than 60 years has done its job and is going to be destroyed.

No one will shed a tear for it.

City officials won't. Beauty lovers won't, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company won't. All of them, as a matter of fact, are glad the day has arrived when it can go.

The faithful servant is the gas plant on River Street—no thing of beauty, but much needed through its three score years. PG&E crews soon will demolish and remove it at a cost of more than \$60,000—nearly three times the amount the Santa Cruz Electric Light and Power Company paid for the entire gas system it purchased from David Tuttle and Son in 1892.

Santa Cruz has taken the chill off cool Pacific breezes with gas supplied by five companies since the town first granted a franchise to the Santa Cruz Gas Works on March 12, 1867. Tuttle and Son took over the works in 1871 and sold it to the Santa Cruz Electric Light and Power Company 21 years later for \$22,000.

The old work horse gas holder on River Street got into harness on July 21, 1906, when the Coast Counties Light and Power Company acquired the system, built the 300,000 cubic feet holder and other facilities and gave the community its first 24-hour gas service. For this great improvement in service the holder was warmly welcomed in that day.

Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, organized in 1912, became the successor to the plant's builder. The gas plant manufactured the fuel until 1929, when natural gas



The old gas plant, a landmark on River Street for 62 years, has been made obso-

lete by the completion of a new gas transmission line to

Santa Cruz. PG&E will raze the aged structure in the near future.

was first piped into Santa Cruz.

Since then, the holder has been used exclusively for storage by Coast Counties and PG&E, which acquired the system on August 31, 1954. This storage was essential for meeting the local peaks in demand on cold days.

The old plant was doomed several months ago when PG&E completed installation of a new gas transmission line with greater capacity to serve its Santa Cruz customers.