

'Travelin' Church' Nearing Final Rest

By Margaret Koch
Sentinel Staff Writer

Santa Cruz' "traveling church" is about to enter its final rest. And one of the city's pioneer church landmarks will disappear when the dismantling of First Baptist church is completed.

Yesterday the cornerstone was removed from the old church building at the corner of Walnut avenue and Center street. In the cornerstone was sealed a metal box containing articles placed there during the church building's third dedication when it was remodeled the last time in 1910.

The box was supposed to stay sealed and remain that way until a special opening service could be planned. However, due to moisture and the years, one side of it had come loose. It fell off as workmen removed the box from the granite stone which covered it. Items inside the box will be preserved in some way, according to church officials.

For many years known as the "Baptist Temple," the old sanctuary—originally a 30 by 50-foot building—was removed to its present location on wheels.

It originally stood on Locust street near Mission, on a lot donated by Deacon Lawrence Pollard.

The Baptists organized in Santa Cruz in October of 1858 in a meeting hall of the historic Lorenzo Hotel which stood on Willow street (now Pacific avenue.)

After meeting at the hotel the group moved to the court room then located in the Hihn Flatiron building, according to Sentinel historian Preston Sawyer's records. When Temperance has was built on Mission street, the Baptists started meeting there.

Finally in 1867, the deacon gave the site on Locust street and the first church building was constructed there for \$2500 by John Morrow. In 1886 Rev. T. M. Merriman accepted the pastorate but stipulated that the church building be moved to a location "on the flat."

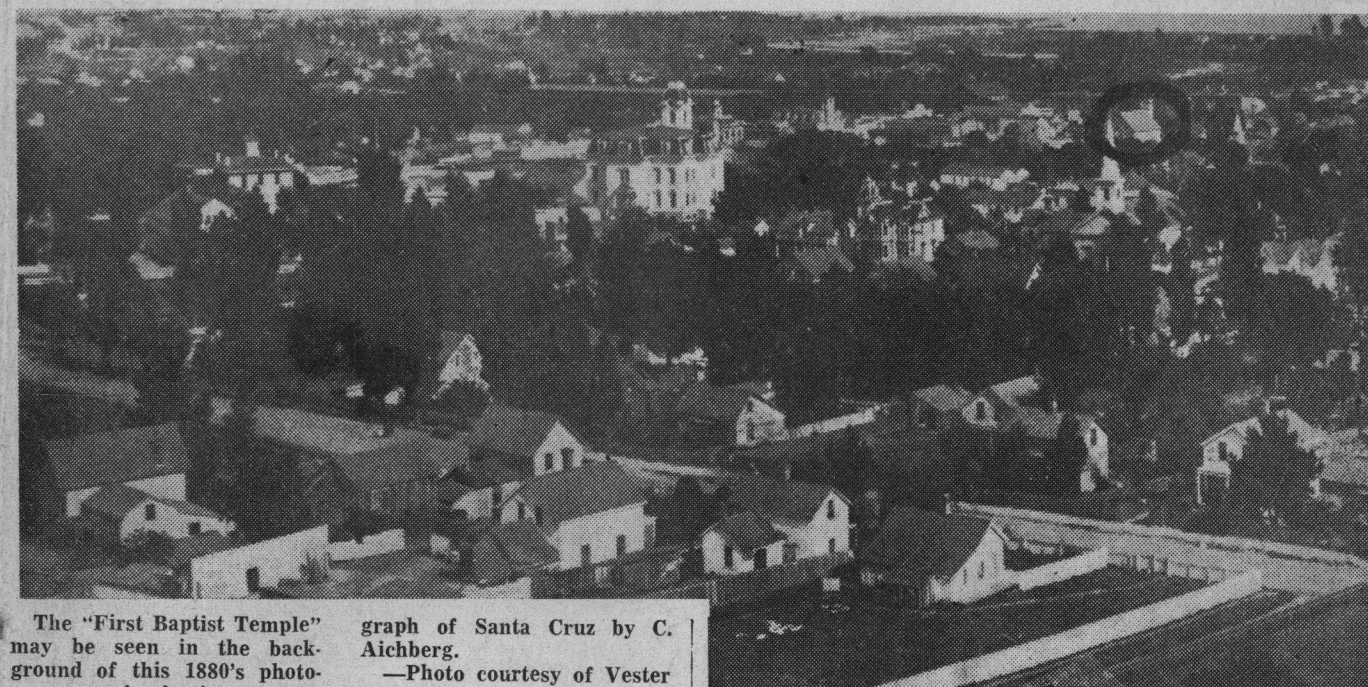
The present site at Walnut and Center was secured in 1887 for \$1600 and the building was

trundled from Locust to Mission, then down Walnut avenue hill by house movers. Every dog, kid and sidewalk superintendent for miles around was there to watch.

The second dedication was conducted the same year on November 22.

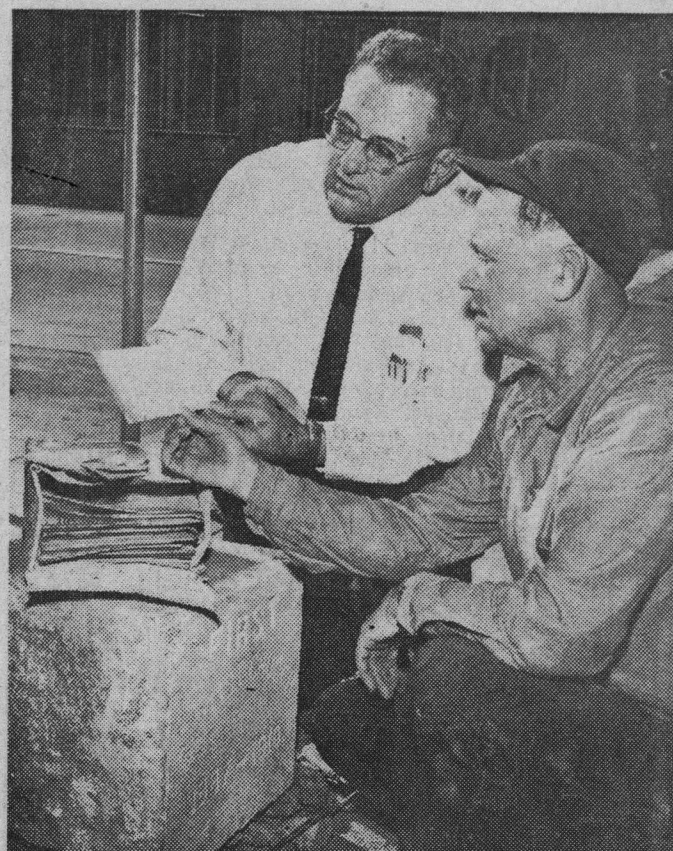
Walnut avenue itself was laid out in 1867 by F. A. Hihn, local developer and business executive. Hihn bought orchard lands and removed full-grown fruit trees in order to create the first street in Santa Cruz to have an original width of 60 feet.

The Baptists are on the move again, out to a new church campus at Roxas street, where they are in the process of building a complete, new church plant.



The "First Baptist Temple" may be seen in the background of this 1880's photograph.

graph of Santa Cruz by C. Aichberg.
—Photo courtesy of Vester Dick.



Examining one letter which fell out of the old First Baptist church cornerstone box are (left) Ed Winn and Charles Rhoades. The box was supposed not to be opened until proper services could be

arranged and nothing was actually removed from it. However, one side of the box fell off, due to dampness and age, when it was removed from the cornerstone last Thursday.

Baptist Pastor Tells Horror Following Wichita Plane Crash

By The Rev. J. H. Mason
Written for
The Associated Press

Wichita, Kan. (AP) — This has been a morning of horror. People were shocked. Some were crying.

Just as I got to the scene, I saw a man running out of a house.

"Oh, my God, my boys are in there," he said. "Oh, my God, have mercy."

I tried to comfort him and asked him how many were in the house. He said there were two boys. Later I was told his name was Joe Martin.

As I looked at the house, a boy ran from it. He was in flames. He fell in front of the house with both his arms up in the air. It happened just as

the fire department was pulling up.

Later I was told the other Martin boy was found dead in the backyard of the home.

All around us was scattered wood, some burning. Two houses south of the Martin home, I helped a woman put out a fire around her new car.

I saw eight houses on fire at one time. People were milling around. Some were barefooted, having been asleep when the crash came. One little boy said he was thrown out of bed.

Many of the people said their tables were shaken. One man 10 blocks away said it shook the coffee around on the table and he thought it was an earthquake.

Windows were broken in many houses that escaped the fire. One man came out of his house and said the first thing he saw was a wing of the plane at the door.



Taking the box out of its stone shelter where it had reposed for more than 50 years are Ed Winn (left) and Charles Rhoades.

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