

3-11-56

# Old Santa Cruz

• • By Ernest Otto

(Editor's Note: The late Ernest Otto, famed and beloved waterfront correspondent for the Sentinel-News and writer of the "Old Santa Cruz" column, left a number of columns written before his death. They will be published weekly by the Sentinel-News.)

Not only the outlying areas but also the downtown sections had their private lanes in the olden days. These thoroughfares, if such they could be called, were used almost as much as the more formal streets.

While the John Werner block was being built, many went through the center hallway to reach the rear of two saloons which faced on Front street.

Where the St. George hotel now stands, a small alley led past the A. M. Peterson shop and along the barnyard to the J. Bernheim store at the rear. Another narrow alley to the south came out where there was a doorway next to the Vahlberg building on Front street.

Between the Santa Cruz house and Sing Woo's laundry, two of the oldest buildings in downtown Santa Cruz, there was an alley which led to an entrance to the Goodwin & Martin stable.

Some people, going to Vine street, would go through the G. B. V. DeLamater store and down the store's walk to the street.

The best traveled lane in the city probably was the Pacific Ocean house alley. Hundreds traversed it daily, making their way to and from the stops of the trains. The alley was flanked by the hotel kitchen, the hotel dining room and the woodyard with its long rows of oak and redwood, cut for the fireplaces. The alley also passed the old building known as the rink.

Another alley reached what was known as the "island." It was where Garibaldi Villa hotel is now and in what for many years was the city's Chinatown. Here also were located the homes of numbers of the early Spanish families—the Cordovas, the Alarcon and Ortiz families among others.

In the center was a lane which reached from the end of Cooper street over a marsh by way of a bridge. This marsh surrounded a good portion of what we used to know as the "island."

After Ely Block No. 2 was erected, the Moore residence was moved, another alley ran between the block and Farmers' saloon to Front street. This alley, too, was much traveled.

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