

Old Santa Cruz

• • • By Ernest Otto

Pacific avenue today is the main business street of Santa Cruz, but in the seventies it was a street much more given to orchards and residences than to business blocks.

The writer remembers that on the east side of Pacific in those days, the business houses extended only as far as the present St. George hotel site.

The Otto Broger residence was just south of the present Purity store, and next to it was the John Werner home, both cottages surrounded by attractive gardens. A vacant lot, an extension of the J. Bernheim business block, was next, marked on the Pacific avenue side by a wide planked, white washed fence nearly 200 feet long.

The next vacant lot extended from the rear of Cooper's store on Front street to the Pacific avenue frontage.

The writer remembers the construction of the Odd Fellows building south of the courthouse in 1876. There was a vacant lot from the courthouse corner to the three-story IOOF building, separating that structure from the white fence of the courthouse. The courthouse fence boards were laid horizontally from post to post.

A residence lot was back from Pacific where the Neary block now is. It was then the Moore residence property and was a two-story home surrounded by a large orchard where the Moores, the Burders and later William Ely lived. It was moved to the back of the lot, facing Front street, and then was moved to Short street adjoining the present Greyhound bus depot, and was razed about a year ago.

To the south of this residence was the orchard in the rear of the Cooper home on Front street. It extended about 100 feet on Pacific avenue.

Following it was a long vacant lot with a picket fence extending along Pacific avenue to the location of the north end of the present Elks building. On that site was the residence of Albert Jones, an early sheriff. The Jones home later was moved across the avenue and up Walnut avenue to a lot adjoining the B. C. Gadsby home. It was an elaborate board and batten structure and was the residence of J. G. Tanner for many years.

The City Stables took the Pacific avenue location of the Jones home, and another vacant lot stood between the stables and Bridge street (now Soquel avenue). On the corner was the Osterhaus family home, directly opposite from what then was Chinatown. The House was moved to Lincoln street on property owned by Andrew Trust, which now is the site of the Safeway store.

The Trusts had lived in a house to the west, but when the new home was moved onto Lincoln and modernized with an attractive front, they moved into it. The house later was moved to Cedar street and is now occupied by Mrs. Amos Roff, a granddaughter of Andrew Trust.

In the late seventies there was not a single business block between what is now Soquel avenue and the base of Beach Hill.

Where the Bank of America now stands was the Arcan home. The owner was a pioneer who had been one of the leaders of the Death Valley party which suffered the hardships of the desert in coming to California.

Another of the orchard and garden-surrounded homes was that of William Effey. The climbing wisteria on the front of the home will never be forgotten by those who saw it. Following it was the home of the Barnetts, one of the finest in the city, designed by Architect Thomas Beck.

A cypress arch over the entrance gateway always was kept trimmed, and the magnolia trees were one of the attractions of the city.

Zacha Barnett, a son of the home owner, was one of the early reporters on the Daily Sentinel for a number of years. His father operated a men's clothing store.

When business places began moving on the avenue, the Holbrook and Barnett residences were moved to the rear of the lots on which the stores were erected.

There was a fine residence on the corner of Cathcart street, and from there to Beach Hill there were only eight homes, the rest of the area being orchards and vacant lots.

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