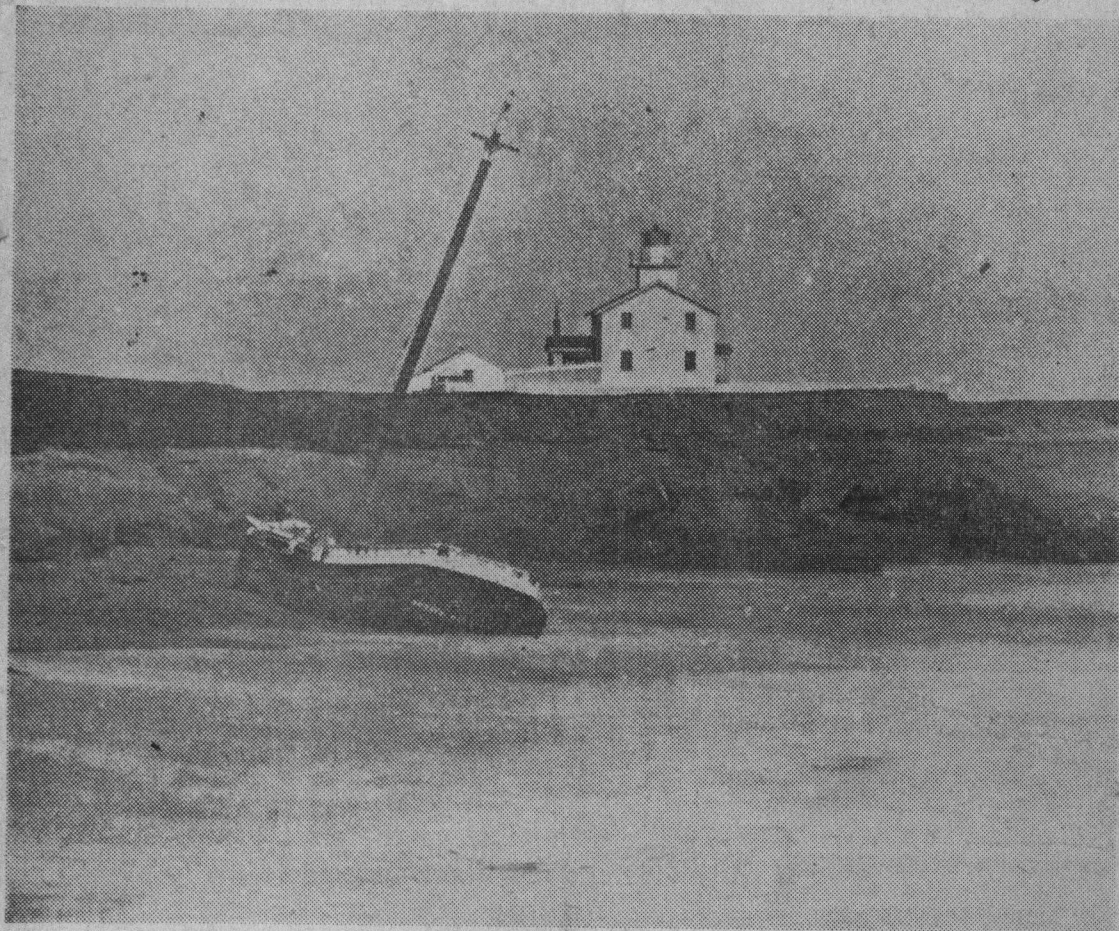


JUNE 8, 1950

Santa Cruz Yesterdays



SCHOONER AGROUND NEAR LIGHTHOUSE, 1876 (From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Newspaper styles change too, along with so many other things, in the passing years. In 1876 no headlines heralded the event when a ship drifted ashore—of all places—at Lighthouse Point.

Tucked away on an inside page of the Weekly Sentinel dated Saturday, October 28, one simple paragraph in "Local Brevities" constituted the coverage of a unique story.

Pieced together from several sources the account of the episode of nearly 74 years ago, pictured above, is as follows:

"The schooner 'Active,' out of San Francisco, and with Capt. Jacobs as skipper, had taken on a cargo of 3000 railroad ties at the old railroad wharf, loading directly from narrow gauge cars on the wharf. At that time, tie camps were active in the Santa Cruz mountains, shipping by the Santa Cruz and Felton railroad. Lumbering was then a major industry.

"Active" Becalmed

Heading for home port the "Active" was becalmed off the lighthouse and dropped anchor to await a breeze. There had been rain and a storm outside. High waves and a strong drift set in during the night. About 4 a.m. Thursday, the 26th, the schooner's lines parted and she ran hard on the sand below the lighthouse. Rudder, keel and sternpost were lost, but she remained upright. The crew of seven made its way up the 40-foot cliffs, aided by members of the Adna Hecox family, keepers of the light from 1870 to 1919.

The vessel was said to be valued, with cargo, at \$19,000; insured for \$3000.

Ties Salvaged

The cargo of ties was later removed. One report said the "Active" was sold by the underwriters, the local firm of Christian Hoffman and A. J. Hinds, who dealt in all kinds of insurance, including marine, plus real estate, plus pianos and organs. The original own-

ers were said to have paid \$257.50 for the ship and \$67.50 for the rigging.

Although hope was held for some time that she could be refloated, it proved to be unfeasible. A month after she grounded, the "Active" was abandoned. Relics from the schooner are displayed in the City museum here in Seabright.

In another October, 48 years later (1924), the 150-foot freighter "La Feliz" with a crew of 14 came to grief about three miles northward, beyond Moore's beach, in a similar manner. En route from Monterey to San Francisco with a full cargo, she foundered on the rocks near a 70-foot cliff at 9 p.m. October 1. Her cargo? Three thousand—not ties, but cases of sardines.

BRITAIN PLANS CENSUS

London, June 17 (AP) — British lawmakers were asked today to clear the way for a census of Great Britain's people as of midnight, April 8, 1951, the first in 20 years.