

SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



CLOSE-UP OF OLD TOWN CLOCK

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

A picturesque "antique" which is one of modern Santa Cruz' unique possessions and a great attraction for local visitors is the old town clock.

Newcomers call it quaint, while the average Santa Cruzan is so accustomed to it that it is taken for granted.

Today's structure is the second IOOF building and the second clock. The first of each were destroyed in a midnight fire on May 6, 1899. The present edifice and clock were promptly erected on the same site.

The clock, which had been installed with funds raised by public subscription, and itself cost around \$1,000, was ruined, as was the building.

Landmark

The present clock is a true landmark. Few are the California communities that today can point to a real tower town clock in the New England tradition.

When the IOOF lodge put up their first large building here back in the early seventies, it was complete with tower and clock of four faces. W. F. Waterman's blacksmith shop had stood on the site.

Now Silent

The town clock has performed its duties silently for nearly 25 years, but many longtime Santa

Cruzans can even today remember the tone of its booming voice, capable of being heard in all parts of the community of that period.

The original clock figured in a historic event of great importance to this city when electricity first came to town.

It was the memorable event of outlining the IOOF building and clock in lights. The night of June 15, 1896, saw the culmination of a power project whereby Santa Cruz was given electricity for the first time.

Local Power

Generated up the coast at the Big Creek power house by the first local power company organized by energetic Fred Swanton, one of this city's leading citizens for many years, was the first electricity for this city.

A total of 767 poles supported the 18 miles of wires extending from the power house which, at that time, transmitted 500 horsepower.

It was carnival time here. The town was full of people as the second Venetian Water Carnival was in progress.

They gasped in thrilled amazement at the lavish electrical display, when 600 incandescent light bulbs flashed on, outlining the IOOF structure and clock in light.

Rows of lights followed the lines of the building, the tallest then in town, up past the clock and to the very top of the flagpole.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

REPLIES TO SCHOOL ISSUE STATEMENTS

Editor: I should like to reply to some of the statements made by ex-board member Hamilton Gronen at a recent school board meeting and in a letter which appeared in The Sentinel Voice of the People column.

He inferred that the senior citizens as a whole were opposed to the school bond issue.

As a member of the "Citizens Vote Yes Committee," I can truthfully say that no group worked harder to pass the last school bonds election than our senior citizens. They were quite disappointed at its failure and I have assurances that they will work harder to pass the April 29 election.

As for the school board "taking a reprehensible stand against the people" in rescheduling the election, may I point out that over 66 per cent of the voters signified affirmatively that they wished to