

# Never Again



**THE WAY WE WERE.** History buffs will swoon to rare photos of old Santa Cruz, compiled in a practical calendar, by the good folks at the Downtown Neighborhood Association. Available at respectable bookstores in your area.

**H**istory and functionalism combine in the attractive Historic Photographs of Downtown Santa Cruz calendar compiled by the Downtown Neighbors Association and available at local bookstores right now. Entitled "The Way We Were," this handsome 8½ by 11-inch calendar, with large date boxes to scribble important engagements into, is sure to be snapped up by historical buffs and gift-givers alike.

Shrewdly acknowledging that

one picture is worth a thousand words, the Downtown Neighbors have compiled a nostalgic scrapbook of photos from the 1880s to the 1950s depicting the way downtown Santa Cruz was before the endangering days of urban sprawl. Loaned from private collections, former property owners and the Santa Cruz Historical Society, these vintage photos provide a fascinating glimpse into a sweeter, simpler Santa Cruz, filled with streetcars, gingerbread architecture, grassy fields and formal gardens.

Views of Lincoln Street, Walnut Avenue and Chestnut Street fill the calendar, and especially interesting is the 1885 shot of twin Walnut Avenue Victorians, complete with hitching posts, limestone curbs and trolley tracks. The Hihn Mansion — built in Italianate style in 1872 for Santa Cruz' first millionaire, F.A. Hihn — is captured surrounded by its ornate gardens in a long-ago day before the mansion was torn down to make way for the present City Hall.

If you thought last January's flood was impressive, you'll gasp at the 1955 shot of the 200 block of Walnut Avenue, showing what looks like a lake rising up to the gingerbread porches. For a mere \$3.50 all this rare memorabilia can be yours, thanks to the hard-working citizens of the Downtown Neighbors Association, whose projects have included the lively Liveable Street issue, neighborhood parks and the preservation of the integrity of the Mission, Laurel and Pacific streets area.

Proceeds from the Historic Calendar will help with "ongoing expenses for newsletters and meetings," says Downtown Neighbor Cynthia Matthews. The rarely seen photos are also embellished with historical tidbits, dates, and educational trivia.

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