

Here Today; Gone Tomorrow

'The Breakers' Hasn't Changed Much

Editor's Note: This series of articles appears in conjunction with efforts by SCOPE and the Santa Cruz Historical Society to foster interest in old and historic homes and buildings in Santa Cruz County.

By Margaret Koch
Sentinel Staff Writer
"The Breakers" stands on West Cliff Drive, almost exactly as it looked when it was

built in 1876 by a Methodist bishop.

The spacious garden was laid out in a day when taxes were low, upkeep was a small item. The carriage house usually sheltered several servants as well as wheeled vehicles. A gardener's cottage was a practical investment. All these are remnants of an elegant, by-gone era.

The fine old home at the corner of West Cliff Drive and

Santa Cruz Avenue echoes two names prominent in California and Colorado annals: Warren and Iliff.

"The Breakers," originally named "Epworth by the Sea," was the first of the large summer homes to be built on West Cliff Drive. Both West Cliff and Ocean View Avenue were known to Santa Cruz old-timers as "millionaire row." Both thoroughfares offered million-dollar views of Santa Cruz, the beach and the bay. The largest and finest of the old homes came into being when Santa Cruz was called the "Newport of the Pacific."

Bishop and Mrs. Henry W. Warren visited Santa Cruz for several summers before they bought the West Cliff property and built this gracious home. The Warrens came here from Colorado, where Mrs. Warren owned extensive ranch holdings and was known as the "Cattle Queen." She formerly had been married to a member of the wealthy Iliff family of Denver. Her gifts established the Iliff School of Theology there.

When the Santa Cruz summer home was built, Bishop Warren first called it "Epworth by the Sea" after the English birthplace of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Later, the name of the estate was changed to "The Breakers," more in keeping with its enchanting view of Monterey Bay.

The bishop had his own book-lined study in the house, where he wrote many of the stirring sermons for which he was famed throughout the Methodist Episcopal Church. While he studied and wrote, his children climbed down a stairway which clung to the cliff to play on the beach below. The entire family could

be seen almost daily, enjoying a "dip in the surf."

Mrs. Warren spent much time planning the gardens. Lawns and flowers were planted and rows of stately elm trees were placed to border the sidewalks. A rare "century tree" still thrives in the garden facing West Cliff Drive.

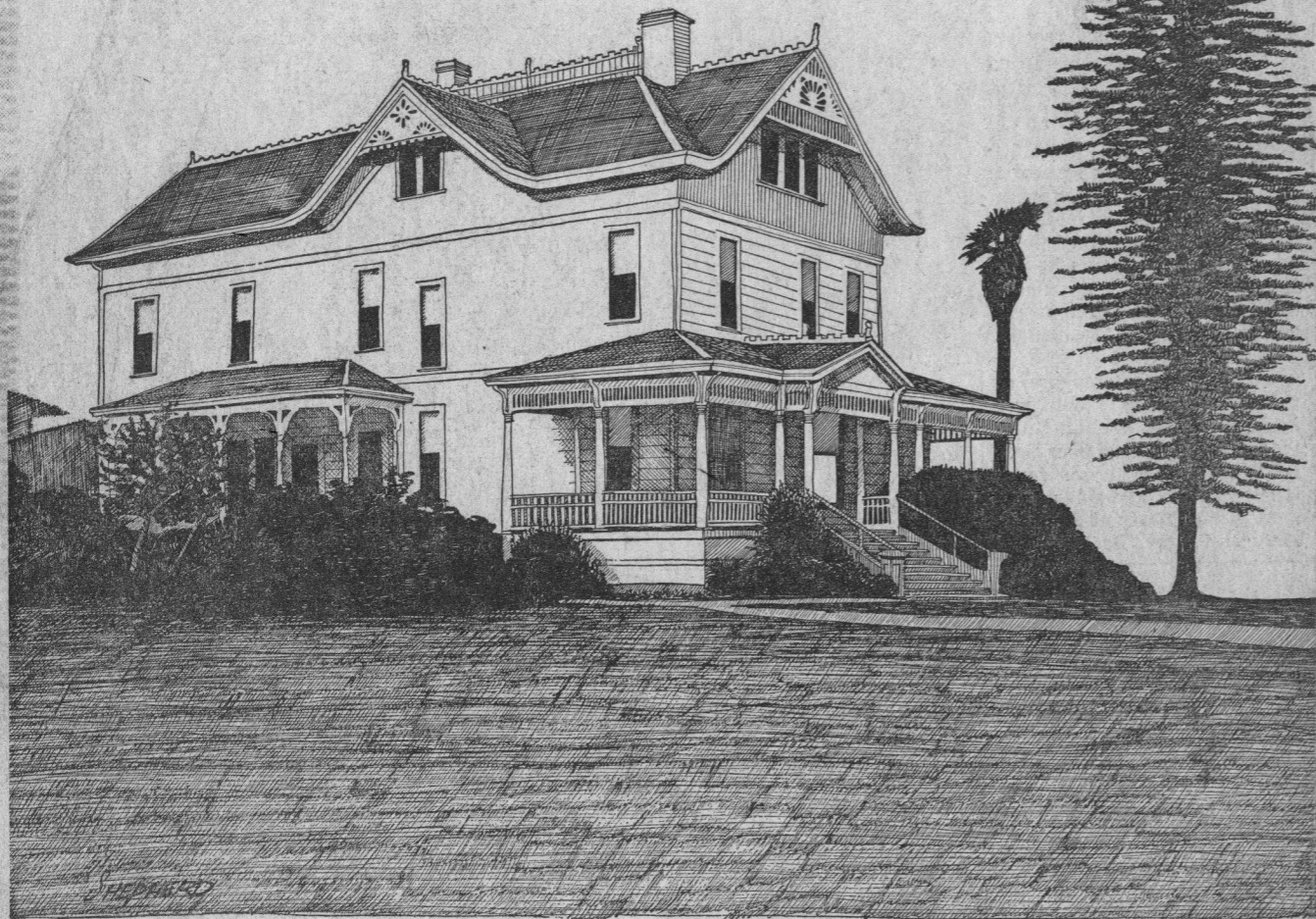
When the Warren family traveled around Santa Cruz or to church on Sunday, they rode in style. They owned sleek spirited horses; the harness was polished to a high gloss; their carriages were the finest money could buy.

Eventually Bishop and Mrs. Warren bought an entire city block of this beautiful property facing the bay. It was bounded by West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz Avenue, Gharkey Street and Light-house Avenue. When erosion ate away part of the cliff along West Cliff Drive, the property boundary was moved back.

At one time, Mrs. Phoebe Hearst bought a piece of land opposite the Warren home and considered building herself a summer home there but this plan fell through.

In the 1880s a portion of the Warren property was deeded to a son, William Iliff, who built himself a home of solid concrete, quite a novelty in those days. A well-known Denver banker, he later sold his Santa Cruz property. But for years, members of the Iliff family spent vacations at "The Breakers."

The last member of the family to live there was a daughter, Mrs. Edna Iliff Briggs. She died in San Francisco on August 24, 1951. And as part of her estate, "The Breakers" was sold to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Comfort.



'The Breakers' On West Cliff Drive

Cabrillo College Announces Speakers In Lecture Series

An outspoken liberal, a professional organizer of the poor, and a winner of two Nobel prizes are among the speakers booked for the 1967-68 lecture series at Cabrillo College.

Opening the series on September 20 will be Saul David Alinsky, executive director of the Industrial Areas Foundation in Chicago. A resident of Carmel, Alinsky-directed programs to aid poverty groups have been conducted in Rochester and Syracuse, N.Y., Detroit, Mich., and Kansas City, Mo.

The controversial Alinsky also was among the witnesses who testified during last summer's farm labor hearings conducted in Delano by the State Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Agriculture.

Dr. John Kenneth Galbraith, former U.S. ambassador to India and an articulate spokesman for liberal causes, will speak on October 1. Recently elected to head the Americans for Democratic Action, Galbraith is an author of numerous books and articles, including "The Affluent Society."

The National Planned Parenthood Federation. An article by Bishop Pike advocating taxation of church property was published in a recent edition of Playboy magazine.

Slated to visit the campus for two days in May, 1968, is Dr. Linus Pauling, research professor of physical and biological sciences at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. Dr. Pauling won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1954 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1962.

Also scheduled to speak during the series is Gardner Murphy, a member of the faculty of the Menninger School of Psychiatry and the Topeka Psychoanalysis Institute, Topeka, Kan. He is conducting research on man's potential for creation and on extrasensory perception. He will speak next March 26.

The sixth speaker, scheduled for April 2, 1968, is Jack Gibb, a resident fellow at the Western Behavioral Sciences Institute, La Jolla. He is co-editor of "TGroup Theory and Laboratory Method" and is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American So-



Capitola To Elect A Mayor

The election of a mayor is the main order of business coming before the Capitola City

X-Ray Unit Is Coming To Town

The mobile X-ray unit will be in Santa Cruz tomorrow and Tuesday to take X-rays to check for tuberculosis.

The unit will be at the Pacific Gas and Electric

BARD HONORED

Stratford On Avon, England (AP). — Wreaths and flowers were laid yesterday on the tomb of William Shakespeare in this midlands town to mark the 403rd anniversary of his birth.

