



# BAYVIEW HOTEL

By Marian Goodman  
Sorrento Oaks Park

The first guests in the familiar landmark in Aptos, Bayview Hotel, probably could actually see the Bay from the hotel's elegant front rooms, but there is much to obstruct the view now.

It must have been a most handsome building standing there in haughty splendor back in 1870, outshining every other

building in sight.

It has had its share of troubles in its 102 years. It has known fire (the extensive service wing was destroyed by fire in 1925) and loneliness (it went out of business before the end of World War I). But it held on—or its owners have done so—and is still the grand old lady, maybe a trifle tarnished but with the grace and assurance of a dowager "to

the manor born."

The hotel was built by Joseph Arano, a French immigrant, and one wonders if it was his wife's money that allowed him to be so extravagant. He married Augusta, the youngest daughter of General Rafael Castro, owner of the 6,680-acre Rancho Aptos, a grant from the Mexican

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

Governor Figueroa in 1833. Those were the days when Mexican governors gave away huge grants of land with princely improvidence.

Anyway, Joseph built well and was a hard worker. It is said that he examined every board that went into the building, and chose every piece of furniture with care. He also manned a grocery store in the structure, and ran the Aptos Post Office.

Many were the prominent guests who stayed there in those early years. Lillian Russell signed the register, as did King Kalakua, and other distinguished visitors from foreign countries.

Then alas the plush trade faded. Not only did the lumber get logged out but that fact helped to cut down the railroad activity, and anyway the nation was in the grip of a world war.

We hear no more of Joseph and Augusta, for the hotel was dark and cold for many years. Then along came Fred Toney in 1944. He saw possibilities in the place, for the main building had been saved from the fire and most of the furniture was intact.

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But the building had to be moved--it was at the intersection of Trout Gulch Road and the old highway, not far from the present site but far enough to make moving a hazard.

'Professional house-movers told Fred it just couldn't be moved, it was impossible. But Fred ignored their warnings and hired himself a crew of Aptos men, and somehow they moved it, and there it stands, all in one piece. "It couldn't be done, but he did it."

The commodes and kerosene lamps were replaced with modern plumbing and electric lights. The lovely antique charm of the high-ceiling rooms was retained. There were four superb marble fireplace mantels on the first floor and they were not altered. Even the old jalousies (unusual blinds) were left on the windows.

The old hotel is still the hub of Aptos, and Fred and Elma Toney are still there to welcome guests.

It was also the Toneys who bought the old apple shed back of the hotel, cleaned it up and repaired it and turned it into the famous Aptos Village Fair, where antickers browse and buy hungrily.

## WHAT'S COINC