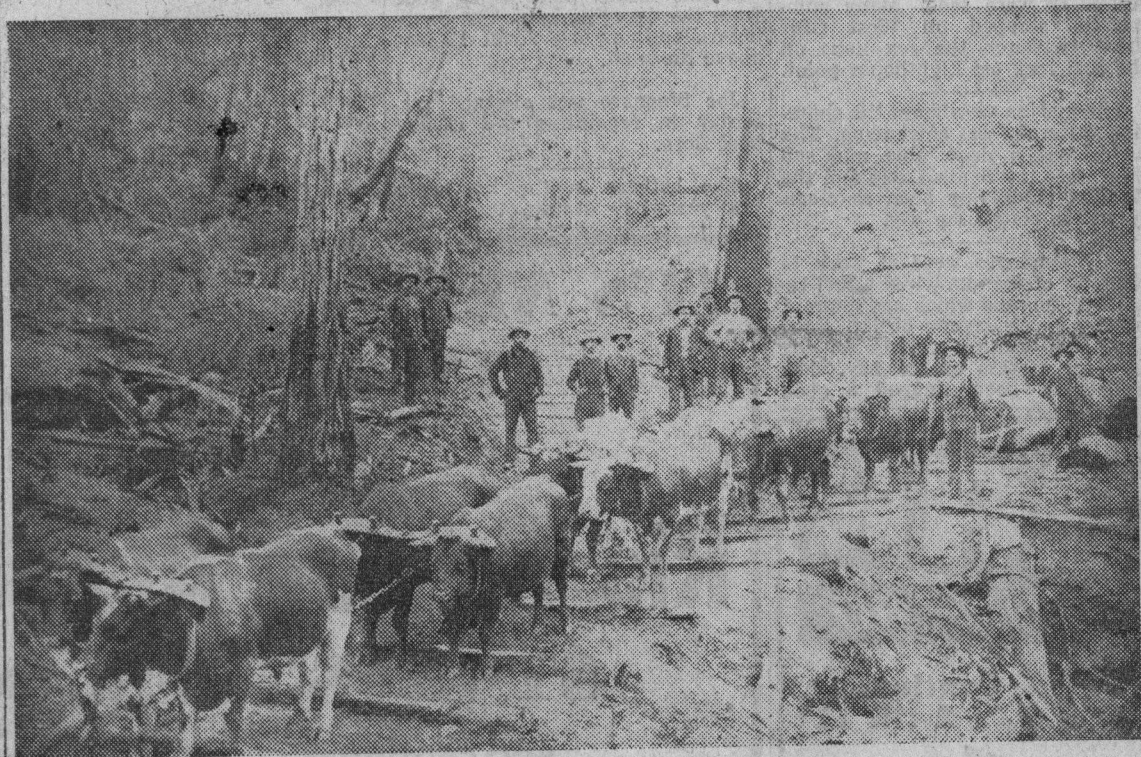


Santa Cruz Yesterdays



OX TEAM AND SKID ROAD

(From Preston Sawyer Collection)

When the history of lumbering in the Santa Cruz mountains is written it should be entitled "Ten Billion Feet of Lumber."

From Mexican days when huge redwoods along Zayante creek were cut for shakes and split palings to the present few scattered mills, it is certain that more than that amount of timbers and boards have been produced.

Even before American occupancy of California planks were sawed at Zayante by Isaac Graham's little muley mill, with its saw blade working up and down by water power, hauled down the level which is Pasatiempo and along Brancifore creek to the Santa Cruz beach. Loaded by rowboats through the surf the planks were hauled by coastwise schooners to missions and presidios.

Graham's Mill

Graham's mill, first power mill in California, moved after its first year to the San Lorenzo opposite Fall creek, above present day Felton, and through the next five or six decades logging denuded the hillsides, working throughout the valley.

Ox teams were the pioneer motive power. The illustration, made above Ben Lomond, shows a team of ten oxen hitched to a huge log

prepared to drag it over the skid road to a mill.

Pioneer lumbering in the Santa Cruz mountains developed half a dozen "landings" along the coast. Usually there was a rope from the top of a cliff to an anchored ship down which bundles of lumber were lowered.

Landings to Piers

Americans in the fifties replaced the landings with piers. Wharves were built at Davenport Landing, Waddell beach, Santa Cruz, Soquel, Aptos and near the mouth of the Pajaro.

A quarter of a century later the railroads came, to haul long trains

of sawed lumber and split stuff.

Through the early days to almost modern times the ox team remained motive power for most of the mills and bell-bedecked oxen hauled huge wagon loads of lumber to shipping points.

Ox teams plodded the Big Tree road within the memory of many present residents. The last ones were used along Pogonip road and on the Cowell ranch.

The Nunatagmiut Eskimos, once numerous in Alaska, are believed to have been part Athabascan Indian.