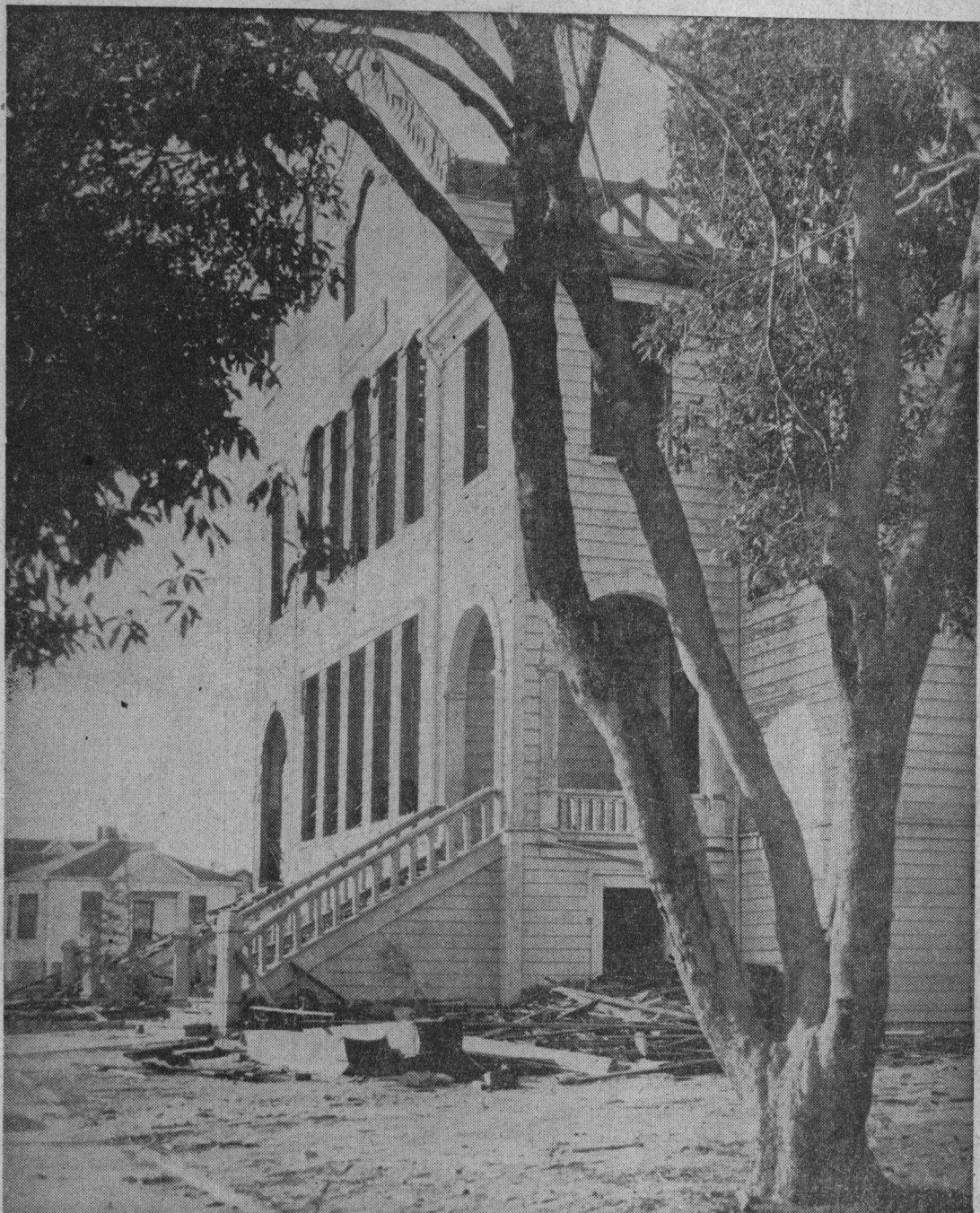


JULY 13, 1952

# Santa Cruz Yesterdays



**DISMANTLING OLD LAUREL SCHOOL, 1930**

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Over 20 years ago when a local camera caught the above glimpse of old Laurel school falling before the wreckers, it was being razed to make way for a larger play field for today's attractive block-large plant.

The 35-year-old building fronted Laurel street and stood near Washington street. Six years after its construction the school trustees bought the rest of the Laurel street frontage to Center, which had previously been leased. An earlier building had been moved there to serve as a kindergarten. It was not until the '30s that the grounds were expanded to the full block.

The earlier school on the site

tor Cummings for "a fine job," pointing out that the building, a large two-story, including shutters, ventilators and steam apparatus, had cost under \$8000. LeBaron Olive was architect.

Fourteen hundred youngsters were then attending school in Santa Cruz.

#### Earlier School

The building of 1868 was on a lot bought from John Dreher for \$900. Contract for construction was let to D. C. Fargo for \$1600. A special tax of \$2500 had been voted to cover.

Its first teachers were Lizzie McCullom and May Cooper. It was known as "the beach school" as distinguished from "the hill school."

The "beach school" was the third one in Santa Cruz. A one-room building had been erected three years earlier as the Grant school, financed by a separate district which in 1869 combined with Santa Cruz. The original Branciforte school building, on the site now that of the Santa Cruz hospital, was constructed in 1869.