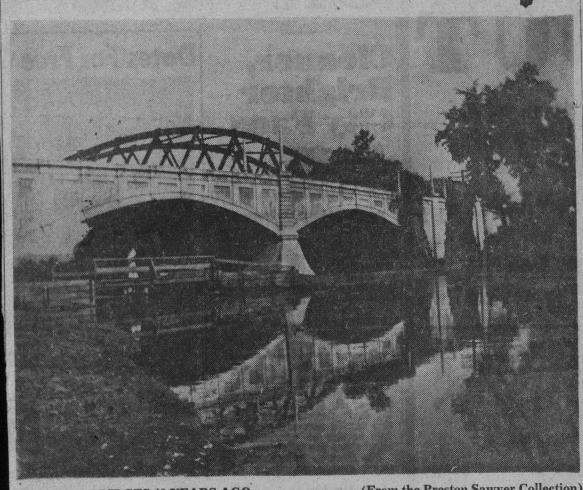
main span was dropped, marking the climax of the project.

Contractor Miglierini had preliminary stages of the new construc-Soon after the first of April, tion under way.



WATER ST. BRIDGES 40 YEARS AGO

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

concrete structure while horse-drawn traffic still used the older city bridge which paralleled it to the north.

Five years later a city bond issue provided \$17,000 and in 1914 a contract was let to G. Miglierini

company ended its effort to main-tain a street car system in Santa was 14 feet above the water. Cruz the city took over the company's part of the bridge and removed the barrier, to make the bridge as it is today.

With the exception of a little bridge near the beach, from Beach Hill to connect with the "Road to the Redwoods" which is today's Bay street, a span at Water street was the first bridge in the county.

Near Old Ford

The old ford was practically at the site of the present Water street bridge on what is now Soquel avbridge. The first foot bridge was put across the river in 1866 by private donations solicited by A. R. Meserve, the merchant. Washed out Meserve, the merchant, Washed out cember 4, 1913, election, with 3400 that winter, it was replaced, again for and only 79 against. At the

to withstand the floods but to carry day morning, March 23, 1914, the

The Union Traction company's of Santa Cruz for \$15,175 for a mu-horse-drawn traffic. For \$10,900, reinforced concrete arched bridge nicipal concrete bridge. The two Tom Beck took the contract. The across the San Lorenzo at Water spans were physically united, but money was raised by county contristreet was only a few months old a solid concrete guard rail kept when the picture was taken late in 1908. Trolley cars rolled across the concrete structure while horsebution, private donation and by pro-

Withstood Floods

Although damaged by the high waters of 1871-72 and reconstructed by the county the following summer, the wooden bridge stood for ten years. By 1882 the problem was for the city, which put in the more modern span still serving when the picture was made 26 years later.

Water street crossings were called the "upper bridge" after erection, in 1874, of the San Lorenzo covered

Santa Cruzans voted decisively in favor of bridge bonds in the Deby private funds, in 1867.

The little foot bridges could not large majority for the present muwithstand the winter high water nicipal wharf. Demolition of the and in 1868 the county decided on old bridge was under way a couple a structure strong enough not only of months after the election. Mon-