

# Old Santa Cruz...

By Ernest Otto

The East Side shared in the early day Santa Cruz industries. For years there was an apple drier which was operated on Soquel road as it was called then about where the East Side Mill and Lumber yard is located. It dried apples only.

A drier on Hunt street, the Pulisevich apple drier, had been in operation for many years.

For years the main brewery, the Bausch Brewery, was on the east side of the city. It is now the Santa Cruz Feed and Fuel company building at Soquel avenue and Ocean street. Barley and hops were drawn to the place as these were the principal ingredients. A by-product was the yeast. It was in the days before compressed yeast and the only yeast obtainable was the baker's variety which was not popular with the housewives, most of whom made their own bread.

We small boys found it quite interesting to look on the sprouting barley in the brewery and most of the small boys and girls went to the brewery for yeast, even from the strictest of temperance families.

## DIESING'S BREWERY

In those days another brewery, Diesing's, operated by Otto Diesing, was on Mission street next to the St. Charles hotel where the Fred Harbert office is now. The chalk rock bluff in the rear was tunneled.

Later came the Beck brewery on Market street run by Karl Beck. It was along the banks of the Branciforte creek.

A big fire of several years ago took the big brewing plant along Neary street. It closed at the time prohibition went into effect and for a number of years was a mushroom growing plant.

A big concern was the Ben Lomond Wine Company winery on Market street beyond the bridge over Branciforte creek. Several tunnels were excavated into the chalk rock hillside, a couple of hundred feet in depth. In these were great casks for fermenting and holding the wine. These were in numbers and filled to capacity. The building proper was two stories in height and the outside was painted red. The wine was bottled and labeled in the plant.

## PRIZE WINNING WINE

The mash from the wine-making process was dumped into Branciforte creek and issuing from it for a time would be a strong odor. Grapes were hauled from Ben Lomond vineyards not far from the Pacific Gas and Electric power house along the Empire grade. This was one of the finest vineyards in the county.

The Ben Lomond Wine company products were displayed at the World Fairs and exhibitions and were always prize winners even at the Paris Exposition.

The Lottmann Soda Works were located on the Soquel road beyond the present De Laveaga street. His home was close by, also the business block he erected, Lottmann hall, forerunner of the buildings now the business district on the east side.

With one by one of these industries going and the coming of trains, it meant that wharves disappeared until now none of the three remain, but in their place is the half-mile long municipal wharf. Then at least three times a week passenger steamers called at this port and at times as many as ten schooners would be at anchor in the bay at one time.

## ONE WAREHOUSE LEFT

One after another of the warehouses used for storing freight and local products to go out and products received, have gone. An exception is the Cowell warehouse which remains on Bay street. When the West Cliff drive was extended along the front it was necessary to remove about 25 feet of the front end.

The carts loaded with lime were hauled to the warehouse down Bay street by ox teams, would leave the center of the warehouse on the tracks and go down the sloping Cowell wharf to its end and then would be hoisted from the car and lowered to the schooner, moored at the side of the wharf. The car would be hauled back to the warehouse by horse power. N. A. Bixby, father of Mrs. George Otto, was the wharfinger there in early days and one never forgets Colby Lorenzen and Sunday Faraola on the car for years.

Where the back part of the Casa del Rey apartments is now located was the long whitewashed warehouse of the Pacific Coast Steamship company and from the wharf freight was hauled to this warehouse and from it to the wharf.

## SALT PETRE FROM CHILI

At the corner of Main and Second streets was a long whitewashed brick warehouse used for storing salt petre for the California Powder Works, from the nitre beds of Chili. It came here in sacks loaded on barkentines; four masted. This meant great sport, especially for the Beach Hill boys who would climb the rope ladders almost to the top of the high masts. The third warehouse in connection with that wharf was one which was on piles on the level of the wharf extending to the east of the wharf about half way out. This was used for storing powder.

Another warehouse, a small brick one in which was stored powder, went at the time the Cowell warehouse was shortened to make room for the road. This was in the path of the road opposite the Cliff drive and Gharkey street. It was also razed.

An uptown warehouse was in connection with the Southern Pacific station on Park street.