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## CYPRESS MARKS SITE OF OLD MAJORS HOME

On the brow of the hill above his flour mill Joseph L. Majors, Tennessee-born pioneer of Santa Cruz, built his 12-room house. It overlooked the flat, with its scattering of buildings, and Monterey bay.

Near his new home Majors planted two cypress trees.

The exact date that the house was erected cannot be fixed. It was probably in the latter fifties or early sixties of the last century. Under the hill the pioneer had erected his grist mill as early as 1843.

Today the site of Joseph L. Major's big home and the fields around it are known as Allegro Heights. One of the two old cypress trees still stands, near the residence of Dr. Sullivan.

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## WAS FIRST ALCALDE OF AMERICAN DAYS

~~Majors, born in a cave near~~  
Nashville in 1804, came west in the same party with Isaac Graham, Henry Neale and a number of others who settled in Santa Cruz.

When the American flag was raised in Monterey in the spring of 1846 the residents of Santa Cruz promptly elected Majors alcalde—so promptly that when Walter Colton at Monterey sent out to all towns in California directions to hold local elections, Santa Cruz replied that it had already done so.

\* In addition to operating his early day grist mill Majors had a distillery which turned out aguar-diente (much like our white mule of prohibition days), probably in the same building. His death came in 1868.

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## CLEM AMAYA MEMBER OF OLD CALIFORNIA FAMILIES

Clem Amaya, who died last Wednesday, was not only a native of Santa Cruz (he was born in 1864) but the son of a native of Branciforte.

His father, Casimero, was the third son of Antonio Amaya, who settled in Branciforte about 1800, bringing his wife, Antonia Larios, daughter of a San Jose settler of 1790.

Clem Amaya's mother was Maria Perez, a great granddaughter of Jose Antonio Rodriguez, the soldier of Spain who served in the mission guards of California more than a century and a half ago and later, as a retired corporal, was comisionado of Branciforte.

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## LEGEND IS GRANDFATHER KILLED BY INDIANS

Antonio Amaya, the original of the name here, died in 1844, according to the Holy Cross mission records. Legend in the family is that he was killed by Indians at Zayante.

His widow married Jacinto Gamboa. At the time of her death in 1871 she was owner of considerable property along Branciforte creek.

Casimero Amaya, with his younger brother, Dario, went into the redwoods as a lumberman when American days came. In 1864, when Soquel Augmentation Rancho was divided, the two brothers received one-twenty-seventh of it, which was probably an earlier purchase from Martina Castro.

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## OUR OCD JUST HASN'T THE CASH

This is just a story. There was the Santa Cruz business man who indicated that his fleet of a dozen delivery trucks could be counted on in an emergency for ambulances.

Vehicles for emergency ambulances should theoretical disaster become actual here are being listed by the local OCD.

There was one thing lacking in the offer.

*Biography  
- Collective*