

Santa Cruz Yesterdays



STREET CAR WRECK OF AUGUST 25, 1921

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The spectacle of a large street car lying on its side on a sidewalk in the middle of town, with a damaged automobile caught in front of it against a telephone pole, attracted crowds throughout the remainder of a midsummer day 28 years ago.

Just before 11 o'clock Thursday morning, August 25, 1921, Union Traction Co. car 18 left its terminus at the Trust building corner, Soquel and Pacific avenues, bound for Capitola. It crossed the trestle

over the San Lorenzo river, where the present Soquel avenue concrete bridge was then under construction, and at the Garfield-Riverside intersection, east end of the bridge, collided with an auto.

Motorman-Conductor Claude Conlan stopped his car quickly, jumped out, followed by several passengers who rendered aid to the three feminine automobilists whose machine had overturned by the Braniff creek bridge. Only Mrs. Hildreth Foster and small son, of Blackburn Gulch, remained on the car.

crowding the busy intersection. Photographer O. Ravnos, an hour after the wreck, had photos on their way to Oakland, which were printed at once in the late editions of the Tribune.

A Pathe News cameraman who had come down to cover the opening of the new Glenwood highway, made shots for the famous movie newsreel. He got his "scoop" after the road opening was postponed due to the tragic accidental death the same day of Supervisor James A. Harvey.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TIME APPOINTED FOR PROVING WILL, AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH THE WILL ANNEXED
No. 11420

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of MANUEL E. MARTIN, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the probate of the will of Manuel E. Martin, deceased, and for the issuance to petitioner WALTER R. BETTENCOURT, Public Administrator of said County of Santa Cruz, of letters of administration with will annexed has been filed in this court, and that Friday, April 8, 1949, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, and the courtroom of said court, in the courthouse, in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, have been fixed as the time and place for the hearing of said petition, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest the same and show cause why said petition should not be granted.

Dated: March 25, 1949.

H. E. MILLER, Clerk.

J. FRANK MURPHY,

EUGENE J. ADAMS,

Attorneys for Petitioner,

Santa Cruz, California.

Mar. 27 to Apr. 6

NOTICE OF EXECUTOR'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND FURNITURE AT PRIVATE SALE
No. 11343

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of THOMAS NUTTER, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that GEORGE G. TAYLOR, Executor of the last will and testament of Thomas Nutter, deceased, will, on or after April 16, 1949, sell at private sale to the highest bidder, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned, and subject to confirmation by the above entitled Superior Court, all the right, title and interest of said decedent at the time of his death, and all the right, title and interest of said estate, in and to all that real property, in and

Starts Back To Town

Suddenly, and without warning, No. 18, which had been stopped abruptly, with reverse applied, in an effort to avert the collision, started rolling toward town.

The back-tracking electric traversed the trestle, its trolley grinding sparks and refusing to jump its wire, and gained momentum as it started down a gentle incline from the trestle toward Front street. By the time it reached Pacific avenue it was going at a fair rate of speed.

It swung sharply around the corner onto Pacific, jumped the tracks and headed straight for the sidewalk in front of the Orchid Sweet Shop, where is now the Pep Creamery. Crashing into a parked coupe, and swerving a little to the left, the electric runaway pushed the auto against the pole as it fell over on its side at the front door of the candy store.

Unfortunate Mrs. Foster and her youngster were thrown from the rear platform of the car onto the sidewalk in front of the Walsh-Mellott shoe store. She suffered a fractured skull from which she later recovered. The boy was not badly hurt.

A remarkable phase of the accident was that on its strange journey in reverse, the unmanned street car did not strike a single person and only grazed one auto, near Front street. The car body was ripped from its trucks when it turned over. The latter remained upright against the curb.

Officer Mike Curry and others of the city police were kept busy throughout the remainder of the day keeping the curious from over-

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