

Kiln redwoods fall

Lime Kilns

Second-growth sacrificed for history's sake

By **KAREN CLARK**
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SANTA CRUZ — Two historic lime kilns along the Pogonip's Rincon Trail were shorn of their redwood plumes Monday in an attempt to spare the crumbling structures.

Experts said the nine second-growth redwood trees — growing in, around and on the lime kilns — had accelerated the natural decay of the stone structure, which may have been built as early as 1850.

If the age estimate is correct — and there's nothing in the written record to confirm it — that would make these kilns the oldest remnants of what was once a thriving industry in Santa Cruz County.

"There is no fire brick at the entrances, and just the way it was constructed, this one is quite different," said Ray Sherrod, the city's arborist.

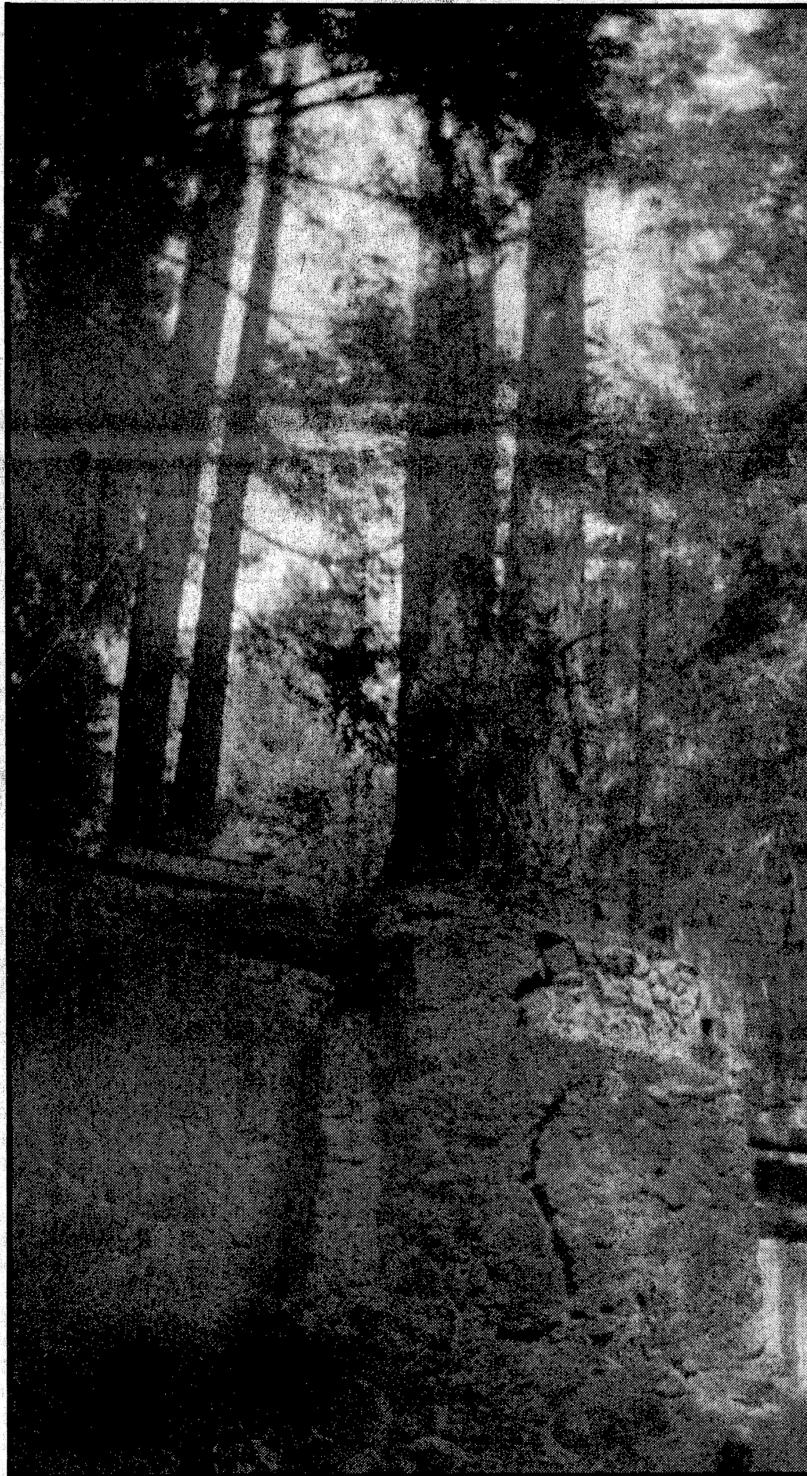
Trails leading to the site were to be closed Monday and today, both as a safety measure for hikers and in an attempt to head off protesters who might try to block workers.

All was quiet Monday though, less than two months after proponents of saving the lime kilns were at loggerheads with those who wanted to protect the redwoods and allow nature to take its course.

After a spirited meeting, the City Council voted 6-1 to remove the trees in an effort to slow the kilns' deterioration. Only Councilwoman Celia Scott supported giving nature the upper hand.

"It's controversial and requires a great deal of finesse," Sherrod said. "I have mixed feelings myself about it. I hate to see redwoods removed. ... It's certainly going to look very different when it's finished."

David Silva, acting coordinator of the local Green Party, said the decision to take the trees out was a mistake that showed "historical landmarks seem to have preference



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Workers begin cutting redwoods that are damaging historic