

SANTA CRUZ YESTERDAYS



PESCADERO STAGE 50 YEARS AGO

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

For many years there was regular stageline service between Santa Cruz and Pescadero, approximately 40 miles northward up the coast.

Today's "peek into history" reveals the sturdy old stage and its "four-horse power" as it appeared a half century ago. It is believed the photo was made in the vicinity of the Scaroni ranch. Note the fine lot of dairy cows feeding around the hilly back-ground.

No story of the Pescadero stage would be complete without mention of its moving spirit, James A. Harvey, long its owner and for 24 years its driver, seen at the reins, above.

The stageline saga dates back before the turn of the century, and for most of its years the name of Harvey was therewith identified. In 1902 Jim Harvey was awarded a U.S. mail contract by the post office department.

Came Early

Harvey was a native of California, born in San Francisco, son of pioneer settlers there, the Andrew Harveys, who came to the Scotts creek area, north of here, when Jim was six.

His boyhood days were spent up the coast, where he attended the Seaside district school, in which he always took a great interest.

During the years he served as driver of the Pescadero stage, there was excitement and adventure. Notable were his contests with the sea in the Waddell bluffs area. Then there was no smooth roadway at the foot of those forbidding cliffs. Jim and the stage took to the beach.

On many occasions it was a race with the tides or a contest with stormy breakers. There were tales of the times when a marooned stage was pushed over by the sea, but somehow Jim always came through.

At one time he owned also the Boulder Creek stage line and a half interest in the Daniels Transfer company of Santa Cruz. Fred Wagner, blacksmith, still active in his trade, worked for Harvey from 1918 to 1925.

Jim Harvey became an important and honored figure here.

Elected Supervisor

In 1910 he was first elected a

District Three supervisor, becoming chairman of the board four years later. He was one whose word could always be relied upon. One of his main interests was in highway building and he always was for road improvement.

He was in the chamber of commerce as a director, in addition to other civic activities.

The Pescadero stage line, eventually motorized, was sold in 1918 to G. A. McCrory. His interest in Daniels Transfer was sold in 1921 to John Geyer.

August 25, 1921, was a day of tragedy in Santa Cruz. For on that day Supervisor Harvey was accidentally killed when struck by a 60-foot, 8-ton steel girder, while he was directing the un-

loading of a flat car load of structural steel at Eblis, the Mission Orchard end of the Mission Hill tunnel, on the railroad. The steel went into Soquel avenue bridge.