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Old Santa Cruz By Ernest Otto

Historic Pictures On Display At Public Library Recall Early Day Persons And Places

A collection of old pictures and several library documents are the exhibit in the case at the public library and practically all are familiar to the writer.

"because there were no radios no one heard him."

Menuhin drew an interesting analogy between the musical and the economic organization of this country.

He considered the symphony orchestra and the soloist as the two preferences, musically, of public taste—comparable to a great factory representing the masses and the few leaders of that industrial group as the soloists.

Probably Europe's last great contribution to American life, he said, is the influx of musicians to this country created by war conditions abroad. He welcomed the newcomers, while declaring the United States musically greater today than any other nation.

"We are doomed to remain the melting pot and that is a good thing," he asserted. "We are not yet ready to coalesce, to crystallize. There are too many good things still to come."

Asked whether he favored government subsidy of music, he expressed a very firm opposition to the idea.

"I don't favor subsidy of many things. I like to see individualism maintained. Lessons are learned best through hardship. Music after all is not something to be imposed on the public, but something of its own choosing."

The violinist's studio was simply but well furnished, its windows, looking out upon the surrounding hills and down into the valley below his home, hung with plain, cream drapes. A blue-flowered chintz chair, another upholstered in red leather, and porcelain lamps provided the principal coloring. Most impressive in the room was the beautiful grand piano.

One side of the room was raised as the space for a blue-covered studio couch. There was only one article not in harmony in that room of music—an old horse shoe on a window ledge.

The conversation touched briefly on the home now being built at the top of the mountain and at the end of a steep, winding approach from Alma. His children, now two and one years old, have their own glassed-in play room at one end of the big house, where they can "make all the noise they want to," according to their famous father.

Menuhin said he had hoped to have a month in his new home during the holidays, but recent plans call for his departure to Mexico City the day after his Santa Cruz appearance and on December 29 he is engaged to leave for the east.

Several of the applications for library cards, with names of the guarantors, issued in 1891 are in a row. Harry Wolf, who was a bookkeeper with the F. A. Hihn company, with F. D. Hihn as guarantor; Henry F. Kron of the Kron Tanning company, with William Jeter as guarantor, and Ernest Otto, Mission street, with Santa Cruz Surf, Arthur A. Taylor, guarantor.

Among the pictures is one of the Santa Cruz beach in the early eighties, taken from the bluff above Cowell's beach near the Cowell wharf. It shows the railroad wharf running out from Pacific avenue, the Pacific Coast Steamship company wharf off from Main street, with a powder warehouse nearly half way out on the east side and a cross wharf connecting the two, making three wharves necessary to handle the water shipments.

On the hill are the buildings of the Seaside Home, Liddell House and Ocean View House. In front of the Dolphin, kept by the Leibbrandts, and the Neptune, by Ralph S. Miller, are rows of carriages and horses. A merry-go-round under a tent is to the north of the Pacific Avenue Street Railway track.

An interesting old time picture, one of the early fifties, shows the lower plaza. The only familiar structure which now stands is the Hugo Hihn building, still at the intersection of Pacific avenue, then Willow street, and Front street, the main business street.

All to be seen on Pacific avenue are a couple of old frame structures adjoining the Hihn building and then two residences to the south. The writer remembers them when Otto Broger lived in one. He was a druggist who had a drug store where is now located the Palmer Drug company.

The other was the John residence. It was back of story brick harness and business facing Front street.

The outstanding Front structures were near the picturesque Santa Cruz House, Franklin House which have been minutely described.

There was a turn into Mission street where the Lease and Wettstein store is now located. This structure in the picture was not one in the memory of the writer but he remembers the two which followed that location. It shows adjoining on Mission a white-washed fence. Instead of on the plaza, the flag pole was close by, around the corner. There was no opening but buildings where Washington street now leaves the plaza. The rest of Front street was just

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as it was in the seventies. Another picture shows the same scenes without much change.

A panoramic view taken from the heights above High street in the early nineties, shows in the foreground the present brick Holy Cross church shortly after it was built and replaced the old mission, the older frame double tower Holy Cross church erected in the fifties, the large white rectory in the rear of the frame church and the small school house used as a boys' school in the seventies.

then on Mission hill, is in the foreground.

The old covered bridge built in 1875 on Soquel avenue was taken before the days of paved streets. To the north was the trestle over which the horses drew the cars of the street railroad to the East Side. Willow and maple trees were on each side of the approach.

An interesting group was the cast in costume which presented the sacred cantata in the late seventies, Mrs. Arthur Shephard, then Mollie Wilson, and her husband, C. Arthur Shephard, for years a member of the Congregational church quartet; Miss Pearl McCann, a beautiful queen, daughter of Judge and Mrs. F. J. McCann and then the Sunday school teacher of the writer; O. I. Bradley, well-known blacksmith and father of Mrs. Ethel Rostron, now residing on Ocean street; Mrs. J. B. Peakes, whose husband was a leading hotel man, and aunt of Miss Ruth Peakes of Laurel street; S. H. Bailey, the leading jeweler a daughter, Mrs. Harriet Page, who resides at Seabright.

In those days Santa Cruz had very fine musical talent and much in drama and concert was given. The youngest of this group, a daughter of S. H. Bailey, was Ida Bailey Jessup, whose birthday was on the same day as the writer's.

There are three group pictures of old pioneers, two taken at the Big Tree grove. It was a time when forty-niners were many and F. A. Hihn usually had them under his wing and annually gave them dinners. The third group is a delegation to an Epworth League convention at the Methodist church.

The Hall of Records is shown as the red octagon building looked before the necessary addition. On each side is a growing pepper tree, there being a row of these graceful trees around the courthouse grounds. This was taken in 1880.

A group is one in the beautiful garden of the R. C. Kirby residence on Mission street, now only a semblance of its former glory. In the group was R. C. Kirby, Dr. F. W. Bliss, Mrs. S. H. Bailey, S. H. Bailey, Ora Kirby and Cornelia Kirby.

A photograph is there of Queen Josephine (Josephine Turcot Sheehan) the queen of the second Venetian water carnival featured here for several years on the San Lorenzo river.

The beautiful Wilder natural bridge which caved in a number of years ago is there. This natural bridge and arch was the most perfectly formed arc along the coast.

With these old pictures a part of the library treasures was found in an "antique," a photograph of the writer which was given a place among the old things of bygone days. In this he wears a mustache, pompadour cut of the hair and a white lawn bow tie, then worn by