

Historic Church on Y Homes Tour

Historic Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 532 Center Street, Santa Cruz, is to be featured on the YWCA Homes Tour, July 20, 1-4 p.m.

Calvary is the oldest known church building in continuous use in the State of California, and as such, was awarded a bronze plaque by the California Heritage Council in June of 1972.

Instrumental in obtaining the plaque was Ada Jane Leamy who headed the church historical committee.

The first service in the building was held on January 8, 1865, although the structure was not complete yet on that date. It lacked heat and pews and even a few windows were not yet in place.

But it must have seemed like a small slice of heaven to that pioneer-day congregation which had been meeting in Temperance Hall and "an old, flea-infested school house" before building their own sanctuary.

Calvary Church came about mainly because of one woman — a "frail little woman," Eliza Boston, and her husband Joseph.

They donated one and one-third acres of their land as a site for the church and Joseph obtained the design for it, which is said to be a copy of an old English church.

Of particular interest to architects is the curved apse, and of interest to almost everyone are the fine stained glass windows.

One of the earlier rectors is buried beneath the church, and, as Mrs. Leamy points out, this may be the only Protestant church in the state with such a burial. (The rector requested to be buried there.)

The Rev. Norman Snow served the church for 29 years and after its many years of financial struggle, helped place it on a firmer dollars and cents footing.

The Rev. Alexander Anderson became rector on October 1, 1956, following Rev. Snow's retirement. Today the church is on solid ground financially.

When the bell tower at the rear, beside the apse, threatened to collapse a few years ago, the congregation saw to it that a new tower was constructed.

"The 1000-pound bell was about to fall down," comments Mrs. Leamy.

The bell was cast in Troy, New York, in 1875 and was placed in the church belfry in that year or the next.

The belfry had been put together with wood dowels instead of nails, and some of the church construction also was done that way; other parts were nailed with the old square, handmade nails. Some of the beams were adzed by hand.

By March, 1968, the bell tower was re-constructed and the bell was installed again, with credit for the work going to William T. Winkel.

He also replaced the main doors which were falling apart, and was instrumental in finding repairmen for the stained glass windows. The new organ dates from '71.

It's difficult to realize, looking at Calvary church and its surroundings today, that it once sat in the middle of a cow pasture and crop fields.

Once when things were really tough and the pennies were even scarce, the church rented out part of its acreage to a farmer who raised alfalfa and potatoes and gave the church one-half the crops as rent.

Hard to believe that, today! —MARGARET KOCH



Curved apse of architecture which will attract tour-goers July 19-21 at Civic Auditorium. For tickets call the Y.

Calvary Episcopal Church is just one feature of its unique July 20. The tour is part of the three-day

Auction Saturday

Santa Cruz County Chapter, Guild for Infant Survival, will have a merchants' auction Saturday, June 29, at 1 p.m. at Santa Cruz Assembly of God Church on Mission Street.

Funds raised will be used for research in crib death (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).

New merchandise has been donated by county merchants with items rang-

ing from furniture to odds and ends from gift shops.

Anyone wishing to donate articles may call Wanda Williams at 476-3561 or Tina Williams at 426-7084. The public is invited to attend the auction.

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