

The Big Fire in the Big Basin

The long history and short memory of wildfire in the Santa Cruz Mountains





<https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/exhibits/santa-cruz-from-shoreline-to-summit/>



Ecosystems of the Santa Cruz Mountains



Evergreen forests/Coast redwood doug fir

Riparian

Ecosystems of the Santa Cruz Mountains



Sandhills chapparel



Maritime chaparral



Mixed oak/hardwood

Cheapest
Daily Paper
In the State.

Evening Sentinel.

Newsy,
Sparkling
And Bright.

VOLUME IX.

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1904.

NUMBER 85.

FIRE RAGES IN THE BIG BASIN

BOULDER CREEK IS IN DANGER

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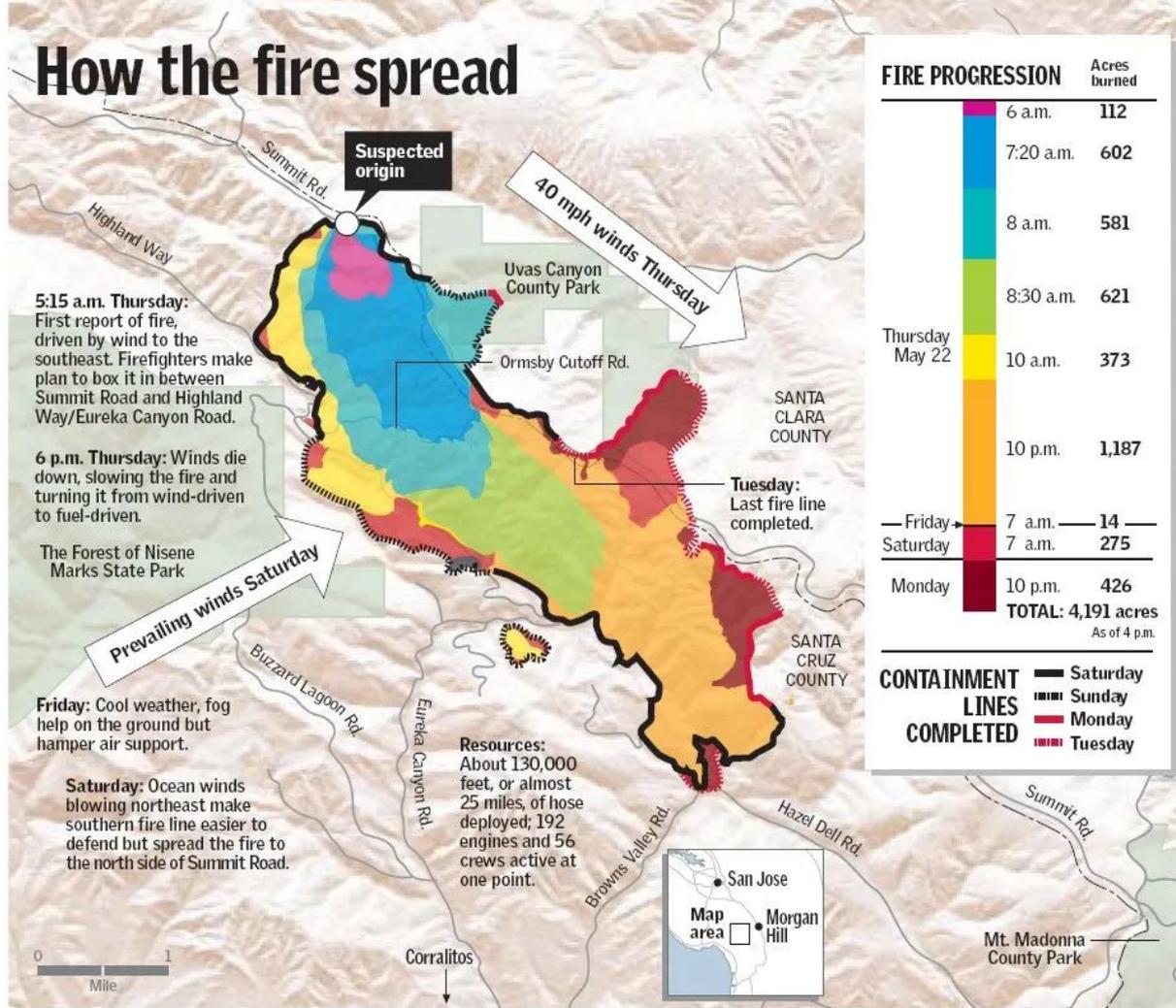
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on the flames if the town is reached.

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fined to the ridge overlooking it to
the south and east, and hopes are
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may be stopped and the State Park



How the fire spread



2008 Martin Fire



2008 Trabing Fire



Photo: Mulvaney, 2008

2009 Lockheed Fire



San Mateo County Santa Cruz County CWPP - Fire History Map 2010



Fire History

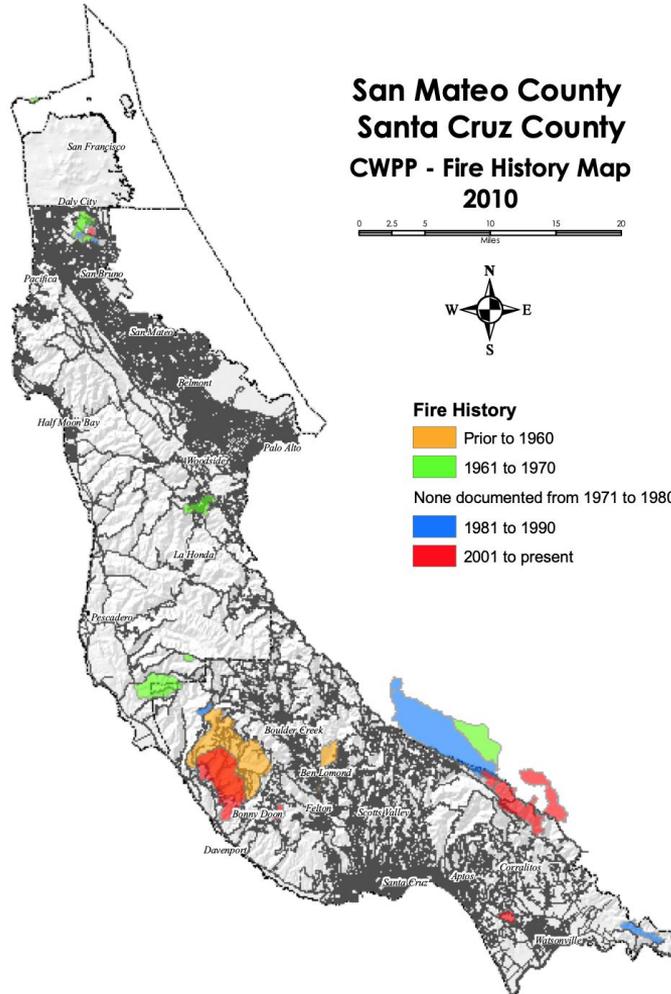
 Prior to 1960

 1961 to 1970

None documented from 1971 to 1980

 1981 to 1990

 2001 to present





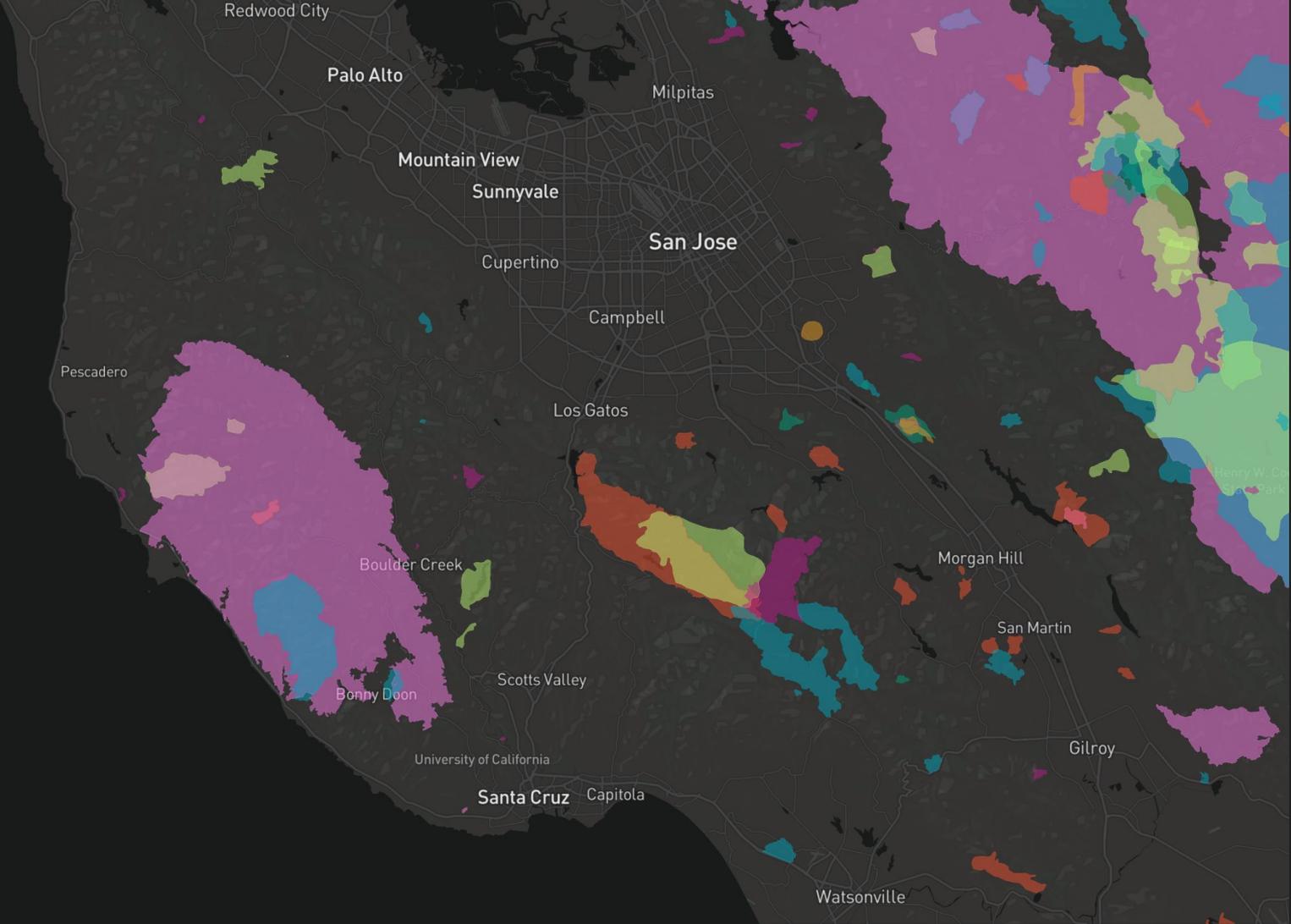
Materials and Methodology

Newspaper archival research mostly using UCR newspaper base: *Pacific Sentinel*, *Santa Cruz News*, *Santa Cruz Surf*, *Boulder Creek Mountain Echo*, *SF Chronicle*, *LA Times*; also other archives/papers at local museums, public libraries, Resource Conservation District, Fire Departments.

Semi-structured interviews on fire / suppression history.

Reviewing of historic texts on logging, energy development, and other regional histories.

Review and integration of the scientific, TEK / ethnobotanical research literatures on regional fire ecology and history.



Redwood City

Palo Alto

Milpitas

Mountain View

Sunnyvale

San Jose

Cupertino

Campbell

Pescadero

Los Gatos

Henry W. Coe State Park

Boulder Creek

Morgan Hill

San Martin

Bonny Doon

Scotts Valley

Gilroy

University of California

Santa Cruz

Capitola

Watsonville



Maritime
chaparral, burned
in 2009 Lockheed
fire, Manzanita
sprouts, 2013...

This is in ~San
Vicente
watershed.

FEATURED



Press Democrat 6 August 1932

SEARCH

santa cruz forest fire

INTRODUCING A NEW LOOK AND NEW FEATURES

See the Help section for more details.

ABOUT

This collection contains 1,293,501 issues comprising 17,748,442 pages and 53,178,573 articles.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection is a project of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) at the University of California, Riverside.

The CDNC is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library.

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Browse by tag



Browse by county



Browse map

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- 1. Wes Keat 3,674,105
- 2. annh 1,855,342
- 3. AJD 1,302,182
- 4. Adeemo 1,184,743
- 5. RKihara 775,597

[More information...](#)

Reno, NV



Fire Weather Zones

Fire Weather Zones Pt. Fcst Matrix Digital Pt. Fcst

Spot Forecast Request

Activity Planner

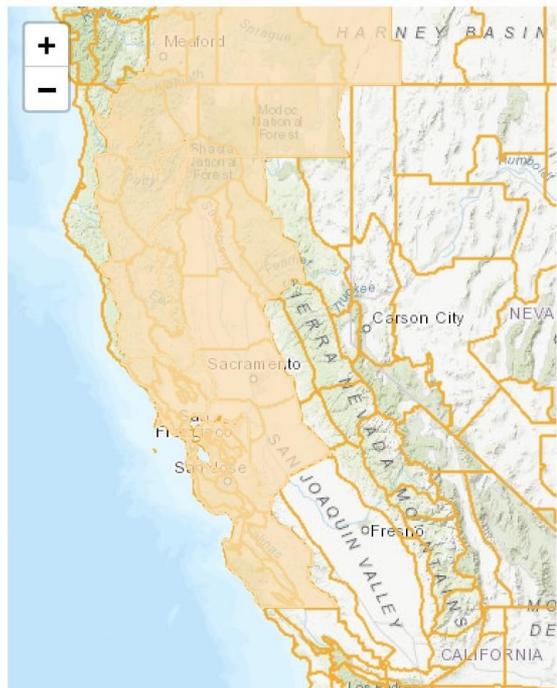
Zoom Out <<<

Surrounding WFOs: BOI | LKN | VEF | MFR | PDT | STO | MTR | HNX

Fire Weather Planning Forecast

Fire Weather Zones: OR

Lat: Lon:



FILE - A rare lightning storm crackles over Mitchell's Cove in Santa Cruz, California around 3 a.m. Sunday morning August 16, 2020.

Shmuel Thaler/Associated Press





When the World Ended
How Hummingbird Got Fire
How People Were Made

Rumsten Ohlone Stories
told by Linda Yamane

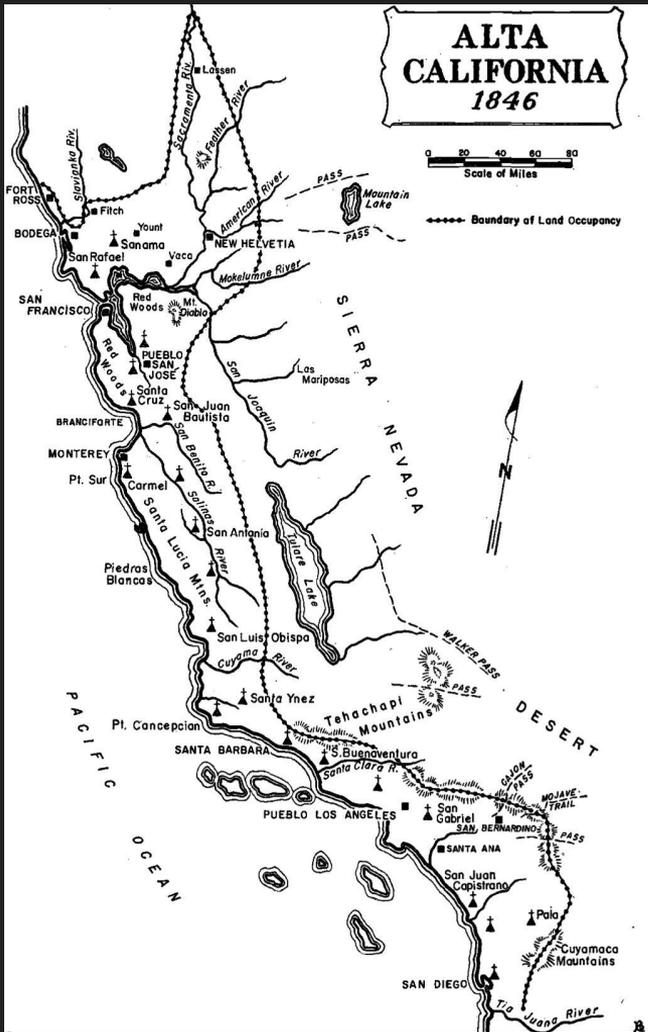


In the beginning, the world was covered with water. Eagle gave Hawk a feather from the top of his head to give him the strength to dive to the bottom of the ocean. There, Hawk grabbed the seafloor with his talons and brought it up to the surface to shape the clay into the finned, winged, and four-legged animals.

Eagle directed Hummingbird to retrieve fire from the Badger People who did not want to share their fire and Hummingbird used his bravery, quickness, and intelligence to bring fire to the world.

Hummingbird returned fire to the top of Mount Umunhum where it ignited in Hummingbird's throat and turned it red. -- Amah Mutsun Creation Story





Wildfire during the Alta California and Los Californios periods: Colonization dispossessed tribes and the fire regime.

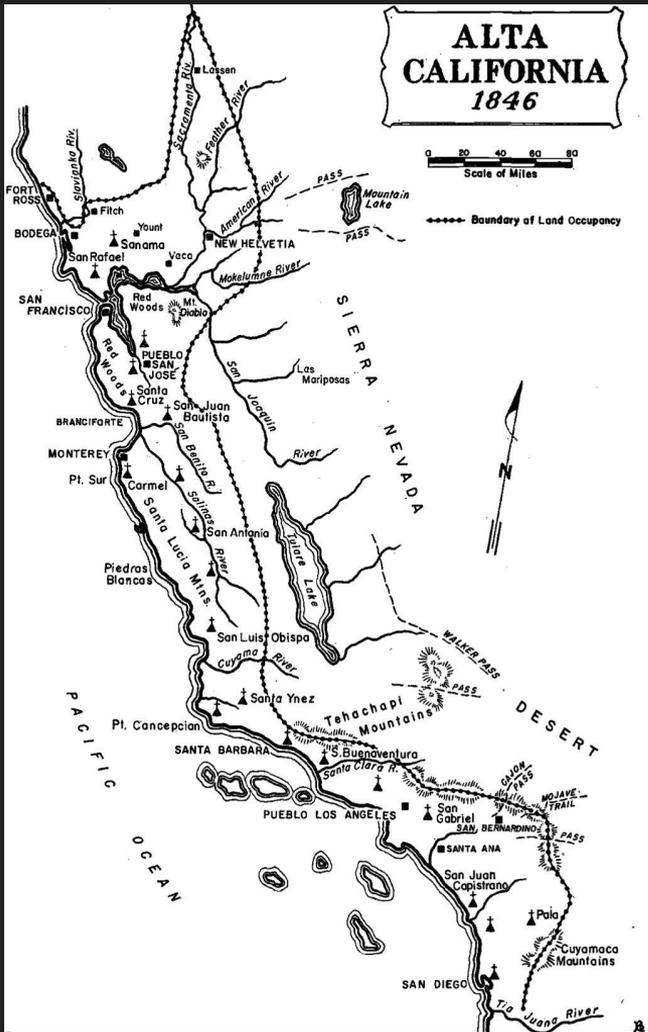
1774 - October 3 1774, Fernando de Rivera y Moncada, commander of the Monterey Presidio, reported that native peoples started a large fire to the west of the fort. "The gentiles* have a bad habit of creating this kind of work for us... They set fire to the field so that new growth will sprout up from the ashes. It is also a way to catch rabbits that are trying to escape from the dense smoke."

Sto. Domingo

3.

No hubo nau?

Por el temblor vino una fogata abriendo el campo, y como se acababa el presidio, no p^o luego de las causas, vino p^o preservar el Presidio, finaron soldados, moros, yau y o, se consiguió apagar, Salen dice que nauaron los bo mbos por un mata columbes, alzado su bombas, nado nado en un arroyo de q^o cañal, y un barril de, poner fuego p^o q^o bajar un poco yau, y por boca entre Ca Confesion del humo de Confes.



Wildfire during the Alta California and Los Californios periods: Colonization dispossessed tribes and the fire regime.

1793 - Alta California Governor Arrillaga ordered first formal fire restrictions, “ordering soldiers to prevent Indian fires in the open country around Santa Barbara.”

September 1815, Pablo Vicente de Solá, the last Spanish governor of Alta, California, issued a proclamation against burning to create new pasture. Rancheros/settlers were expanding grazing land by burning, posing a risk to forage, timber and settlements.

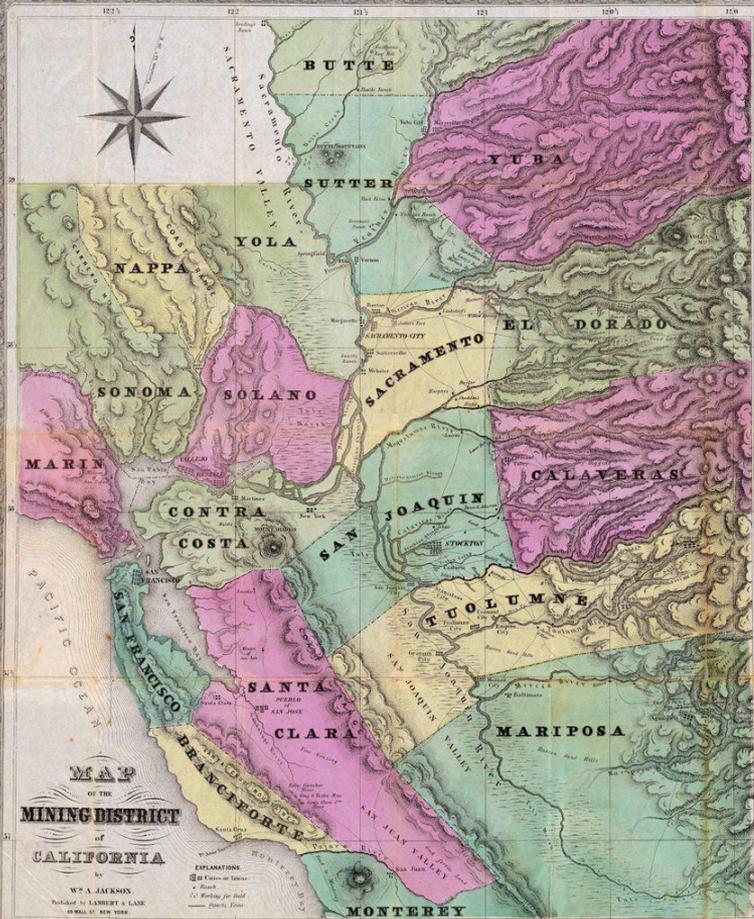
1834 Las Californias Governor José Figueroa ordered the Branciforte town council to guard against wildfires and stop intentionally burning land.

Wildfire in the post-colonial Santa Cruz Mountains

1842-3: Peter Lassen/Isaac Graham build first power saw built in San Lorenzo Valley/SCM;

1847 - Hecox sawmill on Soquel. Deforestation began in earnest with U.S.; dairies expand along the north coast.

1860s: extensive mills and roads built throughout SCM; grazing introduced more grasses further into county/ beginning of extensive deforestation



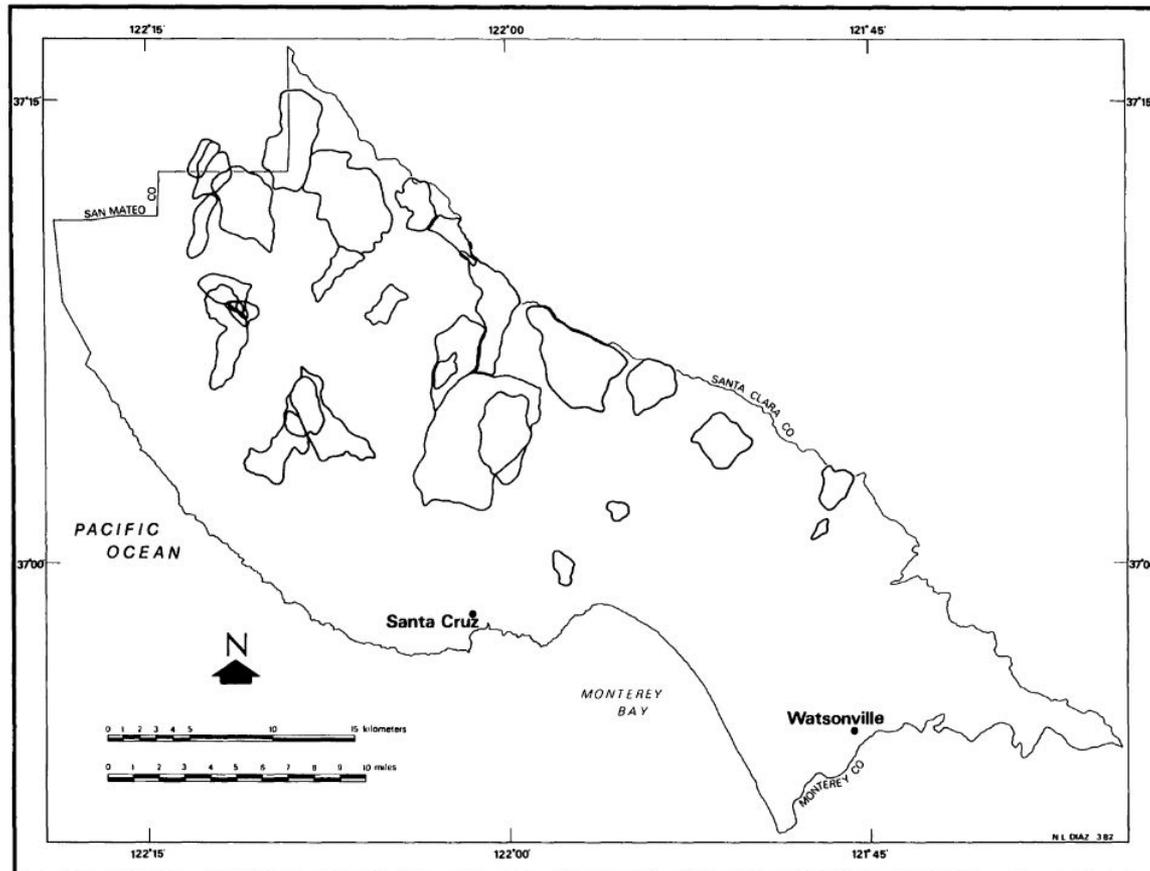


FIG. 2.—Fifty-yr coverage of possible lightning fires in the Lightning regime

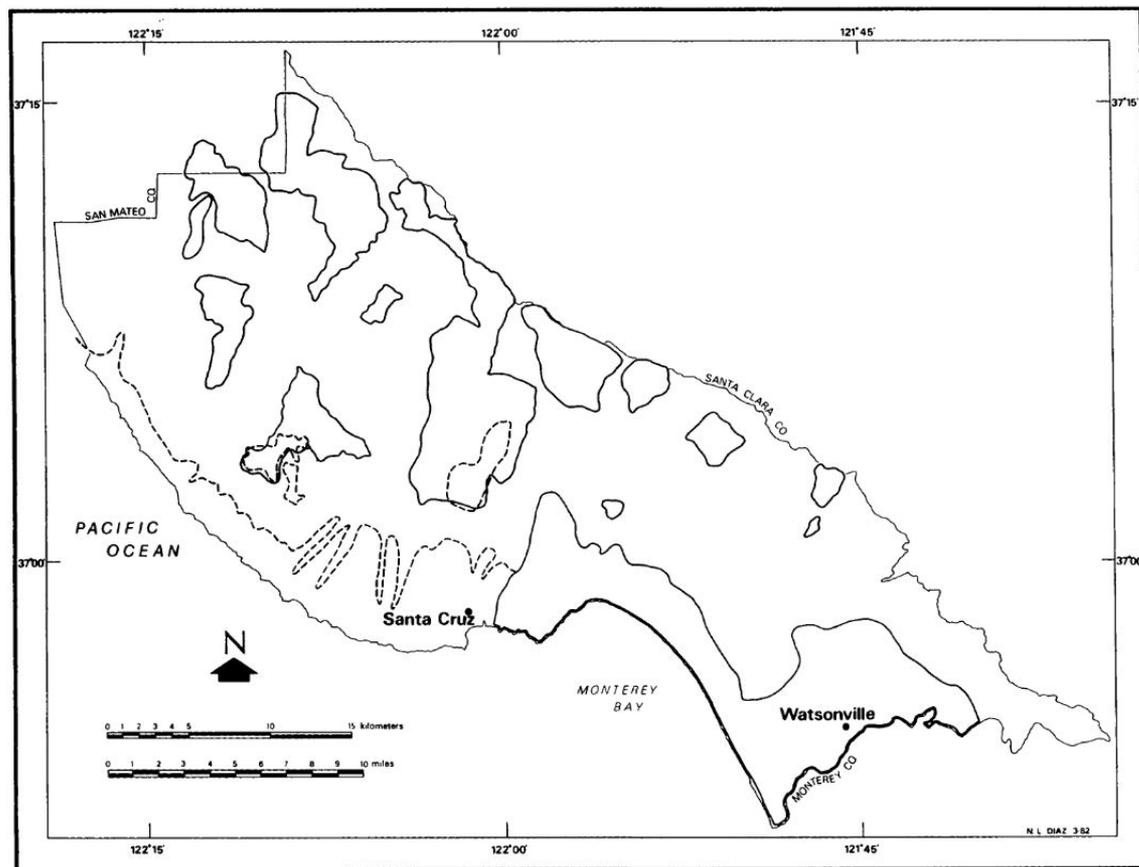


FIG. 3.—Fifty-yr coverage of possible aboriginal (dashed lines) and lightning fires (solid lines) in the Aboriginal regime

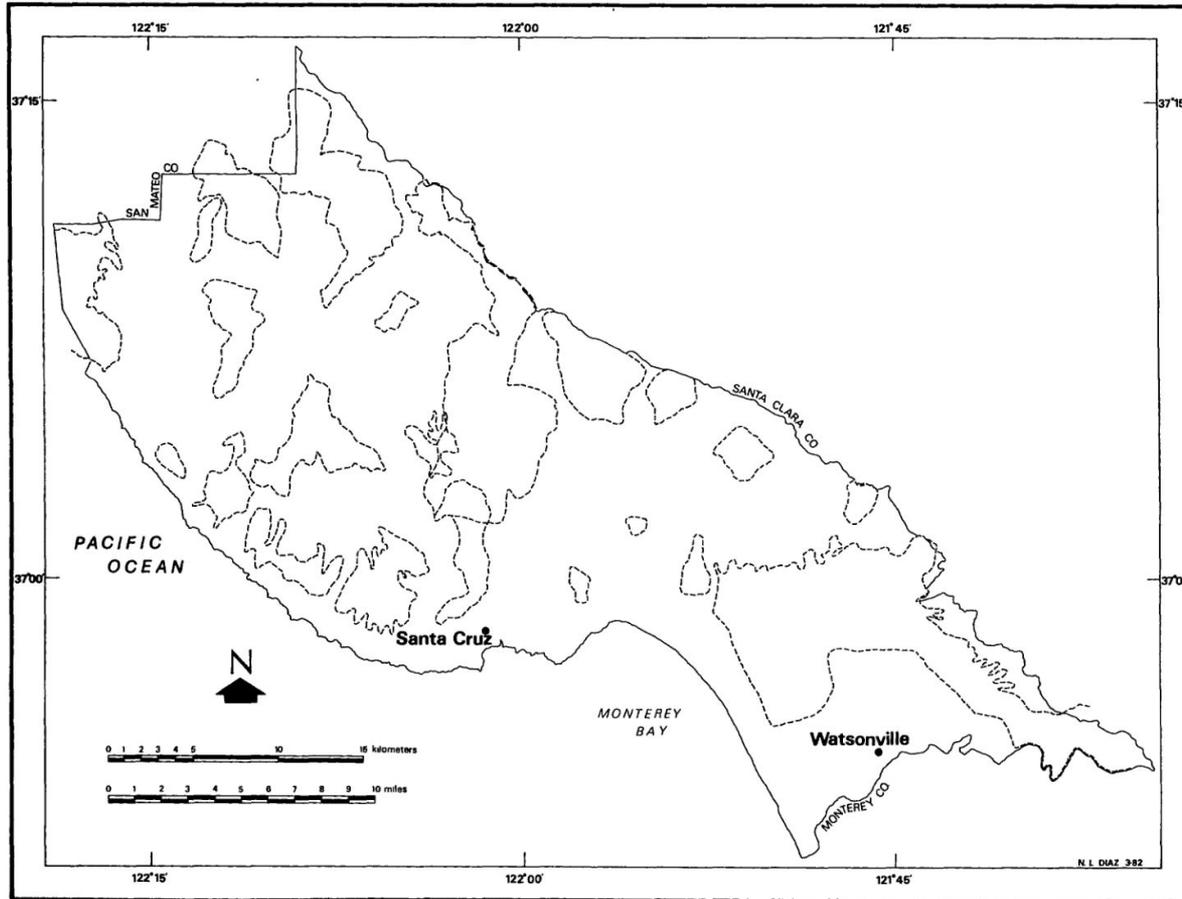


FIG. 4.—Fifty-yr coverage of possible fires in the Spanish regime

TABLE 1.—Mean Fire Intervals in various vegetation types in each historic fire regime in the Monterey Bay area. Refer to the text for explanation of our selection of localities where burning was concentrated or incidental. “Recorded or calculated MFI” data are derived from historic documents, fire scars, or published data (described in the text). “Probable MFI” data are derived, for lack of historic or physical evidence, from data from the literature (*see text*)

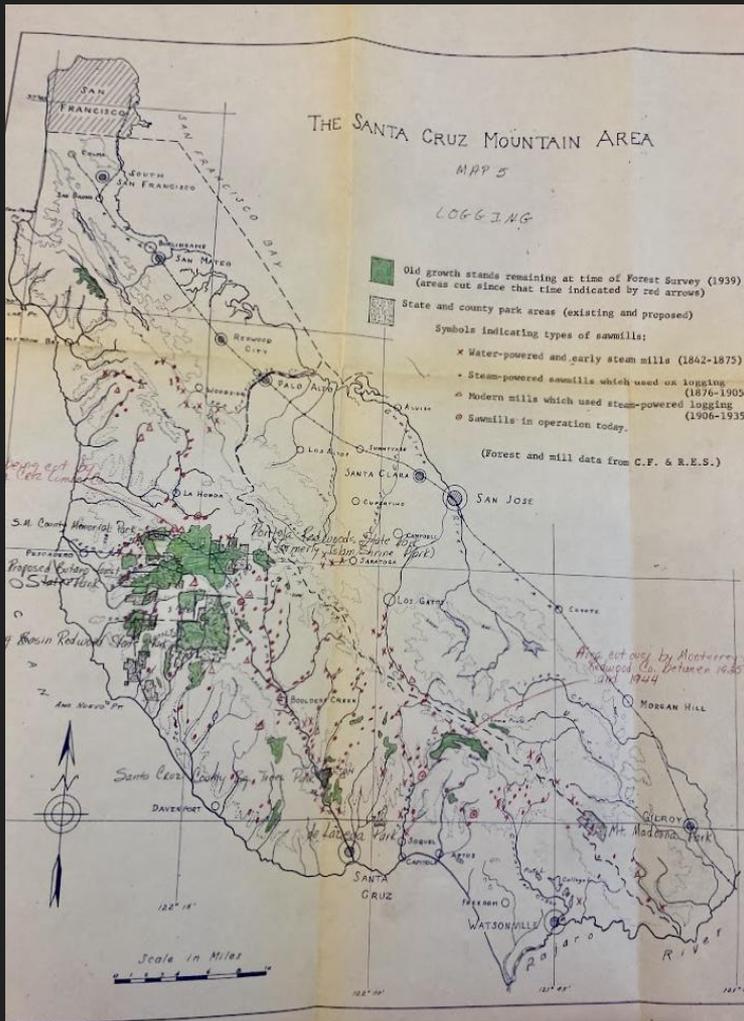
Fire regime	Vegetation where burning concentrated	Vegetation where burning incidental	Recorded or calculated MFI (yr)	Probable MFI (yr)
Lightning		Prairies		1–15
		Coastal sage		1–15
		Chaparral		10–30
		Oak woodland		10–30
	Mixed evergreen			30–135
	Redwood forest		135	
Aboriginal		Prairies	1–2	1–15
		Coastal sage	1–2	1–15
		Chaparral	18–21	
		Oak woodland	1–2	
		Mixed evergreen		50–75
		Redwood forest	17–82	
Spanish		Prairies		1–15
		Coastal sage		1–15
	Chaparral		19–21	
		Oak woodland		2–30
		Mixed evergreen		50–75
		Redwood forest	82	
Anglo		Prairies		20–30
		Coastal sage		20–30
		Chaparral	10–27	
		Oak woodland	50–75	
	Mixed evergreen		7–29	
	Redwood		20–50	
Recent		Prairies		20–30
		Coastal sage	155	
		Chaparral	155	
		Oak woodland	225	
		Mixed evergreen	215	
		Redwood forest	130	



88



Steam powered logging put the remaining old growth redwood forests at risk from logging



Known sawmill & shingle mill sites in Santa Cruz Mountains: 1840-1905

San Gregorio

Pescadero

Gazos

Waddell

Scott

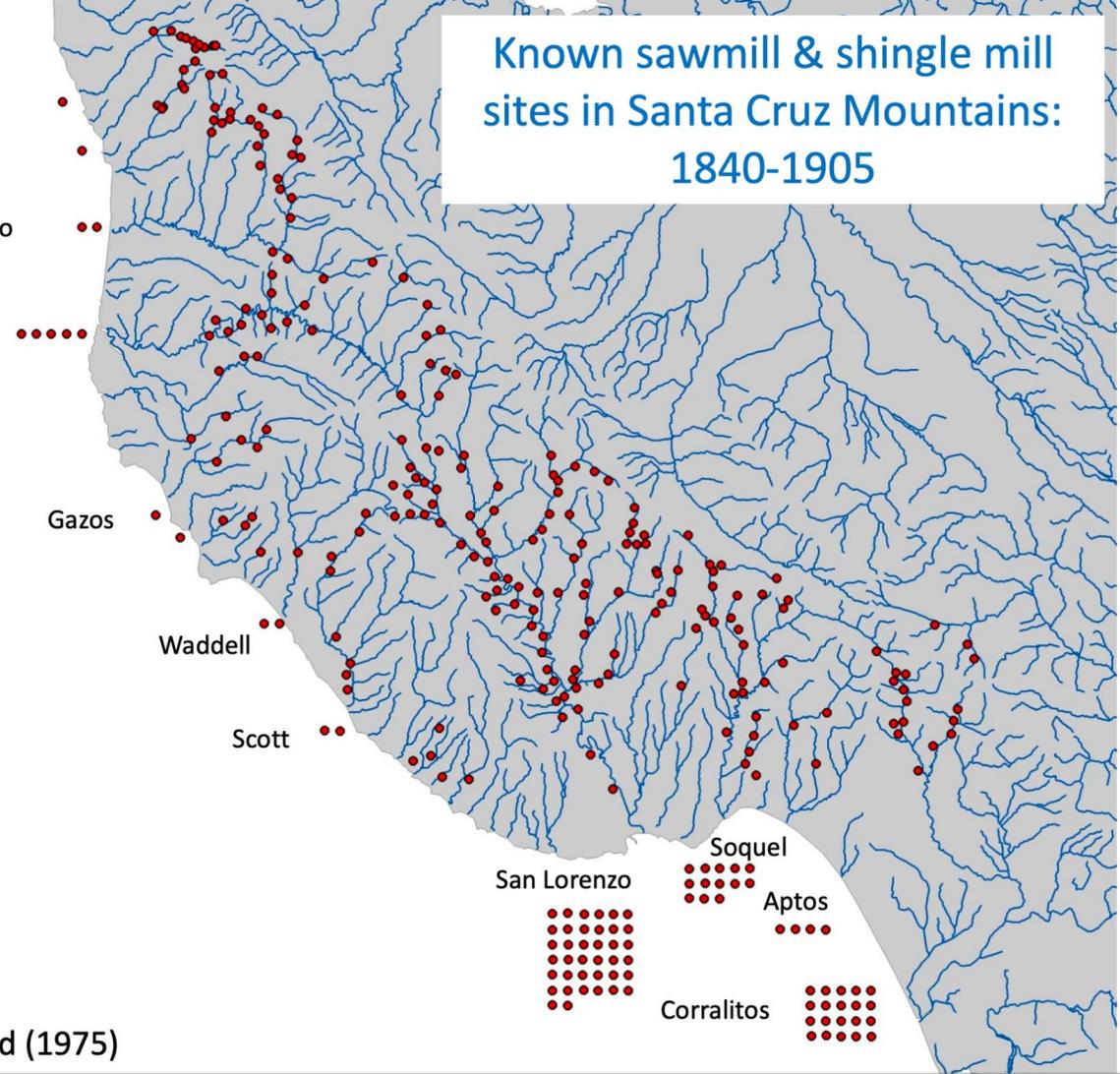
San Lorenzo

Soquel

Aptos

Corralitos

Based on Rood (1975)



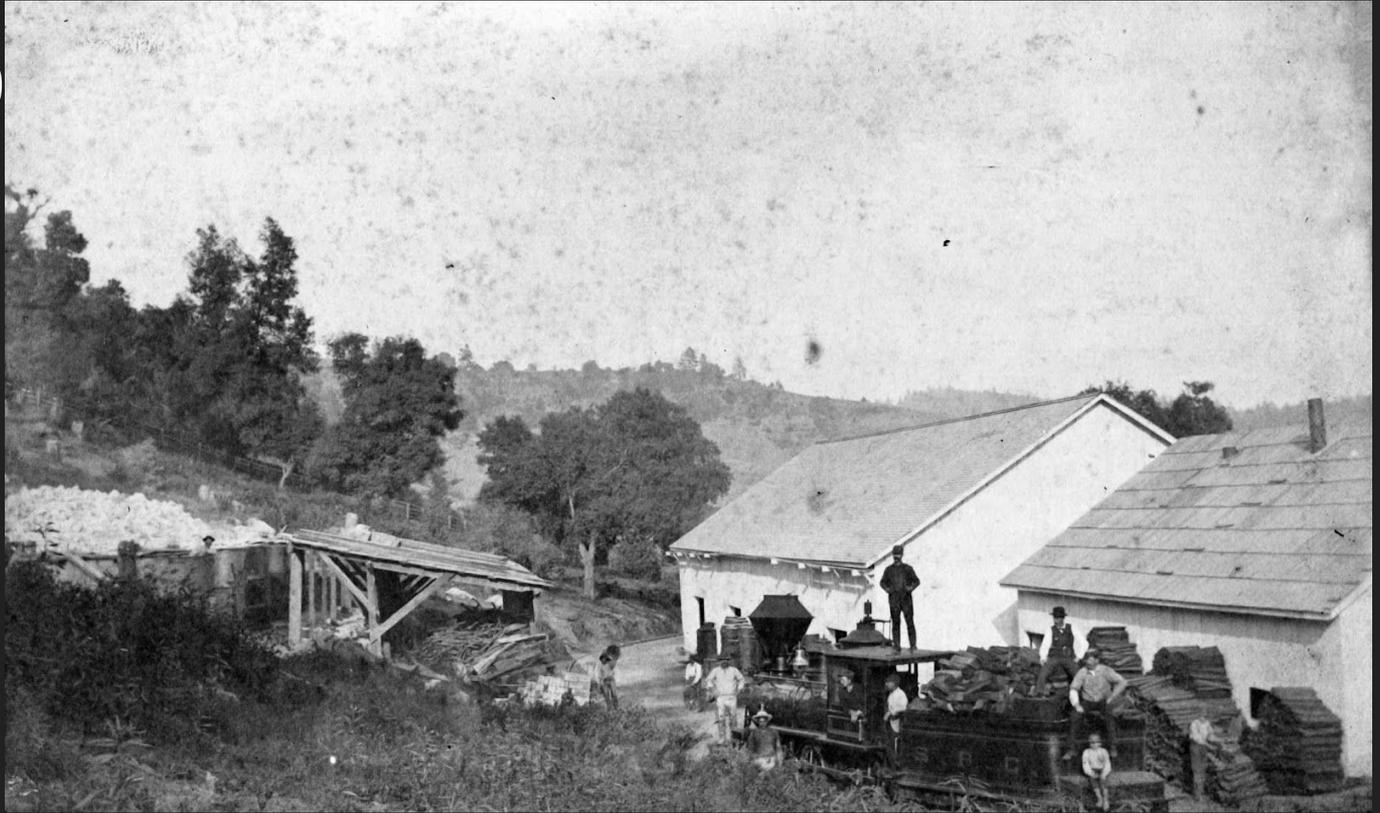


Lime kilns and
logging,
1860s-1900s.



Crews working at the lime quarry on the northeast side of the Davis & Cowell property, c. 1880s.
[Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District]

Lime kilns and
logging,
1860s-1900



1868 - Pescadero watershed to the Gavilans

Wildfire burns from Pescadero headwaters to Gabilans.

1869 - forty mile shotgun fire

rests their progress. A fire started by the discharge of a shotgun has been known to extend forty miles, most of the way through heavy timber, consuming of course all fences and even houses and saw-mills in its path."

1882 - Yellow Bank Dairy fire

Forest Fires.

The forest fires which have been devastating the forests and ranches above Santa Cruz are still raging, and are not yet under control. Yesterday morning a dispatch was received from Davenport's Landing, saying that the entire country was in flames and more help was needed. About forty men went up, and there have been over a hundred men busy fighting the flames since Saturday night. The flumes of the Santa Cruz Water Company have been in danger. At one time they caught fire, but were extinguished. The company has about fifty men constantly fighting the flames and will probably save their flumes. The loss of property to ranches has been great, the Yellow Bank Dairy losing everything. The fire has burned over about eight miles of country and is within five miles of Santa Cruz. It is thought that by herculean efforts the fire will be controlled by to-morrow night.



1888 - Glen Canyon Fire

October 23, 1888, "For the past few days a fire has been burning on Ben Lomond which is perhaps unequalled in the history of this country [sic]"

Started head of Glen Canyon, on Blackburn Gulch (up Branciforte Creek); damage to fruit ranches and wheat, some of the largest redwoods have been burned).

August 1888 - Ben Lomond Blaze

August 15, 1888, “For the past few days a fire has been burning on Ben Lomond which is perhaps unequalled in the history of this country [sic]”

Started in Boulder Creek, to Ben Lomond, down Vicente and Scotts Creek.

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November 1890 - Cave Gulch and Bonny Doon fires

November 20, 1890, “Two immense fires are raging in the woods north of Santa Cruz.”

November 1895 - Cowell Ranch Fire

**Big Lime Kilns in the
Path of the Forest
Fires.**

CATTLE IN THE FLAMES.

**One Large Herd on the Cowell
Ranch Cut off From
Escape.**

POWDER WORKS ARE SAFE.

The fire is still burning at a great rate near the city reservoirs, Cave Gulch and Wilders Gulch. A man owning a chicken ranch near Cave Gulch lost 200 chickens, which were roasted in the flames. A large band of cattle on the Cowell ranch were surrounded by the fire, and unable to escape. The poor animals perished in the flames.

D. D. Wilder, who owns a large dairy, one of the finest on the coast, was in town this afternoon and feared the fire would work its way down the canyon and burn the fine dairy-houses.

The Empire Grade road, which is one of the most frequently traveled roads as well as of the most beautiful scenery, is impassable, and is literally covered with rabbits and rats, which were driven from the forests by the fires.

FIRES AROUND SANTA CRUZ.

*Magnificent Groves and Miles of Fences
Leveled by the Flames.*

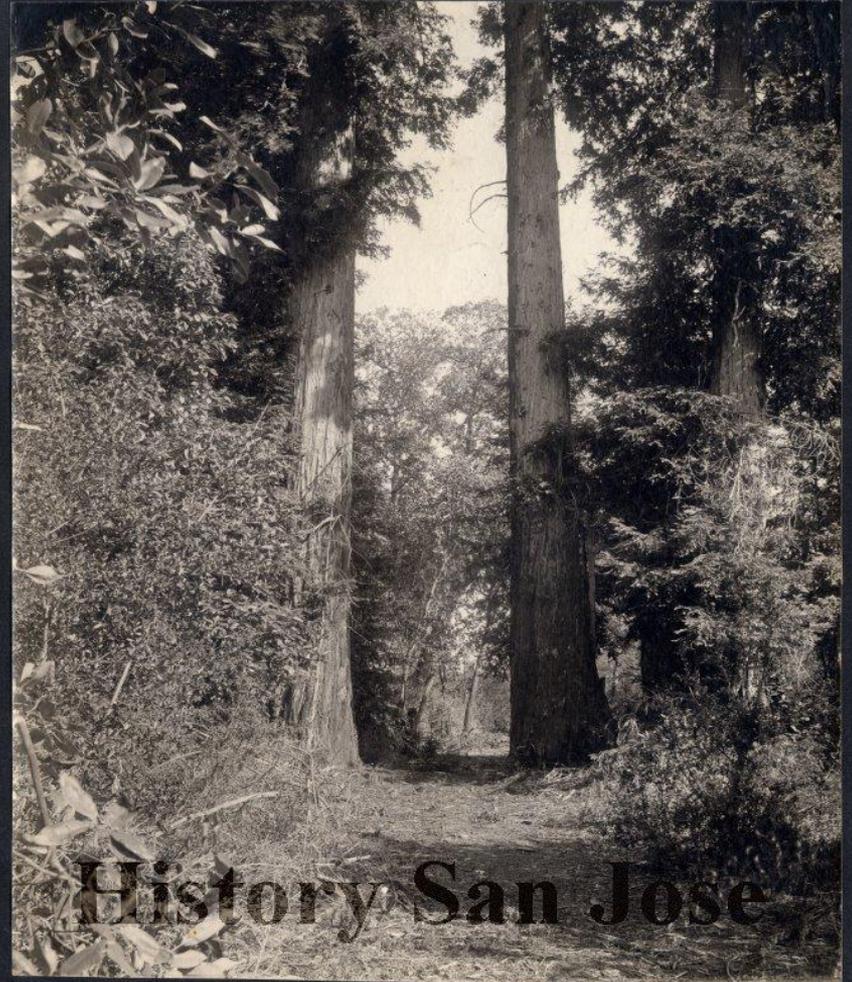
SANTA CRUZ, CAL., Nov. 18.—For the past few days forest fires have been raging in the mountains of this county. The flames are shooting upward in many sections, and to-day the smoke was so dense that the entire Santa Cruz range was hidden from sight. The weather of the past two days has been as warm as ever experienced in this county in November, resulting partially from the heat sent out by the fires.

The fire nearest town is that on the hill on the Cowell ranch, about two miles distant. It is on the edge of a strip burned by the September conflagration, and has swept over considerable brush and timber land. The flames could be plainly seen from town.

The largest fire is at Vine Hill, where acre after acre of the finest timber land has been burned over. Much of the timber was on the Jarvis property, and the fire encroached upon the fine vineyard. Men have been at work fighting the flames since Friday to save the vineyards in this section. The fire on the ranch of John Eaton at Scotts Valley is also a fierce one. It is running through timber land. The men of the valley fought it all day and night Friday and Saturday, and got it partially under control. Fires are also raging at Zyante and Boomers Gulch.

It is hard to give an estimate of the loss caused by these conflagrations, as there is fencing by the mile burned. The loss of cut wood—oak, redwood and madrone—is heavy, but the greatest damage is in the destruction of the beautiful forests of redwood, pine, oak and madrone.

October 8-9, 1899 Summit Fire



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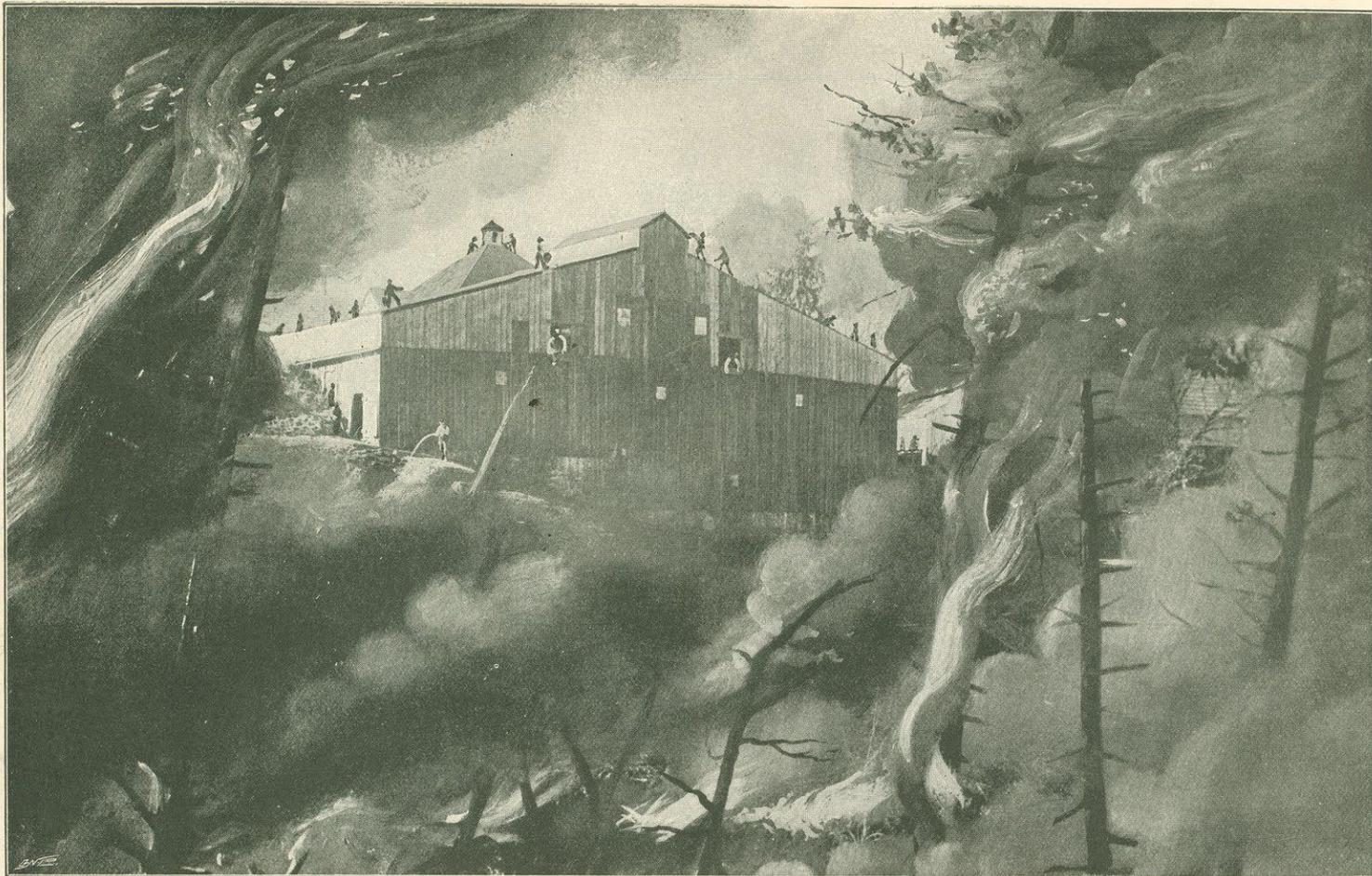
Josephine Clifford McCrackin beside her chimney following the 1899 fire, wearing the cape of her friend, author and journalist Ambrose Bierce (July 1900, Wide World magazine). (Contributed)

Forest Fire at Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz, October 9.—The big forest fire which broke out here a few days ago is now raging up Los Gatos canyon to Soquel Creek. The following are the losses in the mountains between Laurel and Wrights so far reported: Houses and contents, owned by Mrs. Josephine Clifford McCracken, J. Moon, G. W. Lincoln, J. Carr; barns and tank houses belonging to E. F. Adams and C. H. Allen, destroyed.

Early yesterday morning a family, near Sulphur springs was burned out. The fire was discovered just in time for the family, consisting of parents and two children, to reach a wagon and make their escape to Soquel. The fire now covers a territory of ten miles. Their winery was saved by a great quantity of wine being thrown on it. No water was available.

Santa Cruz, October 9.—The fires in the mountains continue to spread and the householders are very much alarmed.



"THE WINERY WAS EVIDENTLY DOOMED. TREES BLAZING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM HAD PLUNGED ACROSS THE GULCH, BRIDGING IT WITH FLAME, AND THE BUILDING WAS THREATENED ON EVERY SIDE."

From a Photo. specially taken for the "Wide World Magazine," and afterwards worked upon by A. P. Hill.

(SEE PAGE 344.)

Big Basin Expedition.

A party consisting of A. P. Hill, Mrs. Carrie Stevens-Walter, Mrs. S. A. Jones, Mrs. Josephine Clifford McCracken, left San Jose this afternoon for the Big Basin. They will be joined at Alma by a large delegation from Santa Cruz, to make a tour of the Big Basin, which it is proposed to make into a national park. The trip will require about a week. The party will gather data to forward to the authorities at Washington.

TO SAVE THE BIG BASIN

A Sketch of the Movement Being Made to Preserve it as a National Park.

LETTER ISSUED BY COMMITTEE

A Copy Has Been Sent to Each Member of the Congressional Delegation of California.



M. Stephen Jones 25 H. Johnson 50 W. M. Richards 55
 Dr. Lewis Stephen Walter 55 Fred. Waldron J. S. Kiser 50
 J. Hoop 25 Geo. W. Johnson 55 King Richards

May 1900 Original Sempervirens Club Charter Members
 and John J. Hall, Secy and Wm. H. Johnson

STORMS PLACE OF GOVERNOR

Mexican City
the Efforts of
Police.

Beaten to Death
Soldiers Make a
Charge.

f the Populace Because
pression of Gambling
a Brief Reign of
Terror.

Dispatch to The Call.

Tex., Set. 18.—At Chihuahua
ring the Independence day
evening of September 18,
zas, the cattle king, was
aking a speech and was
personal violence.

formed his palace, threw
es and demolished every
servin. The police tried to
ere routed and one police-
a to death. Scores of per-
ed and much property was
e the soldiers with fixed
red and dispersed the riot-
200 arrests were made and
was thrown into a state of
st and anxiety.

s composed of the lowest
e people, who took this
wing their displeasure at
ly issued by the new Gov-
sk gambling with

REDWOODS OF THE PESCADERO VALLEY TO FALL UNDER THE WOODMAN'S AX

California Timber Company Purchases Holdings in San Mateo County, Installs a Large Plant on Waterman Creek and Begins to Clear the Forest



M. H. ...

Cheapest
Daily Paper
In the State.

Evening Sentinel.

Newsy,
Sparkling
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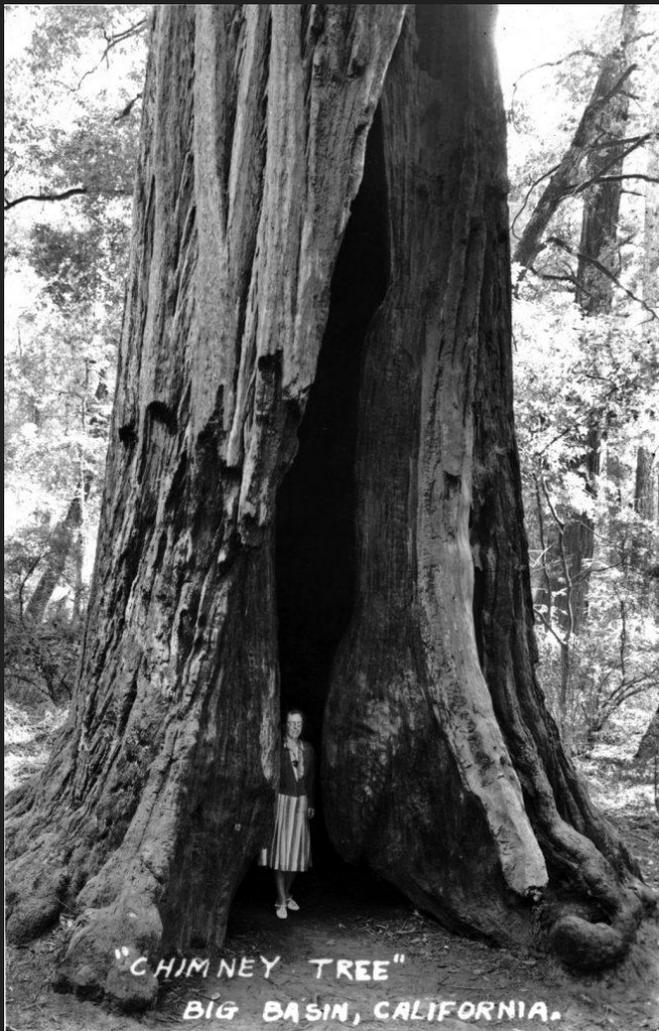
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1904–1905 - Fire in the Big Basin



Climatological Data for SANTA CRUZ, CA - September 1904

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Date	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Avg Temperature	Avg Temperature Departure	HDD	CDD	Precipitation
1904-09-01	80	48	64.0	-1.4	1	0	0.00
1904-09-02	84	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-03	78	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-04	80	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-05	86	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-06	70	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-07	108	52	80.0	14.7	0	15	0.00
1904-09-08	107	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-09	86	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-10	70	54	62.0	-3.2	3	0	0.00
1904-09-11	68	50	59.0	-6.1	6	0	0.00
1904-09-12	78	52	65.0	-0.1	0	0	0.00
1904-09-13	82	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-14	73	55	64.0	-1.0	1	0	0.03
1904-09-15	69	50	59.5	-5.4	5	0	0.00
1904-09-16	68	51	59.5	-5.4	5	0	0.00
1904-09-17	66	55	60.5	-4.3	4	0	0.00
1904-09-18	75	54	64.5	-0.3	0	0	0.00
1904-09-19	75	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-20	76	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-21	75	M	M	M	M	M	0.04
1904-09-22	68	51	59.5	-5.0	5	0	2.25
1904-09-23	66	56	61.0	-3.4	4	0	1.25
1904-09-24	70	55	62.5	-1.8	2	0	0.63
1904-09-25	69	51	60.0	-4.3	5	0	0.50
1904-09-26	69	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-27	75	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-28	75	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-29	88	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
1904-09-30	72	M	M	M	M	M	0.00
Sum	2306	734	-	-	41	15	4.70
Average	76.9	52.4	62.9	-1.9	-	-	-
Normal	76.7	52.9	64.8	-	54	48	0.10

Stockton



Record.

STOCKTON DAILY EVENING RECORD, STOCKTON, CAL: WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7, 1904.

NO. 130.

MARINE ARMY DRAGS ALONG

Patkin With His Rear Guard Reaches and Continues North, Harbin Evidently the Haven of Refuge Sought

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
MUKDEN, Sept. 7.—It is reported that the Russian army is retreating from Mukden and evacuating Mukden. The Japanese are silent regarding General Kuraki's movements since Sunday continues. It is reported that the Japanese, notwithstanding the ravages of fire, captured vast accumulations of stores and ammunition at Liao Yang.
ST. PETERSBURG RELIEVED.
ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 7.—No further fighting of importance is expected south of Mukden. The critical stage is regarded as passed by the General Staff. The announcement was made this afternoon that the War Office would no longer give out two bulletins a day.

STATE BROKE

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 7.—The State Treasury "went broke" this morning. Payments of warrants was suspended.

THE CAMPAIGN LIE

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
OYSTER BAY, Sept. 7.—Secretary Loeb emphatically denies the story printed in a New York evening paper yesterday to the effect that the President had taken occasion to defy the Standard Oil Company when H. H. Rogers, its Vice-President, in an interview with him, said he would make war on the administration unless the trust prosecutions were stopped. Secretary Loeb says Mr. Rogers never saw or tried to see the President at Washington or Oyster Bay.

OF HUNGER AND THIRST

Russians Said to be Abandoning Their Wounded, Who Suffer Greatly

STRIKERS VOTE NAY ON TERMS

Refuse to Accept Strike Settlement

As Proposed by Their Leader Donnelly, Who May Now Call for Full Ballot

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
CHICAGO, Sept. 7.—The referendum vote of the striking butchers favors a continuation of the struggle, according to the best information obtainable prior to official announcement of the vote.
On the ground that but 20 per cent of the strikers voted it is believed that President Donnelly will call for another vote. Hundreds failed to vote on account of a lack of facilities.
At noon the count was not ready to be given out. Two hours more will probably be required. As estimated by those in a position to be acquainted with the details, the vote will be about 4500 to 2800 in favor of continuing the strike.
An absence of any provision for unskilled workmen in the terms agreed to between Donnelly and the packers is said to be the chief barrier to a settlement.

SULTAN IS MAD

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
BERLIN, Sept. 7.—Tageblatt reports that revolutionary Armenians, under the noted leader, Andranik; captured a van of Turkish troops sent to regain possession of the prisoners. The revolutionary successes have thrown the Sultan into a state of hysterical excitement.

A YANKEE TURK

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
NORFOLK, Sept. 7.—Captain H. D. Buckman, who was employed by the Cramps to take the Turkish cruiser Mejedia to Constantinople, has been made Vice-Admiral of the Turkish navy at a salary of \$10,000 per year. He is also given a free hand in any reforms he wishes to undertake.

CHINA IS WARNED

Movements of General Ma's Army Into Manchuria Excites Prompt Protest

SANTA CRUZ FORESTS AFIRE

Destructive Conflagration Sweeps the Hills, Destroying One Life, Many Buildings and Trees and Cutting the Power Lines

(Scripps-McRae News Special.)
SANTA CRUZ, Cal., Sept. 7.—Two immense forest fires are raging in this vicinity, one on Ben Lomond mountain, where valuable timber is being destroyed, and the other on Big creek. A half mile of the Big creek flume is gone and Santa Santa Cruz is without electric street railway service and power.
Pasquel Sonognini, postmaster at Swanton, who was fighting fire, was overtaken and burned to death. His body was found in the flume, where he went to alleviate his sufferings.
In addition to the destruction of the flume, the entire plant of the Big Creek Power Company, the postoffice and a number of stores and other buildings were burned. The loss is \$30,000.
Watsonville and other adjacent towns are also without light or power.

GREAT SEA WAVES ARE ROLLING IN

TRAIN IN THE DITCH 5 KILLED



WOMEN WHO WERE DRIVEN FROM BIG BASIN PARK BY THE FLAMES



July 12-13, 1913 - Newell Creek Fire "Red Demon Fire"

BIG FOREST FIRE IF NOW QUELLED

(By Associated Press)

SAN JOSE, July 12.—The Newell Creek forest fire is under control. It seriously threatened Felton, Glen Arbor, Brackney and nearly reached Eccles, five hundred men fought it.

SAN JOSE FOREST FIRE BURNS OUT AT RESORT EDGE

SAN JOSE, July 12.—The forest fire which started at Newell Creek near Ben Lomond and which burned all day yesterday and night is now under control. It burned over a district varying in width for a distance of five miles, coming within half a mile of Felton and to the very borders of Glenn Arbor and Brackney, picturesque summer resorts. It also reached over to the ridge back of Eccles adjoining Mount Hermon and up to the mountains of Glenwood. Five hundred men fought the fire all night and the Southern Pacific sent a special train with Superintendent Ahern personally directing the work.

The greatest loss, about \$5000, was to Joseph Aram and L. M. Sayre, who had a large amount of split stuff near Newell Creek mill where the fire started.

VAST ACREAGE LAID WASTE BY BIG FIRE

Conflagration Which Started
at Newell Creek Is Under
Control

Mountain Towns and Resorts
Are Safe—Big Basin Not
Endangered

FIRE UNDER CONTROL

The fierce fire which has been raging in the Santa Cruz mountains since last Wednesday is under control after prolonged and incessant fighting on the part of 500 men under the direction of County Fire Warden Walter R. Welch and other capable woodmen. The California Redwood park, while in the fire-swept range, was so far distant as to be without the danger zone. Ben Lomond, Felton, Glen Arbor, Brackney, Mount Hermon and other resorts, although veritable ovens for the past three days, and practically depopulated, were not burned. At a late hour last evening Fire Warden Welch was on guard with a gang of men to check the flames should the wind which was blowing start another conflagration.

Special to the Warner Herald.

SANTA CRUZ, July 12.—The forest fire which started at Newell creek and which burned all day yesterday and last night is now under control, but not until it had burned over a country of varying width for a distance of five miles.

It came within a half-mile of Felton, to the very borders of Glen Arbor, a picturesque summer resort, and Brackney, an adjoining summer stopping place. It reached over to

October 7-18, 1913

FIRES STILL RAGE IN BEAUTIFUL SANTA CRUZ HILLS

Southern Pacific Trains Held
Up Because of Barrier
of Flame.

SAN JOSE, Oct. 18.—The forest fire which started in the Santa Cruz mountains a week ago is still burning. The flames have crossed the railroad track which traverses Secoyate Canyon from Glenwood to Eccles Station on the Southern Pacific road.

A train which left San Francisco early this afternoon was held at Wright's because of an impassable barrier of fire between Glenwood and Felton. Other trains are being routed by way of Watsonville Junction.

The fire tonight is heading toward Felton and Mount Hermon. Ben Lomond and Boulder Creek are threatened.

FOREST FIRE RAGING IN VICINITY OF FELTON

Wood Choppers Lose Fruits of Hard Labor

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

SANTA CRUZ, Oct. 7.—Forest fires are raging in the vicinity of Felton and efforts of volunteers to check the flames have thus far proved futile.

The country in the vicinity was burned over years ago, but second growth timber has since sprung up and is suffering as a consequence. Thousands of cords of wood lie in the wake in the flames. The heaviest losers will be wood choppers who have tracts of land leased in the vicinity.

The flames are heading northward, but unless heavy winds set in the indications are that the fire fighters with the aid of fire trails will subdue the blaze before it reaches the timber belt.

- March 1914 -
four fires - ring of flame
1. Big Basin,
 2. Gazos Creek,
 3. West Fork Waddell,
 4. Bonny Doon/Empire Grade

FLAME

SANTA CRUZ, March 19.—Four fires are spreading in the Coast range, one of them right on the borders of the state Redwood park.

J. McClintic, rural mail carrier, going to Bonny Doon, was hemmed in by fire and escaped only after a hard drive through a ring of flame.

Fire Warden Welch has been called there with reinforcements.

The fires this afternoon took a

July 21-25, 1917 - Big Basin/Coast Counties Gas & Electric Fire

BIG BASIN FOREST FIRE.

San Jose, July 22.—A forest fire which for two days has been threatening the country between the Big Basin, where California Redwood Park is located, and Boulder creek, was headed for the coast about Davenport, according to word which reached here late this evening. Several square miles of timber has been burned over. A hundred men working against the fire are on the point of exhaustion. The fire was partially under control tonight but a breeze of any strength would spell great danger.

Fire in Mill Creek and Big Creek started in June, smoldered for five weeks and erupted into a ten mile long fire

FOREST FIRE BURNS GREAT POWER PLANT

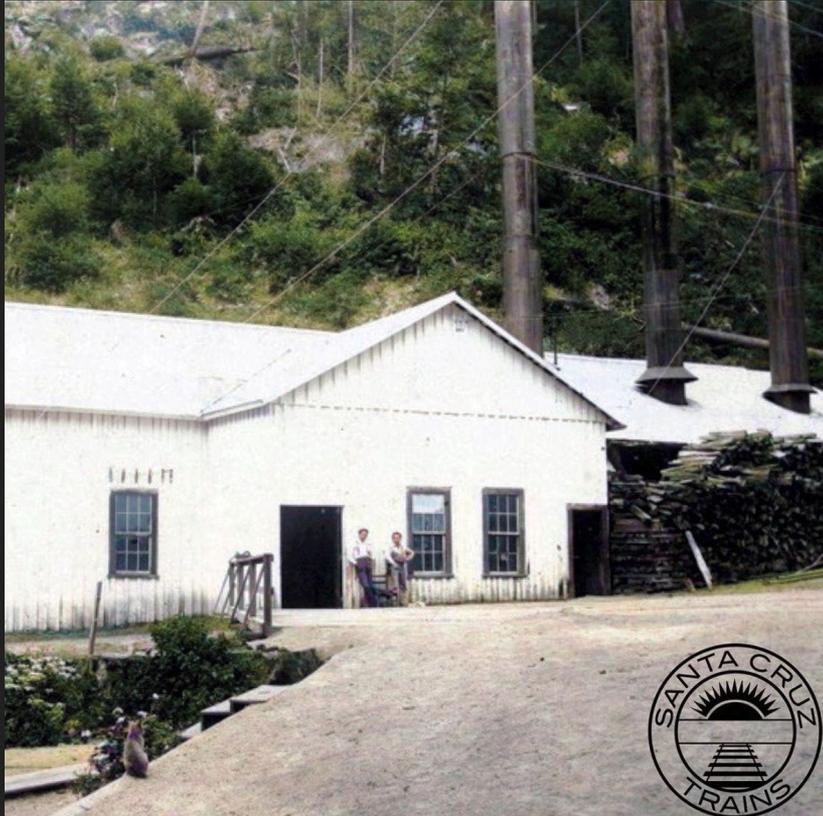
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS BLAZE
HEADED FOR BROOKDALE—
SMOLDERED FOR WEEKS AND
THEN BREAKS OUT WITH RE-
NEWED ENERGY.

Santa Cruz, July, 23.—A forest fire which four weeks ago swept timber land in this vicinity, leaped from smoldering embers into flame again Sunday. With renewed vigor it burned on a seven-mile front, destroying, it is reported, the plant of the Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company at Mill and Big creeks, a number of houses and valuable timber.

Despite the efforts of nearly 100 fighters, the fire, fanned by a high wind, was approaching the summit of Ben Lomond mountain and threatening the summer resorts of Ben Lomond and Brookdale.

The fire is said to have started at three points along Mill creek, at the edge of the district burned previously. It covered Sunday an area of twenty-

July 25, 1917 - Coast Counties Gas & Electric Fire



Santa Cruz Forest Fire Under Control

By International News Service

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25.—After days and nights of fire fighting, the forest fires that are burning in the mountains near Santa Cruz and Guerneville are under control today. The Santa Cruz fire is raging along a ten-mile front on the west ridge and is within two and one-half miles of Boulder creek, but its spread has been stopped, according to latest reports. The Guerneville blaze is confined to a small strip along Gilliam creek.

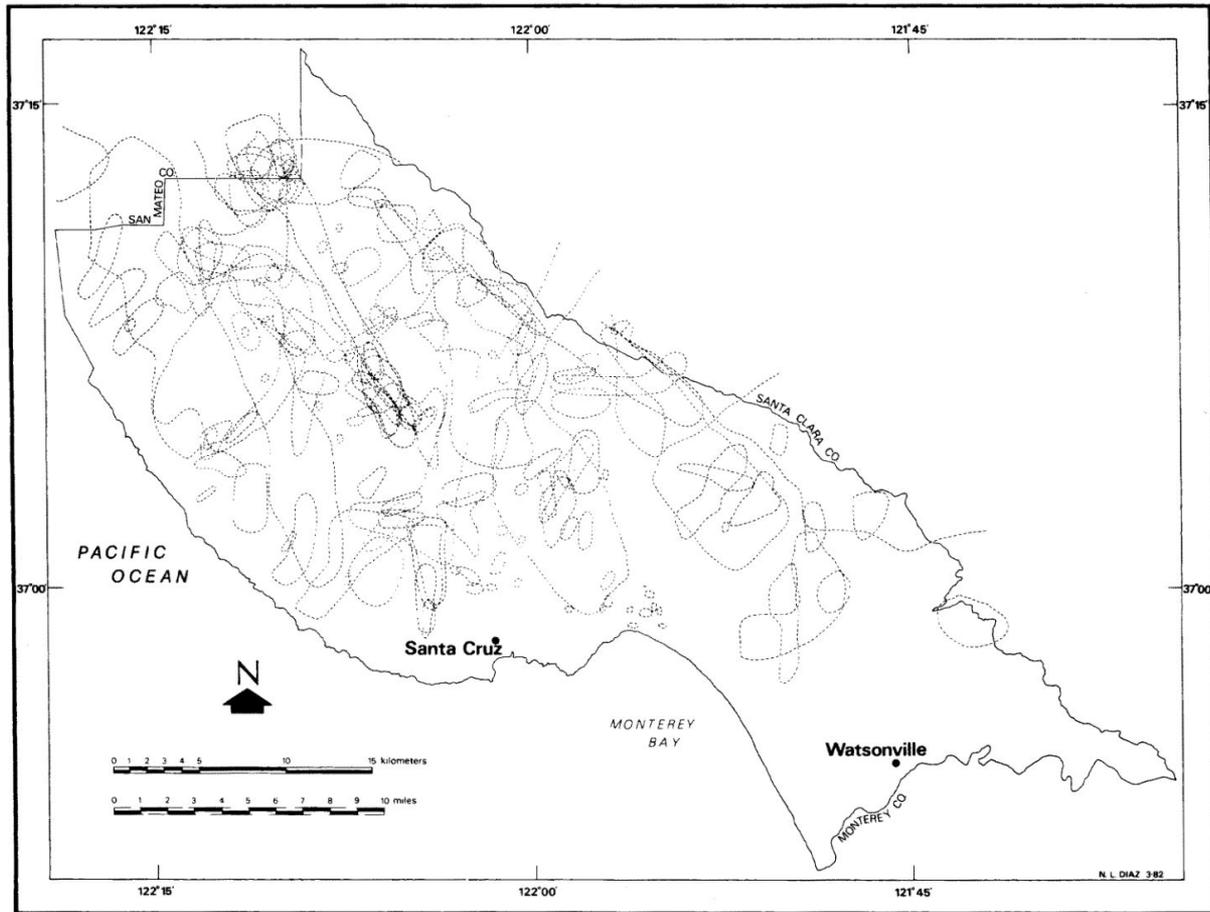


FIG. 5.—Eighty-two-yr coverage of burning in the Anglo regime

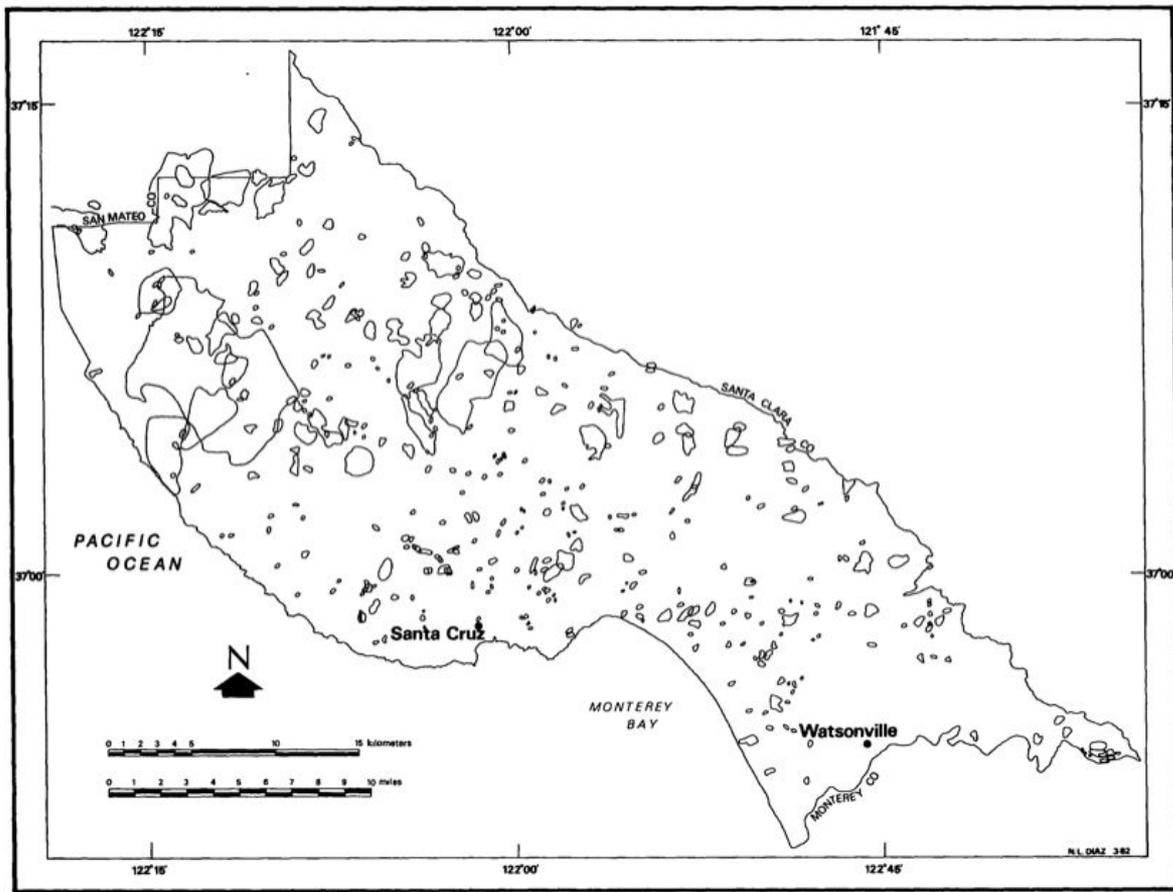


FIG. 6.—Fifty-yr coverage of burning in the Recent regime. Fires less than 4 ha are not mapped

SAN LORENZO VALLEY

BUILDING DRIVE IN VALLEY MAY ERECT HOUSE

Decision to Be Made In
Few Days By Housing
Act Committee

The San Lorenzo Valley Better Housing committee, headed by Fred Dickinson of Ben Lomond, was today debating the advisability of building a "model home" similar to the Santa Cruz "dream house" as part of the campaign. Decision on the matter will probably be made within the next few days.

In the meantime Carl Conelly, field supervisor for the project, is hard at work getting his contact men lined up to personally carry details of the plan to the San Lorenzo valley residents. They will explain how funds may readily be obtained for new construction or improvement of existing homes.

The Better Housing campaign is expected to prove a splendid impetus to building activity in the valley, which even before the

40 SERA MEN LEAVE FELTON FOR MADONNA

Place As Forest Fire Fight-
ers Taken By 20 CCC
Men From Basin

The last of some 40 SRA workers who have been stationed at the Felton forestry division camp for the past few months left today for their new homes at the Mt. Madonna camp near Watsonville which is being enlarged.

In their place a crew of some 20 CCC workers from the Big Basin camp are expected to arrive the end of this week or early next week. The men will form part of the regular fire suppression crew maintained at Felton every summer under the direction of Forest Ranger Charles Wilcher.

Most of the CCC boys moving in have been employed laying wire for the fire lookout station telephone system which has been installed from Eagle Rock to within a mile and one-half of Felton. Bill Fetherston is in charge of the crew.

20,000 DAYS OF LABOR DONE BY MEN AT CAMP

Cost to State of Unit At
Big Basin Was \$5,000
For Six Months

The cost of feeding the men at the state labor camp at Bloom's Mill for the six months period from December 1 to this date has been less than \$5,000, in return for which Santa Cruz county has received more than 20,000 six-hour working days, it was stated today by State Forest Ranger Paul R. Smith who is in charge of the camp. Much of the \$5,000 was spent in Boulder Creek and Santa Cruz.

Mr. Smith stated that the work of the men had been of great value in reducing the fire hazard in this county.

The work done includes the cutting of several fire trails, extensive work in the State Redwood Park in Big Basin, brushing out of the highways and converting of the wooded section at the new entrance to the County Big Tree Park at Felton into a recreational ground.

Fire Trails Made

A fire trail was made from Boulder Creek to the Empire Grade, a distance of five miles

San Lorenzo Valley

LORENZO C. C. WILL PROTEST CUT BY BUSES

Hearing of Plans Will Be
Given at Session To-
morrow Night

Growing opposition to the plan of the Pacific Greyhound lines to curtail drastically the bus service between Santa Cruz and the San Lorenzo valley gained momentum today with the announcement by directors of the San Lorenzo Valley chamber of commerce that the matter will be taken up at the meeting of that group tomorrow night.

It was stated that the entire valley opposed the planned curtailment of the service and the course of the chamber in opposing the intended action of the transportation company would be determined at the meeting.

In opposing the action, residents of the valley point out that the move would constitute a serious inconvenience to their section.

Under the contemplated schedule it would be impossible for residents of the section to come by bus to Santa Cruz and have time to transact necessary business, it was asserted.

Date Set for Oct. 1

The new schedule, which it has been announced will go into effect October 1, provides for only one through bus from Boulder Creek to Santa Cruz and return during week days, and no through bus service on Sundays. The week-day service would provide one bus leaving Boulder Creek at 11:30 a. m., and arriving in Santa Cruz at 12:20 p. m. The return trip would start at 4:40 p. m., the bus arriving in Boulder Creek at 5:20.

First move in opposition to the

GARBAGE DUMP FIRE HAZARD CLEARED AWAY

C. C. C. Workers Cut Brush
From Refuse Site On
Love Creek

What was considered one of the worst fire hazards in the San Lorenzo valley was removed yesterday when a crew from the state forestry station at Felton under the direction of George Trots, assistant to State Forest Ranger Paul R. Smith, completed the work of burning the brush surrounding the garbage dump on Love creek near Ben Lomond.

Work of removing the fire hazard was started last week when the crew cut the brush and burned the rubbish at the dump.

Herman Irwin, president of the San Lorenzo valley chamber of commerce, today expressed the appreciation of the entire valley for the work of the forestry crew in this connection.

"The condition of the dump constituted a serious fire hazard, and residents of this area are grateful to Mr. Smith, Mr. Trots and the boys of the forestry station for this work," he said.

Started 1929 Fire

It was near this dump that the "biggest fire scare this county has ever had" started on July 4, 1929. The fire burned from that point to Camp Evers in Scotts Valley, destroying several houses and doing thousands of dollars in damage.

For a time it was feared the fire could not be checked and that Santa Cruz would be hit by it and possibly wiped out, according to the forestry division.

Spontaneous combustion is the cause of most fires in garbage dumps, Ranger Smith stated.

August 27, 1934

LIGHTNING CAUSE OF FOREST FIRES

SANTA CRUZ, Aug. 27.—(UP)
—Ignited by an eight-hour lightning seige Saturday and Sunday, ten forest fires were burning in northern Santa Cruz county today.

Charles D. Wilcher, fire ranger of Felton, reported the majority of fires were under control this morning. However, Wilcher said there was a possibility that others would break out during the day.

Four of the most dangerous blazes were burning near the boundary of California Redwood park in Big Basin. Three are raging in the Bonny Doon sector.

Two more fires are near the head of Gazos creek and one in Green valley near Watsonville.

A force of 100 county men, augmented by 200 workers from the CCC camps in Big Basin, are fighting the flames.

1948 - Pine Mountain Fire

Destroyed five miles of flume for the Big Creek Hydropower plant.

Start of county wildfire history memory.

Forest Fire In Big Basin Area Rages Unchecked

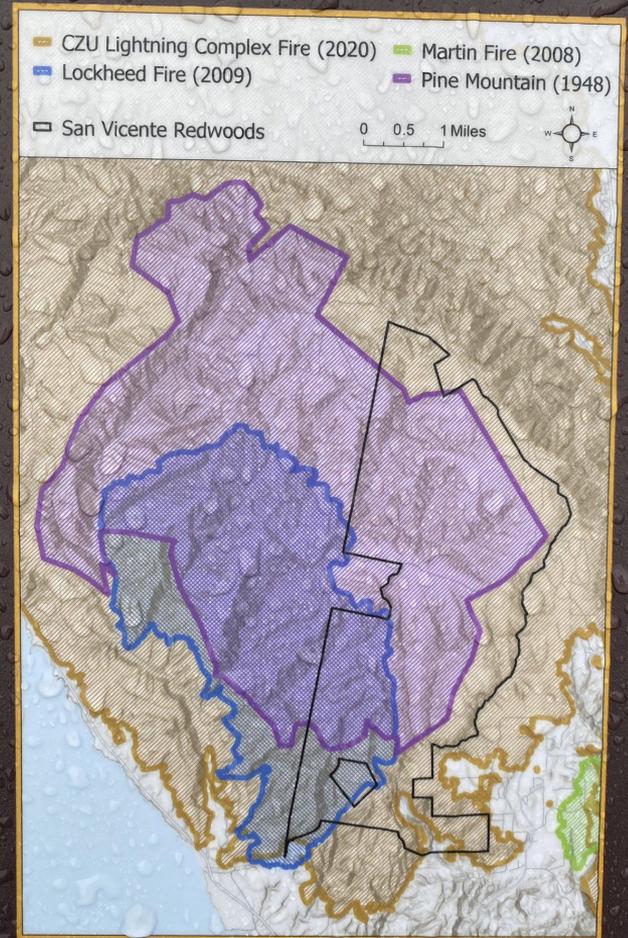
Big Basin, Sept. 2.—(U.P.)—Fanned by fresh wind gusts, the two-day forest fire near Big Basin Redwoods State Park advanced out of control today, swelling the total of burned-out timberland to more than 3,000 acres.

Lester Gum, state forestry ranger for Santa Cruz county, reported in an 11 a. m. bulletin that the blaze, the worst in 12 years, had crossed Mill Creek and was moving unabated "south and a little east" toward the coast.

"Approximately 1,000 more acres have burned since last night," Gum said, denying earlier reports that the fire was partially under control.

500 On Fire Line

More than 500 fire fighters from Santa Cruz and all surrounding



1948 - Pine Mountain Fire

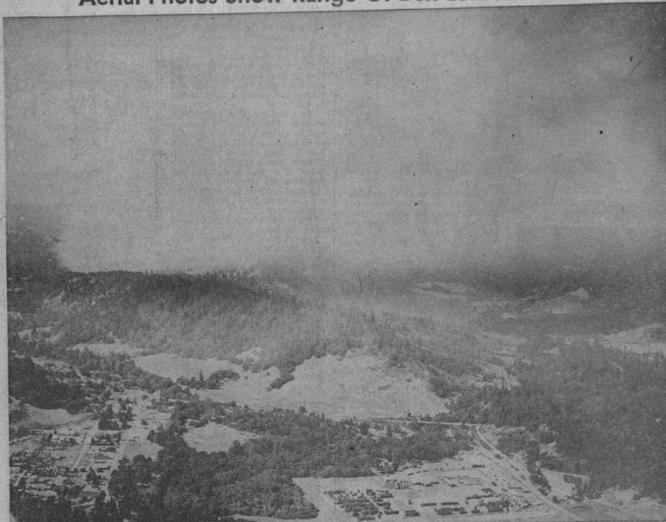


1954 - Ben Lomond Dump Fire

99th Year—No. 179

Valley Fire Destroys Buildings

Aerial Photos Show Range Of Ben Lomond Blaze



(Top) Taken by Chief Ben...
(Middle) Another air view...
(Bottom) Chief Fire Ranger...

Complete Picture Coverage Of Fire See Pages 2-4-18

Weird Quietness Settles Over Fire Ravaged Valley District

By Wally Trahan
The war of the flaming mountains is over. This forenoon there was a weird quietness in the area, a feeling of awe that one feels walking over a battlefield following a skirmish.

Quail Hollow road which ran down the center of the fire area now looks Olympia road amid green lushness of summer evergreens but quickly becomes bracketed by a stark blackened graveyard of scorched earth and the skeletons of madrases, oaks and pines.

In places where the forest was thick the black nude trees make a tragic geometric pattern against the sky.

Most of the men who fought the blaze through yesterday afternoon and night were still a few fire trucks, the crews tired and unshaven, waiting for fire up.

Along the way residents who were asked to leave their homes in the fire area, were restraining. Some to discuss with neighbors their luck—others to poke about the ashes for sign of former possessions.

Curious motorists, yesterday barred from the scene, were having their fill, driving along a funeral pace and staring in silence.

About the yards of homes in the fringe area were signs of feverish activity last night. Ladders were set against roofs, pails and watering buckets lay about. Some constructed awkward makeshift shields and laid them against the house.

Men And Equipment Win Tough Battle To Bring Fire Under Control; Damage Tops \$150,000

By Jane Haas
Fire which started in the Ben Lomond dump on the Newell Creek road early yesterday afternoon raged through 1500 acres of forest and brushlands to Zayante, destroying at least 24 structures with it and causing an estimated \$150,000 loss in structures and equipment before it was brought under control by weary firefighters around midnight.

Flames, shooting high into the air, were fanned by an uncooperative north wind, which pushed the fire up over the ridge between the San Lorenzo river and Zayante creek, causing it to jump across Quail Hollow road and into the surrounding Olympia-Zayante area.

Four men from the division of forestry station at Burrell were burned and overcome with smoke when a brand new truck they were operating became trapped in the inferno at Quail Hollow. They were treated at the county hospital where they were taken by Perrin ambulance.

Three were released after treatment and the other was scheduled to leave the hospital today.

The forestry truck was lost as was a scoopmobile or front end loader belonging to the county. It, too, was practically new, and was believed to have been indirectly responsible for the conflagration, according to division of forestry officials.

Apparently, the loader was pushed back into the dump when some hot ashes were turned up which came into contact with the paper causing the dump to burst into flames, county officials said.

Efforts on the part of Charles L. Ryder of Boulder Creek, said to have been operating the bucket-loader to stop the fire were futile. The wind picked up the flames and carried them down Newell Creek area and after that the blaze was out of control.

The division of forestry at Felton received a call at 1:45 p.m. that there was a fire in the Ben Lomond dump, Chief Ranger Len Gum reported. Shortly after that flames could be seen racing along the ridge between the San Lorenzo river and Zayante creek.

Water Fantasy At Capitola Saturday Night

One of the most elaborate seaside spectacles ever to be held in Capitola will be presented Saturday night at 8:45 o'clock in the beach lagoon when the local Chamber of Commerce presents its 1954 Capitola Water Fantasy.

A full parade of some 18 to 20 floats constructed on boats and rafts will pass in review down Soquel creek before thousands of spectators lining the bridges and beaches. Cups donated by the Caribbean Ballroom will be awarded to the most original, the most beautiful and the most comical float. (See Picture Page 4.)

Following the parade a 15-act water show will begin in the lagoon. Many of the acts will consist of swimming routines and picturesque water "chorus line" by girls in special swim costumes.

Special dances will be performed on the float in the middle of the show. Miss Peggy Slater, director of the water show, will present "Bullfighter" number.

Some 14 girls will begin a swim number by walking into the water with lighted lances.

calls were received at the Felton division office from persons volunteering their aid.

"Thanks," was the answer in most cases, "but unless you can bring equipment with you, we're sorry."

Highway patrolmen directed traffic in the area, most of which was unnecessary. Hundreds upon hundreds of curious sightseers flocked to the fire stricken area, clogging roads and preventing desperately needed equipment from getting through to the vital points.

Sherriff's deputies were on hand to aid the highway patrol, relay messages and do whatever they could to lessen the confusion. Possesmen also were there.

And still the fire burned on. It was 4:30 p.m. The first house was reported in flames at Olympia. Earlier several houses were gone on Quail Hollow road, the firemen radioed in.

The north wind shifted to a southeast wind, then shifted again. Ballroomers were everywhere in the area, their operators forcing the machines into the very heart of the flames. That was all that could be done, make a trail here and there to divert the fire a few hundred feet away.

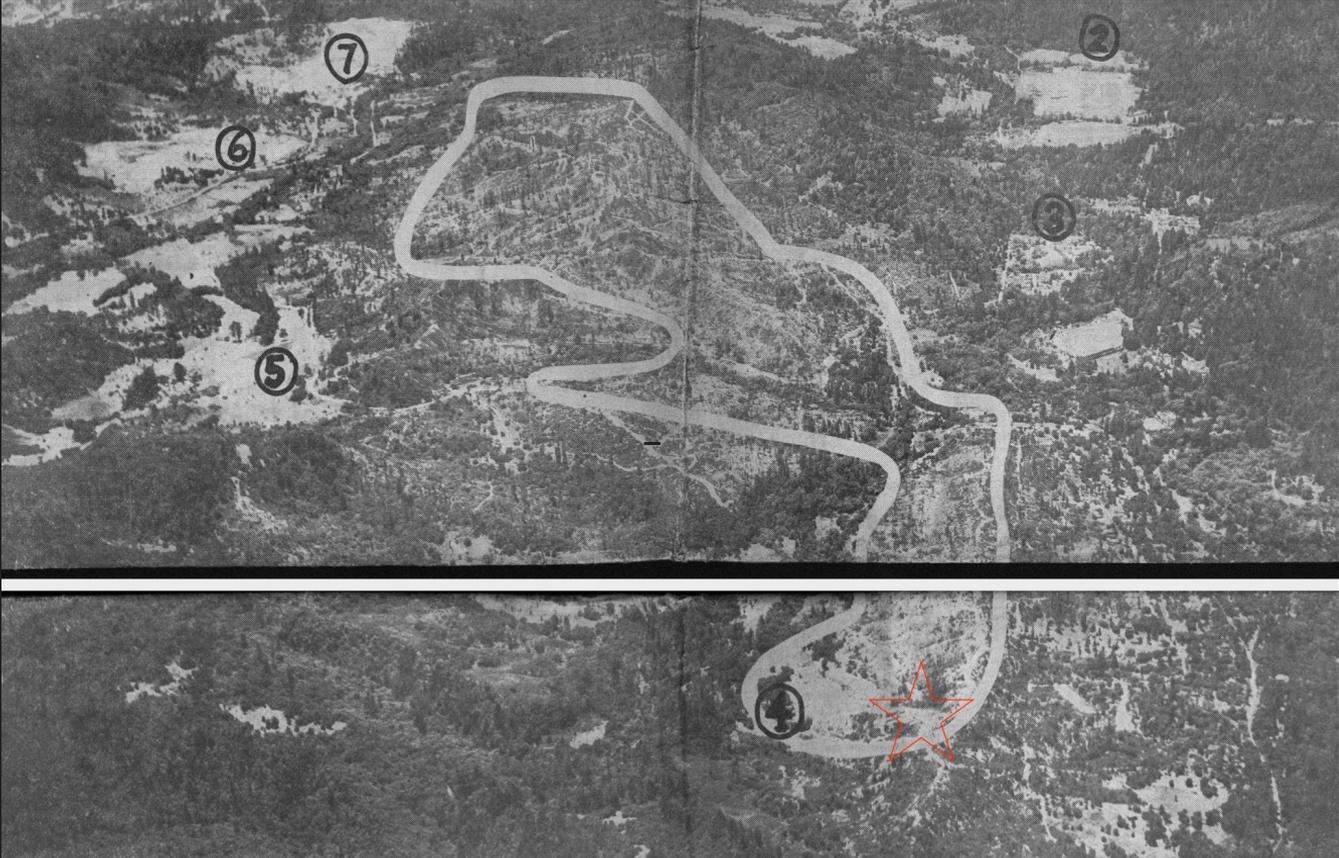
"The fire is chasing us, we're not chasing it," Gum said desperately at one time.

It was impossible to backfire. The wind was shifting too fast.

"We can't do anything but save the houses," Gum stated later.

"The wind is playing everything under direct orders from Gum. A state of emergency was declared and no forward..."

1954 - Ben Lomond Dump Fire

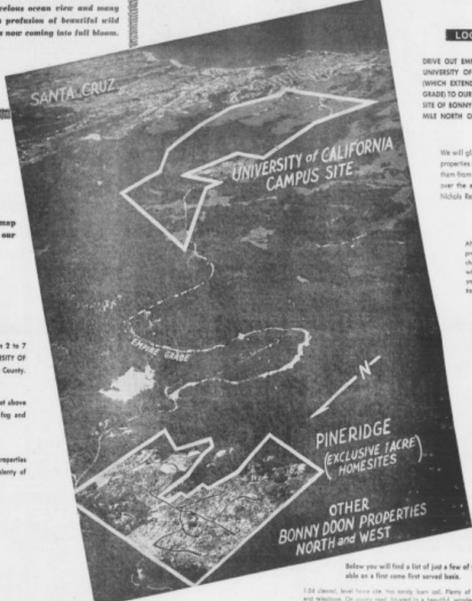


INVESTORS AND FUTURE HOME OWNERS

SEE OUR

Gigantic Cash Property Sale IN THE Empire Grade-Bonny Doon Area

Aerial view showing the location of Pineridge relative to the University of California Campus Site and Bonny Doon. Pineridge is a new development of exclusive acre-acre homesites. Most of these homesites have a marvelous ocean view and many have a profusion of beautiful wild animals near coming late fall Mon.



LOCATION

DRIVE OUT EMPIRE GRADE PAST THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIF. CAMPUS SITE (EMPIRE EXTENDS ALMOST TO EMPIRE GRADE) TO OUR OFFICE AT THE FUTURE SITE OF BONNY DOON VILLAGE. ONE MILE NORTH OF ICE CREAM GRADE.

We will gladly show you over our properties and, if you wish to view them from the air, we will fly you over the area-courtesy of M. H. Nichols Realty.

After you find the property or properties you wish to purchase, make us a cash offer with deposit and we will give you our warmest consideration.

Below you will find a list of just a few of the excellent buys available as a first come first served basis.

1.24 cleared level home site (no grade work out). Plenty of water available. Electricity and telephone. On sandy road located in a beautiful wooded area. Present cash offer accepted. Priced at \$3400, terms \$600 net for the unbelievably low price of \$2800 CASH NOW!

1 Level Acre. The rear 1/2 of which is wooded with beautiful Redwoods, Pines, Oaks and Madroños. This acre, separately clear to suit your own taste! The front portion of this property is cleared on two fronts in a beautiful PANORAMIC VIEW of downtown, San Jose, Bay, and the Ocean. Property faces on a hard surfaced road. Has been priced at \$4000, terms \$600 net for \$3400 CASH NOW!

Beautifully wooded 1 acre. Located approximately 2 miles from the upper end of the University of Calif. Campus Site, on a new clear road. Cleared approximately 1000 feet. One of the nicest big and compact. One second acre, not level but not steep. There is a good second acre being which backs a small tract. A profusion of wild roses in a shallow basin. A panoramic view of the valley with its huge redwoods, in the foreground and the ocean beyond. The property itself is mostly covered with small redwoods, many pines, oaks, madroños and madroños. The kind of property your search will find! Has been priced at \$4400, terms \$600 net for \$3800 CASH NOW!

2.17 acre with a beautiful view and full location to downtown. Approx. 1/2 acre is perfectly level. Southern back units open out. Partially landscaped with beautiful oak and Redwoods. On new hard surfaced road. Priced at \$2400, terms \$600 net for \$1800 CASH NOW!

Large 3.60-acre home on 1.20 acre. Newly landscaped property with a lovely view of Santa Cruz and the ocean beyond. Beautiful view and especially designed. The entire large acre is richly planted with many colorful shrubs and flowering plants. There are no second acres. Additional storage space has 1400 lbs. Other features include a large built fireplace, stone steps, and a drive-through garage. There is also a house on the garden back and frontage road, a purified water system, a septic tank on a separate well at 140 feet with a 7 1/2 hp. Inland deep prime air pump. This home is fully landscaped and is available in very prime, value is an outstanding value at \$21,000. Present loan of \$12,000 may be assumed. MAKE CASH OFFER FOR BALANCE.

Write or phone for map and description of our area.

Our beautiful properties are located from 2 to 7 miles North and West of the new UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUS Site in Santa Cruz County.

At elevations between 1300 and 2600 feet above sea level. Generally up and out of the fog and overcast.

The area is presently being used for properties of the smaller than one acre. This insures plenty of elbow room for many years to come.

Abundance of water readily available.

Excellent hard surfaced roads.

Buses to good schools.

Present inventory of Empire Grade-Bonny Doon properties listed in our offices amounts to \$2,932,070.00. The list price of most of these properties are the same as they were prior to the Regents decision to locate the Campus in Santa Cruz.

Exclusive restricted homesites, homes, and acreage - from one acre to 500 acres - are available, at this time, at drastically reduced prices for cash. Also, we are still selling many properties for as low as \$50 down and small monthly payments.

M. H. NICHOLS REALTY
BONNY DOON VILLAGE 8647 EMPIRE GRADE
SANTA CRUZ TELEPHONE GA 3-1261

● Our beautiful properties are located from 2 to 7 miles North and West of the new UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUS Site in Santa Cruz County.

● At elevations between 1300 and 2600 feet above sea level. Generally up and out of the fog and overcast.

● The area is presently being zoned for properties no smaller than one acre. This insures plenty of elbow room for many years to come.

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● Excellent hard surfaced roads.

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Bonny Doon Master Plan Receives Board's Okay

A general comprehensive plan to preserve Bonny Doon's essentially rural living environment won unanimous approval yesterday afternoon from the board of supervisors.

The action, taken at the conclusion of a short hearing, becomes one of the first concrete steps toward the fulfillment of a county-wide general plan to handle growth in an orderly pattern.

The adoption does not constitute zoning. That will come later, according to Mrs. Elizabeth Gawain, county planner. But it does set a policy which has "teeth" on a state level until zoning can be established.

Its objectives are to accommodate new residential development according to:

1. Reasonable standards for total land use, population density and distribution, and physical development.

2. Necessary services such as sanitary sewage disposal, water supply streets and highways,

schools, fire and police protection.

It also expects to protect rights to agricultural pursuits, scenic beauty, watershed areas and underground water supplies — and to recognize existing uses of land which are compatible with the long range goals.

The plan was based on the area's growth to 1985 and a total population of 4300. The present population is around 900.

Minimum standards set by the plan include a one-acre minimum for residential development and a five-acre minimum for agriculture in the agricultural designated areas.

Mrs. Gawain said that new facilities needed if the area were developed to its full potential would include a sewer system, community water, enlargement of the present Bonny Doon school to a full sized elementary and an additional elementary school, a community center and shopping centers.

Weather Report

Temperature for the 24 hour period ending at 8 a.m. today — Maximum 81 minimum 48.
Monterey Bay Area — Fair and comfortable with some showers, gentle winds.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Serving Santa Cruz County for More Than 100 Years

Guaranteed Paid Circulation of the Sentinel yesterday was 15,314

The County sent daily read by more than 100,000 people. It is the only paper in the county that is read by all buyers and sellers classified and displays advertising news of the area.

106th Year—No. 7

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Santa Cruz, California

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1962

10c Sunday and Daily Excepting Saturday

SIXTEEN PAGES

Gazos Creek Fire Rages Uncontrolled

Smoke From Forest Drifts Toward Sea



Trees Await Flames

Here is an air photo taken 3000 feet up of the big Gazos creek fire on the San Mateo-Santa Cruz county line. Under the smoke lies about 1700 acres of blackened timber land of pine, redwood, and oak. Heat of the fire front is turning the green trees into raging infernos. Major portion of the smoke in

canyon on the left is the general headwater area of Waddell creek which flows down through the Hoover ranch (Rancho del Oso) to the coast. Before the fire is prime timber land of pine, redwood, and oak. Heat of the fire front is turning the green trees into raging infernos. Major portion of the smoke in

Osmer Found Guilty By Judge

BULLETIN

Former Watsonville Chief of Police Frank Osmer was found guilty of conspiring to illegally sell liquor this afternoon by Judge Curtis Wetter.

Judge Wetter had taken the case under consideration this morning and reported on his decision at 1:45 p.m.

The other charges against Osmer, Tony Darwish and William Cattaneo were dismissed. All three men will be sentenced February 7.

By Ron Reeves

The right to a jury trial was waived this morning by Frank Osmer, former Watsonville police chief, and the liquor conspiracy charge was handed to the judge on the basis of the grand jury hearing transcripts.

Osmer made the move on only one count of the grand jury indictments. It was the same count to which Tony George Barwash, Santa Cruz restaurant owner, and William Peter Cattaneo, Salinas liquor salesman, today changed pleas from innocent to guilty.

Tehama County Judge Curtis Wetter recessed until this afternoon at which time he may make rulings in the matter. The case this morning focused on only the first count of the indictment, which is conspiracy to sell liquor illegally. Held in abeyance pending the judge's decision was a second count against the three men charging conspiracy to defraud the Actva Casualty and Surety company and a third count accusing Barwash alone of attempted grand theft.

Submission of the transcript by Osmer and change of plea by Cattaneo and Barwash came after Judge Wetter granted a motion to dismiss the first three over-sets of the count. These three acts concerned Darwish directly, charging that he purchased and received liquor valued at \$8000,

1700 Acres Of Timber Consumed

By Wally Trahing
A 1700-acre forest fire still was being wind-whipped out of control this noon in very rugged timber country between Big Basin state park and the coast, north of New Year island.

Division of Forestry Ranger Les Gorn said this morning that the rare January fire still was 85 per cent out of control and set an estimated control time of Thursday at 10 a.m.

One death has resulted indirectly from the fire. Joseph Spiccia, 54, of 1322 Laurel street, died from a heart attack at the fire early this morning.

Spiccia with his brother John had been logging on Gazos creek in San Mateo county, about five miles northeast of the coast. Fire from log slashings reportedly started the big fire about 10:30 a.m. yesterday. It had reportedly been inspected previously by a forestry official.

Spiccia, a long-time Santa Cruz resident, had been aiding fire fighters and sustained the attack at 4:30 a.m. He was declared dead on arrival at Sisters hospital.

About 300 men and 60 fire fighting units were combating the fire this morning. More are being called from as far away as Fontana in southern California.

Starting in San Mateo county the fire has "hopped over" into Santa Cruz county. It is roughly located between Gazos creek and Whitehouse creek, about seven miles northeast of New Year island and about five to six miles west of Big Basin state park. It is about 22 air miles northwest of Santa Cruz.

The area is heavily timbered in the canyons and brushy on the ridge.

Fate has played a cruel trick on division of forestry officials.

Fire season is all year round in the Santa Cruz Mountains

1962 - Gazos Creek/Lincoln Hill fire, several thousand acres

THE SENTINEL EDITORIALS

A Month To Remember
Snow in Santa Cruz!
And lots of it. Highways closed for hours due to snow.
A forest fire in January.
The hottest January day since 1889.
From a high of 81 to below freezing weather.
January, 1962, has been a weather month to remember.

On the 8th of January, the thermometer reached 81 degrees and we had five balmy days in a row. Typical California shirtsleeve weather in January.

Less than two weeks later it was snowing. There was hail and sleet and hrrr — such cold weather.



Wildfire Box Score

FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 10

Forest fires for week -----	3
Area burned (acres) -----	7
Structural fires for week -----	2
Forest fires this year -----	63
Total area burned (acres) -----	1473

The totals above are for the watersheds, timber lands, and range lands under the jurisdiction of the Santa Cruz ranger unit.

Evidently someone thought that the last rains were sufficient to curb forest fires; but, as evidenced in the above box score, they proved to be wrong again.

While the number of forest fires was fairly constant, the acreage was up. IT WILL BURN.

With the present rain, it may be that we will get a break in fire occurrence for a while.

Please remember: Unite with the rains.

HELP KEEP SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GREEN

Lester H. Gum,
State Forest Ranger
Santa Cruz Ranger Unit

Santa Cruz Sentinel,
Volume 106, Number
240, 11 October 1962

1985 - Lexington Hills Fire

Fire + Fire Prevention

Santa Cruz Mountains fire

Wednesday, July 10, 1985 — Santa Cruz Sentinel—A-7

Weary firefighters try to catch up on their rest

By MARCOS BRETON

Sentinel Staff Writer
LOS GATOS — For 13 hours on Monday Bill Judd worked his way through the Santa Cruz Mountains.

A member of the California Conservation Corps, Judd is not an experienced firefighter.

"This is the first fire I've ever fought," said Judd as he rested at Vasona Lake Park, a park formerly known as one of the most-visited recreation spots in the area.

Now, however, Vasona has been transformed into a "base camp" for firefighters returning and going into the fire area.

Tents, food lines, rest areas and fire information booths have been set up to handle the coordination of firefighting personnel and the large contingent of local media.

Trees which were once used to pitch hammocks are now serving as rest spots for weary firefighters while two picnic areas were turned into "chow lines" to feed the many hungry men and women.

Resting in what used to be a parking lot, Judd said the fires burning in the mountains were "pretty bad."

"There are some real big major fires and some small hot spots," Judd said, "we fought some fires off some dirt roads; we did our share."

After his 15-hour shift Monday, Judd rested briefly at Vasona and then he and his friends from CCC went back for a 12-hour shift Tuesday.

He said they would probably keep going back until the fire was out.

'I don't like fighting fires. "Your eyes, nose and throat burn and every once in a while you have to get some fresh air.'

— Firefighter Bill Judd

"So far it's been awfully dangerous."

Late Tuesday afternoon firefighters from all over the state were arriving at Vasona and were advised to eat before going out to fight the fires at night.

Shifts varied, and most of the incoming firefighters didn't know how

Cool, moist air moves onshore

SANTA CRUZ — Cool, moist air moved onshore from the ocean today to bring some welcome relief from the heat.

Temperatures will heat up again on Thursday, but not the way they did earlier this week, said Redwood City National Weather Service forecaster Robert Brown.

Brown said an upper-level trough of cool air had moved onshore, bringing in moisture to the Monterey Bay coast.

NWS predicted a high today in the low 70s, with patchy clouds tonight and an overnight low of mid-50s. The mercury hit a record-breaking 99 degrees on Monday.

long they would be gone. Darrell Kohler of the state Department of Forestry in Clear Lake said three crews of men left at 5 a.m. Monday morning and as of Tuesday evening had not come back.

"The normal shift is about 12 to 14 hours, but that changes," Kohler said. Since Monday Kohler has been working with a kitchen crew he brought from Clear Lake with him.

He said the kitchen is open 24 hours a day and that in the two days he had been at Vasona he had "probably slept around two hours."

Local merchants have been arriving to donate food. Firefighters, including a group of convicts from local correctional facilities, ate pizza, hamburgers and potatoes along with an assortment of fruits and vegetables.

Ernie Morua, a firefighter from the San Benito/Monterey area, said he had been working 13 days straight.

"There are a lot of spot fires all over," Morua said. "I'm a little tired."

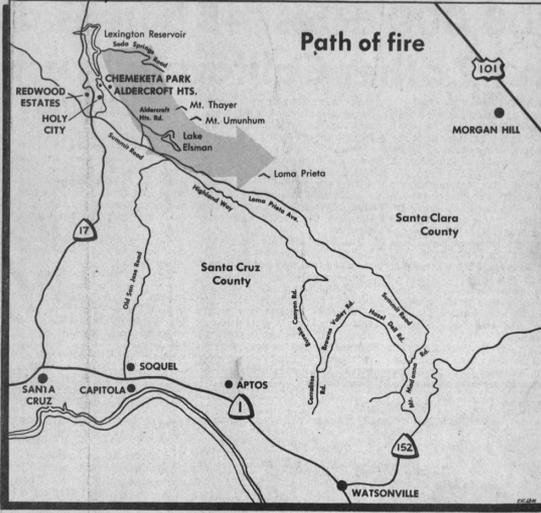
Mike Cook, a firefighter from Placerville said he had already fought "about a dozen fires" in this, his first season as a fireman.

"This is my first season and the way things are going it will most likely be my last," Cook joked.

Red Cross volunteers at Vasona said most firefighters have only been treated for minor injuries.

"Luckily there has been nothing real major in the time I've been here," said volunteer Ed Phipps, "most of it has been stuff like heat exhaustion and bumps and bruises."

"They all seem to be holding up real well; they're just tired," he said.



SC Mountains fire at a glance

- **ACRES BURNED:** — 14,000 to 18,000
- **EVACUATIONS:** — 4,500 people have been evacuated or informed of danger
- **HOMES THREATENED:** — 2,000
- **HOMES BURNED:** — At least 7
- **FIREFIGHTERS:** — 1,560 firefighters on scene
- **FIRE ENGINES:** — 78 engines from as far away at Humboldt County
- **BULLDOZERS:** — 44 on the scene
- **AIR TANKERS:** — 5 on the scene
- **HELICOPTERS:** — 4 on the scene
- **WHERE TO CALL FOR FIRE INFORMATION:** — 335-7682 or 335-7987
- **WHERE TO CALL FOR PET INFORMATION:** — SPCA 475-6454



Prescribed fire at
Wilder Ranch,
October 29, 2004

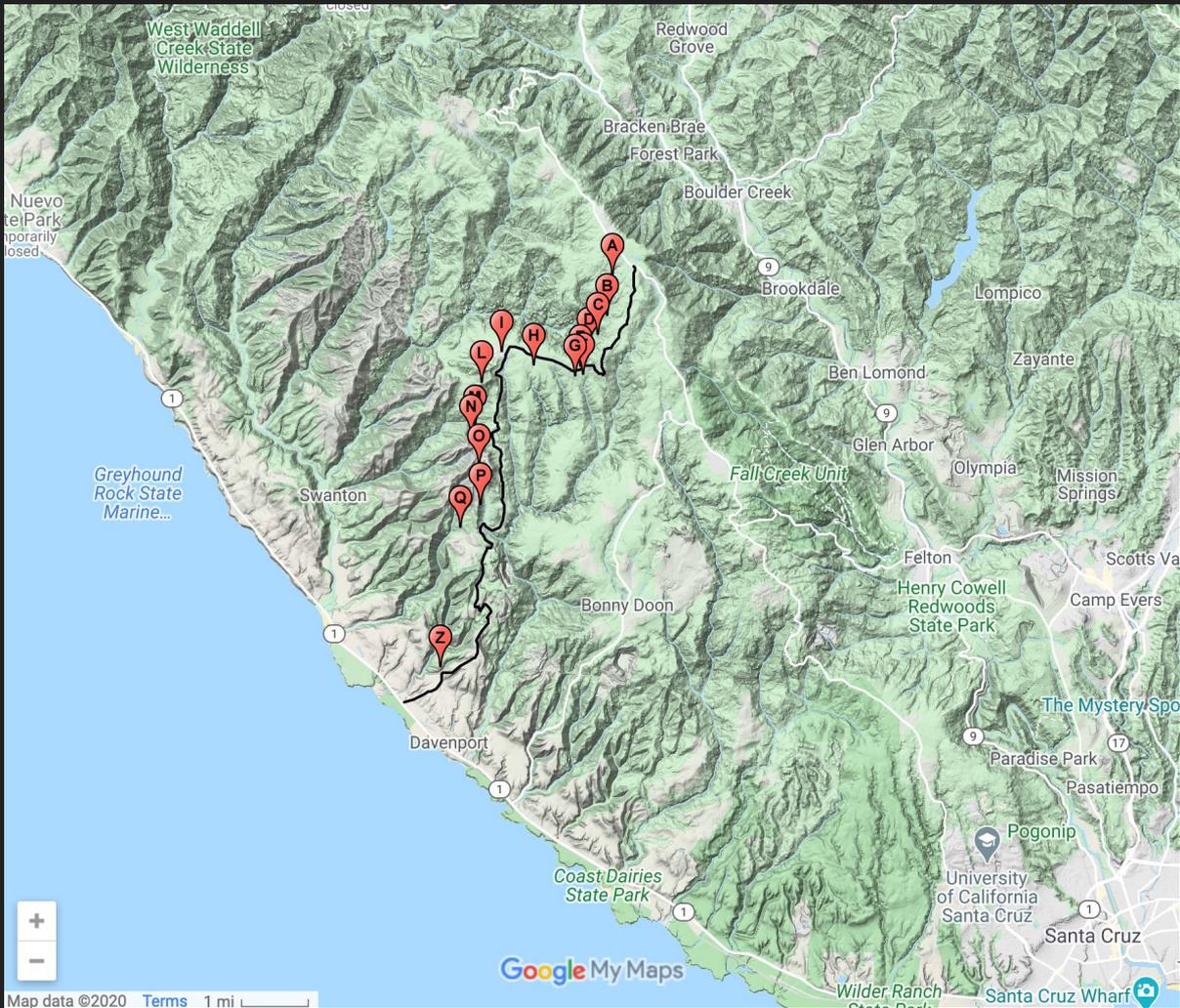
Taken from UCSC

Photo: Mulvaney



2006, 2007
photos of
Bonny Doon
Ecological
Preserve
before 2008
Martin Fire





10-mile-long fuel break carved through Santa Cruz mountains

"We've bisected our mountain, from the coast down by Davenport, all the way down to the San Lorenzo Valley by Felton," one wildfire expert said.



Updated: 12:40 PM PST Dec 6, 2017



Phil Gomez  
Reporter

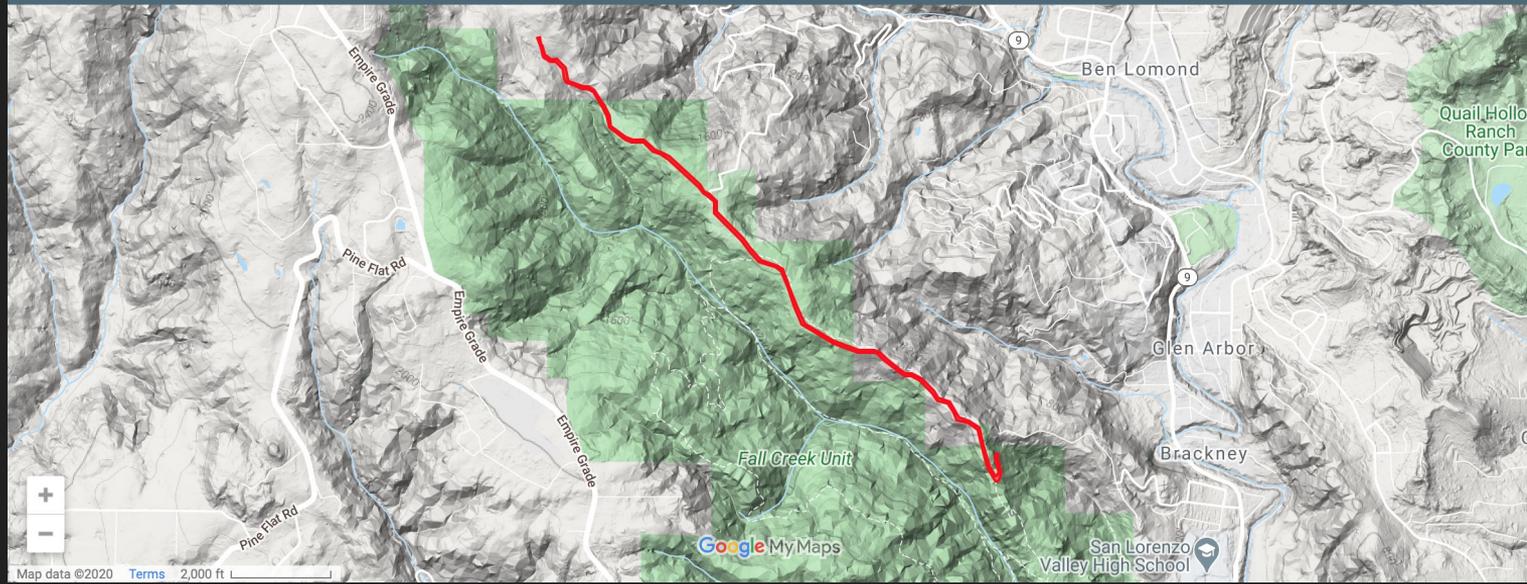
"We've bisected our mountain, from the coast down by Davenport, all the way down to the San Lorenzo Valley by Felton," one wildfire expert said.



Fall Creek Truck Trail

 Fall Creek Truck Trail SFB 

 This map was created by a user. [Learn how to create your own.](#)





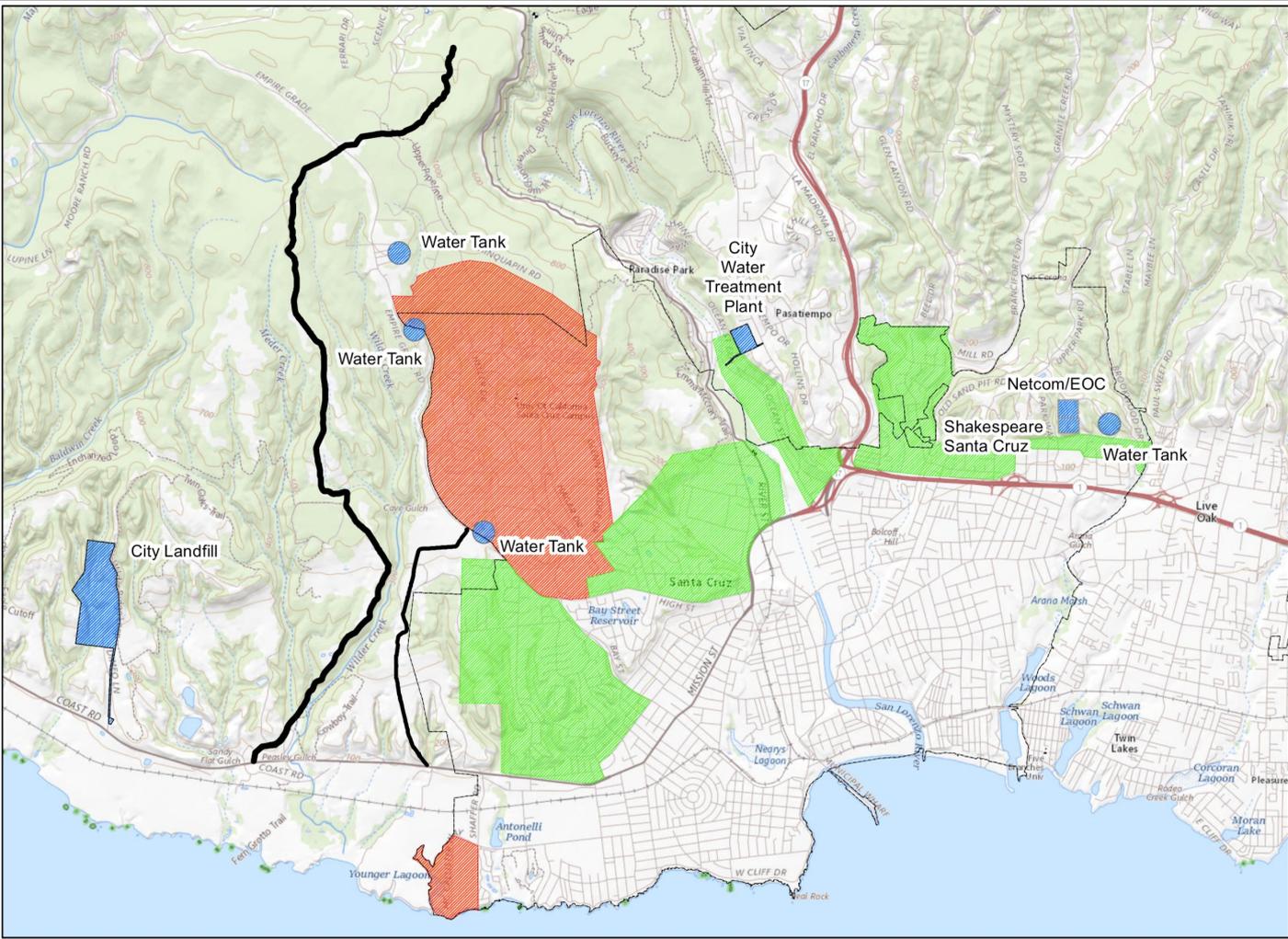


Record Warmth For August 16th

8 locations set new record high temperatures!

Location:	Today's High:	Previous Record & Year
Santa Rosa	103	100 in 2019
Livermore	106	105 in 1951
Half Moon Bay	82	72 in 2015
San Jose	100	97 in 2015
Santa Cruz	107	94 in 1983
Salinas	98	94 in 1933
Monterey	94	90 in 2015
King City	107	103 in 2015





Dustin Mulvaney
@DustinMulvaney

Decent update re UCSC. Fire hung up around Smith Grade. Buys time. They're going to run dozer lines on fire roads from twin gates down Wilder Ranch to Ocean, then through UCSC down to Rt 9. Some optimism to hold that. Dozer line to the ocean happens tonight. #CZULightingComplex

10:23 PM - Aug 20, 2020 - Twitter for iPhone

View Tweet activity

36 Retweets 7 Quote Tweets 213 Likes

Who can reply?
People @DustinMulvaney follows or mentioned can reply.

Dustin Mulvaney @DustinMulvaney - Aug 20
Replying to @DustinMulvaney
Wilder Ranch is frequently prescribed fire, so that line will have the benefit of reduced fuel.

Dustin Mulvaney @DustinMulvaney - Aug 20
I am not an official nor wildfire expert, I just have a good gossip.

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Incident Information Line:
(831) 335-6717

RELEASE DATE: August 18, 2020
10:00 p.m.

CZU AUGUST LIGHTNING COMPLEX ADDITIONAL EVACUATION ORDERS ISSUED IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

EVACUATION UPDATE

WHAT: ADDITIONAL EVACUATION ORDERS

WHEN: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

WHERE: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Significant portions of the Northern part of Santa Cruz County including Last Chance and Big Basin State Park, and Las Cumbres are under a mandatory evacuation order.

(Zone CRZ1, CRZ2, CRZ10, CRZ13, CRZ14, CRZ15)

All of Boulder Creek Fire Protection District has received a mandatory evacuation notice.

(BOU1-BOU43)

Please do not head North on Hwy 235 or Hwy 9.
Travel routes are either SOUTH on Hwy 9, or EAST on Bear Creek Road.

**EVERYONE WHO IS IN THESE AREAS, PLEASE EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.
IF YOU ARE IN AN ADJOINING AREA TO THESE MANDATORY
EVACUATIONS, FURTHER EVACUATIONS MAY BE ORDERED BASED ON
FIRE CONDITIONS.**

View the most current evacuation information at:
www.smco.community.zonehaven.com

Residents who would like to receive email updates can follow the link below to
opt-in: <https://tinurl.com/czulightning>

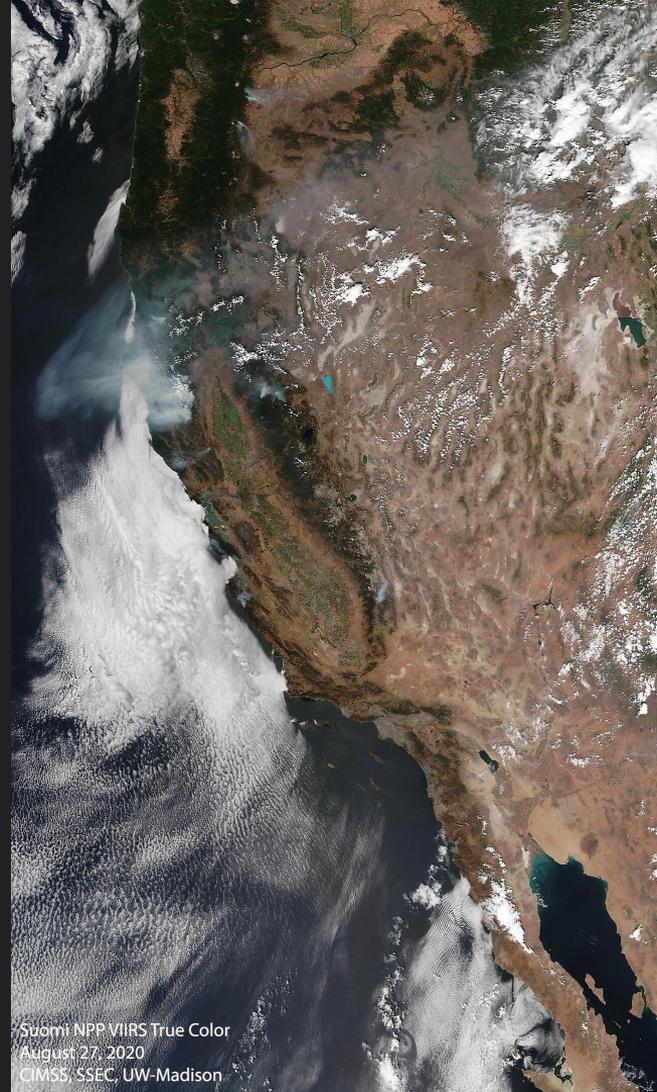
Fire at Big Basin Vineyards



Suomi NPP VIIRS True Color
August 20, 2020
CIMSS, SSEC, UW-Madison



Fog, big marine layer,
11 days after fire started,
still having difficult time
getting fire to burn to
Butano fire line.



Suomi NPP VIIRS True Color
August 27, 2020
CIMSS, SSEC, UW-Madison

Impacts of the CZU Lightning Complex Fire of August 2020 on the forests of Big Basin Redwoods State Park

April 12, 2023

FULL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Christopher Potter*

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Published 12 April 2023 • www.doi.org/10.51492/cfwj.109.1

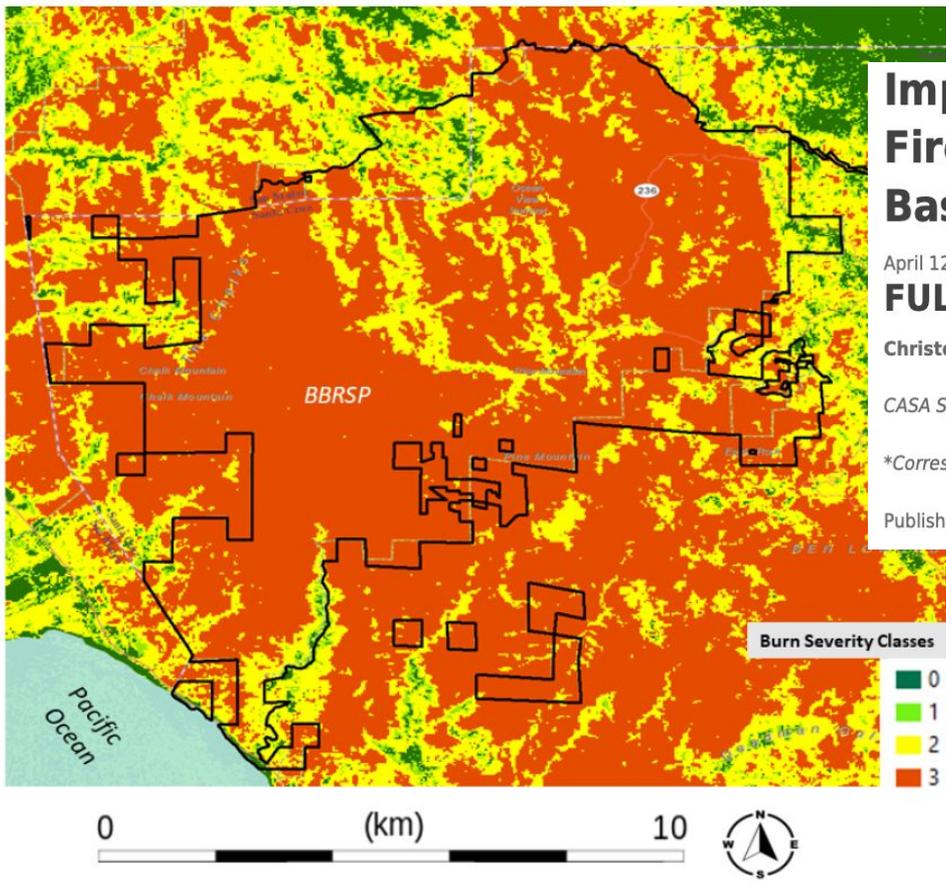


Figure 2. Map of Landsat dNBR burn severity classes resulting from the 2020 CZU Complex fires in the Big Basin Redwoods State Park area (delineated in solid boundary line). Color legend of burn severity class labels is as follows: 0 = very low burn severity, 1 = low burn, 2 = moderate burn severity, and 3 = high burn severity.

<https://journal.wildlife.ca.gov/2023/04/12/impacts-of-the-czu-lightning-complex-fire-of-august-2020-on-the-forests-of-big-basin-redwoods-state-park/>

July, 2020

October, 2020

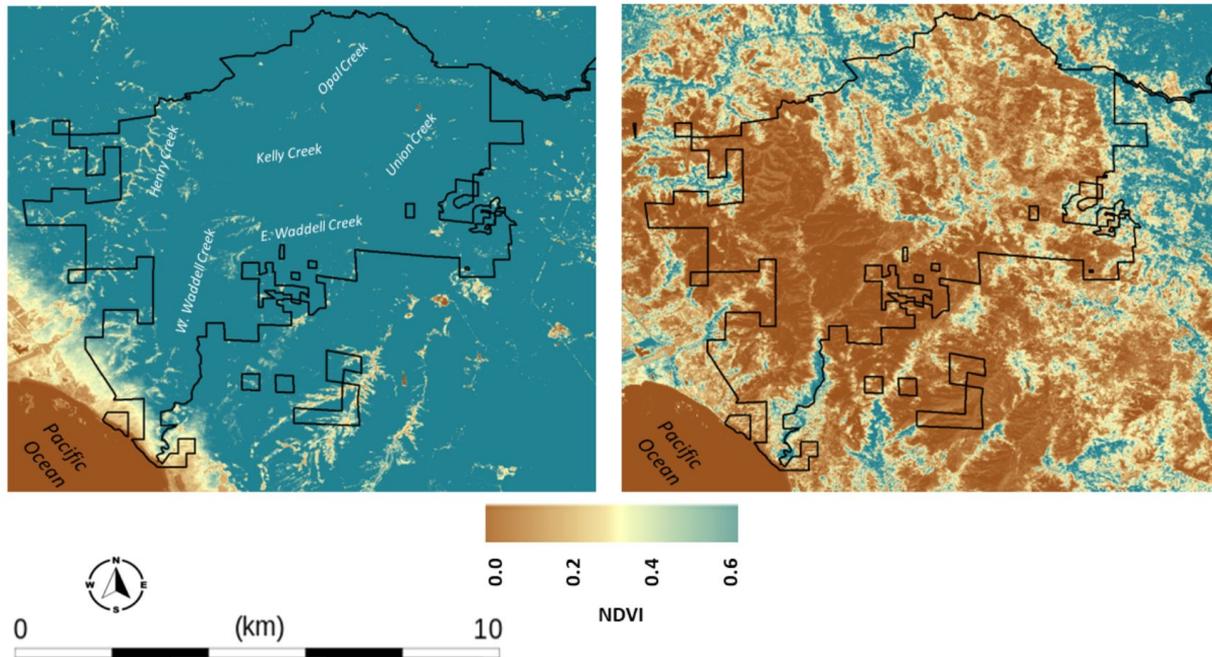


Figure 3. Pre-and post-fire maps of NDVI from Sentinel imagery acquired in 2020 across the CZU Complex burned areas in Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Post-CZU fire Sentinel NDVI maps from imagery obtained in October 2021 and July 2022 for BBRSP (Fig. 4) implied, respectively, that: (1) almost no large tree canopy regrowth and recovery had occurred in BBRSP over the first full year following full containment of the-CZU Fire (October 2020 to October 2021), and (2) a modest amount of large tree canopy regrowth occurred over the next 9 months (November 2021 to July 2022), mainly in the eastern-most creek drainages of BBRSP. Greening of the severely burned forest cover (from NDVI < 0.1 to around 0.25) was most noticeable by July 2022 in the Union Creek, Kelly Creek and E. Waddell Creek drainages on flat slopes and relatively low elevations of 300 m (Fig. 4).

santacruz2 - NetCam SC IR - Thu Apr 08 2021 10:03:57 PST - UTC-8
Camera Temperature: 35.5
Exposure: 41



santacruz2 - NetCam SC IR - Wed Nov 15 2023 12:03:13 PST - UTC-8
Camera Temperature: 30.0
Exposure: 32

