

Structures and Stories

Reproducing Industries of the Santa Clara Valley

Robert Bowdidge

**Everyone has their own particular sub-interests
in model railroading.**

Mine is architecture and local history.

Biggest pet peeve:

**buildings on a California layout
that don't look like California.**



Summit Tunnel
Sealed USGS found
full of natural gas in 1960's

YASONA JCT

ALMA

CLARK CO. OF MISSOURI



Why Focus on Structures?

- Make buildings look right for California.
- Make scenes look correct for the era.
- Make buildings that are big enough to be a rail served industry.
- Learn about the dried fruit and canning businesses.
- Be able to understand freight cars and traffic for the industry.
- Understand the time and place: excitement and opportunities

Why San Jose?

Understand my family's stories better



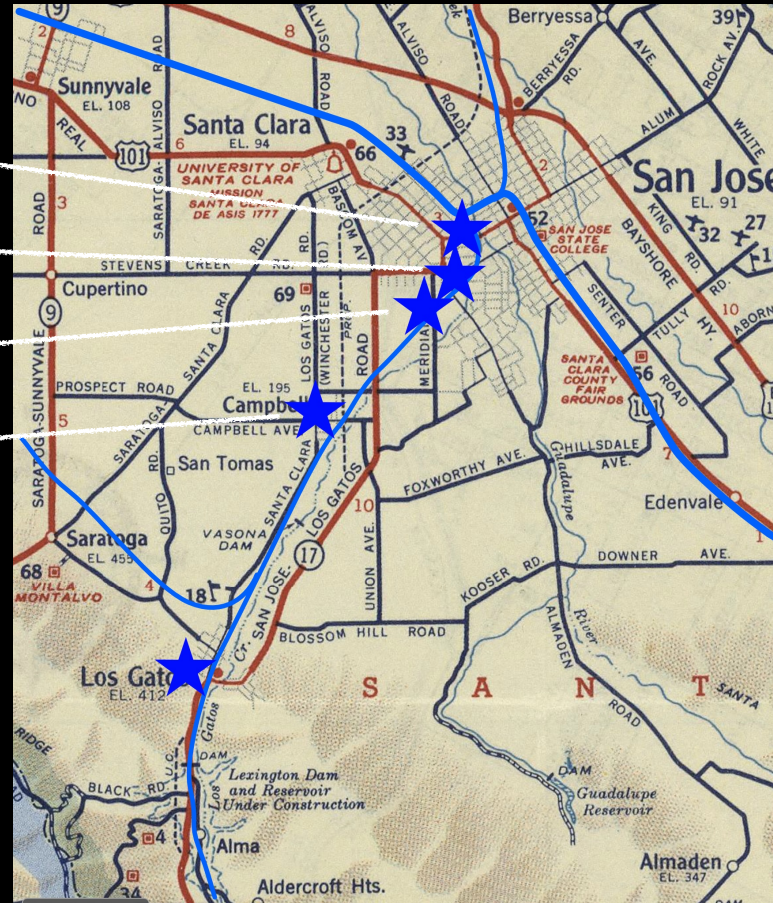
Which Structures?

Del Monte Plant #51, Bush St.

Packing house, San Carlos St.

Salsina cannery, Lincoln Ave.

Ainsley cannery, Campbell



Sources

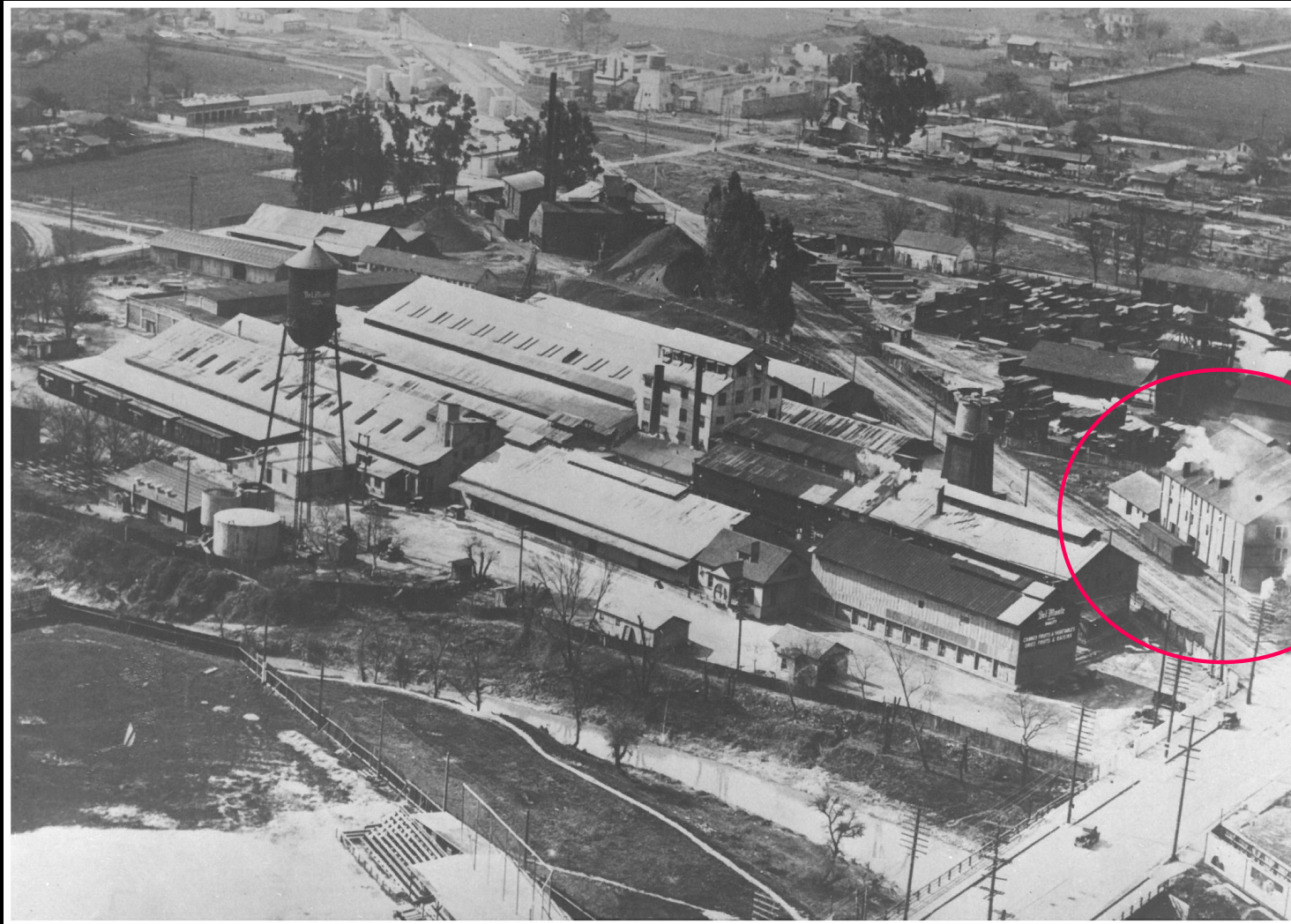
- Industrial records: Sanborn maps, SP valuation maps, etc.
- Public records: deeds and mortgages, city directories, court cases
- Media: newspapers, books, trade magazines
- Human stories: oral histories, interviews, family mementos

J. S. Roberts packing house

750 San Carlos St., San Jose



John C. Gordon Collection
San Jose State University



History San Jose



John C. Gordon collection,
San Jose State University

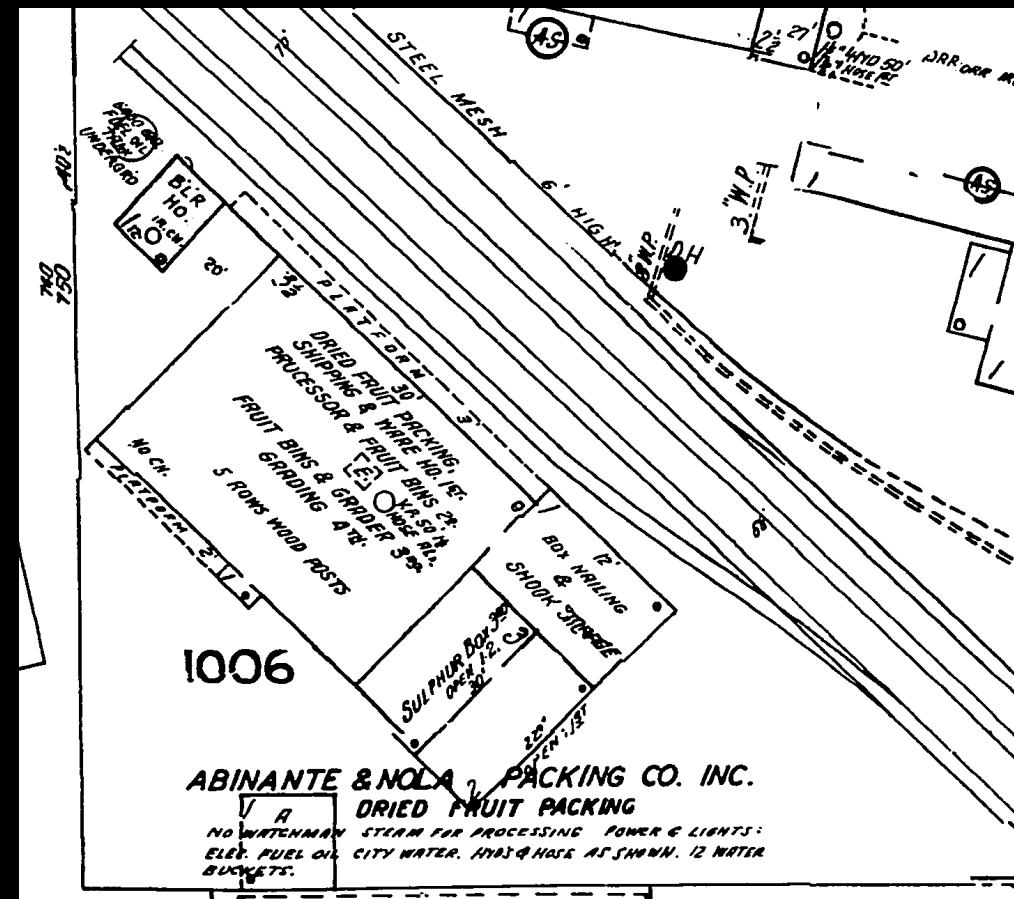


John C. Gordon collection,
San Jose State University

J. S. Roberts dried fruit packing

Information from Sanborn map

- 3.5 stories, 30' to roof
- extensions for sulfur hse, box prep
- separate boiler house + oil tank
- details on operations
- owner (as of 1950)





Please do not touch or move books
on top of the Southern Map books.
The map books are old and fragile.
They should remain in their current
location.

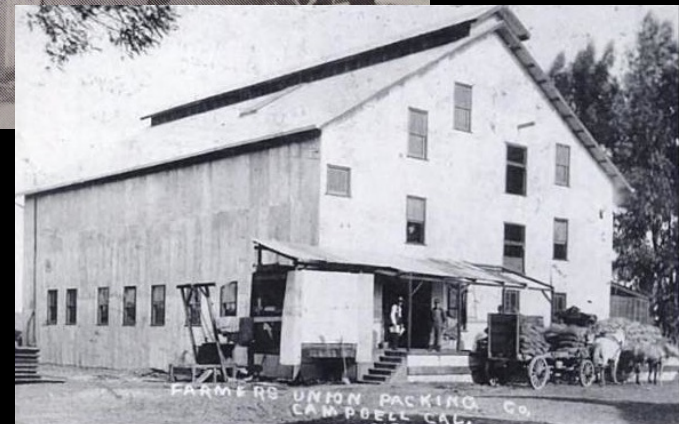
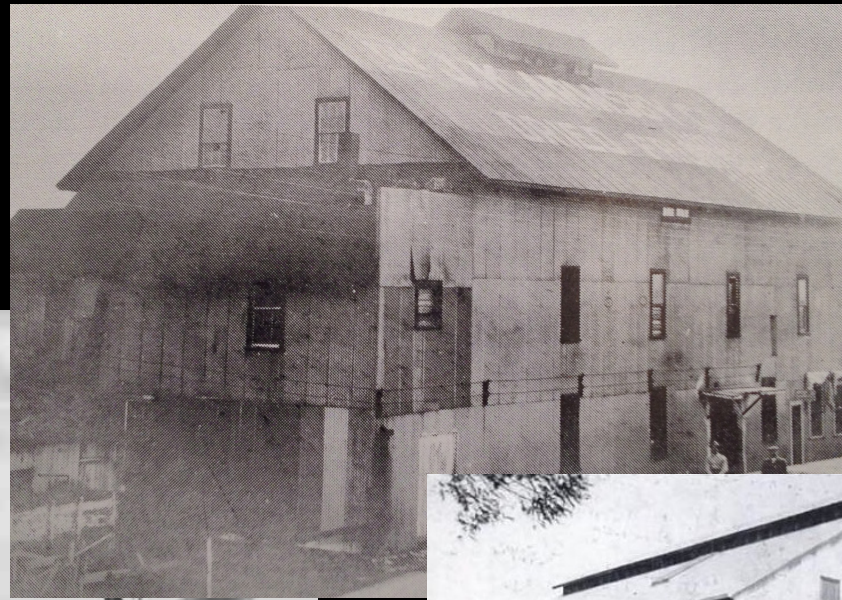
Southern Map (1787-1811)
1811 Edition

Southern Map (1787-1811)
1811 Edition

Southern Map (1787-1811)
1811 Edition

J. S. Roberts dried fruit packing

Instance of common packing house style



J. S. Roberts dried fruit packing

Multiple operators and names

- 1902: Constructed as Ernst Luehning & Co / Pacific Fruit Products (from newspaper)
- 1903: Spur installed (from valuation map)
- 1903: Pacific Fruit Products (from Sanborn maps)
- 1917-1920's: Sunsweet packer, and Sunsweet plant (from news)
- 1932: Higgins-Hyde / "Sun-glo" (from SP siding list)
- 1934-1945: J. S. Roberts
- 1945-1950's: Abinante and Nola (from family)

J. S. Roberts dried fruit packing

The Model



J. S. Roberts dried fruit packing

The model

Styrene siding over
plexiglas box

Much larger than freight
cars

Next to bridge as seen in
historic photos



ZONE EIGHT

Block	Industry	Track	Copy -Plant	Copy -	Tag.
823	Work Track				8
825	Pac Gas Elec.(Poles)	7		7	8
826	Team Track	8		8	8
827	Team Track	5		5	8
829	Calif.Pkg. Corpn #51	15		15	8
830	Calif.Pkg. Corpn #51	15		15	8
831	Pac. Shingle & Box	6		2	8
832	San Jose Paving Co	15		3	8
832 †	" "	6		2	8
833	Higgins-Hyde Packg Co.	4		4	8
834	Work Track				8
834 †	Pacific By-Products	10		5	8
835	Calif Pkg Corpn # 3				
	(Joint W.P. Track)	9		9	8
835 †	" "	9		9	8
835 †	Calif. Pkg Corpn # 54				
	(Joint W.P. Track)	3		3	8
836	Calif. Pkg Corpn #3	6		6	8
837	" " #3	7		7	8
838	Tilden Lbr. & Mill	13		6	8
839	" (Joint W.P. Track)	12		10	8
840	Standard Oil Co.				
	(Joint W.P. Track)	9		7	8
841	Peninsular Ry. Exchange				18
842	Calif Pkg Corpn #23	8		8	8
843	" " #23	4		4	8
844	Calif. Prune & Apr. Grs # 6	3		3	8
845	" " # 6	5		5	8
	(Joint W.P. Track)				
846	Calif. Prune & Apr. Grs #6	4		4	8
847	Hershel Cal. Fruit Prod.	7		5	8
848	U.S. Products	10		5	8
848 †	U.S. Products	13		13	8
850	San Jose Brick Co.	18		17	8
851	San Jose Brick Co.	15		15	8
	Mercury Station	3			71
	Lefranc "	18			71
	Lefranc "	10			71
	Union Ave.	6			71

SP San Jose siding list, 1931

History San Jose collection

J. S. Roberts packing house

The Higgins-Hyde affair

- Tried selling prunes ahead of the prune pool keeping up prices.
- Enemy number one in news in July, 1932
- Found in Google News Archive back issues of San Jose News.

doing their utmost to help in this emergency; and I call on the ind-

grower contracts and plan assistance for solicitation.

REPORT CONDEMNS HIGGINS-HYDE POOL

Heads of the United Prune Growers are asked to make some provision for the participation of private pools in the new industry program in the report of the State's investigating committee. The report covers the probe of the Higgins-Hyde prune pool by E. M. Boland of the State department of agriculture.

Mr. Boland reported that private pools have been operating in the industry for 41 years and in some instances have been a distinct advantage to the industry, conducting their business on ethical lines and refusing to participate in price wars.

On the other hand some pools, it was found, have not been operated on such high principles. These have

manner; the packer is allowed to hold the grower for a \$30 per ton packing charge regardless of selling price, and there have been other abuses.

HIGGINS-HYDE FLAYED

With regard to the Higgins-Hyde pool, Mr. Boland reported he found definite misrepresentations had been made to growers, among them that the pool would enter the United Prune Growers; that growers joining the pool would be exempt from the industry prune advertising charge; that united prune pool members could not hope to get all their money prior to from 10 months to two years after delivery, while Higgins-Hyde members would receive 90 per cent of their money before January 1 of the fol-

When Packing Houses Kill

Fitzpatrick vs Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 15 Cal.App.2d 155

- Appeals court rulings can be sources of data - search for company names and addresses.
- John Whelan, superintendent of Guggenime & Co's packing house, died in 1930's.
- Life insurance policy paid \$5,000, but offered double indemnity if injured in a "regular passenger elevator car."
- Jury said "death by elevator", insurance company appealed.



When Packing Houses Kill

- “The building in which the accident occurred was three stories in height, and was entirely occupied by Guggenhime & Co. in carrying on the business of drying and packing fruits. The only elevator operated therein was the one in which the accident occurred. It was of the hydraulic type, raised and lowered by water power, and operated by means of a cable which by pulling opened a vale and let in the water pressure. The dimensions of the elevator car were six feet by seven feet...

“the elevator shaft was enclosed [with wire mesh] only part of the way up between floors.”

When Packing Houses Kill

- “... the evidence shows beyond question that it was used indiscriminately for the carriage of both freight and human beings. The fruit manufacturing processes were conducted on the second and third floors, and the employees used the elevator generally and constantly, not only in going from one floor to another... but also to convey customers and visitors up and down...

...one of the employees testified that in the summer time it is practically every two or three minutes a day a person might be going up. There was a sign hung on the rear of the wall of the elevator reading: This elevator is for freight only. This means you - Guggenhime & Co”... but the sign was intended to merely stop people not having business with the company from using the elevator for their own pleasure.”

15 Cal.App.2d 155, 1936



Ed Gibson photo

J. S. Roberts packing house

History by walking around

- Oil tank still in ground
- Sanborn map says 6,000 gallons
- In reality, 12,000 gallons!



Robert Bowdidge photo



Ainsley Cannery

Harrison St., Campbell

Alice Lola Hare photo, Bancroft Library collection

Ainsley Cannery

Aerial photo



Ainsley Cannery

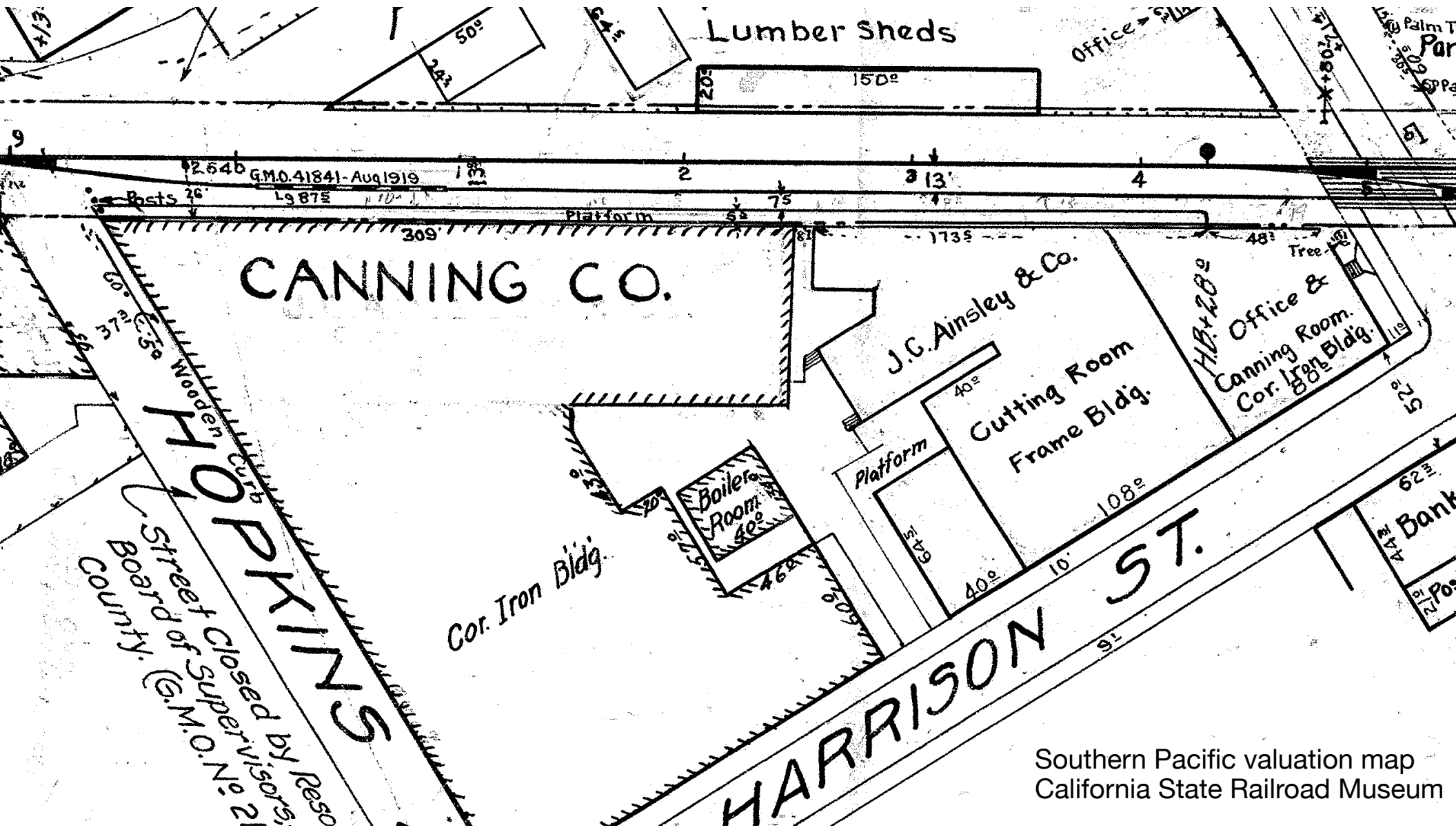
South side, along Campbell Ave.





WHEELY FROM THE WHEELER TRIP
MAY 1920

E-420



Street closed by Reso
 Board of Super. Visors,
 County. G.M.O. No. 21

Southern Pacific valuation map
 California State Railroad Museum



B. O. CURRY BLDG.

DREW CANNING CO LTD

OFFICE

AINSLEY

VENTILATED REFRIGERATOR
OF STEEL
B. O. CURRY BLDG.

Campbell Ave.

APRICOT PULP

FOR
JAM MAKING.

The New Season's CALIFORNIAN
APRICOT PULP has just arrived.

We have the Famous AINSLEY'S SOLID
PACK PULP. It's beautiful quality, and
so solid there is very little indrink in the
Jam Making.

Add weight for weight of Sugar, and boil
as in ordinary Jam Making. Some people
prefer to boil a few Bitter Almonds with it to
impart a touch of the kernel flavour. We
have the Bitter Almonds, 1d per oz.

APRICOT PULP, 7-Lb. Tin, 2/6.

Peebles Bros
Central Warehouse,
Whitehall Place, DUNDEE

Shop at —

Tel. 164.

CARR'S CORNER

AINSLEYS DESSERT FRUITS.

IN GLASS (Packed where grown).

Peaches	... ..	Per Glass	3/8
Apricots	... ..	" "	3/8
Fruit Salad	... ..	" "	4/6

IN TIN (Nom. 2½lbs.).

Apricots, Golden Morn	... ..	Per Tin	1/5½
Peaches	" "	" "	1/4½
Pears	" "	" "	1/10½
Fruit Salad, Fancy	... ..	" "	2/-
" " Small Tin	... ..	" "	1/2½

CARR & Co.

CALVERLEY STORES,
TUN. WELLS & Crowboro'.

CARR'S CORNER!

DESSERT FRUITS IN SYRUP.

AINSLEY'S. Nom. 2½lbs.

Apricots, Fancy, per tin	1/3½
Pears " " "	1/6½
Peaches " " "	1/3
Fruit Salad " " "	1/11
Pine Slices " " "	1/3

SPECIAL OFFER.

Peaches	Nom. 2½lbs.	10½d.
Peaches (Sliced)	" "	10½d.

PURE OLIVE OIL.

For medicinal or culinary purposes.

Nom. quart	2/11½
Nom. pint	1/8½
Nom. ½-pint	11½d.
Nom. ¼-pint	8d.
Gallon Can	13/6

CARR'S MARMALADE.

2lbs.	10½d.
-------	-------

SARDINES.

SPECIAL OFFER.

Portuguese	18oz. tin	1/2
French	18oz. tin	1/9½

SPECIAL WHEATMEAL FLOUR.

Stone ground, contains the whole
of the wheat.

3½lb. bag	1/3.
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ASPARAGUS.

Fresh arrivals daily at the lowest
prices.

CALVERLEY STORES,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Tel. 164.

THE BROADWAY,

CROWBOROUGH.

Tel. 82.

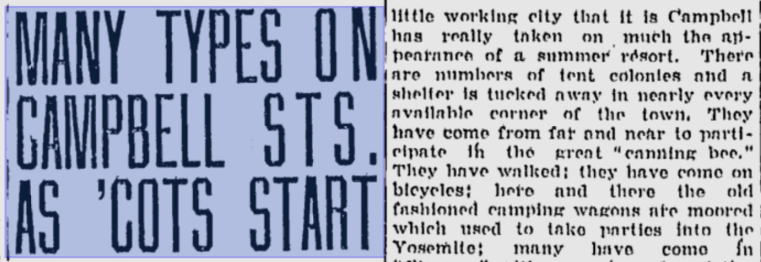
Edith Daley visits Campbell

July 10, 1919 San Jose News

“...Campbell has really taken on the appearance of a summer resort. There are numbers of tent colonies and a shelter is tucked away in nearly every available corner of the town. They have come from near and far to participate in the great “canning bee”...

“...there are houses and cottages and army tents with floors and army tents without floors and square white tents and “pup tents” and bits of canvas stretched about four poles.”

“Yesterday the canneries were able to shut down in good time in the afternoon, but if the hot spell had continued they would soon have been working triple time.”



MANY TYPES ON CAMPBELL STS. AS 'COTS START

They say that the population of Campbell has more than doubled almost overnight—in less than a week, at any rate—and one can well believe it as one walks about the streets of the little orchard city.

The reasons for such phenomenal growth are not far to seek, and are three: 1—The California Canning company. 2—The J. C. Ainslee Packing company. 3—The George E. Hyde company. All of these big concerns are running full blast, this week, and it is their workers whom one sees about Campbell.

Many Types

And what a variety of them there are! There is the city girl, who takes it all as a lark and, it is feared, is a little more afraid of spoiling her hands than the efficient worker should be. She is not averse to earning a few dollars for fall hats during the summer months, however.

Then there is the black-eyed little Italian girl, the most efficient worker in

little working city that it is Campbell has really taken on much the appearance of a summer resort. There are numbers of tent colonies and a shelter is tucked away in nearly every available corner of the town. They have come from far and near to participate in the great “canning bee.” They have walked; they have come on bicycles; here and there the old fashioned camping wagons are moored which used to take parties into the Yosemite; many have come in “flyvers,” with a number of varieties of the folding “homes” which canvas makers are turning out, and there are even “sixes” and “eights” alongside humble canvas shelters.

All Sorts of Houses

There are houses and cottages and army tents with floors and army tents without floors and square white tents and “pup tents and bits of canvas stretched about four poles, and even a little corrugated iron now and then, although one would think that that would have been a little too much in yesterday's frying weather.

Speaking of the weather—the ‘cots at present are just coming in in nice shape. Yesterday the canneries were able to shut down in good time in the afternoon, but if the hot spell had continued they would soon have been working triple time. Four days more of such weather would have cost California a “cool” million, is the estimate of one prominent Campbell fruit man.

A sort of festive atmosphere hangs over the little city, much like that

Many Types

And what a variety of them there are! There is the city girl, who takes it all as a lark and, it is feared, is a little more afraid of spoiling her hands than the efficient worker should be. She is not averse to earning a few dollars for fall hats during the summer months, however.

Then there is the black-eyed little Italian girl—most efficient worker in the game. It is a matter of dollars and cents with her and she clears \$5 or \$6 a day without half trying when the 'cots are running good.

There are ex-tired businessmen of the bay cities who want to spend a few days away from the pavements and who have brought their wives and kiddies with them to enjoy the celebrated Santa Clara valley. And kiddies! There are scores of them, of assorted sizes, shapes and colors. All with little sunburned noses and knees, and a universally happy expression of health and pleasure.

Only the children of 14 or over work in the canneries. The rest spend their days in the cannery kindergartens—but more of those conveniences later.



OFFICE AND FACTORY:

Campbell
Santa Clara Co., Cal.

PEAR ACCOUNT OF TREAT RANCH., 1914.

July 23, S.P.	38225	500 Bxs.	22367 lbs.
" 25, S.P.	39007	500 "	22352 "
" 27, GHSA	61105	500 "	22507 "
" 29, S.P.	38542	318 "	14633 "
Aug. 3, S.P.	38574	456 "	22019 "
" 3, GHSA	31602,	500 "	23796 "
" 5, S.P.	74708	500 "	23553 "
" 10, S.P.	75498	225 "	10804 "
" 14, S.P.	75938	500 "	23724 "
" 17, S.P.	33680	500 "	23840 "
" 1, S.P.	38925	500 "	24154 "
" 19, L.W.	13926	442 "	21441 "
" 22, Loc.		122 "	6281 "
" 24, MLT	14234	500 "	24582 "
Sept. 8, S.P.	75754	312 "	15010 "
	<u>6375</u>	"	<u>301033</u> " @ \$50.00= \$7525.82

20% of \$7525.82

\$1505.16

\$6020.66

Campbell Museum, posted to Twitter

What kind of cars were those?

Reporting Marks	Car Type	Class	Built	Dimensions
SP 38925	fruit vent	CS-2	1895	31'6, 60000 lb
SP 3xxxx				
GHSA 61105	stock	S-40-3	1911	36' 80000 lb
SP 38542	fruit vent	CS-2	1895	31'6 60000
SP 38574	fruit vent	CS-2	1895	31'6 60000
GHSA 31602	box	CS-31	1902	36', 80000 lb
SP 74708	stock	S-40-3	1913	36', 80000
SP 75498	box/stock			34' 60000
SP 75938	stock	CS-11	1899-1901	36', 60000 lb
SP 33680	box/stock			40' 80000
SP 38925	fruit vent	CS-2	1895	31'6 60000
LW 13926	stock	CS-19	1903	steel underframe, 36', 80000 lb
Loc (LCL?)				
MLT 14234	stock			steel underframe, 36', 80000 lb
SP 75754	stock	CS-11	1899-1901	36', 60000 lb

'Don't Let Her Know,' Says Scalded Fireman, Whose Wife Is Now on Vacation

MANY HURT IN WRECK REFUSE HOSPITAL AID

Women Thrown From Seats, Suffering Shock, Proceed on Their Journey

The only persons seriously injured in the wreck of the Southern Pacific Shore Line Limited yesterday morning were the engineer, John Weir, and the fireman, George Miller.

Both were scalded by steam when the engine overturned. The fireman was more severely burned than the engineer.

After first aid treatment at the Mission Emergency Hospital, they were taken to the Southern Pacific Hospital here and put under the care of Dr. J. H. O'Connor.

Weir and Miller were burned almost identically on the head, face, neck, shoulders, arms, chest and legs below the knees.

MEN WILL RECOVER

Their condition was reported improved last night. They will recover, according to Dr. O'Connor. Engineer Weir, 36, lives at 19 Villa avenue, San Jose. He has a wife and three adult children. He has been in the employ of the Southern Pacific thirty-eight years and during his thirty-two years as an engineer has never before had an accident.

Fireman Miller lives at 855 Golden Gate avenue. He has been with the Southern Pacific a little more than two years. He came to San Francisco from Buffalo, N. Y., where his wife is now visiting with relatives. Miller asked that she be not told of the accident lest it "spoil her vacation."

THREE OTHERS HURT

Three other members of the train crew were taken to the Southern Pacific Hospital at their own request. They were negroes employed in the kitchen of the dining car. David Van Meier, one of them, asked a examination of his spine, saying he had been thrown against the refrigerator.

Another, William E. Lyons, had a slight burn of the left hand. He said he was thrown against the hot stove. The third, Lottus Collins, complained his chest hurt as the result of being thrown against the ice box.

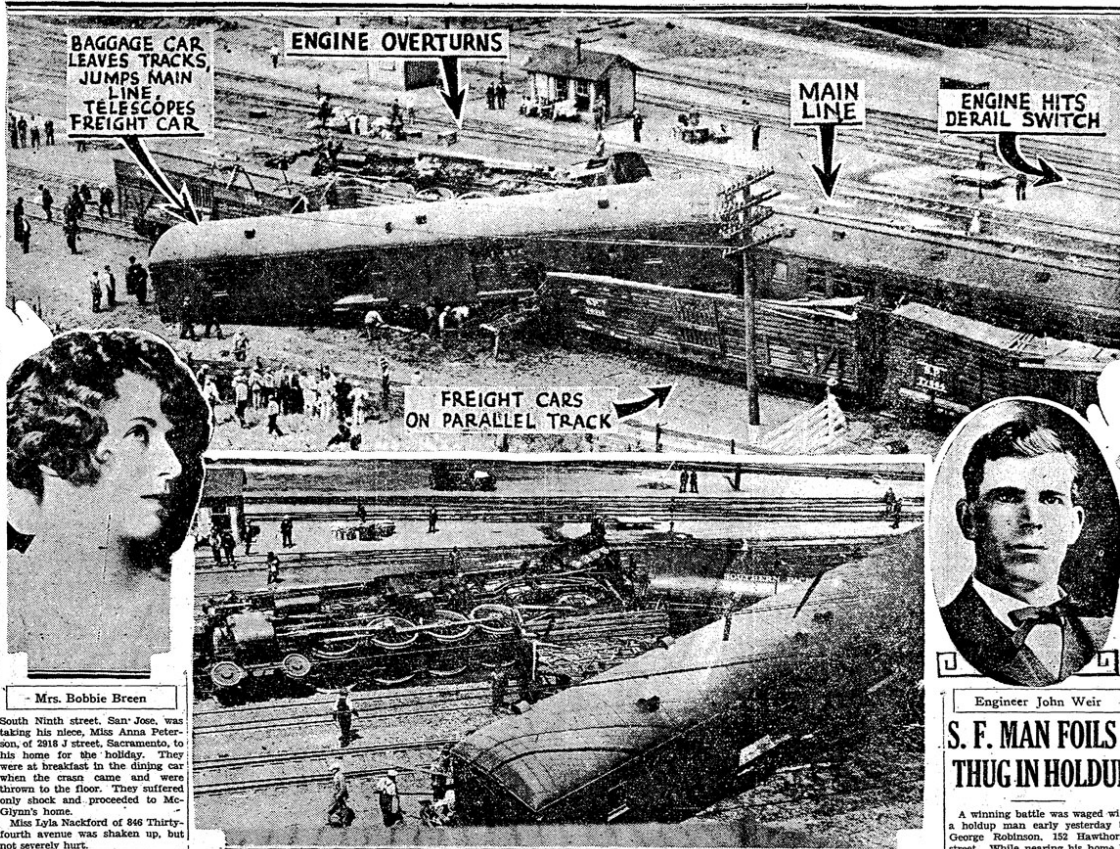
WOMAN SUFFERS SHOCK

Miss Dorothy Fay, rooming house keeper of 714 Hayes street, suffered shock when thrown from her seat.

Mrs. Bobbie Breen, an actress, of 1465 Church street, suffered a laceration of the scalp. She declined hospital treatment and hurried on to Monterey, where she had a theatrical engagement.

Mrs. George F. Argall of 651 Thirtieth street was seated in the diner with her husband and her 2-year-old son, George F. Argall Jr. The collision threw the infant from his seat to the floor. The baby was not hurt, but his mother's knees were wrenched. She is an expectant mother. The father continued on to Sausalito, whether they were bound to visit Argall's father.

THROWN TO FLOOR
Clarence A. McGlynn, clerk, 629



Mrs. Bobbie Breen

South Ninth street, San Jose, was taking his niece, Miss Anna Peterson, of 2918 J street, Sacramento, to his home for the holiday. They were at breakfast in the dining car when the crash came and were thrown to the floor. They suffered only shock and proceeded to McGlynn's home.

Miss Lyla Nackford of 846 Thirtieth avenue was shaken up, but not severely hurt.

Stanley G. Kramer, insurance adjuster, 122 Sansome street, incurred cuts and bruises when thrown against a seat partition.

IN LAST COACH UNINJURED
Miss Ethel Worthington, employed in the leasing department of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and her sister, Miss Daisy Worthington, an employe of the Bone-

Two views of the wreck of the southbound Shore Line Limited yesterday morning at Bayshore tower near San Bruno. The engine crashed through a derail switch and overturned. The baggage car was shunted from its trucks and crashed through a loaded freight wrecked train, but escaped uninjured, according to a telephone call received by their aunt, Miss Ruth Worthington, with whom they live. Los Angeles on another train.



Mrs. George Francis Argall and son, George Francis Argall Jr.

U. S. TO SPUR LIQUOR FIGHT

The rum situation in Eureka will come under further Federal scrutiny next week, when United States officials arrive here to hear the cases of more than 100 alleged bootleggers who will be brought before the United States District Court, Federal Judge Kerrigan sitting. Judge Kerrigan, United States Attorney Hatfield, his assistants, Albert Siberts, and Edward Powers, Federal probation officer, will leave today for the northern city. The court session will open Monday, and it is expected to continue through the week.

During May Federal prohibition agents descended on scores of resorts in and near Eureka, making eighty arrests in two days, and forcing defendants to furnish an aggregate of \$30,000 in bonds.

An Air of Good Will
pervades Hotel El Dorado—Pleasant living, 591 Pacific Ave., West 42d. Advertisement.



Engineer John Weir

S. F. MAN FOILS THUG IN HOLDUP

A winning battle was waged with a holdup man early yesterday by George Robinson, 152 Hawthorne street. While nearing his home he was beset by a thug who stuck a gun at him and demanded his money. Robinson grabbed the weapon and came to grips with the man. The gun fell to the walk, and John Condas, 124 Harrison street, hearing a commotion, came to Robinson's rescue. The man ran, leaving his gun and fedora hat.





Viriden Packing

Lincoln Ave., San Jose

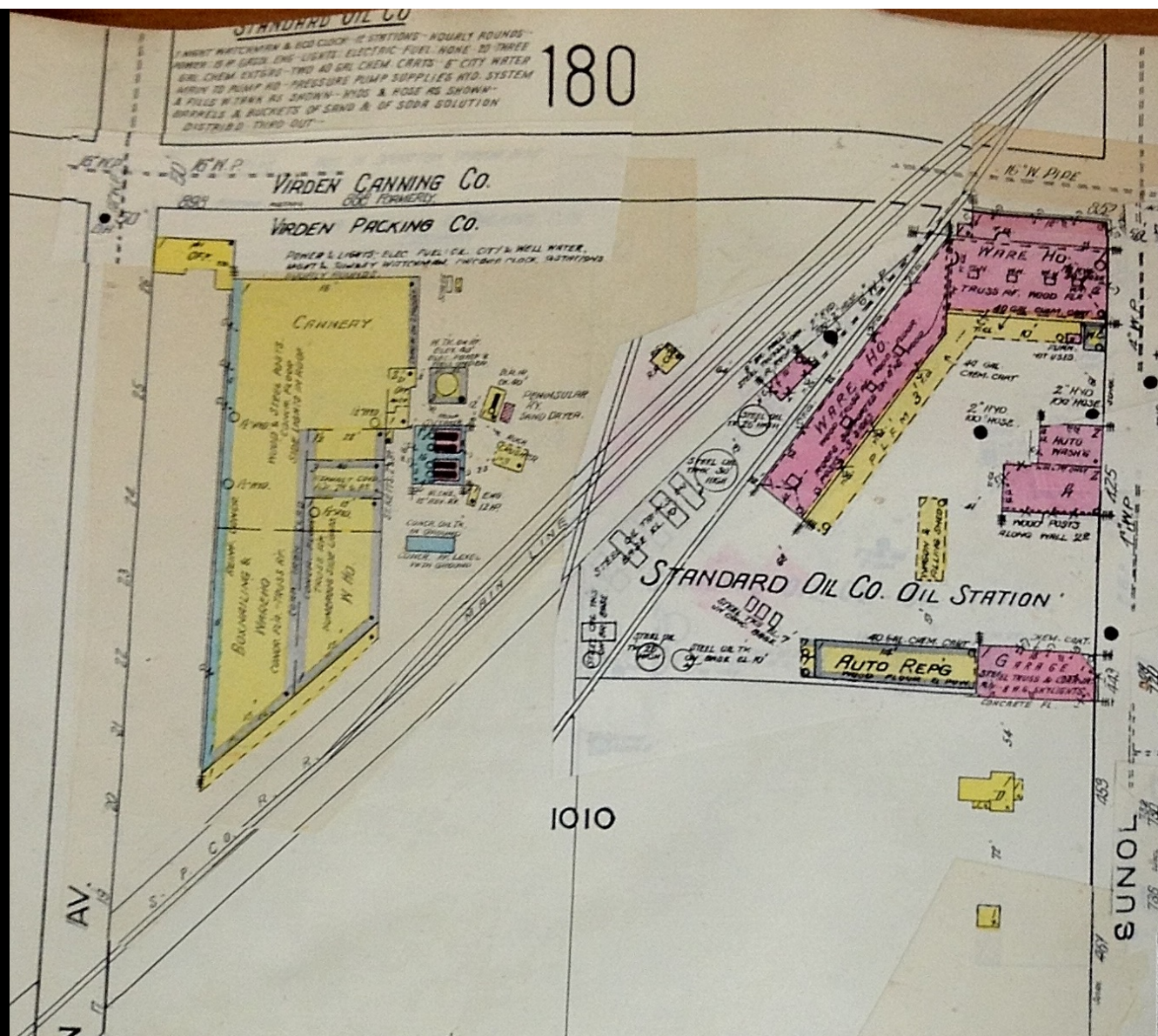


SP-WP West San Jose crossing

John W. Barriger collection
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Virден Packing History

- Built in 1919 as “Salsina Packing”, making tomato paste for Italian immigrants
- Bought by Charles Virден in 1921 for packing empire
- Virден collapses in 1926, supposedly sold to Balfour Guthrie
- Used as brewery immediately after prohibition
- Used by Castlewood Wines as warehouse
- Now brewery and assorted art spaces





Virден Packing

The Model



Edith Daley visits

“Salsina isn’t a man’s name. I know, because I inquired for him at the Salsina Canning and Packing company’s plant. “Salsina” is Italian for the delicious basil and paprika-flavored tomato paste that gives the factory its name. The big canning plant is one of San Jose’s new industries. It commenced operations last year with the tomato pack and over 30,000 cases of Salsina, 200 cans to the case. That output gave the machinery the habit of moving and this year with only 30 days’ preparation the apricots began their seasonal itinerary to the can. Over 300 employes are handling an average of 2500 cases every day. The installation of peelers and slicers is underway for taking care of peaches is under way.”

Edith Daley visits

“Most of this unique and highly concentrated product in its attractively labeled cans go to the east. It is sold principally to the Italian trade, but the Americans are discovering the piquancy of Italian flavors. Up-to-date kitchen cupboards are incomplete without Salsina for gravies, soup, and all dishes requiring tomato flavoring.”

“The management has a way of making things comfortable and keeping folks happy. One hot day recently the ice cream wagon stopped at the Salsina cannery—and everybody had a treat—on the office! Who says that “Billy” Leet isn’t a good manager? Happy people do the most and the best work—and everybody smiles at this plant. I had a nice time even if I didn’t get to meet “Mr. Salsina.”





Pestering family on ancestry.com

Miss Jennie Besana, "Spoiled Child" in Comedy, St. Joseph



MISS JENNIE BESANA, who will be seen in the role of Cork Brown, a spoiled child, in "The Rebellion of Mrs. Barclay" to be staged at St. Joseph's school auditorium, Tuesday night, June 1, 1915. The comedy is an amusing version of domestic life, and Miss Besana is particularly pleasing in the scenes where she endeavors to assist Mr. Barclay in getting supper, and succeeds only in making him go back on his principles that— "She is a child that is easily managed if you only use a little tact and judgment."

Miss Esther Costa, as Mrs. Arnetta Brown, Cork's mother, very cleverly interprets the part of Mr. Barclay's fault-finding sister and the manner in which she manages the Barclay household shows her up in her true colors.



INSTRUCTION FOR ROUTING CARS OUT OF HAYWARD

C. Robinson
Chicago
3/28
Bergelt
Chicago
3/28-35

W.P. U.P. C.N.W.	Chicago
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. Pnn or (Erie)	New York
W.P. U.P.	Denver
W.P. U.P.	Kansas City
W.P. U.P. M.P. (or. Wabash Del.)	St. Louis
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. Penn	Philadelphia
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. Erie N.Y.N.H&H Prod. Term. Del.	Providence
W.P. U.P. I.C. Penn.	Waverly, N.J.
W.P. S.P.	El Paso
W.P. S.P. T&P	Fort Worth
W.P. S.P.	Houston
W.P. S.P. T&P	Dallas
W.P. S.P.	New Orleans
W.P. S.P. T&P	Abilene
W.P. S.P.	San Antonio
W.P. S.P. T&P Frisco	Oaklahoma City
W.P. S.P. M.P. or T&P Cotton Belt	Memphis
W.P. S.P. T&P Katy Del	Tulsa
W.P. U.P. Rock Island	St Paul
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. Pere Marquette or Wabash or Mich. Cent.	Detroit
W.P. U.P. C. St. Paul M&O or R.I.	Minneapolis
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. Erie N.Y.N.H&H	Boston
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. N.Y.C. or Nick. Pl.	Cleveland
W.P. S.P.	Portland
W.P. S.P. T&P Katy	Henretta
W.P. S.P.	Galveston
W.P. S.P. T&P	Ranger
W.P. M.P.	Seattle
W.P. S.P. T & P K.O&G Midland Valley	Tulsa
W.P.	Salt Lake City
W.P.	Cheyenne
W.P. S.P. T&P	Sweetwater
W.P. U.P. Frisco or R.I.	Wichita, Kan.
W.P. U.P. C.B.Q. Nickel Plate or North Plate or Wabash	Buffalo
W.P. U.P. C.M. St Paul	Des Moines
W.P. U.P. M.P. Penn	Baltimore
W.P. U.P. Wabash St Louis Big 4	Cincinnati
W.P. U.P. C.N.W.	Milwaukee
W.P. U.P. M.P. Penn	Baltimore



Del Monte Plant #51

Bush St., San Jose

John Gordon collection, Sourisseau Institute, SJSU



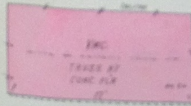
John C. Gordon collection

San Jose State University

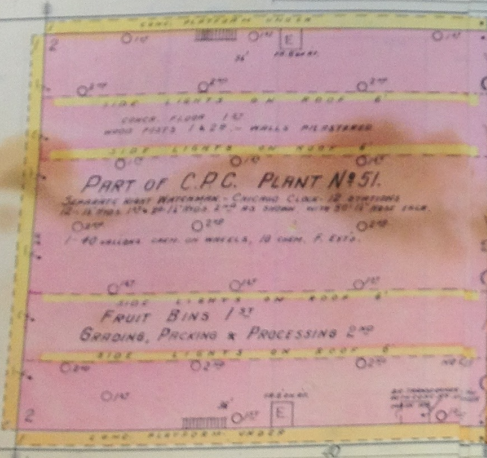




170

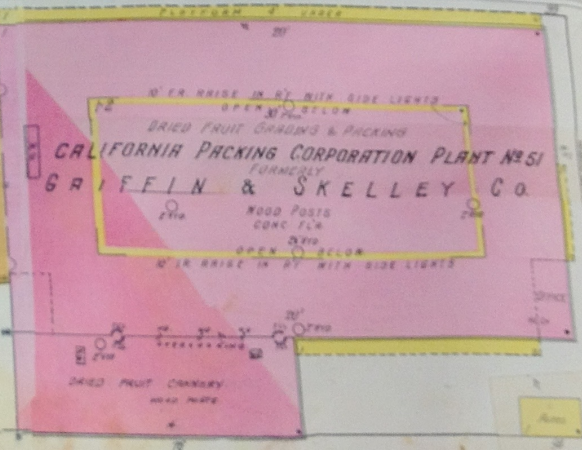


WHITE



171

BUSH



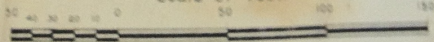
CAL. PACKING CORP. PLANT No 51

FORMERLY
GRIFFIN & SKELLEY CO.
DRIED FRUIT PACKERS

FIRST FLOOR: 100' x 100' (APPROX)
2ND & 3RD FLOORS: 100' x 100' (APPROX)
P.L. ENDS: 40' x 100' (APPROX) - 2ND FLOOR ONLY
TO ENDS: 17' x 100' (APPROX) ON 3RD FLOOR

177

Scale of Feet



73

W. SAN FERNANDO

Origins

- South side built in 1914 by Griffin and Skelley
- Larger brick building at north built in 1926
 - dried fruit plant #50 formerly next to Del Monte #3 cannery, closed 1927
 - graders and cut fruit packing line on second floor
 - bulk fruit storage bins and receiving on ground floor
 - packaging on second floor
 - separate sulfur houses added 1930

DEL MONTE PLANT #51

Construction of the original Plant #51 building was started by Griffin and Skelley in 1914 and operations began in 1915. This is the present South End building and replaced the former Griffin and Skelley Plant located on the site of the present Southern Pacific Depot across the tracks. On the North side of this brick building was a wood structure containing the cut fruit processing equipment and adjoining Sulphur houses in an open space. Adjoining the Sulphur house area was a wood structure for storing box shook. All fruit was packed in paper lined wooden boxes.

The present North End building was completed in time for the 1926 season, with two graders and the cut fruit packing lines on the second floor. The bulk fruit storage bins and the receiving department were on the ground floor.

In 1927 the first mechanical carton packaging line was purchased and installed on the second floor. This carton line packaged 1# and 2# Cartons, using interchangeable parts to package the two sizes.

About 1930 the wood center section was demolished and the present two story brick building with the sulphur houses and cut fruit processors on the second floor was built.

About 1950 the East warehouse on the South side of San Fernando St. was built and about 1954 the adjoining West warehouse was added.

From "Del Monte Plant 51 Photo Album
Sohm collection, History San Jose

Del Monte's dried fruit processing plant

Phone books as source of operations info

CALIFORNIA PACKING CORP

Fruit & Vegetable Purchasing Office

734TheAlameda	-----	295-3252
Sales Office 734TheAlameda	-----	295-3252
Plant No 3-Cannery 801AuzeraisAv	-----	293-7232
Plant No 39-Pickle Works 7th&Jacksn	--	295-2829
Plant No 4-7th&Jacksn	-----	295-2829
Plant No 34-Vinegar Works 7th&Jacksn		295-2829
Plant No 51-Dried Fruit		
SnFrnando&Bush	-----	295-3252
Plant No 54-Pit Cracking Dept		
HostettrRd	-----	251-1575
Plant No 185-Del Monte Seed Farm		
Monteryrd	-----	227-9002



Del Monte Plant #51

The Model



Del Monte Plant #51

The Model





John W. Barriger collection
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Recap: Why do local history?

- Make structures that look appropriate for setting and size
- Model accurately and prototypically from photos
- The real world is always stranger and more interesting than you imagine
- Understand the industry and railroad's true demand and operations
- Reflect the world of the people who lived and worked along your railroad
- Be amused by the similarities and differences with the world you know

How can you do this for your railroad?

Google search tricks

- Google still best site for deep searches because of data sources they have
- Quotes around multiple words that should be together: "packing house"
- Plus prefix: results must contain word: +apricot "packing house"
- Minus prefix: results must not contain word: packing house -realtor
- Boolean search terms: cannery OR "packing house"
- Limit search to site: site:historysanjose.org "Plant 51"

How can you do this for your railroad?

Useful historic newspaper sites

- Google News Archive: <https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- California Digital Newspaper Collection: <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>
- Check local library for subscriptions to news archives
- Newspapers with access to archives: nytimes.com, sfchronicle.com

How can you do this for your railroad?

Searching archives

- Not all material is online. Arrange visits to archives that are interesting.
- Check for “finding aids” for particular collections at places you plan to visit
- Check local history rooms (San Jose Library’s California Room has real Sanborn maps)
- If you find something good, search same place for similar stuff

How can you do this for your railroad?


Remember what you learned

- Keep systematic notes
- Keep photos handy, either online or in photo album
- Notebooks, computer documents organized by industry.
- Write about what you learn. <http://vasonabbranch.blogspot.com>

Robert's Vasona Branch Blog

San Jose history, as seen from the railroad tracks.

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 ROBERT BOWDIDGE

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[Keeping Up](#)

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- ▶ 2024 (10)
- ▶ 2023 (4)
- ▶ 2021 (2)
- ▶ 2020 (10)
- ▶ 2019 (7)
- ▶ 2018 (9)
- ▶ 2017 (21)
- ▶ 2016 (16)
- ▶ 2015 (13)
- ▶ 2014 (37)
- ▶ 2013 (61)
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2013

How Much Would You Pay For This Fine Cannery?

Let's go back to that nagging question: just how bad were things in the Santa Clara Valley during 1931 or 1932? The disappearance of the Ainsley and Hyde canneries give us some hints about that, along with property records of the time.

Let's start by considering the lucky seller, the Ainsley Cannery.



The Ainsley Cannery on Harrison Ave., on the edge of downtown Campbell, was one of the wunderkind of Campbell, producing voluminously from the turn of the century through the 1930's, and surviving as Drew and later Hunt's into the 1960's. I haven't written much about them yet (but certainly will once I start building the cannery building). Ainsley primarily sold to the British market, with Ainsley's family back at home in Britain doing the selling. This ought to sound similar to other canners, especially [U.S. Products](#), who also did a very good business primarily selling outside the U.S.



[Main page](#)
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Salsina Packing and Canning Company

Lua error: Internal error: The interpreter exited with status 126.

The **Salsina Packing and Canning Company** was a short-lived tomato canner in San Jose. The company suffered through a bad year in 1921, and was sold to **Virden Packing**.

Salsini Packing was founded in 1917 by [Alfonso Lambrosa](#) and Carlo Aiello from Highland, New York^[1]. (The name varied; Salsini and Salsinia are some of the ways the name was corrupted.) The company intended to produce tomato paste, which had formerly been sent from Italy. Alfonso Lambrosa declared^[2]:

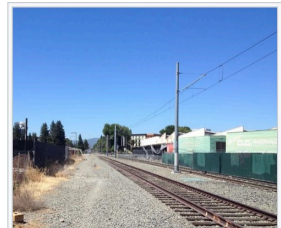
"This country sends every year about seven million dollars to Italy for tomato paste, which is used in macaroni," said Lambrosa today. "There is no reason why this money should not be kept in this country, and we propose to do what we can to keep it here. We now have one large paste factory operating in New York, near Poughkeepsie, and this will be our second factory. When we start making paste we will give employment to a considerable number of people. Before we stop we may be making other things. There is no reason why macaroni can't be made here. All we need is a dry climate and some fine hard wheat and California has both. It is possible we will start such a factory, but we won't now for it is our policy not to have too many irons in the fire at once."

California Fruit News reported in May, 1918^[3]:

"The Salsina Canning and Packing Company, which was recently organized with a capital stock of \$150,000 by Italian interests in Santa Clara Valley, expects to open its new cannery towards the end of August. The building is completed and machinery is to be installed shortly. This company is composed of a number of prominent Italians and has the backing of people connected with the Bank of Italy and New York City Italian interests. Salsina is the name of the Italian tomato paste as it is known in Italy and means the condition of the product as it finally reaches the consumer. There seems to be no exact translation, hence the use of the name in the company."



Salsina Cannery building, 2010.



Salsina Cannery building from east, 2014.

Conclusion

- Exploring local history and industries can be a fun part of model railroading.
- Contributes to models, understanding of real railroad, understanding place
- Helps us make more realistic and interesting model railroads
- And you might find the research fun!

More Information on the Vasona Branch

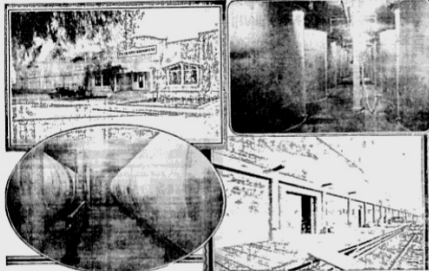
- Blog and history: vasonabran.ch.blogspot.com
- Layout web site: www.vasonabran.ch.com
- Packing houses of Santa Clara County:
https://vasonabran.ch.com/packing_houses
- Contact me: rbowdidge@mac.com

- Unused slides



THE EVENING NEWS, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1933

At last! San Jose's OWN Beer!



THE ST. CLAIRE BREWING CO. PLANT . . . LINCOLN & SAN SALVADOR

On Sale Saturday at the Stores Listed Below

SAN JOSE	BERKELEY	ALBANY	ALBANY	ALBANY
A. J. & S. GARDNER	BERKELEY	ALBANY	ALBANY	ALBANY
...



THE EVENING NEWS, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1933

- **Puts Local Men to Work**
Now—for the first time since the return of beer—San Jose is benefiting directly. The St. Claire Brewery was built by local workers. It is manned by local men. It is owned and managed by home towners. Every bottle of St. Claire Beer you buy—every glass of it you drink—is helping to give employment to your friends and neighbors.
- **Keeps Local Money at Home**
Now—for the first time—the money you spend for beer stays at home. Your nickels and dimes are paid out in wages to local workers. They are spent, in turn, with the butcher, the baker and the department store. Home business improves! More jobs are created! And you benefit—directly!
- **A Full-Strength Beer**
The St. Claire Brewing Co. could have marketed its product at an earlier date. But it held off—waiting for the repeal of prohibition, so it could serve a full strength beer. Every bottle of full strength beer is perfectly aged to full strength. That's why we say, "It brings back to mind, that good old kind!"
- **It Tastes Better**
And full strength beer tastes better. It's smooth and mellowed. Easy to drink—without any bite or bitter taste. Skilled brewmasters, using the perfect local water, have turned out a beer, that once you've tried, you'll ask for—always!
- **Modern Brewery**
We couldn't make such a good beer without perfect equipment. Every piece of machinery, from brewing tower to storage cellars, is brand new and the very finest the market affords. Naturally, with such equipment, we can turn out a product that ranks with the finest the market affords.
- **On Sale Everywhere**
Merchants everywhere, have been quick to recognize the excellent quality of St. Claire Beer. Tomorrow, this smooth, mellowed beer will be on sale throughout California. Locally, practically every store is handling St. Claire Beer. The local merchant realizes that it's not only better beer, but that every bottle sold directly improves home business and creates more jobs. Consult the listing at the bottom of this announcement, and order a case of San Jose's OWN Beer from your grocer—tomorrow!

On Sale Saturday at the Stores Listed Below

LOS ANGELES	LOS ANGELES	LOS ANGELES	LOS ANGELES	LOS ANGELES
...

ST. CLAIRE BEER