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Sourisseau Academy

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presents:

“The City of Campbell”

By Bob Johnson

Les Amis (The Friends)

photo collection

February 2015

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A photo recently purchased by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
February 2015



[11] Peninsula Railway Company car No. 104 is shown heading south down Railway Avenue in Campbell toward the intersection of Campbell Avenue. On the right several people are waiting for the car to stop at the tiny Campbell Station. This was part of the line that connected San Jose with Saratoga. At this point the track turned east onto Campbell Avenue heading toward Bascom Avenue and San Jose. Local merchants were unhappy that the line did not go through Campbell's business district but Peninsula Railway officials explained that going through the business district would increase the possibility of accidents and add ten minutes to the length of the journey from San Jose to Saratoga.

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[12] The seventeen-acre George E. Hyde & Company Drying Yard was the largest in the county. Fruit was dried on three by eight foot wooden trays, which could be stacked on carts and moved on the metal tracks seen in the center of the photograph. The drying yard could hold approximately 25,000 trays. On the right behind the wooden fence are the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad used to transport the dried fruit.

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[13] The flood of 1911 devastated the city of Campbell. After days of torrential rains, Los Gatos Creek broke through its banks about one and a half miles south of Campbell, sending a wall of water toward the city. Livestock was killed, streets and basements were flooded and wells caved in. Here, water floods the Ainsley Packing Company plant located at the corner of Campbell Avenue and Harrison Street. Hard work by employees saved the canned fruit that had been stored in the plant's basement.

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[14] Campbell's first school building opened on January 21, 1889. It was built on the northeast corner of Rincon Avenue and Winchester Boulevard. It was a wooden structure with a bell tower and a double front staircase. Campbell's growing population forced the construction of a larger school in 1896 next to the old school. The old school was then moved to Winchester Boulevard near Dell Avenue and converted into a private residence.

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[15] Campbell Union Grammar School was designed by noted bay area architect, William H. Weeks. The reinforced-concrete building was built on the northeast corner of Winchester Boulevard and Campbell Avenue on farmland formerly owned by the Lundy family. The school opened for classes on February 5, 1923 and was formally dedicated on April 6, 1923. The school was originally built in the shape of an E. In the late 1920s, however, two wings, also designed by Weeks were added, which closed off the E and formed a central enclosed courtyard. The Campbell Union Grammar School was closed in 1964 in order to place students in neighborhood schools rather than bussing them to one central location. The old school was leased by West Valley College until 1979. The school was then sold to private developers who converted it into office space while keeping much of the look of the original exterior.

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[16] Campbell Union High School was completed in two phases. The classroom building on the right sat at the northwest corner of Campbell Avenue and Winchester Boulevard across from Campbell Union Grammar School, which can be glimpsed on the extreme far right. This building was also designed by William H. Weeks, the same architect who designed Campbell Union Grammar School. In 1936, Campbell voters approved a \$135,000 bond measure to complete the campus by building the two-story auditorium, gymnasium and administrative offices on the left. Two large blue urns flank the entrance to the auditorium, and the building's facade was decorated with tiles made by Albert Solon and Frank Schemmel, whose San Jose-based company did the tile work at Hearst Castle and the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. The school was closed in 1980 due to declining enrollment and is now the Campbell Community Center.

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17] Teachers and students from the 1947 graduating class at Campbell Union Grammar School pose in front of the school.

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[18] The city of Campbell was incorporated on March 28, 1952, and the first City Hall was the fire station on North Central Avenue, which also housed the police and fire departments. In 1956, City Hall was moved into this building, the former Congregational Church located on Central Avenue near the first City Hall/Fire Station. The former church was extensively remodeled, including removing the steeple and converting the sanctuary into the City Council Chambers. This building served as City Hall until 1971 when the current City Hall was built as part of the Campbell Civic Center complex. The old City Hall was then demolished.

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[19] This image shows moving vans parked in front of the Campbell Moving Company located on the south side of East Sunnyoaks Avenue. Looking southeast from Sunnyoaks Avenue in the upper part of the photograph, Highway 17 runs from one edge of the photograph to the other. Just below Highway 17 is the course of Los Gatos Creek, before its containment by flood control projects and the construction of the Los Gatos Creek Trail. At the upper right are the percolation ponds that are now part of Los Gatos Creek County Park.

A photo recently acquired by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
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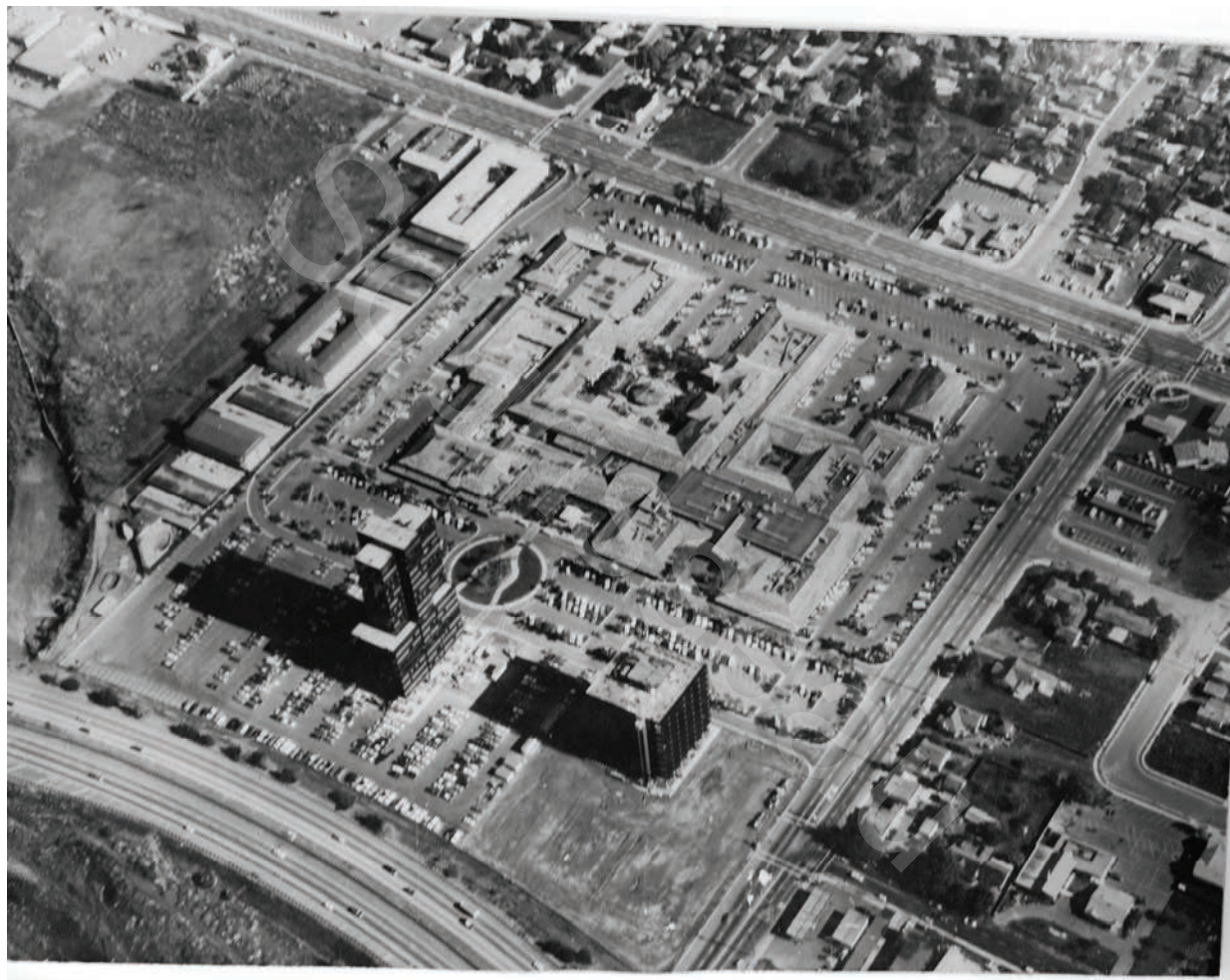
[20] This aerial photograph from the 1960s shows Campbell as a city in transition from orchards to housing. On the right side of the photograph, Highway 17 runs north and south. In the upper part of the photograph, a cloverleaf interchange connects Hamilton Avenue with Highway 17. In the lower part of the photograph, Campbell Avenue runs under Highway 17. Above Campbell Avenue and to the right of Highway 17 is the Brynteson Orchard, which would later become the site of the Pruneyard Shopping Center. The water tower, seen in the middle left of the photograph, is not the landmark Campbell Water Tower, but rather a water tower that belonged to one of the local canneries which was later demolished.

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[21] A service station attendant gives the full service treatment to a car pulled into Chuck Needels' Chevron gasoline station at the corner of Winchester Boulevard and Budd Avenue. Some of us may still remember the early 1960s when full service was the norm and gas cost 32.9 cents a gallon. In the background final construction touches are being added to the new Campbell Plaza Shopping Center. Safeway was the anchor store then and remains so today, although the shopping center has since been remodeled and expanded. Alas, the Chevron Station, its helpful attendant, and low gas prices are long gone.

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[22] The Pruneyard Shopping Center was constructed on 34 acres of the former pear and prune orchards of the Brynteson Ranch. The UA Theaters in the lower right hand corner of the center was the first part of the shopping center to open in December 1969. These theaters are now operated as the Camera 7 Cinema. The 18-story Pruneyard Office Tower One, seen on the left, opened In March 1970,. The new tower was taller than the Bank of Italy Building in downtown San Jose, and for some years the tallest building between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The smaller 10-story Tower Two on the right was constructed in 1974. The original Pruneyard was designed to be pedestrian friendly and encourage strolling among the shops and restaurants. The focal point was the courtyard in the center of the complex with its round, red-tiled roof gazebo. In the early 1990s, the Pruneyard was sold to San Mateo-based William Wilson and Associates who demolished the courtyard and gazebo and built a street down the middle of the center, giving greater access to cars. The Pruneyard was sold again in 1999 and once more in 2014.