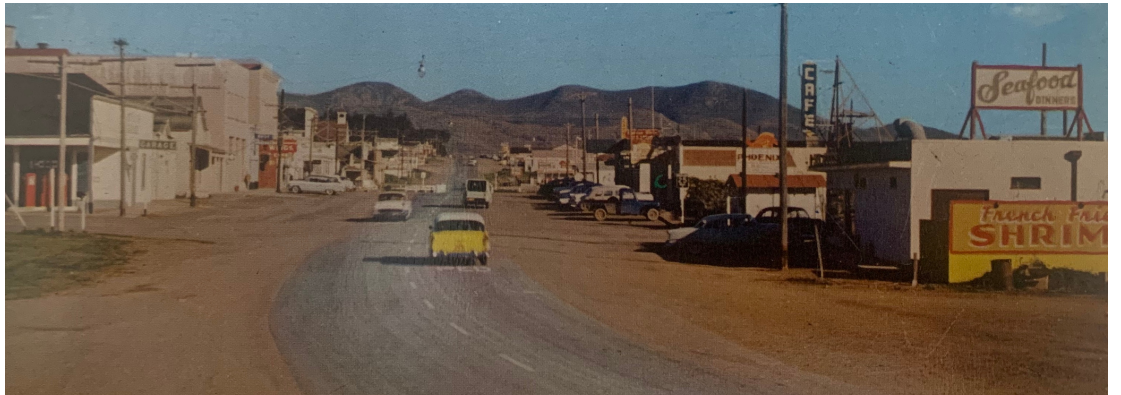


a

window

to our

past



Highway One (renamed Ocean Avenue) looking south. Color photo by Ray Foster.

In the early days, residents of Cayucos could easily describe where their houses were located, but as the town grew, it became increasingly more difficult. In 1953, the Chamber of Commerce tackled the dilemma of renaming streets and numbering houses. The following are excerpts taken from issues of the Cayucos Comet.

(October 29, 1953)

.....Of course it is now confusing to say you live on 1st street, for there are three of them, one in the old town of Cayucos, one in Morro Rock View tract, and another in Paso Robles Beach.

On the maps there is no Cass street, but there are two Cass avenues. Of course that could be fixed by changing one of them to Cass street. Many towns have a Tenth avenue, a Tenth street and a Tenth Place. That plan could be used here if too many people are averse to an entire change of a street name. Mel Bateman is county planning engineer and he has given a lot of time to working out a plan for numbering the houses and adjusting the names of streets in our community. He probably has an excellent plan and it is important that a big crowd of residents be present to hear it and give their hearty endorsement of that plan or the plan that is decided upon at that meeting so that we can get started on house numbering.

Many people have been intrigued by the many house names that have been installed in artistic design. Some have expressed themselves as opposed

to numbering as that might discourage the practice of house names. But we feel that one supplements the other, and both are good though the numbers are necessary if the town is to advance to a point where we can get mail delivery,[sic]

(November 5, 1953).....A good crowd of local citizens were present at the Chamber of Commerce meeting to hear Mr. Bateman's report and to offer their suggestions. No definite decisions were reached, but a committee, headed by Les Ghezzi, one of the older residents who has been actively associated with the affairs of Cayucos for many years, was appointed chairman. He was charged with the responsibility of suggesting names for certain streets to correct duplications that have occurred. It was suggested that the First, Second, Third, and Fourth streets in the old town of Cayucos, the streets that parallel the highway, be renamed with the names of prominent old-time families, and that the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth streets in the Morro Rock View tract be changed to F, G, H, I, and J streets. This would leave no duplication of the First to Twentieth streets in the Paso Robles beach tract, and the extensions of those streets on the east side of the highway would be renamed to match. When Mr. Ghezzi makes his report and it is adopted, the plan for numbering can be worked out. Included in the numbering plan would be the whole Sanitary district it was stated.....[sic]

On **September 9, 1954**, the approved plan was published in the **Cayucos Comet**. Here is an excerpt.

.....Because there are many more lodges and organizations than there were streets whose names needed changing, the names of trees were substituted in renaming the numbered streets in the original town of Cayucos.

The name changes finally adopted are therefore: First street is changed to Ash street; Second street will be Birch street; and the next two streets will be Cypress and Dahlia. The street which runs north along the east side of the Camp Ground will be known as Evergreen street.

Naming the streets for trees in alphabetical order will make them easy to remember, as Dahlia street beginning with the fourth letter of the alphabet, would be the fourth street east of Ocean av.

Another item adopted was that Highway One, all the way through Cayucos and Morro Strand will be called Ocean avenue. It was explained that this plan would definitely place a house number in Cayucos. For example, the house at the point of the hill, above the highway, that has been a land mark in Morro Strand for 25 years, is 3425 Ocean av. If we should. call it 3425 Highway One, that would confuse it with the numbers north of Morro Bay.

.....,Highway One uses Ocean av. as its route through Cayucos. [sic]



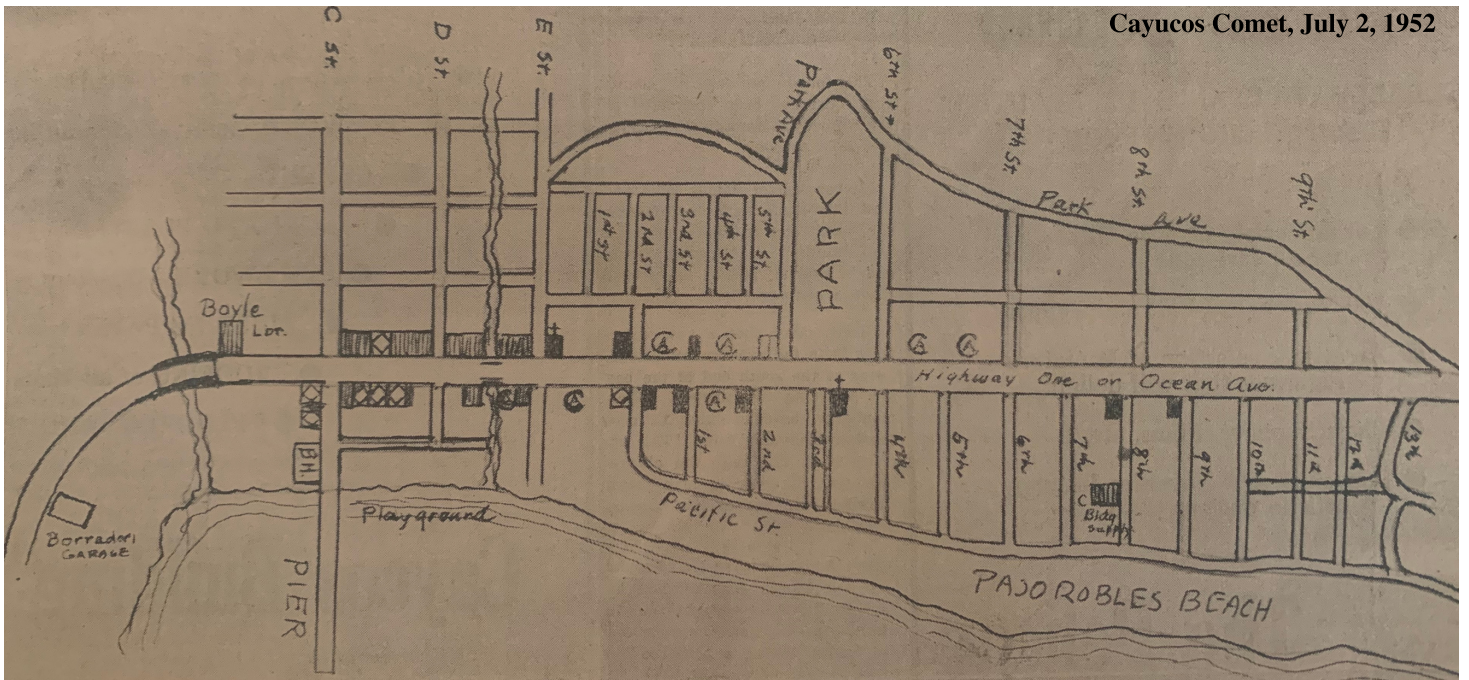
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This rough map shows old town with C, D, and E Streets. Parallell to Highway One (Ocean Avenue) heading north from the pier were 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Streets which later changed to Ash, Birch, and Cypress, respectively. Also seen are 1st to 5th Streets west of the park which later became F, G, H, I, and J Streets. For visitors, auto courts/motels were marked with an A inside of C. Eating places were shown by a diamond inside of a square.



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MORE FROM THE VAULT

(Info taken from various
Cayucos Comet issues)

Residents of Cayucos gave interesting names to their homes. Some of the names were Happy House, Letstay, Longcor Lookout, Daze-Off, Sleepy Hollow, Relative's Roost, Spindrift, Pelican Rest, and Wind and Fog.

ride back in time with us

WEBSITE

cayucoshistoricalsociety.com

MUSEUM

Due to the pandemic, our museum continues to be closed. Visit our website for updates.