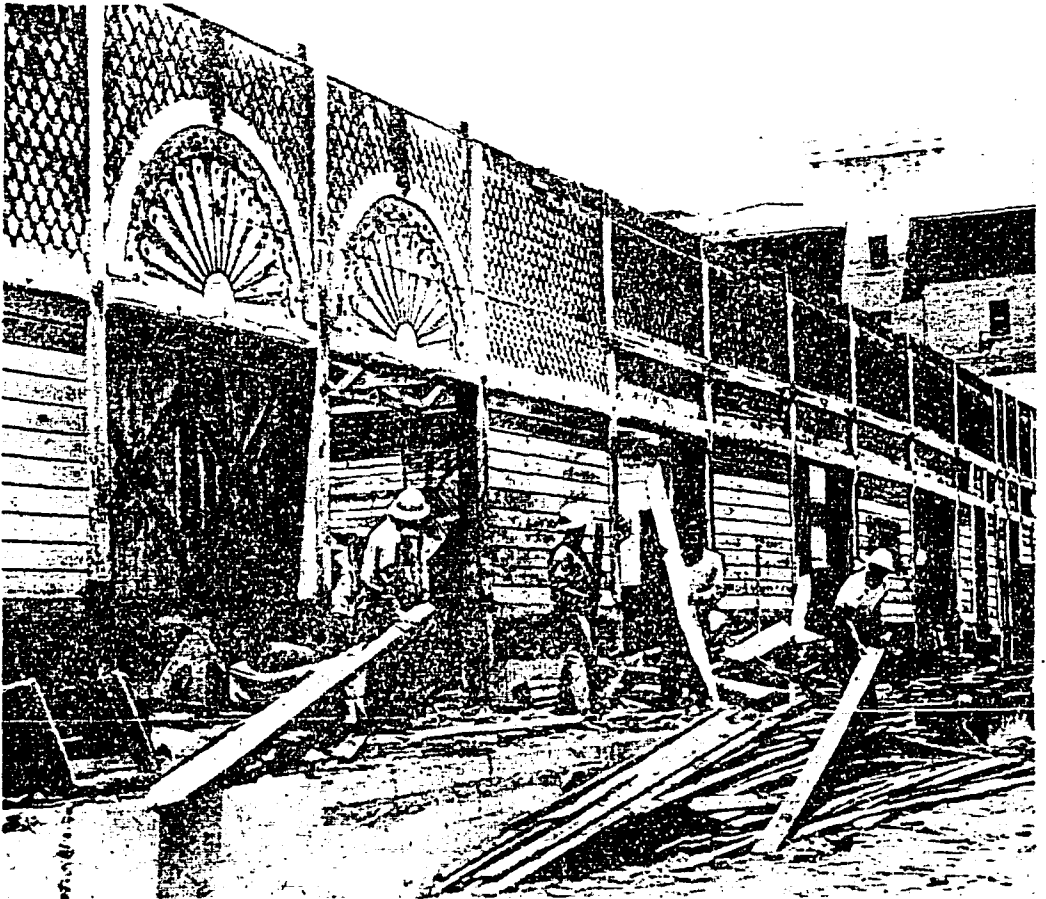


JULY 29, 1958 RAZING OF THE OLD
PACIFIC STEAMSHIP CO BUILDING
AT THE FOOT OF 5TH. BUILT IN 1870'S



VALUABLE WRECKAGE—Solid redwood timbers, doors and gewgaw gingerbread are sought after

razing of the old Pacific Steamship Co. building at the foot of 5th. The structure was built in the 1870s.

GINGERBREAD IN DEMAND

1870 Building Torn Down, But Its Parts Live On

An old building which served San Diego commerce in the days of coastal schooners and square riggers is finding a hundred new uses after being torn down and carted off to a wrecker's yard.

The Pacific Steamship Co. building at the foot of 5th Ave., is now nothing but a memory. It was razed recently to make way for a parking lot.

But the solid redwood timbers, the door frames, the rafters and even the gingerbread which decorated the outside like the frosting on a cake are being eagerly bought up by builders, antique dealers, and amateur carpenters. The lumber and gewgaws will go into new buildings.

Lumber Proves as Good as Ever

The John Hansen Wrecking Co. says the lumber is almost as solid now as when the old warehouse was built in the early 1870s. "People started buying the place before we started to work on it," a company spokesman said. "In a few days most of it will be all sold and carted away."

Builder Stanley Kriner bought the wooden arches from the old building. He plans to use them for the decorative effect in a new house.

Much of the fancy woodwork went to Tijuana, the wreckers said.

The old building's demise brought nostalgic memories to many old-timers along the waterfront.

Sim Johnson, 97, of 1861 W. Montecito Way, recalled that he worked in the freight house 57 years ago.

"I was paid \$140 a month," he says. "I spent just about all my waking hours

there. There weren't any vacations or coffee breaks in those days," he added. He later was general agent for the Pacific Steamship Co. here.

Johnson recalled that the building was connected to a wharf which ran out into the bay where the 5th Avenue landing now stands. Narrow gauge railroad track, he says, ran along the wharf, with small dump cars hauled by horses.

Sailing Ships Recalled at 5th Ave. Pier

Both steamers and sailing ships tied up at the 5th Avenue pier in those days. He recalls the sailing ships Queen, Emily, and California. Well known steamers were the President, Pueblo, and Colorado.

The coastwise trade was important then, with ships running from San Diego down the coast of Baja California and as far north as Vancouver with passengers and freight. All kinds of general cargo were handled, he says.

Log Rafts Were Common Sight

Occasionally, too, the harbor would be visited by big square riggers from Australia with coal. Huge log and lumber rafts towed here from the Pacific Northwest were a common sight, too.

The waterfront, says Johnson, ran to within an easy stone's throw of the old warehouse in those days. It has since been filled in to make room for industrial property.

The plot where the building stood will be used by the Buel-Town Co., a wholesale paper company, for a parking lot. Buel-Town purchased the structure in 1940.