

**100 Million Years Ago.** Fossils have shown us that redwoods already existed during the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Redwoods grew throughout the northern hemisphere. Today, because of climate changes, nearly all coast redwoods grow on a 450 mile strip along the California coastline.

Redwoods have been on this earth since the age of dinosaurs.

**The Costonoans,** a Native American tribe, sometimes used redwood bark to construct shelters. Though most preferred living along the coast, they gathered food at the edge of the forests and forged trails along the ridge lines of the Santa Cruz Mountains to trade with other tribes.

**Early Exploration by Europeans and the Mission Period**

dramatically changed that way of life. A monk by the name of Juan Crespi, who came with the Portola expedition, first recorded his impressions of those tall, red trees he called "palo colorado."

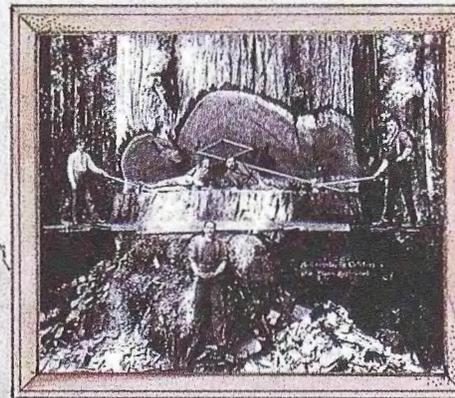
The Costonoans gathered food at the edge of the forest.

**The mid-1800s** saw the first local sawmills built at Zayante Creek and along the San Lorenzo River at what is now known as Paradise Park.

**The Gold Rush of 1849,** with its flood of miners and settlers coming to the San Francisco Bay area, created a huge demand for lumber and fuel wood. The Santa Cruz Mountain redwood forests quickly became an important resource.

At the turn of the century loggers used axes and cross-cut saws to fall old growth trees.

Palo Alto received its name from an ancient redwood which still stands today.

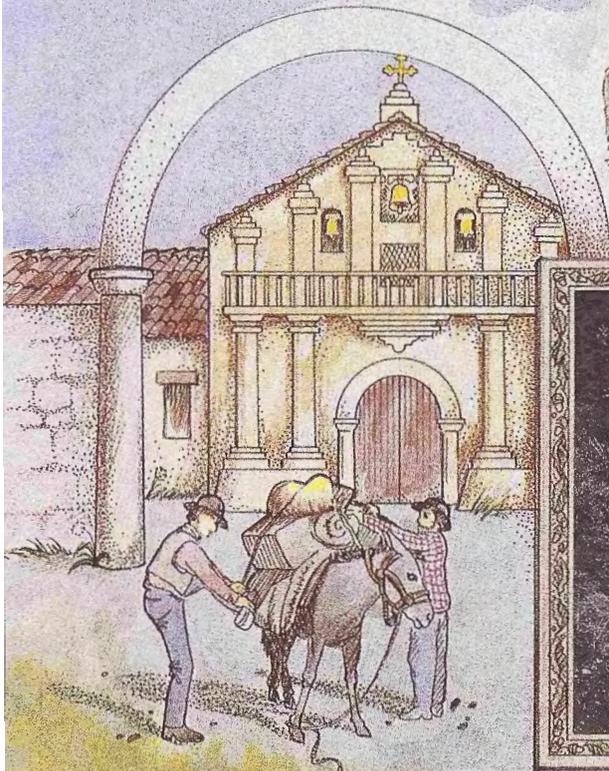
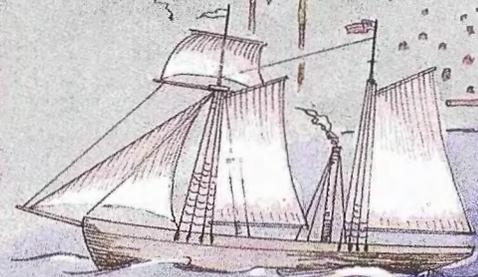


Cabrillo's ship San Salvador, 1542.



Oxen were used to pull the heavy trees from the forest.

Ships brought much of the lumber and firewood to San Francisco and other parts of California.



## ... to Protect the Future

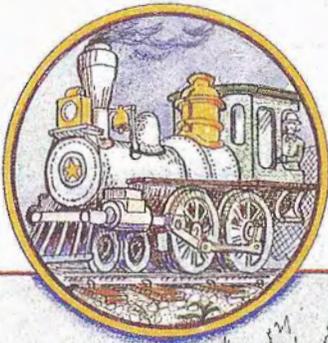
Up to the early 1900s, oxen were used to drag the heavy logs to the many sawmills that cropped up throughout the area. When steam-powered "donkey engines" and railroads replaced oxen, it made transportation of logs much easier. Alarmed by the rapidly increasing rate of logging, early conservationists like Andrew P. Hill and the Sempervirens Club established the first state redwood park at Big Basin in 1902. But by the time the Great Depression hit in 1929, much of the Santa Cruz Mountains had been "clear cut."

Following World War II, much of the logging was done by bulldozers. The ability to construct large roads and openings led to the need for more environmentally sensitive methods of logging. It was recognized that our forests could be managed without "clear-cutting." These changing ideas and practices led to the passage of a new law, the California State Forest Practice Act.

Today, our redwood forest continues to be an important resource. We must use the lessons nature and time have taught us to keep our beautiful forests healthy and productive, now and in the future.

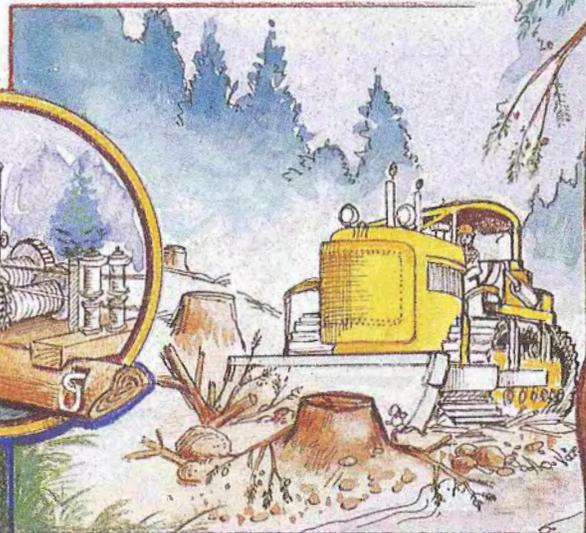
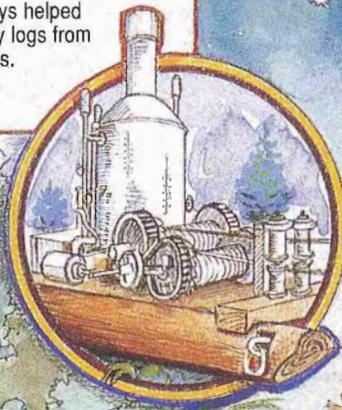
Most important is the responsibility all of us have to learn about our forests and the abundance and beauty they provide.

100 years ago many small railroads operated in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

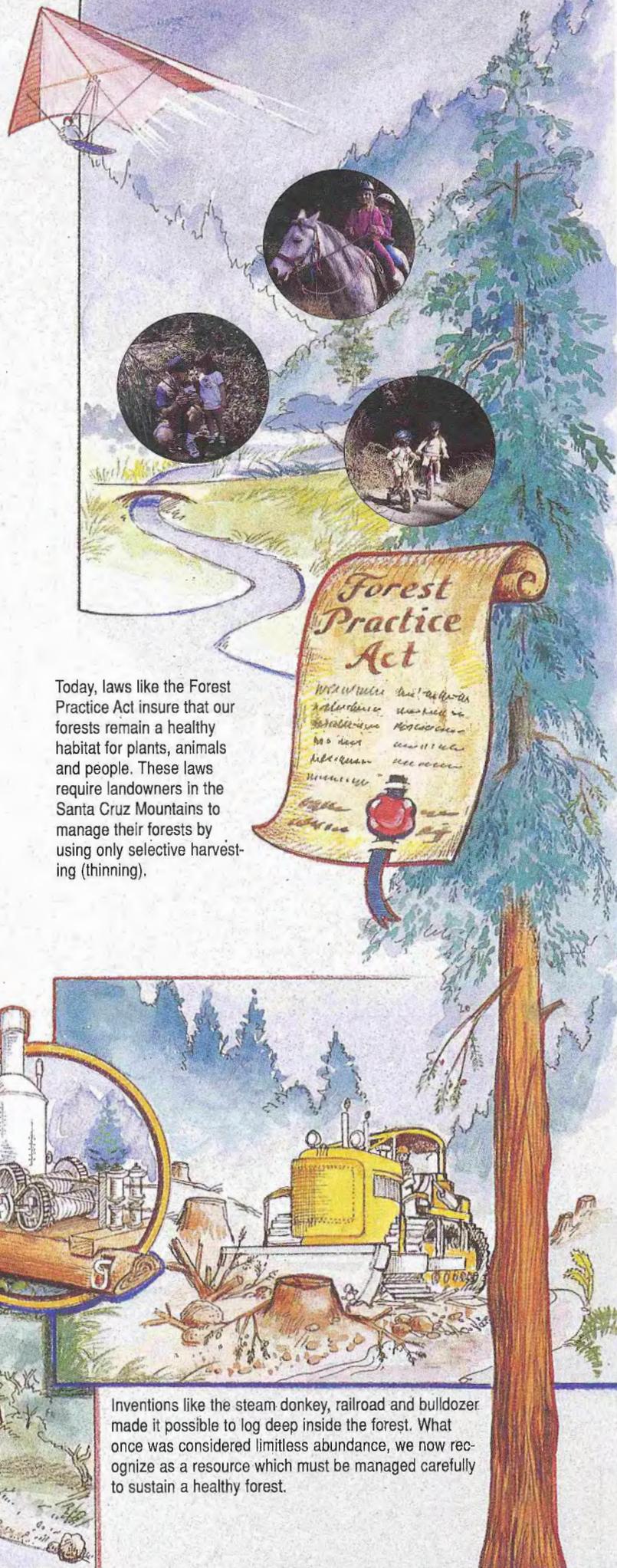


At that time large strips of forest were "clear-cut."

Steam donkeys helped pull the heavy logs from steep canyons.



Inventions like the steam donkey, railroad and bulldozer made it possible to log deep inside the forest. What once was considered limitless abundance, we now recognize as a resource which must be managed carefully to sustain a healthy forest.



Today, laws like the Forest Practice Act insure that our forests remain a healthy habitat for plants, animals and people. These laws require landowners in the Santa Cruz Mountains to manage their forests by using only selective harvesting (thinning).