

exploring

Now Open

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Neil Wiley

While Big Basin State Park is still closed, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park is a good alternative. It is a shorter, easier drive less than a mile south of Felton. You can be there in thirty minutes.

Once there, you can choose from a wide range of activities, from a short casual walk to longer, more strenuous explorations. This park has something for everyone.

Bicyclists can ride the paved roads and fire roads. Equestrians can ride their horses on most trails and fire roads. Dog walkers can enjoy Meadow Trail, Graham Hill Trail, and the 3.3-mile Pipeline Road that is closed to vehicles.

Let's start easy. The park's most popular attraction is a loop through 40 acres of giant ancient redwoods up to 300 feet tall, and 1500 years old. The Redwood Grove Loop Trail is accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. Only 8/10 of a mile, the trail is flat, shaded, and wide, with a well-groomed dirt surface. Benches are available along the trail. Restrooms are near the trail entrance and at the halfway point.

Displaying some of the park's oldest and tallest trees, it is the perfect trail to take out-of-state guests, bring your family, or give a reluctant walker a nature experience.

This is a special walk. Although only about five percent of these old-growth trees

have survived, a few of the world's tallest trees still stand proudly. This is a pathway through a zoo-like park of an endangered species. See them while you can.

A large meadow and wooded sites along the San Lorenzo River serve picnickers and large groups. Short trails connect these areas with the parking lot and gift store. You can also walk across the parking area to the Roaring Camp Railroad station where you can board a train for a trip through the redwoods or to Santa Cruz.

I brought my youngest daughter and her fiancé to Henry Cowell in November. They enjoyed seeing the big trees and their first albino redwood, climbing inside the Fremont Tree, visiting the old railroad

station, walking to the bridge over the San Lorenzo River, and buying gifts at the park's nature store.

Stay longer to see more. Thirty miles of trails take you through 4,650 acres of redwoods, grasslands, river/riparian environments, and sandhills.

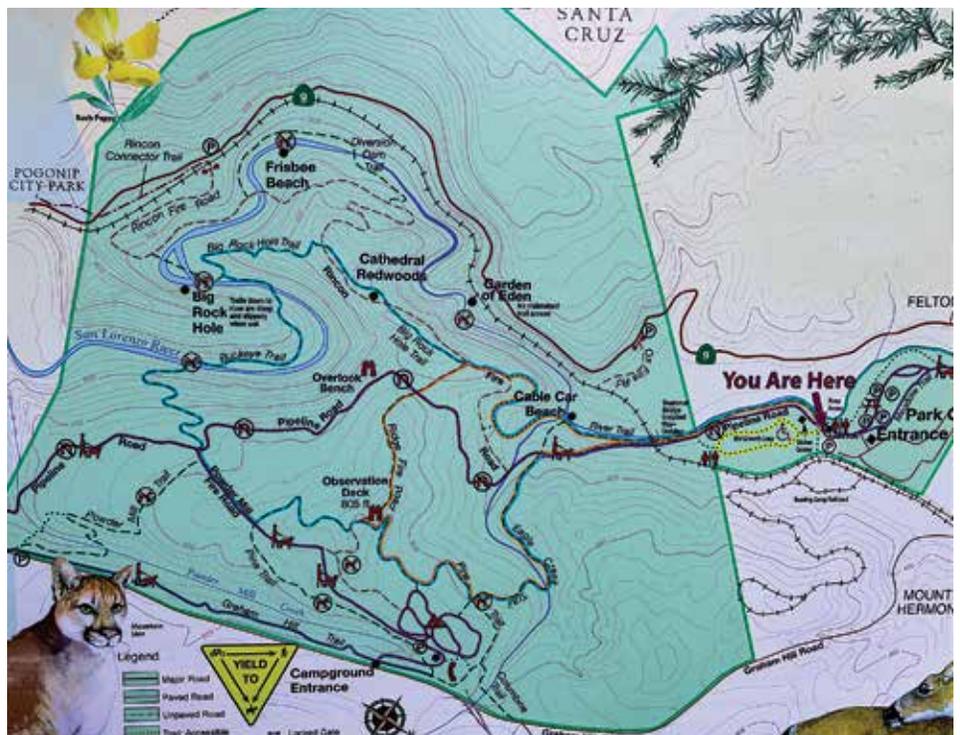
One of my favorite walks is on the shady River Trail along the San Lorenzo River. To the right of the main parking lot, a connector trail takes you to the River Trail. A turn right goes to the sunny Meadow

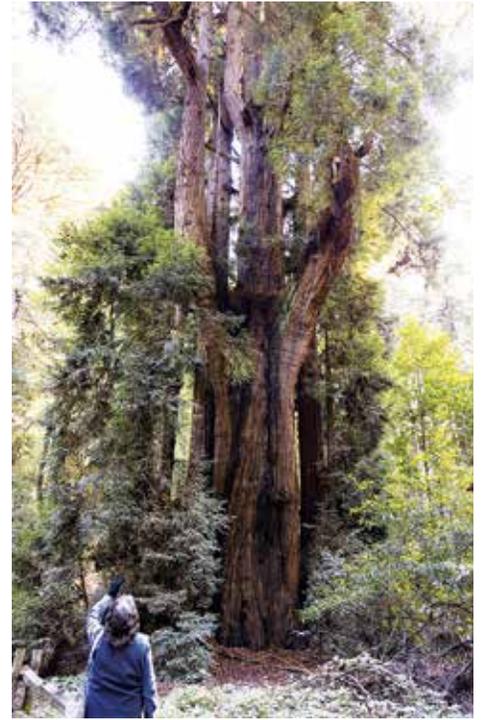
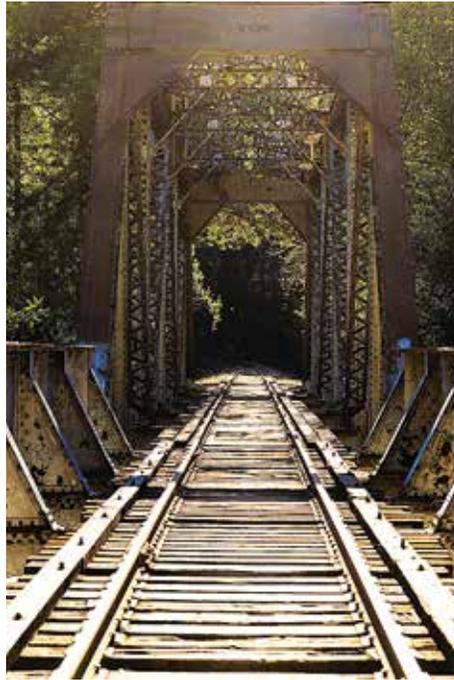
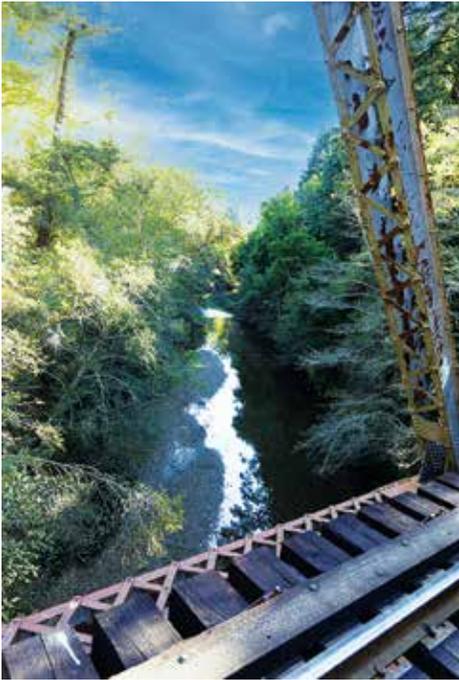


A rare albino redwood



The Fremont Tree





Trail. A turn to the left brings you under the railroad bridge, along the Rincon Fire Road, and to a climb to the Cathedral Redwoods.

For a longer hike from Cathedral Redwoods, take the Big Rock Hole Trail to the Ridge Fire Road and an observation deck. If you look behind the observation deck, you'll find Pine Trail. A downhill stroll brings you to a campground area and Eagle Creek Trail. Turn left to go down to Pipeline Road. After a short distance on Pipeline Road, watch for a small red hydrant and a trail that links with the Redwood Grove Loop Trail and the parking area. This hike takes about four hours or so, with lots of stops for refreshment, rest, and picture-taking.

The following trails are closed due to fire damage: Lost Empire, Pine Flat, Sunlit, Tan Oak, Big Ben, Ridge, S-Cape, and North Fall Creek (between Cape Horn Trail and Big Ben Trail).

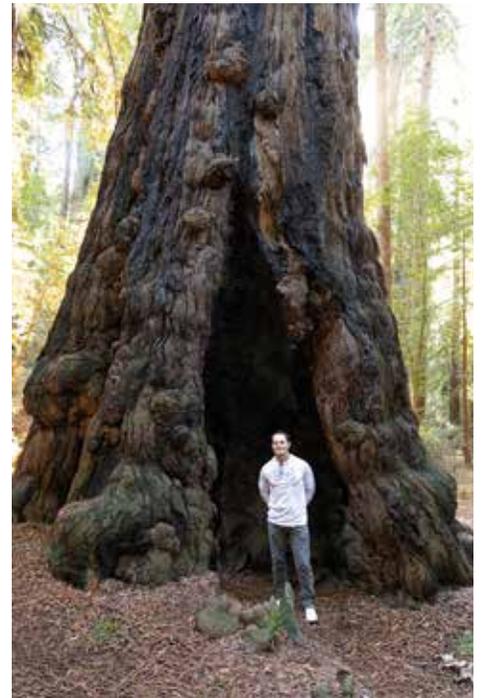
Whether you stop for a short visit on

the way to Santa Cruz or stay for a longer hike or ride, Henry Cowell is a park for everyone. Bring \$10 for all-day parking (\$9 for seniors). For more information, visit parks.ca.gov, or call 831-335-4598.

I recommend getting a park map. You can get a map at the entrance gate or at the park store. You won't need a map to find the park. Simply go south on Highway 17, and turn right on Mt. Hermon Road to Highway 9. Make a left on Highway 9 to go south about one mile. Watch for a large park sign on the left.

If you want to stay longer, there are 107 campsites in shady pine and oak forest in the park campground, located at 2591 Graham Hill Road in Scotts Valley. To make reservations, visit www.reservcalifornia.com.

For more information about train rides to Bear Mountain and Santa Cruz, visit www.roaringcamp.com, or call 831-335-4484 to check schedules and make reservations.



PRIME TREE CARE, INC.

Carmelo Huerta
408-472-8500

Bernardo Huerta
408-908-0055

www.goPrimeTreeCare.com

CSL#380401

history

From Marlene's Mountain History Archive

Hazelhurst

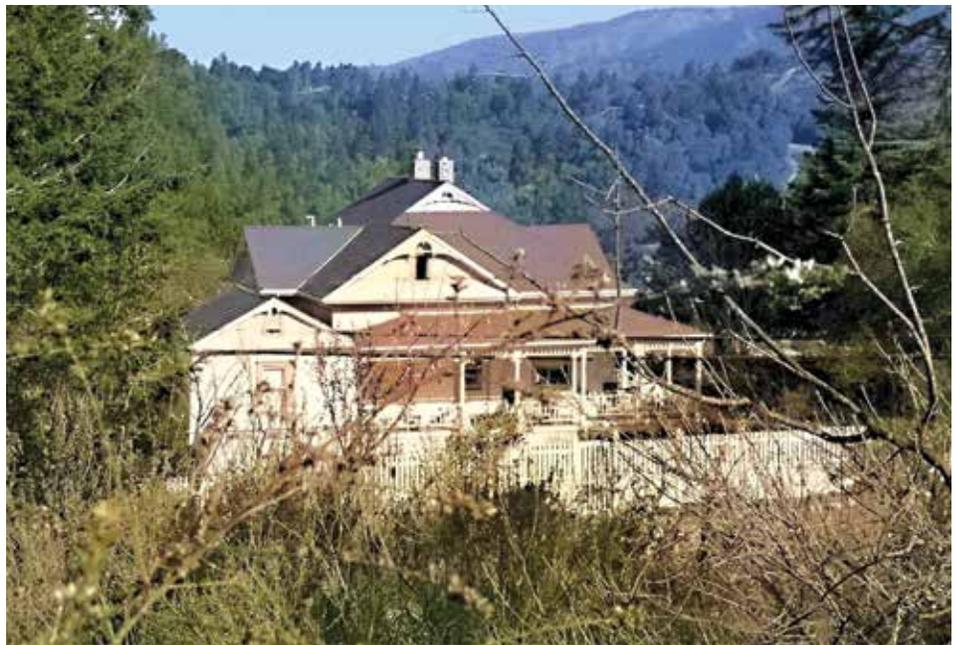
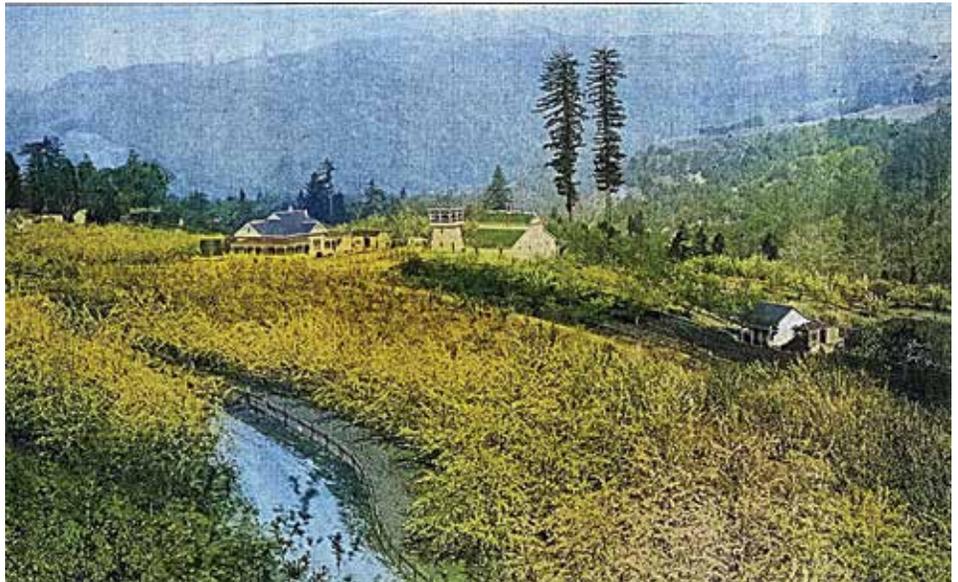
Marlene Wiley

"Hazelhurst" was the name Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Sears gave the home they built on San Jose-Soquel Road across from Miller Hill Road. The name derives from "...the dense growth of hazel on the land." It is a Queen Anne Victorian cottage built of redwood milled at Laurel. The house had six spacious rooms with 12-foot-high ceilings. The walls were flat painted plaster and the floors were redwood. In 1930, a seventh room was added. It was a pool room built for Arthur, who suffered from stomach cancer. He needed a distraction at night when he couldn't sleep.

Arthur L. Sears was the son of the Reverend Arthur E. Sears. His wife was Laura Josephine Berry, who came to the mountains to be the teacher at Burrell School. She roomed with Reverend and Mrs. Sears.

At the time Laura moved to the mountains, Arthur was a cowpuncher living in Missouri. He ultimately worked his way west and met the schoolteacher. They married in 1888. She continued to teach for another ten years. Their daughter Pearl was born October 30, 1905.

Arthur and Laura purchased adjacent properties on Soquel Road. Arthur purchased his land as early as 1884 from



Laura Sears

the Hihn Company. Eventually, the land became a ranch where Arthur planted orchards of prunes, plums, and cherries. The first structures on the ranch were a barn and water tank. Laura was quite a carpenter. According to her daughter Pearl, she helped Arthur build their home. Pearl once said, "She knew more of what she was doing than he did." Laura's father was a carpenter and she learned everything she knew from him.

The house took several years to build. Finally finished, the family occupied the house on April 17, 1906. The next morning, about 5 a.m., the family felt the shocks of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

Arthur Sears extinguished a lantern. Laura Sears tried to get into a closet. Fortunately, she couldn't open the door because the fireplace bricks had fallen into the closet. Though no one was hurt, the house was

knocked off its foundation. They used horses and pulleys to put it back together.

Hazelhurst has the distinction of surviving the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes, but falling off the foundation each time. Reconstruction was much slower after the 1989 quake, which destroyed the water tower, and so severely damaged the barn that repair was impossible.

Pearl Sears Lake lived downtown for many years. When her parents died in the early 1940s, she moved to the ranch, but lived in a trailer on the property. She commuted daily to her job at Moffett Field. Her son Dick attended Burrell School, where his grandmother had been a teacher. Pearl continued working the ranch with the assistance of hired help. She was a member of the Loma Prieta Club and Skyland Church.

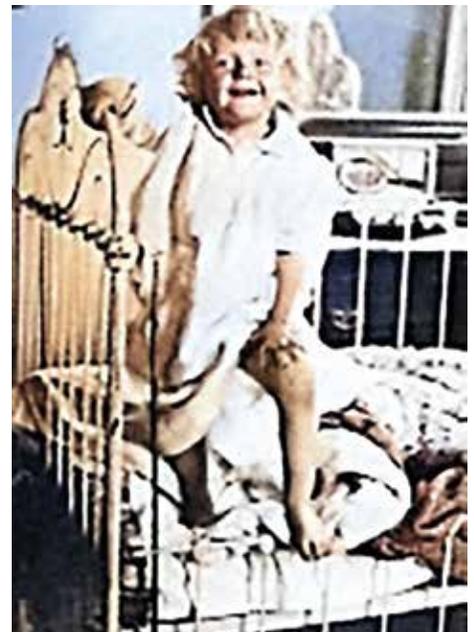
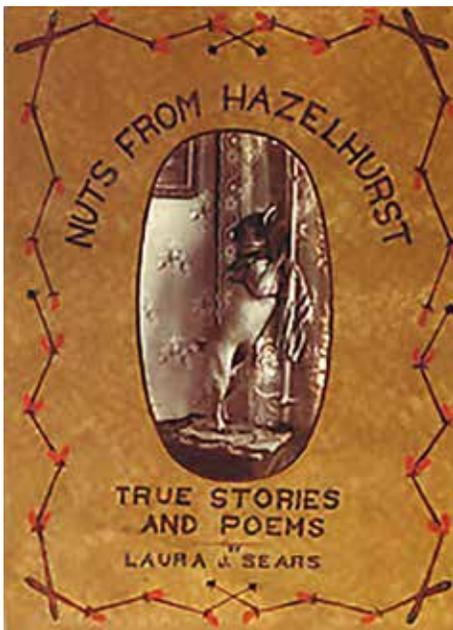
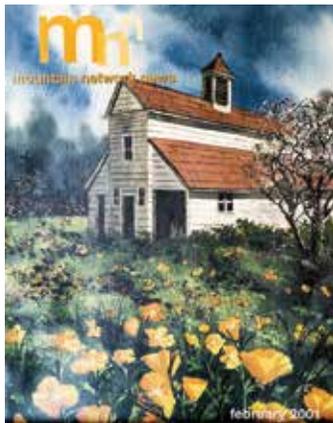


Watercolor of Hazelhurst by the late local artist Kimm Fudge

Many of Laura Sears' poems and essays were published in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* and *The Mountain Realty*.

Her book, *Nuts from Hazelhurst*, was published by her grandson. The book records a way of life long gone. Her writings share animal stories, offer homespun advice, and describe mountain controversies. She was ninety when she died on March 6, 1996. Her son later sold the ranch. It was

purchased by a family who remodeled the house and updated the landscaping. The old Victorian still retains its beauty.



Pearl Sears

Laughing
Our Little Pearl
 A Poem by
 Laura J. Sears

I am my mama's darling
 And I'm papa's pet.
 You could not help but love me
 I'm the sweetest baby yet.

At least that's what they tell me
 And I guess it must be true.
 I go to bed laughing
 And get up laughing too.

My heart's a spring of laughter
 Of that there is no doubt;
 For when my lips fly open
 The laugh comes bubbling out.

I'm going to grow up laughing,
 And laugh my whole life through—
 When there's anything to laugh at,
 I think that's best, don't you?

C.S.L. 1042889

Orchard's
Tree Service INC.

Gonzalo López
 P.O. Box 1848
 Los Gatos, CA 95031
 Cell: 831.760.3479
 Ph: 408.204.6617
gonzalo@orchardstreeservice.com
orchardstreeservice.com