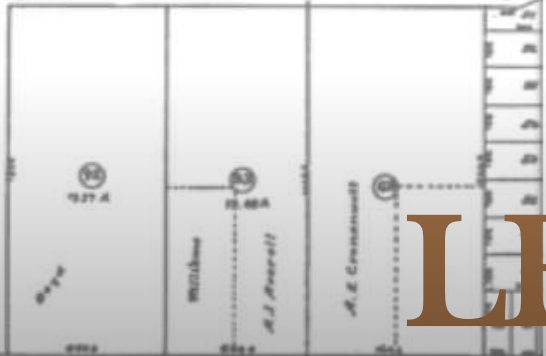




# MONROVIA

LOS ANGELES CO., CALIF.  
COMPILED FROM RECORDS AND SURVEYS  
H. C. MILLER, City Engineer  
February 1904 Scale 60

C. E. SLOSSON,  
Dealer in Real Estate.  
MONROVIA, CALIF.



## Welcome to our Online Collections Database!

You will find historic papers and photographs of Monrovia from its beginnings and as it emerged as the "Gem of the Foothills."

There are photographs of the first houses, shops and businesses, children and steam-flooding tractors. Orange groves and railroads, Parades, parades and more parades! Mothers and shoppers and ordinary citizens. Historic homes and different stages of their lives. The original city hall, fire equipment, library, and city officials -- and what and who replaced them.

There are old phone, street, and business directories; newspaper clippings; transcriptions of early newspapers; early brochures and maps. Most from the collections of our city historians -- painstakingly gathered.

Together they tell the story of Monrovia.

To find something specific, you can look for a person by name, an address, a category of things (schools, banks, railroad), or a format (video).

# LEGACY PROJECT 2.0



# THERE WAS A LOT TO ADD

The stacks were high, and the process began with a major sort.

50+ years of papers, photos, books, and maps squirreled away by Steve Baker from earlier city historians and others -- like a teacher who saved the history of schools from the dumpster.

# First Task: What Are They?

Characters, stories, puzzles and mysteries to untangle.

Q: What's most important?



# Then... What Do They Tell Us?

A 1926 Monrovia Days  
“Pioneer Register” lists the  
first to come here.

2			3		
Pioneer's			Register May 17-1926		
Date of Arrival	Name	Address	Date of Arrival	Name	Address
Abt 13 1889	J. H. Bayler	701 E. White Oak	Nov 11 86	Vida Walters	606 S Myrtle
Abt 9 1889	M. A. Jones	153 Highland St	Nov 1912	Frank H. A. Prange	1114 E. Olive
July 12 1888	E. J. Mitchell	226 Oak St.	Oct. 1912	Mrs. W. K. Whitmore	311 Mill Rose Ave, Monrovia
July 23 1887	E. J. Condon	215 East Lane Ave	May 1887	Mrs. Belle K. Smith	712 S. Ivy Monrovia Pat.
Jan 1. 1891	P. M. Throde	1235 Hellman St Long Beach	July 1918	Edna C. White	219 S. Sherman
Mar 1894	Lewis P. Black	152 May Ave Monrovia	Feb 1918	W. S. H. Beckett	131 S. Linn
Jan 2 1912	Lu and Lucyon	357 N. Madeflower	June 1919	C. O. Brown	323 E. Palm Monrovia
Oct 1 1907	W. J. Wade	509 So Myrtle Ave	Aug 1906	W. H. M. Stone	220 White Oak
July 14 1915	A. B. Droyne	457 N. Pioneer	July 1910	Sam Sherksten	918 So. Myrtle
Dec 24 1894	Ed. L. Baker	118 N. Magnolia	Mar 30 1898	Karl Wright	127 E. Lane Ave.
May 1929	Ed. Switzer	536 N. Maple	Feb 1912	W. A. Lally	326 Cedar
Feb 1900	Tom Bennett	101 Hillcrest	Sept 1924	Mrs. E. A. McDonald	337 Linwood Ave.
1899	Jackson Smith	Linncoln Ave 441	Mar 1888	S. Brown Luman	115 E. Hillcrest
Oct 15 1911	Dymond C. Gubler	222 So. Alh. Vt.	Jan 1923	Mrs. Sara Longm. Ave	243 May Ave
May 18 1915	Sydia A. Kemman	315 N. Myrtle Ave	Nov 1923	Miss Julia Rose	239 May Ave
Feb 9 1895	E. J. Moore	145 So Myrtle	March 1894	Miss Clara B. Arthur	119 N. Melrose Ave.
Apr 1821	E. J. Moore	110 Myrtle Ave	1896	Raymond Zerell	336 N. Ivy
Dec 21 1923	R. M. Russell	652 Boule St.	Apr 1881	Emil Boltz	100 So. Hill St. & 1st St. Monrovia
Nov 3 1933	May & Lunning Jones	437 So. Myrtle Ave	July 1896	Kugh Marshall	698 W. White Oak
Mar 1 1892	Myrt. E. W. W. W. W.	127 E. Lane Ave	Mar 1923	H. T. W. W. W. W.	740 W. Myrtle Ave
1907	J. A. Erickson	305 E. Lane Ave	1894	Mrs. Clara M. Good	607 E. Lane Ave
1907	A. Fowler	119 No. Alh. Vt.	1898	Mrs. A. H. Johnson	Oakhurst E. Paradise Ave
1923	J. P. Daniel	415 W. White Oak	Jan 1888	Mrs. W. H. Nichols	148 E. White Oak Monrovia
1918	Mary R. Smyth	435 W. Palm	Feb 1920	Mrs. Mrs. Roy D. Stone	205 Highland Place
1896	A. J. Clark	P. O. 1	July 1908	Mrs. W. M. M. Fleming	316 W. Change St.
1887	AE Cronenwett	220 E. Palm	July 1916	Wen H. C. Bell	Long Beach Blvd
1920	J. F. Parslow	Guth Hill - Pine Blvd 308	Nov 1915	Mrs. Frank J. Kroger	Monrovia Calif.
1922	J. J. O'Brien	327 S. Pioneer	July 1894	Mrs. L. S. H. H. H.	315 W. Orange St.
1896	Charles A. Lohak	309 W. Huntington Ave	July 1925	Henry W. Ransin	401 E. Olive Ave City
1896	W. H. Marquis	745 E. Palm Ave	Nov 1887	Bob Morago	P. O. Box 305
1894	Frank L. Bartells	Monrovia R. 1	July 4	Mrs. Helen Elliott	Los Angeles 2546 Grand
1908	Howard Hitchcock	129 Highland Blvd	1887	Claude Chess	316 Steadman Place
1920	D. J. Purkin	276 Steadman Pl	1910	F. A. Williams	748 Steadman Place
1922	Chas. V. Burr	721 E. White Oak	Nov 1918	W. C. Eaton	156 W. Walnut Monrovia
Nov 1923	Mrs. Sara R. Cook	126 W. Orange	May 1924	Emma Gate	244 So. Myrtle Ave Monrovia
Nov 23 1918	Mrs. J. H. H. H.	529 Linwood Ave	July 20 25	Mrs. M. H. H. H.	244 W. Palm Ave Monrovia
Oct 7 1908	Mrs. Alice May Giroud	337 W. Lane Ave	Nov 1918	Mrs. Thos. H. Peltor	150 E. Lane Ave Monrovia
			June 1898	Mrs. A. J. Gallagher	215 S. Walnut Monrovia



## WHAT THE ORIGINAL MONROE COTTAGE LOOKED LIKE IN 1884

The first home W.N. and Mary Jane Monroe built, before their fancy permanent home, "The Oaks". W.N.'s brother C.O. Monroe then lived there, added a second story and an orange grove. It's still standing at 225 Monroe Place.

# Filling In Blanks W.N. Monroe

1890s went to build a railroad in Nome, Alaska



*W.N. Monroe*



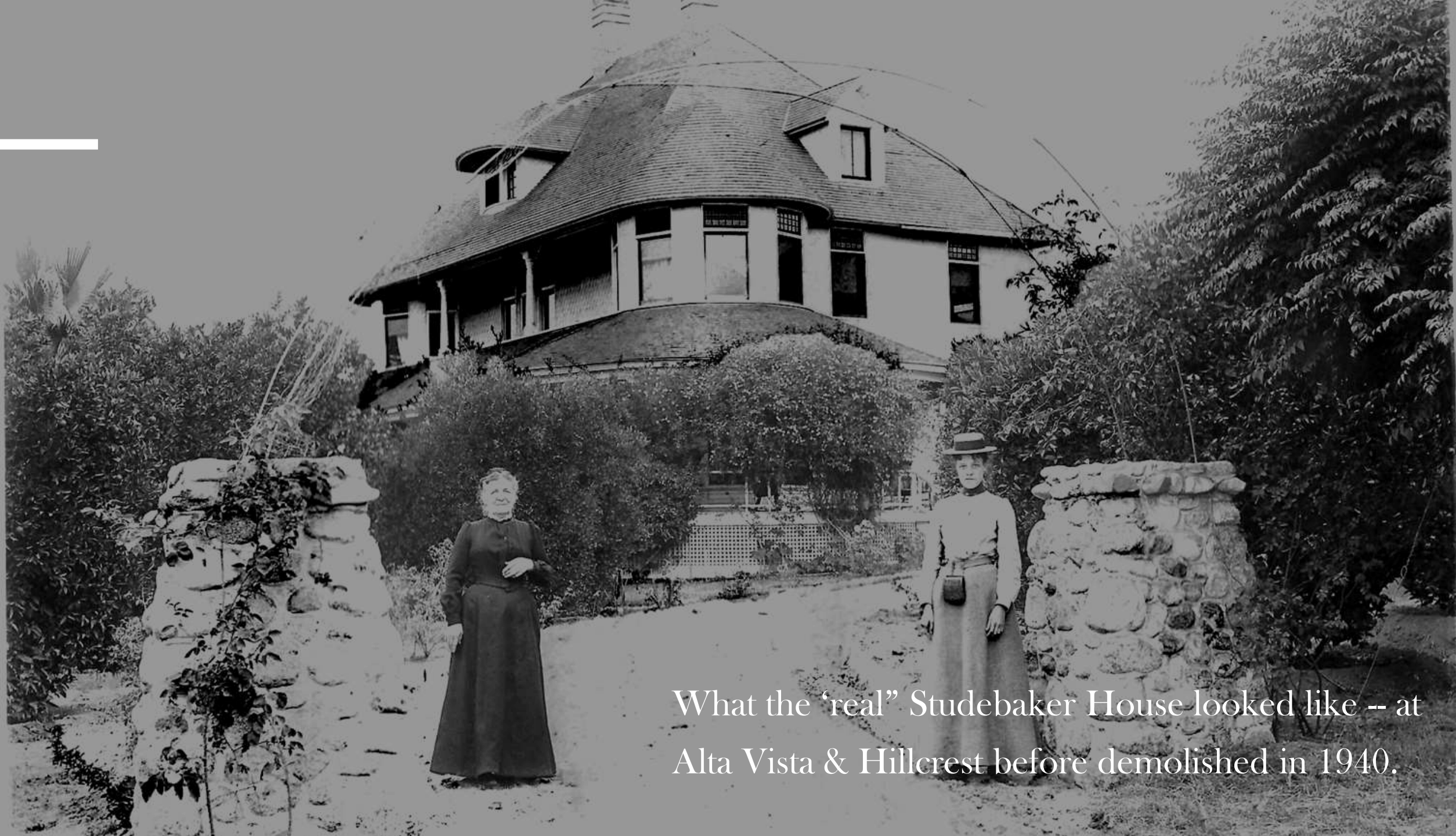
*W.N. Monroe*





Matching Studebaker & J.I. Case homes  
409 & 447 Hillcrest

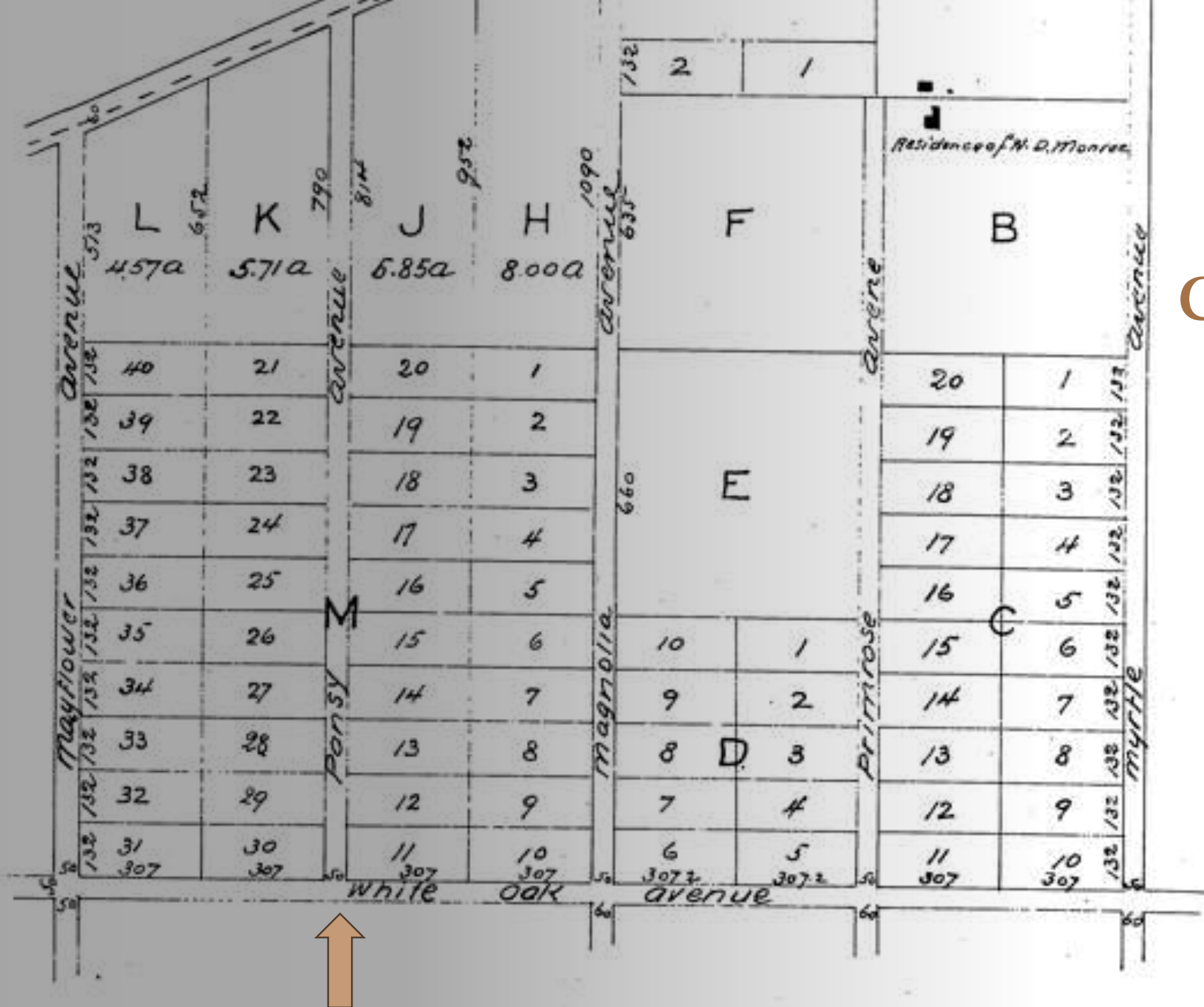
Solving mysteries -- Studebaker House



What the 'real' Studebaker House looked like -- at Alta Vista & Hillcrest before demolished in 1940.



1887  
Map



HOW  
STREET  
NAMES  
CHANGED

FROM  
PANSY

TO J.I.C.

TO ALTA  
VISTA

# MYSTERY WOMAN, MAY BAKER

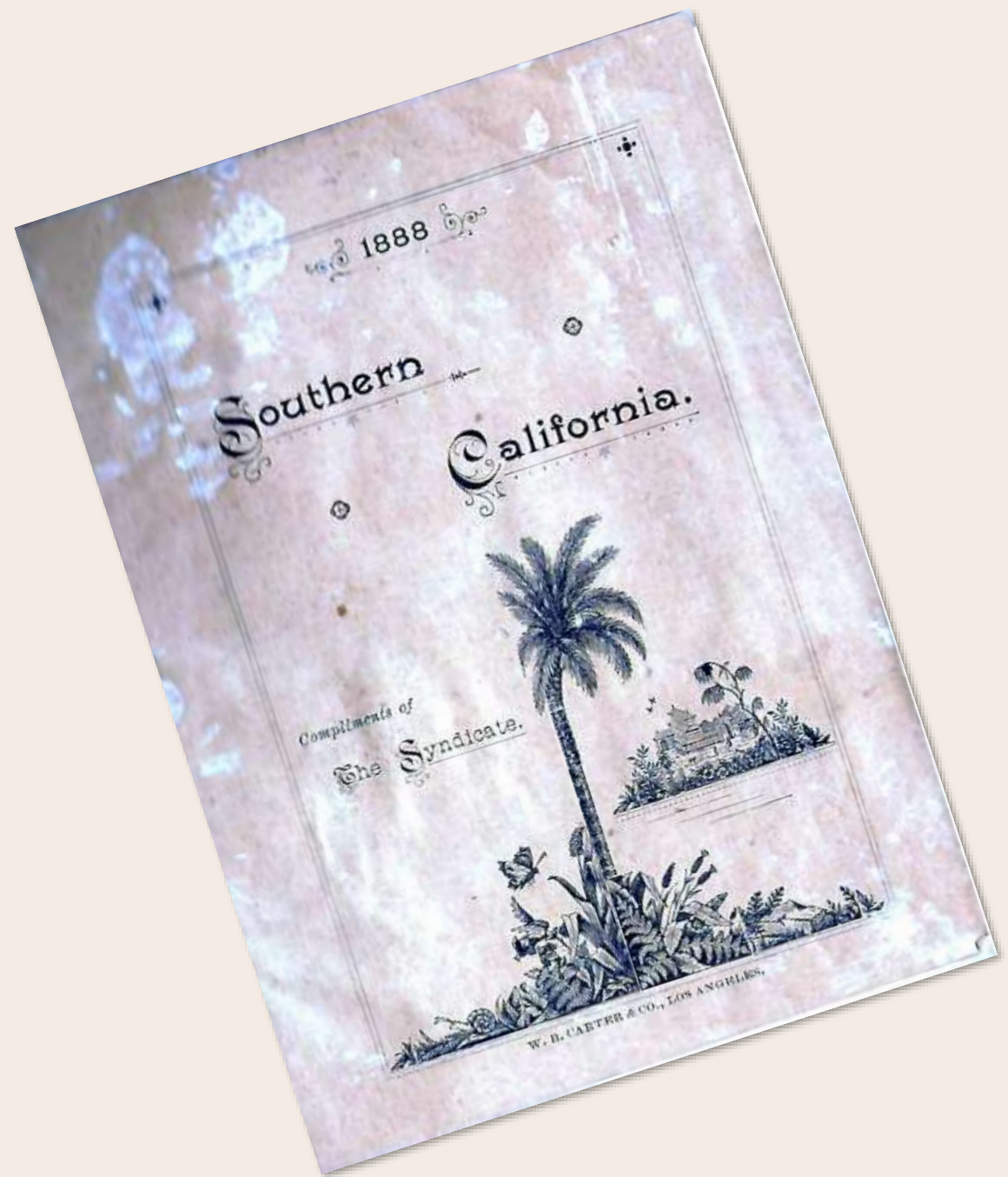
Her album and boxes (and boxes), tell a complex story. She was adopted by Col. R.M. Baker, married 4 times, developed property, lived in Paris and Mexico, and left \$5 million to USC. More of her story, records and photos will come in the next phase.



## 1888 BOOKLET TO ENTICE SETTLERS

Southern California is “The Italy of America. The only perfect climate in the world and the grandest scenery under the Sun.

Free Water is plenty, and houses being built are ‘substantial, tasty and convenient.’ “



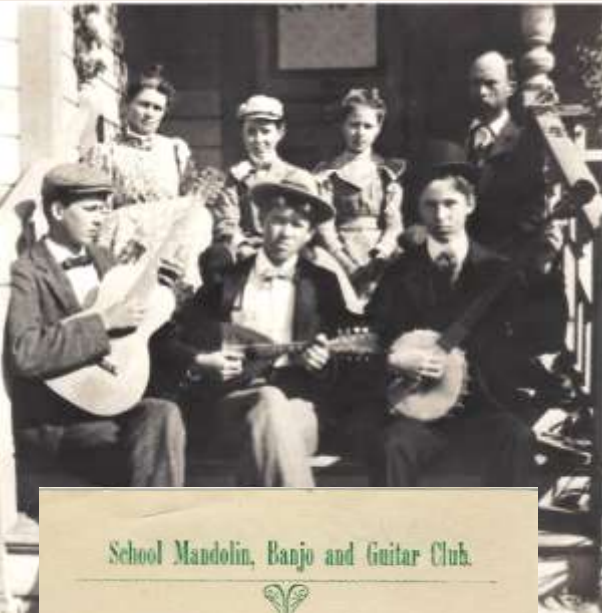
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**EARLY  
FAMILIES**

**THE BURRS**

**150 N  
MYRTLE**





School Mandolin, Banjo and Guitar Club.



*Mandolins:*

*Walter Burr  
Lawrence Reed*

*Guitars:*

*Myron Burr  
Ivy Reed*

*Banjo:*

*Lester Burr*

*Pianists:*

*Clyde Burr  
Glady's Burr*

*Assisting Mandolinists:*

*Miss Myrtle Davis  
Miss Nettie Coles*

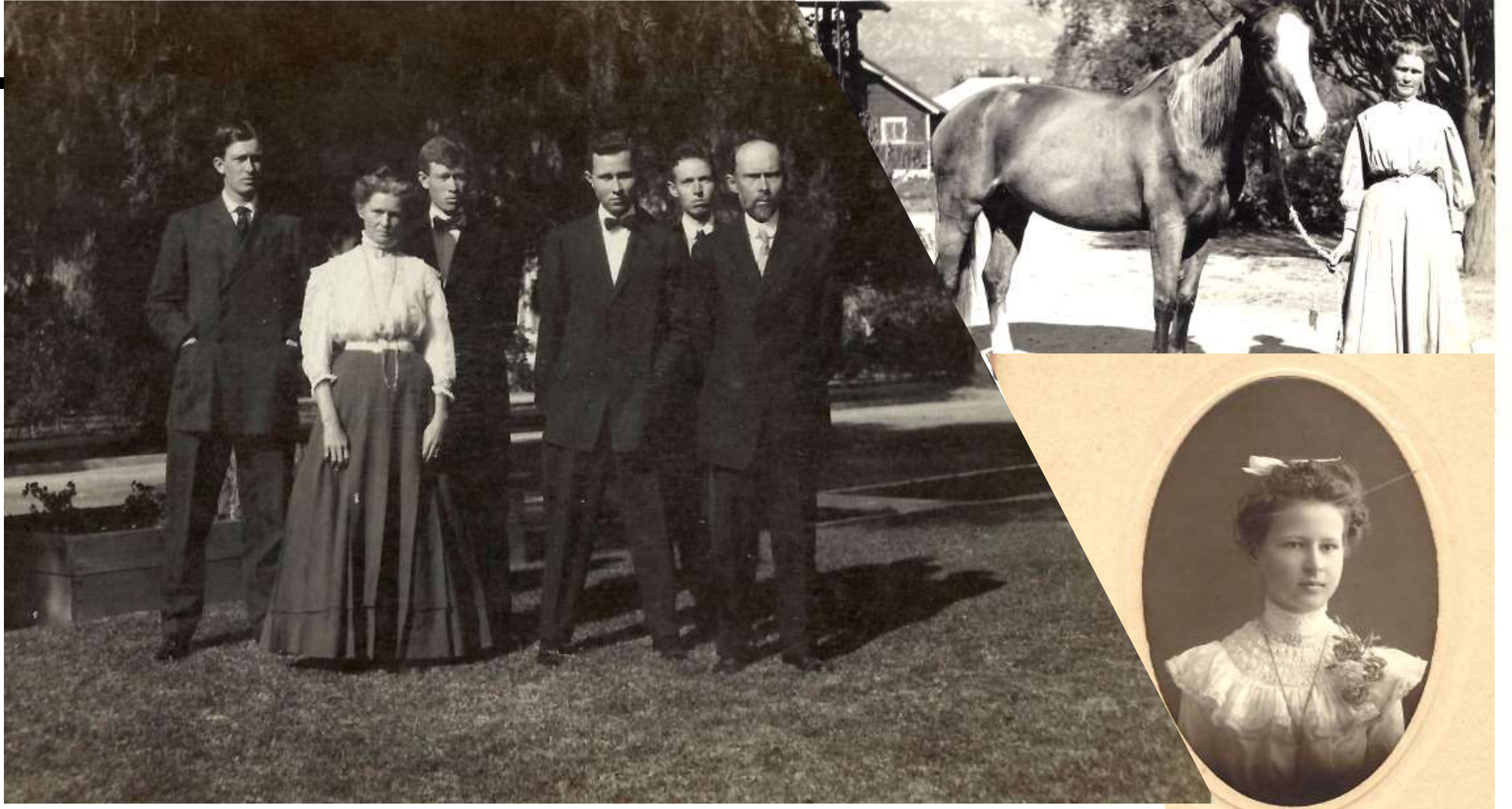
*Leader: Walter Burr*

PROGRAM

JUNE 26, 1900.

Chicken Pickin's . . . . .	Allen
La Carmela Waltzes . . . . .	Witmark
Manzanillo . . . . .	Robyn
Double Eagle . . . . .	Rueffer





*Klaude Chess*

# BURRS AT MONROVIA DAYS



# MORE PARADES 1911 - LIBRARY PARK



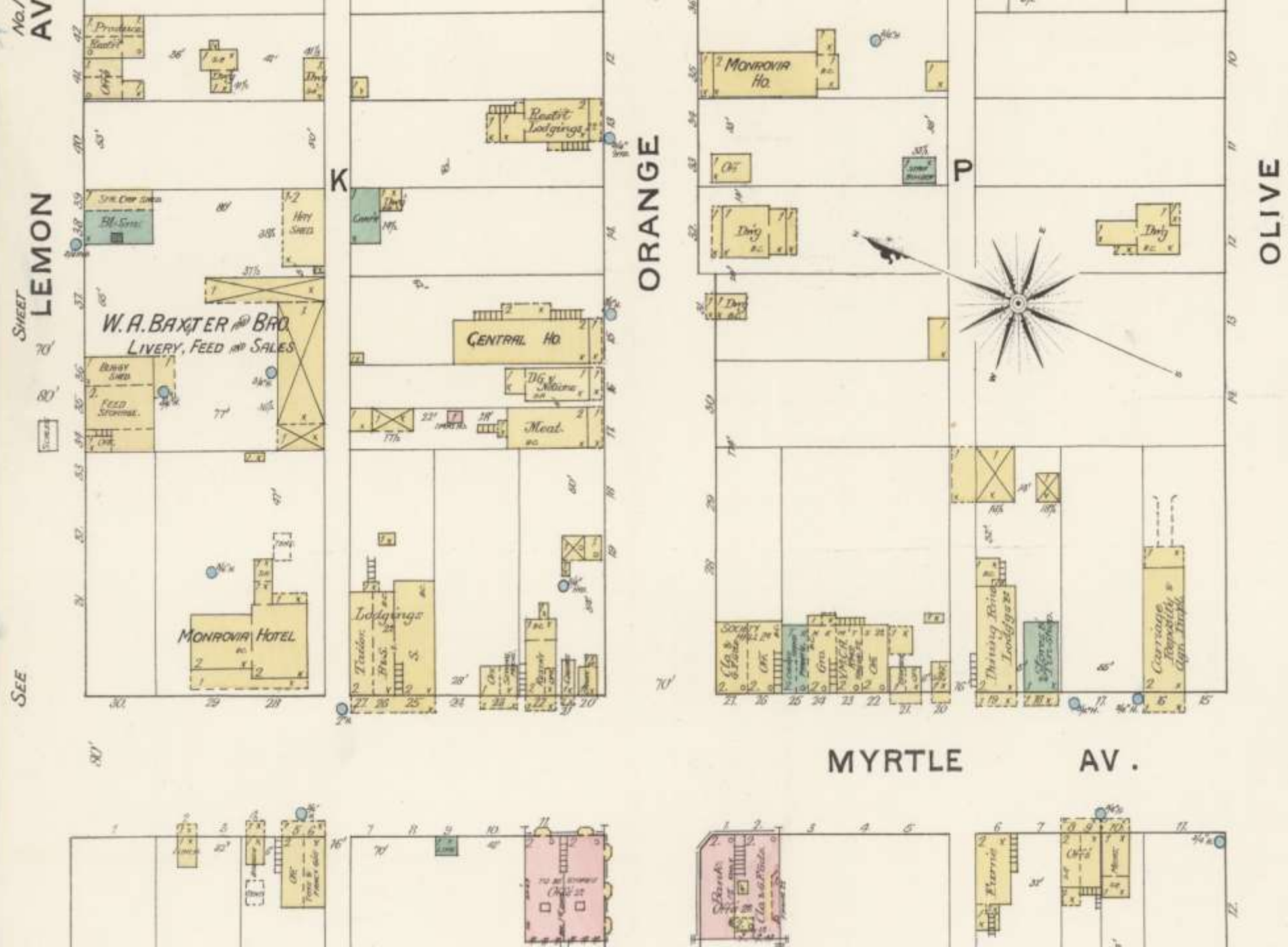


# MYRTLE AVENUE SCENES



# Sanborn Insurance Maps

1888  
1892  
1897





# HOTEL REGISTER.

Money, jewels and other valuable packages must be placed in the safe in the office, otherwise the Hotel will not be responsible for any loss.

HOTEL REGISTER  
FOR  
THE LA VISTA GRAND HOTEL

This register covers the period from February 2, 1914 until the hotel closed its business in December, 1935. It was destroyed by fire May 3, 1916, 1935. The names of many early-day immigrants are written in the register including that of W.N. Morrow, the city's founder. The hotel occupied the site on which is now located the City Hall and Fire Department.

NAME

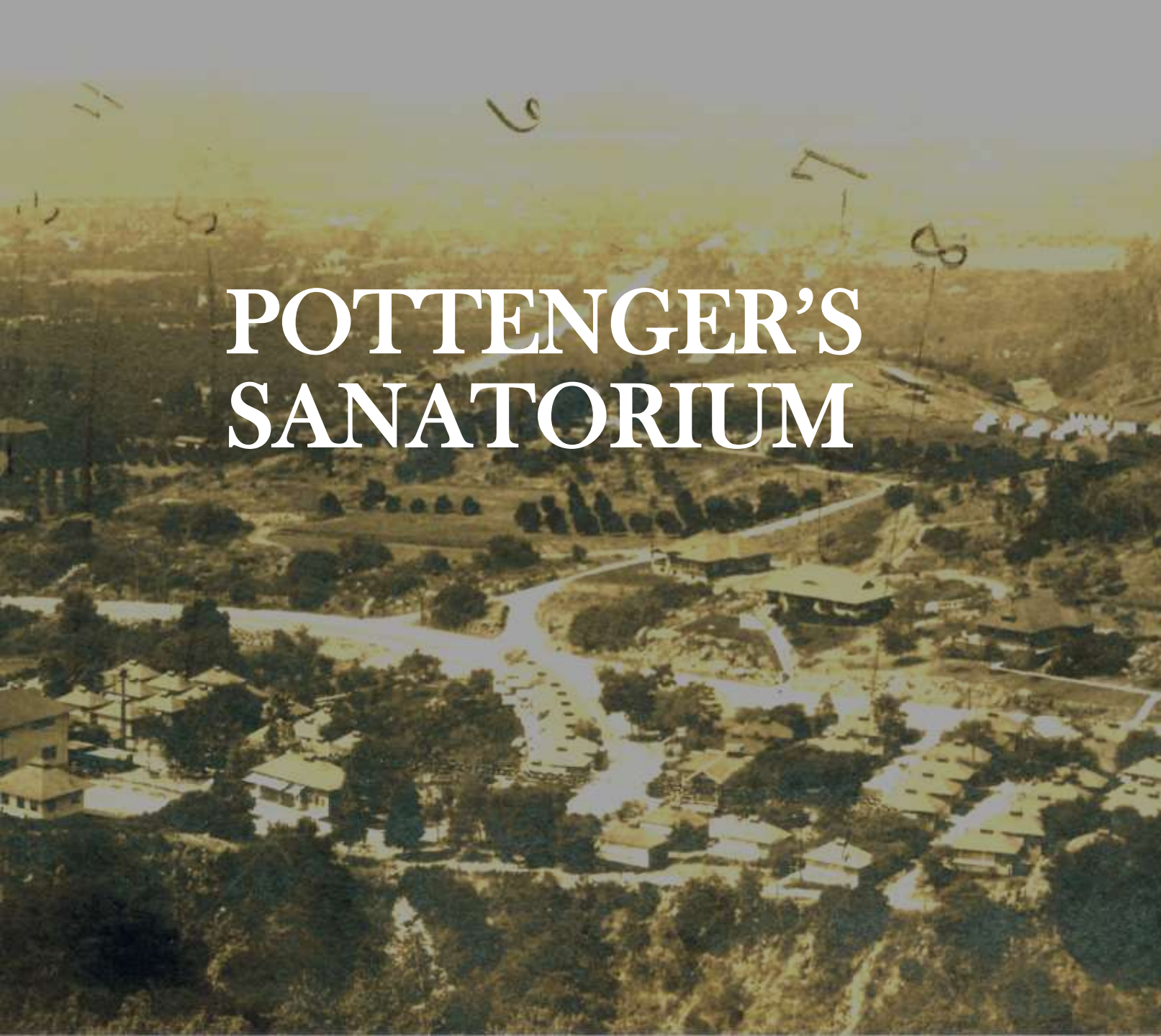
Sunday, May 27, 1914

NAME	ROOM	Time of Arrival	Time of Departure
Mr & Mrs Funglomo City			
W. J. Comer		7/10	
Ed. Comer		"	
W. N. Morrow		"	
Mrs. " Morrow		"	
Miss Betty Dyer		"	
Arthur Evans		EM	
Marian Ut		"	
Kenneth Alfred Taylor Center Pa		"	
Mr. Ed. Rader		EM	

Tuesday, May 29, 1914

W. N. Morrow Los Angeles			
J. W. Lindquist			
W. B. Lee			
Ed. W. Loraine Berkeley, Calif	50		
Mrs. W. J. James			
Mr. Ed. Rader	196		

# POTTENGER'S SANATORIUM



1. Back view of the Sanatorium building, which contains 20 rooms for patients, Miss Lind's home etc.
2. Dr. Pottenger's private office.
3. Livery house (the one with the gables) Note private orange grove!
4. The chemical laboratory.
5. The "lower yard"
6. The farm and dairy of 40 cows are here - This grove is on quite an elevation.
7. Dr. Kishner's house - it was occupied by Dr. P. but he went down town. The other three houses on that hill are occupied by the other assistant doctor and relatives of Dr. Pottenger.
8. George's cottage - note proximity to grove and also that it is almost surrounded by brush and is a little away from the others.
9. The combination "bungalows" These each contain several patients and are partly charitable.

# The Pottenger's Story

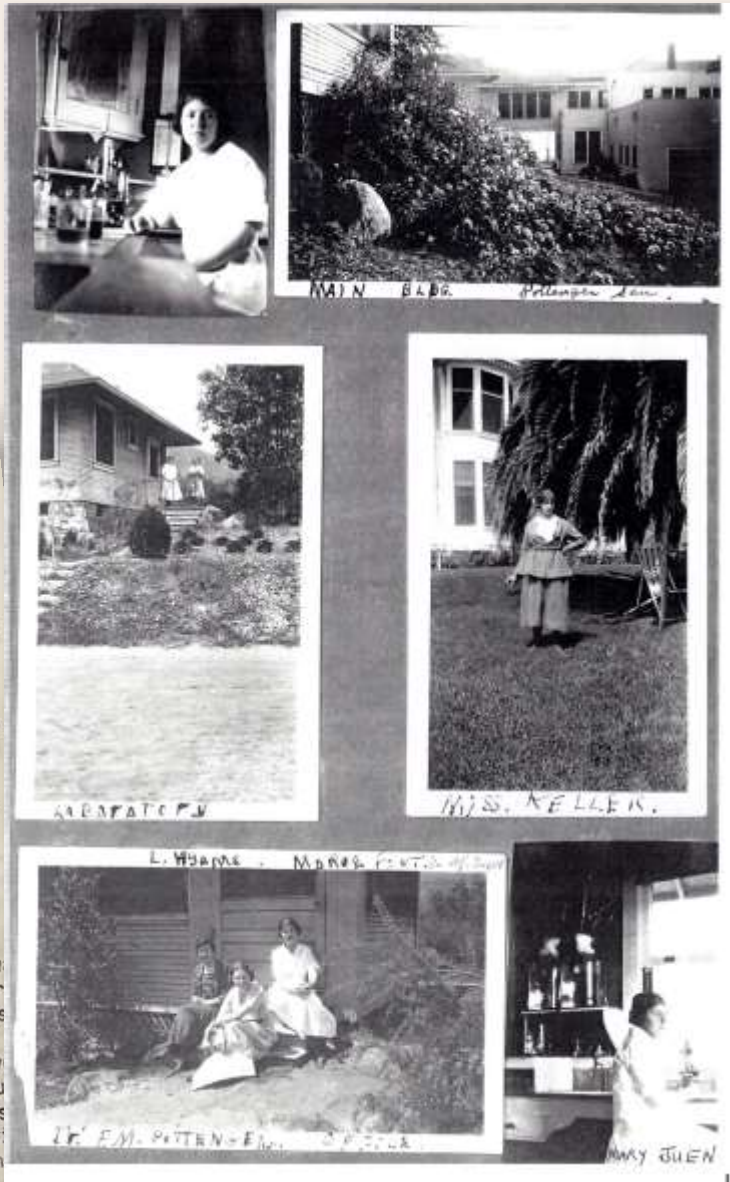


FRANCIS MARION POTTENGER, JR. M.D.  
 A Personal Memoir  
 by  
 Thomas Myron Hotchkiss

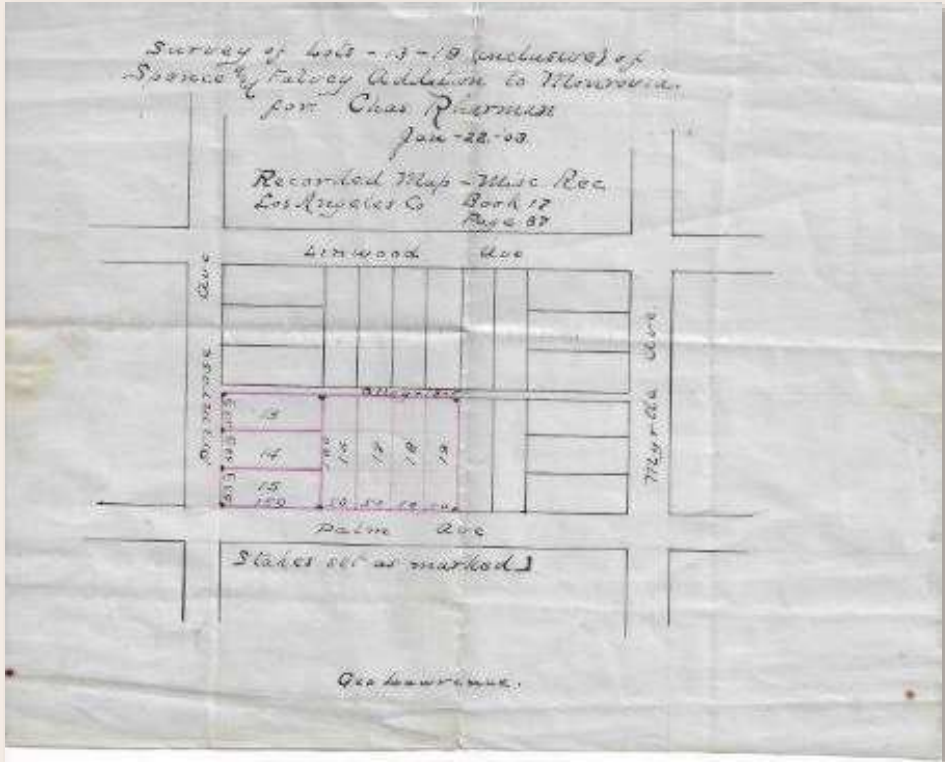
Dr. F.M. Pottenger, a native of New Baltimore, Ohio came to Monrovia in September, 1895 with an ailing wife, the former Miss Marie Durtner of Germantown, Ohio. Here he entered into a partnership with Dr. R.D. Adams for the practice of medicine. After but a year and a half, his wife's health not being improved, the Pottengers returned to Ohio where she passed away in November 99. Shortly afterward Dr. Pottenger came back to Monrovia and resumed his partnership with Dr. Adams. On August 29, 1900 he married Miss Adelaide Gertrude Dabbitt, a native of Keyesville, New York and a graduate of the University of Vermont, who at the time was vice-principal and teacher of Latin and Greek in the Monrovia High School which was then at the old Grange Avenue School. The Saturday Afternoon Club, predecessor of the Woman's Club, lists her as a member in its roster for 1898-99. To them three children were born:

Francis Marion, Jr.  
 Robert Thomas  
 Adelaide Marie.

Francis Marion Pottenger, Jr. the subject of this memoir, was born in Monrovia on May 29, 1901, three years before his father established the famous Pottenger Sanatorium. Francis began his education in 1907 by entering the first grade at the old Ivy Avenue School where he came under the influence of that beloved teacher who taught many early Monroviens their ABCs, Miss Lau C. Barnes. I have in my possession a photograph of that class of 32 pupils. Among those in the picture who remained in Monrovia for many years are John Zerell, Ralph Slosson, Mary Moore and of course, Francis himself.



# Rehrman Family & West Palm



**TAX RECEIPT—YEAR 1911**

STATE AND COUNTY, ROAD AND SPECIAL SCHOOL TAXES  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
W. O. WELCH, TAX COLLECTOR

The remaining one-half of Realty Tax is due and payable on the First Monday of January, 1912.  
5% additional penalty is added to all unpaid taxes after the last Monday in April, 1912.

No. 131485  
89

ACCEPT FIRST PAYMENT HERE

**PAID**  
NOV 20 11

RECEIVED BY: *Eva A. Rehrman*

PROPERTY: *1/2 Int. in Sub of Lot 16 & 17 of Spanish Colony Addition to Moorpark*

Lot or Bk. No.	Block or Tract	Range	VALUATION		Net Value	Total State, County, District, & Special School Tax
			Real Estate	Improvements		
16	13				5.00	11.50
17	13		5.00	4.00	11.00	2,530
18	13		5.00	7.00	12.00	2,760
19	13		5.00	6.00	11.00	2,530
22	13		13.25	71.25	84.50	2,577

PERSONAL PROPERTY *(None)*

**PAID**  
APR 4 '12

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

By: *[Signature]* Deputy

Tax Rate  
+ Exp. Rate  
+ School Rate

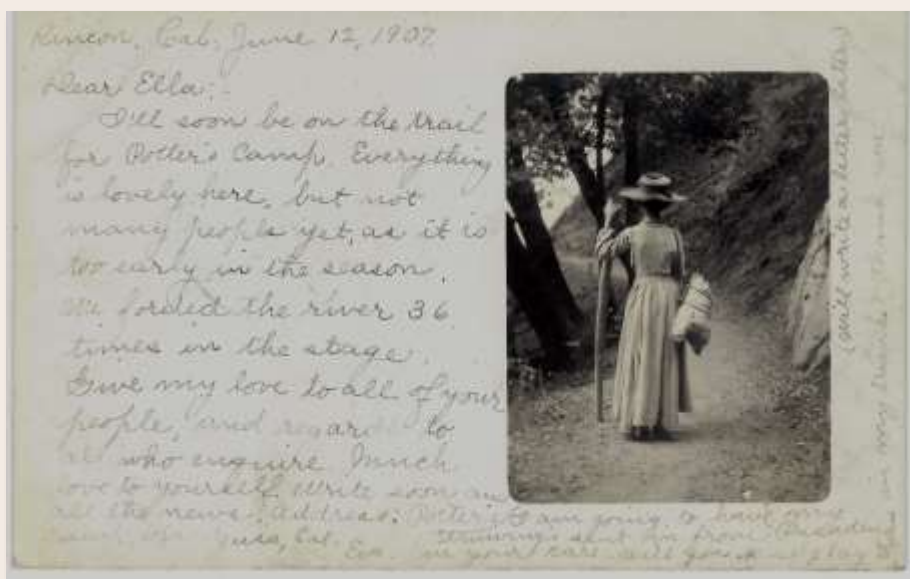
As per Book Page of Records of L. A. County

Present this Bill to be receipted for Second Payment when made.

Total Tax \$ *14,650*

1st Installment 7,277  
2nd Installment 7,273

# MONROVIA CANYON





**E.B. GRAY PHOTOGRAPHS – MINING IN THE SAN GABRIELS**





**MORE FOOTHILL FLYING FIELD**



# JULIUS PARKER'S WWII SCRAPBOOK

# Monrovia's Cultural Histories

by Prof. Susie Ling



## **RECUERDOS DE MONROVIA: HISTORY OF MEXICAN AMERICANS**

by Susie Ling, Monrovia Latino Heritage Society



*Monrovia's Japanese school or gakuen on Mayflower, south of Duarte Road, was a gathering space for Japanese Americans. Circa 1930s.*

## **Monrovia's Asian American History**

By Susie Ling

Monrovia Historical Museum  
742 E. Lemon Ave  
Monrovia, CA 91016



## **History of African Americans in Monrovia, CA**

by Susie Ling, Monrovia Historical Museum



# CHURCHES



110th ANNIVERSARY  
SOUVENIR PROGRAM  
SHILOH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
1023 S. CANYON BLVD.  
MONROVIA, CA 91016



St. Lukes - 1909



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# SCHOOLS

# REPORT CARDS, NEWSPAPERS, COMMENCEMENTS

## THE PILGRIM

VOL. II MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA FRIDAY, February 21, 1931 NO. 3



Because we honor and admire  
The face in the portrait here  
We are dedicating,  
To the one we love, LINCOLN.  
-Edgar Golden



### TREE PLANTING DAY

Thursday, February 12, was tree planting day at Mayflower school. We had some noted people for speakers, and we felt quite honored. At ten o'clock we all went to the auditorium, where we heard Mr. Murphy from the forestry department, and Mrs. Day, also "Tress". Later we went out into the playground where all the classes had numbers and we all sang songs.

The trees planted were a rubber tree given to us by the P. E. A., a Junonia tree planted by the city, and two Tiger pines given to us by the forestry department.

The Pines are native of California and grow in great quantities on the south slopes of the Sierra Nevada range.

### THE BADGE TEST

We have already started to practice for the badge test. The sixth and seventh grades have divided into squads. In the seventh grade there are six in a squad and in the sixth grade there are seven in a squad. Solon Foster in the seventh grade is the only one in the school that is taking the 3 badge test. In the sixth grade, Roy Stone, Jack Macklock and Orren Bonsett are taking the second badge test. In the seventh grade Class, Rerohaw, Billy Lockwood and Chas. Shober are taking the second badge test. All the rest in the sixth and seventh grades are taking the first badge test.

### BOOK CHARACTER CONTEST

Do you know Tom Sawyer? We are giving a Book Character Contest in our "Cross and Quills" contest. If you like good books you will be sure to like this contest. Pick up the book of the day and think of something the ten questions. Here are the first ten questions: 1. Who named Tom Sawyer? 2. What did the Swain girl tell Tom about the girls? 3. Who took down the night table? 4. Who was in search of the Bill Smith? 5. Why is the French officer in the story about Meg, Beth and...? 6. Who was leader of the Outlaw Band in which Will Swain belonged? 7. Who got halves by the tax law? 8. Who went into a saw to get a magic lamp? 9. What Dutch boy and girl searched for a thousand guilders that their father had buried before he fell from a scaffolding, and lost his memory? 10. What Prince had a magic cloak that would take him traveling on it?

### RECENT NEW BOOKS

We have quite a few new books. There are a few teachers' books and quite a few children's books. Here they are: For Children—Sam Corcor, First Book of Manicures, Cotton and other Useful Fibers, Other Soldiers, Wild Animals of North America, Book of Fishes, Forward Ho, Book of Wild Flowers, and Book of Bees. Devere C. Ford Mother—Class, dear, you have forgotten your toothbrush. Class E—But I thought I was going on a vacation.

### HOW ABOUT TRAMP DAY?

How about Tramp Day again this year? Last year at the very commencement we decided we'd have Tramp Day. After we heard the High School was going to have theirs. Well we had to do something pretty good. This year let's put it off. My bang! Nothing is going that isn't worth doing. We make this one of the events of the school year or the day selected by the school. There is a possibility of the Chess Club playing for us in the assembly in the meeting. Outside events put on by the book of Mayflower. Don't forget get dressed up, Friday, Feb. 27-28. Ralph Pichman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
J. G. CROSS, President. Mrs. EMORY A. WHEELER.  
J. J. REMAKEK, Clerk.

TEACHERS—HIGH SCHOOL:  
J. H. STRANG, Principal.  
AUGUSTINE BARNETT  
G. W. MONROE.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL:  
J. H. STRANG, Principal.  
A. KAYE COLLINS.  
M. JOE MCKEELEK.  
LAURA C. BARNER.

Monrovia High School  
FOURTH ANNUAL  
Graduating Exercises  
TUESDAY EVENING,  
JUNE 24, 1908.

AT RIGHT O'CLOCK  
Monrovia Opera House





MONROVIA NEWS-POST

1886

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

EDITION

Commemorating the founding of Monrovia, California, May 17, 1886 and Depicting Half a Century of Progress in the San Gabriel Valley.



May 14, 1936  
Monrovia, California

1936

# Golden Jubilee

## We're Here To Carry Out Tradition

The Roots of Empire Live in TRADE . . . and Trade is Built on CONFIDENCE . . . We know, too, that Confidence once lost is not easily won back. That is why we are so careful not to abuse it. That is why we demand dependability in the service we sell, truthfulness in our advertising, and courteous, careful service by everyone who works for us.

"STEVE"  
H. W. STEVENS  
Proprietor

"VAN"  
W. E. VAN PELT  
Proprietor



Exterior view of Stevens-Van Pelt Modern Show Room

CLAUDE FORAYTH  
Phone 1000  
General Manager

SPENCER YOUNG  
Service Manager  
Radio Specialist  
All types Chevrolet  
Promotion Specialist

### DeSoto and Plymouth

"Today's Most Modern Motor Cars"

This year more than ever the Chrysler Motor Car Company is making history in De Soto and Plymouth new car sales. Styled for the modern motorist in both appearance and performance, 1936 promises to be a banner year. Sales in Monrovia have exceeded our greatest expectations, which prove that this year is truly a "GOLDEN JUBILEE" year in Monrovia.

# 1936 MONROVIA NEWS-POST 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION

PAGE TEN MONROVIA NEWS-POST GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY EDITION THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1936



**McDonald & O'Boyle**  
CHEVROLET - OLDSMOBILE  
Established 1924.  
200 East Front St. Phone 322-004

Congratulations, Monrovia on Your 50th Anniversary!

FRANK TELLS THE STORY OF THE THRILLING DELUXE

### 1936 Studebaker Champions

- 41 New Buick Features
- 41 New Corduroy Features
- 41 New Economy Features
- 41 New Performance Features
- 41 New Safety Features

—and 2 More in Official AAA Yearbook List

**Edward F. King Co.**  
STUDEBAKER DEALER  
221 South 30th Phone 70



**Zerell & Wicks**  
SOLE IMPORTERS  
2000 N. WOOD  
Established 1917. Phone 331

A PLACE TO BUY, SELL, TRADE NEWS-POST CLASSIFIED ADS

**M'Bratney Pioneer Merchant**

Styles Change With the Years

Turner Style Shop  
220 South 30th

Here's Why I Recommend ELECTROLUX To All My Friends!

Presently ideal. Not a wheel or cog in gear to make noise. Built for years of dependable service.



OPERATES FOR 24 HOURS  
Come in and see the Electrolux

**The Wiggins Music Co.**  
221 South 30th Phone 120

UNION "76" on HIGHWAY "66"

THAT'S F. D. MORAN SERVICE STATION  
Washington Drive at 30th

The Oldest Established Exclusively Automotive Service Station in Monrovia.

Street Scene

UNION "76"  
UNION "WHITE FLAG"  
TRIFLIN MOTOR OIL  
"HIGH-WEAR" LUBRICANTS  
TIRES — BATTERIES  
AUTO RADIOS

A 34 of northward change has a new place in the growth of Monrovia during the 50 years we have prospered (continued from Page 9)

# By Steve Baker

## *Speeches, Timelines, House and Family Histories*

### MONROVIA STREET NAME CHANGES

<i>Original Name</i>	<i>New Name</i>
<b>East and West of Myrtle</b>	
North Street	Scenic Drive
Banana Avenue	Hillcrest Boulevard
White Oak Avenue	Foothill Boulevard
Orange Avenue	Colorado Boulevard
Fallingleaf Avenue	Huntington Drive
County Road	Santa Fe Avenue; Main Street; Duarte Road

#### North and South of Foothill

Sixth Avenue	Madison Avenue
J. I.C. Avenue	Alta Vista Avenue
Charlotte Avenue	Canyon Boulevard
Canon Drive	Mountain Avenue
Bradbury Drive	Mountain Avenue

#### Northeast of Myrtle & Foothill

Marie Avenue	May Avenue
East Avenue	Norumbega Drive
Centre Avenue	Greystone Avenue
Oak Park Lane	Greystone Avenue

#### Northwest of Myrtle and Foothill

Studebaker Street	Fifth Avenue
Center Street	Avocado Place
Prospect Street	El Nido Avenue
Violet Avenue North	Highland Place
Roselawn Avenue	Highland Place
Mesa Drive	Alta Vista Avenue
North Street	Sky Way
Foothill Drive	Scenic Drive
Berkeley Drive	?
Bonita Court	Court Street

#### Southeast of Myrtle and Foothill

Duarte Avenue	Royal Oaks Drive
Date Avenue	Cherry Avenue
Plum Avenue	Los Angeles Avenue

### History of Black Families in Monrovia

March 19, 1875	E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin purchases Rancho Santa Anita for \$200,000.
December, 1885	Bicknell, Crank, and Spence buy land from E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin. John Isaac Wesley Fisher recruits Black families from Marlboro County, South Carolina to relocate in California and work for Baldwin at Rancho Santa Anita (Glasscock). John Fisher came to California as early as 1875 (Ling).
January, 1886	The Black families arrive in Southern California and settle on Baldwin's Ranch. They re-establish the Shiloh AME Zion Church that existed in Bennettsville, South Carolina, with the Reverend Henry Hollins as their pastor. (Read list of Black families and the history of the AME Zion Church).
May 17, 1886	The Monrovia Tract and the Town of Monrovia are placed on the market.
December 15, 1887	The City of Monrovia is incorporated
Circa 1888	Black families begin to purchase land in Monrovia and the Davis Addition in Duarte.
July 11, 1889	The local newspaper confirms the presence of Shiloh AME Zion Church in Monrovia at its present location.
June 1900	The United States Federal Census lists fifteen Black Heads of Household in Monrovia. These additional Black families had arrived in Monrovia: Bonner, Buckner, Burleson, Dorsey, Martis, and Wright. (Tell story of Aunt Kate).
1900	The Fisher family comes to Rancho Santa Anita from Denver.
Circa 1902	William and Pinky Watkins arrive in Monrovia.
Circa 1904	Second Baptist Church is informally organized.
1906	Lt. Colonel Allen Allensworth formally organizes Second Baptist. He establishes a relationship with the Reverend Russell H. Greaves of the First Baptist Church, and that congregation assists Second Baptist with their first church building.
1910	Five additional Black families had arrived in Monrovia: Baker, Fisher, Jones, Ross, and Watkins.

### Important Milestones in the Life of Monrovia The First Thirty Years (1886 - 1916)

1886	The first lots in the new Town of Monrovia were sold on May 17.
1886	Monrovia's first public school opened in Barnes Hall.
1886	Monrovia's first newspaper, the "Planet", began publication.
1887	The first celebration of Monrovia Day took place.
1887	Monrovia's first public school building was constructed.
1887	Monrovia was first served by a transcontinental railroad.
1887	The election to incorporate the City of Monrovia took place on December 8.
1888	Monrovia had a population of 2,500.
1888	Monrovia City School District was formed.
1888	Monrovia's first fire-fighting equipment was purchased--a hose cart!
1890	Monrovia had a population of 907.
1893	Monrovia City High School District was formed.
1894	Monrovia's first Library Board was elected. The men who were elected promptly resigned so that women could be appointed in their places.
1895	Monrovia's first public library opened. Rent was \$2.50 per month and the Librarian was paid \$1.00 per day.
1899	Monrovia was finally assured of an adequate water supply with the purchase of the Chapman Wells for \$3,973.
1899	Passage of City Ordinance No. 120 ended the era of Monrovia being known as the "Free Water Town".
1900	Monrovia had a population of 1,500.
1900	Monrovia's first street lighting was provided by the Monrovia Electric Light and Power Company.



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# What Happens Now?

3200 items are scanned, identified, labeled, & archived, and will be uploaded by August - with tips on how to find them.



railroads. Parades and more parades! Movers and shakers and ordinary citizens. Historic homes at different stages of their lives. The original city hall, fire equipment, library, and city officials -- and what and who replaced them.

There are old phone, street, and business directories; newspaper clippings; transcriptions of early newspapers; early brochures and maps. Most from the collections of our city historians – painstakingly gathered.

Together they tell the story of Monrovia.

To find something specific, you can look for a person by name, an address, a category of things (schools, banks, railroad), or a format (video, postcard). To learn more use the buttons on the top of the screen.

We hope you enjoy this rich treasure-trove of our city's remarkable history!

## What's New?

In 2024, over 2700 new records were added to the collection. This section lists some of the most noteworthy. Click a collection name to read more about the highlights of each collection and to see suggested searches. Special treasures are in CAPS. To find all that's new, do a Keyword Search by the tag at the end of each collection name, e.g., "BR".

Burr Family (BR)

Ella Long (EL)

Steve Baker (SB2)

Pottenger (PO)

Canyons Photos & 1936 News-Post Special Edition (B7)

Shrode, Cramlet, Col. R.M. Baker (B8)

Shrode family documents. Charles Cramlet (prolific builder in Monrovia) family photos and papers. Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) photos of prominent Monrovians (W.N. Monroe and others). Photo album with rare photos of the Col. R.M. Baker family and home at 409 W. Hillcrest (the actual "Studebaker house", demolished in 1940) taken by his daughter May Baker. May Baker Hosfield's first building projects in Los Angeles.

**Keyword Search Suggestions:** "B8" "Shrode Family", "Cramlet Family", "GAR", "Col. R.M. Baker", "Wright, May"



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On to the rest!

Thank you!

