

the end of the school year. Redlands had its Spinet Musical Club, named after the small spinet piano, before the organization of the MacDowell Society. This was a musical organization named after an American composer who was popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Edward Alexander MacDowell (1861-1908). At that time, there were only a few well-known American composers. This organization was the forerunner of the Civic Light Opera. This group sponsored musical plays and stage plays for many years. They were delightful productions. Well-known stars were presented. Minor roles, choruses, and dance groups were filled with local people. The auditorium in the park was the setting for their first presentations. After that, they used the high school auditorium, and finally their own theater, the California. It was in the 500 block of Fourth Street on the north side. It was in existence for over fifty years.

The work of painters was exhibited at a juried show in its own building at the Orange Show grounds. Mrs. Cecil (Theo Seiple) Wood was chairman for several years. Mrs. Hanford, wife of the owner of Hanford Iron Works, taught china painting for many years, as did Mrs. Rose who had a studio on the second floor of a building in the 500 block on Third street.

There were several dance groups. I remember the group from the Bruhn Studio. For many years, perhaps in the 30s and 40s, Sidney Irwin directed the production of *The Messiah*. It was held in the auditorium or at the local high school. *The Messiah* was put on by a group of local singers who wished to celebrate the Christmas season this way. The churches all had choral groups and if they presented something special, the public was invited. The Music Teacher's Association was organized. Their recitals were an excellent presentation of the accomplishments of their students.

A Famous Visitor in San Bernardino

President Taft visited San Bernardino in 1910 or 1911. The schools were closed. We went to E Street, stood on the curb, and saw a car pass by fast. I only saw his head. He stayed at Mission Inn in Riverside and they built a special chair for him as he weighed 300 pounds. The chair is probably still there.

Homes in the Early Days of San Bernardino

Houses had porches, ranging from small to those of considerable size. Here the family and friends gathered in the cool of the evening to visit. Outdoor furniture had not been invented. Occasionally a hammock hung between two trees in the yard.

The walls of the houses were plastered, then either painted or covered with wallpaper. This paper had a myriad of designs. Paper hangers and painters went from job to job doing this work. I remember they had long tables and would use them to match the designs. It would take them several days to do our house. Stores usually handled all types of paint and varnish and wall paper. This paper would last for years.

There was a baseboard of varying widths just above the floor. Early day door knobs were brass, some quite beautiful. The ordinary ones were china.

Windows in the early day houses were large and could be opened in the late afternoon and at night to let the cool air in. Even though it was very hot during the day, during the night the temperature cooled down. The windows were covered with blinds made of material heavy enough to shut out the sunshine. This material was of vary-

ing thicknesses tacked on rollers which could be rolled up or down. The color was usually green. Later, white or double-faced blinds were made. I faintly recall the blinds in the parlor. They had a design of swans drifting on water on the bottom. These blinds were made to fit the windows. Curtains were made of lace, net, and other fine material and hung from the top of the window to the baseboard or the sill, depending on the housewife's choice. Draperies of heavier, contrasting material were hung at the side of the window. These could be simple or elaborate depending on the taste of the housewife and her pocket-book.

The floors were pine or other attractive wood. Later, hardwood flooring became the style. This type of flooring was polished. We had four-inch-wide pine flooring in our home. The other types were painted. Handmade rugs were used as well as rag carpeting. This literally was made of strips of rags and woven. The handmade rugs were beautiful. They were made in various sizes with many beautiful designs and colors. During spring cleaning, these rugs were thrown over the clothesline and the dirt beaten out of them before they were replaced. No vacuum cleaners existed then—just brooms and muscle. Later, wall-to-wall carpet was available in all sorts of designs and colors.

When the houses were built, brick chimneys were installed in the rooms where wood and coal burning stoves would be placed. Fireplaces were built in the living rooms, flues in the kitchen and other rooms. Later when gas became available, furnaces were installed with outlets in as many rooms as desired. Portable oil and gas heaters were used to heat single rooms. Because of the many deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning, these heaters were outlawed. Water heaters were installed on the back porches with the water heated by gas flame. Thus hot water be-

came available to kitchen and bath.

There were usually as many bedrooms in a home as needed according to the size of the family, from one to several. Bedrooms were usually on one side of the house. In the early days, they were not heated. Such heat as they had, came from adjoining living rooms which had a stove, fireplace, etc. Later there were portable oil heaters, which could be used. The beds were wooden to match wash stands, dressers, etc. They were also made of iron or brass. There was a rail on the sideboards with a place for slats laid across the bed to support bedding. Sometimes tightly coiled rope was used. Springs were a later invention. They had coils of strong wire placed six or eight inches apart with a top covering to support the mattresses.

In the early years, we used feather beds. These were made from the small feathers of chickens or goose down stuffed into a heavy cotton envelope the size of the bed. My family brought their down from their geese in Canada. Every so often, especially during spring cleaning, they were taken outdoors to sun. This fluffed them up.

Mattresses were filled with various things such as felt, cotton, etc. Every once in awhile they were turned to relieve the packing down of the filling and to make them more comfortable. Pillows were filled with down or small feathers and later with a type of latex material.

As a child, I remember two sets of pillows—smaller ones to sleep on and larger ones to place at the head of the bed with pillow slips and pillow shams made of embroidered cotton. They were starched so stiff they stood up and covered the pillows.

Bedding was handmade. Sheets were cotton or linen. As a part of her dowry, a young lady made beautiful quilts. They had patchwork designs of all sorts. The beautiful designs were on the top and there was a filling and a

cloth bottom. They were held together by tying with threads, or quilting done with a needle and thread. This quilting could also follow a design. In my family we used hand-woven blankets made from the wool of sheep which was converted into cloth by my grandmother and aunts. As they wore out they were replaced by blankets purchased in stores. Down coverlets were also available.

In the early days, there was no indoor plumbing. At that time, the bathroom did not allow for the installation of a toilet, sometimes called a water closet. We had an outside toilet also called a "chick sale." It was a building set far out in the backyard over a hole five-to-six feet deep cut in the ground. It had a door and a seat with two holes. When necessary, this back house was moved to a new location and the old hole filled in. Chloride of lime was used as a disinfectant. There was no toilet paper as we know it now, just the light weight paper used as newspaper. The early day toilet paper was rough and first cousin to sand paper!

Each bedroom had a chamber pot. They were a fair-sized bowl with a cover and were usually pottery. Some were just plain white, but some were more elaborately decorated to match the wash bowl and pitcher in each bedroom. These sets were placed on the commodes. We had a crocheted cover to fit the lid of the chamber. This kept it from rattling if it were used at night.

The next improvement on the outdoor toilet was the construction of the cesspool. This was an excavation not too far from the house. It was lined with some porous material which allowed water to seep through. Chemicals were put in and sealed over. There was a removable opening to permit it to be emptied at intervals. It was covered over with dirt. Pipes from the house carried the waste water to the cesspool. When it needed cleaning, there were busi-

nesses that did this unpleasant chore. When the municipal sewer plant was put into operation, the cesspools were filled up.

When sewer lines and water mains were constructed in the streets connecting houses with a central sewer plant and water under pressure, it affected the construction of bathrooms in homes as well as in business buildings. My aunts told me I almost wore out our first indoor toilet in the first few days we had it!

Not all houses had clothes closets. Some had wardrobes. A wardrobe was like a portable closet—huge, with doors and racks inside to accommodate suits, dresses and shoes. Our old house had closets, small to be sure, but serviceable. There was a dresser with a big mirror and drawers. This usually matched the bed, and the commode. A suitable chair was a part of the furnishings.

In the center of the houses was usually a hall connecting the front hall with the rear rooms of the house, perhaps the kitchen. The living rooms were in the front, then the dining room and kitchen with a back porch across the rear. In the 1900s, it was customary to have a front and back parlor. The front parlor usually faced the street and opened off the hall. It was the choice room of the house. Its windows were large to permit light and a view of the street. The very best furniture was there. Sometimes it was furnished with choice heirloom pieces, sometimes just a collection of straight chairs, rocking chairs, and tables for lamps, books, and perhaps to display collections. Small tables held books and knickknacks. Bookcases were a separate piece of furniture. There was a picture molding a foot or so below the ceiling from which to hang family portraits and pictures. Ancestors gazed down on us with stern faces from pictures hanging on the wall. I never used calling cards that were so popular in the Victorian days, but I did

have calling cards from my Aunt Mary and a very pretty porcelain holder.

The front parlor would be carpeted with nice hand-made rugs or wall-to-wall carpeting. There were shades to keep out the heat and sun and lace curtains. Sometimes draperies made of various materials hung at each side. The back parlor or sitting room adjoined it. The back parlor decor was much the same, but it was a family room and used much more frequently than the parlor. Heating was a problem. Fireplaces solved this problem. If a family could afford one, the piano was placed usually in the back parlor.

I was twelve when we first had a telephone. There were four parties on a party line. If you were decent, you hung up when someone else was on the line, otherwise you stayed on and listened to your neighbor.

The dining room would usually be in the middle of the house near the kitchen. This room was large enough to accommodate the whole family. Its furniture was usually a matched set of tables and straight chairs. The table would usually be expandable. It was built so it could be pulled apart in the middle and extra leaves inserted to increase its surface when needed. Its secondary use was for children studying their lessons. Windows were of various sizes to permit light and for ventilation.

In those days, cabinets were not built into the walls, so china cabinets of a variety of styles were purchased and held the best dishes, china, and glassware. These cabinets were usually five or six feet tall and stood on legs. They were square or rounded with glass fronts and sides and several wooden shelves inside. They were fashioned of beautiful woods. Sometimes there was a mirror on the back wall of a shelf.

The kitchens were usually at the back of the house

and well lighted. They were equipped with a stove, sink, work table, maybe a chair or two, and wall closets with cupboards. Bins underneath held flour, sugar, and vegetables such as potatoes. There was a sink with running water. At first, water had to be piped in from the well. Later, as the town grew, water mains were laid in the streets and water came from a municipal pumping plant. I think the first plant in San Bernardino was the Antil Pumping Plant on east Sixth Street. In the 1890s and 1900s, each family in our neighborhood had its own well. The original pipes are still lying on the ground in our backyard. For years, the well seeped, but it does not now, as the water level is so low and perhaps the pipes filled with dirt. The story is told that when the original well was dug on our property, and the drillers struck water, water shot up into the air a hundred feet!

In the very early days, people perhaps bathed in tubs. When our house was remodeled in 1923, we had a bathroom put in just off the kitchen. It was a small room with a large window above the eight-foot-long zinc tub that was built in and as long as the room. In the early years a big, round, metal wash tub was filled with water and put on the stove and heated. When I was little I was bathed in the kitchen in the wash tub. The adults poured the hot water into the zinc tub and bathed there. The basin was marble and set in one corner. It had a faucet and the water drained out. It is now connected with the sewer. There was a shelf for a mirror and metal hangers around the wall for clothes and towels.

Lighting has also gone through many changes through the years. In the early days of the century, there were two brothers by the name of Fisher who lived on Highland Avenue in Redlands. One lived on the north side of the street and the other on the south. They went into Mill

Creek Canyon and saw the possibility of generating electricity using the water of the stream. This developed into a small hydroelectric plant, a forerunner of the Southern California Edison Company.

As a child, coal oil lamps were the source of light in our homes. If a house was so situated and the family could afford it, there were gas jets. There was an endless variety of lamps—glass, metal bowls, and china. Some lamps were beautiful, most utilitarian. A daily chore was to clean the globes of smoke so the light would be clear. These lamps were of all sizes. Some were small to be carried upstairs to the bedrooms. Others were large. The china ones were beautifully painted with designs of flowers. Some were tinted to give a soft glow. Lanterns were used for outdoor lighting. Chandeliers in the living rooms were converted from candle to gas and then to electricity. They ranged from elaborate expensive pieces to simple light fixtures.

In not too many years, it was feasible to string electric lines on the streets. A single light was erected to light the intersections. Later lights were put in the middle of the block. Then electricity became affordable so homes were wired. That was wonderful. A single layer of green, braided material was used to cover the insulation. A single light in the center of the ceiling was dropped low enough to be turned off and on. This was expanded to allow several outlets in a room. Now there are many outlets and everything is electrified. Both indoors and outdoors are well lit.

Washing Clothes, Cleaning, and Refrigeration

The pattern of our lives changed. As a child, I remember clothes were washed out doors. A tub was set on

a grill put into a cement frame with a flue—a round pipe—a fire built and clothes boiled. This was near a faucet. The clothes were transferred to a tub of clear cold water from a nearby faucet, and rinsed once or twice. Bluing was put in the rinse water to make them white. The clothes were wrung dry by hand and hung on the clothesline to dry.

Then later a washing machine powered by running water was purchased. The clothes were swished around by a paddle-like affair that loosened the dirt and then rinsed. The water was drained off to the nearby fruit trees. When this machine wore out, we used a sanitary tub on the back porch with a washboard. These were usually made of metal, but the last one we had was glass. The clothes were scrubbed up and down the corrugated surface. The water was soapy and the dirt was scrubbed out. Then we hung them out to dry in the sun.

The next era was the electric washing machine. The paddles automatically swished the clothes around in the warm water. The wet laundry was wrung out by a hand-operated wringer attached to the washing machine. Now the washers and dryers are automatic with all sorts of temperature and other controls.

Electricity revolutionized house cleaning, too. Years ago, rugs and carpets were dragged out, put on the clothesline and beaten with a big wire paddle-like affair. This was a part of spring cleaning. Daily or weekly the carpets were swept with a broom or a carpet sweeper which picked up some lint and dirt. Then came the vacuum cleaner which sucked the dirt into a bag which could be emptied when full.

The next item is refrigeration. Our house had a large pantry off the kitchen. It was bricked, covered with plaster inside, and the outer walls of the house outside. There were ventilation holes at various spots in the walls and the

floor was cement. It was on the north side of the house and was very cool, even in the heat of the summer. This was our first refrigeration system. When we did get some ice, we would put it into a dish pan and put paper on top of it to help keep it cool. This was our method of refrigeration when we had the cow and that was where all the milk was put to keep and it seemed to keep just fine.

Ice boxes became available in the late teens and early 20s at a reasonable price, so we had one in the kitchen. We put a hole in the floor and a pipe through it to catch the drips. The ice delivery truck went by each day and ice was purchased as needed. Electric refrigerators made all this unnecessary and much more convenient.

More Kitchen Modernization

Modernization came into the kitchen in many ways. Gas stoves with broilers as well as electric stoves were developed. All sorts of electrical appliances began to appear. Electric irons were lighter and better, and other appliances like mixers, can openers, percolators, and dishwashers took the drudgery out of dishwashing. Canners and bakers took advantage of all this modernization. Their products could be made cheaper if not better than homemade products and distributed countrywide. Cleaners and detergents were developed to do the job better and safer. Much drudgery was eliminated and people had more time for recreation and travel.

Keeping Cool in the Hot Summers

Even during the hottest weather, the nights in San

Bernardino cooled down. Electric fans of all sizes were used to circulate the air. Much, much, later air conditioners were developed and life became more bearable. The first ones were called swamp coolers. Then more sophisticated ones were developed. Heavy packing could be installed in the attic to hold back the intense heat from the roof, so houses became cooler.

The Introduction of Natural Gas

I believe gas was produced in a plant on the west side of Arrowhead Avenue, just south of Third or Second Street. This was a great convenience. Gas lines were laid throughout the town. They heated houses more easily than the wood burning or coal burning stoves used for cooking and heating. Businesses and manufacturing plants were grateful customers. The gas company was a private business. Many years later, natural gas was piped in from the oil fields. At first they didn't know what to do with the natural gas and they just burned it. Later many uses were found for it.

Transportation

There were no paved streets nor sidewalks except in the very center of town. and sidewalks were dusty. In the 1890s and early 1900s ladies wore dust ruffles on their long skirts. They were on the inside of the skirt and they were stiff, very thick, and gathered. It was the fashion, but I am not sure what the purpose was unless it was to keep dust from going up their skirts. R Street was only paved to Base Line until about the 1913s. By then there were a few

automobiles and trucks.

It was a treat when the streets were paved with asphalt—less dust and much easier walking and driving. It cost my aunt \$400 to pave the 150 feet of frontage on her property. She was very upset when she was first assessed as her monthly income was only about \$25. Somehow she was able to pay it.

The street car ran up D Street to Highland Avenue and Mountain View. The line went on to Arrowhead Springs to accommodate the water train that transported Arrowhead spring water to Los Angeles. These trains continued to rumble up and down D Street for many years after passenger traffic ceased.



*Janet's first car, a 1923 Ford Sedan.
Note the vase of flowers in the car above
her head and the driving gloves.*

Henry Ford changed the lifestyle of the common people. The coming of the Model T did away with all the hard work of caring for a horse and buggy. Also it was easier and quicker to get around as well as fashionable. Max and Perry Green and their associates motorized trucks made by the White company. On these, they could carry heavy loads up and down the mountains. That was a revolution. People discovered they could go anywhere, anytime. Barns were converted into garages and gasoline stations opened instead of feed and fuel stores.

The Fire Department

The original fire wagons were horse drawn. It was a proud moment when the city purchased its first fire truck. It was a great improvement. A fire alarm was set up that extended throughout the city. Boxes were located on poles at street corners. The city was sectioned off. Each district had a call number, so the town knew where the fire was by the call numbers blown on the sirens.

In 1901, the firemen wanted to raise money for equipment so they solicited friends, merchants, etc., to purchase advertising space in a booklet. Friends and neighbors were urged to have pictures taken of homes as well. The only names I recall were Mr. Berryman, our neighbor and Albert Glatz, a friend of the family. I have one of these books. Not too many years ago, the First Federal Saving and Loan had it reproduced.

When the water mains were put in it was a great boon to the city. Sprinkler wagons with big tanks of water released by sprayers watered down the streets. Fire hydrants were installed at street corners and fires could be controlled in a shorter period of time. Fire alarm boxes

were installed at street corners. The small glass fronts could be easily smashed, a lever pulled, and the alarm set off at the central fire station. The fire station was located at Fourth Street just east of D. Originally it was manned by volunteers, later by a paid group of trained men. One summer when it had been very dry, the populace was requested to turn off water being used to sprinkle lawns, etc., when the fire call came on, thus enabling more pressure in the water mains from which the water was being drawn. The only firefighter I recall was Al Glatz who served until his retirement.

Accessories: Shoes, Gloves, and Hats

Shoes have undergone as many changes in style as other articles of clothing. Baby shoes were made of fine kid [leather]. A child's first shoes were usually slippers. They were black with a single strap and a button. The next shoes worn were those with tips. They were either laced or buttoned and generally black.

There were special shoe stores. The department stores didn't carry shoes in the earlier days. I remember the names of only one or two very early day shoe stores. One was J. B. Frith, whose slogan was "Frith Fits Feet." The Red Front also sold shoes and was owned by the Rawicz family which was in the 300 block of E street on the west side. Oscar Byer and Louis Rawicz were the men who fitted us. This department was on the south side of the store. There were benches or group chairs to sit on. The clerks used the traditional stools built for the clerks to sit on and with a platform to rest the foot on. Patent leather was used for dressier shoes. Shoes were laced up the front of the shoe. There was a tongue to cover the space where

the opening was. In buttoned shoes, the buttons were on the side of the shoe. Shoes may have extended four-to-six inches above the foot. The heels were moderate.

Years later, styles changed. Narrow shoes with high heels were the thing. Of course women wore them even if it did ruin their feet. Pumps were also popular. It was discovered how to tan leather and dye it so colors were introduced: red, brown, gray, and always white. I even had a pair of high buttoned shoes dyed **purple**. They were called "gypsy boots." They were the pride of my life. Sandals were available for the hot weather and play.

As sports became popular, there were shoes of all types to accommodate tennis players, football players, etc. Later, the department stores such as Harris opened shoe departments, and several other stores which only sold shoes opened in San Bernardino. One such store was owned by Ralph Ochs, I believe. The shoe manufactures developed their businesses and their lines became well known, such as Red Cross Shoes.

There were several shops in town operated by men who repaired shoes. One I recall was Schindler's, just south of the opera house on D Street. There were shoeshine stands located in front of several stores. These were owned by African-Americans who would give your shoe a lift by giving it a high polish for a very nominal sum, about fifty cents. It was mostly men that had their shoes shined here. Our family shined their own shoes.

Gloves were in high fashion until quite recent times. They were made of the finest kid, in short or long lengths. No well-dressed lady went to church, shopping, etc., without her gloves. They were black, brown, white, and eventually colored. They were an essential part of a bride's outfit. My wedding gloves were long and white. The stitching on the ring finger was opened so the ring could be

placed on my hand. There were gloves for gardening, working, and later, for driving. There were glove departments in the stores. The clerks knew their customers' likes and dislikes. When the sports world developed, so did the demand for specialized gloves.

Up until the last thirty years or so, everyone wore hats—men, women, and children. Men's hats were made of felt, straw, Panama, even fur in the colder climates. The colors were gray, brown, black, white, and straw color. Some, such as the Mexican sombrero, were large hats with high crowns, broad brims, and fancy hat bands. They were all shapes and sizes. Those with round tops came creased. The bands were usually conservative. Some men's hats were indicative of their trade such as conductors, firemen, and policemen. There were high silk hats for dress occasions and specially made hats for lodge wear, as the Knights Templar hats with ostrich feathers. Straw hats with rather wide brims were favored for everyday wear. They were protection from the heat and sun. Knitted caps were favored for winter weather. Each branch of the armed services had its own distinctive style of hat. People in bands also had special hats. I believe the Panama hats were hand woven in Panama by the natives. A fine straw or grass, or a product of the palm tree was used.

John B. Stetson was one of the leading manufacturers of men's hats. He also made hats for ladies. He only went out of business within the last twenty years. As a matter of courtesy to a lady, a gentleman tipped his hat as he met her. He also removed his hat when he came indoors.

Recalling what ladies' hats were like, there is no end to the pictures they bring to mind! Perhaps one of the earliest forms of ladies' head covering is the sun bonnet. Even little girls wore them. They were usually made of cloth of

various kinds: plain, flowered, thick, and thin. The crown was round and full and attached in front to a straight piece of cloth that extended from the crown beyond the face in order to shield it. There might be a small ruffle or piece of decorative material binding it in front. There was another piece of cloth sewed across the back of the side to tie in front and keep the bonnet on. It could be washed and starched. I recall a book for children, *The Sunbonnet Babies*, that used these characters to tell stories.

There were firms who manufactured ladies' hats, but there were several women in town who owned millinery shops. Two were Mrs. Belle Harrington, a rather large, Irish woman, and a Miss Flack, who made hats to order. They used silk, velvet, ribbon, cotton, etc. I believe there were various wire frames to be covered. Some were large and broad brimmed, some close fitting to the head. At one time egret feathers were in high favor until it was realized the birds were near extinction. They only grew their beautiful feathers at mating time, and when they were killed, the young died, so government regulations were made to protect the birds. Ostrich feathers were another favorite trimming. They were used after being dyed suitable colors. Artificial flowers of all descriptions were used. Beads, buckles, and the like added glamour. A hat was designed and made of the same material as a new party dress. Hat pins were necessity. They might be plain pins but more often were like pieces of jewelry. Now they are a collector's item. There were straw hats of all shapes and sizes. One of the most popular was the sailor's hat, a rather small hat with a low crown and narrow brim. Some of the prettiest hats I remember were worn by the ladies at church. I had a turban-like hat made of pheasant feathers. A veil was sometimes worn over the face. Now a collection of hats will draw a crowd.

Fabrics and Garments Typical to Earlier Days

At the beginning of the century, synthetic cloth might have been a dream in some chemist's mind, but it was not available on store shelves. Only natural materials were converted into thread, then cloth. There was silk, linen, cotton, and wool. The most expensive materials were silk. There were silk brocades, satin, and velvet, all in various sized threads, weights, and textures of cloth. Linen was used for dresses, tablecloths and napkins, sheets and pillow cases, towels of various sizes, hand towels, dish towels, decorative doilies, jackets, and coats. Cotton materials were the most prevalent. It was woven in various sized threads from very fine to coarse and heavy material for industrial use. Wool material was available throughout the



The "Peak Sisters" in hats and dresses of the day.

world. Its threads were sized from very fine to coarse. It was used for dresses, suits, and coats of all types ranging from children's wear to adult suits and coats. It also had many commercial uses, such as carpets and upholstering material.

In the 1800s, families such as mine from Nova Scotia, sheared the sheep, spun the wool and made their own woven blankets. Wool was also used as filling for comforters. My maternal grandmother, Janet Simpson Boyd, converted the flax grown on her farm into thread, wove and spun it. The cloth was used for tablecloths, doilies, towels, etc. Each daughter in the family was provided with a dowry of household items such as tablecloths, blankets, quilts, etc.—the basic furnishings of a new home. I can't recall the family saying that they used this woolen material for dresses, but perhaps it was used for petticoats. Gloves and socks were knitted for all members of the family.

There were two sets of underwear—one woolen and heavy for winter, the other lighter weight cotton for summer. This underwear was a union suit—a one-piece garment with long sleeves, buttoned down the front with a flap piece of cloth in the back which could be buttoned up. The buttons were pearl. The placket was in the front and opened from the neckline to the crotch so the garment could be slipped on and off easily. Stockings were of a fine thread. They were long enough to be pulled up over the knees and were held in place by garters attached to garter belts and corsets. Their colors were black, white, and brown. Their measurement was based on the size of the foot. They were shaped to cover the foot and turned at the heel to meet the leg which was pulled up above the knee.

Years ago, it was customary to wear an undershirt. They were made of finely woven cotton material, much like a sack with straps over the shoulders to hold it up. For

the female population, next came the corset. This was made of rather heavy, white material and was boned. In the very early days, it was boned with whalebone, later with metal pieces of varying lengths which were flattened, and had both tips dipped into paint so they was smooth. Casings were made in the corset for these ribs to slip into. They were at the back of the garment which was split into two with holes on each side of these pieces, and holes there to accommodate the corset strings which were laced from top to bottom and pulled together as tight as possible to give the wearer a small waist and slender figure. They were not at all comfortable, but it was done for vanity's sake. The smaller the waist, the more beautiful you were. There were hooks and eyes up and down the front to fasten the garment together. Garters were sewn on the side and front to hold up the stockings. The garment was fashioned with cups at the top of the front to accommodate the breasts.

The next layer was a camisole, which was really like a short shirt or slip that came down to the waist. It usually was very pretty. The top had pretty lace, crochet work, or embroidery for decoration. Straps over the shoulders held it up. The next layer was the petticoat. Its length varied as did the style for the length of the skirt. It had a waist band with a bottom fastener. The width was sometimes very wide or not so wide depending on the style and the taste of its wearer. They usually were very beautiful. There would be lace or embroidery sewn around the bottom. Sometimes there were rows of tucks above the hem. The bottoms would usually be starched. At one time it was fashion among some ethnic groups to wear several petticoats. I think it was the Scandinavians that came from a colder climate that did this. There was a Danish colony on the west end of town. I believe they came together and settled here in San Bernardino.

Another garment the ladies wore was pants. These were worn when the long underwear came off. They were on a waist band and had two legs, each of which extended to the knees or a little below. I saw an early day pair of pants that each leg was separate, allowing an opening in the middle, but the ones I knew were sewn together at the crotch. They had a flap in the back which could be unbuttoned when necessary. These pants could be trimmed with lace or embroidery and have a row or two of tucks above the hem. All these previously mentioned garments but the corsets, had to be washed, ironed and maybe have the bottoms dipped in starch. The iron was heated on a wood stove even during the hot summers in San Bernardino. It is a wonder any of them lived! My aunts washed on Monday and ironed on Tuesday.

The embroidery I mention as trimming was made of cotton. The white kind came by the yard. It was of various widths. Some patterns were quite elaborate. Some were straight edged. Around the 1900s, these garments were homemade. I don't believe any of them, except the corsets, could be purchased in stores. Our family made all of our own clothes. In those days each girl was taught to sew, cook and keep house.

There were dressmaking establishments such as the Misses Dawsons where a lady could take material, or perhaps buy it there, and have dresses of all types made as well as suits and coats. There may have been some dressmakers who went from home to home and who would build up the family wardrobe for the coming summer and winter. Each family had its own sewing machine. The only sewing machine names I recall are those of Singer and White. There were many tailor shops in town also. These men made men's suits and sometimes did tailoring for women.

The garment industry took advantage of the horde of immigrants who poured into the eastern part of the country—they developed sweat shops. The conditions were deplorable, the wages a pittance. Finally it became so bad that unions were formed and the government was forced to take notice. Working hours were shortened, building and working conditions were made safe but an eye still has to be kept on the industry.

Perhaps it was in the 1920s when the Harris Company scored a knockout when it sent Lillian Eldridge to the fashion shows in New York. To my knowledge she was the only one from San Bernardino to go directly there to see what was in fashion and buy for the store.

Local stores would be visited by traveling salesmen called "drummers" who carried their samples to show local merchants their products. The orders were shipped in big wooden boxes to local merchants. The reason I remember the big wooden boxes used to ship merchandise is that my aunt worked for Cohen's store. One time when these boxes came, she either begged or bought four of them and had them sent home. They were knocked apart, put together as one box, and placed in the backyard under a tree. I set up housekeeping in them.

One side was set up inside the house to make a room. I called that the kitchen. I begged all the friends and neighbors for old dishes and furniture. One gave me an oil cooking stove. I put an old rag rug on the floor. When I had a used chair or two, I was extremely happy. Calendars and pictures were hung on the walls.

The neighbor kids and I had a wonderful time. Elizabeth Kindly lived across the street. There was a nectarine tree in their yard and we "canned" nectarines. Actually, we just put the nectarines in jars and kept them until the bad smell made us dump them out! Uncle Cha, George

Raitt's brother from Albuquerque, came to visit. I think there were four kids that were there. Oh, how I worked to get my house ready for them! When they left, it was a shambles and I had to put it to right once more.

Then there were Sunday clothes. Sunday clothes were made of finer material and perhaps a little fancier. Then came school clothes, made of plainer material. The everyday clothes, at the end of the line, were garments that had been worn quite a long time. Easter usually meant a new outfit. All clothes had to be taken care of and hung up when taken off. A party dress was special. It was made of a little more expensive material and perhaps had more decoration on it.

Cotton materials were the standby. There was a big variety: prints, voiles, all over embroidery, net, etc. Silks ranged from very fine, to the heavier brocades and satins. Woolen materials were of endless variety: sheer weaves, broadcloth, and serge from which men's suits were made. Colors ranged from black and white to all colors of the spectrum, depending on the fashion of the season. The beautiful plaids were wool.

Black was the color of mourning. When a husband died, the wife wore black for a considerable time, usually at least a year. My Aunt Sada wore black for ten years after her husband died. Men wore a black band on the arm for a time.

Both Aunt Sada and Aunt Helen were excellent seamstresses, so I didn't lack clothes. As a child, remnants were a thrifty source of supply. Clothes had to fit well. I remember Aunt Sada scolding me to make me stand still and not wiggle as I stood on a chair as she fit a dress on me.

Ladies wore shirtwaists and skirts. Often these were white shirtwaists with black skirts. There were some one-piece dresses. The necks were rather high. The dress hung

from the shoulder and was form fitting. Sleeves were usually long. Skirts were five or six inches from the ground. Some skirts were gored, some pleated, again according to the style.

Coats were black, brown, navy, or white, made of a variety of materials, the heavier weights for winter wear. About the only decorations on coats were buttons. Capes were worn also. Usually they were used for dressier occasions. Furs were expensive and were only used by those who could afford them. They were made into full length and medium length garments and capes. Mink was always popular as well as ermine. Muskrat was also used and much later a rabbit fur was developed for use in garments and trimming. Much later, foxes were grown in the colder mountain areas to supply the fur trade. I had a fox fur neckpiece that I wore around my neck and down the front. We bought it at a fox farm in Bear Valley in the San Bernardino Mountains.

I can only recall a few outstanding dresses I had. One of the earliest ones was an all over embroidered white dress. I was dressed first for the trip to town, then the family. We had a horse, Old Dick, whose corral was at the rear of the house. The hay was kept in the nearby barn and I would get a handful, take it to a place in the fence which I could reach over and give Dick a handful or two of hay for a treat. On my way around the barn my dress caught on a nail and I ripped a big hole in the skirt. I had to tell what happened and was scolded, both for feeding Dick and tearing my beautiful dress. The dress was not able to be repaired and it was ruined.

Another dress was called a "trotter" pattern, heaven knows why. It was linen, had a long waist, and was trimmed with white braid. When I was about fourteen or so, I had a silk dress. The white blouse was plain and sepa-

rate from the skirt. The skirt was purple, of all shades, with straps of purple that went over the shoulders from front to back.

As a small child of five or six, I had a woolen Scottish plaid dress that I loved. I was beginning to grow out of it and was persuaded to donate this very favorite dress to the children who were victims of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. I really did not want to part with it, as I just loved it, but I did. My aunts talked about the poor children that had lost all their things and needed clothes.

When I was in my teens, I had an Easter dress of green taffeta. The waist was sewn on to the skirt. The sleeves were long. My aunt embroidered a design in yarn, probably in pink to set the dress off. There was also a green hat to match. Another outfit was a brown dress. The top of the skirt was pleated and lined with turquoise satin. Some of the pleats stood up and others turned over to show the lining. There was a coat to match. It had raglan sleeves. That meant they had large armholes and the sleeves were much larger than the ordinary sleeve.

I can't recall whether it was my first or second year in high school that the girls wore white middy blouses and dark skirts. Contrasting ties were worn to give a touch of color. The collars were square and were wide across the shoulder and in the back.

I graduated from high school in 1919. My aunt made me a lovely graduation dress. I gave it to the historical museum. It was white net. The top was made with long sleeves. There was a collar. The front of the blouse had a panel. There were several rows of tucks at the top and lace sewn onto the tucks. The sleeves were also so decorated. The skirt was full and above the hemline were also several rows of tucks, lace trimmed. It was worn over a taffeta slip. The School Board of Education told us that the gradu-