



*High school graduation dress, 1919*

ation dress could not cost more than \$10. Owing to my aunt's skill, the dress material probably didn't cost that much, but it was a beautiful dress.

## **Social Issues**

Most of the people in the early days were poor by today's standards except for a few very well-to-do families that made it in business such as the Garners. Most families were middle class and worked hard. Those in poverty were helped by the Salvation Army and the churches did what they could.

The Santa Fe Railroad brought in the Mexican-American workers and they lived on the west side of town. There was a very small contingent of African Americans and they all seemed to have jobs and worked hard.

Juvenile delinquents were treated much as they are today. The county had a probation office at Tenth and Mountain View and the kids who misbehaved were sent there to stay. Kids who were more difficult than they could handle there were sent to the state reformatory at Lone. That was a real disgrace.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Downtown Business Area and Residences Remembered**

When one is ninety-four with time on one's hands, a flood of memories runs through one's mind about San Bernardino, where I lived from my birth in 1901, to 1994 when I "retired" to Santa Barbara to live with my niece.

My mind is wandering downtown as it was years





*Janet's sister, Ada, and her husband, Charlie Carter*

ago. The southwest corner of Fifth and E was the home of the Bryson family. It was sold and became the site of one of the first automobile service stations in town. I don't remember the brand of products sold. It may have been Standard. There were several daughters in the family. I can only recall the name of one, Hilda.

Other family homes I recall are those of the Jenson family. It was a single-story home, set not too far back from the sidewalk. Their daughter's name was Ida.

To the north of them was the home of Dr. Liverman, a practicing physician. Their son, Debrill, nicknamed Deb, later established his key service business in the 300 block of west Fifth street. He was very active in Masonic circles.

There were two telephone companies. I have a vague recollection of a building in the 400 block, on the



west side which may have been one of them. Party lines were in order. Telephone instruments hung on the wall. A typical telephone number was 736 J.

Very early, a member of the Rolph family had a residence set quite far back from the street in this block. Later it was the site of a business building which housed the Oldsmobile Agency. My first husband, Raymond Coffey, bought his first car from them. The northwest corner was quite a large vacant lot. It was here the first Orange Show tents were pitched in 1911.

George M. Stephens built a mortuary on the north half of this lot. It was quite a large, gray stucco building. He acquired a partner, Mr. Bobbitt. They eventually moved their business into a building on the west side of F street between Eleventh and Base Line, on the west side. They were there for many years. They moved into their own building on east Highland Avenue near Little Mountain where they are today.

On the southeast corner of Fifth and E there was a two-story house painted yellow. There was a tennis court to the south. I think their name was Wood. Their son was devoted to tennis. After the family moved to Los Angeles, he was one of the founders of a tennis organization there.

Next door, to the south, was a small wooden building used as a doctor's office. A dentist also had his office in this building. I can't recall any private homes in this block. A business building was erected there. Later it was occupied by the Dale Gentry Ford Agency until he built his own building on the south side of Fourth street, just off E to the west.

Another well-remembered building was the Auditorium Theater, a movie house. It was operated by an elderly man by the name of Wood. I remember well that his teeth were crowned with gold. A vague memory is that



*Pioneer Title employees*



someone said he came from Alaska. This might account for the gold teeth!

The Swings built a three-story office building on the northeast corner of Fourth and E. It housed offices for doctors, lawyer, etc. The ground floor was the location of George Mallory's Drug Store. One of his clerks was Bea Seeley. Mr. Mallory had a thriving business for many years. I think one or two of his sons fought in the Canadian army during World War One.

To the east of E street, on the north side of Fourth, was the gun and key shop operated by Punch Nelson. He had a crippled leg. He was extremely clever in his field.

The Harrison Sporting Goods Store was nearby. They carried sporting goods and sportswear. It was family operated. Mrs. Harrison Senior was active for many years. She was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club. She lived in a two-story house on the east side of D street just below Tenth. One night, while she was away, thieves broke into her home and stole and carted off many of her fine antiques. Of course, none were ever located.

Stockwell and Binney's Stationery and Office Supply was located in the next building. As young men, they opened the store and built the business up to a very prosperous organization with branches in other cities. Later they moved into a larger building in the middle of the block on the east side of D Street between Fourth and Fifth.

The Elks' Lodge was next. Their building was a two-story building of gray stucco. It was a center of social and fraternal life. Their dining room served luncheons and was an excellent place to eat.

To return to the E street location, eventually a business building was erected on the southeast corner. At first it housed a bank, I think. Later it was the site of a depart-

ment store operated by the Gabriel brothers. They carried a fine line of merchandise. Eventually they sold the store.

Smaller stores were erected on the east side of E Street. One of them housed the Field Electrical business. On the corner of Court and E, the northeast, the California State Bank was housed. Its president was J. M. Oakey. I think one of his cashiers was Miss Wilshire, an early day business woman. Mr. Oakey's son, John M. Oakey came into the business. It was later sold to the Bank of America. Since then, the building has housed a variety of businesses.



*San Bernardino County Courthouse*

The County Courthouse occupied the southeast corner of Court and E. It was built in the 1890s of gray stone and was at least two stories with a basement. The courts and county offices were housed there. An earlier building, I think, was moved to the rear and housed county offices and the recorder's office.

The two title companies, Security and Pioneer, were located on the north side of Court Street. I was hired by



Security Title about 1922 or 1923 to work in the department, keeping a record of all transactions dealing with county land. Maps were made. Accounts for each parcel of land were similar to those kept for customers in a grocery store. Transactions were posted daily, so when property was sold, or mortgaged and a title search made, there was the record. This information was gained by an abbreviated record made by a clerk who took the information from the documents handled by the county recorder. This was the "take off desk," and I was transferred there when an opening came.

Names of the people and firms involved were shown as well as the date, monetary value, type of instrument, and the description of the property involved or substance of an agreement. A copy of this "take off" was sent to the Pioneer Title and the Security and posted by hand into large books. This information was used in making the title searches. A resume of transactions involving land which were in the County Clerks Office were also made. Typed copies of each document were made by a typist in the recorder's office. These were also compared for accuracy and filed in huge books. These records were very important. It established ownership of land, etc. All were matters of public record.

Officials of the Security Title were Mr. Grow, A. L. Sloan, and Milton Dimock. Two experienced searchers were Bertha Lane and Edith Adams. Mrs. Webber was in charge of the posting. Clara Colgin Nichols was a bookkeeper. A Mr. Chalmers was one of the searchers. Maybe he was in the escrow department. Anyway, he slipped from grace and was found to be stealing money, convicted, and sent to prison. He served his term, returned to San Bernardino and was murdered at the rear of a saloon on E Street, just north of Base Line.

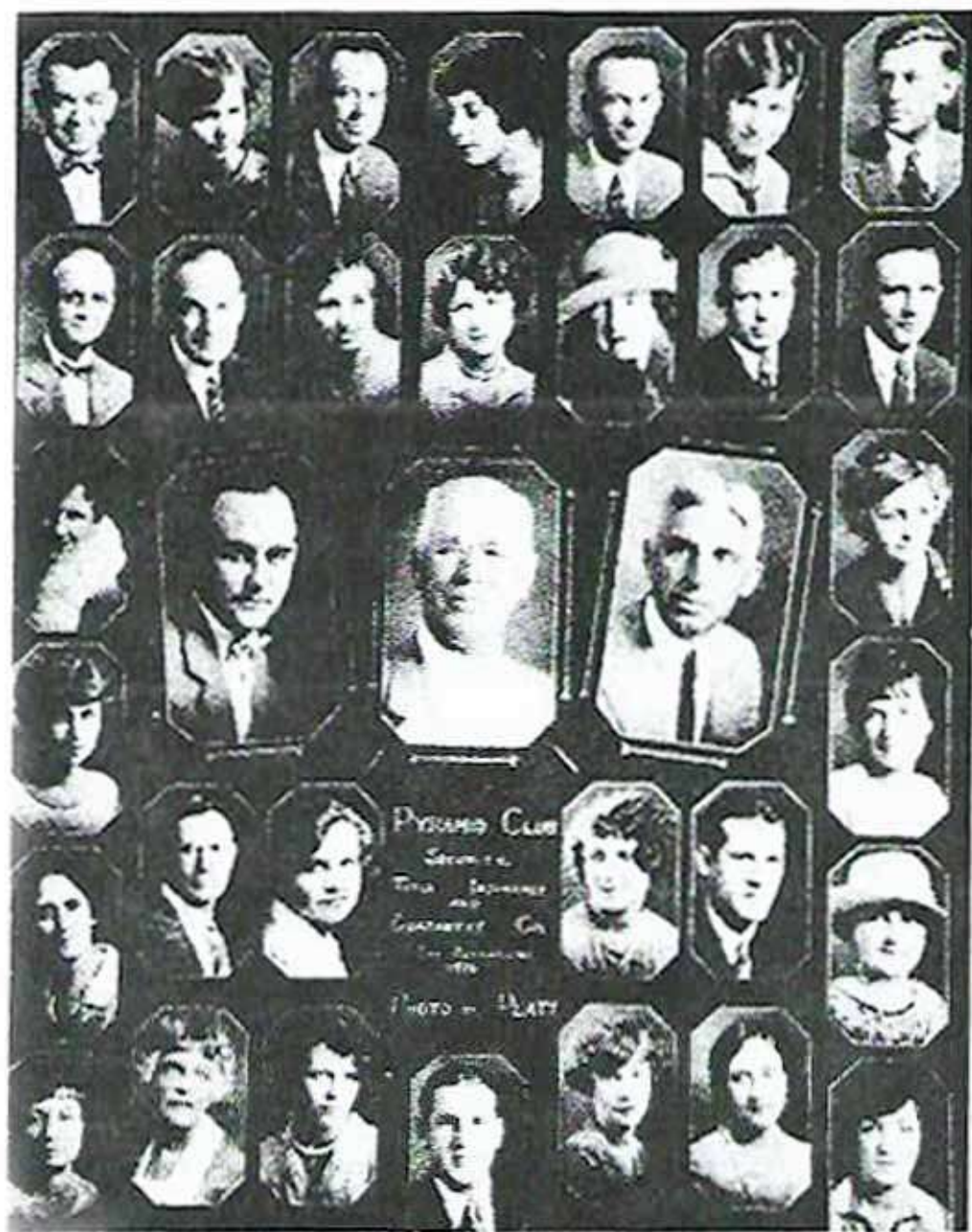


Alice Norris was also a searcher. It was rumored that she had had an unhappy love affair and never married. One of the young men who worked there was a very handsome young man by the name of McIver from Redlands. Hattie Dewey, also from Redlands, was also a searcher. Her husband was Guy Dewey who worked in a bank in Redlands. They had a great love of music. Three other young men also worked there. They left Security to make their mark in the business world. Joseph Snyder became C.E.O. of the Building and Loan. George Steelman, I believe became C.E.O. of the Building and Loan in Colton and John Steelman, his brother, held a high office in a business whose name I can't recall.

Albina Scanlon, a mother of three, was an escrow officer who later transferred to the Pioneer Title. Grace Bunnell, a witty Irishwoman, was in the front office. Claire Richardson Lowe was a stenographer and typist. Catherine Jones, a four-foot-ten-inch very petite woman known as "Jonesey," was one of the posters. Also, Doris Lowe from Colton worked there.

The atmosphere of Security Title when I first went there was one of the most kindly of any office in which I worked. Then they expanded, sold to an outside firm and the caring atmosphere was lost. It was then very business like. Clyde Whitney, veteran of the war, became manager and his brother-in-law was an employee. He later was transferred to Santa Barbara. Another man who was well known in the Security office as one of the original founders was Mr. Sumner Wright. He was the developer of Wrightwood in the San Bernardino Mountains.

The office of the Justice of the Peace was on the ground floor of the building housing the recorder's office. I believe George Holbrook was the Justice in the early twenties. Later Jerome Kavanaugh was elected Justice of the



*Security Title employees*



Peace.

Some bright soul, trying to circumvent the title companies, had a system known as Torrens Title, set up in the recorder's office. They filed copies of deeds, etc., themselves in drawers in the office. It proved to be no guarantee of the title to property because if someone failed to file the document, etc., the chain of title was broken and could not be proved. The busiest time of the year in the recorder's office was about July 1 when mining claims had to be filed and proof of work done reported. I think copies of all maps of land in the county were also filed with the recorder. While I worked there, Fulton G. Ferauld of Redlands was the recorder. Eva Bemis and Adolph Schultz were deputies. Irene McInerney was also on the staff.

There was an opening in the copy room of the recorder's office and I left the title company and worked there for several years. In the big recorder's books, we signed our name and those who compared the work signed as well. We heard at the time that a new system was being developed. Each document would be photographed on a page instead of being typed. We wondered what we would do for a job then? How has the computer system affected these public recordings?

Court Street between D and E streets was interesting. On the northeast corner of Court and E was the California State Bank. J. M. Oakey was president. Miss Clara Wilshie was cashier. The building just to the east was occupied by the Pacific Building and Loan office. Virgil Pinkley Senior was the manager. Just east of it was the Security Title building. Next were the offices and printing business of *The Sun*. Robert Harbison was the editor, Harry Webster was the business manager. Earl Buie was one of the reporters.

Winifred Martin was the society editor of the

women's page on *The Sun*. She covered all the weddings, the big parties, etc. She really knew what was going on socially, and was quite a character! She always wore a hat. She went to important community gatherings and usually talked all the time during the sessions. All the women catered to her and she was invited to all the parties and special functions which she would write up for the society page. She never married. She was of small stature and came from a newspaper family. I knew her through my Aunt Helen who worked at Cohen's Department Store.

Mrs. Harry Webster had a millinery shop in a small store space on the west side of E street between Court and Fourth.

On the north side of Court Street next to the jail was the Pioneer Title building. This one-story building was later replaced by the beautiful two-story building now standing. It has beautiful Italian architecture. One of the owners was J. D. Mack. Perhaps another founding man was Mr. Light. It was customary for the company to give Christmas dinners for the employees and Mr. Mack presided at these dinners. One time someone made a mistake when giving the blessing. Instead of saying "Lead us and bless us," they said, "Lead us and bleed us!"

My first husband, Ray Coffey, was small in stature and at the 1937 Christmas dinner he would have fun in a skit with Mr. Robert Light, the lawyer, in a ventriloquist act. Mr. Light would play the part of Edgar Bergen and Ray would play the part of Charlie McCarthy. They made up a skit that told stories about the people that worked in the Pioneer Title Company. It was a riot! I've never laughed as hard or as much since.

Another story I recall is when Mr. Mack was talking once, and I believe he sneezed and his false teeth fell out! Hugh Holmes was one of the top officials as was Ralph





*Roger Light and Ray Coffey at the company  
Christmas party*

Horine. Mr. Holmes was very civic minded and a strong Presbyterian. He bought the Murray home on Seventh and G Street and married one of the twins, Verla. A story told about him was that one day a decision was made that upset Mr. Horine. He said, "I want to put some mistletoe on my coat tails and walk out!" But he never did.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack had no children, so they adopted a boy and a girl. The boy was named Richard Mack and

the girl, Elsie Mack. Richard Mack died of TB when he was twenty-one or twenty-two. Elsie was a mental case. They did everything in the world for her. She lived a long time and was well taken care of and lived in an institution. They built a beautiful home on Twenty-First Street.

Mr. Light's nephew, Robert Light, an attorney, also worked at the Pioneer Title Company. I recall, he had a daughter, Roberta Light, who was so tall that he tried to find something to stop her growing so much, but it didn't work and he sued the company. Roberta got a job later at Ringling Brothers Circus for a time riding on top of an elephant.

Helen Carrol, from Redlands was one of the typists. Eugene Ward and Mr. Dimock were some of the searchers. My husband, Raymond Coffey, Avery Anderson, Mary Hall, and James Morris were some of the other regular employees of Pioneer Title. Jim and Mary Morris were some of our dearest friends. We would alternate having Sunday dinners at each other's homes.

Pioneer Title issued guarantees of title of property based on the search of public records, in the recorder's office, the county clerk's office, and tax office. Each piece of property in the county had its own account set up in the books of the title companies; each time a document came through, it was noted on these accounts by posters. When an order for a title search came in, the searchers checked these entries and verified them. The title companies guaranteed their reports to be true.

Employees from the title companies who checked out county records were called searchers. Attorneys employed by the companies verified the legal procedures. Final reports were typed up and given to the customers who ordered them. Some of the officials of the Pioneer Title were Ralph L. Horn, W. N. Glasscock, Eugene Ward,



and J. Wilfred Muir.

I felt the title companies were a sure thing, a good business. In times of depression you had to show your title when you needed to borrow money or sell property, and in good times you needed the title company when you bought property to assure you had clear title to the new property. They had the public going up and going down. They guaranteed the title to be clear. If they missed anything, they had to stand by it and cover it.

Title company records were invaluable as they were copies of the originals and kept in fireproof vaults, including detailed maps of everything. We had records back to when San Bernardino was incorporated, about the mid-1850s including Spanish grants. If there were any lawsuits, it all was shown on the books. Any legal documents, deaths, wills, divorce settlements, etc., were recorded.

Nearby Pioneer Title was the Leonard Realty Company offices. Then the Inland Printing and Engraving Company. There was an ice cream parlor on the southwest corner of Court and D Street.

Barnum and Flagg's printing firm was located on the south side of Court Street. The building extended through to Third Street and housed the stationery store owned by them.

To return to E Street, there was a small building next to the courthouse that was occupied by a small restaurant operated by a Mrs. McGrath. It housed a liquor store.

The Katz building was a three-story structure at the northeast corner of Third and E. It housed the John Bondey Jewelry Store. I can't recall what was in the corner of the building.

The second store on the Third Street side was the Harworth Men's Store. They were either sons or grandsons of the owner of the building.

Close by was Bradley's Confectionery, owned and operated by Mrs. Bradley, later on, in partnership with her son. They made their own candy and had a soda fountain. The tables seated four and had matching chairs made of metal. Much later they moved to a new building at the corner of Court and D on the northeast corner, where it operated until it closed.

Much earlier in time, approximately in 1910s-1920s, there was a McInerney Dry Goods Store in that area. Richard McInerney was one of the proprietors. Being Irish, they imported some of the finest linen to be bought in Ireland. They stocked bedding, yardage and other household items.

An alley ran from north to south in the middle of the block. At one time, just west of this alley was the Feetham and MacNeil Grocery Store. In the early days there were solicitors who took orders or they were phoned in and delivered by early day by horse and wagons or automobile trucks.

To return to the north side of Third Street—just east of the alley running north and south in the middle of the block was a saloon. Never having been in there, I can't recall the name. I believe it is the one which had the painting of a nude woman lying on a couch. She had a birth mark on her hip that identified her as the sister of a man in the painting as I recall the story. What became of the painting?

Next to the saloon, to the east, was the Rockwell Restaurant. I believe it was owned by a Chinese family. There was a fish pond in the windows below the windows at the front.

Maybe the Barnum and Flagg Stationery Store came next. Then came the Farmers Exchange Bank, a rather imposing structure with much marble on the floors and walls. A. G. Kendall may have been its president. The building



was either sold or leased to the city to be used as the City Hall.

Then, there may have been another saloon, then the jewelry store of N. B. Hale, an old time resident. The business passed to his son who was the father of Lenore Hale who worked as a copyist in the recorder's office for many years.

I believe next to the jewelry store was a drug store, Towne, Secombe, and Allison. It may have been the original. Later there was a branch in the 600 block on the north side of third street between E and F streets.

Frank Towne was one of the druggists. His home was at the northwest corner of Eighth and E. William (Will) Secombe was the brother of Fred Secombe who was quite a figure in politics. He was chief of police at one time. Monte Allison was the third member of the firm. His mother and father lived at the southeast corner of Sixth and E. They had quite a large family. Charles became a Superior Court Judge, Mike worked for the George M. Cooley Hardware Store, and Harry was the County Clerk for years. He had a handicap, but it didn't hold him down. He was active in politics and knew everyone. Dunlap Allison was his son. One daughter was married to a Mr. Cook. Their son was Lloyd Cook. At least one daughter never was married, maybe two.

There was a beautiful redwood tree in the front yard of the Allison home and I understood there was a stipulation that when the property was sold, it was not to be cut down. The tree was to be left and taken care of. William Secombe later became Mayor of San Bernardino in the 1920s or 1930s and conducted a well-managed regime with no scandal

The corner building at the southwest corner of Third and D streets was occupied by the A. M. Ham Grocery Store.

He was influential in politics and business. His home was at the southeast corner of Ninth and F and is still standing. One of his sons became a doctor and got in trouble over abortions. The other son, Howard, was nicknamed "Bunt." When he was an infant, the song about the baby bunting came out, and so he acquired the nickname. He was a very handsome man and he served in the army. The daughter, Frances Ham, married Ward Grow, who took her to the Isle of Pines in the Caribbean to live. Frances and Ward Grow had two daughters, Alexandria and Leonora.

Mrs. Francis Grow had a beautiful voice and was in demand as a soloist. Affairs didn't work out too well for the Grows in the Isle of Pines, so Francis came home to live. Their daughter, Alexandria, also a talented musician, became one of the founders of the San Bernardino Civic Light Opera (C.L.O.) with her husband, J. Dale Jenks. Leonora Grow married into the McKinley family of orange growers in Rialto. Her husband was Randolph McKinley, who passed away not too long ago.

Next door, to the west, was the Hott and Winkeman business. They dealt in tobacco products. There might have been a pool hall in the rear. The San Bernardino Hardware was close by. They sold builders' supplies, plumbing fixtures, etc.

The Harris Company moved from across the street to a larger building. Perhaps it was the building occupied by Pritchards, a department store which sold yardage, women's clothing, etc. The Harris Company sold household linens, yardage, and women and children's clothing. They remained in this location until they built their own big store at the southwest corner of Third and E. It is still operating today.

It is three stories with an adequate parking lot in the rear. It was built in the 1920s by the George Hertz Con-



struction Company. On the first floor were cosmetics, notions, gloves (when they were worn), purses, men's wear, shoes, etc. The second floor was devoted to women's and children's wear and domestics, and the third floor was where dishes, utensils, and furniture were sold.

In the early days, merchandising clerks worked in a department store for years. They also knew their customers, their preferences, sizes, etc. Drummers were sent out from the manufacturers to the trade. Selections were made from the samples, and orders filled and shipped. Some of the bigger stores sent department heads to the manufacturers in New York and elsewhere to buy for their departments. For several years the Harris Company sent Lillian Eldridge to New York to attend the fashion shows and place orders for the latest styled clothing. One of the long time employees of the Harris Company was W. J. Kinley, head of the department selling yardage. Another long time employee was a lady, Dean Wood, head of the lingerie department. Heads of the housewares department were Mr. and Mrs. Switzer. Their son's name was Leonard. They later opened their own store in the 400 block of E Street on the east side. Her father was a member of the L. A. Symphony Orchestra. I believe members of the Anker family worked in the men's clothing department.

At an earlier time, there was a drug store owned and operated by two lady pharmacists, Meyers and Hedges. At one time there was also a shoe store and a book and stationery store in this area.

The First National Bank was on the southeast corner of Third and E. I believe it was founded by Ed Roberts and members of his family. It was one of the leading banks in town until it was absorbed by another in the 1940s.

In the early days, I think W. S. Boggs was cashier. He and his family were interesting. He was a very tall man

and often carried an umbrella to keep the sun and rain off. He was a great reader and I think probably read every book of note in the library. He served for many years on the Board of Education. His daughter, Grace Boggs, married a man by the name of Stuart and they lived in China. I believe Mr. Stuart was one of the "China Hands" that did a great deal toward shaping relationships between China and the U.S. [In the 1910s or so, our government depended on the "China Hands," business people who had lived in China and knew about it.] Mr. Boggs' wife was named Virginia. She was a rather small lady and very pretty. She always wore the most beautiful hats. They built a lovely home in the 500 block and it may be still standing. At one time it was purchased by George Voss and used as his home. They were active in the Presbyterian Church.

One of the employees of the First National Bank during the twenties was a Mr. Wilson. His two children were Gerald and Georgia. John C. Ralphs was also affiliated with this bank. Among other employees were Ralph Binford, Mike Micallaf, a native of Malta, Elizabeth Eby, and Maude Forsythe. In later years, a heartbreaking scandal broke when it was discovered one of the promising young employees was guilty of embezzling.

In the very early days, there was a horse car that went up E street in the 1890s that I faintly remember that Aunt Sada told me about. Next were the red cars.

The Pacific Electric Depot was in the middle of the 500 block on the south side of Third Street. There the big, red cars came to pick and deliver passengers who traveled on that line. Cars came in from Redlands and Highland. Those from the Riverside area were picked up at Rialto. Paul Shoup who lived in San Bernardino as a young man was instrumental in extending this electrical line to San Bernardino. It was a great boon to the Valley. Freight was



also shipped to Los Angeles and the ports in San Pedro and Long Beach.

Trains were scheduled almost every hour. It was an inexpensive and convenient way to go to Los Angeles and points between. The front part of each car was open and two thirds of the car was enclosed. We only used the red car once or twice a year to visit family in Los Angeles. It was a big venture. We would go see the sights and go to the beach at Ocean Park. My Aunt Sada would not go as she was afraid the house would burn down while we were gone, as we lived next to an open field with dry weeds and sunflowers. So my Aunt Helen and I went and we had a wonderful time.



*Aunt Helen, Janet Miles, Ada Carter, and Charles Carter*

At one time, when the Sunset Limited, a steam train to New Orleans, was inaugurated, they brought the train up and put it on the tracks back of the station. People came to an open house so they could see luxury travel at that time.

Just west of the Pacific Electric Depot was the Wells

Fargo Office. This was a strategic location welcomed by the public. At one time, perhaps in the years 1915 to 1920, Belle Harrington had a millinery shop in the building at the southeast corner of Third and F streets. The ladies' hats were made by hand and were things of beauty.

At the northeast corner of Third and F was the Sunset Hotel, operated by a Mr. Klein. A few doors to the east on the north side of Third Street was the Mission Smoke House. This was owned by Al Gable. It was a billiard parlor, a man's hang-out.

The first five-and-ten-cent store owned by the Woolworth's was in this area. I believe it was the ground floor of the St. Charles Hotel. This type of store was a sensation. Nothing cost more than fifteen cents. There were household items, dishes, toys, tinware, sundries, and paper products. Perhaps purchase of merchandise was in the Orient. Volume of sales was the basis of this business.

Chan Smith's Sporting Goods Store was also in this block. As the name indicates, he sold all sorts of athletic equipment and all equipment used in sports.

Another business located on the north side of Third Street between E and F was the Chocolate Palace. It was a confectionery store and served meals as well. Ralph Pease was connected with this business. The four-story Anderson building was on the northwest corner of Third and E. A bank occupied the first floor. The other floors were devoted to lawyers' offices, doctors' offices, and similar businesses. Frequently men leaned against the building to visit with each other and watch the girls go by.

One of the leading restaurants in town was in a building just to the north, facing E Street. It was operated by Tony Savonowitch. It had booths to accommodate customers. The all male waiters wore black suits and white shirts.



The Red Front was either just next door or a second door north. This business was owned and operated by the Rawicz family. The father was an elderly man and as I recall had a wen, a tumor the size of an apple, under his chin. One son, Sam, branched out and went to open a store in the Anaheim or Fullerton area. Louie was on hand to serve customers fitting shoes, etc. Gussie acted as cashier. A son-in-law, a Mr. Goldman, also was a clerk. He committed suicide much to the sorrow of the family and friends.

Nell Rawicz, another daughter, later opened a shop on E street just below Fourth where she sold women's wear. She was friendly, had good taste and had a good business. The Red Front was quite a large store. Everyone was friendly, the clerks knew the customers and the customers had their favorite clerks. This store was there for many years. Finally the family decided to close the business and I believe they moved to Santa Monica. They built a lovely two-story home on the west side of G street just north of Fourth. The Goldmans lived in a smaller house next door to the north.

At one time, it may have been much earlier, there was a drug store, the Owl. I'm not sure if the Carson family were the druggists or not.

Next came the bakery. It may have been called the Homestead Bakery. They did a thriving business in breads, rolls, cakes, pies, cream puffs, and all such goodies. I believe when the Red Front closed, Woolworth's moved into the building from their location on Third Street. They were there for years. They sold out to Kresses.

The store on the corner of Court and E, southwest, was C. Cohen Dry Goods. It was an early day business that grew into the largest store of its type in town. Their merchandise was ladies' clothing, corsets, lingerie, yardage, and ribbons. At that time, ladies were particular about

the fit of their garments, so there was an alteration department. Skirts were shortened, sleeves properly placed, a tuck put here or there, so the shoulder seam was where it belonged. This department was in the rear of the store. Ladies stood up on a block and seamstress altered the garment to fit the customer flawlessly. Bedding and table linens could also be purchased here as well as notions.



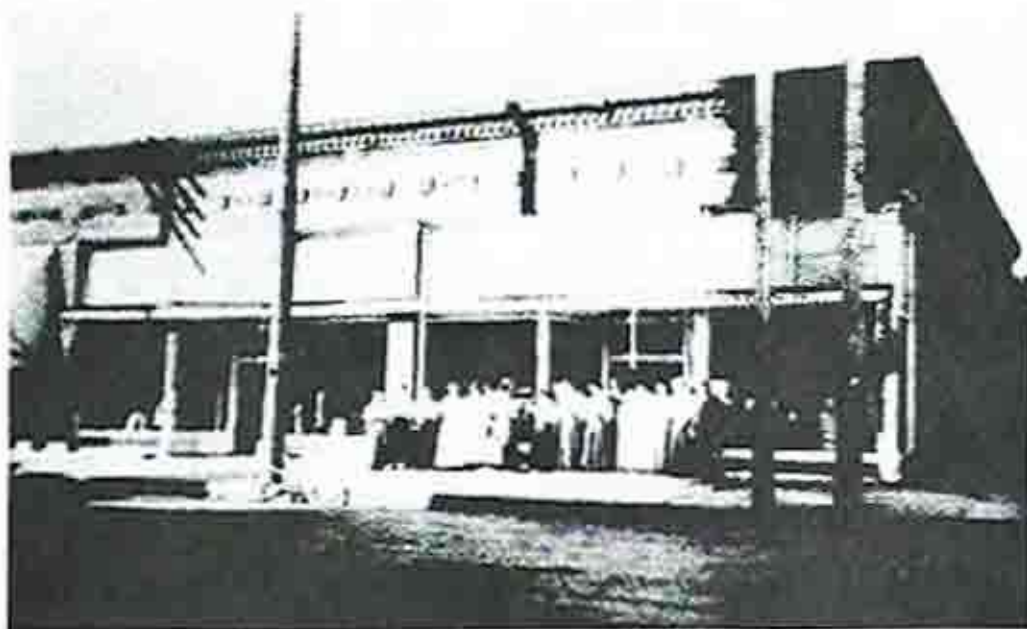
*Alteration department of C. Cohen Dry Goods. Helen Boyd, center, and Mary Bentien, right.*

The office was in the middle of the north side of the store. There was a system of wires and small, basket-like containers installed at various points behind the counters. The clerks made out bills to cover the purchases which were put into these baskets; a string was pulled and the basket hoisted up and run on wires to the cashier on the upper level of the office. Change and sales slips were sent back to the waiting customer and clerk.

Across the front of the store were two areas on each



side of the entrance. These were display areas where the window trimmers arranged beautiful settings to show off the merchandise in the store. Life-like mannequins were used. The displays were changed at least twice a week. The men who arranged these displays were artists as well as salesmen.



*C. Cohen Dry Goods also known as Cohen's Department Store*

At the close of the day, the counters where merchandise was placed were covered with cloths to keep them clean when the store was cleaned at night. Restrooms were provided for employees and customers. I believe laws were passed to provide stools or chairs for employees to use at times instead of standing long hours at a time. The eight-hour law was also a boon.

Store hours were from about eight or nine o'clock in the morning to five thirty or six at night. Saturday, the store was open until nine o'clock at night. Merchandise was shipped from the manufacturer in big wooden boxes.

Later they were shipped in cardboard boxes. A company had a code word or phrase known only to the owners and the trusted employees who put the price tag on the merchandise.

Traveling salesmen, known as drummers, brought samples of their wares to the buyers in the stores to select the articles they thought would sell well in the area. Night watchmen and police made the rounds to check the doors and barred windows.

Caesar Cohen, the owner of the store, was not a tall man, probably five-feet-six or seven. He had a low shoulder. It was rumored that it came from carrying a backpack on his back as a peddler in his early years. He was a widower. His wife and Mrs. Joseph Rich, the court reporter, were sisters. Mr. Cohen had two children, Joseph and Leah. Joseph came into the business and shared the responsibility of running the store. Leah married Bradford Morse who also worked in the store. He and Leah built a lovely home on north E Street at the corner of Evans, I think. Joseph married a pretty girl by the name of Lura Woodruff. Her mother worked in the bakery next door.

Mr. Cohen lived for years in a two-story house near the corner of Sixth and D. His housekeeper was Mrs. Barton. Joseph and Lura Cohen built a beautiful wooden two-story house at the northeast corner of sixth and D after they were married. Sadly, Joseph contracted tuberculosis and died at an early age. Eventually Mr. Cohen sold the business to Boadway Brothers who operated the store for several years. Then it was sold to a group of people. The only name I recall was a Mr. Markowitz. Eventually the store was closed.

Mr. Cohen's employees were given a two-week vacation with pay after a year of employment. The store was closed during the Jewish holy days, at Thanksgiving,



Christmas, and New Years.

Lyman Rich was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rich. Mrs. Rich was the sister of Mrs. Cohen. Lyman worked at the Cohen's Store. He was a young man and I don't know his position or whether it was after his service in the Army. At one time he was stationed in the south. During the early 1920s, a pretty, red-haired, blue-eyed young lady worked in the office at the store. She had graduated from the local high school. She was deeply interested in dramatics and appeared in several school plays. Her name was Ruth Hasty. Her father worked for the Santa Fe. She and Lyman became sweethearts and were married. They lived in a lovely new home on E Street south of 16th Street, on the west side.

After the Cohen store was sold, Lyman entered the business world; perhaps he helped his father manage their properties. He and Ruth had two children: Lyman Junior and Sarah. The years went by. Lyman's friend from army days came to visit, and, as more time rolled by, Lyman and Ruth separated. Ruth married Lyman's army friend. Lyman remarried but his second wife died at a very early age. He eventually married a third time—a lady by the name of Elizabeth Wade, the daughter of Mr. Wade, who was part owner of a furniture store in town. Lyman was very active in civic affairs and the Orange Show. Lyman and Elizabeth established a home in a grove northeast of town, next door to that of Elizabeth's sister, May, and her husband.

Sometime around 1910 or 1915, J. H. Patton operated a grocery store between Court Street and Fourth. I believe his son Amos worked with him. His daughter was in the store occasionally. The Patton family bought the Zombro's two-story home at the northwest corner of Seventh and G. They lived there many years. One son, Will-