

the Santa Fe. William was in the Internal Revenue office for years. Pauline was a librarian in our city library until she married Taylor Peterson, an attorney. Gilbert married Nell Shay, daughter of Sheriff Shay. In later years he was superintendent of the City Water Department.

When Mrs. Patton died, the house was sold to a school teacher. She in turn, sold it to Mr. and Mrs. George N. Boss. It was their home until they died. Mr. Boss added wings to the house and other alterations, spoiling its beauty to some extent. Mr. Boss and his mother came to San Bernardino many years ago and bought property in the south end of town. If memory is correct, it was a peach orchard and was the beginning of his extensive holdings in San Bernardino. Among pieces of land he bought and developed was the land created when Town Creek was filled in. This property was on the east side of F Street in the 1100 block. Mr. Boss usually wore blue coveralls. He hired a man to help him and they did a great deal of the building when he developed property. Mrs. Boss, who was his cousin, died first. When he died he left an unsigned will. There was a big "to do" as to who would inherit the property. Relatives came out of the woodwork and the litigation lasted several years. Because there were no children, I believe a first cousin who lived in Orange County was a chief heir.

On the east side of G Street, south of Seventh, there is a beautiful southern style house facing west. It was built by Tom Duckworth, a one time district attorney or city attorney. Next door south is property owned by Ella Allen and her mother. She was a long time Santa Fe employee.

Just to the south is a small church. I believe it was built by a group of Lutherans who may have broken away from an established church or a completely new church group. Several religious groups have met there during the

years.

On the west side of G Street, about the middle of the block is a two-story house that belonged to the Bridof family in the teens. He was an official at the Santa Fe. The daughter of the family was named Marvel Bridof.

A few doors down the street was the home of the Kavanaughs. There were two boys in the family. Joseph married Marvel Bridof and they later divorced. Jerome was an attorney and became the justice of the peace for many years. His first wife passed away and he married Marjorie Alexander of Redlands. She was employed by the County Recorder at one time. One of Jerome's sons became an optometrist and had offices on south E Street for several years.

About the middle of the 500 block on G Street was a two-story house owned by the Wood family. Perhaps Mr. Wood was a Santa Fe employee. One daughter of the family became a long time buyer in the lingerie department of the Harris Company. Daughter Fern was a school teacher. She married a wholesale produce dealer, Cecil Weidman, co-owner of Bloomquist and Weidman near the Santa Fe depot on Third Street. One of his hobbies was breeding Weimaraner dogs. Cecil Weidman became city manager for years and was highly respected for his skill and integrity. A second son lived in Montana or thereabouts where he raised his family.

In the 700 block on Fifth Street there were some interesting families. There was a two-story house on the north side where Ulysses Burkey lived. He graduated from high school and was a noted violinist even then.

The Cogswell family lived a few doors west. He was a conductor on the Santa Fe. His daughter, Evelyn Cogswell was well known and beloved. She was nicknamed "Coggy" and quite petite, about four foot eleven inches or so. She



was very athletic. She worked in the advertising department of *The Sun* for years. The son of the family worked for the Harris Company in the shoe department, then opened his own store in the 400 block of E Street.

Next was the residence of Noble Asa Richardson. I believe he was a Canadian. He taught in the high school in the 1890s. He was a popular teacher who held broad views. He married Mabel Davis, daughter of Ben Davis, who had a ranch on the southern part of town. He owned Zulock, a race horse who gained considerable fame. There was a local race track on the south side of Mill Street near Tippecanoe, known as Association Park. The Richardsons had one daughter, Claire, who graduated from high school in the class of 1919.

Mr. Richardson's views were quite liberal. His views leaned a little toward those of the Socialist Party. Feelings built up against him and he was forced to leave the school system. He and his brother owned and operated a bicycle shop on the south side of Court Street between D and E. Years went by, the feeling against those with liberal views lessened, so when plans were being made to establish a junior college on south Mr. Vernon Avenue between San Bernardino and Colton, Mr. Richardson was called upon to engineer the project. I believe he was the first president of the junior college and was a guiding light on the project until his death.

Among the members of this family were Grandma Whitlow who lived to a ripe old age and Mrs. Davis. Her other children were Leila Whitlow and Violet who married Mr. Eddie. Daughter Leila created a stir when she married her uncle, a Mr. Whitlow. They lived in Arizona and had two children, William D. and Ailean. Upon Mr. Whitlow's death, they moved to San Bernardino. Leila worked as a comptometer operator for the Santa Fe. A

comptometer was a forerunner of a calculator. It operated like a typewriter and was used to figure payrolls. Her children graduated from high school here. Claire Richardson worked for Security Title for a number of years. She married Al Lowe, an engineer. They later moved to Los Angeles.

The house on the northeast corner of Fifth and H was the home of Mrs. Pierce. She was a well-known Christian Science practitioner.

About the middle of this same block on the south side Mr. Adams and his daughter lived. Edith Adams was an employee of the Security Title for many years. She was a searcher. Mr. Adams second daughter married Fred Memory. They had two children and I can only remember the name of one, Gail. I believe they lived in Riverside. Edith loved these children as her own and was very generous with them. Mr. Adams was a tall, rather imposing looking man. I believe he had what we know now as Parkinson's disease. His hands shook visibly. Edith never married, but she had a good friend, a Mr. Gibson, who was the head gardener of the grounds surrounding the Santa Fe Depot.

The Dr. Style's home was on the southwest corner of Fifth and G. It was a two-story house with quite a nice yard. In the rear was an arbor covered with beautiful roses. They lived there until they built a new home on Seventeenth Street. Their daughter, Pauline, was an author and had several of her books published. One told of her father's experiences as an early day physician and another I recall was set in WW I days.

On the west side of G Street, just below Fifth, was the residence of the Jones family. There were two brothers, one of whom was named Oscar. They operated a photo finishing business on E Street near Fourth.



About the middle of the block was the residence of J. B. Gill, a former lieutenant governor of Illinois. The Gill residence was set back from the street. It was quite large, two stories and rather imposing. He and a Mr. Hamilton owned a lumber business on west Third Street. He had one son, Jay. I believe he served in WW I. He died at a very early age. Mr. Gill retained business interests in Illinois. On one of his trips there, he met and married a lovely young lady, Thelma Smith. She was a member of the Smith family. Later members of her family came to live in San Bernardino.

Monte Smith, Thelma's brother, was a cashier in the National Bank. Fred Smith was associated with Mr. Gill. Monte married a young lady named Alma who worked in the courthouse and later was a private secretary of J. Dale Gentry.

The Esler family built one of the first apartment building in town, either next door to the Gill home or a door or two below. I think Mrs. Camille Esler lived there for many years. She and her daughter later lived in a home in the 800 block, the west side, of G Street. Perhaps I have mentioned previously Mrs. Esler had a son by a previous marriage, Albert Reitz. He married Ordra Berryman. They lived in the Berryman home when the latter moved to Turlock. This was on the west side of F Street just below Ninth.

One of the first automobiles in San Bernardino was owned by the Eslers, and Albert Reitz drove it. He would leave it in the driveway. His daughter, Claire, and the other neighborhood kids would play in it. I was nine or ten and remember this. The mud guards were big and the horn was huge. I think the seats were covered with black leather with big tufts in them. The headlights were also very big. It was painted black.

Next to the Esler apartment building was quite a large lot. The buildings were set far to the rear and they were the property of a blacksmith. Aside from shoeing horses, he made iron things and perhaps repaired farm implements, etc.

I believe on the southwest corner of Fourth and G was the home of the Carson family. He and Mr. Clute owned the Owl Drug Store on E Street near Fourth. Next door to the south was the house owned by the Winkleman family. Mr. Winkleman was a partner with Mr. Hott in a tobacco and bowling business on Third Street near D. In the same vicinity on the west side of the street was a building owned by Mrs. Somerville and used as a maternity hospital. Many a San Bernardino child was born there.

On the southeast corner of Fourth and G was the home of Charles M. Hanf, the jeweler who had a store on the south side of Third Street in the 300 block. This house was two stories, made of gray stucco. The Hanfs had two sons and one was named Porter. Mrs. Hanf's sister, Helen Porter, made her home with them. She worked in the jewelry store. Later the store moved to a location in the 400 block on E Street, the east side. After the senior Mr. Hanf died, the son Porter carried on the business.

The house on the east of the Hanfs on Fourth Street was the Dixon home. He had one daughter Margaret Dixon and there may have been a younger daughter.

Another very lovely home in this neighborhood was the Walter Kohl home. It was one-story with a wide veranda across the front and large plate glass windows. The third house on the north side of the street in this 600 block was the home of I. N. Gilbert, a long time county assessor. He was noted for his integrity and skill. This house was built quite near the sidewalk, not allowing for much lawn.

The Odd Fellows and Rebecca's Lodge built a three-



story building on the south side of Third Street. The Eagles' Lodge was a building on the south side of Fourth Street in the 500 block. At one time a pawn shop was on the ground floor. The upper floors were used by the lodge. Dances with favorite local orchestras were held there also.

The Elks' Lodge built a large gray stucco building on the north side of Fourth Street about the middle of the block. The dining room with its skilled chefs was open to the public for lunch. Lodge rooms and rooms rented to bachelors for living quarters occupied the balance of the building. It was rumored that some of the largest card games were played in its card room. At one time a minister tried to lead raids on these rooms. He was not very successful. Too many prominent business men were involved in a favorite activity.

Returning to Third Street, the Mission Smoke House was on the north side of the street in the 500 block. It was a billiard parlor. Al Gable was the owner. Also in this block was a stairway that led to a hotel or living quarters on the second floor. One tenant was Mrs. Rose, who was a noted china painter. She also conducted classes.

The first Sears and Roebuck store was housed in a building in the middle of the 500 block next to the Pacific Electric Depot. This building was several stories high. It was completed and just before the opening of the store, it caught fire and burned. The building was rebuilt but I can't recall whether or not the Sears company operated there.

At one time the J. C. Penny Company occupied a single room on the north side of Third Street. They moved from there to a splendid new building on the southwest corner of Fifth and E. They remained there until the Central City Mall was built. This is now known as the Carousel Mall.

The first Montgomery Ward store in town was built

on the southwest corner of Court and Arrowhead. This area was developed for business when Court Street was cut through from D Street to Arrowhead Avenue. A big, new theater building was erected about half way in the middle of the block on the north side. Smaller buildings were erected on both sides of the street to house offices and commercial businesses. At one time the local branch of the Farm Bureau was housed in a building on the north side of Court Street near Arrowhead. The Farm Bureau was a state agency that discussed farm problems. They were especially experienced in oranges, poultry, and cattle and advised people on problems and solutions.

The Sun Company, publisher of the San Bernardino daily newspaper, was located in the 500 block of Court Street on the north side between D and E. At one time there was a disastrous fire, but they recovered. They never missed a publication thanks to help from publishers in nearby towns. Later they moved to a building on the southwest corner of Fourth and D. As their business grew along with the city, they expanded. They absorbed buildings between Fourth and Court and to the east of their original building. As time went on, changes were made. The Guthries and the Harbisons were replaced by a younger generation. Eventually the giant Gannette Publishing company acquired the paper. There was a rumor, maybe more than a rumor, that the *Los Angeles Times* would have liked to own the company but the powers that be, ruled that such an idea would give the *Times* too much control in the Southern California area.

During the 1920s, the B. L. Morgan Bolt and Screw Works occupied a concrete block building at the northeast corner of Rialto Avenue and E. This business manufactured bolts, screws, and other such necessities. It was originated by a Mr. Morgan and did a thriving business for sev-



eral years. Its products were sold locally and shipped to dealers. Perhaps thirty or forty men were employed. Eventually the business was sold to an out of town buyer and the machinery moved away. I worked in the office there as secretary two or three years in the 1920s.

Another business in the area was the Southern Pacific Grain Company. It was owned by A. W. Swisher and perhaps some partners. As the name implies, they dealt with hay, grain, cattle feed, etc.

Another nearby business was the Novak Junk Yard operated by both Mr. and Mrs. Novak. They had several children. One son became an attorney.

While in the area, it is interesting to recall the Brown property on the west side of E Street, on a knoll that was the home of Joe Brown. He was a brother of John Brown Jr. and was a banker in the 1890s. Their home was one of the finest in the town. It was surrounded by lawns and trees and was very attractive. Mrs. Brown died and Mr. Brown moved away. However, their two daughters lived there for many years. The youngest's name was Barbara Brown. She was rather tall and she had a deformed foot, but that didn't hold her back. She finished high school and returned for post graduate studies. She was active in the Baptist Church and very interested in the activities in the city. Eventually business closed in on the property and it was sold to the Bekins Storage Company for the site of its local warehouse.

South E Street developed with the building of automobile agencies, wholesale businesses, etc., as well as the National Orange Show whose first event was in a tent erected on the northwest corner of Fourth and E. Several buildings were erected. There was room for a midway carnival, parking, a football field, etc. During this time, the orange industry was a major item and the exhibits were

really a sight to behold. Exhibitors from many counties entered and business firms capitalized on the advertising. It poured rain during the first showing and the rain seemed to dog the exhibits. The dates have been moved many times, but it always seems to rain just a little at each exposition.

Another business which opened during the 1915s-1920s was the Nau Murray Wholesale Grocery. Mr. Nau and Mr. Henry Murray were two of the founders. Their warehouse was on Rialto Avenue at I Street where the railroad crosses the street, giving them a siding if they needed it. Their stock included groceries, tobacco, candy, woodenware, etc. They employed salesmen, warehousemen, truck drivers and an office force. The salesmen covered the county.

Mr. Nau had the bright idea of having order clerks prepare sales tickets to accompany the orders as they were shipped out. These clerks were to come to work at 2 p.m., type up the orders as they were filled by the warehousemen and send them out for delivery the next morning. It didn't work out too well. Salesmen would come in late and by the time the warehousemen filled the orders it might be midnight or so. Finally this plan was abandoned. Mrs. Nau was a member of the Melchoir family. One of her sisters was employed by the company.

Because of the eight hour law, the billing clerks were coming to work later and later and going home at all hours of the night, occasionally seeing the sun rise. In order to protect them, Mr. Nau hired Walter Jeffries, a private patrolman to stop by to check the building and when the clerks were finished, take them home.

Mr. Jeffries was an enterprising man. He was formerly a butcher. I don't know whether he served as a police officer or not, but he saw the need for an independent



patrolman and developed his business. His home was on the north side of Fifth Street in the 300 block. Tragedy struck Mr. Jeffries life. His wife committed suicide.

A brother and two sisters of Mrs. Nau worked for the Nau Murray Wholesale Grocery, the brother as a salesman and the sisters in the office. The company planned a Christmas party for the year 1920. One of the sisters was getting ready for the party. She was bathing, reached out of the tub to move an electric heater and was electrocuted.

Some of the employees of the Nau Murray Wholesale Grocery were: Bino Read, in charge of the candy department, a young Irishman by the name of McCaffery, a general salesman, and two other salesmen. Among the office force were Mr. McKelvey, Verner Crackel, Eddie Fleming, Ranella Browning, and Mrs. Addis. Some of the warehousemen were Leo McCrary, and W. D. Miles, my husband.

The company did very well for several years. Mr. Murray's untimely death reflected in the business and eventually Mr. Nau's brother, Sam, from Santa Ana became a partner. Eventually the company merged with another concern and became the parent company of the Smart and Final grocery chain.

Just to the north were the McNair apartments built to Scotty McNair who was an early day contractor. The houses were of concrete block. This type of house did not become too popular in the city. They were supposedly cheaper to construct than wood so the average working man could afford them.

The southwest corner of Third and I was the location of the Zulch Auto Works. Here automobiles were rebuilt after being wrecked, repairs were made, and painting done. It was a thriving business. One of the sons of the family became a noted artist and was a member of the fa-

mous art colony in Laguna Beach where hundreds of creative artists lived.

The southeast corner of Third and I housed the Goodwill Industry for years. This worthwhile endeavor gathered cast off furniture, clothing, etc., and made them into useful articles to be sold at a nominal price. Handicapped people were trained to do this and thus be self-supporting citizens.

The Mexican-American population had its merchants, too. Mt. Vernon Avenue from Fifth to Ninth became a business center. There were numerous restaurants serving Mexican food, a bakery, liquor stores, a grocery store, clothing and shoe stores, tortilla factories, etc. They were well managed. Some of them, such as Mitlas Service, a Mexican restaurant, are still around today. The growing generations have taken over and operate the businesses. One enterprise that has survived the years was Mother Massetti's Restaurant. I believe they specialized in Mexican and Italian food. It was so good, people came from all over to dine there. A nice part was developed on the east side of Mt. Vernon at Seventh Street. Trees were planted and walks laid out to make it enjoyable.

Years before, maybe, this was the site of Mt. Vernon School. Later, a new and larger school was erected on the northeast corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Ninth Street. Sylvia Waters may have been principal there at onetime. Perhaps all eight grades were taught here, then the students went to San Bernardino High.

The African-American families seemed to have settled west of the railroad tracks between Fourth, Fifth and Base Line. One of the early African-American business men was Byron Rowan. He operated a very successful feed and fuel business. He was well known in the city.

During the 1910s-1920s, a prominent African-Ameri-



can family was the Bill Johnsons. He worked for the Santa Fe. He wanted his children to have an education, not to be just bootblacks. "Bootblacks" refers to a bootblack stand they used to have in front of stores where you would get your shoes shined. There were usually two or three chairs on a bench and customers hopped up and sat there and there were pedals for your feet and they gave a great polish to your shoes. They charged a fee. Only African-Americans ran them and so the name, "bootblacks." His ambition bore fruit. One of his sons became a physician, another, named Lawrence, an optometrist, and a third studied law at Howard University and later taught there, I believe.

Another family of note was the Muckelroys. Mr. Muckelroy may have worked for the Santa Fe. Mrs. Muckelroy was employed by the Harris Company for years. Their daughter Rowena Muckelroy had a glorious voice. She had an outstanding career as a teacher and soloist.

An African-American woman I knew and loved was Nan Washington. Her mother was a sister of Mrs. Harrison who lived on the south side of Eighth Street. I believe her grandparents were slaves. She had a tiny home on Harris Street. She did housework for a living and was my helper for years. She came every week. She is buried in City Cemetery. I never had much contact with the Mexican-American population.

One outstanding young man in the 1920s was Horace Martinez. He was a gifted musician and studied under Professor Skinner. Horace had the gift of perfect pitch. He accompanied singers who were rehearsing for story. A young male singer was rehearsing his solo and they played a trick on him. Each time he sang the song, Horace played it a half tone higher and the singer couldn't imagine what was going wrong. Finally, when everyone

burst out laughing they told him!

One young lady of Mexican extraction danced with the players at the Padua Hills Dining Room. This was owned by a family who had lived in Mexico for years. They returned to Claremont and developed this beautiful dining room for the local opera and operettas. That reminds me of a funny dining room which featured Mexican food and Mexican artifacts for sale, as well as Mexican dancers. Nearby was a collection of gift shops featuring all types of handicrafts for sale: art work, ceramics, baskets, china, jewelry, weaving, etc. These distinctive shops and restaurants in the foothills above Claremont were popular. The young lady mentioned above, later married our local postmaster.

In years gone by, Aaron Cox came to San Bernardino, I do not know his ancestors or background. His wife's name was Rose. Their sons were Lawrence, Clifford, and Donald. Their daughters were Mabel, a school teacher, and Geraldine, who married a Mr. Willetts. Mr. Cox was an astute business man. He went into the orange industry and had groves in the Rialto and San Bernardino area. Perhaps he was one of the founders of some of the orange distribution companies who owned and built the packing houses in the area.

I have a vague idea that Clifford died of rabies, but I'm not sure. Lawrence went into the orange business. Donald was a free spirit. He was inclined to do what he wanted to, when he wanted to, with the result he caused his family heartaches. I believe he did finally settle down and raise a family. Geraldine Cox Willetts had quite a large family of girls. She lived in a nice home on Twenty-third Street until her sudden death. One story she told of her father was that if he put sugar in his coffee at breakfast they had all better "walk the chalk mark" because he would be cranky. This saying generally meant you had better not



cross the person.

The Cox family home was a beautiful two-story house on the southwest corner of Base Line and Mt. Vernon. It later was moved half a block down the street to make room for a service station.

Another family who owned property on the westside was the Wetteroths. They lived at the northwest corner of Mr. Vernon and Ninth Street. She was a member of the Kier family, a Scottish family. She worked for Cohen's Department Store in the alteration department for years. There were two Wetteroth children. Charles was a motion picture projectionist and Francis, their daughter, married Robert Ames, a member of an old San Bernardino family. In high school she sang the lead in a musical production.

On the southeast corner of Second and I was a large two-story Victorian house owned by the Waters family. The Misses Carolyn and Liel lived there. It was surrounded by a lawn and palm trees. There was a carriage house in the rear. I believe Mrs. Kiplinger was another sister. Carolyn Waters was the county librarian for many years. It may have been in her regime that the bookmobile was established. A motor van was fitted with bookshelves and the driver went from small town to small town where a person could borrow a book or magazine, etc., just as in a regular library. This was a great boon to people living in far away desert towns as well as in the mountains.

Miss Liel Waters was a librarian in the San Bernardino City Library. She wasn't quite as tall as her sisters. She was rather pretty. She was very accommodating to the patrons. In later years, I believe, the house was torn down to make way for a service station. When the freeway was built, it followed I Street from Colton Avenue to the northern outskirts of town. An off ramp left the freeway at Second Street, hence the service station on this corner.

Earlier, the Ed Roberts family had a home in this vicinity. He was a leading banker and his wife was prominent in social circles. They had two daughters, one of whom married a count in the Italian nobility. One night in the 1910 or 1920s, their home caught fire. Because it was the Roberts' home, the sirens rang every few minutes to call all the firemen to duty.

A few doors east in this same south side of the street, Murray, one of the founders of the Nau Murray Wholesale Grocery, built an attractive home.

On the north side of the street, a family named DeWitt lived. Mrs. DeWitt taught music for many years and she may have been my first music teacher. Her husband, and her son, Orville, were miners. They searched in the desert country for rare minerals. Orville married Hazel Staples, a long time employee of the Security Title Company.

A block or two west of Mr. Vernon on Fifth Street stands the Guadeloupe Church. This is the Roman Catholic Church that serves the community. Also located there is the residence for the clergy and the buildings used for the Catholic school which operated there until a few years ago. It may have closed because of the scarcity of nuns to teach or because of financial problems.

There is a large public school on west Eighth Street. The name escapes me, but it fulfills the needs of the area children from kindergarten to eighth grade, I think.

Perhaps in the time slot of 1910-1915, a grocery store was opened by Miles, Cole, and Lord. W. D. Miles brought his family to San Bernardino because he was seeking a favorable climate for his wife who suffered from asthma. His cousin, Lee Cole, was a butcher. Mr. Lord was a member of a well-known pioneer family. Their grocery store was on the south side of Fifth Street, perhaps in the 1000 block.



Eventually Mr. Lord took over. The location of Lord's Cleaning Dye works is on the property. Years ago, the colors did not last in your clothing and you would send it there to have it re-dyed. It was cheaper to do this than to buy new clothes.

A very imposing Victorian home was located at the northeast corner of Fifth and Arrowhead Avenue. It was three stories. The grounds did not have many trees nor much lawn. It was said the third floor was a ballroom. A family by the name of Dameron lived there at the turn of the century. Mr. Dameron was associated with a local newspaper.

The George M. Cooley home was Victorian style, two stories, and surrounded by trees. It was located on the east side of D Street between either Fourth and Fifth or Fifth and Sixth. Mr. Cooley owned land near Perris Hill on which he grew Burbank potatoes. He generously offered to give any one interested started potatoes if they would come to his home to pick them up. Many did, including me. When I was ten or twelve, my aunt sent me over with my little red wagon to get some seed potatoes which we planted.

A California bungalow-type house was built on the west side of D street just north of Tenth by A. Bogo, the owner of the winery on west Third Street. The front porch extended over the driveway to give shelter from storms when the people entered the house.

Up the street was a two-story house built by Leon Atwood. He was a member of an early day family. They had interests in orchards in the Yucaipa area. He had several children, one of whom was interested in sports and was a booster for athletes in the high school. This house was bought by Dr. John Coughlin in later years for use as an office. Much later, it was used as a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and such.

Memory of an eccentric comes to mind. He was Charlie Grinshire, an Englishman, small in stature and muscular. He lived on a piece of land on I Street about where the railroad tracks begin to turn west to go up the Pass. His property was covered with weeds, old machinery, etc.—an altogether mess. He had a team of horses and a wagon. He and soap and water had no contact. He did odd jobs and yard work. His passion in life was law suits. On what grounds I don't know, but he sued everybody for everything he could think of. Perhaps no one took him seriously.

Mr. Reilly had his home and business at the southwest corner of Second and E. He dealt in bottled water.

From 1910 on into the 1920s, San Bernardino began to grow. The new high school was built on acreage facing E Street from Nineteenth north. It was land owned by a Mr. Anderson who operated a machine shop on the property. It was considered to be in the boondocks and it was thought that the pupils would never be able to go so far! This was about 1913.

A number of years before the county hospital had been moved to acreage at the east end of Sixteenth Street. Local men who were far sighted saw the possibilities of opening subdivisions and building family homes. Among them were John C. Ralphs, Harry Eastwood, and Forrest Page.

There was a colony of families who had migrated from Denmark. They settled mostly on the west side of town. However one of them, Mr. Bentien, bought land on Ninth Street, east of Waterman Avenue and started a small dairy. He had two daughters. Clara became a school teacher, and Mary worked in Cohen's Department Store. Mary and her husband, Mr. Finney, owned a paint store in downtown San Bernardino. Mary always called her hus-



band "Finney." Clara married a school teacher and they lived in the northern part of the state. John Ralphs and Associates bought the Bentien property and surrounding land, subdivided it and erected moderately priced homes on the property.

Highland Avenue was likewise developed and became a residential area for some lovely homes. Leslie Harris built a nice house located on the southwest corner of D Street and Highland Avenue. John Ralphs built his home on the southwest corner of Highland Avenue and G It was moved years later when the area became business property, to a lot northwest of town.

Seventeenth Street, east of E Street, became the location of many higher priced homes. J. B. Shepardson built a house on the south side of the street. E. A. W. Swisher of Southern Pacific Grain built a two-story house nearby. Dr. Hancock built his house on the same side of the street nearer D. The house next to him was remodeled by the Victor Smith family.

Across the street was a beautiful home built by Dr. Ivan Findleburg, a physician. The rumor was the money came from a settlement made with his mother-in-law by Madam Tingley, the theosophist. Theosophism was a religion like the Hindus' where it was mind over matter, not Bible-based. They had a big school and settlement in San Diego in the early days.

Further down the street to the west was the home of Mrs. R. F. Garner after she moved from Fourth or Fifth and D. The Garner home on D Street was quite large, perhaps Mediterranean style. The front porch was a nice size. Mrs. Garner had purchased a beautiful wicker chair made in the Philippines or somewhere. It had a large fan-shaped back and was placed near the door. There was a fair-sized lawn and suitable trees. In the rear was a lily pond and the

garages and outbuildings. Mr. Garner drove the only electric automobile I ever remember seeing. It accommodated two passengers, was enclosed with glass, and there was a vase of flowers on one side. It was controlled by a var, a rod or bar across the driver's seat, not a steering wheel.

An early day apartment was built on the northeast corner of Seventeenth and E. I believe it was even then called the Norman Manor.

There was another beautiful home in the area worth mentioning. It was on the northwest corner of 20th Street and E, just across the street from the high school. The house was set back from the streets which allowed for a nice lawn. The house was two stories, painted white. It had several white columns across the front as such houses in the south had. Dr. Strong, a local physician, lived there for a while. Sometime later, the Baptist church held their services in the house.

Twentieth Street became the site of some beautiful homes built by prominent people. One such was a lovely Mediterranean house built by J. D. Mack, a part owner of the Pioneer Title. His sisters-in-law built a very nice home next door to the east. A house a couple of doors to the west was built by Clem Perkins, an insurance agent. His first wife was Marjorie Hooper. They had two children, I believe. After her death, he married Marjorie Post and they had two children. Their son was badly injured in an auto accident. He died at an early age. The daughter married Fred Almy, a local attorney. Their son also has made a name for himself in musical circles as a soloist and opera singer. The Perkins had a grandson named Frank, and we used to play together when he came to visit.

On the south side of the street in this same block, Grant Holcomb built his home and raised his children there. Attorney R. Bruce Findlay who later became a superior



court judge also lived in this block. Years later, property developed by the Severance family became the country club area. Many attractive homes have been built in the area.

While the northern part of the city was being developed the downtown district was also being developed. The Platt building was built at the corner of Fifth and E. The court house was moved into a new building at the northeast corner of Arrowhead Avenue and Third Street in 1927. It was a beautiful building. The Harris Company built a splendid new building at the corner of Third and E. The Antlers Hotel was built across E Street. And so the growth spread.



## Conclusion

Thus ends the interesting tour and description of early San Bernardino by Janet R. Miles who lived there from 1901 to 1994. You have seen through her eyes a city undergoing many changes. You have read about the many contributions of local people who helped make San Bernardino a very special city.

The following is a personal statement and conclusion by Janet:

I am just an ordinary "little peanut in the sack." I have written this account as I have recalled it from memory. At my age, currently I am 96, there is no one left I know who I could call and ask questions to verify incidents. I did not do research on this book, but just recorded what I recall from a life lived in this town.

I want to pay tribute to San Bernardino as a great place to live. I am content with having lived in such a friendly town. It was a town full of hard-working, God-fearing people. It has grown and progressed and become an industrial center.

Aside from very hot summer weather, the climate is great. Our soil is fertile and we have an abundant water supply. We in San Bernardino contributed to the country as in our town we repaired the trains. At one time there were seven passenger trains daily to Chicago and many, many freight trains. This enabled agricultural products of Southern California to be distributed nationwide.

I hope you have enjoyed my recollections of the changing times in San Bernardino, the way it was and how it came to be as it is now. San Bernardino is a city we all can be proud to call home.