



By 1880, Starkes had replaced the old adobe hotel with a two-story brick building.

Hotel, on the previous evening, we took the wagon road for Holcomb valley."

The San Bernardino Guardian began publication in February 1867, and from the beginning there were advertisements for Pine's Hotel. But that April the Guardian announced that Mr. & Mrs. Pine were leaving San Bernardino to spend some time at a spa near Santa Barbara, having retired from the hotel business because of his ill health. In May, for the first time, ads in the newspaper bore the name of the Starkes as proprietors.

In a November 1867 issue of Guardian we find this ad:

"PINE'S HOTEL, San Bernardino

This well known hotel is open for the reception of guests at all hours of the day or night. The house has been repainted and refurnished throughout. The table is abundantly supplied with everything of the best, and the sleeping accommodations of the house are excellent.

Attached to the Hotel is a BAR, well stocked with the very best. WINES, LIQUORS, & CIGARS of the choicest brands.

A BILLIARD TABLE is also connected with the Hotel.

The STAGES arrive at and depart from this Hotel.

Catherine Starke"

The last item was the clincher. The rival Bella Union had no stage connections.

The Starkes bought the hotel from the Pines in January 1868, though the name wasn't changed until April 1870. This may have been because of the valuable reputation built by the Pines. The Starke Hotel had become the leading such establishment in town, and in that year, 1870, the Starkes built a new frame addition on the south side. Ten years later the adobe portion on the corner was replaced by a new two-story brick building.

Starke's was not just a hotel. There was a corral and livery stable for the convenience of guests. Cross-country stages on route to and from the desert mines stopped there daily, and the hotel eventually ran its own stages to meet guests arriving on the Southern Pacific at Colton, and the California Southern at the west side of town. Starke served as Wells Fargo agent for years. Stage passengers stopping for the night

(See Page 25)