

JOURNAL of the Riverside Historical Society

Number Twenty Eight

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Foreword

Just like that, 2021 has come and almost gone! But, the Riverside Historical Society didn't let a little thing like the second year of a pandemic get in the way of researching various aspects of Riverside's history.

Glenn Wenzel took on the task of finding the story behind a packet of photos from 1913 that were sent to the Society. Check out the views from an amazing cross country trip that culminated with a visit to Riverside. Glenn also discovered the history behind Riverside's Low Park. You have likely driven passed this park, but next time you do, you will appreciate it so much more!

Yours truly, who undertook editorship of the journal this year, stumbled across the name of a woman who made a generous donation to help with the founding of Riverside's first Catholic Church. Come to find out, she was a very early pioneer of Riverside whose life had never been documented. Finally, Steve Lech uncovered the history of a piece of property that went from rural land to swim and tennis club, and is currently undergoing approval for a new chapter of its history.

Thanks to all our members who support these endeavors and we know you will enjoy another edition of the Riverside Historical Society Journal.

Kim Jarrell Johnson, Editor
October 2021



One of Riverside's Often Overlooked Parks: Low Park Legacy of Low and Reynolds Families

By Glenn Wenzel

The Low and Reynolds Families

By 1880 the ten-year-old city of Riverside had grown to 1358 people (1880 US Census Report), which was not huge growth by today's standards but a pretty good increase for the later part of the 19th century as families continued to move and settle into the new community. A few years after the 1880 Census, Jeremiah D. Low arrived in Riverside from Chicago in April of 1883 (*Press & Horticulturist* April 21, 1883; Brown & Boyd, page 694). The family consisted of Jeremiah; his wife, Mercy; and his daughter Laura. The Low family, with the soon to be added link to the Reynolds family, played important roles in early Riverside history, including the founding of a city park.

Jeremiah Low was born in New York in 1818. He attended and graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois, with both a master's degree and a Ph. D. (Guinn, page 980). While living in Illinois Jeremiah married Mercy Soule Lyman on October 22, 1844 (Illinois Marriage Records). The couple had a daughter, Cornelia Alice, born in 1845 in Richland, Illinois.

Jeremiah and Mercy's son Charles was born in St. Louis in 1848. Thus the family was in St. Louis at least by that year. Jeremiah Low, together with Nathan D. Tirrell, were the first two teachers at the O'Fallon Polytechnic Institute, an evening school which was a branch of Washington University in St. Louis. (1917 Alumni Catalog in the library at Washington University). The couple's third child was born on July 17,

1858 in St. Louis and named Laura Tirrell, presumably after Jeremiah's teaching colleague. In May of 1860, Cornelia, the Low's oldest child died.

In the 1860 census Jeremiah was still living in St. Louis, Missouri with his wife and twelve-year-old son, Charles and two-year-old daughter Laura. But by this time Jeremiah's occupation was listed as merchant. The 1870 census lists the family as living in Chicago with Jeremiah as the president of a life insurance company. By the time of the 1880 census, Jeremiah was retired according to the census page.

As already noted, the family moved west to Riverside in 1883, after Jeremiah's son, Charles, had visited the city the previous winter. A San Bernardino County Directory in 1887 listed Jeremiah as an "Horticulturist," a popular occupation in early Riverside. About five years after arriving in Riverside, the daughter, Laura, on November 29, 1888 married George N. Reynolds, a prominent resident of Riverside. Jeremiah Low died on June 18, 1899 and was buried in Olivewood Cemetery in what became the Low Family Plot.

Having moved with his parents to Chicago, Charles is listed in an

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1873 directory as a clerk and in the 1880 census with the vague occupation as "manufacturer." In 1874 Charles founded the Chicago Feather Duster Company. (Guinn, page 980).

On November 29, 1881 Charles married Elizabeth Avery in Chicago. The following winter of 1882, Charles and Lizzie wintered in Riverside for health reasons, returning to Chicago in July. (Hall, *Cottages...*, page 8; *Press & Horticulturist* April 21, 1883; Guinn, page 980) They settled permanently in Riverside by 1885.

The 1891 *San Bernardino County Directory* lists both Jeremiah and Charles Low as “Horticulturists” living on Palm Avenue near Magnolia. The properties on which they both built were citrus groves on the northwest corner of Arlington and Palm Avenues. Charles’ property was 11.25 acres bounded by Palm on the east, Arlington on the south, the Lower Canal on the west and his father’s property to the north. Jeremiah’s property was 6.20 acres located just north of his son’s along Palm Avenue. (Riverside County Archives Plot Maps 1892-1895).

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Avenue near Tibbets. Luther sold his original homestead in 1872 and purchased a claim to 160 acres in section 34. Located south of Jurupa, east of Palm, north of Arlington and west of Brockton, he later subdivided and sold off lots. Some of these lots would eventually be purchased by Charles Low. (Hall, *Cottages...*, page 8-9; Ortlieb, Patricia. *Creating an Orange Utopia*, pages 20-23; *A History of Citrus*, page 15).

At that time in Riverside's history, Magnolia Avenue began at the intersection of Palm and Arlington and ran southwest from there. Today the Magnolia Palm Condominium Apartments are at the northwest corner of this intersection. On the south side of Arlington where Magnolia began is the Washington Parent Navel Orange Tree replanted there in 1902.

Already during his visit in the winter of 1882 Charles started construction on a large house on his property. The house was designed by a well-known Chicago architect, W. L. B. Jenny and built by Charles Rice, a Riverside contractor. (Hall, *Cottages*, page 8). This house was near the corner of Palm and Arlington with the address of 481 Palm Avenue (later 6963 Palm). Jeremiah's house was just to the north with the address of 471 Palm (later 6943).

The Lows planted orange groves on their property here and also purchased other grove property in the Arlington area of Riverside. One such site was acreage on the northwest corner of Arlington and Victoria. A Riverside map from about 1895 labels this tract "C. H. Low Orange Gove." (Map in the collection of the Riverside Main Library Archives). Charles was part of the Riverside Navel Orange Co. and the Riverside Fruit Growers Exchange. (Harper, page 355; Guinn, page 980). In 1902 Riverside held an eight-day Street Fair attended by thousands of people and numerous attractions and events. Charles Low was the chairman of the citrus exhibit committee, demonstrating his ties to the citrus industry. (*Press and Horticulturist*, March 24, 1902).

Later, Charles bought parcels of neglected homes across the street on Palm in the Tibbet's Tract. Six parcels, each 50 feet by 150 feet deep, were along Palm between Arlington and Tibbets. In addition, he purchased three more parcels of the same size along Palm just north of Tibbets Avenue. (Riverside County Archives Parcel Plot Maps 1899-1907).

In 1909 Charles sold the city of Riverside a right-of-way for new Magnolia Avenue from these parcels and then in 1911 gave the rest of the property to the city for a park. The land for the park was four and a half acres consisting of two triangles laying on both sides of Magnolia above Arlington and east of Palm. (Patterson, page 292-293; *Press-Enterprise* October 29, 1967).

Lizzie Low was very active in the Woman's Club of Riverside and instrumental in bringing about the first Woman's' Club building on the southeast corner of Main and 11th Streets. Her name often appeared in the social notices in the newspapers. Lizzie died on April 7, 1918 and she was buried in the family plot in Olivewood Cemetery.

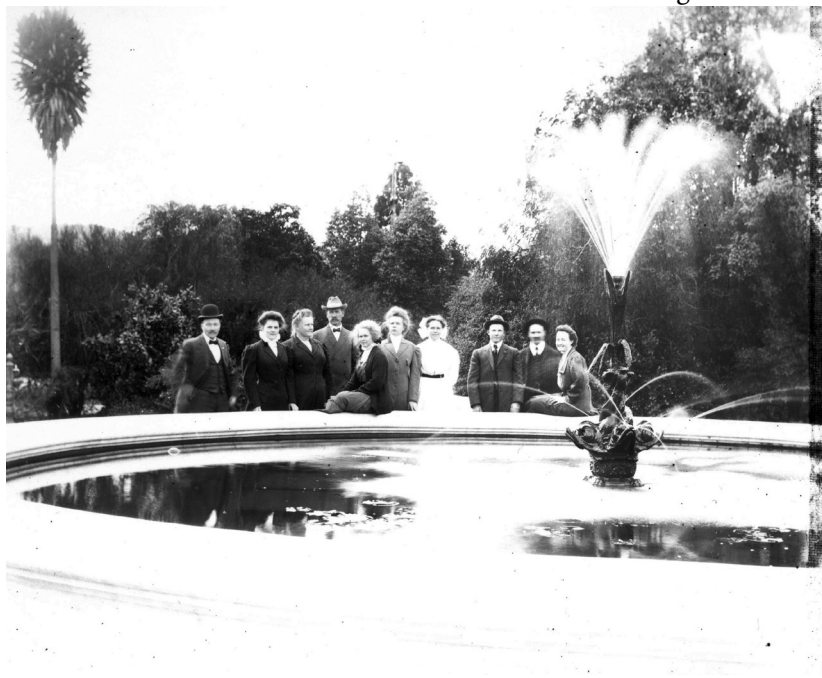
When the Citizens Bank of Riverside was incorporated in January of 1903 under the leadership of S. H. Herrick, Charles Low was elected as Vice President (*Daily Press*, January 31, 1903). The bank's first location was in the corner of the Reynolds Hotel block. (*Daily Press*, January 5, 1903). The 1921 Riverside Directory lists Charles as still living at 481 Palm and serving now as Vice President of Security Savings Bank (an affiliate of Citizens). By 1923 Charles was living in Los Angeles. On November 2, 1922, Charles married Grace Claypool in King County, Washington. (State of Washington Marriage Records). The couple lived in Los Angeles until Charles died on January 25, 1926. He was buried in the Low Family Plot in Olivewood Cemetery.

George Reynolds was born in Canada on November 24, 1860, and came to Riverside in 1880. After serving on a ranch for five years, George invested his savings in a small mercantile store in the Dyer Block on the northeast corner of Ninth and Main. On November 29, 1888, George married Laura Tirrell Low, daughter of Jeremiah Low and sister to Charles Low. (California Marriage Records). Nine years after arriving in town, he moved and enlarged his store to the Castleman block. Building on his success, Reynolds in October of 1896 opened Reynolds Department Store. Another move was needed in 1900 and he built the three story plus basement Reynolds Department Store on the northeast corner of Main and Ninth in downtown Riverside, the same location he started years ago.

Expanding his enterprises in 1903, Reynolds purchased the Casa Palm Hotel on the southeast corner of Main and Ninth and renamed

it the Reynolds Hotel. His initial plans included spending \$50,000 on remodeling and an addition in order to make the Reynolds a first-class tourist hotel. At the same time, Frank Miller announced plans to spend \$150,000 on erecting a tourist hotel on the site of the Glenwood Tavern. Both sought city bonuses to help with the cost. Miller's local backers included E. A. Chase, S. C. Evans and Charles Low, Reynolds' brother-in-law. The newspaper gleefully announced "Tourist Hotels are Coming in Pairs." Seeing that Miller was raising the funds for his project, Reynolds withdrew his request stating that he felt the bonuses needed for the two could not be raised. He still carried out renovation plans on the Reynolds Hotel, but not to the extent he originally planned. (*Press and Horticulturist*, March 25, 1902 and April 25, 1902).

Generous to his adopted city, he helped in many projects including the donation in 1909 of the fountain in White Park. George and Laura



*Fountain in White Park donated by George Reynolds
Courtesy of the Museum of Riverside*

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*Reynolds Hotel (top) and
Reynolds Department Store*



had one son, Charles Reynolds, born on September 18, 1889 in Riverside. George died on September 21, 1911. His son, Charles took charge of the family businesses.

After his Uncle Charles Low moved to Los Angeles in 1923, Charles Reynolds purchased the home at 481 Palm Drive. In 1925 he used the services of local Riverside architects G. Stanley Wilson and Arthur Benton to transform the older Victorian house. A \$20,00 remodeling permit was issued by the city (Daily Press, April 29, 1929) and the house was transformed into a Mediterranean style house with arched doorways, wrought iron balconies and enlarged to twenty-two rooms. In 1944 Dr. Roy Thompson, a Riverside chiropractor purchased the house and in 1959 he had the house moved across Arlington Avenue to 7121 Magnolia Avenue. (Hall, *Cottages...*, page 10). The move was reported by *Daily Press* reporter Tom Patterson and photographed by staff photographer,



The Charles Low Home now located at 7121 Magnolia Avenue

Fred Bauman (*Daily Press*, August 3, 1959). Today the house still stands at that location and is occupied as office space for various businesses. The former site of the home was developed by the Heers brothers who built a 120-unit apartment complex. Today that is the Magnolia Palm Apartments at 6979 Palm. On the site of the Jeremiah Low home today is the Riverside office for the City of Hope Radiation Oncology at 6939 Palm Court. There are still a few orange trees from the orange grove on the parcel behind these offices.

Low Park

As already mentioned, in 1911 Charles Low sold a portion of land to the city for New Magnolia and presented the remainder of the parcels east of Palm to the city for a park.

Part of that park site became famous with the planting of a Redwood Tree. In March of 1914 the touring Chicago White Sox came to Riverside to play a game against the Los Angeles Angels, a member of the Pacific Coast minor league team. City gardener Frank Dunbar conceived the idea to have a member of the White Sox plant a tree in the new parking area at the junction of Magnolia, Arlington and Palm Avenues. Thus, on the morning of March 25, Riverside City Mayor Ford, J.C. Hardman of the Park Board, Charles Low, George Rouse and others watched as Hal Chase, the great first baseman, dug the hole and Harry Lord the third baseman and captain of the White Sox planted the Redwood tree. Mayor Ford named the tree the "White Sox Redwood." (*Daily Press*, March 25, 1914). Charles Low lived just across the street at 481 Palm Avenue. Next-door at 471 was the home of Charles Reynolds, who had moved into his grandfather Jeremiah Low's house.

The size of the park increased in August of 1923 as Charles L. Reynolds, son of George Reynolds and nephew of Charles Low, deeded four lots to the city. The lots were on Palm Avenue across Tibbets Street from the park. Part of his stipulation was to abandon that portion of Tibbets Street to convert that portion and the lots into the existing park. He also stated he wanted the tract to be known as Low Park in honor of his uncle. (*Daily Press*, August 28, 1923).

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In late 1926 the *Daily Press* described Low Park as “Four acres of loveliness!” Thanks to the upkeep of the park department, a wonderful variety of flowers and shrubs were growing in the park. Park Assistant Superintendent James McDougal even was experimenting with some cotton seed and had some of “the finest bolls of long staple cotton ever growing in this section.” (*Daily Press* November 22, 1926). Again in 1929, the paper praised the efforts of Superintendent Henricks and his assistant, James MacDougal in making Low Park a spot of beauty. The reporter stated that,

The principal purpose of the park is to aid in making New Magnolia one of the most attractive thoroughfares in the city. The small park, at the present time, is abloom with a wide variety of flowers, and the lawns and shrubs are green and well-cared-for. It stands as an example of what can be done in the way of city beautification... (*Daily Press*, June 26, 1929).

Friendship Grove

The planting of the “White Sox Redwood” tree in 1914 was for many years the only special tree planting event in Low Park. That changed in 1927. Charles Comiskey, the owner of the White Sox, visited Riverside during the winter of 1926. W. L. Leamon, the sports editor of the *Press*, suggested to Comiskey that a tablet be placed below the now famous tree. Comiskey agreed to the plan and agreed to pay for the monument.

The Riverside Monumental Works received the contract to produce the monument, a bronze tablet set in a concrete slab. The tablet reads:

CHICAGO WHITE SOX REDWOOD TREE
PLANTED FEBRUARY 24, 1914 BY
MEMBERS OF THAT FAMOUS BALL TEAM
TABLET PRESENTED TO CITY OF RIVERSIDE
BY CHARLES A. COMISKEY
OWNER OF
THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX

Unfortunately, no one caught the error. The actual original tree planting was on March 25, not February 24. The tablet was completed and placed in the park by the end of November 1926, awaiting a formal dedication the next spring. The hope was that Comiskey himself might be able to attend.

The program was under the direction of Roy Hunt of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce. The date set for the unveiling was March 15, 1927. Comiskey was not able to be in attendance. Representing baseball was Harry Williams, former sportswriter for *the Los Angeles Times*, a personal friend of Comiskey and at that time the president of the Pacific Coast League. The tablet was unveiled by Dorothy Dunbar whose father was park superintendent when the tree was planted. The Riverside High School R.O.T.C. band under the direction of Gustav Hilverkus provided the music.

While the plans were underway for the dedication and unveiling of the White Sox Redwood tree monument, M. K. Schoenthal, managing



Chicago White Sox Monument (Courtesy of Museum of Riverside Collection)



*The White Sox Redwood – probably from around 1960
(Courtesy of Museum of Riverside Collection)*

secretary of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce envisioned the idea of a "Friendship Grove." In this grove in Low Park, just a few yards north of the "White Sox Redwood," famous men and women who visited Riverside could plant a tree. The first three chosen for this honor were Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Zona Gale and Joseph Lincoln. The very next year in 1928 when Authors' Row was added to the Mission Inn, Henry Van Dyke (Room 415), Zona Gale (Room 409) and Joseph Lincoln (Room 411) all had rooms named in their honor.

The tree planting ceremony took place the afternoon of March 7, 1927. DeWitt Hutchings served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Park superintendent R. C Hendricks had chosen three palms for this event.

The first tree was planted by Miss Zona Gale, popular author and writer. She often stayed at the Mission Inn. Like Frank Miller, she had been born in Wisconsin. Later in 1938, she published *Frank Miller of Mission Inn*, the early biographer of Miller.

Dr. Henry Van Dyke was a professor at Princeton University and had been a teacher to DeWitt Hutchings. His poem, "God of the Open Air" was read annually, often by Hutchings, for the Sunrise Easter Service on Mount Rubidoux. Van Dyke himself read the poem for the service, first in 1913 and then again in 1927, the year of the tree planting. Van Dyke remarked at the ceremony that he was always glad to plant a tree - provided someone else would dig the hole.





The third member of this initial group, Joseph Lincoln, was the author of the Cape Cod stories. He also stayed at the Inn on a number of occasions and often gave local talks on writing. After planting his tree, he remarked:

When I return to Riverside in future years, and I hope to come often, it will be a great privilege to come to this beautiful park and see how my tree is growing. I shall expect you people of Riverside to take good care of my tree. (*Daily Press*, March 8, 1927).

Following the planting of the palm trees the names of the participant was etched in the shovel that was used "giving the implements considerable historical value in years to come." (*Riverside Daily Press*, March 7, 1927). Bronze tablets were cast and by the end of August of that year were set in cement near the trees "as a lasting memento of the visit of the three distinguished personages who planted the trees." (*Daily Press*, August 30, 1927).

It did not take long before another tree was added to the grove. On Sunday, October 9, 1927 Major General Charles T. Summerall, the Army Chief of Staff, visited Riverside. General Summerall had been

the commanding officer of the Army's First Division in the Battle of Chantigny, France in World War I. In between a noon luncheon in his honor at the Mission Inn and a tour of March Field, Summerall made a trip to the Friendship Grove at Low Park. There he planted a *cocos-plumosa* palm tree "as a compliment to the chamber of commerce and the people of Riverside who have received the soldiers of March Field post with a feeling of warmth that is highly pleasing to the army's head." (*Daily Press*, October 10, 1927).

About a week later at a luncheon at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, General Summerall asked Mr. Schoenthal of the Riverside Chamber about his tree and stating that "he hoped his tree was growing better than the others." (*Riverside Daily Press*, October 19, 1928). Following his visit, General Summerall later wrote to M. L. Schoenthal: "I enjoyed my visit in Riverside and feel especially honored by the community in planting a tree in the already beautiful city park as a tribute to me." (*Daily Press*, October 24, 1927).

The next honoree was also a hero from World War I. General Lord Allenby, Field Marshal of the British Army visited Riverside on October 11, 1928. He was the general who "won fame in the world's war by capturing Jerusalem from the Turks and driving the Arabs out of Palestine." He and his wife began their visit at March Field where they were greeted with a salute of nineteen guns. From there they were taken along famous Victoria Avenue to Sherman Institute. From Sherman they were escorted to Low Park for the ceremony of planting a palm tree in the Friendship Grove. They then spent a quiet night at the Mission Inn. (*Daily Press*, October 11, 1928).

A year and a half passed before another ceremony took place in Friendship Grove in Low Park. On March 28, 1930, Grand Duke Alexander of Russia visited Riverside. Under the direction of the city beautification committee of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, a tree planting event was planned. In his opening remarks, Earl Porter of the Chamber reminded everyone "how distinguished visitors are honored and in turn honor the city by planting trees in the grove." (*Riverside Daily Press*, March 29, 1930). Later it was reported that the Duke "patted the earth carefully about his *coos plumosis* with the remark that he hoped the religion

of love which he is spreading during six months tour of the United States will flourish as well as the tree.” (*Daily Press*, April 5, 1930).

Three years later the next event was held in Low Park. The 29th annual convention of the California Real Estate Association was held in Riverside in early October of 1933. At the close of the convention on October 8, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce planned the tree planting ceremony to honor Col. William M. Garland. DeWitt Hutchings, who spoke for the Chamber, reminded the assembled people of the meaning of the Friendship Grove and then related the many achievements of Garland. In addition to having one of the major real estate businesses in Los Angeles, he was the major mover behind bringing the 1932 Olympics to Los Angeles. Garland after tossing the first shovel of dirt remarked that this was a high distinction and “one of the greatest honors he had ever received.” His name was added on the shovel to the names of the past participants, (*Daily Press*, October 9, 1933).

A brief month later, the next honoree was taken to Low Park. At the occasion of the *Fifteenth Annual Mount Rubidoux Sunset Service in Commemoration of the Armistice*, on November 12, 1933, Dr. Edwin Markham was invited to attend and read his famous poem, “Lincoln, the Man of the People”.

This poem had been composed by Markham in 1899 for the Republic Club of New York for the celebration of Lincoln’s birthday in 1900 and became one of the most acclaimed poems written about the famous president. Later in 1922, Supreme Court Justice William Howard Taft chose this poem to be read at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, a poet himself, said about this poem: “Lincoln’ is the greatest poem ever written on the immortal martyr and the greatest that ever will be written.” (Stidger, page 165).

While in Riverside for the Armistice Day service, Markham planted a *cocos plumosis* palm tree in the Friendship Grove at Low Park on Monday, November 13. He was presented to the assembly by DeWitt Hutchings, chairman of the Friendship Grove Committee. In response, Markham replied as only a poet could:

I am happy to receive the mark of kindness and approval of you good people of Riverside, whom I shall never forget. A tree is the emblem of life, of hope, of courage, of friendship, of immortality. Never shall I forget this hour and I am truly grateful. Gratitude is the lively sense of favors to come and I shall return to Riverside again some time to meet the friends I have made here and to see how my tree is getting along. I love California and her thousands of trees. I was born in Oregon, but corrected that error at the age of five and brought my mother to California (*Daily Press*, November 14, 1933).

On March 27, 1937 the Edwin Markham window was dedicated in the Spanish Art Gallery of the Mission Inn. This stained-glass window by Jessie Van Brunt depicted three of Markham's poems.

Z o n t a
I n t e r n a t i o n a l
h e l d t h e i r a n n u a l
c o n v e n t i o n a t t h e
M i s s i o n I n n f r o m J u l y
1 0 t o 1 2 , 1 9 3 5 . M i s s
C o r a M a c K e n z i e
a t t h e c o n v e n t i o n
c o m p l e t e d h e r s e c o n d
t e r m a s p r e s i d e n t
o f t h e i n t e r n a t i o n a l
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J u l y 1 3 , t h e d a y
a f t e r t h e c o n v e n t i o n
e n d e d , t h e R i v e r s i d e
C h a m b e r o f
C o m m e r c e h o n o r e d
h e r w i t h t h e p l a n t i n g
o f a *cocos plumosis*



Edwin Markham planting a tree

palm tree in Friendship Grove. Speaking for the Chamber DeWitt Hutchings declared:

We are always proud to have a new member among our trees in Friendship Grove, which had its beginnings in 1927...People of all walks of life have honored us and whom we have honored. You are the second woman to honor us and whom we have honored. Miss Zona Gale was the first. In starting Friendship Grove our thought was to honor our distinguished guests and to have them honor us. International good will and friendship is the main thought, however. With the planting of your tree, we want you to know that you have a place in our hearts and our lives here. (*Daily Press*, July 13, 1935).



Cora MacKenzie seems to be the last of the visitors or guests that Riverside honored with trees in the Friendship Grove. The *Daily Press* in the July 13 article mistakenly called her Ruth MacKenzie where other articles and the tablet in the park give her correct name: Cora MacKenzie. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s "Friendship Grove" in Low Park was often included along with the Mission Inn, Mt. Rubidoux, the cactus garden in White Park, Lake Evans in Fairmount Park, Sherman Institute, and Magnolia and Victoria Avenues in lists of notable places in Riverside.

Other notable personages were asked to plant a tree in Friendship Grove but for various reasons did not. In July of 1928 an invitation was sent to Secretary of War Dwight F. Davis who was scheduled to visit the area. However, when his schedule was finalized, he made only a very brief inspection visit at March Field. (*Riverside Daily Press*, July 25, 1928). Albert Einstein was conducting research work at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena in 1931 and a letter was mailed to him asking him to come to Riverside and plant a tree. Einstein did visit Riverside and even stayed at the Mission Inn. But no tree planting. (Hall, page 145). When former Mexico President Pascual Ortiz Rubio visited the Mission Inn in December of 1933, he stated that after visiting Palm Springs he might return to Riverside and might be agreeable to planting a tree in Friendship Grove. (*Daily Press*, December 21, 1933). Again, nothing came of this. There were undoubtedly others who were considered and asked over the years.

The trees planted and tablets placed in the coming years would be in honor of Riversiders or people from local areas. Also, whereas the previous events were sponsored by the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, the following plantings and events were sponsored by various other clubs and organizations. The tree plantings often took place in March during Arbor Week in Riverside. For a number of years tree plantings were held all over the city, including at Low Park as seen by the following examples.

During Arbor Week on March 10, 1949 the Riverside Real Estate Board planted a Magnolia tree in memory of Glenn D. Willaman. Willaman who had died in 1946 had served for twenty-five years as the secretary of the California Real Estate Association. An engraved bronze plaque was placed near the tree in his honor. (*Daily Press*, March 9, 1949; *Los Angeles Times*, December 6, 1946).

Mrs. L. F Darling came to Riverside with her husband in the late 1880s. Her husband, an educator in the Riverside schools died shortly before World War I. For the last half century of her life, she resided in the Mission Inn and was very active in various women's clubs and other organizations. She was the first president of the Socorro Club in 1893 and in 1903 was a founder and first president of the Riverside Wednesday Club. She was part of the Riverside Pioneer Society (predecessor of the Riverside Historical Society), Writer's Club, Riverside Musicians Association and

many other groups. She died on Sunday January 22, 1950 at the age of 98. Cremation was at Evergreen Cemetery. (*Enterprise*, January 24, 1950). To honor this "California Club Woman" the Wednesday Club planted a live oak tree in her name on March 10, 1950 in Low Park. (*Enterprise* March 10, 1950).

On Monday, March 7, 1951 the Aurantia Chapter of the DAR held a tree planting ceremony in Low Park in memory of three members who had recently died. A Cape chestnut tree was planted in memory of Mrs. E. S. Moulton. In honor of Mrs. W. S. Stroud a Shamel Ash tree was planted. A pink flowering eucalyptus tree was planted in the name of Mrs. Samuel White. (*Riverside Enterprise*, March 7, 1951).

The local chapter of the Gold Star Mothers Club dedicated a plaque and planted a tree on March 9, 1951 in Low Park in memory of members who lost sons in World War I and II. (*Riverside Enterprise*, March 9, 1951). Gold Star Mothers is a national organization with local departments and chapters who support mothers who have lost sons or daughters in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Riverside Real Estate Board again planted a special tree in Low Park on March 6, 1952. Not just in memory of single person, this tree was dedicated to "deceased 'old timer members.'" There is no mention of a plaque being installed. The list included a good number of names, some very familiar in Riverside History accounts:



D. W. Lewis, Robert Bettner, S. C. Evans, Herman Wilson, I. S. (Ike) Logan, Frank Bohr, S. W. Tate, C. C. Pond, Frank Morrison, Harry Greene, B. B. Bush, Phil Eimell, Tom Flaherty, Frank Nye, Joseph Wagner, Dale Clanton and others. (*Riverside Daily Press*, March 7, 1952).

The Woman's Club honored one of their own with a planting of a Shamel ash on March 4, 1953 in memory of long-time member Mrs. C. S. (Jessie) Underwood. Two days after the planting at a board meeting, the board voted to purchase a bronze marker to place by the tree. (*Enterprise*, March 5, 1953 and *Daily Press*, March 7, 1953). Jessie Underwood had died on April 14, 1952 and was buried in Olivewood Cemetery. (*Daily Press*, April 16, 1952).

Once more the Riverside Real Estate Board wished to honor a Riverside civic leader. On Thursday, March 5, 1953, they dedicated a newly planted cedar tree in memory of Roy Hunt. (*Daily Press*, March 7, 1953). Hunt who died on December 17, 1952, had been very active in civic organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions, the American Legion, Red Cross, Cancer Society, Boy Scouts and YMCA. He and his wife arrived in Riverside in 1918 and soon purchased the Grand Theater near Seventh and Main Streets. He changed the name of the theater to the Rubidoux Theater. In 1927 he was credited with the smallest theater in the world to install talking equipment. In 1932 he assumed control of the Riverside, the Golden State and Rubidoux Theaters. He also built the Rubidoux Drive-In Theater in West Riverside (today Jurupa Valley). He was also a strong supporter of baseball. (*Riverside Enterprise*, December 18, 1952). With his interest in baseball Hunt had been the Chamber member in charge of the ceremony dedicating the White Sox Redwood Tree monument back in 1927. Later in 1955, the Riverside City Council named a new park "Hunt Park" after Roy. (*Independent Enterprise*, November 9, 1955).

The Riverside Business and Professional Women's Club on Sunday, March 13, 1960, honored founding charter member Alice Suits Martin Todd with a dedication plaque placed beneath a Sequoia tree that Todd had given to the city in 1928. Alice Todd's parents were early Riverside

settlers; her father, William Suits, arrived in the city in 1885 and her mother, Mary Bulkeley in 1886. They were married in 1890 and lived in two homes before moving to a ranch on Bandini in 1909. In 1918 Alice married Henry Martin. The couple also lived on the ranch on Bandini until his death in 1927. As an early business woman Alice and Grace Shaw opened in 1921 a floral business specializing in chrysanthemums. Later Alice married Arnold Todd. The couple ran a floral business for 38 years retiring from it in June of 1958. Alice was very active in the community for which the business women of Riverside honored her.

Later Years in Low Park

On May 24, 1935, the *Daily Press* printed an article entitled: "Recreational Needs of City Outlined at Special Meeting." In that article the need for a larger and more modern pool in Fairmount Park was needed. Another suggestion was to build an additional pool "at the north end of Low park at the head of old Magnolia avenue for use of residents of the Palm avenue section." Not much of Low Park might have remained after installing a pool in the limited area of the park.

In the summer of 1939, the park department set forth plans to remedy some of the issues at Low Park and to beautify the view as seen by motorist traveling on Magnolia Avenue. However, "the memorial and specimen trees in the park would not be disturbed." (*Daily Press*, July 10, 1940).

In 1941 Lloyd C. Vincent went to work for the Riverside Parks Department, retiring in 1962. For the last nineteen years of his tenure, he cared for the parent Washington Navel Orange Tree and Low Park, both at the intersection of Magnolia and Arlington Avenues. During those years, Low Park was a garden spot of colorful flowers where "travelers on their way through would stop and park their cars and get out to exclaim about how pretty it all was, and wasn't Riverside a beautiful city." However, over the years, to cut down on maintenance costs most of the beds of flowers were eliminated along with "most of the color and romance." Vincent lamented that after that "It wasn't fun anymore." (*Daily Press*, May 27, 1962)

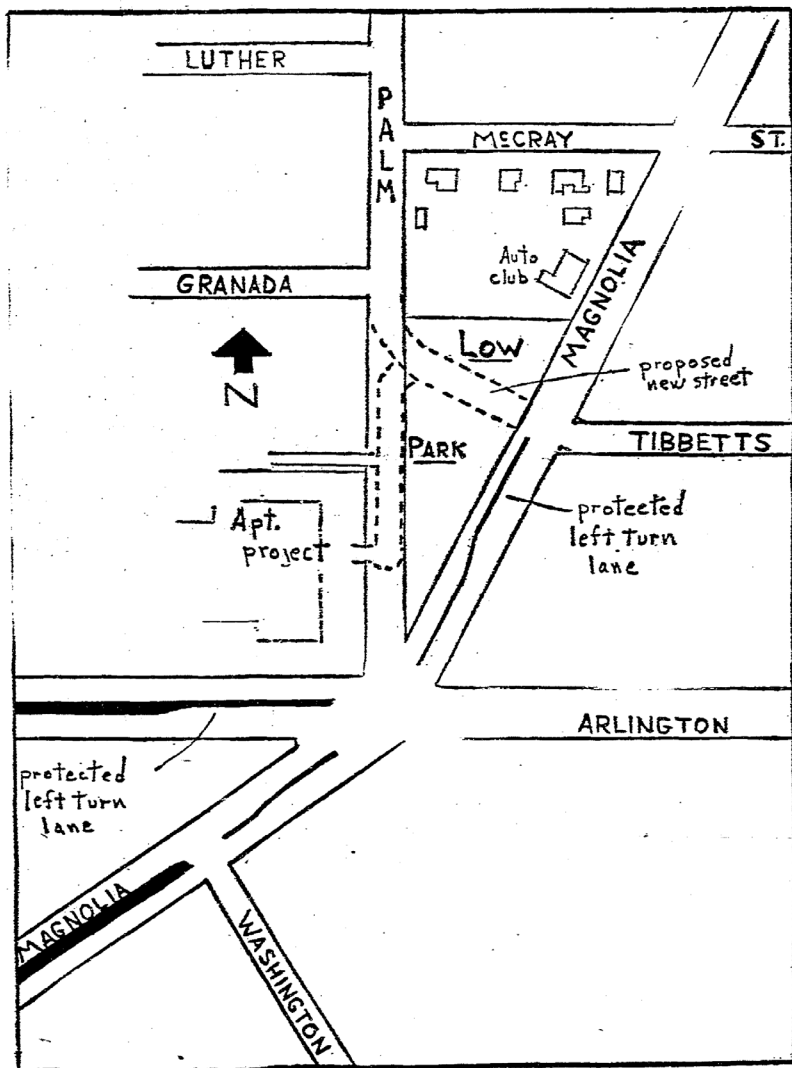
The neighborhood north of the park changed in October of 1950 when the Riverside branch of the Automobile Club of Southern California moved from their 4010 Seventh Street location to the new facilities at 6927 Magnolia Avenue just north of Low Park. (*Enterprise*, October 27, 1950).

A very major change to Low Park came about in 1960. City traffic engineer William Flye brought to the city council a proposal to cut down traffic congestion at the Magnolia-Palm-Arlington intersection. He proposed taking out Palm Avenue from the intersection. Instead, Palm Avenue would curve off a few hundred feet north of Arlington and cross Magnolia Avenue just opposite Tibbets Street. (see map). (*Daily Press*, March 2, 14, 15 and 16, 1960). After discussion and public meetings, the council approved the changes to this intersection and the park. To a certain extent this move to alleviate traffic undid the enlargement of the park in 1923 through the donation of four lots by Charles Reynolds. This made the park actually a three-piece park. The main part of the park is a triangle bordered by the elbow of Palm Avenue on the north, Palm Court on the west and Magnolia Avenue on the east. North of the bent portion of Palm is a small segment. And then across the street on the east side of Magnolia is a small triangle that many do not realize is (or at least was) part of Low Park.

By 1967 the park had fallen into controversy mainly on account of the activities of teenagers hanging out in the park. Mrs. Charles Reynolds, who still lived across the street from the park on Palm Court, told *Press-Enterprise* staff writer Tom Patterson that “the teenagers not only occupy the park for a considerable part of the day and evening, but they take over Palm Court, make unseemly remarks to residents of the street, and go into her orange grove and pick her fruit and commit unspecified improprieties.” (*Press-Enterprise*, October 29, 1967).

Later, when the Automobile Club moved a few blocks away to Central Avenue, a real estate office occupied the site for a number of years. In 2011 the city of Riverside acquired the site and building and moved Marcy Library to the lower level and the Riverside Park and Recreation Department to the upper level (Tablet on outside of building).

Over the years, a good number of Riversiders were connected to the events at Low Park. Jeremiah Low, Charles Low, George and Laura (Low)



Dotted lines show the new plan to route Palm avenue across Low Park and remove it from the intersection. Lower dotted portion would remain only as entrance to the large apartment project being built on the corner. Southbound Palm traffic would then go over to Magnolia and south. Northbound traffic Wanting to get to Palm Would go up to the new street, then left.

Reynolds, Charles Reynolds, Luther and Eliza Tibbets, DeWitt Hutchings, Gustav Hilverkus, Roy Hunt are just a few of those who played a role. Then famous visitors such as baseball players Hal Chase and Harry Lord, owner Charles Comiskey, Henry Van Dyke, Joseph Lincoln, Zona Gale, Generals Summerall and Allenby, Duke Alexander, William Garland, Edwin Markham and Cora MacKenzie were honored. Then there were the local people who were honored with a tree planting.

Today

What tablets or plaques are still remaining? A visit to Low Park in January of 2021 revealed that the monument to the White Sox Redwood Tree is still in existence below the now massive Redwood at the southern tip of the park. Of the three original makers in the Friendship Grove the one for Henry Van Dyke and for Joseph Lincoln are still there. The one for Zona Gale is gone. Also missing are the ones for Major General Summerall, General Allenby, Duke Alexander, William Garland and Edwin Markham. Present also is the tablet for Cora MacKenzie. Of the latter plaques, the one for Jessie Underwood, the one dedicated by the Gold Star Mothers and the one to Alice Suits Martin Todd can be found. Missing are the plaques for Glenn Willaman, Mrs. L. F. Darling and Roy Hunt.

And a number of the original trees are also gone. The White Sox Redwood still stands proudly at the southern tip of the park with the monument at its base. Joseph Lincoln's tablet is below a towering palm tree. A huge Shamel Ash sits over the Underwood plaque. The Alice Todd tablet is at the base of a large Sequoia. The tablet placed by the Gold Star Mothers Club sits below a cedar. There are palm trees, some Magnolias and some Live Oaks still there also. But no plaques or tablets below them.

What ever happened to the shovel that was used in the early years on which the names were engraved? No one seems to know.

Located next to the park headquarters this older and often forgotten park with a very rich Riverside history could be prime showcase of the park system.



(Top) Postcard of Low Park showing colorful flower beds – postmarked 1968

(Bottom) Low Park sign today



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Oscar and Hattie Traver – Forgotten Pioneers

By Kim Jarrell Johnson

The land on which the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Riverside still stands today was donated in 1886 by Mrs. Hattie Traver. Research into who this generous woman was led to two forgotten early settlers of Riverside.

The colony of Riverside was begun on land that had originally been part of the Rancho Jurupa. It was purchased in 1870 by a group headed by John North, called the Southern California Colony Association. The property the Colony Association purchased encompassed an area that today is basically bounded by Jurupa Avenue on the south, Vine Street on the east, and the Santa Ana River on the west. Adjacent to the Riverside colony was land that had not been part of the Rancho Jurupa and was not under other ownership. That land was owned by the federal government. This “government land,” at least the portion relevant to this story, was located basically between today’s Jurupa and Arlington Avenues. While other land in the United States had been opened for homesteading, this land was not, because the extent of its size and its legal boundaries was still in question at the time of Riverside’s founding due to the legal wrangling concerning the boundaries of the Rancho Jurupa.

However, there were people who, due to frugality or lack of money, decided to take the risk and squatted on the government land, farming and improving it until such time as they could legally put in a claim for that land with the federal government. These families learned about the new colony as it was established and several settled the government land in 1870, at same time as the earliest colony settlers. One husband and wife who were very early settlers on the government land were Oscar and Hattie Traver.

A number of sources, such as “History of Riverside County, California” by Elmer Wallace Holmes and newspaper articles written a few decades after Riverside’s founding, all confirm that, in 1870, a man

by the name of Oscar Traver had settled on the government land, which, at that time, was about 2 ½ miles from Riverside proper.

Information on Oscar Traver was difficult to find. Census records indicate he was born in the state of New York, likely about 1829. He married a woman named Abby sometime before 1850 and they had two daughters, Lizzie and Annie. One of the daughters was born in Wisconsin about 1850, which would indicate Oscar lived in that state at that time. City directories put Oscar in San Francisco from 1863 to 1869. According to the March 28, 1869 San Francisco Chronicle, Oscar and Abby divorced, and she received all of the personal property and half of the real estate they had accumulated during their marriage.

Likely looking for a fresh start, Oscar moved south. A law suit (more on that later) indicted he came to live on the government land at the beginning of February, 1870. He settled on property that was located in an area bounded roughly by today's Central Avenue on north, Nelson Street on south, Olivewood Cemetery on the east, and Mt Whitney Avenue on the west. Most significantly, on December 13, 1870, Oscar married Hattie L. Smith in San Francisco and she came to live with him on his ranch on the government land.

Hattie and Oscar continued to farm and improve their land for the next several years. They even started Sunny Vale Nursery, producing and selling primarily orange trees as well as some lemon trees. Unfortunately, Oscar died in 1877 without a will. He apparently also died without doing anything to secure title to the property he and his second wife were farming. Hattie wrote his two daughters, who by then were married and still living in San Francisco, to let them know of his passing and that he left nothing of any value in his estate.

Hattie was born in Massachusetts in 1833. Her parents were born there as well. While no records could be found documenting her journey west, it would seem probable that Hattie was living in San Francisco in the late 1860s, which is how she met Oscar. Other than where she was born and her marriage place and date, the only other piece of information that could be found on her was that she was a convert to the Catholic Church.

After Oscar's death, Hattie carried on with the nursery until 1879. Most significantly, she filed paperwork in 1879 to take ownership of the

60 acres of land she farmed though the Homestead Act. The land became hers in November of that year.

In the early 1880s, Hattie's stepdaughters got wind of the fact that their stepmother was now in possession of the land their father had also settled on and they filed a lawsuit, seeking a one half ownership of the land and half the profits from the farm and making their stepmother trustee of their half interest. In other words, Hattie would do all the work, and turn half of what she earned over to her stepdaughters. In a case that went all the way to the United States Supreme Court (the step daughters were nothing if not determined to get that land in Riverside), Hattie prevailed. The Supreme Court and all lower courts had ruled that Oscar did not own the property in 1877 and had not filed any paperwork to take ownership. Therefore, he could not leave it to his daughters. The court said the fact that Hattie later gained ownership of the land changed nothing and the stepdaughters had no right to half of the land their father lived on but did not own. It is this court case that provided much of the information that can be found today on Oscar and Hattie.

H a t t i e
continued to farm the
land she had settled



*St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church, October 2021
(Author photo)*

with her husband. According to a special census done in 1880 concerning farm production, Hattie produced \$1,000 worth of agricultural products in 1879. Out of 30 farmers in her area, only three produced more.

The main source of information on the everyday lives of people in Riverside at that time was the local newspapers. Unfortunately, very little appeared in the Riverside newspapers concerning Hattie. It was reported in 1887 that she was a vice president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, representing the Catholic church. She bought a lot on Vine Street for \$1000 in 1888. She went to Santa Barbara for the summer in 1891. She signed on to the orange growers agreement in 1893, which indicates she had orange groves on her property. The March 1897 Press & Horticulturalist reported she refused a \$18,000 offer for her 60 acres of land.

Most significantly for Riverside, in 1886 Hattie donated 2 ½ acres on Lime Street to the Catholic Church for the first such church to be built in Riverside. The construction of St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church began in 1887 and it opened for services in spring, 1888. In December 1888 Hattie also presented a new altar to the church. The newspaper said, Hattie "has shown her devotion by donation of repeated and costly gifts" to the church.

After the 1890s, there was very little in the newspaper about Hattie, other than a few mentions of sales of land. It appears she was selling off pieces of land, particularly parts of the property off of Central Avenue, to support herself. In June, 1918, when she was about 85 years old, Hattie sold a piece of property again, which implies she was still able to conduct her own business. Unfortunately, something must have occurred to her health soon after because by August there was a petition before the court to appoint a guardian for her because she had become incompetent. Hattie became a resident or "inmate" as it was called, of the County Hospital. Her land was sold to pay for her care, and she lived at the County Hospital for the rest of her life, until she passed away in June, 1923 at the age of 89 or 90.

It is not known where Oscar was buried, but Hattie was interred in Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside. Unfortunately, the County did not place a headstone at her grave, but she is buried near other early Riverside settlers.

From Quarry to Swim Club

By Steve Lech

The story of the Riverside Swim and Tennis Club at the corner of Central and Glenhaven Avenues is an interesting one in and of itself. However, before delving into that, there is an equally interesting story of the quarry that operated on that site for about 50 years prior to the club.

In 1914, the city of Riverside was in a quandary. The ever-expanding need for new paved roads and other city improvements required more and more rock both for construction and for base material for roads. Until then, the city had been relying on the city quarry at North Hill in today's Fairmount Park area. In 1914, though, it was becoming obvious that that quarry was nearly expended and a new source of material would be needed.

For whatever reason, city officials were loath to rely on a private corporation, as they put it. Rock could be obtained from the Crestmore Quarry in today's Jurupa Valley for about 90 cents per ton, but that was not guaranteed. So, the city hired a consulting geologist to work with the city's engineer to see if a site could be found within the city that would have the quality and quantity of material needed.

A site was found southeast of town on what was then known as Elsinore Road, and today is known as Glenhaven Avenue.¹ The site, along with a few hundred acres to the east, were owned by Mrs. Bertha Church. In 1908, Mrs. Church had subdivided much of the property into large-lot agricultural and residential lots.² Because her property was mostly above the Gage Canal, she began a short-lived water company called the Church Water Company which was going to install large pumping equipment and a concrete reservoir to irrigate the lands.³

The quarry site was part of Mrs. Church's property, and anecdotally may have been quarried before she and her husband owned it.⁴ Regardless, by 1915, the city was showing interest in the property as a source of valuable base material for roads and other uses. On April 6, 1915, the Riverside Press announced that the city was purchasing the property from Mrs. Church for \$10,500, which included a "20-acre hill of limestone and

granite.” The Fairmount Quarry, as the original one was called, was to be closed and mostly sold off for home sites.

Almost immediately, trouble began with the proposal. Some on the City Board of Trustees thought the price was way too high for the property. Over the next few years, the City and Mrs. Church went back and forth with proposals and counter-proposals, each time the City indicating that the price was too high, and Mrs. Church arguing that having a quarry right next to her large-lot agricultural subdivision would make it hard to sell lots. Eventually, the two parties agreed on a price of \$5,448 for 16.6 acres including all of the quarry area. However, that was not all. Mrs. Church continued to press for some sort of screening from the quarry to her tract. Therefore, as part of the sale agreement, the City of Riverside agreed to plant three rows of trees along the quarry boundary on Elsinore Road so as to be less of a nuisance to Mrs. Church and her buyers.⁵

With the sale of the property finally secured, quarrying could begin. From the mid-1910s to probably around 1950, thousands of tons of rock were removed for roads and other uses. By the 1950s, it apparently had ceased being a source of material, and had become a storage yard for city equipment, much to the dismay of many.

By the late 1950s, two things were happening that would change the site yet again. First, residential subdivisions were being processed to the north and east of the quarry site, which meant that houses would soon be springing up in the area. The Victoria Groves and Victoria Hills subdivisions between the arroyo and Fairview Avenue, together with the Fairview Estates and Glenhaven Knolls subdivisions between Fairview Avenue and the quarry site, together would bring in hundreds of new homes starting around 1960. These subdivisions changed the name of Kansas/Elsinore Road to Glenhaven, in keeping with the theme of early English and Anglo-Saxon names given to most of the streets in the area.⁶

The second thing that was happening was occurring 40+ miles to the west in Orange County. At the famous Sammy Lee Swim School in Anaheim, two members from Riverside, Joe Miller and Jim Stringfellow, conceived of the idea of having their own swim club along the lines of the Sammy Lee School. They wanted to start a club where members could



Riverside Swim Club circa 1962. Photo courtesy of Peter J. Brabant II

come and swim, learn to swim, and engage in some other activities. They began looking for land in Riverside and found the old City Quarry site available. About 1959, they purchased the site, and in the summer of 1961, they opened the Riverside Swim and Tennis Club at the corner of Glenhaven and Central Avenues. The club had a 25-meter pool and a smaller one where kids could be taught swimming. In addition, there were facilities for basketball, volleyball, and tennis.⁷

The Riverside Swim and Tennis Club was a membership club, and with hundreds of new homes being planned and built to surround it, all with new families moving in, it was thought that many memberships were assured. In fact, the Swim Club as it was known was a success at the beginning. However, change was coming to the Club almost immediately. Joe Miller left within the first few years, and unfortunately, Jim Stringfellow died in 1965. At that point, Jim's wife Gwendolyn took over and ran it until 1969 when she sold it to another group.⁸

This new group, though, was more interested in tennis, and realized that the pools were tremendous liabilities that were difficult to maintain. As such, they added more tennis courts and de-emphasized swimming. Still later, the pools would be filled in completely and swimming at the Swim Club would be no more.

In the early years, and even into the 1970s, many families belonged to the Swim Club. That makes sense given that the surrounding neighborhoods were new and attracting young families. The Swim Club acted as a de-facto babysitting site for kids, especially during the summer months. It was considered a safe place to go since it was staffed, and of course the many kids could cool off in the water for a long time.⁹

The children, however, grew up, moved away, and the demographics of the area changed. So did the business model of having a private swim and tennis club. Eventually, the economics of the site no longer worked, and the old Swim Club, now really a tennis club, shut down.

As of this writing (2021), the site is vacant and is currently undergoing site plan approval to become a sub-campus of the Orangecrest Community Church. Their plan is to renovate the existing buildings and add more.¹⁰ It appears there is a third chapter in the life of this site on the horizon.

Endnotes

- 1 Starting in the 1920s, there was a road leading from Victoria Hill all the way down to the town of Elsinore. This road was dubbed Victoria-Elsinore Road, or simply Elsinore Road. Over the years, this road was chopped up and given over to other roads and throughways. To follow it today in the City of Riverside, it would start at Victoria and Elsinore Road, head east along Elsinore, then turn south on Glenhaven, then southeast on Alessandro.
- 2 The land belonging to Mrs. Church had apparently been purchased by her husband Richard around 1901. It became known as the Church Ranch for a while, with Richard Church doing much to improve the water situation on it. In May, 1907, though, Richard Church was killed when a well shaft he was working in collapsed, burying him in nearly 40 feet of dirt. It then became the property

of Bertha Church, who was a very shrewd subdivider and business-woman in managing the property.

- 3 The Church Water Company apparently did little beyond ordering the pumping equipment. The equipment was said to be some of the largest that would operate in Southern California. In addition to the pump, there would be a concrete reservoir and power house to supply the water and electricity to the parcels. Although the Church Water Company had yearly meetings throughout the 1910s, in 1917, they fell delinquent and the venture was abandoned.
- 4 According to Tom Patterson, there were vertical shafts on the property already, possibly indicating a few attempts at gold mining. Patterson does not cite where this information comes from, though (Patterson, Tom. "Riverside Quarry's Cavern Mystery Remains Unsolved." *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, June 7, 1987).
- 5 *Riverside Enterprise*, October 5, 1916. The Church Subdivision property was planted mainly to orange groves over the years. There seems to have been only one residence in the subdivision, and that was the residence of C. A. (Clifford Andrew) Howe, for whom Howe Street is named. Howe came to Riverside in 1914 and formed a partnership with G. G. (George Gurdon) Merrill. Together, the two started what became the Regent Theater downtown, and the purchased the old Loring Theater in the Loring Building, modernized it, and reopened it as the Golden State Theater. The theater business obviously paid well, because in 1920, announcement was made that Howe had hired G. Stanley Wilson to construct a house for him on his 10 acres on the Church Tract. This house was completed in 1922, and has stood there ever since, nowadays being surrounded by newer homes from the early 1960s. In 1934, the house and property were described as follows:

During a period of several years development, Mr. Howe expended more than \$70,000 on the residence and guest house, for landscaping, and on the eight acres of oranges and walnuts. The residence alone cost \$37,000 and the guest house was built at a cost of \$8500.

The home is a one-story rambling house of Spanish architecture, containing 11 rooms, reception hall, two glassed in sleeping rooms, laundry, two baths, and screen porch. There are three large cemented terraces.

The house is built of eight-inch adobe blocks with a two-inch air space in the walls.

The guest house and garage are built of hollow tile on the edge of the arroyo. The guest house contains six rooms.

The property contains 11 acres, eight of which are planted to 800 navel orange trees. The grove is in splendid condition. There are 75 walnut trees, planted for borders, and a family orchard of deciduous fruit trees. Two acres of the land are beautifully landscaped, many rare shrubs, ornamental trees and blooming plants having been used in the landscaping program.

The home has a commanding view of the valley to the north and the mountains on the skyline. (Riverside Daily Press, June 1, 1934).

- 6 Elsinore, Fairview, Howe, and Benedict being the exceptions. Elsinore being named for the City of Elsinore; Fairview being a descriptive name for the fact that the original Fairview Avenue went along the bench alongside the Gage Canal and offered a fair view of the surrounding countryside; Howe for early land-owner Clifford Andrew Howe; and Benedict for Charles Benedict, owner of the property on the far east end of the region, and the builder of Benedict Castle.
- 7 Stringfellow, Bill (son of Jim Stringfellow). Personal communication with the author, August 9, 2021.
- 8 *Ibid.*
- 9 *Ibid.*
- 10 McWhorter, Jon (Executive Pastor, Orangecrest Community Church). Personal communication with the author, August 27, 2021.

Riverside in 1913

By Glenn Wenzel

What was it like to visit Riverside in 1913? We can get a glimpse though the photographs taken by nineteen-year-old Clinton "Clint" Price, who in that year made an automobile trip with his father, William, from Nebraska to Southern California, a journey of well over 2000 miles. Information on Clint and the packet of photographs were sent to the editor of the RHS Journal by Clint's grandson.

In 1913 Clint accompanied his father and an unidentified man on a 21-day cross country trip from Laurel, Nebraska in their Chalmers automobile. Along the way Clint took numerous photos of the sights and monuments of the time, with information recorded on the back of each photo.

Clinton Price was born on April 20, 1894 in West Township, Montgomery, Iowa, near Red Oak, where his father, William Price, was a farmer. When he was six or seven the family moved to a farm near Laurel, Nebraska. He graduated from Laurel High School and attended the University of Nebraska for one year until finances caused him to drop out.

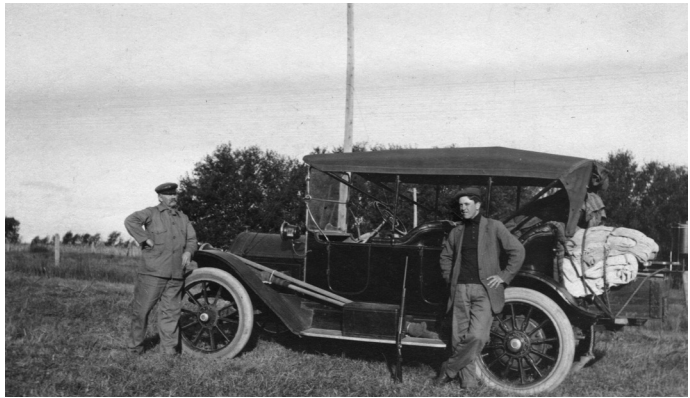
Following his trip out west, Clint served in the Eleventh Balloon Corps in France during World War I. A letter he wrote home to his mother told of some of the battles, which was quite unnerving to read. After Clint was discharged from the army, he returned to Red Oak, Iowa where he learned tire repair and in 1919 opened his own tire shop in Nevada, Iowa.

On December 20, 1920 Clinton Price and Jessabel "Jess" Larimer, a school teacher, were married. They lived in Nevada, Iowa the rest of their lives and were active in the community. They had two daughters: Marian Jane and Doris Elaine. In the late 1920s Clint and a friend, Clyde Steward, operated a pool hall called Price & Steward's. By the 1930s he opened his own tavern called The Aces O'Club. Clint Price also served as a substitute mail carrier for a number of years until he was appointed Postmaster of Nevada, Iowa in 1946. He remained as postmaster until his retirement in the late 1960s. Clint died on February 20, 1970 and Jess on May 8, 1980.

Number Twenty Eight - December 2021

What did this typical Midwestern, hardworking individual see and remember from his journey as a nineteen-year-old back in 1913? Of the sixty photographs in the collection, seventeen of them are from Riverside. What is interesting is the selection of the photographs from Riverside. There are really no surprises in the photographs taken by the young visitor in 1913.

I selected 34 photographs from this trip to include in the journal. Following are descriptions of each photo. The words in quotation marks are Clint's notes from the back of the photos.

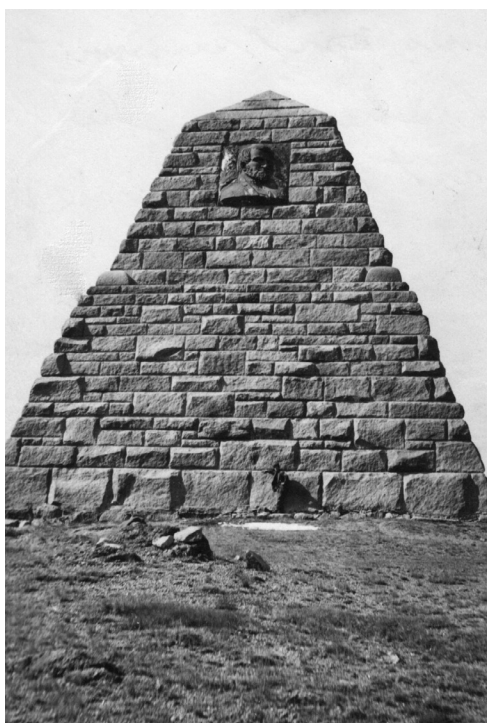


#1 & 2 - "Our first Camp West of Columbus Nebr."
Columbus is about 87 miles west of Laurel, Nebraska





#3 "Breaking Camp west of
Bruel Nebr"



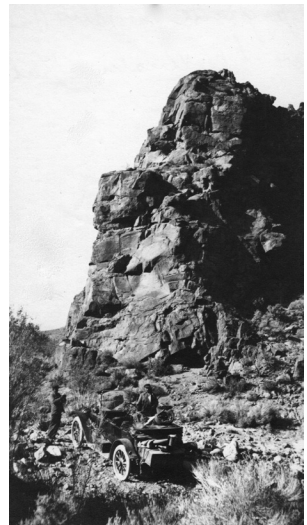
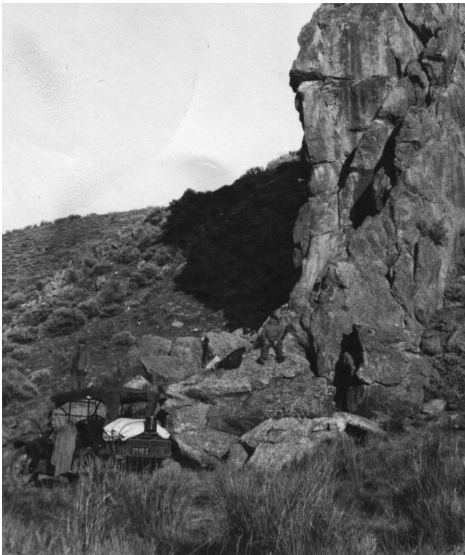
#4 "G.A.R. Monument for
Oakes & Oliver Ames on the
summit of Sherman hill east of
Laramie, Wyo"

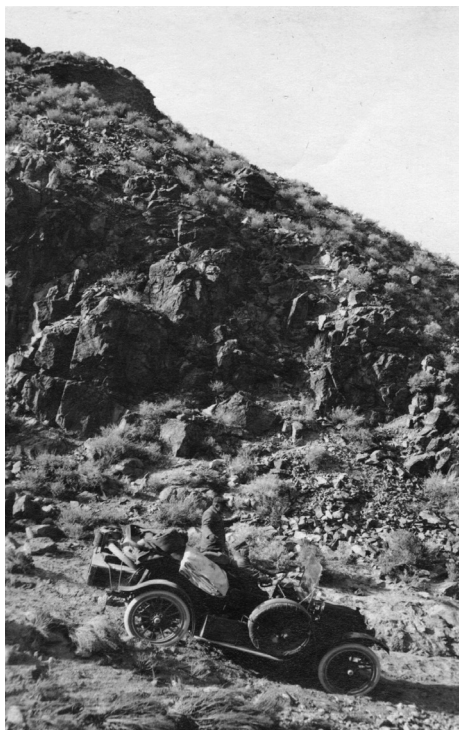


#5 (Bottom left) "Along the road east of Evanston Wyo" Evanston is on the western edge of Wyoming with Utah just across the border.

#6 (Above) "Little Chalmers being towed to the Summit We pulled it 20 miles from the summit to Salt Lake City"

#7 (Bottom right) "Upgrade in 'New Pass' west of Austin Utah" Austin is in central Utah.





#8 (Left) “Downgrade in ‘New Pass’ west of Austin Utah”

#9 (Bottom left) “Just into Cal.”
This is Clint’s father William
Asbury Price

#10 (Bottom center) “Just
across the line into California”
Unidentified man

#11 (Bottom right) “Just across
the line into California” Clinton
Price at nineteen





#12 (Left) "On the Summit of the Serra Nevadas in northern California"

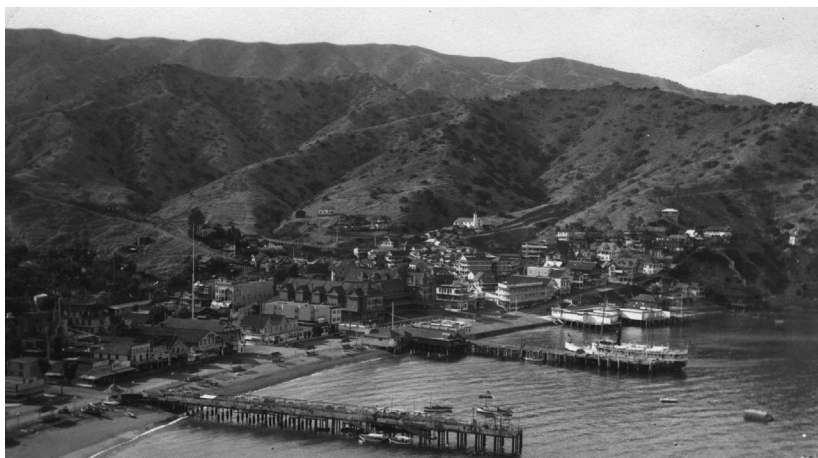
#13 (Bottom) "Opera House ruined by the earthquake in San Francisco" Photo was taken about seven years after the 1906 Earthquake.





#14 "The harbor at San Pedro. The boat directly under the ropes is a U. S. Submarine. The first ship is the one we went to 'Cat' island on."

#15 "Avalon on Catalina Islands"

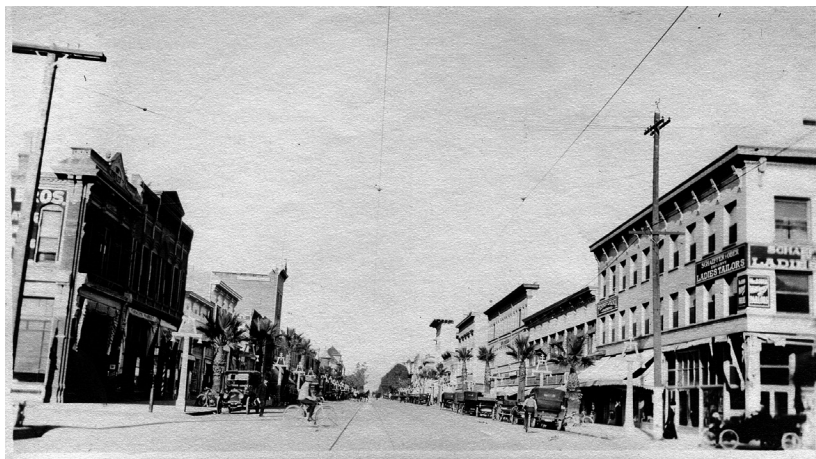




#16 "Seining at Long Beach. The seine is laying on the ground" Seine fishing employs a fishing net, called a seine, that hangs vertically in the water with its bottom edge held down by weights and its top edge buoyed by floats.

#17 "Along the Beach at Long Beach"



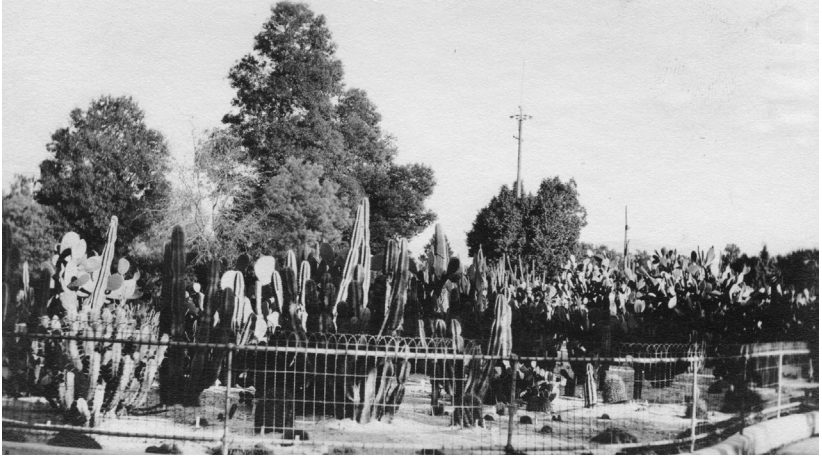


RIVERSIDE

#18 “Main street of Riverside Cal.” Photo is taken looking north along Main Street at Tenth Street. The 1913 Riverside City Directory lists Schaeffer & Ober (sign on second floor in photograph) at Main and 10th, in the Pennsylvania Building. Find out more on the Pennsylvania Building on pages 121-123 in *Riverside’s Invisible Past* by Joan Hall.

#19 “Riverside Mission Inn.” Already in 1913 one of the required places to see and photograph.





#20 "Cactus bed in 'White Park' Riv." White Park at one time had one of the largest collections of cacti. Albert White (after whom the park was named) and Franz Hosp, noted early Riverside horticulturist, were two of the main sources for this wonderful collection.

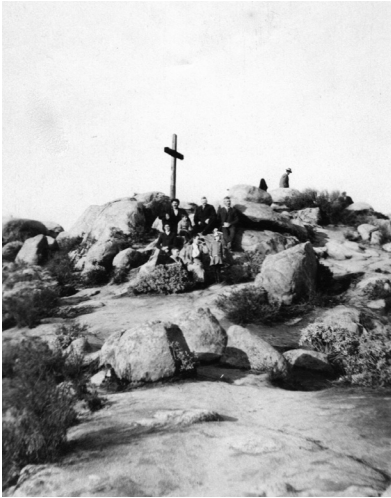
#21 "Fountain in 'White Park' Riverside" This unidentified man sits on the fountain that was a gift for the park given in 1908 by early Riverside businessman George N. Reynolds.



#22 "County Court house Riverside Cal" Opened 1905, the Historic Courthouse is still the site of court cases today.

#23 "Riverside residence" This house is the 1903 Hays-Pattee House at 3611 Mount Rubidoux Drive featured on page 162 in *Adobes, Bungalows and Mansions* by Joan Hall and Esther Klotz.





#24 "Cross on Mt. Roubidoux"

Note one of many alternate spellings. Also, this photo shows the top of Mt. Rubidoux prior to the changes made before Easter, 1916, in which the cross was slightly turned and seats constructed below the cross.

#25 "Cross, on Mt. Roubidoux"

The cross has become one of the most photographed locations for Riverside residents and visitors to record their trip to Riverside and Mount Rubidoux.





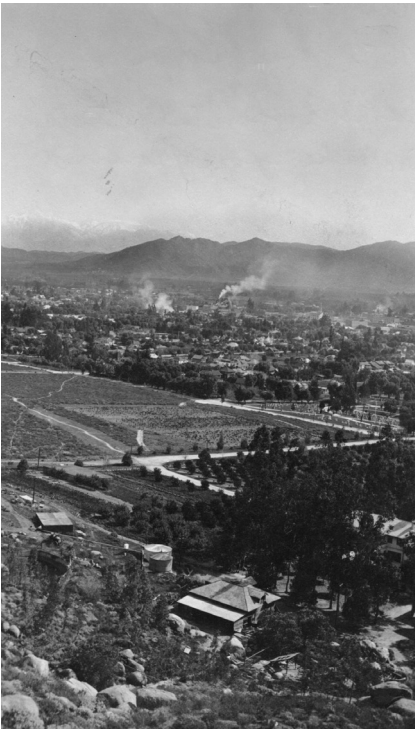
#26 "Old Mission Bell on Mt. Roubidoux" For more information and photos of the bells on Mount Rubidoux see pages 151-164 in *Anecdotes on Mount Rubidoux...* by Glenn Wenzel.

#27 "Old Mission Bell on Mt. Roubidoux" The young man in the photo is Clinton Price.

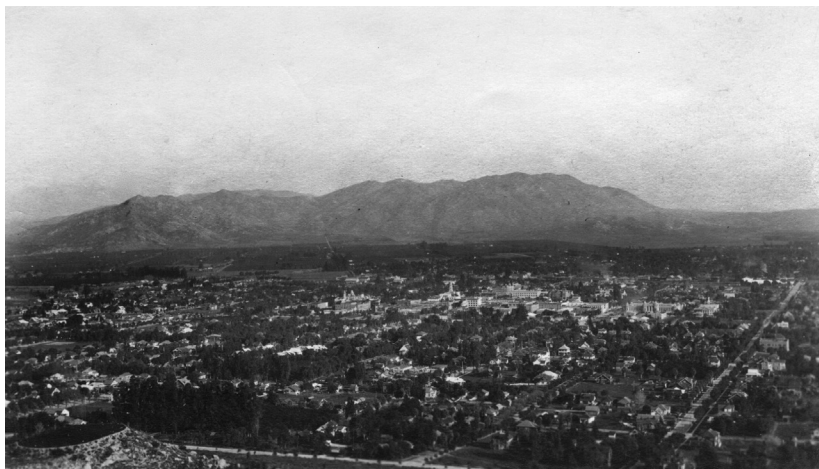




#28 "A balanced rock on Mt. Roubidoux." The *Balance Rock* is at the summit with the cross to the far right side. The photo is overlooking the Santa Ana River valley.



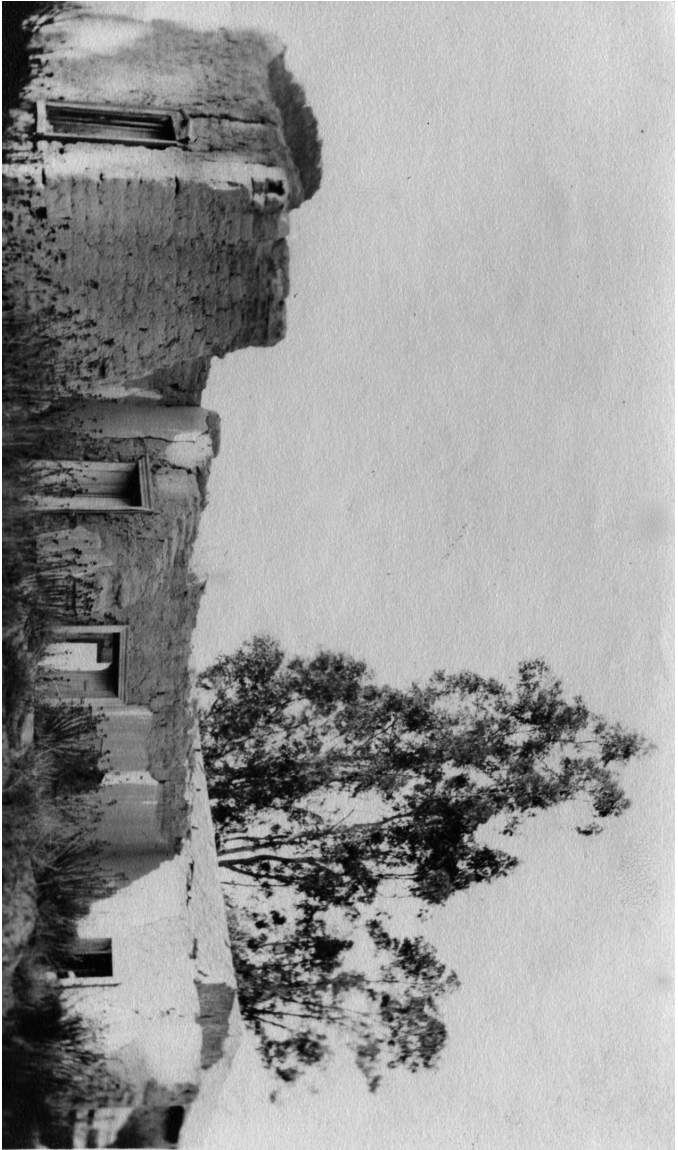
#29 "Riverside from Mt. Roubidoux. Experimental Station in the foreground" The Rubidoux Laboratory, later the Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station, was built by the state in 1906, . By 1917, the Experiment Station had outgrown this property and moved to east of the city, the present site of UCR.



#30 "Riverside; from Mt Roubidoux" This photo looks over the city. The street running up on the right side is Fourteenth Street. The old Grant School, the County Courthouse and the Mission Inn can be seen.

#31 "Looking north from Mt Roubidoux" The steel bridge across the Santa Ana River, shown here, was washed out in 1916. Following the road (today's Mission Blvd.) to the middle left side there are two groups of trees on each side of the road. To the right of these trees is a white building. This is the ruins of the old Louis Robidoux home.



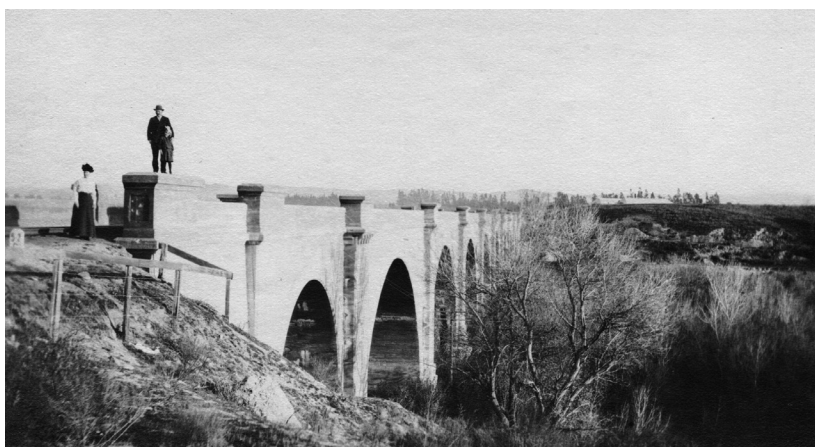


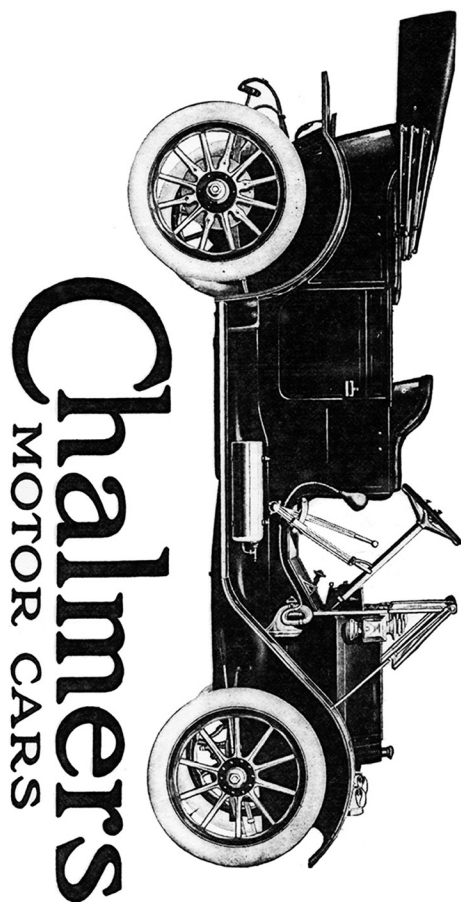
#32 "Old Mission. The stopping place of Kit Carson and Jim Bridges while in Cal." This photograph is mislabeled, probably from misinformation provided the visitors as is often the case. The ruins are actually of the Louis Robidoux home. A similar photo is on page 7 in *Adobes, Bungalows and Mansion*. The location is the present-day site of Stater Bros. on Mission Boulevard in Jurupa Valley.



#33 "Orange trees and smudge-pots"
A very familiar sight in early 1900 Riverside.

#34" The longest concrete bridge in the world. Near Riverside Cal" This bridge was built in 1902-1903 by the Salt Lake Railroad as a new rail line was built to connect Los Angeles to Salt Lake City. At about 900 feet long, the bridge rises 60 feet above the river and still carries tons of rail traffic today. For more information on the bridge see "Riverside's Picturesque Railroad Bridge," pages 27- 40 of *The Riverside County Chronicles*, Issue No. 3, Fall 2010.





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