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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	4
by Glenn Wenzel	
About the Authors	5
Riverside - Newest Playground of the Presidents	6
by Tom Martin	
Where Is It?	33
A Lake View for the House From Whittier Place	34
by Nancy L. Cox	
Soda Flavors From an Early Soda Fountain	53
by Kim Jarrell Johnson	
Postcards From Our Area	52
Where Was It?	55
RHS Journal Sponsors	56



Forward

Three articles fill this issue of your Riverside Historical Society Journal covering a wide range of topics. Tom Martin, as a docent at the Mission Inn, found fascinating the number of presidents who have visited the Inn and then expanded his interest to the city of Riverside and neighboring areas of the county. Read *Riverside – Newest Playground of the Presidents* to learn how many different presidents have visited our area.

Nancy Cox helps us follow the story and location of a house that was built on Whittier Place next to White Park and now resides at Lake Skinner, a Riverside County Park. The story connected to this house is an important part of Riverside history.

Kim Jarrell Johnson takes us back to the turn of the 20th century and the old-fashioned soda fountain. Read about an interesting drug store with a fountain that was in downtown Riverside. Different authors, different lengths, different aspects, different topics, but all help us relate to Riverside and its history.

We have again included in this issue of the Journal a couple of photos for you to identify. In this issue, the question is “Where Was It?” If you feel that you can correctly identify what and where they are, send us an email (riversidehistoricalsociety@gmail.com). The winners’ names will be announced at the January meeting.

Early last year your Board of Directors of your Riverside Historical Society made the decision to produce two journals a year. For two years now we have accomplished this goal. However, to keep up this pace we do need your help in producing articles on Riverside history for your Journal. We are looking for articles between 400 and 500 words in the required format which follow the Mission Statement printed on the inside cover of this Journal. If you have questions or need help feel free to contact the editor.

Enjoy our latest efforts as we all learn more about Riverside.

Glenn Wenzel, Editor
Riverside Historical Society Journal

About the Authors

Nancy Norwood Cox is a native of Riverside. A graduate of San Diego State, her first career was teaching fourth grade at Emerson School. In 2003 she retired from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office after serving as the first Small Claims Court Advisor and later as a Supervisor in the Victim/Witness Program. Always interested in the history of Riverside and its architecture, her volunteer pursuits have included being a Mission Inn Docent with Esther Klotz, a docent and researcher for Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery, an active member with Friends of Mt. Rubidoux, Old Riverside Foundation, and the Riverside Historical Society. Her essay was the beginning of a passion for researching Riverside's vintage homes and those who have owned them.

Kim Jarrell Johnson is a lifelong resident of Jurupa Valley and has authored or coauthored five books on local history. Kim has been writing history columns for local newspapers for the past twelve years. She currently shares writing duties with Steve Lech of the "Back in the Day" column which appears Sundays in the Riverside Press Enterprise. She is a graduate of the University of California, Riverside, and went on to receive a master's degree in Public Administration at California State University, Fullerton. She currently serves as a director on the board of the Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District.

Tom Martin currently serves as a board member and vice president of the Riverside Historical Society. He is also Executive Director of the Small Manufacturers Association of California which includes authoring and editing their monthly newsletter. He holds a BS degree in Business Administration from USC. He describes himself as "semi-retired" from 40 years in Human Resources and Safety Management. During his HR career he ran his own consulting firm and held a number of senior and junior management and hands-on HR and/or safety positions. Prior to entering the HR field he was a newspaper reporter for major newspapers, including the Los Angeles *Herald-Examiner*, Alhambra *Post-Advocate*, and Anaheim *Bulletin*. He reported on major stories including the Los Angeles inner-city response to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, and the Tate-LaBianca murders and the arrest of Charles Manson and his followers.

Riverside – Newest Playground of the Presidents

by Tom Martin

Presidents are people, too. While their job and responsibilities may be overwhelming, they also look for opportunities to vacation and relax. Often being natives of the east coast or Midwest, it was common for them to go to the famous “Jersey Shore” in New Jersey to relax or vacation from the 1850s to the 1890s. In many cases they went to Cape May, New Jersey or Long Branch, New Jersey, both oceanside communities 110 miles apart. In one unique instance, supporters of mortally wounded President James Garfield laid a special train track to Elberon, (an unincorporated community within Long Branch), where he went to recuperate but ultimately die.

Prior to the establishment of Camp David in the 1950’s, these two New Jersey communities, Cape May and Long Branch, could each claim the title “President’s Playground.”

Cape May is a New Jersey seaside community (2013 pop. 3,558), that has been called the “President’s Playground.” Supporters say it is the oldest vacation resort in the United States. It became known in the mid-nineteenth century as the “President’s Playground” because presidents James Buchanan, Ulysses S. Grant, Chester A. Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, and Benjamin Harrison reportedly vacationed there

Long Branch, New Jersey (2013 pop, 30,390), was described in a report by New Jersey’s Monmouth County Parks System: “Long Branch was placed “on the map” in 1869 when President Ulysses S. Grant made the city the nation’s “Summer Capital,” a tradition followed by Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, and Woodrow Wilson.” In its heyday, Long Branch was a resort on the scale of the mini-Newport, the type of place where you could see Diamond Jim Brady strolling along the street with his girlfriend Lillian Russell, while artist Winslow Homer sketched people frolicking on Long Branch’s famous bluffs. But the city gradually lost its luster and suffered through a period of decline in the middle of the twentieth century.

“Beginning with the eighteenth President, U. S. Grant, right through to Woodrow Wilson, seven American Presidents left their cares behind in the Long Branch area.” (There is no documentation that Abraham Lincoln stayed in Long Branch, but it is documented that Mary Todd Lincoln stayed in a hotel in July, 1861).¹

In California, Rancho Mirage in the Coachella Valley region of Riverside County, now claims the title “Playground of Presidents.” When Horace Greeley, founder and editor of the New York *Tribune* reportedly wrote “Go west, young man, go west,” it is not believed that he was speaking to future, current, and past U. S. Presidents but they have been listening, and, with the exception of Woodrow Wilson and Jimmy Carter, they have been following the direction and coming to our county in the 20th century and beyond. Riverside city, and the Coachella Valley (Palm Springs area) have welcomed them.

Each of these unique communities attracted these important people and gained their prominence from the coming of the “Iron Horse.” As *Wikipedia* reports, “The early development and settlement of the New Jersey coast was strongly influenced by railroad access. Land speculators also played a big role in drawing people to the coast. Development typically took the form of the beginnings of a resort or planned community, which was a way of encouraging people to buy property. Yet the speculators’ efforts would be fruitless if people could not easily reach these areas. The key was to have railroad access.”

According to a New Jersey historical report in *Discover Seaside Heights*, the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad Company (R&DB), was the first chartered to construct a railroad from the Raritan Bay to Cape Island (Cape May), near the outlet of the Delaware Bay

While calls to create the transcontinental railroad began as early as 1845, all efforts failed until the Civil War-era Congress, and President Abraham Lincoln – a former railroad lawyer -- approved The Pacific Railway Act on July 1, 1862. This act provided Federal government support for the building of the first transcontinental railroad.

The Pacific Railroad Act chartered the Central Pacific to build east from Sacramento and the Union Pacific Railroad Companies to build west from the Missouri River, linking the United States from east to west.

The two lines of track would meet in the middle and each company would receive 6,400 acres of land (later doubled to 12,800) and \$48,000 in government bonds for every mile of track built. From the beginning, then, the building of the transcontinental railroad was set up in terms of a competition between the two companies.

As an aside, before the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, it cost nearly \$1,000 dollars to travel across the country. After the railroad was completed, the price dropped to \$150 dollars.

Trains that ran from the east coast to Sacramento began running in 1869. The first transcontinental passengers arrived at Alameda Wharf on September 6, 1869, where they transferred to the steamer Alameda which carried them across the Bay to San Francisco.²

With the transcontinental railroad operational, passengers could cross the country in reasonable comfort to San Francisco, California, in approximately seven or eight days in 1869. In 1871, a train from San Francisco to Los Angeles began operating. By 1873 the train from Los Angeles to Spadra, California, (Pomona) was operating and by 1875 it reached Colton, a short distance from the city of Riverside.

As people travelled by train they were exposed to published advertisements, such as those for the Glenwood Hotel in Riverside, extolling the wonders of California. The Glenwood was the predecessor to the Mission Inn in Riverside. The ease of travel to California, the temperate climate, and the growing population and business centers began attracting tourists and businessmen. Where rail service to New Jersey's seashore had previously attracted U. S. Presidents, future, sitting and past, to Cape May and Long Branch, the lure of the Riverside area of California communities now enticed those important people to go there.

The following is a list of Presidents who came to Riverside city or county before, during, and after their term in office. It is chronological, based upon the date of their first documented or recognized visit to the Riverside area, not their term in office.

WILLIAM McKINLEY
(May 17 – May 19, 1881)

The first future President to come to the Riverside area of California was Congressman William A. McKinley. An Ohio Congressman, McKinley had two brothers, David and James, living in San Francisco. As a Congressman and member of the important Ways and Means Committee, he had procured an important U. S. government appointment as Consul to Hawaii territory for his brother, David. The Congressman, his wife, Ida, and his sister Ana, arrived in San Francisco on April 30, 1881 to visit his brothers before David left for Hawaii.

We do not know why the Congressman, his wife, and sister came from San Francisco to the City of Riverside, but we know that they checked into Frank Miller's Glenwood Hotel on May 17 and stayed until May 19, 1881. Ida McKinley, the Congressman's wife, suffered from Phlebitis and epileptic seizures which shattered her health; and even before 1876, she was a confirmed invalid. Congressman McKinley constantly stayed by her side to monitor her for impending seizures.

Coincidentally, Frank Miller and his wife went to San Francisco on May 7 to catch an eastbound train going to Wisconsin. While McKinley and Miller were not acquainted in 1881, we can conjecture – but cannot document – that McKinley and Miller might have met in San Francisco, and Miller might have encouraged the Congressman to visit Riverside for his wife's health. When the McKinleys arrived at the Glenwood, Frank's sister Alice was managing the hotel and welcomed him. We do know that Miller, as a Riverside Republican leader, did meet Congressman McKinley before he ran for President in 1896. Frank was his staunch supporter who travelled to Ohio to meet with him and led a strong campaign for him in Riverside, a Republican stronghold.

McKinley was a friend of President James Garfield, the only sitting Congressman ever elected President. After the McKinley threesome left Riverside, returned to Sacramento, and spent time there. He was on the train, returning to his home in Akron, Ohio when he learned that his friend, President Garfield had been shot. Garfield died weeks later.

BENJAMIN HARRISON

(April 23, 1891)

On April 23, 1891, Benjamin Harrison, the first sitting President to visit the City of Riverside, arrived. It was actually a “drive-by” visit with the President in a carriage, one of eleven sightseeing carriages filled with VIPs driven around town.

President Harrison’s speech-making tour in 1891 was, at that time, the longest journey ever undertaken by any President while in office. The 9,232-mile rail trip lasted one month and three days. The trip was partly planned and largely financed by the former Governor of California, Leland Stanford. The pioneer railroad builder had invited the President to his ranch in Palo Alto to discuss a future professorship at the newly-built Stanford University and to participate in the dedication of that institution.

The April 23, 1891 Riverside *Daily Press* newspaper reported, “This afternoon at 3:45 the President of the United States and party will arrive in Riverside, and remain one hour. Extensive preparations have been made to receive him, and thousands of people are lining the streets along which the procession will pass. At the high school building some 1200 school children are gathered, beside many grown people. This is an event of great importance to Riverside, and the enthusiasm of our people reflects their patriotism and loyalty.”

The party arrived by train and then moved to eleven carriages which congregated at the corner of Main Street and Seventh Street next to the Glenwood Hotel. Among the VIPs riding in the carriages with the President was Riverside’s richest and most important city leader, Samuel. C. Evans (Evans, was a very wealthy major property owner in Riverside (10,000 acres), president of the Riverside Land Company, Director of the Riverside Water Company, President of the Riverside -- Arlington Railroad, and of the Loring Opera House Company. He was also a large stockholder of the Riverside Gas & Electric Light Company).³

Riding in the carriages following the President included California Governor Henry Markham, former governor George C. Perkins, State Senator Henry M. Streeter, Eliza Tibbetts, U. S. Senator Charles Norton Felton, and Glenwood hotel owner Frank Miller. Also in the carriages

were First Lady Caroline Harrison, her secretary and niece Mrs. Dimmick, Russell B. Harrison and his wife, Mary McKee (the President's daughter), Carter B. Harrison (the President's son) and his wife, Postmaster General John Wanamaker, Secretary of Agriculture Jeremiah McClain Rusk, and Marshall Dan Ransdell.

On the street corner next to the Glenwood Hotel, before beginning their tour, Frank Miller's young daughter Allis presented the President with a small bouquet of flowers.

According to the *Press*, "The first place the Presidential party drove was the magnificent 80-acre orange orchard of H. B. Everest. They then drove on Van Buren to Canal to Jackson Street. On Adams Street the party drove through two additional orange groves and thence to Jackson Street and to Magnolia Avenue."

The article goes on to state, "From the upper end of Magnolia Avenue the party drove down Arlington Avenue to the residence of A. P. Johnson, where the party stayed about 15 minutes and watched the packing of oranges. From A. P. Johnson's the party was driven down Jurupa Avenue to Brockton Avenue."

At the high school building were congregated about one thousand school children who were students from throughout the county and fully twice that number of men and women.

In front of the school house the President's carriage stopped and he addressed a few words to those assembled which were nearly as follows:

My Dear Friends, I have had a delightful time since my arrival to your beautiful Riverside valley and when I see so many beautiful children before me it makes me wish to see you all grown up as spotless, beautiful and free of weeds as your beautiful orange groves. In homes so full of sunshine I do not see how any of you can help be anything but happy. Our train is late and we shall not have as much time as we would like to pass in your beautiful valley."⁴

After leaving the high school building, the party was driven to Fourteenth Street and lower Main. The *Press* said, "At the corner of Seventh

and Main streets the line was halted and the President arose in his carriage and made a few remarks, thanking the people for the reception he had received at their hands and expressing regret that his time was so limited that he could not tarry longer in our beautiful city.” The presidential party then returned to their waiting train and left.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(May 7-8, 1903 and 1911)

In 1903, Riverside was a major Republican stronghold. Frank Miller was an influential city, county, and Republican leader, and he had rebuilt his hotel, still called the Glenwood, but now beginning its visual transition into the Mission Inn. Theodore Roosevelt, who became President in 1901 upon the assassination of William McKinley, determined to seek election in 1904 and planned a political campaign trip through California.

According to local historian Joan Hall, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, with Miller among the board members, invited Roosevelt to stop in the city. “On January 1, 1903, Riverside’s Chamber of Commerce sent a formal invitation to the President of the United States inviting him to stop in Riverside during his proposed political campaign through Southern California.”¹⁰ Included was an invitation from Frank Miller to officiate at the opening of the newly-rebuilt Glenwood Hotel and to replant one of the two recognized “original” Navel orange trees credited with spawning the high value Riverside citrus industry.⁵

On May 7, the *Riverside Press* reported,

“Riverside is very proud tonight to have as its guest, Theodore Roosevelt, the President of the United States.⁶

We should be very glad to welcome Theodore Roosevelt, the man, here, had he never become the nation’s chief executive. For we recognize in him a splendid type of the American citizen; broad minded, capable, honest – a man who has done his duty bravely and will in civil and military life and who has enriched our historical and political literature with some excellent work.⁶

But we are especially proud to welcome Theodore Roosevelt, President, for we recognize that he is giving the country a characteristically American administration, one that is honored at home and respected abroad. And we hope that the firm hand of Roosevelt will stay on the rudder of the ship of state until 1909.”⁶

President Roosevelt was accompanied by a large party of major political figures including Governor George Pardee. They detrained at Pachappa Station.⁶

Theodore Roosevelt’s tour of the city of Riverside, his stay at the Mission Inn and speech, are described in vivid detail by the Riverside *Daily Press* newspaper. The party went out to the Rumsey place through to the Irving place and around Hawarden Drive back to Victoria Avenue.

At the head of Victoria Avenue, a magnificent palm had been put in position and the President formally christened it in memory of the beloved Queen Victoria. After a city parade, a formal dinner was held at the Glenwood Hotel and the President slept in the “Presidential Suite.”

Early the next morning, President Roosevelt replanted the orange tree in the public yard at the Glenwood Hotel before he and his party returned to the railroad to continue their western campaign tour.

According to Joan Hall, in 1911, former President Roosevelt passed through Riverside again on a train from Phoenix, Arizona to Los Angeles. Among the few people who knew he was on the train was Frank Miller who took him a small basket of oranges from the tree Roosevelt had replanted.⁷

“This is the first time I have eaten from a tree I planted myself,” said Roosevelt, smiling. He expressed pleasure at being back in Southern California again, and reiterated his interest in Riverside and a desire to visit the city again.⁷

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

(October 12, 1909)

The next sitting president to visit the City of Riverside was William Howard Taft, successor to Theodore Roosevelt. In October, 1909, Taft was

making a western tour, somewhat following in the footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt. Taft, a Republican, agreed to come to the City of Riverside at the invitation of Frank Miller to unveil a tablet on Mount Rubidoux, dedicated to Father Junipero Serra, founder of the California missions.

On October 12, 1909, the Riverside *Daily Press* published Taft's agenda for his time in Riverside. They reported that Taft was scheduled to reach the Riverside County line at 4:10 p.m. by passing through the "welcoming arch" and he would be greeted by Highgrove school children. Taft was scheduled to arrive in Riverside at 4:30, entering on Seventh Street and greeting school children assembled on Seventh Street between Orange and Lemon Streets. He would then be driven to the summit of Mt. Rubidoux where he would unveil the tablet to Father Serra.

The President's motorcade would then pass along Eighth Street to Main Street, reaching Victoria Bridge at 5:10 p.m., then arrive at Sherman Institute at 5:30 p.m. and return to the Glenwood Mission Inn at 6:05 p.m.

The Riverside *Press* reported, "A feature that will touch the heart of the President will be the greeting in the Glenwood court of the (members of the) Grand Army men, who have been invited to assemble there and greet the nation's chief executive upon his return from his drive. No others will be allowed in the courtyard at that time."⁸

A formal evening dinner was held at the Glenwood Mission Inn at 7 p.m. which included the notorious Taft chair still on display in the Mission Inn. While in office, President Taft, who was 5'11 inches, reportedly weighed 330 to 350 pounds. (Allegations he became stuck in a White House bathtub have never been confirmed. Researchers say this was first reported in 1932, after Taft's death). Miller had furnished his hotel with stylish – but, in Miller's opinion, light weight -- furniture and he was fearful it could collapse under Taft's weight. He commissioned a special chair to be built for Taft. Taft allegedly was somewhat offended by the chair's size. He did agree to sit in it at the dinner, but refused to be photographed in it. Miller reportedly offered to donate the chair to the White house but Taft turned it down.

Taft did not sleep in Riverside, but he did spend a number of hours. And, he did use the Presidential Suite to freshen up and rest before the formal dinner. The Presidential party left by train for Colton at 9:30 p.m.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

(August 25, 1920 et al)

The next president to make a whistle-stop visit to the City of Riverside was Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR). His first whistle-stop in Riverside was August 25, 1920, after he was nominated for Vice President at the San Francisco Democratic convention.

Under the headline "ROOSEVELT IS TO VISIT CITY," a reporter for the Riverside *Press* wrote:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, democratic candidate for vice president will be in Riverside today. He will arrive on the eastbound Salt Lake Train from Los Angeles, at 10:25 and possibly say a few words if there are enough Riversiders at the station to warrant it. His private car will be on the front section of the train, Salt Lake Officials said.⁹

Local democrats plan to be on hand to welcome the former Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and to extend greetings and best wishes. No formal program has been arranged as Mr. Roosevelt's time in this city will be limited to the brief period during which his train stops. K. D. Harger, S. W. Tate, E. M. Gifford, and other dyed-in-the-wool Democrats last night said they expect to greet the vice presidential candidate today, and expressed the hope that all interested Riverside citizens also would be on the scene.⁹

In September, 1921, it was announced that FDR would attend a banking meeting in Riverside from October 3 to 7, 1921. The Riverside *Enterprise* newspaper reported FDR had reservations at the Alexandria Hotel.¹⁰ FDR did not attend. What was not reported, locally, is that in August, 1921, FDR, while vacationing at Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, had suffered a severe attack of poliomyelitis resulting in total paralysis of both legs to the hips.¹¹

Another documented train whistle-stop visit occurred on October 1, 1935, when President FDR was coming from a Boulder Dam speech

and his train stopped in Riverside at 5:35 a.m. for three minutes. He was on his way to make campaign addresses in Los Angeles. He probably slept through the stop.

There are additional on-line articles suggesting that FDR made other assorted visits at various locations throughout Riverside County in the 1930s and 1940s before he died. One report said he was a friend of millionaire Floyd Odlum and his wife, famed aviatrix Jacqueline Cochran, and he visited at the Cochran-Odlum ranch in Indio, California. Another report said he purchased property near that ranch for future development. Another report said he visited in Palm Springs. However, no actual documentation shows he visited these locations.

HERBERT HOOVER

(March 19, 1922 & March 19, 1939)

The next President to come to the City of Riverside was Herbert Hoover, who made a special train stop for breakfast at the Glenwood Mission Inn on March 19, 1922. From March 15 – 17, 1922, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover attended a business conference in Phoenix. He then traveled through San Bernardino on the way to a meeting in the Imperial Valley. The press reported his train was delayed near San Bernardino and his friend, Frank A. Miller, had him and his party driven to the Glenwood Mission Inn hotel for breakfast.

The train “delay” was not accidental. Hoover and Miller had been friends for many years and Miller undoubtedly urged Hoover to “delay” the private train and bring his travelling party to the hotel for breakfast. Miller’s brother Ed owned a car rental garage affiliated with the hotel. Frank arranged for locally-based Republican leaders and businessmen to take cars from the garage, drive to the train, and transport the President’s party to the hotel for breakfast. After the meal they were transported back to the train to continue their trip.

While it is believed that Hoover visited the Riverside area socially on occasion, it is not documented. Mrs. Edna Heald McCoy, editor of the *Elsinore Leader-Press*, was Hoover’s supportive cousin. We do have a stated report that Hoover visited the Desert Inn in Palm Springs or the

historic La Quinta Inn in La Quinta, near Palm Springs, in 1936, but it was not publically documented.¹³

Coincidentally, on March 19, 1939, Hoover, as the former President, returned to the Mission Inn.¹² The report states he called a Republican leadership luncheon to discuss the upcoming 1940 election and who should be nominated. It was one of many strategy meetings he called around the country. (Some people believe he called the meetings hoping the Republicans would re-nominate him for the office he lost in 1932). One subject discussed was who the Democrats would nominate now that FDR had finished his two terms and was expected to step down.

RONALD REAGAN (January 26, 1940 et al.)

President Ronald Reagan was a frequent visitor to Riverside city and county. He was an Iowa-based radio announcer for the Chicago Cubs baseball team, traveling for spring training with the Cubs in California, when he took a screen test in 1937. That led to a seven-year actor's contract with Warner Brothers studios. His first recorded involvement within Riverside County was the entire week beginning January 26, 1940, when he honeymooned in the Palm Springs area with his bride, Jane Wyman. They divorced in 1948.

It was his next and final wedding, on March 4, 1952, that brought him back to the City of Riverside. He married Nancy Davis in the Little Brown Church in the San Fernando Valley, and then the couple drove, on a rainy night, to the Mission Inn to spend their wedding night. They left the next morning. When asked in 2013 if she remembered what suite they used, she told the author she could not remember, but she "remembered the Inn fondly, and that she and her husband enjoyed their stay very much."

In her 1980 autobiography, *Nancy*, Mrs. Reagan wrote, "The manager had placed a beautiful bouquet of roses in the bridal suite. The next morning before we left, we delivered them to an elderly woman across the hall we had learned was quite ill. It somehow seemed fitting to share our happiness."

Years before he was elected President, the Reagans visited friend William A. Wilson's ranch on the Santa Rosa Plateau near Temecula in the mid-1960s.

A few years later, the Reagans purchased 771 acres in the Temecula area in Riverside County supposedly for a retirement ranch. But the Reagans sold that property several years later and instead established their famous ranch in Santa Barbara.

While governor in the late 1960s, Ronald Reagan began his tradition of spending New Year's Eve at the late Walter Annenberg's posh estate, called Sunnylands, in Rancho Mirage. The visits continued throughout his presidency.

Walter Annenberg, former Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and his wife Lenore, former Secretary of Protocol for President Reagan, built their beautiful estate in Rancho Mirage. For thirty years, President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan spent the New Year's week at Sunnylands, as the Annenbergs named their estate.

RICHARD NIXON

(June 21, 1940, et al.)

Richard and Thelma Catherine "Pat" Nixon were married in front of the fireplace in the Mission Inn's former Presidential Suite on June 21, 1940. By 1940, hotel management had made strategic decisions changing the purposes of certain rooms. The Presidential Suite, used by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft, had been reclassified as a conference room used for meetings and other activities. Although Nixon was a Quaker, the wedding ceremony was not a Friends ceremony.

A press report running the day after Nixon's death stated, "There is no dispute about the former President's religion. But no less an authority than his brother, Don -- who was at the wedding -- said Richard and Pat Nixon, were married not in a Quaker ceremony, but in a simple Protestant one performed by Dr. William A. Mendenhall (who) was President of Richard Nixon's alma mater, Whittier College -- a Quaker school."¹⁴

They had a non-alcoholic post wedding reception in the Spanish Art Gallery. They scheduled a camping trip for their honeymoon. It was

reported that during the reception, friends sneaked to their car, found their stored canned food for the trip, and removed all the labels off the food cans.

The selection of the Mission Inn was not a surprising location. Richard Nixon's family lived in Whittier and he had an aunt and uncle living in Riverside. Although it is not documented that he met Frank Miller, Nixon reportedly played often on the Mission Inn grounds as a child. One story, which was discredited, was that Richard and Pat were staying in a major Mission Inn hotel suite when he was asked to run for Vice President by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

After losing the presidency in 1960, he returned to California to run for Governor. While campaigning, he had a number of experiences in the city and county. "On May 14, 1962, the former Vice President unveiled a memorial plaque dedicated to Mission Inn founder Frank Miller at Riverside's Rose Garden Village (now part of the California Baptist University campus housing). In 1962, he described the senior citizen community as a "great monument" to the Miller family.

Nixon was elected President in 1968, and in 1969, he purchased an ocean side home in San Clemente which he designated the "Western White House." In November, 1970, the Nixon family was staying in the Western White house when he decided to visit his aunt in a Riverside city convalescent home.

On November 2, 1970 he and his daughter, Trish, took a helicopter from the Western White House to Riverside Airport. They had to motorcade east on Arlington Avenue and a short distance from the airport entrance was a large empty field at the corner of Adams Street and Arlington Avenue. Visible from the field was Adams Elementary school and students from that school were taken to the field to cheer and wave to the President. He stopped the motorcade to wave to the children and shake hands with teachers. They then went on to visit his aunt before flying back to the Western White House.

On November 27, 1971, Nixon went to Rancho Mirage, in the Coachella Valley, to dedicate the Eisenhower Medical Center, named in honor of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had lived part time in the Coachella Valley during his retirement.

Wealthy publisher Walter Annenberg and his wife Lenore had built Sunnylands, a large, beautiful estate in Rancho Mirage, and Nixon, as a friend, was encouraged to visit. He wrote at least one State of the Union speech there.

On September 7, and 8, 1974, one month after he resigned from the Presidency and moved to the Western White House, Nixon was staying at Sunnylands, when President Gerald Ford pardoned him.

JOHN F. KENNEDY
(December 9-14, 1940, et al.)

John F. Kennedy attended an international peace conference at the Mission Inn during the week of December 9 to 14, 1940. Frank Miller, founder of the Mission Inn, was an internationally-known pacifist who sponsored peace conferences annually from 1928. The peace conferences continued at the hotel, even after Miller's death in 1935.

JFK's father, Joseph Kennedy, was FDR's appointee as U. S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James in England from March 8, 1938 to October 22, 1940. He was outspoken that the U. S. should avoid the war in Europe. He learned of the Mission Inn peace conference and asked JFK, who was taking post-graduate classes at Stanford University, to attend. JFK, already a published author of the bestseller *Why England Slept*, was welcomed and asked to take notes for the Institute of World Affairs conference. (Those notes are still held at the Mission Inn).

On November 1, 1959, Senator JFK, testing the presidential political waters, returned to the Mission Inn to hold a press conference in the Spanish Art Gallery. JFK flew into Riverside Municipal Airport from San Diego at 11:30 a.m. on November 1, 1959 in his rented plane. He was met and accompanied by Marian Saund, the wife of California Congressman Dalip Singh. Saund and other prominent local Democrats went immediately to the Mission Inn's Spanish Art Gallery for the press conference. (Congressman Saund was scheduled to host JFK for his short stay in Riverside but was instead hospitalized at March Air Force Base for "physical exhaustion." A *Press-Enterprise* photo of JFK attending the scheduled one-hour press conference was published November 2.

JFK then went to Arnold Heights School, near March Air Force Base, for a barbeque and to make a 20-minute speech to Democratic leaders and honor Representative Saund, the first (and still only) India-born Indian-American congressman. He went to the base hospital for a photo-op with convalescing Congressman Saund. He left Riverside about 3:30 p.m. when he took a helicopter to Disneyland for another public appearance.

As President, he flew to Palm Springs on Friday, March 23, 1962, accompanied by his brother Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. and went to actor/singer Bing Crosby's home in the Silver Spur Ranch area for a weekend retreat.

The next day, "The Chief Executive drove the four miles to former President Ike Eisenhower's California-style stone and wood residence, at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells, from his weekend retreat." According to a March 25, 1962, Associated Press story, "President Kennedy and former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, chatted in the pleasant setting of Ike's country cottage, discussing international affairs for the greater part of an hour Saturday morning."

This was the infamous weekend JFK and Marilyn Monroe allegedly had their one-time illicit meeting. (One report said Jackie Kennedy was in Palm Springs but she was actually visiting Afghanistan). JFK was a guest at Bing Crosby's Palm Springs home, and Marilyn Monroe was one of a select few invited to stay that weekend.¹⁶ Bing Crosby was not there.

Marilyn's masseur, Ralph Roberts, said that she telephoned him that Sunday. Her "friend" was suffering from back pain and needed advice. "A moment later," Roberts told Anthony Summers, "I was listening to those famous Boston accents. I told him about the muscles, and he thanked me. Of course, I didn't reveal that I knew who he was, and he didn't say." Returning home, Marilyn confirmed that her "friend" was indeed Jack Kennedy. "I think I made his back feel better," she added, mischievously.¹⁶

Ralph Roberts later told Donald Spoto, "Of course she was titillated beyond belief, because for a year JFK had been trying, through Peter Lawford, to have an evening with her. A great many people thought, after that weekend, that there was more to it. But Marilyn gave me the impression that it was not a major event for either of them: it happened once, that weekend, and that was it."¹⁶

Reportedly after the visit JFK wrote a thank you letter to Crosby, remarking on the “most pleasant and restful” stay he had “for a long time.”

The JFK Presidential Library has his calendar showing that he returned to Palm Springs on December 8, 1962. He was on a three-day Western states speaking tour inspecting defense facilities. He again stayed at Bing Crosby’s house. Although security guards reported young, attractive women were seen on Crosby’s property, none were named. On Sunday, December 9, the President went to church at Sacred Heart Church. For the rest of the day President Kennedy rested and relaxed at Crosby’s home. After midnight, the President flew to Washington, D. C.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER

(February 17-24, 1954; Winter, 1961 et al.)

It has been suggested that the President who made Palm Springs, Coachella Valley and surrounding communities the modern “Playground of the Presidents” is Dwight Eisenhower.

Frank Bogert, former Mayor of Palm Springs, in his published history of Palm Springs, wrote,

“Nothing equaled the furor of President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s arrival in February, 1954. Over two thousand people were on hand to greet Ike and his wife Mamie.¹⁷

The President arrived at 9:30 p.m. to be met by Governor Goodwin Knight, Paul Helms, Paul Hoffman and Mayor Florian Boyd. Crowds lined the streets as the presidential procession proceeded to the Smoke Tree Ranch, [which] became the Western White House. By 8 a.m. the next morning, President Eisenhower, Ben Hogan, Paul Helms and Paul Hoffman teed off at Tamarisk Country Club.²⁵

During his visit, the El Mirador Hotel housed all the press and security people. The whole village turned out to entertain the press and anyone else connected with the presidential party. The seven days brought more world recognition to Palm Springs than it had ever received before.¹⁷

Muckraking writer Ray Mungo, in his book *Palm Springs Babylon*, reported the allegation that Mamie Eisenhower was a notoriously heavy drinker, writing, "February 17 to 24 1954, brought President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his always unsteady wife Mamie to Palm Springs for a little golf and winter sunshine." Eisenhower's trip coincided with the infancy of television and images of the desert hideaway were sent into every American home. On the president's return to Washington D. C., he signed the Equalization Bill, which finalized the Agua Caliente Indians' land allotments.

President Eisenhower had been friends with noted aviatrix Jackie Cochran since the Second World War. She and her wealthy husband Floyd Odlum owned a large ranch in Indio. Eisenhower spoke fondly of the Celebrity House, (at Jackie Cochran's Indio Ranch) back then known as the Ranch House, ". . . as the only place I ever had complete privacy." Ike said he wrote his memoirs there.

On January 20, 1961 President Eisenhower retired to his small farm outside Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. During that same winter, he and Mamie also leased a warm weather retirement home -- his winter home -- at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells. In retirement he did not retreat from political life. As an elder statesman, he remained active politically, and his successors, JFK and Lyndon Johnson both came to him for advice and counsel.

As reported above, on Saturday, March 24, 1962, John F. Kennedy met with President Eisenhower at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells. A March 25, 1962, *Associated Press* story reports, "President Kennedy and former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, chatted in the pleasant setting of a country cottage, discussing international affairs for the greater part of an hour Saturday."

In 1966, a territorial question of the Chamizal land on the Texas border was settled at a meeting of Adolpho Lopez Mateo, President of Mexico, and U. S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. Former president Dwight D. Eisenhower, wintering at Eldorado Country Club at the time, conferred with the presidents.

During his administration, Lyndon Johnson and former president Eisenhower also jointly paid a visit to Jackie Cochran and Floyd Odium's

Indio farm. Odlum and Cochran, who were Republicans, presented an eight inch Stueben donkey to Democratic President Johnson. This Stueben donkey, on display at the Johnson Library since 1971, holds a place of honor in the center of a second floor display case.

HARRY TRUMAN

(April 5, 1959)

On April 5, 1959, former president Harry Truman arrived (apparently by private airplane) for a visit at the home of his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Regan at Palm Springs, California. Harry Truman stayed at Phil Regan's Palm Springs estate on the southeast corner of Via Miraleste and Tamarisk Road in Palm Springs.

There were other reports that Truman was a regular visitor to Palm Springs in the 1940s and 1950s, but no specific documentation was discovered. Frank M. Bogert wrote "President Harry S. Truman also spent considerable time in the desert during this period (1940s – 1950s) staying at the home of Phil Regan on Tamarisk Road."

Writer John Howard reported, "Irish singer, Democratic fundraiser, and property developer Phil Regan and his wife, Josephine Dwyer, who had been Palm Springs socialites since his arrival in 1934, bought Harry Hanbury's former home. The mansion became a meeting place for such prominent political figures as President Harry Truman, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty and Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown."¹⁸

Ray Mungo in *Palm Springs Babylon* reported, "... Harry Truman once left the Racquet Club (of Palm Springs) in a fit of rage because he'd been spotted by the press indulging in some elbow bending exercises..."¹⁹

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

(February 20, 1964, et al.)

On February 20, 1964, Palm Springs was the scene of a major international event. President Lyndon Johnson had chosen the city for a meeting with Mexico's President Adolfo Lopez Mateo to resolve a long-

standing dispute over a piece of land on the Texas-Mexico border called Chamizal. Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, living at the Eldorado Country Club at the time, also met with the visiting presidents.

Wealthy oilman Louis Taubmans loaned his palatial split-level four-bedroom Palm Springs home at 925 Coronado Avenue for President Johnson's visit. The entourage consisted of the President, his wife Lady Bird, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and his wife, and a contingent from the State Department.²⁰

President Lopez Mateo had a similar retinue from Mexico. The airport and the entire city were decorated with the flags of both countries. On hand to greet the presidents were two hundred white-costumed Mexicali residents.

Sitting President Lyndon Baines Johnson came to the City of Riverside to campaign for election in his own right. On October 28, 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson, campaigning for the presidency, spoke at 4:27 p.m. at the Riverside County Courthouse, in Riverside, California. During the course of his remarks, he referred to Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, newly-appointed Democratic senator Pierre E. G. Salinger, and John V. Tunney, Democratic candidate for Representative, all of California. He was introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy.

GERALD FORD

(January 20, 1977 et al.)

According to former Palm Springs Mayor Frank Bogert, "President Gerald Ford had visited Palm Springs during his term of Vice President. When his term of office as President expired in 1977, he returned to build a home next to Ambassador Leonard Firestone's house at Thunderbird Country Club (in Rancho Mirage). The Fords have been very active in all valley events, appearing at groundbreaking, hotel openings and charitable balls. The President has played in all major golf tournaments. Mrs. Ford brings considerable recognition to the valley through her alcohol and drug treatment center, (at Eisenhower Medical Center) in Rancho Mirage."²¹

According to a December 26, 2006 Palm Springs *Desert Sun* obituary written by Bruce Fessier, "Gerald Ford, an avid golfer, first rented a vacation

home in the Coachella Valley in the late 1960s. He dedicated the building that is now Palm Canyon Theatre in Palm Springs while Vice President and spent Easters in the desert as President.²²

Leonard Firestone, Ford's ambassador to Belgium from 1974 to 1976, and Walter Annenberg, a Nixon ambassador who welcomed Ford to his Rancho Mirage home in the '60s, introduced the Fords to the area.

Ford assistant Lee Simmons, an Air Force One attendant on the first couple's visits to Palm Springs in 1975 and '76, said the Fords considered moving from the White House to Florida, Palm Springs or Monterey - all prime golfing spots. They decided on the desert because Ford had many friends in the area and the dry climate seemed good for Betty Ford's arthritis. Ford's son, Steven, described the move, stating "We kids were gone, doing our own thing. My folks had vacationed in Palm Springs and loved the warm weather. Mom had pinched nerves in her neck, and warm weather made it feel a lot better. Dad liked playing golf and already had a lot of friends who lived there."²²

On January 20, 1976, former President Gerry Ford left Washington D. C., in defeat on Air Force One and was met at the Palm Springs Regional Airport five hours later as a heroic new neighbor, the man who had healed the nation.²²

According to Fessier's, *Desert Sun* obituary, industrialist Leonard Firestone gave Ford the land for his home and office in Thunderbird Country Club. He and Annenberg enlisted the Fords in their support for building the Eisenhower Medical Center (hospital), and Firestone attended St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert with the Fords.

"Ford responded by becoming an important mover and shaker in the Coachella Valley, stimulating participation in local nonprofit organizations and guiding charity boards on straight and narrow courses."²²

"He was one of the big three," said former *Desert Sun* society editor Allene Arthur of the charity icons of the 1970s, '80s and '90s. "It was Sinatra, Ford and Bob Hope. He was desert royalty."

Betty Ford was active in various charitable groups. After overcoming her own medical addiction, she started the internationally famous Betty Ford Center for Substance Abuse in Rancho Mirage, considered a leader in drug rehabilitation, known all over the world.

Bogart notes, "The 'Playground of Presidents' title still holds true for the Coachella Valley. In 1995 former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Gerald Ford as well as (sitting) President Bill Clinton enjoyed golf at Indian Wells Country Club, playing in the Bob Hope Open."²³

Ray Mungo, in his unique style, described the coming of the Fords by saying, "...it remained for Jerry and Betty Ford to make the kind of impression on (Palm Springs) that Ike and Mamie had, and for somewhat similar reasons. Betty was so strung out on booze and drugs that her family staged an intervention, which led to her hospitalization and recovery and the subsequent founding of the Betty Ford Center, dedicated October 3, 1982 at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage. Whereas Mamie was widely suspected to be a drunk but managed to keep it under wraps, Betty copped to it publically and enhanced her own fame with books and speaking engagements on the new industry of helping people get off the sauce."²⁴

Although Ford lived in the Coachella Valley for more than twenty-nine years and was very active in that community, the only time he can be documented appearing publicly in the City of Riverside was on March 20, 1998, when he attended a fund raiser at the Mission Inn for Mary Bono, who was running for Congress. The hotel has his portrait on the wall to commemorate his visit.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH

(March 2-3, 1990)

On March 2-3, 1990, sitting President George H. W. Bush (Bush 41) stayed at the Annenberg estate in Rancho Mirage for two days while he hosted trade meetings, a formal dinner, and working lunch with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. (This is not the infamous dinner where President Bush threw up on the Japanese Prime Minister. That occurred later at a meeting in Japan).

While at Sunnylands in 1990, Bush did not play golf. He successfully fished in one of the eleven lakes on the estate property.²⁵ He did return to Palm Springs in 1995 to play in a golf tournament with sitting President Bill Clinton and past President Gerald Ford.

As Bogart wrote, “The ‘Playground of Presidents’ title still holds true for the Coachella Valley. In 1995 former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Gerald Ford as well as (sitting) President Bill Clinton enjoy golf at Indian Wells Country Club.”²⁶

WILLIAM (Bill) CLINTON

(February 14, 1995 et al.)

Another avid golfer, Bill Clinton accepted an invitation to stay at Annenberg’s Sunnylands on February 14, 1995. On February 15, he played in the Bob Hope Classic Golf Tournament with past Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush.

It was reported by the *Golf History Today* website that, “On this day in 1995 during the Bob Hope Classic at Indian Wells Country Club this Presidential pairing teed off on what would be a memorable day. The first foursome teeing off consisted of (sitting) President Bill Clinton, past President Gerald Ford, past President George H. W. Bush, and Tour Pro Steve Hoch. It would mark the first time a sitting president would participate in an active PGA Tour Event that counted for the professionals.”

Clinton continued to return to the Palm Springs area to play golf and for a few years he and the Clinton Foundation were actively involved with revitalizing the former Bob Hope Classic. Asked a couple of years ago how close the tournament was to going under, PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said, “Pretty close.”²⁷

“That changed in 2012. The forty-second President of the United States and his Clinton Foundation got involved, health care company Humana was signed as the title sponsor, and the tournament’s trajectory began climbing upward. More (though hardly all) of the best players returned to the desert, some personally cajoled by Clinton, and ticket sales and sponsorships trended upward as well.” Clinton – possibly because of the 2016 presidential campaign -- has now halted that relationship.

George W. Bush

(September 29, 1999, et al.)

On September 29, 1999, President George W. Bush (Bush 43), beginning his first campaign for the presidency, came to the Mission Inn seeking campaign donations from owner Duane Roberts, Bush returned to the hotel on October 15, 2003, to again visit Duane Roberts and meet with newly-elected California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. President Bush stayed in the then recently completed “Keeper of the Inn Suite,” which has approximately 1,765 square feet of space, and Schwarzenegger stayed in the Amistad Suite, also known as both the Anne Rice Suite and the Bridal Suite, which by contrast has approximately 770 square feet. A portrait of George W. Bush hangs on the wall of Presidents Portraits at the Mission Inn hotel.

On April 23, 2006, Bush came to the Coachella Valley area where he had lunch and spent time visiting with Marine and Navy families inside the mess hall at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California. He then went to Gerald Ford’s home to visit with the former President and Betty Ford.

BARACK OBAMA

(June 7 & 8, 2013, et al.)

President Barack Obama has been a recurring visitor to the Coachella Valley’s Playground of the Presidents. An avid golfer, President Obama discovered the many challenging championship golf courses in the Palm Springs area when he first came on June 7 & 8, 2013 for an unusual but informal summit with China’s President Xi Jinping at the Sunnylands estate in Rancho Mirage. Xi Jinping only months earlier had been installed as China’s leader.

Obama’s second trip was a return to Sunnylands on February 14, 2014, for a summit with King Abdullah II of Jordan, an important Middle Eastern ally. President Obama spent that Presidents Day weekend in Rancho Mirage, where he stayed at the home of his interior decorator, Michael Smith, and Smith’s partner, James Costos, who was Obama’s

appointed U. S. Ambassador to Spain. President Obama also played golf at a nearby exclusive private estate.

His third trip, beginning June 13, 2014, found President Obama returning to spend Father's Day weekend with First Lady Michelle Obama and daughter Malia at a private home in Rancho Mirage. As he has before, President Obama stayed at the home of his interior decorator, Michael Smith, and Smith's partner, James Costos.

This visit sparked rumors that the Obamas were house shopping and were considering a \$4.2 million, 8,200 square foot home owned by author and former police officer Joseph Wambaugh in the affluent Thunderbird Heights community in Rancho Mirage. The rumor was eventually squelched and President Obama has since announced that he and Michelle will stay in the Washington D. C. area at least for the first year after leaving office. His youngest daughter, Sasha still has one year of high school to finish.

His fourth trip was on the weekend of February 14, 2015, when he flew in from meetings and fund raisers in San Francisco for a weekend of golf. This was Obama's second consecutive Valentine's Day in the desert. Michele was not with him. (Some conjectured that Michelle chose to go skiing at Aspen).

His fifth trip was a weekend golf outing on Father's Day weekend June 20-21, 2015. Coming from fund raisers, President Obama landed in Palm Springs just after 11 a.m. Saturday and headed to Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage for golf on that location's unique private course. On Sunday, Father's day, he played golf with three friends at Porcupine Creek, the private estate of billionaire Larry Ellison before returning to Washington D. C. His wife Michelle and daughters were in Europe and did not accompany him.

His sixth trip to the Coachella Valley, on February 12-16, 2016, included a two-day summit meeting with ten leaders of Southeastern Asian nations at Sunnylands combined with golf with friends – but no First Lady.

In years past, President Obama had flown to the annual summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Last fall in Malaysia, he invited the ten member countries to meet at Sunnylands on U. S. soil for the first time to discuss North Korea, China, and trade, among other

issues. It is part of his effort to sharpen the U. S. policy focus on the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region.

When he arrived, President Obama boarded a black SUV and left in a motorcade that promptly drove to Porcupine Creek, Oracle billionaire Larry Ellison's expansive Rancho Mirage estate where President Obama has golfed with friends on previous desert visits. The president golfed with the usual trio of friends he's known since prep school in Hawaii.²⁸

After golfing at Porcupine Creek, his motorcade Friday evening headed to Thunderbird Heights, where he had previously stayed at the home of interior designer Michael Smith and U. S. Ambassador to Spain James Costos.²⁸

While leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia would be seeing Sunnylands for the first time, Obama has increasingly been establishing the estate's tranquil setting as a place to conduct U. S. foreign policy.

Only time will tell if future Presidents will continue to travel to the Riverside County "Playground of the Presidents" to host formal, national, and international conferences, meetings and planning sessions, with attendees playing golf on the championship courses, or fishing in the many lakes and/or whether Sunnylands will continue to attract as a Presidential conference location.

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Journal of the Riverside Historical Society

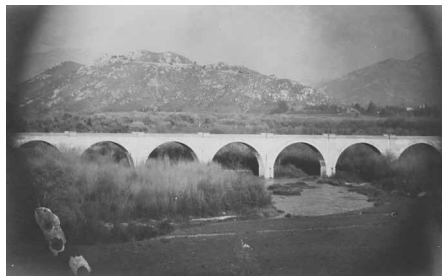
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WHERE?

Where Is It?

In the last issue of the Journal of the Riverside Historical Society (Number 21) there were two photos with the caption “Where is it?” Of all the submissions only Councilman Mike Gardner was able to correctly name both photos. The top photo was the top of the Peace Tower on Mount Rubidoux. The bottom photo showed one section of the Salt Lake Railroad (later Union Pacific) bridge over the Santa Ana River. When built in 1904 it was the longest concrete bridge in the world. Union Pacific trains still rumble over this bridge today.

In this issues, we ask WHERE WAS IT? (See page 55).



A Lake View For The House From Whittier Place

by Nancy L. Cox

A flurry of land sales and building activity occurred along Eighth Street (University Avenue) and the “Whittier Place,” when savvy Annie Whittier, a widow, began selling her holdings in the Whittier Subdivision in 1895. The Riverside *Daily Press* called it the Eighth Street Boom.¹

Bertha and Byron Teale were among the many to purchase two lots side-by-side for \$500. Their lots faced White Park on the Whittier “Place” at the rear of Eighth Street. Byron, a New York native, owned a barber shop on Seventh Avenue (Mission Inn Avenue). W. N. Ford was hired to build a five-room house for Byron and his German wife Bertha for \$900.²

Eighty years later this house would start a new life near a lake 52 miles away! This is the saga of that house.

Annie McKenzie White, a native of Scotland, was a plucky widow from Toronto when she married Dr. Clarke Whittier in Riverside in 1883. The day before their marriage, Dr. Whittier transferred his “sizeable” Riverside holdings to Annie with the understanding that she would have no claim to any land acquisitions or holdings that he might acquire in the U.S. Conversely, Whittier relinquished all claims to any property that Annie had in Toronto.³ This indenture essentially left Annie a land baroness when Dr. Whittier died four years later.

Among the properties she inherited were all the lots in both sections of the Whittier Subdivision and the remaining acreage surrounding City Park (White Park). This property bordered Eighth and Tenth streets, between Market and Chestnut streets.

Prior to his marriage to Annie White, Dr. Whittier had purchased the land from The Riverside Land and Water Co. with S. C. Evans, President, signing the deed.⁴ Whittier promised to drain the swamp on the property and convert it to a park, which he indeed accomplished. The swamp was a result of drainage from the Riverside Lower Canal that ran through the park. Whittier acquired additional property in the purchase that extended

beyond the park. This purchase was known as the Whittier Subdivision on the plat maps and involved 33 acres.⁵

Whittier, a Canadian, was born in Consecon, Ontario, Canada in 1827. In 1880, Whittier traveled to North Carolina and purchased lots there. This was during his marriage to his second wife, Elizabeth Oliver. Elizabeth died in Riverside in October, 1882.⁶



Illustration of Whittier House on Magnolia Avenue. From Wallace Elliott's History of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties.

Whittier had a fine home built on Magnolia Avenue in 1881 before Elizabeth's death. The 1883 illustration of the house appeared in the *History of San Bernardino County*⁷ before Riverside County was established in 1893. Sadly the home burned in 1883 at a loss of \$15,000.⁸

After his marriage to Annie, Dr. Whittier had a large home built on Eighth Street and Almond (Fairmount Avenue) for Annie and her 5-year-old son Wilmot, whom Whittier adopted.⁹ This two-story house was large and is identified in the 1884 photo taken from Mt. Rubidoux, photographer unknown.

Journal of the Riverside Historical Society

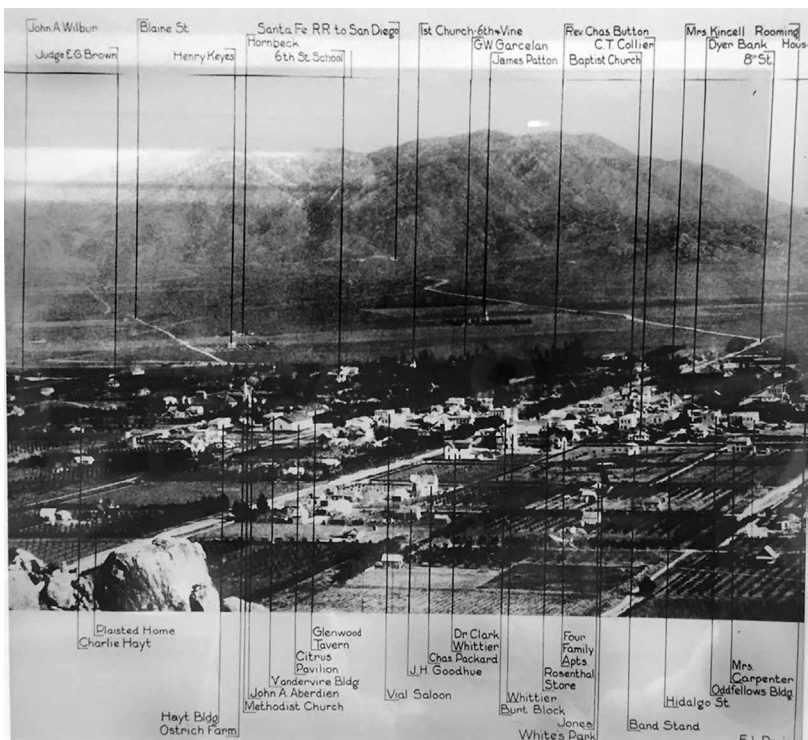


Image taken from Mt. Rubidoux, 1884. Dr. Clarke Whittier House, middle of photo; identification in middle of caption at bottom. (Courtesy of Mission Inn Museum)

Dr. Whittier had established a sanitarium at the corner of Eighth and Market streets in 1884 called Park House. Whittier's sanitarium was not a hospital but a health retreat for clients seeking relief from various breathing maladies and other disorders. The "sanitarium" was never well received.¹⁰

For a few years, Frank A. Miller leased Park House from Whittier prior to Whittier's departure from Riverside. On the 1887 Sanborn Fire Map, the name describing the structure was Glenwood Cottage. However, Park House was listed in the 1889 Directory under the category of Lodging Houses, and Miller was proprietor.¹¹

A year after their marriage, Whittier left Annie, Wilmot, Park House and Riverside when he relocated to North Carolina. There he founded a town that he named Whittier. Much like the manner in which John W. North had founded Riverside in 1870 by advertising in a broadside, Whittier advertised in a newspaper “Homes Without Capital. The Founding of the Town of WHITTIER. Something Unique and New.”¹² The rich soil was touted as bringing the highest prices in the tobacco market and people came to the town named Whittier.

In 1887, Dr. Whittier died in his North Carolina town and was buried on a peaceful prominent knoll overlooking his namesake town. The Clarke Whittier Cemetery is located in Swain County, North Carolina, on the Tuckasegee River.¹³

Whittier left a legacy not only in North Carolina, but also in Riverside where his namesake street, Whittier Place, still borders White Park--the park he helped develop.

Annie not only sold many of her lots on Eighth Street and Whittier Place in 1895 and thereafter, she also had “cottages” and dwellings built for sale on a few of those lots, as well as improving her own house for \$1,400, with W. N. Ford as builder.¹⁴ Additionally, Annie’s selling spree in 1895 included the sale of Park House to David Cochrane and his wife. The Cochranes made additions and renamed it the Holyrood Hotel, a nod to Cochrane’s Scottish heritage. Holyrood was the castle of Mary Queen of Scots.¹⁵ In 1922, Pliny T. Evans acquired the hotel, razed the



Whittier Grave. (Findagrave.com photo).

Holyrood, made additions and renamed it Hotel Plaza.¹⁶ The building carried that name until 2011 when it was removed for the expansion of Riverside City College.

The Teales remained in their Whittier Place home only a few years. By 1900, they had two young sons, George age 3, and Byron Albert, age 1. A bigger house was needed, so they sold the Whittier Place house with the two lots to Mary J. Browning in October of 1900 for \$1800.¹⁷ The Teales then had a six-room cottage built on Walnut Street (Brockton Avenue), not far from Whittier Place. They moved there in April of 1902.¹⁸ This house at 3878 Brockton still stands near Tenth Street.

Mary J. Browning and her cousin James J. Lucas lived together until her death in 1912. Lucas, a printer, inherited the house and having no children of his own sold it in 1914 for \$10 to Grace H. Winter, the daughter of his sister Zillah.¹⁹ Grace resided in Everett, Massachusetts and never resided in the Whittier Place home. However, Lucas continued to occupy the home until his death in 1929 at age 76.²⁰ A series of tenants



*George Lehman at 3961 Whittier Place
(Courtesy of Beverly Lehman Casaga)*

followed until 1945 when Grace H. Winter sold the house to George and Chloe Lehman for \$10.²¹

The Lehmans were transplants from Nebraska via Arizona, with relatives who lived in nearby Long Beach. They had two young daughters—Barbara and Beverly. Chloe Lehman was a schoolteacher and taught fourth grade at Jefferson School in Riverside Unified School District for 25 years until her retirement. George sold hearing aids and insurance.

Beverly Lehman started kindergarten at Grant School in 1948, following her sister Barbara



*Grant School kindergarten 1948 taken by Richard M. Esgate.
Beverly Lehman 2nd row, 4th from right*

who was two years older. Among Beverly's kindergarten classmates were Davis Newman, grandson of Gustav Newman and Mary Emma Miller Newman. Mary E. Newman was the oldest sister of Frank A. Miller, founder of the Mission Inn. Also in the class was Dick Esgate, son of Richard M. Esgate, Riverside's school photographer as well as Frank Hagen, whose family owned Riverside Monument on Cedar Avenue near Evergreen Cemetery. Another kindergartner was Nancy L. Norwood who walked with Beverly after school to play at the Lehman house, later becoming a docent at Evergreen Cemetery with a love for the history of Riverside.

Decades passed and by the mid-1970s, once again Eighth Street (University), the corner of Fairmount Avenue, Chestnut Street and the corner of Brockton Avenue were bustling with activity from bulldozers and steel jaws. This time, however, houses that were built during Annie Whittier's heyday of development were being demolished!

Businesses housed in some of the Victorians and other Victorians that were still residences were cleared away for commercial development in order to build the cornerstone, a new supermarket for downtown Riverside—Safeway.²² Over the years, Safeway became Vons, Jax Apple, and ultimately Maxi Foods, a supermarket specializing in groceries for the Hispanic community.

This Riverside Redevelopment project coincided with a plan that the County Parks Department developed in 1976 to establish a turn-of-the-century rural Southern California village at Lake Skinner.

Lake Skinner was created in 1973. The man-made lake was part of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) system, and was named for Robert A. Skinner. Skinner retired as general manager of the MWD after a 35-year career. The lake and filtration plant were built to serve San Diego and southern Riverside counties.²³ Public recreation at the lake was part of the vision with Riverside County Parks Department in charge of operations. In addition to boating, fishing and camping, the turn-of-the-century village would be an additional tourist attraction at Lake Skinner Park.

Five structures were purchased to be moved to the village including a schoolhouse.²⁴ Like Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, some of the structures in the village would have concessions for sale to bring in more tourist dollars.²⁵ The twenty-acre site would be a living museum. An art gallery, a blacksmith shop, a general store and a vegetable market were planned. Additional plans for the village included “replanting the farms, groves and vineyards that once covered the area around Temecula, Hemet, and San Jacinto. Local volunteers would cultivate the crops as they were in the early 1900s.”²⁶ Also planned was a granary and grist mill where grain grown on the village farm could be ground into flour and baked into bread for the tourists to buy.²⁷

The lake, located 52 miles away from Riverside, is in the southwest part of Riverside County known as Winchester near French Valley. The project was named Auld Village. The namesake of the village was George Auld. Auld was a native of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and left Santa Clara, California, to move south. Auld claimed 320 acres for farming in what was then called Alamos Valley in the 1880s. In 1888, the Post Office Department appointed Auld postmaster. His postal duties were served out

of his home that the Post Office Department had aptly named Auld.²⁸ The area also took the name Auld Valley where Lake Skinner is now.

In Riverside, among the businesses that were demolished for the redevelopment project were Aubrey Real Estate on Eighth Street, the Salvation Army building on the corner of Fairmount Boulevard, and Roy's Gas Station on the corner of Chestnut and Eighth Street. Roy's was a favorite haunt for the Lehman sisters and their friends for buying Cokes and candy bars.



*Roy's gas station in 1952 at 3988 Eighth and Chestnut streets.
(Courtesy of Keith Boyer)*

But, two of the Victorian residences, built in 1898, were rescued from the wrecking ball.

The Victorian pictured on the right belonged to Charlie Lamar. Charlie and George Lehman were best friends and their homes backed up to each other, with an alley running behind their homes. The Lamars were a long-time Riverside family (1902) associated with the Lamar Shoe



Staff Photo Jim Edwards The Enterprise "Bound for Auld Village" 1977²⁹

Store on Main Street in the 1920s and later citrus groves and pest control. Welmer Lamar, a brother of Charlie, was an architect who started as a draftsman for noted Riverside architect Seeley L. Pillar.³⁰

The Victorian pictured on the left was the residence of the family of Carolyn Davis, a schoolmate of the Lehman sisters. Both houses can also be seen in the gas station photo.

The County Parks Department bought the two Victorians from the city, to be transported to Auld Village. The County temporarily moved the two Victorians, both two-story, to the County Parks Administration Center on Crestmore Road in Jurupa Valley until they could be transported to Auld Village. Sadly, the houses sat on stilts too long. Termites ravaged them and they burned down.³¹ However, one other house was rescued from the onslaught of destruction, the small five-room cottage at 3961 Whittier Place, the Lehman House, originally built for the Teales!

The Lehman house was a single story house that was easier to transport than the two-story Victorian houses, thereby avoiding the fate of the termite-ravaged Victorians. The Lehman House arrived at Auld Village in April of 1977,³² a year after the County Board of Supervisors approved the establishment of Auld Village.³³



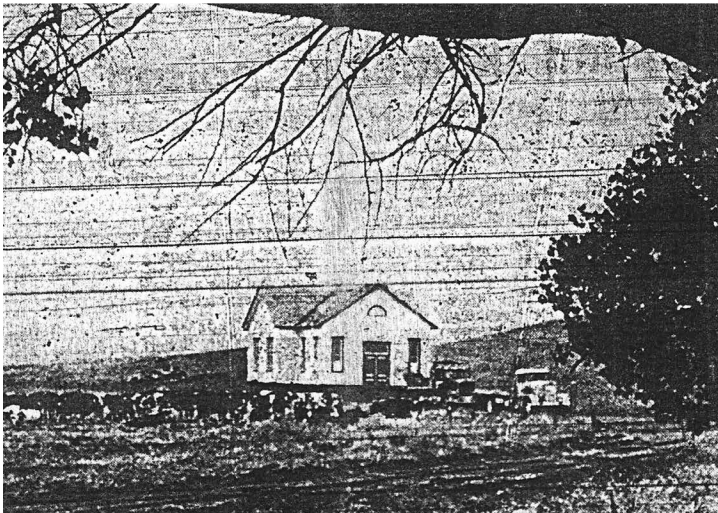
*(Top) Lehman House at
3961 Whittier Place.*

*(Courtesy of Marina Taylor "Shades
Collection" Riverside Public Library)*

*(Right) Lehman House at Lake Skinner.
(Nancy L. Cox Photo, 2014)*



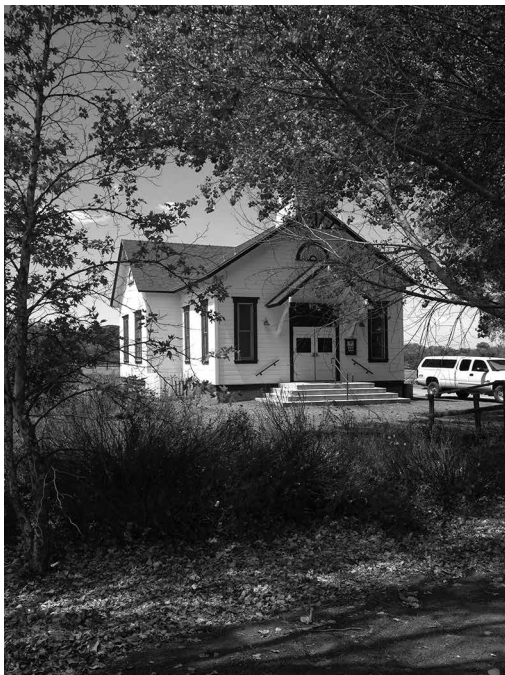
The Lehman House was soon joined by a sister structure, the Alamos Schoolhouse. The name Alamos was taken from the earlier name of the area, Alamos Valley, when it was part of San Diego County. In Spanish, Alamos means Cottonwood.³⁴ The wood-frame school with a belfry was a one-room schoolhouse located on the corner of Benton Road where it intersected Purroy Road in French Valley. Built circa 1900, Alamos School educated many children of the early French settlers in the nearby area during the first decades of the Twentieth Century. Alamos School closed in 1969 when the attendance dropped below 10 students.³⁵ Alamos Schoolhouse was moved to Auld Village in June of 1977. Although the move was only five miles from its final destination at Auld Village, it took two huge trucks to pull the schoolhouse at a cost of \$15,000.³⁶



*“Old Alamos School is moved down road to Auld Village, Lake Skinner.”
(Staff Photo by Bill McKenna, The Press, 1977)*

Sadly, funding evaporated before any more structures could be relocated to Auld Village. The turn-of-the century village never materialized. The concept of a living museum was dead in the water, although visitors to the Lake and the camp grounds exceeded expectations.

The schoolhouse became an Interpretive Center for the Southwest Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (MSR). The MSR provided a large part of the funding to have the school building restored.³⁷ Students were bussed there for field study of the habitat and wildlife indigenous to the area. After many years, the program was discontinued after the loss of revenue from local school districts. However, “Endangered Species Day” and other events are held there as well as class reunions for former students of the school. The Natural Resource Manager operates an interpretive room located inside the schoolhouse with local wildlife and history displays for visitors at Lake Skinner Park.³⁸



Alamos Schoolhouse. (Nancy L. Cox Photo, 2014)

The Lehman House was also repurposed. The house became the office for the Park Rangers of Lake Skinner.

Before Mrs. Lehman’s death in 2004, Barbara Lehman Evans took her 98-year old mother to Lake Skinner to see their family home one last time. When they reached the gate to the Lake, they asked to see the Lehman house. The ranger at the gate told Mrs. Lehman the only house on the grounds was a house called the Whittier House. Mrs. Lehman cried, “Oh no. It’s not called the Whittier House, it’s the Lehman House.”

Hearing this tale, being shared at Mrs. Lehman’s funeral held on what would have been her 99th birthday, inspired a visit in April of 2005 to Auld Village to see the house at its new location. Upon arrival, the gatekeeper again called it the Whittier House. Sporting a coat of bright cadmium



Chloe Lehman. (Author photo)

yellow paint, the house still had all of its delightful millwork and fenestrations. The rangers were welcoming and a closer look inside revealed desks occupying what once was the bedroom of the Lehman sisters. Where the family's piano once stood was another desk. The kitchen was updated, but memories of dying Easter eggs on the kitchen table could still be recalled.



*Beverly and Barbara Lehman circa 1951 at 3961 Whittier Place.
(Courtesy of Beverly Lehman Casaga)*

But the rangers didn't know why it was called the Whittier House. Nor did they know it had been relocated from Riverside. It was easy to understand why it got the moniker of Whittier, having been relocated from Whittier Place. However, it was disappointing that the history of the house was unknown, not even the year it was built. It seemed evident

that a sign was needed to reveal the history of this house, but to do that, it was necessary to begin some research.

It was also important to dispel any association of the “Whittier” House from William Frank Whittier. William F. Whittier was a wealthy San Franciscan who made his mark in nearby Hemet when he and his partner Edward L. Mayberry created the Hemet Land and Water Company. This resulted in the Hemet Dam, and later the founding of the town of Hemet in the 1890s.³⁹ William F. Whittier was not related at all to Dr. Clarke Whittier.⁴⁰

The search was on in order to obtain the history of the house from the beginning and get a sign erected to clarify the origins of the house dubbed “Whittier” House.

Trips to San Bernardino Archives, Riverside County Archives Assessor records, the local library, and subscriptions to Ancestry.com and Genealogybank.com led the way back in time to establish that Mrs. Annie Whittier sold the undeveloped lots numbered 17 & 18 of Whittier Subdivision, Section 2 in 1895 to Bertha J. Teale.⁴¹

It seems appropriate to include the first owners, the Teales, on the proposed sign. But, the Lehman family owned the house many more years than the Teales. Also the Lehmans were the last family to own the house before the city of Riverside acquired it and rented it to tenants until it was moved to Lake Skinner.

In 2015, the Lehman House became 120 years old. Plans are in the works to have the sign placed near the Lehman House. The Native Daughters of the Golden West, Tahquitz Parlor #333 of Hemet and the Jurupa Parlor #296 are sharing the cost of the sign. The County Parks Department will have it installed in time for a formal dedication in the coming months. A celebration will occur and all who are interested in attending are invited. Contact the author.

EPILOGUE

Annie McKenzie White Whittier married a third time, briefly in 1890 to a jeweler named John Benjamin Patterson. Divorce papers revealed that Patterson was not the honorable man that Dr. Clarke Whittier had

been. The Court granted Annie the right to resume and use the name Annie Whittier.⁴² Annie and Wilmot moved to Long Beach in 1907. After Annie's death in 1914, she was interred at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery, near her McKenzie parents. Wilmot Whittier was buried beside her in 1945. Annie's house was removed in the 1920s. The 1927 City Directory listed T. B. Jenkins Gas Station on "Annie's corner" of Eighth Street and Fairmount Boulevard. Coincidentally, Jenkins and his wife were tenants in the Lehman house from 1930-32.⁴³ By 1947 the gas station was a "Flying A" station owned by Kenny Boyer and his partner.⁴⁴ Finally, Team Auto Sales held the corner until removed for the RCC expansion in 2011.

Bertha and Byron Teale were also interred at Evergreen. Byron died in 1925 at the age of 56. Upon his death, he and Bertha were living on New Magnolia Avenue.⁴⁵ Bertha remained there until 1927. Prior to her death in 1948, Bertha lived in Sacramento with her son George and his wife Myrtle. George was a teacher at Sacramento Junior College. George's brother, Byron Albert, became a dentist in Sacramento.⁴⁶ Byron A. died a year before his mother's death.⁴⁷ The Magnolia house still stands at 5265 Magnolia between Beechwood and Linwood.

George and Chloe Lehman are interred at Riverside National Cemetery. George was a Veteran of World War I and died in 1984 at age 82.

Gustav and Emma Miller Newman are interred in the Miller Family Plot at Evergreen but without markers. Gustav was an engineer from Sweden who partnered in real estate with C. C. Miller, his father-in-law (father of Mary Emma Miller, Frank A Miller and their siblings). Gustav was active in laying out New Magnolia Avenue that cut across his ranch property. In 1916, he donated two-tenths of an acre of his property to be used as a park—Newman Park.⁴⁸ The park became the future home of the De Anza Statue on the corner of Fourteenth Street and Magnolia Avenue.

City Park, the park that the Lehman house faced, was renamed Albert S. White Park on November 21, 1899, at a banquet hosted by Frank A. Miller at the Glenwood Inn. The banquet was a tribute to White from the community for his "splendid work in behalf of the park."⁴⁹ Miller and White were friends and partners in real estate and insurance. White,

a native of Maine, moved from New York to Riverside and resided at the Glenwood Hotel from the moment it opened in 1876.⁵⁰ White was also a horticulturalist. Upon his death in 1909, Albert S. White was buried in the Miller family plot at Evergreen. Later parlance shortened the park name to White Park.

Beverly Lehman Casaga retired from Frankel Iron. Barbara Lehman Evans retired from San Bernardino City Schools. Both reside in Riverside County with their husbands.

Davis Newman, Richard Esgate, Beverly Lehman, Frank Hagen and Nancy L. Norwood all graduated together from Riverside Poly High School in 1961. Their 55th class reunion will occur September 24, 2016. They all reside in Southern California.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU to the following for your support and assistance, including your memories, photos, providing facts, editing and tutorials with online data systems and resources at local history section of the downtown library, Robert Fitch Archives, and San Bernardino County Archives, and for those who have provided historical writings to our community that have helped greatly in relaying this historical saga.

Vicki Armentrout, Sally Beaty, Keith Boyer, Beverly Lehman Casaga, Mel Chadwick, Genevieve Preston Chavez, Barbara Lehman Evans, Karen Fleisher, Erin Gettis and staff, Joan Hall, Kevin Hallaran, Keith Herron, Maurice Hodgen, Jim Hofer, Laura E. Klure, Steve Lech, Tauna Mallis, Ruth McCormick, Christine Moen, Gloria Noland, Doug Shackelton, Kathy Schulz, Glenn Wenzel, and Dr. Peter Whittier.



Endnotes

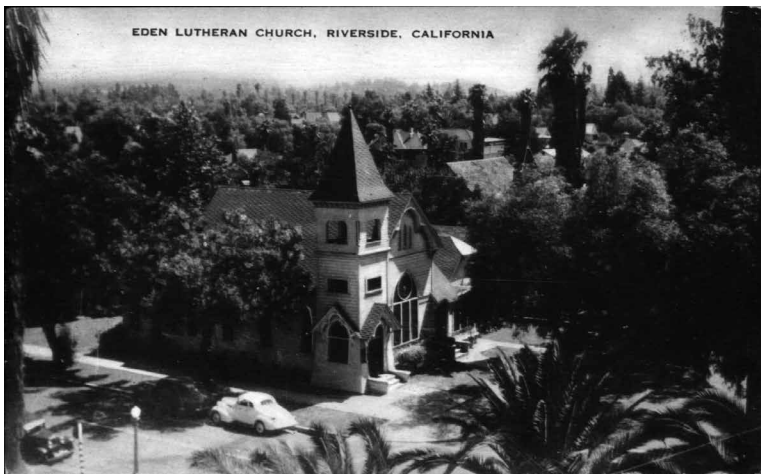
- ¹ "Eighth Street Boom," Riverside *Enterprise*, Riverside, California, Wednesday, November 20, 1895, p. 2.
- ² "Local Notes," Paragraph 14, Riverside *Enterprise*, Riverside, California, Sunday, September 22, 1895, p. 3.
- ³ Indenture between Clarke Whittier and Annie McKenzie White, November 14, 1883; Book of Deeds #36, pp.311-12 San Bernardino, County.
- ⁴ Deed; purchase from Riverside Land and Irrigating Co. S.C. Evans, President, to Clarke Whittier. \$7,125. Lots "Ten," "Ten A" and Eleven; also Blocks six and seven in Range Twelve and Thirteen of town of Riverside, also Blocks one, Two and Three in Range Nine and all of Block one Range Eight that lies North west of Canal No. 2 in said town of Riverside, San Bernardino, CA. December 31, 1881.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*
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- ¹⁴ "Recent Improvements," *Press and Horticulturalist*, Riverside, CA, August 17, 1895 p.1.
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- ¹⁷ Indenture between Bertha J. Teale and Byron Teale and Mrs. Mary J. Browning, the sixth day of October, 1900. Lots numbered 17 and 18 in Block numbered 2 of Dr. C. Whittier's Subdivision of Blocks 8 and 9, Range 8, and Blocks 8 and 9 Range 9 of the City of Riverside, per plat in the office of

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Journal of the Riverside Historical Society

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- ⁴⁸ Obituary of Gustav Newman, *Riverside Enterprise*, December 5, 1921, p. 3.
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-

Postcards from Our Area



This is a view of Eden Lutheran Church at its old locaton at the corner of 11th and Orange Streets. (Photo from the collection of Steve Lech)

Soda Flavors From an Early Soda Fountain

By Kim Jarrell Johnson

On May 15th, 1901, a local Riverside newspaper noted that J. C. Hardman was strolling down the streets of Riverside giving out coupons to his soda fountain, good for one free glass of soda water.

The paper went on to list the most popular mixtures requested at Hardman's soda fountain. With one exception, they are mostly unknown to us today. But back in 1901, people were enjoying Royal Cabinet, Queen's Favorite, Tacoma Flip, Champagne Mist, Fruit Ade, Ginger Ale, and, what was called an old standby, Whipped Cream soda.

Further research found recipes for these soda concoctions, and concoctions they were!

A Royal Cabinet consisted of Catawba (sweet wine) syrup, cream, one egg (raw, we can assume) and a little ice. This was to be shaken all together and then the glass topped off with soda water.

Queen's Favorite was made with pineapple syrup, raspberry syrup, vanilla syrup, and milk. A sprinkling of nutmeg was put on the foam which resulted from a vigorous shaking.

Tacoma Flip included Claret (wine) syrup, lemon juice, and egg, with a sprinkle of nutmeg on top

Fruit Ade was fruit syrup with soda water. It appears a Whipped Cream soda was a regular soda drink with a tablespoon or so of whipping cream added.



According to the *Practical Druggist and Pharmaceutical Reviews of Reviews*, published in 1900, Champagne Mist was made with a syrup consisting of Rhine wine, brandy, Muscatel wine, a small amount of citric acid, thick simple syrup, and quinine syrup. To make Champagne Mist, this intoxicating syrup was combined with plain cream.

Raw egg was often used in fountain drinks because it imparted a creaminess and caused the foam on top of the drink to last longer.

Johns Chalmers Hardman came to Riverside from Illinois in December 1885 and purchased an existing drug store on Main Street. He called his new business “Hardman’s City Pharmacy.” Over the next decade or so he expanded and made a number of improvements to his business, the most significant being the addition of a soda fountain in June, 1887. In April 1896, he installed a new soda fountain that the *Riverside Daily Press* called “a genuine work of art.” It was described as being silver, white, gold, and polished onyx. The *Daily Press* said the new fountain was to be filled with “a fine line of pure syrups” and was to “serve all the latest things in summer drinks.”

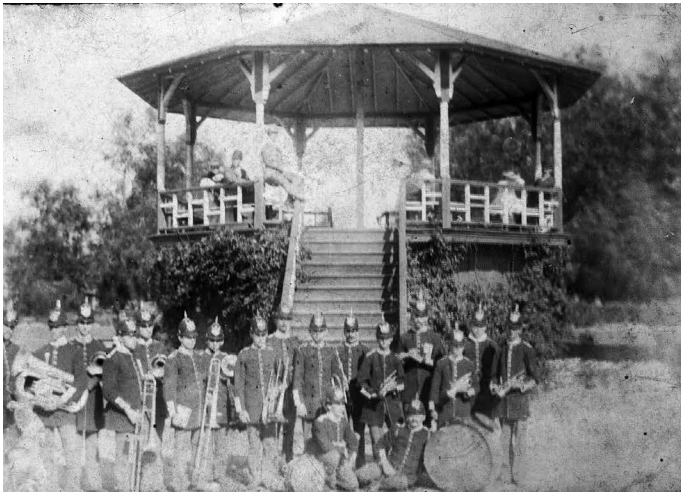
Hardman later sold his drug store and soda fountain and then opened a new store with a partner in 1900. It was that second store he was advertising when he was handing out coupons in 1901. In addition to being a well-known local businessman, Hardman also served on the city’s park commission for a number of years. Hardman died after a long illness in 1927, at the age of 74, and was buried in Riverside’s Evergreen Cemetery.



Where Was It?

For this issue we go back in time and ask “Where Was It?” Can you identify the two locations (one has two views)? What were they?

Where were they? Submit your answers to the editor at riversidehistoricalsociety@gmail.com



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