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A black and white illustration of a person milking a cow in a field. The person is standing behind the cow, holding a bucket to collect milk. The cow is facing left. The background shows a simple landscape with some foliage and a fence line.

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



FOUR CEMETERIES
San Bernardino, California

1966

by

Lois Headley

First written November 23, 1958
Revised April 23, 1966

DEDICATED TO

EARL F. TRUSCOTT, my employer
in the Andreson Building for
thirteen years, during which
time -- and for seventeen more
years -- he was my very good
friend and advisor.

also

ALVIN Z. HINZE, my husband's
employer at the San Bernardino
Vault Co. for sixteen years,
during which time his kindness
to us exceeded the obligation
of employer to his employee.

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Mrs. Richard K. Headley
[REDACTED]

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In time historians and archeologists may examine the four cemeteries serving San Bernardino, California, in April, 1966, as carefully as men researching Egyptian history have studied the pyramids of Gizeh and the Valley of the Kings near Luxor. It is hoped the following account will help future students correctly interpret facts disclosed by San Bernardino's burial grounds.

PROLOGUE

The following passage appears in the 1883 "History of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties, California", by Wallace W. Elliott:

The first burial ground of this valley was located on a bluff overlooking the lowlands, on the spot where M.B. Garner's house now stands. Many of these dead bodies were removed to the new graveyard, which is situated east of "A" Street, between Seventh and Eighth, just outside of the city limits. The Jewish cemetery occupies the adjoining lot on the north, and next to that the Catholics buried their dead until within a few years, when a new burying ground was purchased several miles north of town. Very little attention is paid to the condition of the grounds, and the gophers and squirrels hold undisputed sway. Nearly all the dead of San Bernardino Valley are buried in this cemetery.¹

Attempts to verify the exact location of the above-mentioned "first burial ground" have failed.

Another unverified story places a Union burial ground on the south side of Seventh Street and a little east of Sierra Way. Bodies from this interment area also are said to have been removed to "the new graveyard" mentioned in the above quotation.

A third unverified fact, but generally accepted belief, is that San Bernardino Valley College, 701 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino, California, is on the site of an old

1. Wallace W. Elliott, History of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties, California, with illustrations, 1883, Reproduction including Material on Present-Day Riverside County, Riverside, California, Riverside Museum Press, 1965.

Indian burial ground. It is said that in 1927 the excavating preparatory to construction of the college library building unearthed human bones identified as those of two Indians.

The incident is reflected in names associated with the San Bernardino Valley College, such as "The Indians", name of the college athletic team, and "The Warwhoop", name of the college paper.

It is interesting that some of the bodies from all three of these unverified locations supposedly have been removed to the graveyard now known as Pioneer Memorial Cemetery.

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PIONEER MEMORIAL CEMETERY
(As it existed in April, 1966)

A BEGINNING

Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, corner of Seventh Street and Sierra Way (formerly "A" Street), is situated on the former campsite of a few pioneers who preferred not to live in Fort San Bernardino.²

Near a Seventh Street entrance to the cemetery is a monument, on three sides of which are bronze plates, each bearing one of the following inscriptions:

"BY COVERED WAGON

Erected by San Bernardino Society California Pioneers.
In memory of covered wagon pioneers. Arrived in valley
June 11, 1851.
Society organized Jan. 21, 1888.
Charter President, George Lord, Sr. Secretary, John Brown, Jr.
Dedicated Jan. 21, 1937. Parley King, Pres.
Ed. L. Stiles, Past Pres."

"BY SHIP

Dedicated to those who first came around the Horn,
arriving August 15, 1855.

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea,
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow"

2. John Brown, Jr., Ed. & James Boyd, Ed., The History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, Chicago, Western Historical Assn., 1922.

"THE STOCKADE

In memoriam to the builders of Fort San Bernardino, Charles C. Rich and Amasa M. Lyman, Constructed Nov. 1851, for protection from Indian raids. There was no attack. 200 families occupied fort, disbanded 1852. Material used for building of homes and buildings."

In 1958, Charles S. Mathers, then the cemetery's superintendent, pointed out that this burial ground combines two early graveyards -- the old Pioneer Cemetery, said to have been established by the Mormons, and the adjoining, privately-owned City Cemetery, records of which date from 1889. The two were organized into Pioneer Memorial Cemetery when the City of San Bernardino took them over in 1927.

As outlined in 1958 by the Cemetery's Supervisor, Mr. John Wessendorf, and declared still true in April, 1966, by Mr. I. M. Templeton, who succeeded Mr. Mathers as superintendent in January, 1959, Pioneer Memorial Cemetery is operated by a Cemetery Commission of six men appointed by the Mayor. All except the supervisor serve without compensation. A paid superintendent takes care of daily activities on the grounds.

The cemetery is operated on a non-profit basis and has an adequate perpetual care plan. All business is carried on in strict accordance with California state laws.

An office on the grounds is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. five days a week and on Memorial Day. On Saturdays it is open from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

In 1958, an active fountain was visible from windows of the office. It became idle during the community water

shortage of the early 1960's, and still remained so in December, 1965. It stood at an intersection of the main roads through the cemetery so had to be removed in February, 1966, when the need for wider roads developed.

According to Mr. Mathers, the fountain had been purchased in Milan, Italy, and presented to the cemetery in 1921 by Maude Adams Roberts as a memorial to her husband, Edward David Roberts, once President of the San Bernardino National Bank, and at one time Treasurer of the State of California.

Mrs. Roberts passed away in Rome, Italy, in April, 1958. At one time she had been very active in promoting the development of Pioneer Memorial Cemetery. Some of the credit for the cemetery's present attractive appearance goes to her.

In 1958, the cemetery consisted of about twenty-one acres of land, approximately three of them having been recently acquired. Then there were about 6,000 grave spaces available for use. In December, 1965, Mr. Templeton stated that four additional acres of land adjacent to the northeast section of the cemetery had been acquired in 1961, and a new entrance from Ninth Street, between Wall and Sepulveda Avenues, had been constructed. In April, 1966, Mr. Templeton said some shrubs on the far east side of the cemetery had been removed. Approximately thirty or forty feet of land there is being developed for burial purposes. There still are about 6,000 grave spaces available in the cemetery.

No unsold lots remain in the old Pioneer Section, where

numerous and varied monuments mark the graves of people belonging to almost every pioneer family in San Bernardino. Facts and names on these markers reflect the beginning and progress of many of the city's activities. Information on the headstones also indicates the influence of early city residents on the development of all Southern California.

Apparently the oldest marker in the cemetery is that of Hiram Clark, "Born Sept. 22, 1795. Died Dec. 27, 1853."

Unique in San Bernardino are the "above-ground" family vaults of Dr. O. M. Wozencraft. They remind one that Wozencraft came to California from New Orleans, La., where the watery soil prevents burials in the ground. Wozencraft passed away while on a trip East trying to promote a scheme for reclaiming desert lands by using Colorado River water.³

On the doctor's personal vault is this summary:

"Dr. O.M. Wozencraft, Pioneer and Member of First Convention held in Monterey, 1884, to form a Constitution for the State. Born in Ohio July 26, 1814. Crossed the Plains in 1849. Died in Washington, D.C., November 22, 1887."

Although many monuments stand in the newer section of the cemetery, for many years only markers flush with the ground have been allowed. The inscription on one of the

3. Luther A. Ingersoll, Century Annals of the San Bernardino County, California, 1769-1904, L.A. Ingersoll, 1904.

latter reveals the place of Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in the history of San Bernardino:

"In Memory of 7 Unknown 49ers. Starved to death.
Buried on Union College Heights 1849.
Removed to Pioneer Cemetery Feb. 26th, 1927."

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
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HOME OF ETERNITY CEMETERY
(As it existed in April, 1966)

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Adjacent to the north side of Pioneer Memorial Cemetery is the attractive Jewish Home of Eternity Cemetery. It is the same graveyard referred to in the quoted passage on page 2 of this Manuscript.

The gate in the iron fence protecting this burial ground on its Sierra Way boundary is a memorial to Samuel Friedman and his wife Helene.

Inside the cemetery may be found, among others, the graves of the first Jews to live in San Bernardino. From the very beginning, these men, according to records of Mr. Edward Philipson, in 1958, had a strong influence on the business and industrial development of the city.

Louis Glaser, the first Jew in town, arrived in 1851 and lived in Fort San Bernardino, where he operated a store. Thus he became the city's first storekeeper.

A marble headstone bearing the name, "Marcus Katz", identifies the grave of the second Jew to arrive in San Bernardino. In 1852 he established a book and stationery store in the Mormon stockade. Later he became the town's first agent for the Wells-Farge Express and the first Notary Public. He became San Bernardino County Treasurer in 1858 and was placed in charge of the U.S. Commissary in 1859.

The monument topped by a marble figure that, before

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trees were planted, overlooked the entire Home of Eternity Cemetery, marks the family plot of Lewis Jacobs, the third Jew to arrive in the settlement. This marker has much significance.

In 1852, Jacobs, 20 and a native of Prussia, came from Los Angeles to San Bernardino on foot, carrying a pack of "Yankee Notions" (pins, buttons, etc.) on his back. He opened the first store outside the fort. Six years later he became, not only the first banker in San Bernardino County, but also one of the influential men of a much larger area. The Bank of San Bernardino -- a small, one-story adobe building on Arrowhead Avenue near Fourth Street was the first of its kind in all Southern California east of Los Angeles.⁴

The headstone inscribed "A. Wolff" brings to mind the contract between modern transportation and that of the past. Abraham Wolff, San Bernardino's fourth Jewish resident, hauled freight by ox-team in Arizona and to mines in the mountains and desert of both California and Arizona.

I. R. Brunn, the fifth Jewish resident, came to town in 1857. In partnership with Lewis Jacobs, he operated a lumbering business in the San Bernardino mountains.

According to Mr. Philipson, these men were Jewish members of the community when Wm. A. Conn, Ben Barton, James W. Waters, George L. Tucker, John G. Downey, Philip L. Edwards,

⁴. L. Burr Belden, "Immigrant Boy Founds First Bank in Valley:", The San Bernardino Sun-Telegram, San Bernardino, California, April 10, 1955.

and Mary V. Edwards donated an acre of land to be used as a burial ground by the Jewish people. This property was part of the 25,000 acres of Rancho de San Bernardino land purchased by the donors from Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich when the Mormons were recalled to Salt Lake City.

The donation was made by Deed to Marcus Katz, dated May 20, 1861.

At that time the population of San Bernardino County, according to the Census of 1860, was 4,807 -- 1,797 white people and 3,010 Indians. There were 940 people in the San Bernardino settlement -- 567 whites and 373 Indians.⁵

San Bernardino was a frontier village similar to others of the time. It had wooden sidewalks and dirt streets. The Mormon phase had just ended. Bargain hunters and non-Mormons had moved in, and the town was dominated by Texans, lawless frontiersmen, and disillusioned gold miners. Violence and secessionist agitation were common.⁶

The Civil War had been fought and won when, twenty-two years later, on November 2nd or 4th, 1883, the Jewish cemetery became the property of Paradise Lodge No. 237, B'nai B'rith. The transfer was made by Grant Deed from Marcus Katz, for consideration of one dollar.

One headstone in the cemetery not only marks the grave

5. George William Beattie and Helen Pruitt Beattie, Heritage of the Valley, San Pasqual Press, Pasadena, California, 1939.

6. Ibid.

of Joseph Krausman, 1891 - 1911, but also indicates the start of a liability too great for the lodge to handle.

Mr. Krausman, while President of Paradise Lodge, was very active in collecting funds to pay for burial services. After his death, however, cost of cemetery maintenance trebled, and a yearly deficit of more than \$150 had to be met by the lodge as the result of free and insufficient-fee burials. A change had to be made.

On July 10, 1892, the Jewish Cemetery Association was formed. The trustees of Paradise Lodge then acted as trustees for the cemetery. Interment of any member of the Jewish faith without the trustees' consent was forbidden.

Still another change was made in 1933 when title to the cemetery was conveyed to Congregation Emanu El. This involved formulating new laws and appointing a new governing board. Over a period of eighteen months after this reorganization, a profit of \$465 was shown.⁷

Meanwhile, the original Deed, dated May 20, 1861, was handed down by Katz to his son, Maurice, who turned it over to Ralph Greenhood. From the latter it passed to Philipson.

In 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Philipson and Mrs. Greenhood had

7. The Pinkos (Jewish Chronicle) published under supervision of the Diamond Jubilee Committee, commemorating seventy-five years of Jewish activities in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties 1860 - 1935. Designed and printed by The Sun Printing and Publishing House, San Bernardino, California.

it framed and presented to Congregation Emanu El, present owner of the cemetery. Since then it has hung on a wall of the Congregation's office.

The cemetery, in April, 1966, is the responsibility of the Congregation of Temple Emanu El. It is managed by a committee appointed by the Congregation's President. The Cemetery Committee serves without compensation.

The first adult burial of record is that of Wolff Cohn, 24, a prairie schooner driver, killed by Indians in 1862.

Other early burials are indicated by cement slabs, either blank or marked "Unknown". These, Philipson explained, indicate the resting places of people buried in the days of "free diggings", when no records were kept. Families simply went to the burial ground, picked a spot, and buried their loved ones. Later the graves were found and marked.

In 1958 there were no restrictions on the type of marker to be used in the cemetery. By December, 1965, however, the height of tombstones was restricted to a maximum of three feet. Most of the markers were monuments inscribed with names of people who have contributed greatly to the business and industrial development of San Bernardino County.

The grave of Ralph Greenhood, as referred to by Philipson in 1958, is of special interest. It and the grave of his wife are marked by a single brown headstone bearing the following:

"GREENHOOD

Beloved Wife & Mother
FANNY GUSKY
Mar. 30, 1872-June 8, 1963

Beloved Husband & Father
RUDOLPH RALPH
Mar. 17, 1868 - Nov. 17, 1941"

Greenhood was discouraged by failing health when he decided to resign from the Cemetery Committee. In asking Philipson to replace him as officer-in-charge, he said:

"Take it over and see that there always will be green grass on my grave. I feel I deserve that much after all the work I have done."

This request inspired Philipson, in 1938, to make Home of Eternity Cemetery a green retreat.

Determined to build a perpetual care fund, he contacted as many heirs of those buried in the cemetery as he could and asked each to put \$100 into a fund for beautifying and keeping up the burial ground. These people, scattered all over the United States, responded with checks.

The new officer-in-charge also insisted on lot prices and burial fees sufficiently large to insure regular additions to the perpetual care fund, proper handling of cemetery business, and regular maintenance of the grounds. When Philipson retired from the committee in 1944, he turned over a perpetual care fund of \$5,500 in United States Government Bonds.

In 1958, Greenhood's grave was covered with a green lawn which spread over the whole acre of land. A paved road

ran from the Sierra Way entrance through the center of the grounds. On either side of the hedge-bordered driveway, monuments stood in orderly rows, leaving a sunny, grassy expanse of unused ground toward the back of the area. Two benches, conveniently placed, tempted one to enter and rest a moment in the quiet beauty of Home of Eternity Cemetery.

On April 30, 1961, Congregation Emanu El held a Memorial Service in honor of the 100th anniversary of Home of Eternity Cemetery. One of the speakers, Mr. Leslie I. Harris, pointed out that this event coincided with the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War, the first shot at Fort Sumter having been fired on April 12, 1861.

In April, 1966, the scene has changed. A short distance to the northwest of Greenhood's grave is a single gray headstone marking the graves of another Jewish couple. On it are the following words:

"PHILIPSON

Beloved Father
 EDWARD
 May 11, 1898
 Nov. 18, 1963
 President Congregation
 Emanu El
 1937 - 1942

Beloved Mother
 SAYDEE
 Sept. 29, 1903
 Aug. 11, 1960
 President Sisterhood Congregation
 Emanu El
 1937 - 1941"

As indicated, Mr. Philipson passed away in November, 1963. The paved road through the cemetery looks more like a shady lane, lined on both sides with young flowering pear trees which partially hide the tombstones as one walks toward a

small outdoor garden mausoleum occupying the northeast corner of the cemetery. Greenhood's grave, as well as Philipson's, not only is covered with grass but one day will be shaded. Various types of trees have been planted throughout the grounds, relieving the severity of the orderly rows of monuments.

The illusion of a large grassy expanse of land at the back of the cemetery no longer exists. Many new gravestones and markers, the mausoleum, and also the landscaping, occupy all but a small portion of the acreage. In December, 1965, steps were taken to acquire additional burial space. That land, immediately north of the present cemetery, in April, 1966, is being developed as a memorial park which will be formally consecrated as a Jewish burial ground on December 11, 1966. A wider second iron gate and a handsome new brick wall adjoining the original iron fence on the Sierra Way boundary will protect this new addition from vandals and trespassers.

On the attractive new mausoleum is a plaque bearing the following words:

"THE HERMAN E. STELZER MAUSOLEUM

A Monument to the vision of a
Dedicated servant of
Congregation Emanu El and
The Jewish Community of San Bernardino

September 13, 1964 Tishri 7, 5725"

The mausoleum contains 150 crypts, nine of which were

occupied in December, 1965. On one of the latter is this inscription:

"Harold C. Harris
1896-1965
"A Man of Great Love"

Mr. Harris was the Vice-President and General Sales Manager of The Harris Co., for many years San Bernardino's largest department store, with branches in Riverside and Redlands. He was only nine years old when his father and uncle, Philip and Herman Harris, respectively, founded the company in April, 1905. A resident of Redlands, Harold Harris for forty years had assumed many responsibilities of executive and civic leadership in that city, was active in the San Bernardino County Chapter of the American Heart Association, and took a deep interest in the Inland Heart Center at St. Bernardine's Hospital, San Bernardino, California.

A newspaper account of his death comments, "He belonged to all of us". It also mentions that Catholic priests and nuns, members of many Protestant denominations, government officials, and business leaders were among the mourners.⁸

It seems fitting that among the first persons to be interred in the new mausoleum, one should be a man who contributed so outstandingly to the civic development and industrial growth of the San Bernardino area. This was characteristic of so many others laid to rest in peaceful, attractive, Jewish Home of Eternity Cemetery.

8. The San Bernardino Daily Sun, San Bernardino, California, October 7, 1965.

MT. VIEW CEMETERY OF SAN BERNARDINO
(As it existed in April, 1966)

TRANSITION AND PROGRESS

When first set aside, the Pioneer and Jewish cemeteries were about half a mile from the designated center of town. Since then the expanding city has surrounded these burial grounds and even a third cemetery on the northeast corner of Waterman and Highland Avenues. This intersection of the two avenues, in April, 1966, is considered the geographical center of the City of San Bernardino. It is approximately three miles from the city's original main business intersection at Third and "E" Streets.

Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino, then, is located in the very center of the city. A profit-making establishment, it was organized by seventeen business men in 1907. In September, 1957, it was purchased by Earl F. Truscott and Alvin Z. Hinze. In December, 1965, it was equally controlled by the Hinze and Truscott families.

The vine-covered, many-windowed office building, with its dome-topped tower and steep, tiled roof, is reminiscent of architecture of past years. It adds much beauty and dignity to the Waterman-Highland entrance of the burial ground.

The grounds, with their numerous tall trees, trim shrubs, and wide, paved roads winding through neatly clipped, green lawns, have the charm and stateliness of a formal garden.

The atmosphere of a modern, well-managed cemetery prevails.

An efficient office force of four men keeps detailed, accurate records of all the cemetery's activities and exerts every effort to serve the community in the best possible manner. The cemetery belongs to the California Interment Association, which requires a high standard of operation and strict adherence to laws of the State of California. The office is open five and a half days each week.

The organization operates on an Endowment Fund Plan. In 1958, the cemetery had in trust at the Title Insurance & Trust Co., an endowment fund in the amount of \$410,000, to which it then was adding regularly more than was required by state law. In April, 1966, contributions to the fund still are being made. This is a protection to the lot owners, insuring them of the future maintenance of their property.

Lot prices and burial fees are fixed in an amount sufficient to maintain and develop unused land, contribute to the endowment fund, and insure an economical but efficient handling of all cemetery activity. In 1958 Truscott said that 120 items of expense had to be considered in setting the amount of the opening and closing burial fees.

That the standards and operation of this burial ground are of high quality was recognized by two state governors who appointed one of the owners, Earl Truscott, a member of the California State Cemetery Board.

In 1958 the cemetery consisted of sixty acres of land.

About half of it had been improved. At the rate of lot sales then existent, Mr. Truscott estimated enough property was available to take care of the needs of San Bernardino's growing population for about sixty years. By April, 1966, new lawns had been developed, and new shop buildings and a garage had been built. Also, because of the water shortage of the early 1960's, it had become important to note that the cemetery has its own water system. It maintains two wells, 560 feet deep.

In 1958 a new \$60,000 Crematory of the latest type and design recently had been installed. In April, 1966, it still is considered one of the best crematories serving the area. Cremations for most of the desert regions, Imperial Valley, and parts of Nevada are taken care of either in Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino or in Montecito Memorial Park.

Also, in 1958, on the walls of the cemetery office, hung an architect's drawings of the interior of Mountain View Mausoleum as it would appear when construction then being done was completed in the spring of 1959. When finished, the building was expected to be the most modern of its kind in the State of California.

In April, 1966, the drawings still hung on the office walls. The mausoleum, completed as planned, is more than 50% sold out. Its interior is stately and beautiful. Continuous soft music, light filtering through an art-glass skylight, and carpeted floors relieve the austerity of the

walls of marble crypts.

The new addition on the mausoleum's north side provided a Columbarium of marble and bronze, and 568 single, companion and outdoor crypts of marble quarried in Portugal and cut and polished in Belgium. Trim on the interior of the new corridor is Rouge Griotte marble, the crypt fronts being of pink Almiscato marble.

In April, 1966, one of the crypts in the eastern end of this corridor bears the inscription:

"Earl F. Truscott, 1899 - 1964"

Mr. Truscott passed away May 21, 1964. The newspaper account of his death refers to him as a "prominent San Bernardino business man" and "co-owner of Mr. View Cemetery and Montecito Memorial Park". It further states that he "was a member of the state Cemetery Board for nine years, having been appointed by Gov. Earl Warren and re-appointed by Gov. Goodwin J. Knight".⁹

Outside, near the back entrance of the mausoleum is the veteran's section. The only monument in this area is a memorial on which are inscribed the following words:

"Dedicated to the memory of Veterans of All Wars
of the United States of America."

Markers in this lawn indicate the resting places of men who served in the navy, infantry, or air force during the Spanish

⁹. The San Bernardino Daily Sun, San Bernardino, May 23, 1964.

American, Korean, or World Wars I or II.

In December, 1965, the cemetery was planning to construct some pre-poured vaults in front of the mausoleum. By April, 1966, this work had been completed. These underground lawn crypts are vaults, two deep, poured into place in the ground, then covered and landscaped.

In "Orb" lawn or "the Circle" some distance south of the mausoleum, is the grave of Alvin Z. Hinze, who passed away April 17, 1966. The account of his death included the information that he was co-owner with his son, Robert A. Hinze, and with Harry Truscott (brother of Earl), of Mr. View Cemetery of San Bernardino and of Montecito Memorial Park.¹⁰ The flat marker on Mr. Hinze's grave reads:

"Beloved Husband & Father
Alvin Z. Hinze
1896 - 1966"

A flag pole and rose garden occupy the center of Orb lawn, and just across the road to the north of Mr. Hinze's grave is a small granite building bearing the name "Andreson". This is the family mausoleum of John Andreson and brings to mind the efforts of a pioneer and his descendants to develop the town of San Bernardino into the large, progressive city it is in April, 1966.

John Andreson, Sr., born in Schleswig Holstein, Dominion of Denmark, first sailed around Cape Horn to America in 1850

^{10.} The Daily Sun, San Bernardino, California, April 18, 1966.

and again in 1852, this time traveling north along the western American coastline to California. He settled in San Bernardino in 1870, where he purchased an acre of land on the northwest corner of Third and "E" Streets. He married Emma Knapp and in time replaced the brewery on his Third and "E" Street property with a two-story building which housed the Farmer's Exchange Bank. In 1887 he built a three-story brick block Andreson Building, at that time considered the best in the city. It had eighty rooms and was occupied by the St. Charles Hotel, with offices and stores on the ground floor.

Many of the then best buildings in the city were built by John Andreson, Sr. and his partner, H. L. Drew. These men also did much to start the "D" Street horse car line and were two of the four men who worked to secure for San Bernardino the depot and workshops of the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

John Andreson, Sr. also was largely instrumental in securing a complete sewer system for the city. He served as county supervisor, on the board of City Trustees, on the Library board, and as an early volunteer fire fighter. He died January 13, 1912, a highly respected citizen of San Bernardino County.

John Andreson, Jr., also took an active part in the civic, business, and industrial affairs of San Bernardino.¹¹ He had the three-story Andreson Building razed and in 1927 he had a

11. John Brown, Jr. and James Boyd, History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, The Western Historical Association, 1922.

five-story concrete and steel building constructed. In April, 1966, this handsome Andreson Building still stands on the corner of Third and "E" Streets, San Bernardino, a credit to the city. Until sometime during the 1950s, it was considered the newest, finest office building in San Bernardino, housing attorneys, doctors, dentists, and insurance companies, and on the street floor, stores.

It is an interesting fact that Earl Truscott managed the Andreson Building from about January, 1934, to about July, 1946. His secretary at that time was Lois Stadtman Headley. By coincidence, the graves of her grandparents and mother are only a few paces west of the Andreson family mausoleum.

August Stadtman, aged 12 and a native of Gehrde, Province of Hanover, Germany, arrived in Boston, U.S.A., on December 7, 1869. He farmed in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma most of his life. Then, in 1920, he and his wife Nettie came to San Bernardino where August's sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Christopher Meyer had settled in December, 1889, and established a seed store. The Meyer children married, and several of them -- Emma Gentry, Clara and Milton Standish, Louise and Henry Shay, and Dora Knuppe -- as well as Mary and Christopher Meyer, are buried in Mt. View.

August Stadtman earned his living in San Bernardino as a gardener. In this capacity he helped plant some of the trees in Montecito Memorial Park when it was established in 1925.

Two of August's sons also moved to San Bernardino. One

of them worked on the new foundation for the present Andreson Building. The second son, an insurance agent, arrived in 1930 and for several years was associated with companies whose offices were in the Andreson Building. It is his daughter who worked in that building's office and his wife who lies in a grave beside those of August and Nettie Stadtman, in the shadow of the Andreson family mausoleum in Mt. View Cemetery.

Now, in April, 1966, some of August Stadtman and Christopher Meyer's grandchildren and great grandchildren are taking their places as active citizens of San Bernardino. Thus, throughout Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino, the past merges into the present and becomes part of the future. The large headstones of early years, now restricted from the grounds, blend harmoniously with the modern, flat, granite markers.

Historians and archeologists of the future should find this burial ground of great interest. They will note the graves of Kit Carson III, grandson of the famous trapper, and James Cooksey Earp, GAR, brother of Wyatt. They will recognize local pioneer names such as "Barton", "Cooley", "Baylis", "Shay", and "Garner" as well as those of later civic leaders, business and professional men, such as "Barnum", "Suverkrup", "Davis", "Shepardson", "McCook", and "Oakey", not to mention the many others to be found on markers in the large cemetery.

Even now people are intrigued by the headstones and

markers in Mt. View. One prominent San Bernardino doctor went to the cemetery to choose a lot for himself. After making the choice, he became so interested in the identity of those buried nearby that his daughter finally exclaimed, "Well, Dad! You're not going to play cards with them!"

THE CALVARY SECTION

At the same time that land was donated to the Jewish people for Home of Eternity Cemetery, adjoining property was given to Catholics to use for the same purpose. The quoted passage on page 2 of this manuscript indicates Catholics were buried in the donated parcel until a few years prior to 1883, when a new interment area was purchased "several miles north of town".

The new graveyard referred to in the quoted passage probably is the Catholic burial ground located on the southeast corner of 27th and "B" Streets, in a residential section of San Bernardino. In April, 1966, this is an abandoned, vandalized cemetery. A tall, full green hedge hides from the street the unkept ground and few headstones and markers remaining in the area. Most of the bodies have been moved to the Calvary Section of Mt. View Cemetery.

Since at least 1935, Mt. View's Calvary Section has been the official San Bernardino Catholic burial ground. It occupies an eastern section of Mt. View and is identified by a \$10,000 white, Italian marble statue of the Crucifixion Group, purchased in Italy in 1935. In 1958, plans for a Catholic garden crypt mausoleum were being studied.

All graves in the Calvary Section are designated by flat markers, except one. In April, 1966, the headstone marking the graves of the Mathew Byrne family looks more like a

decorative statue than a grave marker. According to the inscription, Mathew Byrne was "Born Mar. 13, 1833" and "Died Jan. 27, 1892". Flat markers surrounding the monument designate graves of a number of Byrne family members, the latest marker being that of "Olive A. Byrne, 1850 - 1937".

Mathew Byrne was born in County Kicklow, Ireland, and, when seven years old, arrived in America in 1852. He settled in San Bernardino in 1863, where he occupied himself with a mercantile business and with sheep raising. He married Olive Parks, daughter of Judge Parks, who was an 1857 pioneer of San Bernardino.¹²

About 1889 Mathew erected the Byrne block, considered then to be one of the most attractive in the city.¹³ Another interesting facet of his life is his connection with the Agua Mansa Cemetery just south of Colton.

Agua Mansa, located southwest of San Bernardino and near Colton, was a beautiful little settlement of immigrants from New Mexico. In January, 1862, a flood destroyed all of the town except the church, a house near it, and the cemetery on the bluff above the church. Residents of the community, destitute, were forced to find homes elsewhere.

Many of them started farming again on land near the former Agua Mansa site. This led, in time, to a dispute over

12. Luther A. Ingersoll, op. cit.

13. Ibid.

the New Mexicans' ownership of the property on which they made their new homes. It took some of the settlers forty years to clear their title to the land.

According to one history of San Bernardino Valley, the New Mexicans were fortunate to have "the able and kindly Father Stockman", then pastor of the Catholic church in San Bernardino, and "the charitable Byrne family" on hand to help them through this trying time.¹⁴

Meanwhile, Agua Mansa Cemetery passed from owner to owner until it finally became the property of Father Stockman and the Byrne family. Wishing to insure the preservation and care of the cemetery, these last owners "deeded it in trust to a board of three trustees who were to serve for life and name their successors". The legal instrument specified that "the cemetery should remain a free burial spot for all members of the old parish and their descendants".¹⁵

Additionally interesting is the fact that many years later, a member of the Byrne family was largely instrumental in getting The Calvary Section of Mt. View Cemetery designated as San Bernardino's official Catholic burial ground. The Byrne monument was moved from the 27th and "E" Street graveyard to its present position as the only upright headstone in Mt. View Cemetery's Calvary Section.

14. George William Beattie and Helen Pruitt Beattie, Heritage of the Valley, San Pasqual Press, Pasadena, California, 1939.

15. Ibid.

This section is separated from the rest of the burial ground by a road east of Waterman Avenue which goes north and south from Highland Avenue through Mt. View Cemetery.

The Highland Avenue opening has become the main entrance to the cemetery. A second entrance on Waterman Avenue, some distance north of Highland Avenue also is in use in April, 1966. Heavy traffic resulting from San Bernardino's growth has made use of the Waterman-Highland entrance dangerous and almost impossible. Eventually it will be closed.

So again, Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino reflects growth and progress. People who enter from Highland Avenue east of Waterman drive directly into the newer sections where only flat markers are used. This area has the features of a modern memorial park, the newest concept of burial grounds. To the west are the lawns filled with upright headstones -- a dramatic picture of the transition from the past to the present.

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MONTECITO MEMORIAL PARK (As it existed in April, 1966)

THE PRESENT

Montecito Memorial Park, located just south of San Bernardino at the termination of Waterman Avenue, was purchased in September, 1957, by Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino, owned by Alvin Z. Hinze and Earl F. Truscott.

Earl Truscott passed away in May, 1964, and Alvin Hinze died in April, 1966. The newspaper account of Mr. Hinze's death states that he was president of Montecito Memorial Park and vice-president of Mt. View Cemetery. The two cemeteries then were co-owned by Alvin Hinze, his son Robert A. Hinze, and Harry Truscott (brother of Earl).¹⁶

According to Alvin Hinze, the business men who organized this cemetery in 1925 wished to create a place of repose for the dead which also would be restful to the living. They spent much time hunting the right location for such a burial ground.

That their search was successful and their aim achieved will be admitted by anyone visiting the beautiful spot sheltered on three sides by Montecito Hills and isolated on the fourth side by Barton Road.

¹⁶. "The San Bernardino Daily Sun", San Bernardino, April 18, 1966.

Mr. Hinze commented that people traveling on Barton Road, or taking a short pleasure drive, sometimes turn into Montecito for a drive through the park, not realizing its true nature until they happen to see one of the flat, granite markers almost hidden in the green lawns.

Bird watchers spend many hours in the sanctuary favored by a large variety of birds. Parents frequently drive along the winding park roads so their children may enjoy the multitude of rabbits and squirrels scampering about the neatly clipped lawns at dusk or dawn. This is quite different from eighty years ago, when burial grounds were neglected, squirrels and gophers holding "undisputed sway". (Refer to quoted passage, page 2 of this manuscript.)

Night travelers on the Redlands freeway can see a light on the Singing Tower of Montecito Memorial Park, which stands high on one of the hills overlooking both the road and the garden-like grounds of the cemetery. For three days during the Memorial Day holiday, on Easter, and during funerals, strains of recorded music from the tower softly join the cool breezes which blow gently across the park area.

The newest of San Bernardino cemeteries, Montecito is also the largest. As explained by Alvin Hinze, the original park consisted of approximately 40 acres of land, but after 1948 an additional 170 acres were acquired. By December, 1965, about 25 acres had been completely landscaped with lawns, shrubs, trees, and flowers and had been equipped with

sprinkling systems, cement curbs, and gutters.

Surface waters from rains are removed from the area by underground drainage conduits. When the grounds need to be irrigated, water is obtained from a good producing well in which Montecito Memorial Park has about a 90% interest, and a reservoir on cemetery grounds in which water from the Bear Valley Mutual Water Co. is stored.

The cemetery was equipped with a crematory about 1946.

Rest Haven Mausoleum was built in the park in 1930. A new Columbarium was added to it in about 1952. In 1958 no unsold crypts remained in the beautiful Italian, French, and Belgian marble walls of Rest Haven, but niches were available.

In December, 1965, plans for constructing a modern Garden Crypt Mausoleum were being completed, and construction was planned to commence about July, 1966. A hill west of the cemetery office was being leveled for the structure, and from four to eight pre-need salesmen were selling crypts in the new mausoleum at pre-construction discounts.

As planned, the new garden mausoleum will contain 950 crypts plus many niches for cremated remains. It will be a wall-like structure of pink marble, six crypts high, built around a rectangular, uncovered grassy plot. Over-hanging roofs will protect the crypts from the climate. Crypts will open from the outside wall and will be identified by names inscribed on the marble fronts.

An office, open five and a half days a week, is located

in the park. Here, records are stored in fire-proof vaults. A staff of four people carefully and efficiently handle activities in the cemetery. Transportation is furnished to people who wish to visit the cemetery for the purpose of purchasing lots.

An attendant is on duty at all times.

This cemetery is a profit-making establishment, which like all others of its kind in the city, places service ahead of income. It belongs to the California Interment Association and to the National Cemetery Association, meeting the high standards of those organizations, as well as the strict requirements of California state laws.

Operating on the Endowment Fund Plan, the company has a substantial fund in trust in the Title Insurance & Trust Co., to which it regularly contributes the amount required by law.

In April, 1966, Montecito Memorial Park definitely is a cemetery of the present. A large number of names on grave markers there are unknown to most of the residents of San Bernardino, and thus it reflects that city as it is today.

Though still characterized as "The Friendly City", San Bernardino has grown so rapidly and has so many military personnel and migratory residents that long-time citizens often lament, "I used to know nearly everyone in town. Now when I go out, I see only strangers".

People of San Bernardino are proud, ambitious, civic-minded, active and friendly -- but their names are new to

the area and often are in the spotlight for only a short time. Montecito Memorial Park is part of their world and reflects their life. It provides for them an attractive, peaceful resting place at the end of the road.

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EPILOGUE
(Written in July, 1966)

As pointed out in this manuscript, a study of the four well-known cemeteries in San Bernardino would reveal the growth of a small pioneer settlement into a large, important Southern California city. The story of burial grounds within the city would not be complete, however, if a little-known fifth graveyard in the community were not included.

The five-acre San Bernardino County Cemetery on Waterman Avenue near Alexander Street, nestled in the hollow of the "L" shaped northwest corner of Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino has been relegated to the Epilogue of this article because it is the county's Potter's Field.

San Bernardino cemetery owners and managers regret the need for such a graveyard and prefer not to publicize its existence. They have strong feelings about their burial grounds. They are proud men, dedicated to serving the community as well as earning a livelihood. Their's is a great service, sometimes looked down upon, frequently criticized, and too often taken for granted. San Bernardino residents have been spared the large natural disasters, epidemics, and military battles that cause men to appreciate the blessings associated with modern, well-kept burial grounds. Funeral costs are so high people seldom think of a cemetery owner or operator as one who has a deep sense of community service and

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does what he can to eliminate the need for a Potter's Field.

Regardless of government and private attempts to provide every person with a burial in generally accepted cemeteries, always there are a few who cannot qualify. Some have no money. Some are not good people. Some have neither money nor survivors. Some cannot be identified after death even though funeral directors and the county spend at least three weeks seeking their identity. These are the people for whom the county must provide a Potter's Field.

The following feature story about the San Bernardino County Cemetery appeared in the May 30, 1965, issue of "The San Bernardino Sun-Telegram". It describes the graveyard as the burial ground then existed and was operated:

"NO POPPIES GROWING IN S.B. POTTER'S FIELD

"By Al Bruton

"Sun-Telegram Staff Writer

"No grass covers the sandy ground.

"Here and there some hardy variety of weed clings to the hard surface of earth holding on to its life of poverty.

"There are some markers -- scattered, forming neither row nor file -- but they accentuate the barren look rather than relieve it.

"This plot of ground off Waterman Avenue is San Bernardino County's Potter's Field. Here the penniless of the San Bernardino Valley are buried. There are, the records show, 5,400 graves here.

"Many of the grave markers appear to be home-made: moulded of concrete with a name and dates of birth and death scattered on its surface. Many of these markers are cracked, broken or fallen.

"There are a few small marble markers, flush to the ground, built by a monument company.

"But most of the graves have no marker at all. The newer ones can be picked out as a mound of earth. One or

two are outlined with small rocks. Here and there a newer mound is decorated by a small bouquet of artificial flowers.

"In the older portion of the yard, there is no way for the eye to detect the location of graves -- the few markers show no obvious pattern. The field is mapped, however, and with the aid of the plan, it is possible to locate any individual grave, the men who administer the cemetery say.

"The only green -- other than the weeds -- are large blue-green evergreen trees scattered around the plot and the shrubs which shut out the world.

"Across one of these lines of shrubs, cross a service drive and a visitor finds himself among the manicured green lawns, cut flowers and polished marble of neighboring Mt. View Cemetery.

"A private cemetery, Mt. View does not own the paupers' graveyard. The company does, however, have a hand in running it under contract from the county.

"Under the \$1,860 contract, the company digs and covers the graves keeping a registry of their locations. It will direct seekers to graves, both marked and unmarked, officials said.

"The county pays an added \$300 for weed abatement on the cemetery plot to Mt. View.

"We don't make anything out of it', Harry W. Truscott, Mt. View Cemetery manager, said of the county contract. 'We do it more or less as a service'.

"Aside from letting the contract and qualifying the persons as paupers to be buried in it, the county is not actively concerned with the day-to-day operations at the cemetery.

"When first asked about it, officials in the county Public Works Department, which manages county property, said they did not know off-hand whether the county really owned the land or not.

"Further investigation revealed that the county does indeed own it and has been operating a graveyard there since 1914.

"Despite the fact that the cemetery is the only one in the San Bernardino Valley operated for paupers, the number of persons being buried there has dwindled to a trickle.

"Truscott said there are perhaps four to five burials there a month in recent years.

"The widespread coverage of Social Security and veterans benefits that can be applied to private funeral arrangement costs, plus general prosperity may account for the drop in use.

"Social Security will pay from \$120 to \$255 for funeral and burial expenses and veterans may qualify for a \$250 grant for this purpose.

"For those who do not qualify for these benefits and have no finances of their own, the county will pay \$40.86 to a

funeral director and allow burial in Potters Field.

"But even for someone without any death benefit or large amount of personal finances, Truscott said 'there is no need for any 'good Christian person' to be buried in the field.

"Truscott said private burial grounds have for years quietly made special financial arrangements to assist a poor family to provide 'a Christian burial' for a member of the family even when finances proved short of normal minimum costs.

"The Board of Supervisors had ordered Administrative Officer Robert A. Covington to study the possibility of planting the cemetery in grass. No return report has yet been made to the board. He said one should be ready within a week.

"One county official said a Valley woman's organization once undertook the idea of putting a lawn on the land as a club project. But it abandoned the idea after discovering the planting would cost about \$4,000, he said.

"Whatever the initial cost of the planting, in the long run, a bigger factor might be in the area of upkeep.

"Truscott said it would be difficult to gauge the cost of watering, mowing, keeping level and otherwise maintaining the county plot in lawn and landscaping.

"He said he would not be interested in the contract except on a cost-plus basis.

"The old cemetery will probably be active only a few more years. Truscott says there are presently grave spaces for 240 adults and about the same number of baby plots. At the present rate of burials, the plot will be filled in about five years."

The study referred to in the above story revealed an estimated cost of \$10,000 to install a water system alone, not to mention the larger expense of actual planting, followed by watering, mowing, and continual leveling of the ground.¹⁷ This discouraged the County Board of Supervisors from planting grass in Potter's Field. However, they did make an additional arrangement with Mt. View Cemetery which resulted in an improved county cemetery.

A news item in the June 4, 1965, issue of "The San Bernardino Sun-Telegram" described San Bernardino County Cemetery

17. "The San Bernardino Sun-Telegram", San Bernardino, June 4, 1965.

as a "desolate cemetery for the indigent...pathetic...dry as a bone...a sad looking place".

In July, 1966, San Bernardino County Cemetery did not look pathetic. A thick, green hedge of blooming, pink oleander shrubs surrounded the plot. Though still dry, sandy, and grassless, the over-all appearance of the graveyard was one of neatness. The ground was fairly level, not hard, and showed evidence of a recent cleaning. Numerous large, shapely, healthy-looking evergreen trees growing in scattered arrangement throughout the area obviously were well-cared for, eliminating any real sense of desolation. In fact, only the absence of grass prevented this graveyard from having the appearance of a modern memorial park burial ground. The very scarcity and irregular placement of headstones and markers add more to the thought of the park-like appearance the area could have if grass-covered.

No fallen headstones lie askew on the ground. Broken, concrete crosses, neatly assembled, lie flat near the two or three graves to which they belong. The few existing markers and tombstones do appear to be home-made and of concrete. Some are cracked, but others are in good shape. The absence of names and vital statistics on them is noticeably characteristic.

One looking at the headstones and markers scattered here and there throughout the grounds cannot help but be impressed

by the ingenuity and individuality of those who cared enough to fashion them. The crudest are two blank tree stumps. Hollowed in the top of one of these markers is a space to hold a flower container. The simplest, but most fragile markers are two styrofoam crosses. The most imaginative is a cross modernistically fashioned of scrap iron.

Many grave markers are flat, concrete slabs attached to upright headstones. Either the slab or headstone usually is decorated with a single cross drawn, or otherwise outlined, in the concrete. The cross on one slab is depicted by a series of colored marbles inlaid in the concrete. A pure white stone cross inlaid in a pink-tinted slab catches one's attention. Two circles in one slab and one in another have been hollowed out for flower containers.

Perhaps the most unique headstone is a nameless, tiered, concrete pyramid about 12" x 12" x 12". The most interesting marker is a thick, rounded slab of odd-sized granite stones stuck together with what appears to be clay. This slab covers the entire grave, also marked by an upright headstone.

One of the main problems involved in maintaining this graveyard is the wooden boxes in which people were buried until recent years. In time these boxes rot away and collapse, causing the surface ground to sink. Therefore, further improvement of The San Bernardino County Cemetery may depend more on what happens under rather than on top of the ground. By law, during recent years, only cement boxes may be used for

burials. Perhaps this will help.

Meanwhile, in July, 1966, it is comforting to know that additional care given San Bernardino County Cemetery makes it less reminiscent of the days of "free diggings" and more acceptable to modern society. In time it may indeed be a green retreat, reflecting the social, economic, and racial equality for which people everywhere now are struggling.

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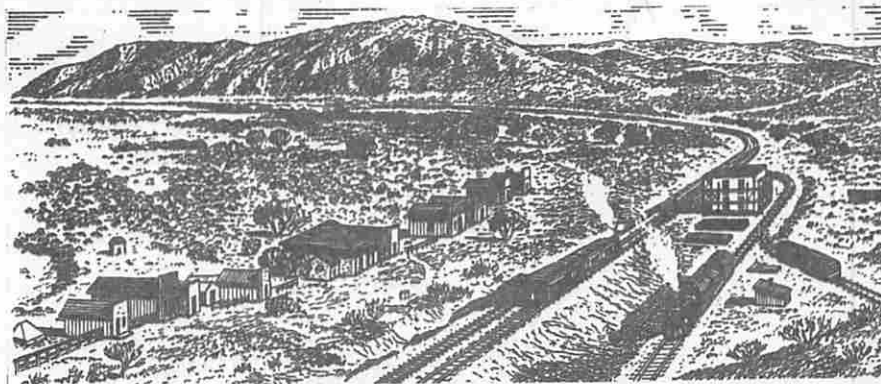
Fe tracks east to Needles was called National Old Trails highway. After the war the Old Mormon Trail to Salt Lake was shortened and was known as the Arrowhead Trail. This road was built by Arthur L. Doran, a pioneer resident of Barstow. Both the National Old Trails and the Arrowhead Trail were surfaced to the state line by 1929.

A notable landmark in the era of the Model T and World War I was the old Barstow Garage, since dismantled. It was a welcome sight to the daring motorist who braved the dusty roads. A modest forerunner, indeed, to the vast



facilities offered by the scores of gas stations, garages, and motels to the thousands of motorists who come through over modern highways.

Barstow's first general merchandise store was operated by Joseph Gooding just south of the railroad freight tracks. Later Henderson's Department Store opened north of the freight tracks. The original building burned in 1907 and was replaced by Barstow's first concrete structure, which is shown to the right. In the 1920s the expanding Santa Fe Railroad, the existing business district, and Barstow moved up the hill, establishing the present Main Street business district. Half the town's residences were also moved. The two-story Melrose Hotel, a garage that claimed to be the biggest west of Albuquerque, and two entire business blocks started the new Barstow.

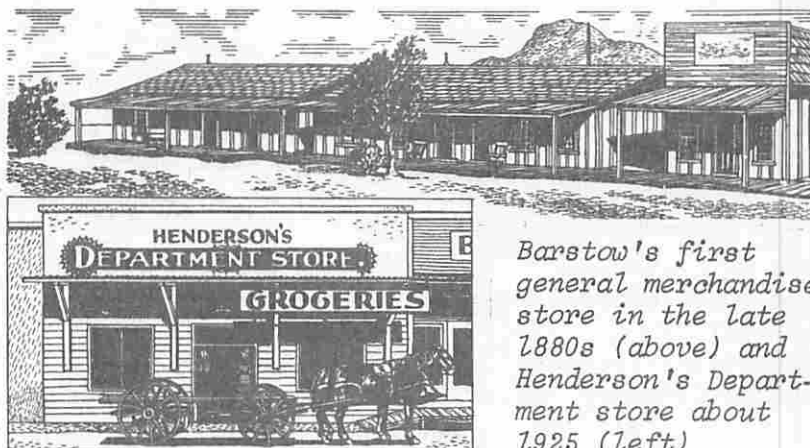


The beginning of Barstow

In 1925, the Henderson Clothing Store moved to the new Main Street.

During the intervening years, Barstow has never stopped growing. Its strategic location can be likened to the hub of a wheel, the spokes radiating out representing the Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroad lines, Interstate Highways 15 and 40, and State Highway 58. Expanding railroad activities and increasing agricultural development throughout the Mojave River Valley have played a tremendous part in its economic life. World War II set off a new tempo with the establishment of the huge military bases nearby. Then its tourist trade, of growing significance each year, zoomed to a new high, now bringing in more than \$11,000,000 annually. World War II brought in the vast military bases, U. S. Marine Corp Supply Center and the Army's Fort Irwin. In the last decade the space age was ushered into the desert with the establishment of the Goldstone Tracking Station nearby. The 1970 census showed a population of 17,008 unofficial at this date.

Several smaller population centers thrive with Barstow as the hub. Lenwood just to the west is a suburban area; Hinkley is further west and north; Calico, Yermo, Daggett and Newberry Springs are to the east.



Barstow's first general merchandise store in the late 1880s (above) and Henderson's Department store about 1925 (left)

Date of Death: 1921 (Cont)

Sofia G. Pary (Paez, Parez?) Mex., N. Mex-
ico, wife of Perfecto Parez
Funeral Oct 17, 1921

Albuquerque, New Mexico residence
Place of death: Barstow; Services at
Barstow, 3 PM Clergyman E.L.W.
Cert: B.V. Anderson, Pulmon T. B.
House wife, Catholic, Married 14 June 1896
Father: Placido Garcia, N. Mexico
Mother: Eva Chavez, N. Mexico

Oliver Steele Plotner, Missouri
Life ins. Charge to estate or son, 419 S.
6th, Laramie, Wyo.
Resident of Hinkley, Calif.
Cert: S.L. Benson, cause: Epithilia
Carcinoma 12/11(16)/21, Rancher, divorced,
Prot. Aug 8, 1851
Samuel Plotner, W. VA.

Miller, Maryland
Shipped to Orange, Calif.

Pete Samora (baby)
Sept 22, 1921, 6 months

Henry Wellpott (White) Germany
Nov 12, 1921 funeral
Place: Near Todd Station
J.B. Hanna, Coroner, Colton, Calif.
Gunshot wound, Suicide, Nov 12, 1921 5 AM
Occupation: Laborer, Age: about 64

Wong Bak Yen, born in China
Charge to Santa Fe
May 2, 1921, funeral
Death on train
Cert: J.B. Hanna and L.M. Coyant(?) S.B.
Cause: Lobar pneumonia Empyema Splino Mag.
Date of death: May 1, 1921
Occupation: Laborer

FIRST BARSTOW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Establishment of the first high school was initiated in August of 1915 with the arrival of Professor Harry B. Thomas, a math teacher from Chino, Calif. He met with Miss Abby Waterman, a daughter of Robert Waterman who owned the first local silver mine and later governor of California, and Oswald Wilson, the editor of The Barstow Printer. They agreed that a high school would open in September. The school house, rented from Jesse Flint, was a two-story residence located west of First and William Streets where the El Rancho Motel now stands. Partitions were removed to provide two class rooms, and desks and books were ordered.

The school opened September 20th, but without books, desks or other equipment. Tables were used for desks and folding chairs for seats. Professor Thomas was the principal and also taught. The other teacher was Leona S. Paxton. Twenty-six students enrolled and of these there were fourteen boys and twelve girls. The first graduate was Miss Muriel Hindle. Other members of the 1915 class were:

Pauline Carter
Laura Goodrich, Vice President
Robert Greer
Verda Haws

Cleon Hill, First Editor El Desierto
Mabel Hill, Secretary
Mary Hillis
Ora Johnson
James Mudgett, First President Student body
Walter Mudgett, Athletic Manager
Fred Owen, Treasurer

Early Board Members

Miss Abby Waterman, First President	1915-18
W.B. Allen	1915-16
G. Clyde Compton	1915-16
A.H? Pendleton	1915-16
Thomas Williams	1915-16
E.A. Erickson	1916
B.J. Lingenfelder	1916-18
Mrs. Robert H. Greer	1916-22
Oswald Wilson	1915-16
Claude O. Gillett	1917-18

Early Teachers

Prof. Harry B. Thomas, Principal
Percy Purviance
Bessie M Hoagland
Leona S. Paxton
Dorothy M. Hindle
Source: Barstow Union High School District
History, 1915-1916 by Tom Percy

which eliminated his 20-mule team operation around 1898. The Borate became unprofitable after 1907. However it is said that over 9 million dollars in borax was taken from the mines and was the principal source of borax in the United States at that time.

After the mules had completed a days hauling in their picturesque 20- mule team caravans, the mules were driven to a part of the canyon that was a natural grazing area, requiring closing only on one end to keep the mules from straying. This canyon became known as Mule Canyon and can be traveled by automobile today.

The town of Daggett was established before the silver and borax boom, as a group of adobe houses, some of which are still standing, and were said to be there before 1881. There is an old stone hotel building which was built by the widowed mother of District Attorney Cavanaugh of San Bernardino. There was also the Railroad Hotel run by W.F. Cornet. The Stone Hotel was purchased in 1885 by Seymore Alf, who with his wife and four daughters, had moved from Fish Ponds. They operated the hotel for two years. Alf hauled freight and ore to and from the Calico mines, and slaughtered and dressed beef that he delivered the same day to Calico. He built and operated a blacksmith shop, (now a museum) for repair of his equipment. From 1894 to 1903 he had the contract with American Borax to haul ore from Borate. He owned over 60 head of mules and horses and employed several men in the operation.

The mill at Marion was a three story building, probably about 40 feet wide and had a tall, freestanding stack. Apparently there were a couple of other mill buildings and homes for Francis Marion Smith, the owner, and John William Samuel Perry, the superintendent. It is not known where the employees lived, and the site now consists of only a few cement foundations and some rubble. Marion obtained its name from the middle name of the owner of the mill.

The Fish Ponds Station was located across the Mojave River and a little to the west of Daggett. It obtained its name from the large ponds four to five feet deep in the river. The ponds were full the year round and there were a number of homes as

well as a one-room school house located there.

When mining became unprofitable at Calico it became a ghost town. Later Walter Knott, who once worked for his uncle in the King Mine, bought all the property in the town, restored many of the buildings, and operated it as a tourist attraction. In 1963 he negotiated with the county of San Bernardino to take over Calico and it is now part of the Park and Recreation department. Calico Ghost Town is annually visited by thousands of tourists from all over the United States and Foreign countries. Old Calico has been resurrected from the dead and lives again.

MIRAGE DRY LAKE

When driving east on Route 91, from Barstow, you come to the road leading to the Ghost Town of Calico. This road passes to the west of Mirage Dry Lake. In the morning during a hot day one can see what appears to be a lake boardred with trees and bushes that are reflected in the water. It is so realistic that it is easy to see how the spiritis of a tired, hot, thirsty traveler would rise at the sight of a tree lined lake so close to the road. It is only a bare sandy lakebed that has only a few inches of water in it during an exceptional wet season in winter. The water evaporates in a matter of a day or so. To one who has never seen a desert mirage it is an amazing experience.

A YERMO BOOSTER

In Oct. 1959 the writer and wife stopped in a rock shop owned by an elderly man (now deceased). During the conversation he mentioned that he was a retired bus driver and had driven all over the United States, but liked the Yermo climate better than any place he had been. My wife mentioned that it was too hot and didn't it ever get cool? to which he replied, wait until after the 15th of Nov. and it will freeze the tail off of you. He was right it turned off cold right after the 15th. So you can have it cold while some like it hot and dry with low humidity.

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TOWN OF YERMO

The unincorporated town of Yermo, San Bernardino County, California has a population of approximately two thousand. It is located eleven miles east of Barstow and six miles northeast of Daggett. Interstate 15 now passes Yermo a short distance to the north.

Yermo was formerly called Otis, assertedly honoring Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, founder of the Los Angeles Times. When Francis Marion Smith was active in the Calico area, Otis was no more than a "wagon-yard", later becoming a "material-yard" upon the construction of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad in 1904. On 21 Oct 1905, a post office was established naming the location Yermo, a Spanish word meaning "desert". The Union Pacific Railroad, half-owner of the SPLA&SL, acquired complete ownership in 1921 and kept a division point there for rail traffic.

Yermo, near enough to the Calico Mountains that it rubbed elbows with the miners and promoters of the silver and borate mines, drew people and houses from Calico. Thomas O. Williams settled Otis in 1902. Homesteading large acreage of land, it was said that Tom Williams owned all the land from Second Street to Harvard. East Yermo at one time was called "Williamsville". Harry Gregg, Morgan L. Leatherbury, and Charles L. Roesbery came to Otis in 1903. Cal Greiner and Doctor Donald W. McKenzie arrived in 1904. Almost all of these early Yermo pioneers had served in the Spanish-American War.

When the borax business ceased, the railroads afforded another reason for the town's continued existence. The station at Yermo is one you would normally find associated with cities having many times its population. The freight traffic keeps a moderate force of employees serving trains and crews from Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Yermo suffered a couple of bad fires,

losing considerable property, and a few earthquakes, but like most towns in the area, snapped right back rebuilding almost immediately.

Yermo as well serves as a trucking terminal adding to the town's worth. Truck drivers make an estimated 100,000 stops annually at Yermo restaurants where they can leisurely eat, casually rest, and exchange trucks before returning to their destination.

Welcoming travelers from the east at Yermo is the California Agricultural Inspection Station. First established in the town around Sep 1929, the station inspects over 1½ million vehicles annually for destructive insects, plant diseases, weeds and wild animal pests. During its early period the Department of Motor Vehicles jointly used the facility for registering out-of-state vehicles.

The U.S. Marine Corps maintains the largest repair facility in their system at Yermo. The acreage was turned over to the Marine Corps by the Army on 15 Oct 1946, and since that time it has been expanded by addition of a huge repair building which houses offices, shops for repairing, rebuilding and maintaining small arms, electronics, artillery trucks, amphibious tracked vehicles and other specialized military equipment returned by field organizations in the United States and from over seas.

It has been said by mining experts that there is more unmined ore in the Calico Mountains than was removed during the peak years of the town of Calico. When precious metal prices rise to where it will pay to mine the ore by modern methods, Yermo expects to be a key center for mining interests. William T. Hudson, a widely recognized pioneer of uranium mining has been quoted as saying "In ten or fifteen years the whole world will be starving for minerals that Calico can offer to the world".

