

thereafter. After Edwin Hayes retired from his job with Southern Pacific, he took over the "jail" to use it as his personal "den". Mary Ruth later used the "jail" for storage, and as her own little museum-San Gabriel's first. As a piece of local history, it deserves to be saved.

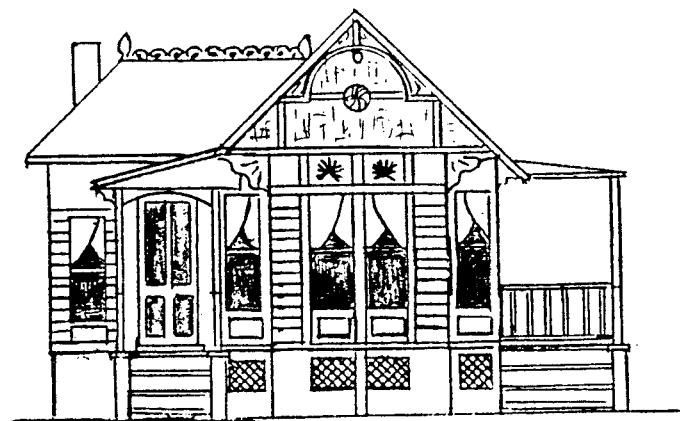
(Movies, Continued)

boards on the sloping floor. This arrangement permitted the temporary clearing of the floor and the use of the theater for dancing.

The movies were accompanied by music, supplied by a pianola player piano and phonograph records of organ music and sound effects. The first projector required a couple of minutes to change reels. Later, a Powers electric twin-projector permitted a continuous show. Best of all, the admission price for those 8, and older, was only 10¢. Those under 8, cost only 5¢. The theater was open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The theater closed in the early 1930's when the new "Talkies" were introduced at the Mission Playhouse.

SAN GABRIEL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
546 West Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776



1887 BOVARD-WILSON-HAYES HOUSE

SAN GABRIEL'S FIRST MOVIE THEATER

In 1911, John and Augusta Feldmiller and their children, Wayne and Dorothy, came to San Gabriel. Feldmiller bought the triangle of land at the corner of Angeleno and Mission Dr. There, he set up a tent, folding chairs, a hand-cranked Edison movie projector, and a distillate fueled direct-current generator to operate the projector's arc lamp. This little theater quickly became a popular diversion in old San Gabriel. It offered films featuring such actors as Elmo Lincoln, Dustin Farnum, Eddy Polo, Harry Carey, Theodore Roberts and Clara Young, all in living black and white,...and silent.

In 1912, Feldmiller, and his brother-in-law, Arthur Wilcox, replaced the tent with a wood and stucco 200 seat theater. The front of the theater was designed to look like the Mission, and candy and soft drinks were sold from the tile roofed booth in front of the theater. Inside, the seats were fastened to movable

(Continued in left Column, see Movies)

THEATERS--SAN GABRIEL

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