

Highland Park annexed to Los Angeles in 1895- Garvanza joins city in 1899

SIXTY YEARS IS NOT A LONG TIME. BUT IN THAT SHORT PERIOD—FROM 1880 TO 1940—HIGHLAND PARK HAS GROWN FROM AN UNTENANTED PASTURE TO A THRIVING COMMUNITY WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 70,000 RESIDENTS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF THE HIGHEST RANK, MANY OF LOS ANGELES' MOST BEAUTIFUL PARKS, LIBRARIES, CHURCHES, MODERN TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, AND WITH EXCELLENT STREETS AND HIGHWAYS. TRULY,

HIGHLAND PARK IN THIS DAY OF 1940 STANDS AS THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THAT ITS FOUNDERS IMAGINED IT WOULD BE WHEN THEY LOOKED UPON THE BEAUTIFUL HILLSIDES THAT WERE NO MORE THAN SHEEP PASTURES.

THREE SCORE YEARS OF PROGRESS!

NOR IS THIS STORY OF HIGHLAND PARK FROM 1880 TO 1940 THE CULMINATION OF PROGRESS; FOR, AS THIS GREAT COMMUNITY

IN NORTHEAST LOS ANGELES FACES ITS FUTURE, WELL MAY THE FAR-SEEING OF ITS CITIZENS KNOW THAT ITS GREATEST PROGRESS IS YET TO COME. AND WHEN THE CONTEMPORARY HISTORIANS OF 1980 ENDEAVOR TO TELL THE STORY OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS, THE MOST AMAZING VERY LIKELY WILL BE THOSE OF THE 1940-1980 PERIOD, WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, HIGHLAND PARK WILL REALIZE ITS AMBITIONS FOR EVEN BETTER ROADS AND STREETS, FOR EVEN BETTER

In 1870 two pioneer Southern California investors, Andrew Glassell and A. C. Chapman, purchased what is now Highland Park from the Verdugo interests for one dollar per acre; and promptly leased the land for further sheep raising; and it was in the year 1871, as recorded in "The Five Friendly Valleys," published in 1923 by the Security-First National bank, that 15,000 sheep grazed on the hills and valleys of what is now Highland Park. And the hillside that now is the beautiful Occidental college campus was then a sheep-shearing corral; and the adobe ranch house stood on what is now North Avenue 54, near Franklin high school.

public and private means of transportation; for even better market places; for even better parks and playgrounds; for even better schools and colleges. Yes, and during the next 40 years the people of the great community that is Highland Park will come to find the natural beauties of their home community, and use them to the utmost.

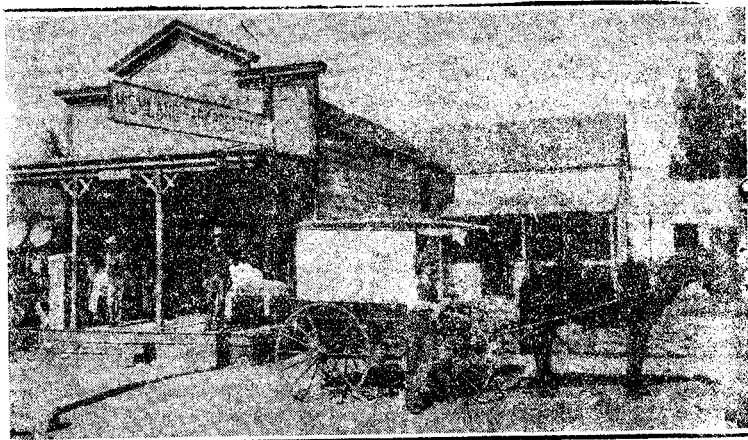
Highland Park's history really begins a great many years before 1880; for this whole region was in earlier days the princely Rancho San Rafael, owned by the Verdugo family and kept as a place for the grazing of cattle. But it was more than a sheep run—much more—for it was also a region of beautiful rolling hills, with an abundance of wild flowers, and many natural springs. And before that many Indian villages were spotted along the Arroyo Seco stream banks.



—Photo by White's Studios

PIONEER OF BUSINESS BUILDINGS

Daddy of all landmarks in the Highlands is Miller's hall, at 6311 Pasadena avenue, recently purchased by the I.O.O.F. It was erected in 1886 and was the first business building in the town of Garvanza. According to "old-timers" in the district, it never has been altered or received a new paint job in its 54 years.



FIGUEROA'S FIRST STORE

Shown above is the first store on North Figueroa street, opened in 1891 by J. P. Stocksdale, at 5809 Pasadena avenue, now North Figueroa street. At that time, however, a considerable number of business establishments were in operation in the Garvanza section. In 1892 Stocksdale opened a post office in his store, sign for which is shown.

ATTRACT MANY ARTISTS

There were many other events of great importance during the first 20 years of the present century. William Lees Judson founded his famous College of Fine Arts, on South Avenue 66, in 1901, and affiliated it with U.S.C. Judson attracted to the community a famous group of artists, many of whom still live here. Los Angeles Pacific college was founded in 1904 in the Hermon district of Highland Park. Charles F. Lummis, famous resident here, inspired the building of the Southwest museum in 1913. Franklin high school was opened in 1916. President William Howard

Taft visited Occidental college in 1909 and ex-President Theodore Roosevelt did likewise in 1911.

TRANSITION PERIOD

The decade following the war marked the transition of Highland Park from a small town to the suburb of a great city. In 1920 the Highland Park "Herald" was a small town paper with a subscription list of about 700 and seldom more than four pages in a weekly edition. By 1930 it had consolidated with the Highland Park "News" and its subscription list was in the thousands.

At the beginning of the 1920s, Avenue 57 was the hub of the business section of North Figueroa street, then known as Pasadena avenue, and was the district's western boundary, with a few stores on Monte Vista, around North Avenue 55. When W. W. Blakeslee announced that he would build a market building in the block below, now occupied by Lloyd's, the old-timers tapped their heads sadly; and when Mr. Thomas, who had a grocery store where Ivers Department store now stands, at 5801 North Figueroa street, announced he would occupy this new Blakeslee building, nothing but disaster was prophesied.

MANY NEW BUILDINGS

However, this new market building was the opening wedge; and in rapid succession followed the moving of the Carl Paekard residence from Avenue 56 and North Figueroa street and construction on that site of the Security-First National bank building. Then came the Masonic building, also at the corner of Avenue 56 and North Figueroa street, soon followed by the Highland Theatre building and the Bank of America.

In the meantime the Highland Park post office had given up its building at 5704 North Figueroa street and moved to 5628 North Figueroa street. 'D. C. Welty bought the old post office building and the "Herald" moved to that location. In 1924 the "Herald" combined with the "News" and soon after moved its office and shop to 5531 North Figueroa street.

Many other important business buildings were constructed during the '20s, including that owned by Miss Nellie White, at the corner of Avenue 55 and North Figueroa street; the market building at 6015 North Figueroa street, now occupied by Si Perkins market; the Arroyo Seco bank building at York Square, the intersection of York boulevard, Pasadena avenue, and North Figueroa street; and many others.

CHURCH EDIFICES

New church buildings were constructed, notably the entirely new edifices of the Highland Park Presbyterian church and the Garvanza Methodist church, and additions to the Highland Park Methodist church. Also, the Grace Presbyterian church, and others. In the matter of schools, the 1920s found many additions to Franklin high school, which was growing rapidly; and the complete construction of the fine new Luther Burbank junior high school. A large building was added by the St. Ignatius church school during this period.

York boulevard had its greatest development during this 10 years between 1920 and 1930. The Highland Park police station was built at 6045 York boulevard; the York Theatre building was another development during these interesting 10 years, as were numerous other smaller buildings. Largest development on York was in the block between Avenue 50 and Avenue 51, although there was considerable activity all along the boulevard to the intersection with North Figueroa street.

Following the severe business depression from '29 on, a considerable let-down of development in Highland Park was noticeable; but by 1935 and 1936, much of the steady pace forward had been regained. And for the past three years building permits for Highland Park have been considerably over the million dollar mark per year. New

school buildings have been built to accommodate the increase in population. The famous old "Pasadena Avenue," between Avenue 39 and York Square was changed to "North Figueroa street." Indeed, the improvements during the last

few years are too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that in growth Highland Park has kept pace with all other parts of Los Angeles, which in turn is the fastest growing major urban center in the whole United States.