

**Came Here In 1893**

## Resident Recalls Drilling For Water, Chasing Cows

About two short decades after the famed Wyatt Earp finished off the gunfight at the O. K. Corral, Mr. Wm. Brooks moved to Eagle Rock. That was in 1893, and he has been in this area ever since. At the present time Mr. Brooks lives with his wife at 6015 Mesa Ave. in Highland Park.

Brooks first came to this area to live on his father's ranch in Eagle Rock at the approximate location of Highland View Dr. At that time there were only 15 families in the entire area. The Brooks ranch was of fairly decent size, spreading over 22½ acres.

The ground was given mostly to the raising of tomatoes and apricots and other varieties of fruits and vegetables. Mr. Brooks has many fond memories of those days and can remember a few things that make us of the younger generation stop and look around us at the old familiar things and remember that our community has a history.

In the last few years of the

19th century, the water supply was depleted by several dry spells. In those days the residents had to get their water out of wells that they had dug themselves. Mr. Brooks and his father hired a "hard-rock" min-

er to come out to their ranch and find some water. The miner did come out and he did find water. He drilled into the hill at the location of what is now Hill Dr. and came across a good supply of the precious liquid.

By constructing over-flow pipes and other infernal machines the Brooks family soon

From Page 1—MORE ABOUT

### WM. BROOKS . . .

had water piped right into their house. But during one hot summer, a stranger came to the door and asked to buy some water.

The Brooks agreed and then discovered that the man had a 200 gallon tank wagon out in front. They filled the wagon up once a week for several months and their new customer took his water over to Highland Park to the Garvanza district and sold it to the residents there at a handsome profit.

#### Stampede

One year when the parents of Mr. Brooks were visiting out here in California an interesting thing happened that probably led the visitors to believe that the area was far from civilized yet. Mrs. Brooks' parents were visiting from Washington, D. C., that center of culture, at the Brooks house in Highland Park, located near Ave. 52. There was a dairy on the hill near Ave. 51 called Hodges Dairy and one fine night the dairy's cattle broke



WM. BROOKS, Eagle Rock Rancher, and his wife.

out and proceeded to the Brooks house.

The visitors from the East were awakened by a sound that was new to their ears. Looking out the window the guests were startled to see the complacent face of a cud-chewing cow that had placed his head in the window staring back at them. Their composure was shaken to say the least.

The funny noise that was heard and which awakened them was the sound of the cattle rubbing their heads on the side of the house.

The house, by the way, was built out of the left-over planks of the original bleachers of the Occidental College. Brooks can proudly say that his is the only house whose walls were sat on by important people.