

# School names, locales, seen changes

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of bicentennial year feature stories about the history of northeast Los Angeles. The articles will run periodically between now and the observance of the nation's 200th birthday on July 4, 1976.)

By Charles Cooper

Graduates of Hayes Street School, Illinois Avenue, Prichard Street School and other such institutions might not recognize the look or the names of the institutions which have taken their place, but all those schools and others are still represented in the northeast area today.

Hayes Street School is now named Albion Street, Illinois Avenue became Buchanan Street and Prichard Street School now answers to the name of Glen Alta.

After its beginning as Hayes Street, Albion

Street school had the names of 19th Avenue and Ave. 19 before becoming Albion Street in 1917.

School buildings and names have changed quite frequently over the past 70 years, but few have moved far from the original site and even fewer have been closed completely.

Many local elementary schools have had as many as four names over the years, as different jurisdictions took control and, quite frequently as the street they were located on changed names.

## MONTE VISTA

For example, Monte Vista Street School started out its life as Highland Park School, before the community was annexed by Los Angeles.

Then in short order it became 54th Avenue School and Ave. 54 school, both in 1903, before taking the name Monte Vista in 1912.

## EAST LA SCHOOL

The oldest local school for which school district records could be found is no longer in existence, but it began as East Los Angeles School in 1878.

Then it became Hellman Street School in 1884, Chestnut Street in 1888

and Ave. 21 in 1889, before making local history by becoming the first junior high in the Northeast LA area, Ave. 21 intermediate, in 1911.

After the site of the junior high was changed to the present Lincoln High site in 1913, the school reverted to elementary school status before being closed when the Golden State Freeway was built.

Two different schools at one time in their life carried the name of Eagle Rock Avenue, and neither continues with the name today.

One was Garvanza Avenue School, which started its life in 1899 as

Garvanza School. It took the name Eagle Rock Avenue in 1903, 62nd Avenue in 1908, and then the powers of the time decided the first idea was the best and returned to Garvanza Avenue in 1917.

## ANNANDALE

The other school briefly

carrying the name of Eagle Rock Avenue was Annandale School, which started out as Annandale and became Eagle Rock Avenue in 1916, before returning to the original name in 1923.

Many local schools have carried one name through their entire existence. Among them are Aldama, opened in 1924; Delevan Drive, 1926; Dorris Place, 1925; Griffin Ave., 1882; Loreto Street, 1907; Multnomah Street, 1949; Toland Way, 1925; Sierra Vista, 1913; Sierra Park, 1916; Gates Street, 1890; and San Pascual Ave. School, which since its founding in 1924 has only added Avenue to the original San Pascual name.

Several schools annexed into the LA district when their communities became part of Los Angeles went through name changes, at the time or later.

## FARMDALE

One which didn't was Farmdale, which was founded in 1889, and came into the district in 1915 with the same name. The original Farmdale building is still located on the El

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# Illinois Ave., Hayes Street . . .

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Sereno Junior High campus, which itself was once Wilson High School before the new school was built.

Bairdstown School wasn't so lucky, though; two years after it joined the LA district, the name was changed to El Sereno.

Hermon School retained that name for 32 years before it became Bushnell Way, in 1944; and Dahlia Heights school was East School for 15 years of its existence.

Buchanan Street School had a quick name change from Illinois Avenue School in 1913, and Fletcher Drive School existed for six years starting in 1922 under the name of Estara Ave. School.

Glassell Park School got its name in 1920, after previously carrying the name of Washington Park; and Glen Alta School started in 1890 as Prichard Street School, and was Lincoln Park Avenue School from 1918 to 1923, before the final name change was adopted.

Hillside School was Swain Street in 1890, and 35th Avenue School from 1903 to 1917; and Huntington Drive School was Rose-Hill School from 1909 to 1928.

Mt. Washington School has had the one name only since being annexed in 1912, and so have Rockdale, which came into the LA district from the Annandale District in the same year.

Schools carried on the chronological list of school namings which no longer exist include Arroyo Ave., which was also Humbolt and Highland View before expiring; Cypress Park; Gravois Ave. School; and San Rafael School.

Meridian Street School started out as Ruby Lane

School, and went through a short period as part of the Burbank Junior High campus before becoming a child care center. The original building has been demolished.

## JUNIOR HIGHS

Local junior highs and high schools don't carry anything like that long list of aliases, possibly because they are somewhat less venerable.

Eagle Rock, Franklin and Wilson have all carried the same names, since their foundings in

1927, 1916 and 1937 respectively, although Wilson has a new campus now.

## LINCOLN

And Lincoln, which started out as an intermediate (junior) high, carried that name from the beginning, adding Abraham to honor the Civil War president in 1930.

The junior high schools have also retained one name, including Burbank, founded in 1927, Irving,

1937, and Nightingale, also 1937.

The names may have changed over the years, but a scan of educational news from past issues of the Northeast Newspapers shows one trend which never changes; the schools always wanted more money, and the taxpayers were always reluctant to grant it.

The residents of Eagle Rock who paid tax assessments to build Glendale High, only to be annexed into Los Angeles before the school was completed, sound very modern in their 1923 complaints; all that's been added is 50 years and a few more zeroes to the money figures under debate.