

Landmark falls

ER Blvd. farm house demolished

By Eleanor Zimmerman

The little red farm house of 4905 Eagle Rock Blvd. was torn down this week. It stood for approximately 90 years on the west side of Eagle Rock Blvd., two doors north of Yosemite. With it passed a landmark, a remaining reminder of the small farm background of this area.

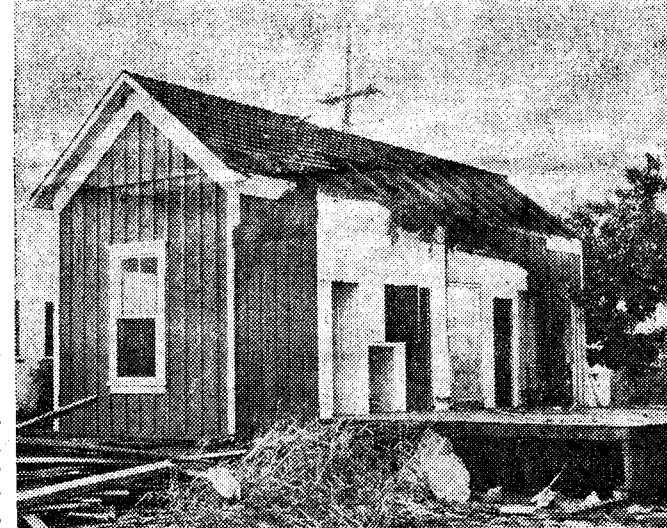
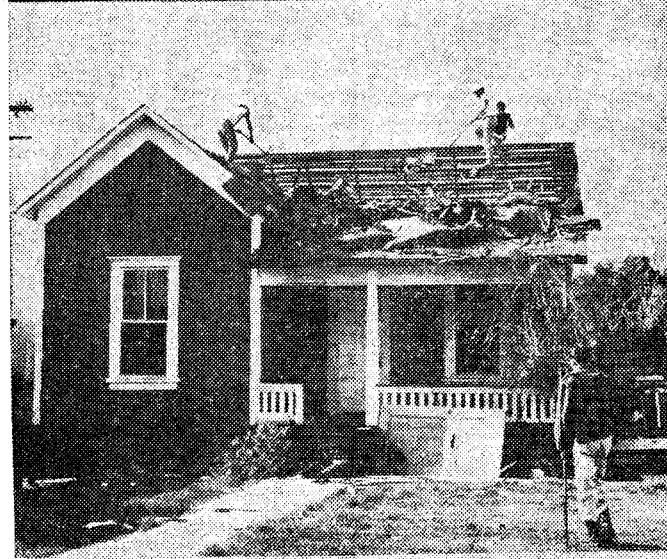
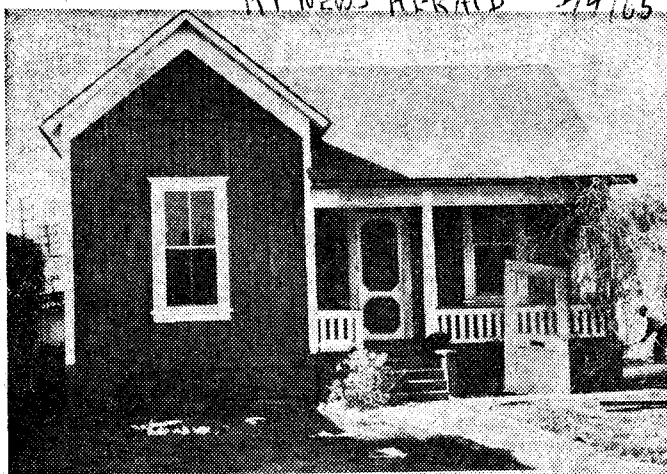
The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society has in its possession strip maps that have been very much enlarged, and show an apricot orchard, bee hives, and a tall windmill, on the farm. There was also considerable acreage.

FIRST FAMILY

Built in the 1870's it had known many occupants. The first family who occupied the home was the Stevens who grew peanuts in the hills. Their baby died while they lived there, and they buried it in the front yard, since there were no cemeteries close by in the area. This was not an uncommon practice in Eagle Rock.

Augusta Stevens, one of the Stevens' daughters, opened the second school in Eagle Rock, a one-room structure on Caspar Ave., with grades 1 through 9, for an enrollment of 20 students.

The second family to own the house was the Rowlands. The street now known as Rockland, was originally named for them. When the small incorporated city of Eagle Rock (sixth class) was annexed in 1923, to the City of Los Angeles, most of the street names were changed. Rowland Ave. became Rockland Ave. The Eagle Rock Library of today, is there. Originally, Eagle Rock Blvd. upon which the house stood, was Central Ave., and what is now the Eagle Rock Elementary School, was the Central School, since it was so near to that street.



GOING, GOING, ALMOST GONE — The little red barn on Eagle Rock Blvd., estimated to be about 90 years old, fell to the tools of demolition crews this week as work advanced for a new shopping center in the area. View above shows demolition in stages. Today, the site is empty.

LAST FAMILY

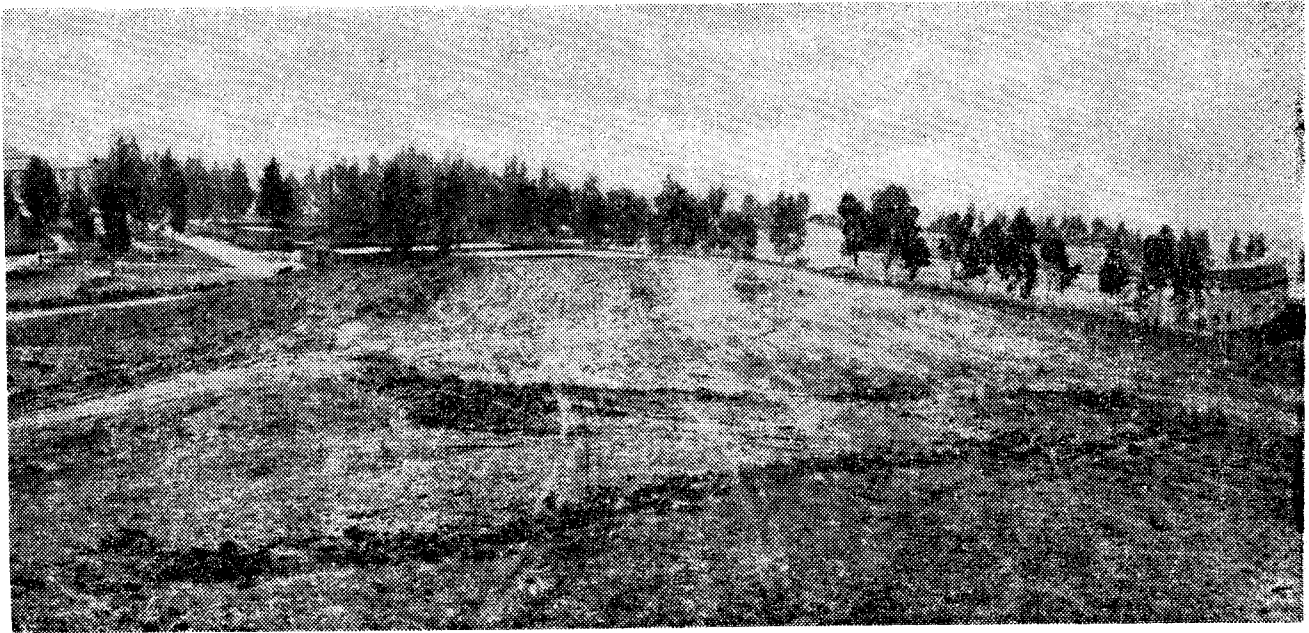
Last to occupy the house was the Fekete family. They were Hungarian refugees, and were amazed when they learned the age of the house. The interior had been modernized and appeared newer than it was. New ceilings had been installed three feet below the original ones. Modern electrical fixtures had been added, and of course, plumbing.

Back in the horse and buggy days the area where the house stood was very fertile.

Across the street was the Gates Strawberry Ranch, which covered roughly the area between the present day streets of Maywood, Yosemite, Eagle Rock Blvd. and Colorado. The Gates Strawberry Ranch employed Chinese labor. Pictures in the possession of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society show these Chinese picturesque with their queues and Chinese garb. On the week-ends they were hauled off in a large horse drawn wagon to receive military training for a rebellion in China. Homer Lea, the incredible hunchback of Occidental College, who became associated with Sun Yat Sen, instigated this.

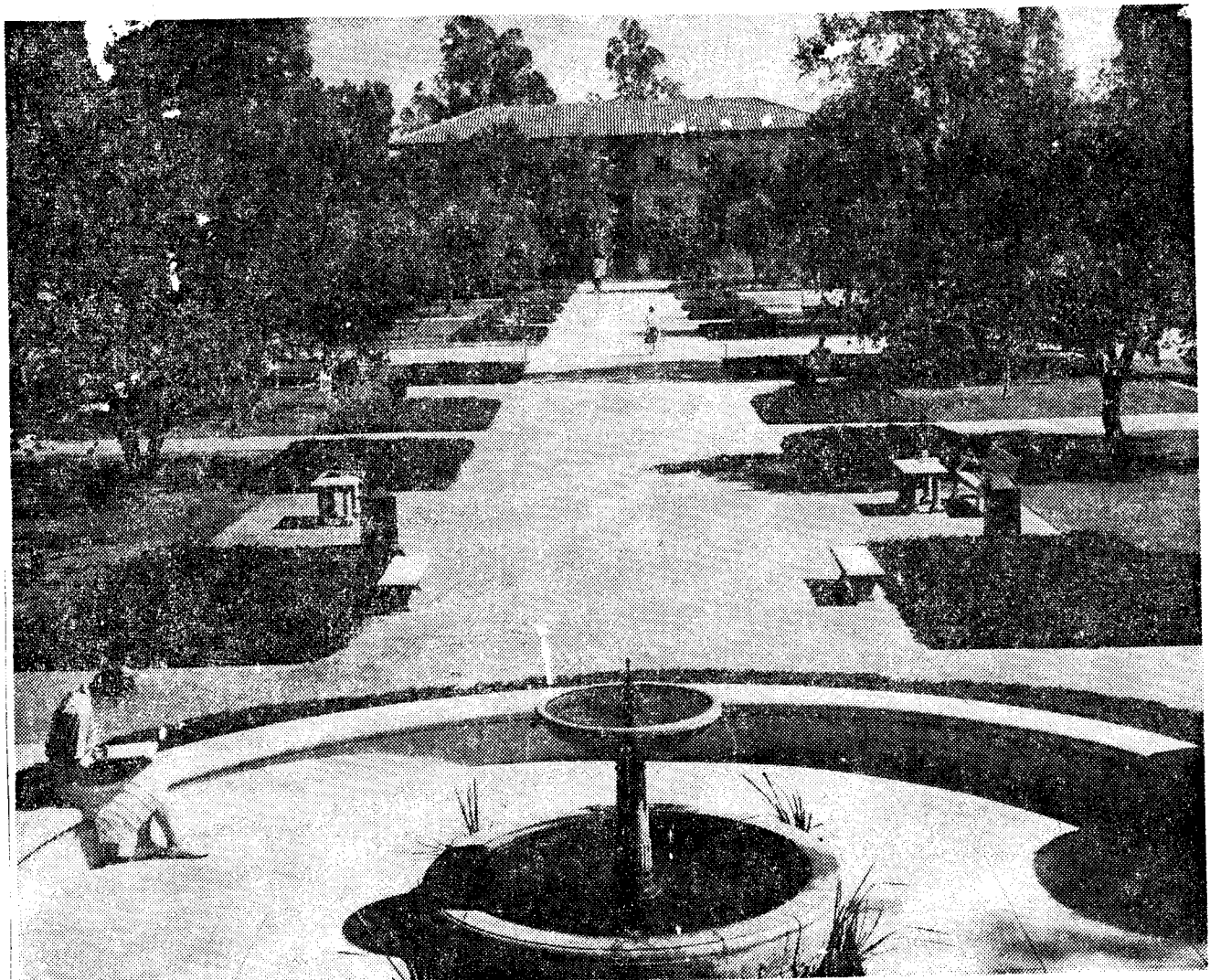
So the passing of the little farm house, commonly known as the Rowland House, brings to mind the progress of Eagle Rock, from a collection of small farms, to its present day status as a residential and commercial area. Where the early people grew produce and shipped it afar, now we have many markets, the newest of which is about to be erected on the site of this early small farm.

The foreman of the demolition crew stated this week that the house would be taken apart carefully, piece by piece, hoping that nothing of historical interest might be overlooked.



women's gymnasium and Johnson Hall. Across street is lunchroom facilities and James Swan Hall, dormitory now being converted to offices and semi-

nar rooms. Patterson Field, right, served the athletic requirements then as now, though structure for spectators shown in photo has since been replaced.



TRANQUIL CAMPUS—Neatly landscaped campus area at Occidental College fronts library nestled in

luxuriant foliage. College's 1,450 students find sun-splashed court ideal for outdoor studying.

Times photo