

**Self-Guided Tour**

**HISTORIC SITES**

**in**

**GLENDORA**

By the Glendora Historical Society, 1987

Please respect the privacy of the  
owners..... DO NOT DISTURB OCCUPANTS!.....

## GLENDORA, PRIDE OF THE FOOTHILLS

In the beginning, this area was occupied by the Shoshone Indians, but it is not certain if they belonged to the Gabrielino or Serrano division of the tribe. Glendora is one of the few communities to have a registered Indian Hill and can be seen by permission of the owner.

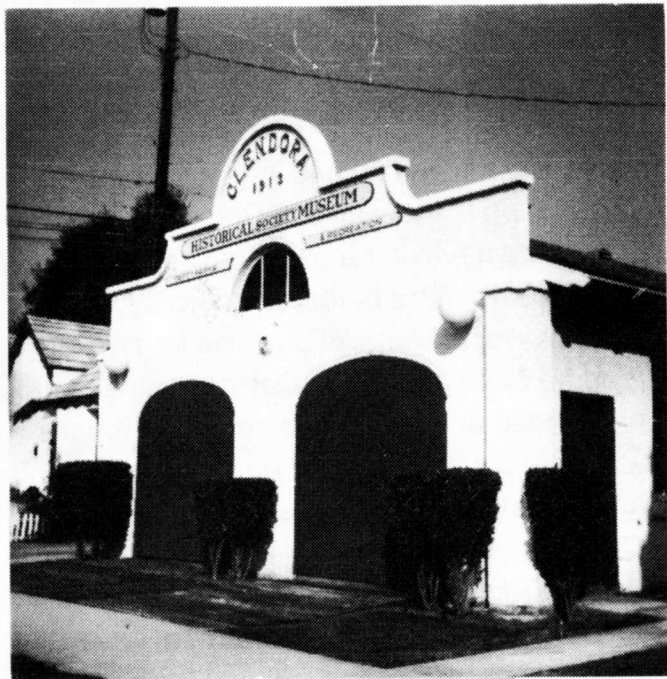
The biggest change and growth in the Glendora-Azusa area, and probably in the San Gabriel Valley, was during the Dalton era. On December 24, 1844, Englishman Henry Dalton purchased Rancho Azusa (Azusa & Irwindale) and later acquired the San Jose Addition, the Santa Anita Rancho, and lands which extended to San Pascual (Pasadena). Dalton's home was located on what is termed Dalton Hill, on Cerritos Avenue between 5th and Foothill - the present site of Lee Elementary school. In 1858, after Mexico lost California to the United States, the U. S. Government sent a surveyor who changed most of Dalton's boundary lines and land was opened for homesteaders. Dalton fought for his rights, but he gradually lost everything, due to

expensive court costs. In 1880 his last bit of land went up for auction. Henry Dalton died in 1884 , a broken, penniless man.

Homesteaders began to arrive in a continuous stream and the growth was tremendous. John Bender and William Cullen were the earliest of permanent settlers in the Glendora area, which at the time was still a part of Azusa Valley. They arrived in 1874.

George Whitcomb had come west from Chicago for his health, and was responsible for setting up the townsite of Glendora. He chose to name it for the canyon "Glen" and the last half of his wife's name "Leadora". He, John Cook, and Merrick Reynolds formed the Glendora Land and Water Company and streets were graded and set up and named. Pepper trees were planted, and the Bellevue hotel was built. Whitcomb had been influential in getting the Santa Fe to come through Glendora. The first lots were sold April 1, 1887.

The Fairmount Cemetery came into existence in 1876 when a man was murdered and there was no place to bury him. The cemetery can be seen by appointment only. Oakdale Cemetery was established in 1890 at Gladstone and Grand avenues.



#1

## **#1--314 N. GLENDORA AVENUE**

### Glendora Historical Museum

Built in 1913 to house the City Office, Fire Engine, Police and also one holding cell. It was used until 1923 when the present City Hall was built at 116 E. Foothill Blvd.

Following the move to the newer city hall, the Boy Scouts, the American Legion members, and other organizations used it for a meeting hall. The first fire engine purchased was a 1912 La France red fire truck, with wooden spoked wheels. This is still used in parades.

In 1946 the Glendora Historical Society was organized with 162 charter members. Ruth Richardson was the first president. She, Paul Keiser, and Donald Pflueger were strong forces in organizing the Historical Society.

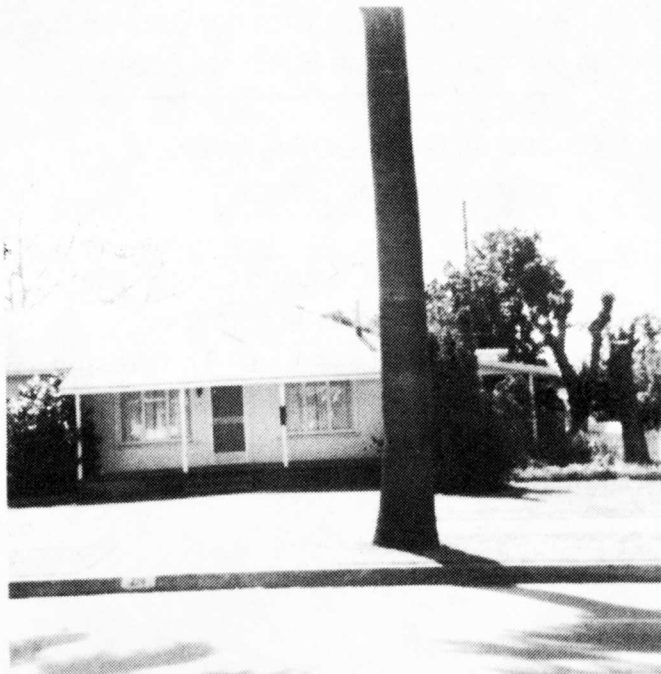
## **#2--300 N. GLENDORA AVENUE**

### First Christian Church

The original First Christian Church was built in 1888 at the northeast corner of Wabash and Bennett avenues. The present church was completed in 1923. The congregation is celebrating 100 years of existence this year.



#4



#5

### **#3--300 N. GLENDORA AVENUE**

First Lot Sold

The boulder at the corner of Bennett and Glendora avenues, in front of the church, is inscribed with the information that this was the first lot sold by the Glendora Land Company, April 1, 1887.

There are several houses on the north side of Bennett of an early vintage.

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### **#4 --201 E. BENNETT AVENUE**

United Methodist Church

This church celebrated its centennial in 1986. The first gathering was on the LaFetra property, on what was to be referred to later on as "Methodist Hill."

The first church built in the downtown area was at the northeast corner of Vista Bonita and Foothill Blvd., which was called Minnehaha, as well as the Old Clay Road.

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### **#5--220 E. BENNETT**

This home is referred to as the Keiser home. It was moved from Azusa in 1913 and their name is stamped on the curb. The Edger Hall family lived here for many years.



#6



#8

### **#6--333 E. BENNETT AVENUE**

The house is referred to as the "Peyton Place" as the Peyton family resided there. There is a state historical marker on the northeast corner in the stand of tall palm trees with the bougainvilleas growing on them.

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### **#7--SENIOR HOUSING**

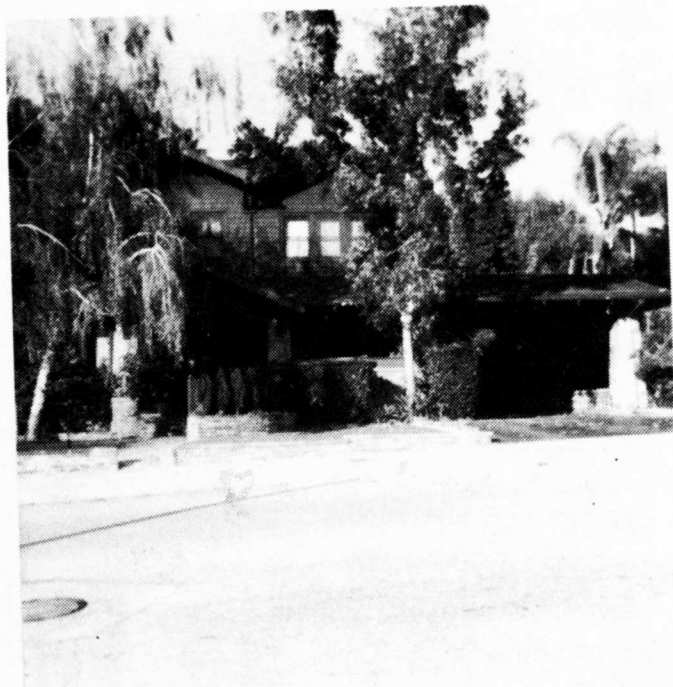
Between Minnesota Avenue and Wabash on Whitcomb is the Senior Citizen Housing project. These homes occupy the original site of the Glendora Grammar School, built in 1888. When that was razed, Woodrow Wilson Grammar School was built in 1914. It was commonly referred to as the "North School."

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### **#8--403 N. MINNESOTA**

Glendora Land Company

It was built in 1888, and originally located at the southeast corner of Leadora and Vista Bonita. Next moved to the 100 block East Meda, east of Michigan Avenue. It was moved to the present site and has been used as a private residence since WWI.



#10



#11

### **#9--400 BLOCK - N. PASADENA**

In this block there are several early Victorian-type homes with peaked roofs, and ginger bread trim. At 425, is a California Bungalow-type home built for the Parrish family about 1910. The house to the north is of the same vintage at 435 N. Pasadena. It was built for Harry Sellers, father of Darrow Sellers. These houses were from the home tract called the Mountain View Tract.

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### **#10--433 E. LEADORA**

This house has been referred to as the LaChance house, the Light House, the Shorey House, the Bucklin House, the Jockimsen House, according to whatever family lived there.

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### **#11--554 N. CULLEN**

The second home built by William B. Cullen for his family. He and John Bender had come west after the Civil War. They settled in this area when it was still considered part of the Azusa Valley. This home was built in 1910.



#14

#### **#12--465 E. VIRGINIA**

On the northwest corner of Cullen and Virginia is the home of Henry and Kate (Kamphefner) Englehardt. It later was owned by their daughter May Cullen.

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#### **#13--405 E. VIRGINIA**

By the big oak tree is a home built by the Henry Englehardts, later owned by May Cullen.

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#### **#14--331 E. VIRGINIA**

This home was built in the 1880s by Henry Netzley, one of the early settlers, who has descendents still living in Glendora.



215 E. VIRGINIA

yellow

### #15--215 and 211 E. VIRGINIA

These houses are termed as the "Twin Houses" built in 1885. Almyra (known to most as "Old Maid") Eckles' sister once owned one of these homes, as have many other families. These were used in a T.V. series in the 1950s "Meet McGraw" starring Frank Lovejoy.

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### #16--SOUTHEAST CORNER OF VIRGINIA AND VISTA BONITA

A house with a burned roof is an 1880s house once owned by D.H. Gnagy.



211 E. VIRGINIA

blue



#17



#18

### **#17--622 N. VISTA BONITA**

Known as the Humphrey House. It was built by Edward and Elizabeth Humphrey in 1886. It is the Queen Anne style, Victorian architecture.

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### **#18--645 N. VISTA BONITA**

One of the first homes built in Glendora in May of 1887. Isaac and Lucetta Suydam came with their two children Keith and Nellie to California in 1884. Keith later became the first rural mail carrier, and in 1936 he became Mayor of Glendora.



#19

pink

## #19--736 N. VISTA BONITA

North of Sierra Madre on the right hand side is the house built by the Bradley family. Ada Bradley married Carroll Whitcomb, son of George, and it later became known as the Whitcomb house.

As the road curves into Crestglen you can see the site of George Whitcomb's home, referred to as the "White House". His daughter, Mrs. Walter Dalzell operated an exclusive girls school at this same site, which later burned. It was the location of Harding Military Academy.

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## #20--844 N. LIVE OAK

Rubel's Castle

At the intersection of Palm Drive. **Not open** to the public, you can see the clock tower from the street. The figures were made in the forges of the many work areas of the castle, by the resident crafts people. The works of the clock are one of six Walthams. Michael is the son of Henry and Dorothy Rubel, who were well-known residents of Glendora.



### **#21--820 N. VERANO DRIVE**

A. K. Bourne Estate

At the corner of Verano Drive and Prima Vera is one of the former homes of A.K. Bourne, Singer Sewing Machine Vice President. His house was built in the early thirties. He had guard houses and many security measures to assure safety for his family, as the Charles Lindbergh kidnapping was at that time. This is a 30 room colonial style home. It is now the Franciscan House of Studies for friars studying for the Priesthood. It is being revitalized after much abuse during recent years and is being transformed into a beautiful St. Anthony's Friary.

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### **#22--711 E. VIRGINIA**

This is known as the Wood Ranch; later it was the home of Harold and Maize Loose. This house was built in 1893. They were both very social people and Harold Loose was active civically.



#25

### **#23--510 N. LIVE OAK**

Where the Presbyterian Church is now located, on the northeast corner of Live Oak and Leadora, Pioneer John Cook, set out one of the first commercial navel orange groves in 1886. Directly across the street on the southeast corner of Leadora and Live Oak is the William Bryant Cullen School, named for one of the original settlers.

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### **#24--FINKBINER PARK**

The area where the many live oak trees are, on Cullen Avenue, is called the West Oaks Grove section, as it was part of the West family holdings at one time.

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### **#25--460 E. BENNETT**

On the southeast corner of Cullen and Bennett avenues is the Lester West home. The rainfall records have been kept by this family for over 100 years at this location.

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### **#26--303 E. WHITCOMB**

On the northeast corner of Wabash and Whitcomb is the little store, "The Little Green Store," which the Stucker family operated for so many years.



#27



#29

### **#27--231 E. LEADORA**

The house on the northwest corner of Leadora and Wabash is called the O.D Fay Sr. home. Fay was in many businesses such as fertilizer, cement work and served as town marshall. His son Dan Fay Jr. was Chief of Police for many years.

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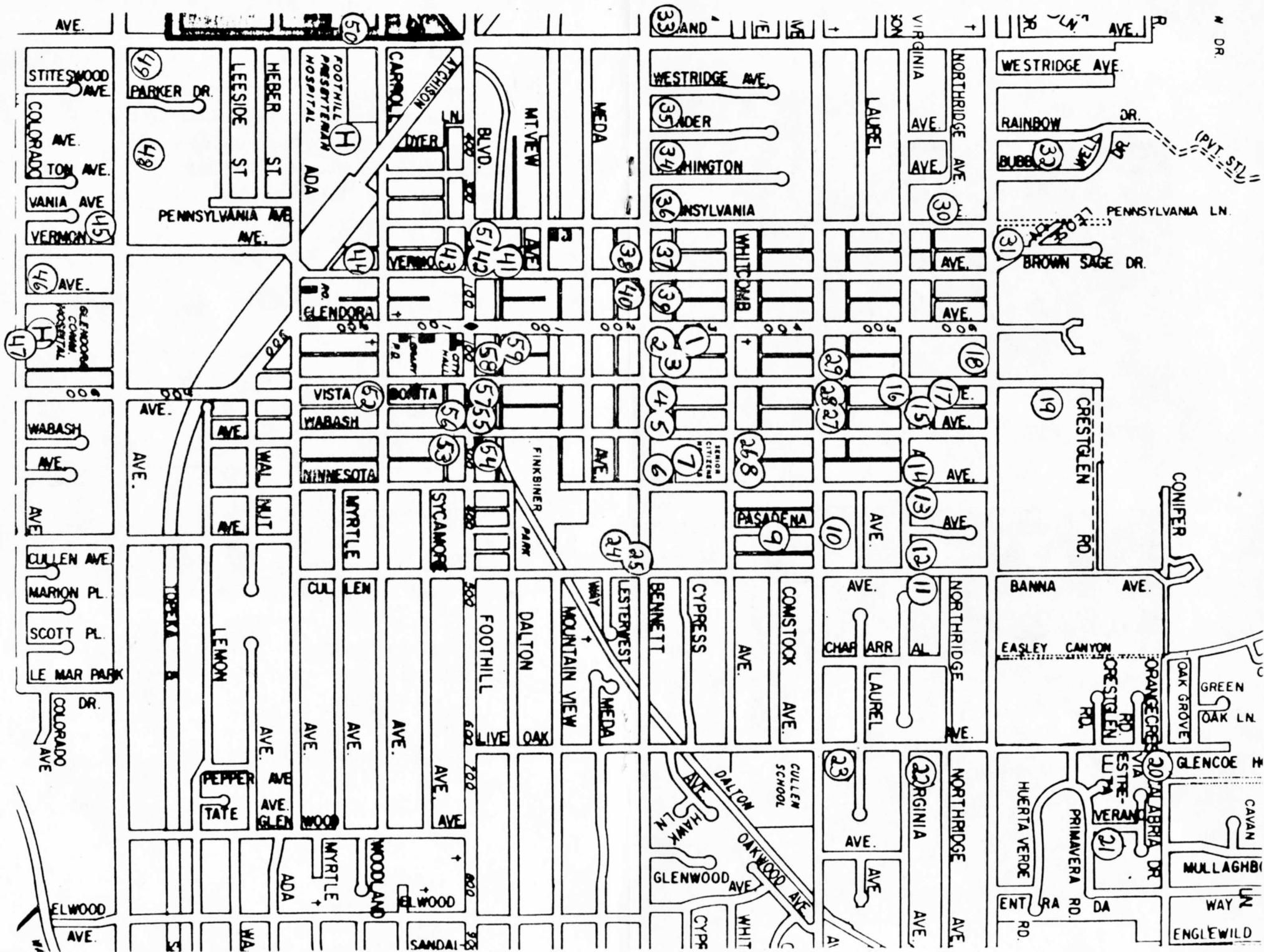
### **#28--217 E. LEADORA**

This house was originally built about 1890 for a maternity home. In 1922 the Milton Woodworth family bought it and lived there the remainder of their lives.

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### **#29--505 N. VISTA BONITA**

The Goff House was built in the early town of Alostia. It was located in an orange grove in the area where the present Glendora Shopping Center is. When it was sold and had to be moved, the grandmother, it is told, refused to leave the house. She sat in a secured chair throughout the move. It was only a 28 x 28 square house originally.





#30



#32

### **#30--621 N. PENNSYLVANIA**

This house was built in 1910 for a family named Hopps but most people refer to it as the Wirt Williams homes. Williams was Superintendent of Glendora Schools and lived out his life at this home.

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### **#31--229 W. SIERRA MADRE**

The large brown house was built in 1902 for the Haas Family. It has only had three owners, the Phillip and Hattie Haas family, Dennis and Marian Downes, and the Frank and Leose Brown family.

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### **#32--742 RAINBOW DRIVE**

John Bender built this house in 1883 on what was called Springdale Ranch. Some of the family occupied it until 1946. Bender, along with William B. Cullen was one of the first pioneer families. He courted "a Wiggins girl" in El Monte and they were married in 1881. Both the Bender and Cullen families had orange trees started from the California Mission orange trees. Notice the huge oak tree, reported to be 500 years old.



#34

### **#33--547 W. BENNETT**

On the southwest corner of Bennett and Grand is the LaFetra School, named for the early founding family of LaFetra, who had brothers, L.M. and M.H. who came and settled on what was called Methodist Hill. The LaFetra family later developed the Rainbird Sprinkler Company which has become world famous. It was invented by Clem LaFetra's cousin Orton Englehardt.

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### **#34--337 W. BENNETT**

The James and Mary Odell home was built in 1893. They tried producing hay, peaches, apricots, then oranges on their fifteen acres across from their home. Odell and his son Frank built the first brick building in Glendora. It was the Glendora Bank located on the west side of Glendora Avenue between Meda and Bennett. Frank's son Glenn became the town dentist. His son Bob is in business at Odell Tire Shop at this time - the fourth generation of businessmen.

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### **#35--407 W. BENNETT**

Owned by the Lange family for many years. Built in the late 1800s.



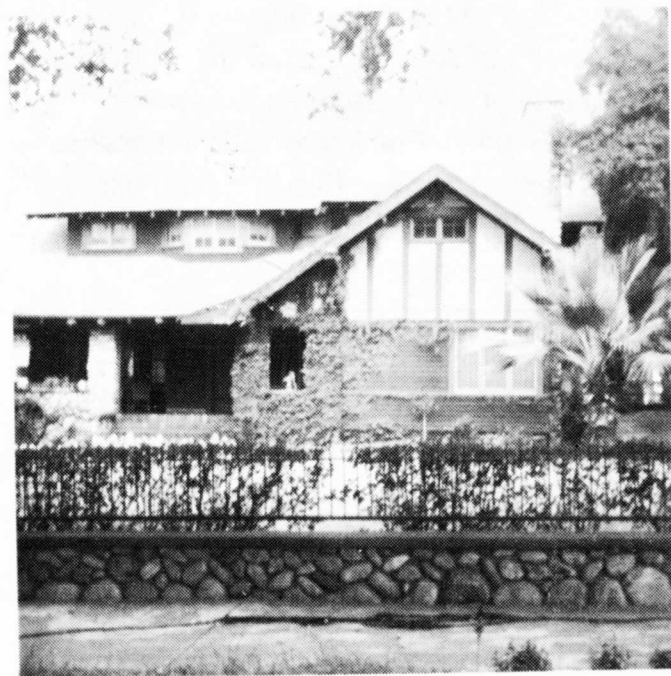
### **#36--301 W. BENNETT**

A big red two story home, was originally known as the Colby Ranch. The Clarence Butz family occupied this home for several years.

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### **#37--201 W. BENNETT**

The present state headquarters for the Daughters of the American Revolution. The home was built for the Rueben Hamlins in 1909. Hamlin had also owned the orange grove where the bougainvilleas were and it can be noted that he built the same kind of rock curbs around both pieces of property.





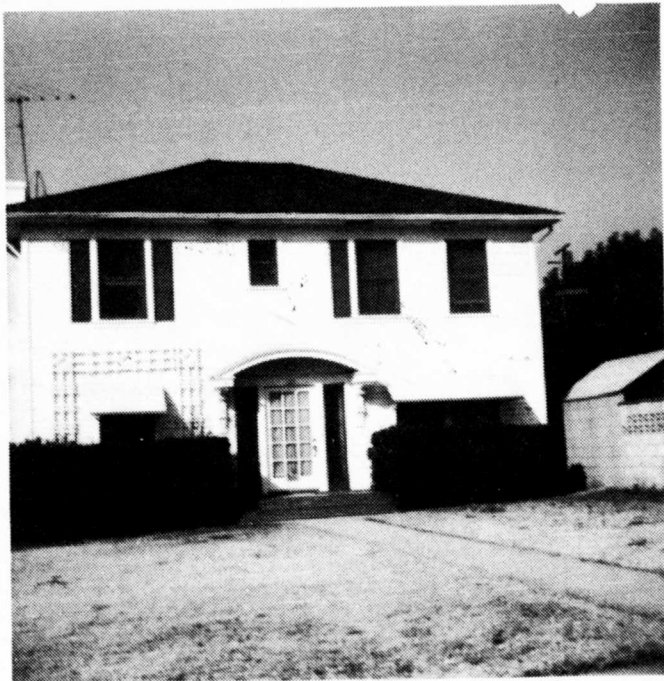
### **#38--202 W. BENNETT**

Once called the Snaveley house, this is an 1890 vintage home that was converted into apartments. Many people associate this house with the Ralph Grant Family. He worked with the Glendora Irrigation Company for many years.

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### **#39--127 W. BENNETT**

Constructed in 1898, it has been said that the Hamlins lived in this home while their house was being built across the street. It has also been said that it was not originally built as a two story house. Other sources say that it was moved to the present site. The instrumental music teacher at Citrus Union High School, William Potter, his wife and two sons lived in this house for many years, later the Ernest Jacksons and their three children, and then the Kenney Ferris family. It has been beautifully restored.





#40

#### **#40--128 W. BENNETT**

The Southeast corner house was Rolfe Bidwell's home. He acted as Glendora's city attorney for over 50 years, and he was civically active. He donated a large amount of money in memory of his daughter Lillian for an addition to the Glendora Public Library. The City Council met in the small building facing on Vermont (at the back of his home) after Glendora incorporated in 1911 until the 1913 City Hall was built. ( Where the Glendora Historical Museum is now.)

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#### **# 41--127 N. VERMONT**

This home was built about 1912 for the William Silzle family. During the years the youngest daughter of William and Nellie Mae, Dorothy, married Henry Kirk. The Kirk family still owns the house.

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#### **#42--201-203 W. FOOTHILL**

The Heywood Building, the former home of many businesses. It was built in 1924 by Charles M. Matthews, and he was in business there until 1936.



#44



#45

#### **#43--202-204 W. FOOTHILL**

Odell's Tire Service is where the first service station was operated in Glendora by J.C. Whitmer. Later the same station was owned by Jack Chambers.

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#### **#44--243 S. VERMONT**

Of the six orange and lemon packing houses which were the life work of many Glendorans, this is the only one which remains intact. Though its use is different it has not been altered a great deal. This was referred to as the MOD...Mutual Orange Distributors. The Glendora Citrus Packing House was diagonally across the Sante Fe Tracks. The offices are still in existence there. The Sante Fe Depot had been along Ada to the east of Vermont.

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#### **#45--316 W. ALOSTA**

The Continental Restaurant was once the home of Charles and Effie Norcross. The house had been built by John and Helon Shank. In 1954 Pat and Mike Sassone created a "Sassone's Italian Restaurant" with living quarters upstairs. The original house still is within the restaurant



#47

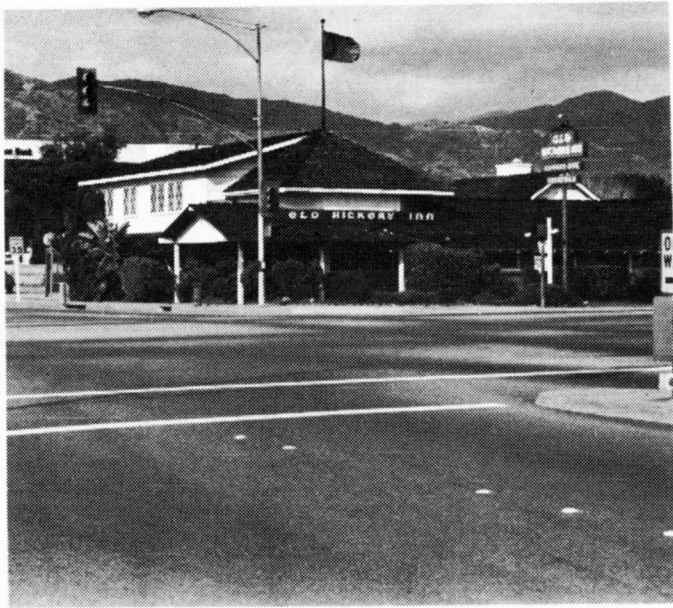
#### **#46--CORNER COLORADO & SANTA FE**

Big Tree Park: At the corner of Colorado and Santa Fe is a Moreton Bay Fig Tree. A native of Australia, it is thought to be the second largest of its kind in the state and is over 100 years old. Through an agreement with the City of Glendora, American Medical International, and Glendora Community Hospital this area has been set aside as a beautiful outdoor setting to be used by the public, patients and visitors. It was dedicated during the Bicentennial festivities of the the city of Glendora.

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#### **#47--120 W. COLORADO**

The two story house at this address was the home of Dr. August and Rosa Englehardt. They had lived at one time at a home between Wabash and Vista Bonita on Whitcomb. They also had had a store. This Colorado street place was considered the ranch house and was a catalog kit house.



#49



#50

#### **#48--363 W. ALOSTA**

Noakes Mortuary: This colonial style home was built by a banking family named Meyer in approximately 1918. It was owned at one time by a family named Boadway, then later the Gordon Stiths. There are no clear records or old pictures available.

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#### **#49--545 W. ALOSTA**

Old Hickory Inn was once the Walt Wiley Malt Shop drive-in which during the 30s and 40s was a popular meeting spot for young people all over the valley. Previously it was a fruit and juice stand. In 1948 it was purchased by Homer and Opal Weimer and was converted to a dinner house.

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#### **#50--6735 N. GRAND**

The home of Emerson and Laura Gard. He was president of the First National Bank of Glendora. The E.E. Gard's son, Frank J. Gard, was a war casualty in WWI, and Glendora named American Legion Post # 153 in honor of his sacrifice. Later the Jack Castillo family lived at this address for many years.



### **#51--211 W. FOOTHILL**

This house was originally built on Richardson Hill and was moved here by mules and rollers.

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### **#52-200 S. VISTA BONITA**

J. S. Brubaker was the first mayor of Glendora after it incorporated in 1911. It no longer belongs to that family though it is still referred to as the Brubaker House.





#53

#### **#53--306 EAST FOOTHILL**

The James Cook house: Cook, along with George Whitcomb and Merrick Reynold, were instrumental in creating the Glendora Land and Water Company.

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#### **#54--110 NORTH WABASH**

Immediately across the street on the northeast corner is the U.S. Forestry headquarters for this area. The land for the Forestry Building was obtained by donations solicited by the Chamber of Commerce.

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#### **#55--249 E. FOOTHILL**

Mayor Emeritus Joe Finkbiner, who recently passed away, lived at this address for many years.

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#### **#56--214 E. FOOTHILL**

This was built in 1910 for Mrs. Alice E. Wright. Her husband had just died and his family was related to all the other Wright families who had been in the Glendora Azusa area for so long.



#58

#### #57--201 E. FOOTHILL

Mrs. Spalding lived here. She was the mother of Lawrence Spalding who had had the Spalding Feed store on Glendora Avenue. He built a house for his mother in law at 207 E. Foothill and then another one at 110 N. Vista Bonita. Thus there was a "nest of Spaldings" on this corner.

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#### #58--113 E. FOOTHILL

Underhill House: Was known as the "glass house" and was built in 1918 by E.F. Underhill and was willed to the YWCA. It served in this capacity until the early 80s when it was sold to Bob Odell. Today it is being used as the Community Education Center of Foothill Presbyterian Hospital.

## #59--122 N. VISTA BONITA

Basil Gordon Sr. and his bride lived in this house after they were married. They are the grandparents of Councilman John Gordon, who served as Mayor recently. Basil's father, Judge Hugh Gordon, had migrated here in 1894 and had large land holdings in the area east of Valley Center and Foothill Blvd. Charles Gordon, elder brother to Bas Sr., was the first recipient of Glendora's Citizen of the Year Award.

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There are numerous other historically interesting sites not touched upon but this concludes the tour. It is suggested that you walk up Glendora Avenue, north from City Hall.

Andrews Inc., is the building that the Venberg family built following having opened a merchandising store where Glendora Hardware is now.

The Chance building on the northeast corner of Foothill and Glendora was named for Frank Chance of the "Tinkers-Evers-Chance" baseball fame of the early 1912-15 era.

Where Imperial Savings is now located, was at one time, the Spalding Feed and Grain store. Later it was Hastie Foundry.

Immediately north of this is a brick building which had been Seimears Funeral Home. It has housed offices, dress shops, and now is being converted into a beauty salon, Peaches and Cream.

On the left where the Nelson's Drug Store is, was the Converse building.

The Pacific Electric Street car line came into Glendora December 1907. The right-of-way ran between the drug store and the two story building to the north which was built by W.A. Weaver. The upstairs housed an opera house, where all of the social events were held. In this upstairs area the Masons held their meetings.

Across the street is a parking lot which once held the Pacific Electric Station. Just north of the station was "Wild Bill" Fleet's newsstand. To the back of the newsstand there was a bandstand which was used for summer evening concerts.

The Kussarts had a grocery store in the building where Finkbiner's now is located. James Reed established the Reed Hardware store on the southwest corner of Meda and Glendora, now Glendora Hardware.

Seimears Furniture Store, which once had a large meeting room upstairs, had been in existence for many years. It was converted to the Orange Tree Bazaar and now houses numerous antique shops.

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#### **REFERENCES:**

HELEN BETTIN INTERVIEWS (1945-1946)  
"GLENDDORA" BY DONALD PFLUEGER  
"REMBER WHEN" BY BOBBIE BATTLER  
"THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS" BY JOE AND  
IDA FRACASSE

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