



City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society

P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

LIBRARY NEWS MARCH 2008

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

Historic Tours of the San Bernardino Area “Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear”

February Tour: Buildings designed by Howard E. Jones

March Tour: Postponed until May (exact date to be announced)

The February tour was held as planned, but I was not among the group. Unfortunately I was ill and unable to attend. Vice President Allen Bone conducted the tour and did a remarkable job. Architect Clare Day assisted Allen and provided the participants with details on just exactly what they were seeing.

The March outing, the “Tail of the Kite” tour, has been postponed until May. The tour, to be conducted by Mark Landis, will begin at the Santa Fe Depot in San Bernardino and will include sites that still exist on Santa Fe Railway’s 1893 “kite-shaped” track, also known as the Redlands Loop.

New Acquisitions for the Society’s Photograph Collection

In looking over our collection of post cards, it became apparent that we are lacking in several areas, one being San Bernardino hotels of the early and mid-20th Century. I therefore contacted local post card specialist Norm Sturgis and arranged to visit him and go through his stock. However, upon my arrival the first thing he did was divert my attention to some photographs of the city taken in the 1950s and early 1960s by Clarence Jarvis, an old railroader who spent several years driving around town photographing houses and government and business buildings. This was prior to the city’s razing several blocks for the Central City Mall in 1972, when they leveled everything from E Street to I (the freeway), and from Second Street up to Fifth. A number of Jarvis’ photographs are from this area.

The photos were printed on 5” x 7” high quality paper, and they are a nice addition to our burgeoning file of pictures. We still don’t have any idea how many photos we have, but Donna Rutherford has been very busy trying to organize them so they can be retrieved. Short of going through photo by photo, the only practical way of finding something specific is to do a word search and hope that whoever it was that titled the photograph put the right word or words in the caption. Meanwhile, to add to Donna’s project, her husband Dave has been bringing in his own rare photographs so they can be scanned and added to the collection. Dave has photos from every period, but he is strong on the 19th Century and has many pictures not included in the Steele Photo inventory.

Following are some of the photographs taken by Clarence Jarvis.



Home of Judge Benjamin Harrison's parents, Second and Allen Streets – April 1, 1961



County Health Building, northwest corner of Third St. and Mt. View Ave. – June 11, 1953



Caroline Waters' home, 789 Second St. – February 26, 1952



County Hospital, Gilbert Street – September 1, 1955.



House at northwest corner of Seventh and G Streets. This was still a nice middle-class neighborhood at mid-century – July 15, 1961



American Legion Hall, 388 Fourth Street – October 27, 1960



Home of the parents of Mrs. Robert Garner, Sr., Second and F Streets – April 1, 1960



Remodel of the Webster Building from hotel to law offices, Court and Arrowhead – December 12, 1959



First Baptist Church, Tenth and G Streets –July 25, 1952



Mary Barton's home, 656 D Street – May 1951



Elks Club, 466 Fourth Street – Oct. 27, 1960



Demolition of Antler's Hotel, 261 E Street – Feb, 22, 1961

SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE SINCE 1888