



City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

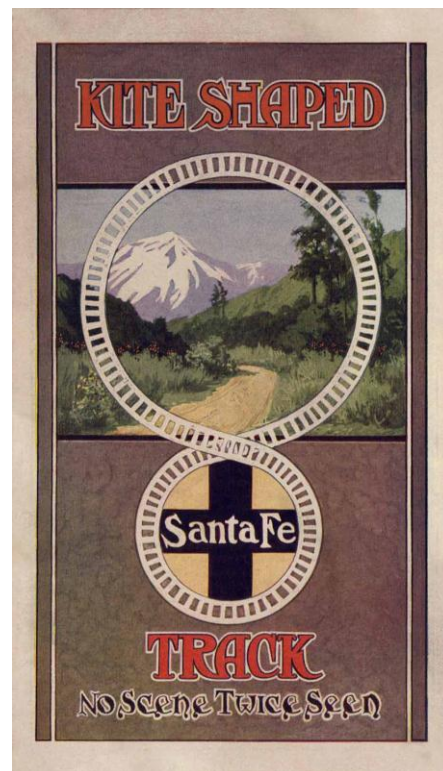
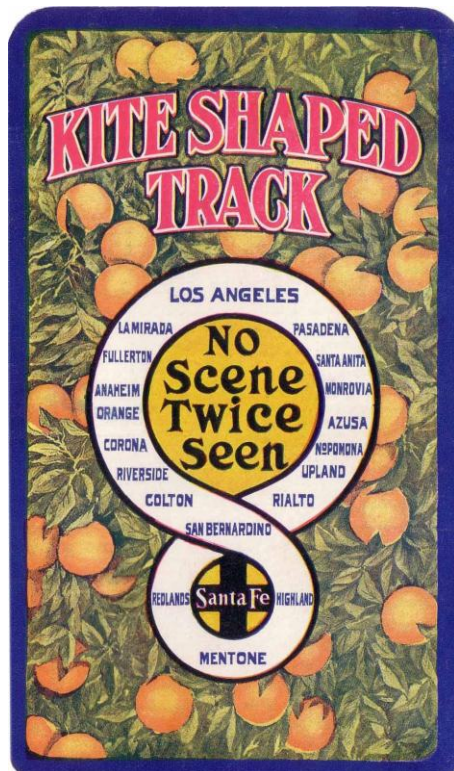
LIBRARY NEWS May 2008

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

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

May 3rd Tour: The Tail of the Kite

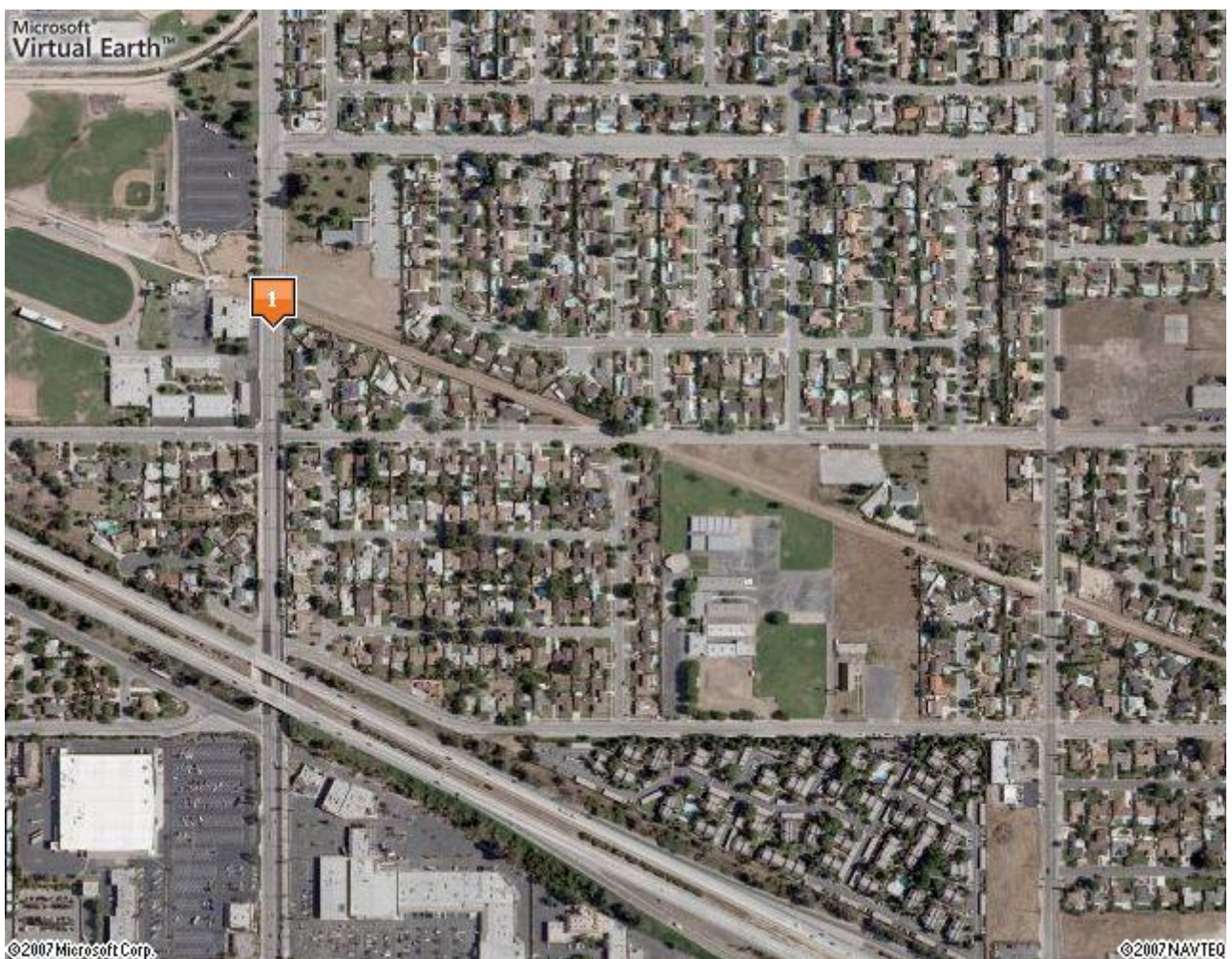
The May tour will meet at the former Santa Fe Depot on Saturday, May 3rd at the usual time, 9:00 a.m. The depot is located on Third Street easterly of Mt. Vernon Avenue. All other tours have started at the Heritage House, but in the interest of time, this one will begin at our first stop. Society member and reporter/author Mark Landis will be our guide. Since the World War I era the portion of the Santa Fe line east of San Bernardino has been known as the Redlands Loop, but in its early days it was part of the Kite Shaped Track. Mark collects ephemera associated with this line, and he has made available for the *Library News* the following two covers that are rather colorful.



Both artists included the phrase “No Scene Twice Seen,” but in fact a scene was seen twice when the track crossed back over itself in San Bernardino at the Santa Fe Depot

Mark has an energetic program laid out for us, and that is why we are beginning at the depot. Of course, we could spend an entire morning there, but he said he plans on heading out after a brief introduction. He has arranged for Redlands historian Tom Atchley to meet us at the Redlands depot at a given time, so we need to leave the Santa Fe Depot punctually. From Redlands we will proceed to Highland to meet with other experts, and then finish up the tour at the Patton depot. Driving time alone is going to eat up about 45 minutes, so we have to step lively to keep on schedule. Mark recommends bringing a brown-bag lunch, water, etc., as he estimates the tour will end at 1:00 p.m., or thereabouts.

Library News readers will recall that our tours visit, as much as is possible, only historic sites that still exist, and so we will not include that portion of the loop line through northern San Bernardino where the track, depots, groves and warehouses have been removed. However, there are some vestiges left over from the old days, and the following aerial view of the Del Rosa area shows what I call “The Ghost of the Kite.” The orange arrow is adjacent to the right of Aquinas High School on Sterling Avenue. The old trackbed still can be seen just north of the football field at the far left, and it runs southeasterly across the center of the entire photo, parallel to the crosstown freeway (lower left). It dates to a mostly forgotten time and I doubt if even the residents who live nearby know what the vacant strip of land represents, or anything about the old Santa Fe line that ran through what is now their backyards. I recently checked out the roadbed and those I talked to in the neighborhood did not have a clue (nor did they seem to care).

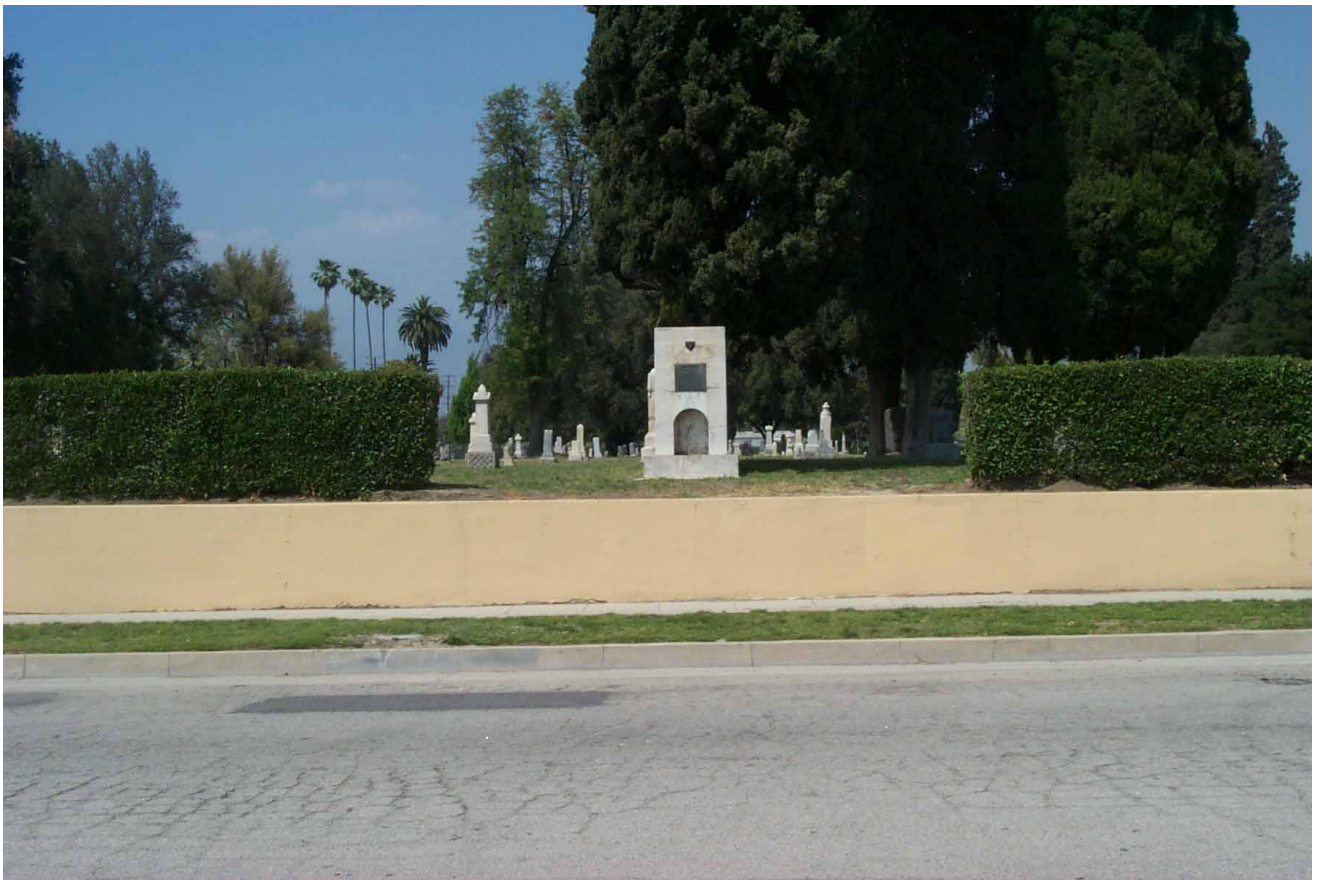


Old roadbed of the Kite Shaped Track runs southeasterly across center of photograph

Mark has been working hard to present an outstanding tour. At the regular meeting last month on April 3rd, he unveiled a detailed map he has been working on that shows the entire Kite Shaped Track. The map includes, for instance, information on when certain legs of the route were abandoned (the leg from San Bernardino being the only one still in use). It also shows the locations of depots, packinghouses, factories and flag stops or sidings. He donated this colorful 24" x 36" map to our library, and it has been laminated and is now available for interested parties to review. Mark is also going to print the map on quality paper, suitable for framing, with the idea in mind of displaying it in our Santa Fe Depot Museum. Mr. Landis has done a lot of work in preparation for this tour, and it is one that definitely should not be missed.

Pioneer Cemetery Tour

Nick Cataldo did an outstanding job for our tour of Pioneer Cemetery. The original plan was to walk around and tell the story of early San Bernardino through the biographies of those buried in the park. But then Nick had the wonderful idea of inviting the descendants of those early pioneers to speak at the gravesites, where they would tell a little about their ancestors and the part they played in early San Bernardino history. This turned out to be a tremendous success. Nick himself talked a bit about two women of the Earp clan, the wives of Nicholas and James, who are buried in the cemetery. During the tour I came across a monument next to Seventh Street that was constructed and dedicated by the Pioneer Society in the 1930s. There is still a nearby driveway, which must have been the major entrance at the time. There is a hedge along Seventh Street, with an opening that highlights the monument. I wonder how many people today are aware that this was the entrance to the cemetery 75 years ago.



Pioneer Society monument just west of former main entrance on Seventh Street



Close-up of one of the three plaques on the Pioneer Society monument

Upcoming June Tour: San Jacinto Fault/Urbita Springs

Allen Bone is our guide for June, and he currently is planning a tour that will take us to historical spots in the southern part of the city. We will visit the sites of De Siena Hot Spring and the Indian rancheria Guachama, then follow the earthquake fault from the Greek Orthodox Church to Valley College. From there we will return to Inland Center Drive and travel to the site of Urbita Springs, the city's favorite amusement park in the early 20th Century, which had attractions that included a lake, the park's main feature, plus picnic grounds, dancing, swimming and boating. We will stop at the location where the lake once stood, situated at what is now the Inland Center Mall, in the parking lot northerly of May Company. The tour will end at the National Orange Show fairgrounds. Be sure and mark your calendar for June 14, 2008, so you won't miss it.

Architect Howard E. Jones – An Ongoing Project

The February issue of the *Library News* featured the architecture of Howard E. Jones. Since then some more of his buildings have been discovered.

Sturges Junior High School

Feldheym Reference Librarian Paul Garrity found a newspaper story dated October 4, 1924, entitled "School Plans To Be Shown." The article identifies Howard E. Jones and DeWitt Mitcham as the architects whose plans for Sturges Junior High School were to be reviewed by the Board of Education.

The design presaged the architecture of Jones' classic buildings that followed in the 1920s: the Platt Building, the Courthouse, and the Andreson and Harris buildings.



Sturges Junior High School, at left, was torn down. Sturges Auditorium, on the right, still exists.



Front entrance to Sturges Auditorium. The auditorium, built in 1927, was not designed by Jones.

Stewart Hotel/Citizens National Bank

Society member and long-time local banker Willard Monninger gave a talk about his early San Bernardino experiences at the regular meeting this past January. He told of how he started in the banking business in the summer of 1935 when he went to work for Citizens National Bank, which had leased the lower floor of the Stewart Hotel at Third and E Streets. In late November of that year the historic old building caught on fire. It so happened that there was little or no structural damage, and so, after appropriate negotiations with the hotel's fire insurance company, Citizens National Bank bought the property and had the building refurbished inside and out. This was news to most of us local historians, because we thought the hotel was razed. The reconstruction architect was Howard E. Jones. (As a side note, in 1930 Jones had done some interior architectural work for the café located at the southerly end of the building.) The picture on this old post card of the reconstructed building does not do it justice, having been colorized in a way to make it appear a bit gaudy. The actual building was staid and dignified, with subdued color tones, as befitted a banking establishment.



Citizens National Bank building, refurbished from the burned Stewart Hotel, Third and E Sts.

Hall of Justice Building

One structure I think Howard Jones may have designed is the Hall of Justice building. It was built not too distant from the Jones-designed Central Fire Station. It also had the same kind of clean, square modern look of the early 1950s. Reference Librarian Paul Garrity at the Feldheim Library found an article on the building, which was located on Arrowhead Avenue north of Fourth Street. The story was in the July 30, 1949, issue of the San Bernardino *Sun*, entitled "Police Force and Court on Job in City's New Hall of Justice."

According to the article, this was to be the first of several city buildings – including a fire station, library and city hall – that would be constructed in the nearby vicinity. As it turned out, the Central Fire Station was built on Mt. View between Fourth and Fifth Streets, and the library was erected on the northeast corner of Fourth and Arrowhead. The plans for a City Hall, however, never came to fruition. Instead, what happened is that the county obtained all of this property for their offices, a "Superblock" as they termed it, so the city never completed their own similar complex on the same site. The Hall of Justice

and fire station were removed in order to build the county's Government Center building, which opened in 1983, and the library was taken over by the county and has been used by various county departments since that time.

So far I have not discovered who the architect was for the Hall of Justice, but I thought the research might be of interest to long-time residents who remember the earlier buildings.



Hall of Justice building

Donations to the Society

David Rutherford Donation

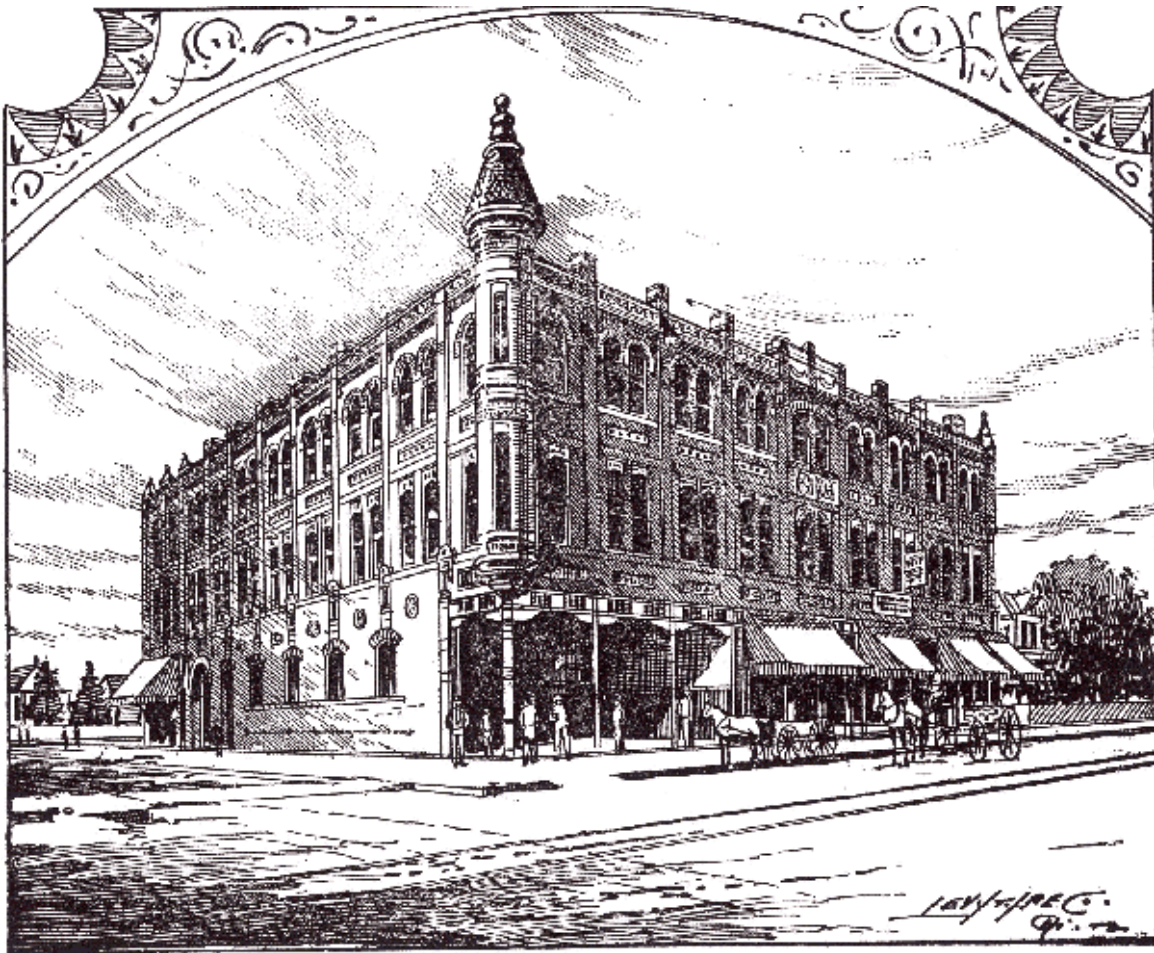
Dave is a collector of San Bernardino memorabilia, and he and his wife Donna have been working on organizing our digital photograph collection. He recently donated some items for our library, including old pamphlets from the fire department and Orange Show.

Dave also made available his own photograph collection for scanning into our computer. There are scores of photos, many of them quite rare. One of my favorites is of the Andreson Building, shown below in the center of the picture. The road veering off to the right is E Street, and the Court House clock tower is a dominant feature. Catercorner across the street from the Court House is the three-story "Postoffice Block." John Andreson, Sr., built the two-story building at the corner of Third and E in 1872. Later he added the three-story St. Charles Hotel, which can be seen on Third Street (left), adjacent to the Andreson Building. Many of the buildings have awnings on the ground floor, giving them the appearance of ballerinas in their tutus.



Circa 1900 photograph of Third Street (left) and E Street (right)

Dave also presented the Library with a photocopy of a 29-page article on the City of San Bernardino that appeared in the December 1889 issue of the periodical, "The Golden Era." The story is entertaining and informative, but the most arresting part of the article is the numerous drawings of prominent men and buildings of the city. For example, the picture below is an artist's rendition of the Postoffice Block on Court and E Streets.



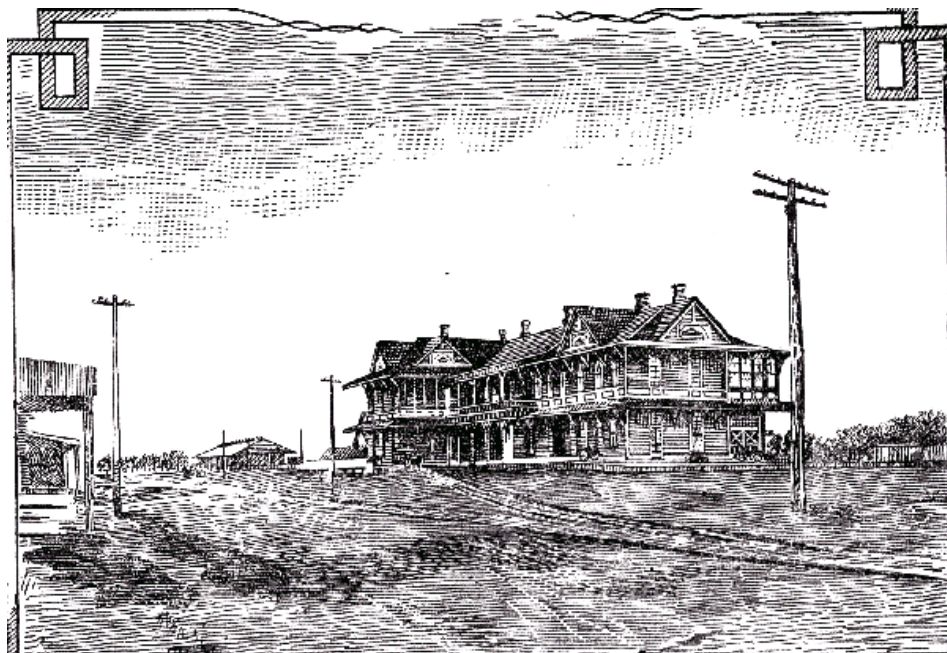
POSTOFFICE BLOCK.

Following is a sample of the many portraits of the city's leaders, this particular illustration being of Sheriff Seymour, whose term of office was 1888-1892.



EDWIN C. SEYMOUR,
Sheriff.

This next picture is an interesting drawing of the Santa Fe Depot as it appeared in the late 1880s. The desolate-looking structure appears as though it might be something Sherman missed on his march through Atlanta. Actually, the depot is newly built on land just recently retrieved from Mother Nature. The drawing shows a trolley track running down Third Street, with a spur going over to the depot, and a spattering of buildings nearby. At the time this was a remote part of the town – what little had been improved was farmland – but the business district to the east quickly strung out along Third Street to accommodate railroad-related commerce. In just a few years this became a bustling commercial and industrial area, with residences all around.



Dianne Miller Donation

Dianne Dixie Miller has been working on the genealogy of Pioneer Society members, and she has donated some of these files to our library. Dianne is a seasoned genealogist, and both family members and historians will be delighted to run across one of these files in their research. We have big fat files now on George Lord, president of the Society from 1888 to 1896, along with files on the Talmadge, Singleton, Wixom and Clyde/Shay families.

Visitation from Paranormal Investigators

In March we received a telephone call from someone who said she belonged to a group of people who sought spirits in old structures. She said she had read about the old jail and wanted to come down and check it out. Three people did show up a couple of weeks later, and investigated the jail and house and everything else that was of a certain vintage. They had cameras and took a lot of photos, plus they had tape recorders. The latter they placed in various spots and left them running while they vacated the area. They explained that some spirits are shy. As they progressed around the grounds they called to the spirits while issuing soothing nostrums about how they came in peace. The leader of the group said she would give us a report when their review of the data was finalized, and in a recent telephone conversation, says she has some things of interest to discuss. She also wants to return with a larger group to continue the investigation.