

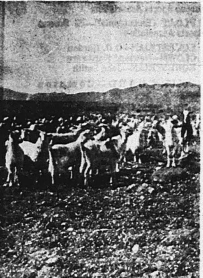
BAIRDSTOWN TO EL SERENO -- Decades of progress



GEORGE BAIRD, who subdivided the local area and sold real estate, and whose family name was adopted for a portion of what is now El Sereno.



THE BATZ family home on the Rancho Rosa, Castilla property, with original adobe built by the Franciscan missionaries of the mission San Gabriel about 1776.



SHEEP RAISING was an important part of the local economy under the Batz family, originally of Basque heritage.



SI THE VEGETABLE MAN had a new two-horsepower wagon to show to local youngster Martin Campbell.

From a camp on the river of the Roses de Castillo to a suburban Los Angeles community of homes, businesses and one of the leading universities in the state, El Sereno has come a long way in the more than 200 years since the first non-Indians set foot on the land.

Following is a summary of important dates in local history, as compiled by the El Sereno Bicentennial Committee.

1788 - Under the ruins of El Sereno Junior High stand the remains of the first school, and has been moved to its permanent location on Serra and Falber. The building will be reconstructed on the banks of the river and the original bell tower of the Roses de Castillo will be used as a community room and Cal State Los Angeles, at the Alhambra end of the Long Beach Freeway.

1771 - The founding of the Mission San Gabriel. The white limestone building had lands that were to become El Sereno were under the control of the mission and developed with the houses for years were used as grazing land for cattle.

1848-58 - The treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the end of the Mexican War and California becomes the 31st state. Lands became available to settlers.

1858 - The coming of the wagon train from the north and from Eastern Avenue into Alhambra, just west of Monterey Park, and City Terrace.

The area was divided in 1862 by the law firm of Henry O'Malley. Jose Hernandez Bate received the southernmost 700 acres and the family ranch house, which was situated on the plains where Cal State Los Angeles now stands.

Jose Domingo married Josefa Lalar, whose brother, Martin Lalar, eventually bought the acreage now known as Sierra Park.

November 1872 - Formation of the El Sereno Municipal Committee.

December 1872 - Resolution passed by the El Sereno Bicentennial Committee to the Los Angeles Bicentennial Commission. This organization is still in existence on the campus.

1881 - Reorganization of the El Sereno Municipal Committee. The original one-room school building, opened in February of 1889, has been in continuous use and is now set for restoration committee chairman, building, now permanently located on junior high campus, will be community museum.

1882 - Reactivation of the El Sereno Home Association. Removal of the dirt strip and planting of trees and grass in the median strip of Huntington Drive. Formation of the committee to build the school.

1883 - The building of Formalete School. This overgrown school house is still in existence on the campus.

1884 - Subdivision and growth of the El Sereno area.

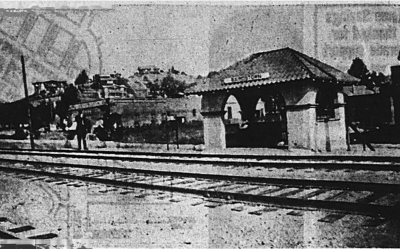
1885 - News story in the Eastside News telling about the delightful valley of content between the mountains and the sea. This was the route of one of the Pacific Electric Railroad tracks going to Alhambra and Sierra Madre.

1886 - Amusement of Bairds Town into the City of Los Angeles.

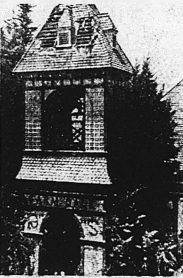
1887 - Building of the Los Angeles Military Academy near the corner of Eastern Avenue and Huntington Street. Lands were named by the wife of the owner of the military academy - El Sereno meaning the "lamp lighter" or "night watchman."

1888 - George Baird began to subdivide and sell real estate in the area. The first grocery store and post office. A lot of dirt was developed with the houses built of wooden floors and side with a tent top.

1889 - Building of the Los Angeles Military Academy near the corner of Eastern Avenue and Huntington Street. Lands were named by the wife of the owner of the military academy - El Sereno meaning the "lamp lighter" or "night watchman."



THE OLD TRAIN STATION wasn't one of the busier parts of old Bairds town, as passengers wait to catch the high noon express from nearby Los Angeles.



RESTORATION PLANS are moving ahead for historic Formalete school as indicated in this picture published last December showing Dr. Donald Newman (right) discussing ideas with from left, Mrs. Williamson, principal of El Sereno Jr. High; Friday Morning Club president Mrs. Donald Frye, and Mrs. Hebe Moore, restoration committee chairman. Building, now permanently located on junior high campus, will be community museum.



AN EARLY CLASS of reluctant looking scholars of Formalete pose for a picture with their teachers.



THE BATZ SISTERS, granddaughters of the man who first owned and settled the local community, pose for the camera with a friend and a horse named Chiquito in 1902.

Knights' Fourth Degree is special color guard

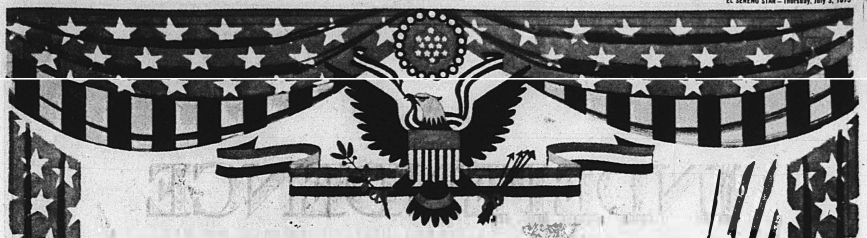
Special prologue color guard in the Fourth of July Parade will be composed of members of the Fourth Degree. Knights of Columbus which is sponsoring the Independence Day event for the fourth year.

The Knights of Columbus, founded in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., now has 1,200,000 members in councils in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Panama, Puerto Rico, Guam and Guatemala.

The organization was founded to provide mutual aid and assistance to its members and their families. Originally the order had three degrees exemplifying the principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

The Fourth Degree, whose primary purpose is to foster the spirit of patriotism, was added in 1890 in New York City.

A Knight of Columbus is eligible for membership in the Fourth Degree if he has been a Knight for at least one year and is a citizen of the country in which he resides. The Fourth Degree promotes a patriotism, works for the application of Christian principles in all levels of democratic government and supports religious, civic and charitable causes.



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The El Sereno Knights of Columbus wish to thank the many firms and individuals who contributed their time and resources toward the success of this Independence Day Parade.

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