

# 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.



THE VEGETABLE MAN had a new two-horsepower wagon to show to local youngster Marlin 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.

1700 — Under the command of El Sereno Junior High mascot of the Gaspar de Salas School and will soon be moved to a more favorable location and restored in its original manner. The bell tower will be reconstructed and the original bell replaced. This building will be used as a community room and heritage museum.

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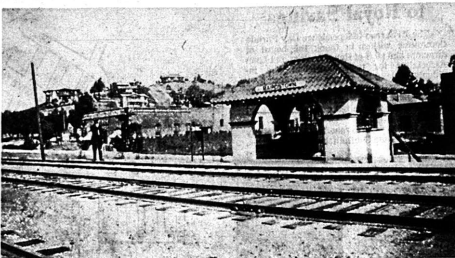
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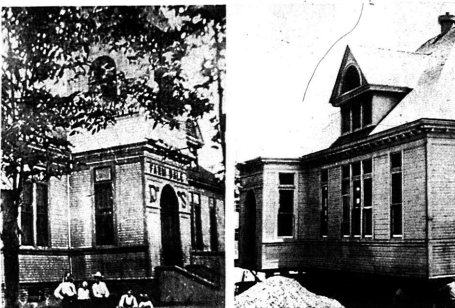
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15 YEARS DIFFERENCE in time brought some changes to the community, as this comparative shot taken in 1919 shows. Built between the two shots (left) was the first building for El Sereno Elementary School. Field in foreground was used for horse racing, with people from surrounding area standing behind the barricades.



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



FARMDALE SCHOOL as it looked (left) on July 12 of 1904, with a few of its scholars who were paroled for the summer vacation, and (right) as it appeared recently while workmen moved it to another spot on the El Sereno Junior High campus. The old building, replaced by a modern facility with the same name, will now serve as a museum of El Sereno history, and will continue on the junior high campus.



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



THE BATÉ 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.

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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.