



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

February 2011

## A Salute to Garrett Huizing

Monday, February 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m.  
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

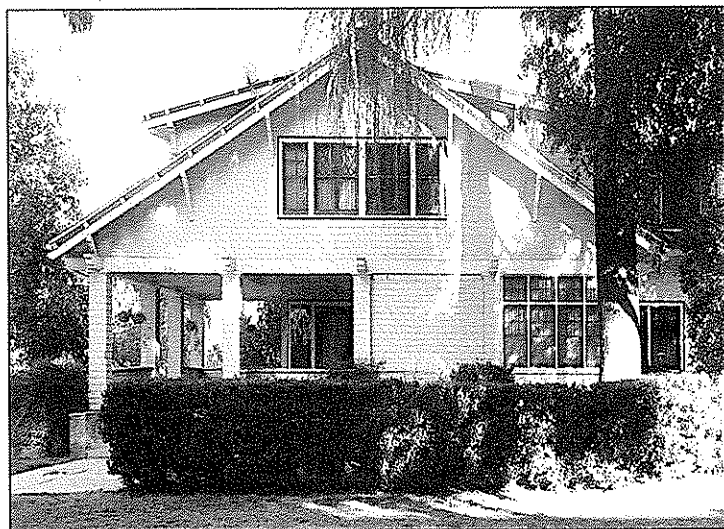
One of Redlands' most prolific builders from 1904 to 1935 was Garrett Huizing. Huizing was born in Holland in 1879 and immigrated to the United States while in his teens. He moved into his uncle's home in New Jersey, where his uncle taught him the carpenter trade. Together they built a number of homes in New Jersey until Garrett began to suffer health issues. After contracting tuberculosis and following medical advice in the hope of recovering from the lung disease, Huizing moved to Redlands in 1904.

Abraham Huizing, Garrett's brother, purchased a lot on East Central Avenue opposite the newly established Pepper Park (1902) and the State Street Elementary School (Lowell). Garrett and Abraham Huizing built a two-story New England-style home at 507 East Central (Now 807 E. Central). One half of the first story home became the Huizing



(Continued on page 3)

Garrett and Abraham Huizing in Front of their Grocery Store on E. Central Avenue.



Naftzger Home on Walnut Avenue in Redlands

## Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 6:30 p.m.  
660 Walnut Avenue

This month's Old House Group meeting will be at the home of Eric and Valerie Naftzger. Members will recall that the group visited once before about 5 years ago. Since that time, Eric and Valerie have completed many projects including remodeling bedrooms, the music room, several bathrooms and installing a fire-place insert.

This home has many rooms including 8 bedrooms (some used for other purposes), 5 bathrooms and 2 kitchens. Over the years many projects have been completed and earlier a number of room additions and alterations occurred. The result is a very interesting house with a varied history. Come spend an evening with us, tour the house and hear about completed projects and future plans.

Meeting times have been moved up to 6:30 and members do not need reservations. Membership information will be available at the meeting for those who wish to join. For additional information call Leslie Irish at 951-201-5742.

## A Letter from your President...

Can you all keep a secret? A 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reception-celebration is planned for Larry Burgess at the March 8<sup>th</sup> "History of Redlands" class at A.K. Smiley Public Library's Assembly Room, 7:00 p.m. Char is going to capture this newsletter and keep it away from Larry. The Redlands Area Historical Society Board approved our participation in this event and we plan sheet cakes and beverage for all attending. We invite **EVERY** previous student since 1971 to congratulate Larry for this milestone. We might make him speechless----which would be a first!

The February 28<sup>th</sup> Historical Society Program is "A Salute to Garrett Huizing" by yours truly. I became interested in Huizing when my wife and I purchased our home on Buena Vista Street in 1978. Our lot is located in Huizing Subdivision #2. We met Jennette Reid, the daughter of Huizing, shortly after moving into the neighborhood. She lived in the King Tut home built by her father in 1922 and given as a wedding gift. Over the years we became good friends and she gave me many family photos.

While researching homes in Redlands the name Huizing is right there with D.M. Donald, R.C. Cunningham, J.C. Beer, F.T. Harris, D. W. Willard, William Batty, W. E. Farnsworth, C. C. Reasoner, A. E. Taylor and many other prominent builders. I worked for the Forest Service during the summers and found Huizing built cabins in Barton Flats, Fawnskin and Big Bear.

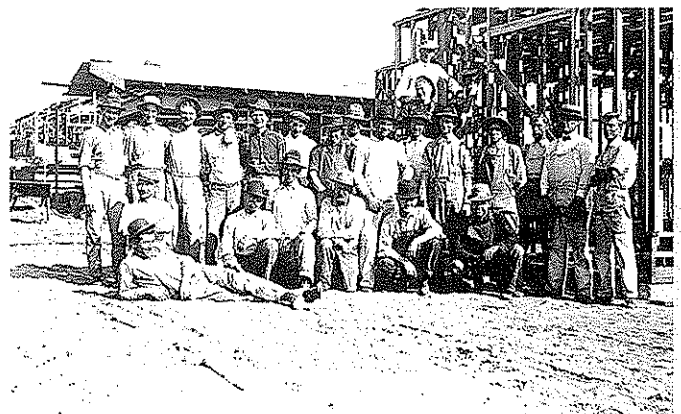
Huizing was a man who could have easily been a landscape architect. Indeed, upon retiring he had a nursery business. Huizing neighborhoods have unique features that make his homes special. The PowerPoint presentation covers many Redlands homes, churches and community buildings built by Huizing. The slides also include some Fawnskin cabins from the 1920s. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Library.

The Redlands Junior Historical Society hiked several miles of the Santa Ana wash in January searching for the 1856 Tenney irrigation ditch. This ditch was later improved by Berry Roberts in 1861 and became the pioneer irrigation ditch for Lugonia. We found split stones, San Bernardino County Flood Control Pedley storm water walls, many old tires, a teenage hangout with a fire ring, evidence of the Church Street dump and my cousin's bee hives. Planes flew over us all Sunday as we followed the north edge of the Redlands Airport. We found no vestige of the ditch, yet. We shall return.

The envelope in the last newsletter and the renewal sheet is a hint that dues are now payable.

Your President, Tom Atchley

*Huizing and Crew During Construction of  
Linda Place in 1911*



family residence. The other half of the downstairs was designed as a grocery store. Garrett and Abraham opened the Excelsior Tea and Grocery Company in 1905 and this company became the neighborhood grocery.

The second story of the home was divided into four apartments. Rent from the apartments and sales from the grocery kept Garrett Huizing financially solvent while convalescing from the tuberculosis.



*Huizing Home and Store on E. Central Avenue*

Huizing spent a great deal of time in Pepper Park while recovering his health. He became deeply influenced by the work of the Smiley Brothers, developing a special admiration for their botanical endeavors. Garrett began to plant an extensive garden in the backyard on Central. Upon its completion, the Redlands Citrograph and the Redlands Daily Facts mentioned several times the extraordinary garden hidden behind the residence. Horticulture would forever remain a hobby and love of Huizing long after his recovery. Mrs. Jennette Phelps Read, Huizing's daughter, remembered the garden her father planted while living on East Central. "My father nurtured the garden and won a "Smiley Award" as a recognition of his work." This award led the Horticultural and Improvement Society to host garden tours to stimulate more gardening.

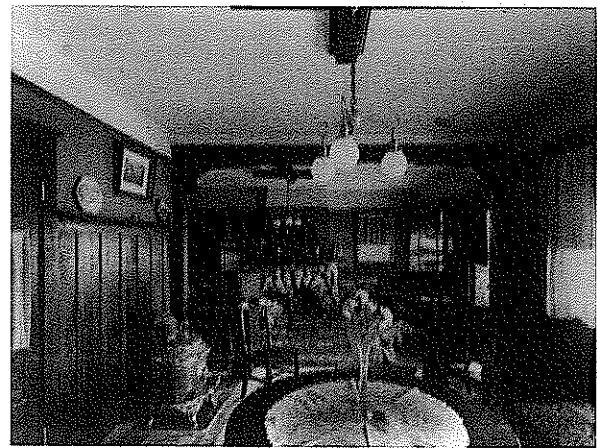
By 1906 Huizing felt vigorous enough to climb Mt. San Gorgonio. Together with his friend Barney Leest, Huizing conquered the peak in August and posed for the camera while eating lunch. In late 1907, the City Directory lists Garrett Huizing as a carpenter. Evidently he slowly worked away from the grocery business into carpentry - a more lucrative trade in growing Redlands. The recession in 1907 kept building to a minimum and Huizing only worked for a few contractors and built very few homes.

His first job was at 452 West Palm, rebuilding the barn of Mr. M. M. Phinney, a downtown banker and businessman. In 1908, Mrs. Lindenburg, a Crafton widow, hired Huizing to build her spacious home. Mrs.

Hendrickson had Huizing build her first bungalow near Wabash and Citrus in 1908.

Huizing became an official building contractor in 1908 and was quick to purchase orange grove land on Eureka Street in 1909. Huizing was influenced greatly by the California bungalow and Craftsman styles. These building styles were not entirely unique to Redlands by 1909. Huizing drew home plans for the 500-600 block of Eureka Street. He completed one home in early 1909 and moved his family to the new subdivision. The home drew so much interest in Redlands he immediately received five additional orders for homes on the block. Scenic America magazine featured the "bungalow style" of Huizing in Redlands and from then on his homes would sell before the construction could be completed. Eureka Street was adorned with street trees and lots were sold landscaped. Pillars, porches, and foundations were constructed with cobblestone that was hauled from the wash daily by Huizing. He selected carefully the stones to accent certain floral or plant arrangements to give the appearance of strength to the bungalow design.

Huizing built twelve homes on Eureka Street from 1909 to 1911. The homes were built between Home Place and Eureka Street with six homes on either side of the street. Exteriors of the homes were lavished with pure redwood, grayish-white roofs, open verandas, pillared



*Interior of Home on Eureka Street*

columns, protruding rafters, private garages and ribbon driveways. These were the first homes in Redlands to enshrine the car with an abode. Construction boasted Oregon pine, paneled rooms, stone fireplaces with plenty of mantle space, French doors, oak floors in the bedrooms, and electricity in the closets. This block, mostly Huizing-built, was one of the first Historic Districts designated in Redlands under the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

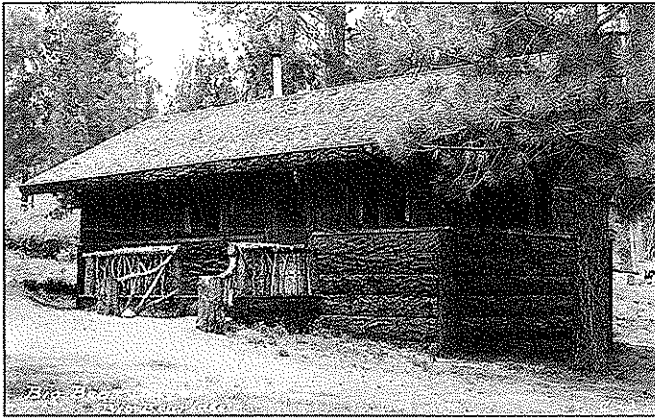
After the completion of the Eureka Street subdivision, Huizing purchased the south side of Linda Place and constructed homes at 515, 519, 603, 607, 611, 615, 619, 623, and 627. The craftsman cottages and bungalows

(Huizing, continued from page 3)

on Linda Place were built for moderate incomes and sold for \$1500 to \$1900. Huizing hired a number of Dutchmen as carpenters, to help frame the ever-popular Huizing designs. A Mr. C. Vanderwood seems to be one of the first to join the Huizing carpenter force.

Next, Huizing turned his attention to building two locations simultaneously. The Redlands Review announced in October of 1912 the construction of twelve homes by Huizing on South University Street between East Citrus and East Cypress Avenue. The exclusive subdivision required restrictive covenants and promised some new innovations to Redlands. All homes would be constructed on lots with at least a \$2500 value, all homes must face University Place, all utilities must be located on the rear of the lots and landscaping must be completed by Huizing.

Huizing in turn installed the first ornamental street lamps in Redlands, street trees, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and the picturesque clinker-brink cobblestone neighborhood entrance columns. Simultaneously work began on College, Campus, Brockton and North



University Street. A Huizing subdivision was proudly draped over the clinker-brink column by a proud homeowner until a neighbor complained "that only dead men should receive such an honor." The city removed the sign but not the demand for Huizing homes.

By the 1920's, Huizing was in such demand throughout the East San Bernardino Mountains, an unusual judicial decision was completed. Judge McIver could not help but notice the number of times Garrett Huizing was before his court for speeding tickets. An arrangement was made to allow speeding by Huizing in consideration for an annual speeding permit issued by the court!

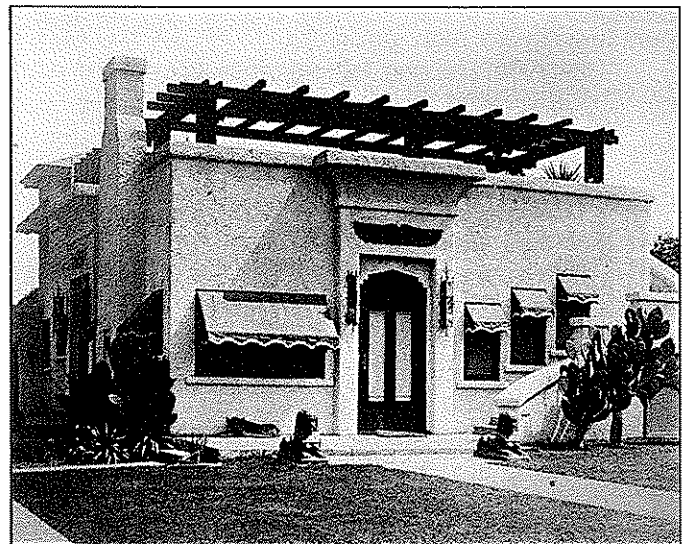
By 1924 Huizing had built 157 homes in Redlands worth \$850,000. As a builder Huizing was not limited to Redlands. He built two homes in Glendale, one in Anaheim, two in San Bernardino, one at Eagle Rock, two in Yucaipa, and a packing house in Highland. In Big Bear he built several different resort camps, five lodges, a country club, and a number of cabins. His natural, cabin style established a regulatory Forest Service requirement. His cabins are found in Barton Flats, Angelus Oaks, Mountain Home Village

and Forest Home. For two years his building activities in Bear Valley consumed the entire output of the saw-mills in that locality. The Big Bear Chamber of Commerce recognized him as the "Builder of the Valley."

In late 1922, Huizing purchased the Soares and Wilson Estates, which consisted of an orange grove north of West Cypress and North Place and another grove between West Cypress and West Palm. He christened the new subdivision "Buena Vista" and petitioned the extension of Buena Vista Street from Fern Avenue to West Cypress in January 1923. On the opening sale day for the 500 block of Buena Vista, the 60 x 165-foot lots were all sold except four. Those four sold the following day. Huizing's Buena Vista tract #2 was quick to follow south of West Cypress with the same results. All 41 lots of the original subdivision sold in twenty-four hours and fifteen Huizing homes were completed on the street within a year.

The tract boasted modern conveniences and improvements, such as electricity, gas, telephone connections, sewer system, a wide street, ornamental lights, ample curbs and sidewalks. Huizing prompted the city to pave alleys so electrical and telephone poles would not detract from street trees. Huizing, the horticulturist, planted valley oaks, which he promised would spread their limbs across the street and provide shade with beauty in ten years. Lots sold between \$700 and \$850. Within a year the same lots were worth \$1200 because of the remarkable building style Huizing chose to establish in the subdivision.

Influenced by Henri Hicks, a Los Angeles architect, who owned the Egyptian Construction Company, Huizing began to build Pompeian, Italian, Spanish, Babylonian, and Egyptian style homes. With a special mixture of concrete and crushed granite the homes were plastered to last for ages. Huizing decided to use valuable roof space of the homes for hanging gardens, open or latticed verandas, chimney parlors and outdoor living with a view. The King Tut home at 637 Buena Vista (below) was one of the first homes to publicize the "Egyptian Architecture" with luxuriant



foliage, a roof garden, roof aviary, roof fireplace, crocodile pool and fountain, papyrus plantings, entrance sphinxes, winged serpents and lotus blossoms.

King Tut's home caused a sensation in Redlands and Los Angeles. Dr. Lawrence E. Lepper, of Los Angeles, hired Huizing to repeat his Egyptian Style on Wilshire Blvd. for \$15,000. Huizing was asked to leave Redlands for the more lucrative market in Los Angeles and Pasadena but he refused. Huizing investments, subdivisions and horticultural interests were too deeply planted in Redlands to consider the move.

Garrett Huizing continued to build in Redlands until 1935. He retired that year and moved to Pasadena in 1939. He purchased a nursery and began a life of semi-retirement. Huizing died in 1954 at the age of 75. His simple obituary in the Redlands Daily Facts belies the accomplishments of one Redlands greatest builders. Dr. Larry Burgess in his monthly historical Facts story (April 22, 1984), wrote about Huizing with the following column title, "It's time for Garrett Huizing's influence to be recognized." I second that motion.

-By Tom Atchley

A partial list of buildings and streets that have Huizing homes is given below. While some of these streets might also deserve the Huizing "historical" name, Buena Vista Street has the most numerous concentration of his work.

Pure Gold Building on Brookside  
YMCA on Citrus  
Baptist Sunday School on West Olive  
Methodist Sunday School on Olive  
Hooper Bungalow Court (Michigan Street)  
Emerson's Mortuary on Brookside  
Sunset Drive Development 1929  
South University Street  
North University Street  
College, Campus and Brockton Ave  
Linda Place  
Buena Vista 500-600-700 block  
Eureka Street between Fern and Palm  
1120 West Fern Avenue  
Hardy Home on Fern and Center  
Alvarado between Cypress and Fern  
Cypress Avenue from Kingsbury to Alvarado  
Early House on East Cypress Avenue  
McCullough House  
Cypress Circle 1914

South Buena Vista Street-Out of 41 lots in the Huizing Buena Vista subdivision, 31 homes were constructed by Garrett Huizing. The following list indicates the address, year of construction and builder.

502	1925	Huizing	622	1938	Gordon Donald
505	1924	Huizing	625	1926	Huizing
506	1926	Huizing	626	1940	Ray Phelps (son-in-law of Huizing)
507	1929	Huizing			
510	1926	Huizing	629	1923	Huizing
511	1925	Huizing	632	1925	Davis Donald
514	1926	Huizing	636	1924	Huizing
515	1929	C. E. Blanc	637	1923	Huizing (King Tut House)
518	1924	Huizing	638	1923	Huizing
519	1924	Huizing			
523	1924	Huizing	702	1925	Huizing
524	1925	Farnsworth and Grant	703	1928	W. E. Farnsworth
527	1925	Huizing	706	1926	Huizing
528	1925	Huizing	707	1929	Fred Arterbury
532	1925	?	709	1945	M. K. Freenstra
533	1928	?	712	1925	Huizing
536	1925	Huizing	716	1926	?
537	1926	W. E. Farnsworth	719	1926	B. H. Curtis
539	1924	Huizing	720	1925	Farnsworth and Grant
540	1930	Huizing	721	1925	Huizing
			724	1939	Ray Phelps Construction (son-in-law of Huizing)
603	1927	Huizing/Mr. Mitchen			
609	1948	?	725	1939	Ray Phelps Construction
610	1923	Huizing	728	1926	Huizing--moved to this lot 1946
611	1948?				
614	1925	Davis Donald	729	1931	C. E. Blanc
615	1926	Huizing	733	1931	Harry R. Law, builder; Howard Munn architect and design.
617	1924	Huizing			
618	1924	Huizing	737	1929	Huizing
621	1923	?			

**Alvarado Street**

706 Congregational Parsonage 1923  
 627 Dr. J. H. Williams 1913  
 538 Mrs. S. A. Sanford 1912  
 526 C.S. Chamberlain 1910  
 522 Mrs. Grace McCreedy 1910  
 516 Fred Rhoda 1911  
 511 W. E. Erwin 1911  
 505 J. A. Stewart 1912  
 229 Mrs. Nellie White 1911

**Brookside Avenue**

Russell Anderson 1924

**Brockton**

P. H. Brown 1929

**Colton Avenue**

911 A. H. Hess 1939  
 Corner of Colton and Herald M.L. Cell (two bungalows) 1939

**West Crescent**

857 A. E. Forest Remodel for \$15,000 1927

**Cajon Street**

Roy S. Elwood 1923 with photo  
 635 H. L. Huxtable 1923  
 716 Albert D. Knight 1923 photo  
 703 Kirkpatrick and Ericson 1923  
 716 A. D. Knight 1922 \$10,500  
 Cajon and Palm Mrs. Margaret Alder 1922  
 755 F. M. Wishard 1924

**Central Avenue**

E. 529 F. Knippenburg 1923  
 E. Mr. Roland 1925  
 E. Harold Bishop 1925  
 807 E. East of Church Street 1905

**Citrus Avenue**

501 E. Leonard A. Radke or 20 University St. 1914

**West Cypress**

117 W. H. Wyckoff \$12,000 1922  
 207 Earl Finch 1923  
 215 Dr. K. S. Hayes 1922  
 405 F. H. Holley \$5,500 1923  
 505 Jay C. Sexton \$13,000 1923  
 A. J. Wells, W. Cypress Sub., \$4500 1923  
 F. N. High 1923  
 F. W. Wise, W. Cypress Sub., 1923

**East Cypress**

4 E. Cypress Dr. Heacock 1922  
 156 E. Cypress, Cypress and South University St. 1919  
 951 E. Cypress, E. C. Fish 1912

**Cypress Court**

John C. Sering \$2600 1920 Colonial  
 Miss S. and M Hoag 1923  
 L. O. Hammond \$4500 1923  
 John W Hesser Colonial \$4000 1920  
 John W. Reilly Colonial \$4500 1920

**Country Club**

Dr. Charles L. Curtiss \$7000 1925

**Chestnut Avenue**

431 Miss Amanda R. Whaley \$2000 1910  
 421 Cecil Grigsby home repairs 1911 \$1750

**Cook Street**

320 Burton E. Hales \$3500 Corner of Cook and Colton 1914

**Eureka Street**

253 Wilson Spoor \$3350 1922  
 413 Garrett H. Huizing 1911 \$2000  
 414 E. E. Dow 1909 \$3500  
 408 Ephraim Tucker 1910 \$2000  
 626 Chas H. Wilkins \$5500 1920 Colonial  
 George Hazard 1911  
 Mrs. L. C. Lockwood 1911  
 G.E. Sucher 1911  
 F. A. Clark 1911  
 F. L. Fox 1911  
 J. F. Woodsum 1911  
 George R. Rees 1911  
 Garrett Huizing 1910 \$2000  
 Corner of Eureka and Home Place 1911 \$2000  
 Alfonso Bell Dike and Logie Tract, 1922 \$5900

**Fern**

304? Colonial home 1920  
 Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday School \$11,000 1925  
 24 Lemacl W. Clark 1920 Colonial plaster bungalow  
 Mr. Davis Fern and Grant St. \$4500 1924  
 223 R. A. Doty \$4500 1924  
 505 R. A. Covington adobe 1926

**Fifth Avenue**

Victor Petrosso, Luisa Vezzetti property improvements Phelps and Huizing 1937

**Fourth Street**

237 H. L. Everett Between Olive and Clark \$2000 1925  
 330 B. Gaylord Clark and W. Fern 1909  
 509 Mrs. Pleasants \$2000 1914

**Grandview Drive**

228 Philip Harris \$14,000 1924

**Hill Street**

Raymond C. Gaston East of U of R, \$3000 1924

**Kendall Street**

John F. Witte \$2600 Colonial 1924

**Lawton**

1209 \$1000 1929

**Linda Place**

Four bungalows by G. Huizing 1911  
 626 Amos E. Huckaby \$3000 1922

**Michigan Street**

F. Roth Between Olive and Clark \$3600 1924

**Nordina**

302 Nordina Hospital apartments 1929

**New Jersey**

Mrs. A. G. Sloane Mission Style \$3500 1919

**Olive Avenue**

37 E. Cortner Bros Funeral Chapel \$6000 1910  
 First Methodist Church Sunday School facility \$30,000 1924  
 Olive Avenue Apartments on Fourth St. Spanish Style 1929  
 901 Annie A. Saulson Bond and Olive \$2800 1910  
 Jackson Rigby at Bellevue Road \$3500 1919  
 E. H. Pfeiffer Terracina Bluff lot \$6300 1921

**Orange Street**

928 Mrs. Eva Wilbur Apartments \$5400 1924  
 1201 J. H. Gray \$6000 1924

**Palm**

860 Mrs. Dorothy H. Fletcher \$2400 1912  
 George A. Miller E. of Roosevelt Road \$3500 1925  
 C. H. Clock remodel second story \$5000 1924  
 20 Mr. Washburn 1923  
 155 Richard Leaverton Colonial design 1913

**Parkwood Drive**

Between Glenwood and Brookside Bungalow Court \$25,000 Huizing and Phelps 1937

**Pacific**

1445 C. E. Maud \$6000 1928

**San Bernardino**

San Bernardino and Alabama, Crown Jewel Packing House \$30,000 1934

**Sonora**

215 Walter B. Woodworth 1924 \$3500

**Summit**

Hal O. Smith \$7500 1922 Bow B

**Sunset Drive**

Frank Cady \$9500, Colonial 1934  
 C. P. Early 1931  
 Clarence G. White gardener home \$3000 1925  
 120 built 1929

**Terracina**

O. H. Harris \$5000 1925

**University Street**

T. V. Hargrove \$1800 1929  
 Roland S. Bishop two homes for \$8200 1925 (South University)

**Valle Vista**

Mrs. G. F. Rosiere \$16,000 1928

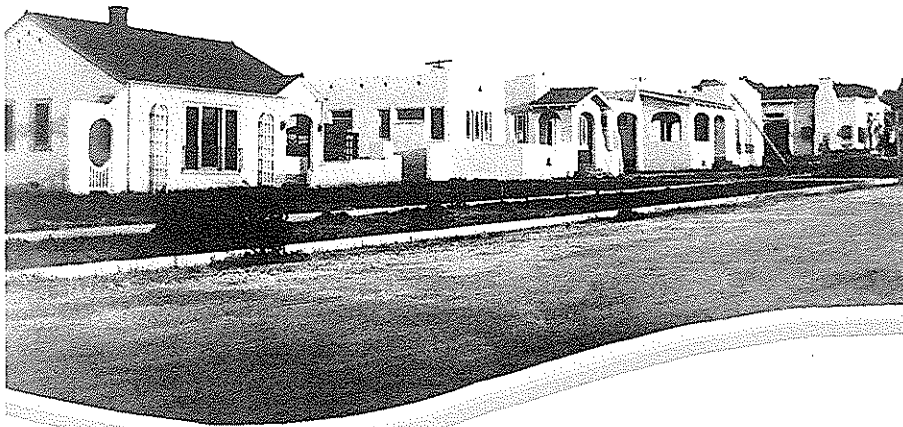
**Walnut**

Dr. J. N. Field SE corner of Walnut and Pacific \$10,000 1924

**Wheaton Street**

Dr. F. A. Alexander \$5000 1924





*600 Block of Buena Vista Street*

*120 Sunset Drive*



*Eureka Street*