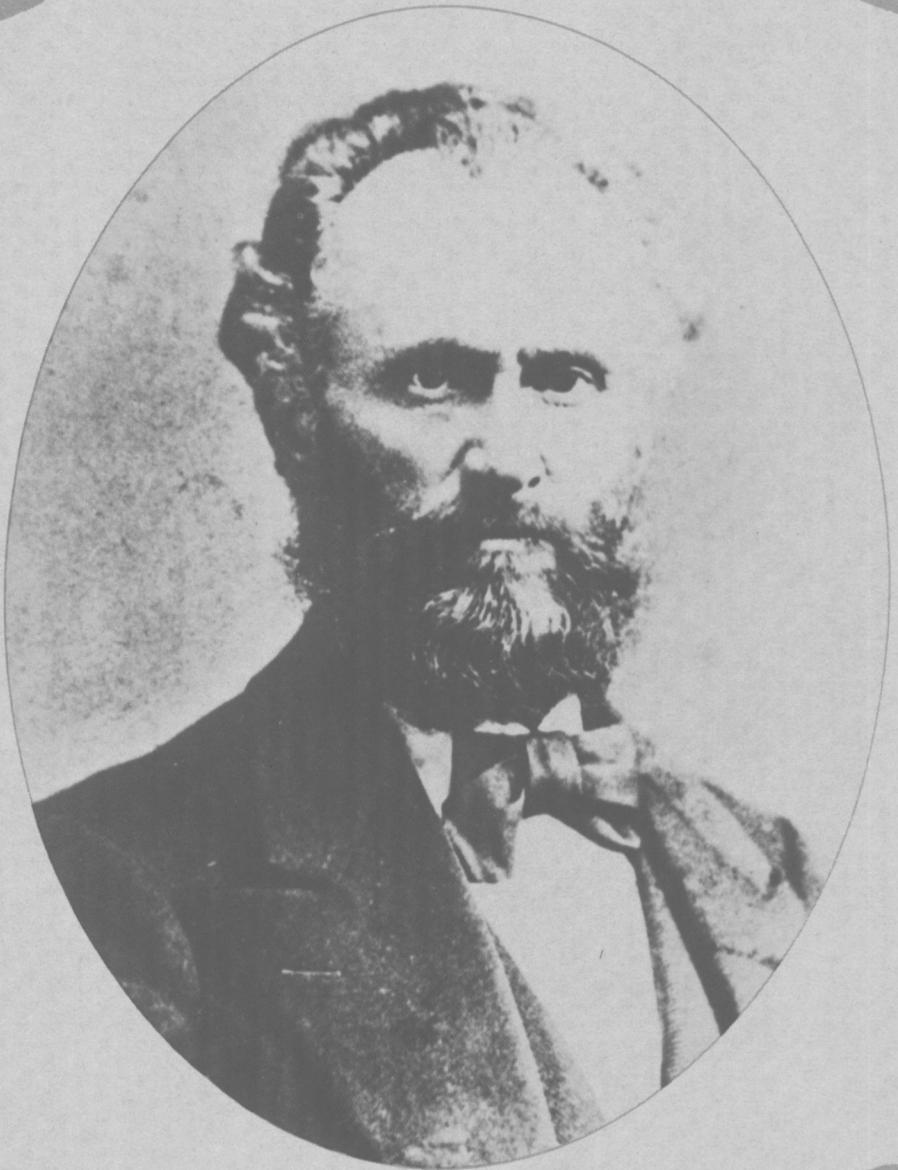




Arcadia, California
1903-1978



*Dedicated to
the people of Arcadia
by
Home
Federal Savings
&
Loan Association*

*Lucky Baldwin at the age of 47 when he
served as President of the Pacific Coast
Stock Exchange in San Francisco. This
is one of the earliest known photographs
of Arcadia's most prominent citizen.*



VIEW ON THE BALDWIN RANCH

View of the Queen Anne Cottage and lake on the Rancho Santa Anita. This home was used for guests and entertaining only.

"By Gads!
This is Paradise!"*

The Story
of
Arcadia, California

by

Richard E. Miller

Best Wishes
Dick Miller

*On seeing Arcadia for the first time, Lucky Baldwin
is said to have uttered this remark.



Preface

his story is written as an expression of pride in a city in which the author makes his home. It is a salute to the rich history of Arcadia and to the people who have made it what it is today after seventy-five years of progress. The author hopes that readers will come to appreciate the heritage that surrounds them in this magnificent and beautiful foothill community.

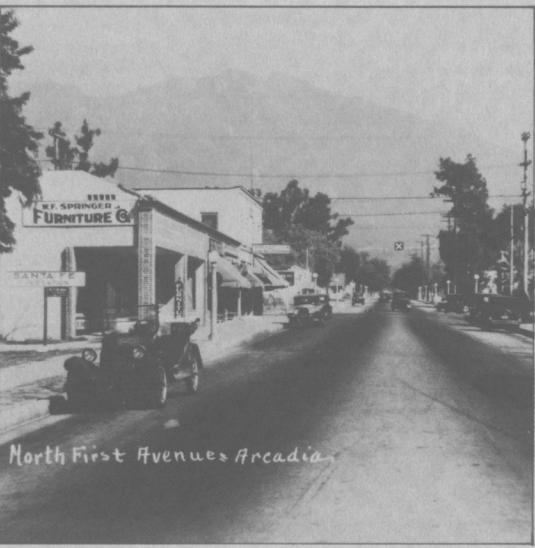
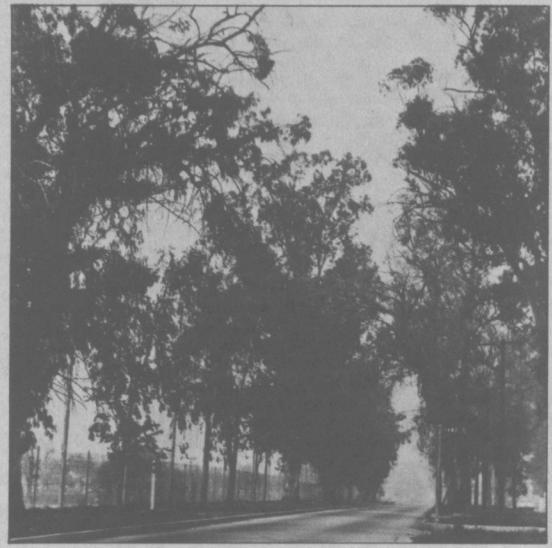
The author wishes to thank Arcadia residents Dick Clossen and Len Corbosiero for their inspiration and support in the writing of this short history.

Thanks also are directed to Home Federal Savings of San Diego for having faith in a new community, and for publishing the finished product.

The Arcadia Public Library made all of the pictures available from its extensive collection of local history photographs.

Rancho Santa Anita
Chain of Title

King of Spain-1771
Mexican Nation-1822
Hugo Reid-1839
Henry Dalton-1847
Joseph A. Rowe-1854
Wm. Corbitt and A. Vibbile-1858
Wm. Wolfskill-1865
Harris Newmark-1872
E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin-1875
Harry Chandler-1936
State of California-1947



The chain of title of the lands of the Rancho Santa Anita, showing descent from ownership by the King of Spain to the ownership of the Arboretum lands by the State of California.

Tree-lined Santa Anita Boulevard in Arcadia.

One of the eucalyptus-lined drives into the Rancho Santa Anita. Mystery surrounds the arrival of these trees in California, but it is suggested that one of the early Rancho owners is responsible for growing the first eucalyptus from seed near the site of the Queen Anne cottage, and that from these seeds sprang the now abundant trees.

Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.



Arcadia.

rcadia is known as "The City of Fine Homes," but perhaps that is a misnomer. It is certainly noted for more than fine homes. The City of Arcadia ought really to be called "the city of community pride." Nowhere can one meet citizens with greater pride in their city government, their schools, their library, their homes, churches, their fellow citizens, and that list can go on and on. People are proud to state that they live in

Many cities are rich in recorded history, and Arcadia is most fortunate to have had an extensive history done by Gordon Eberly in 1953. However, few cities are fortunate enough to possess a history recorded in photographs. In this book a small collection of photographs from the Arcadia Public Library collection has been used to present a look at life as it was prior to incorporation and during the relatively short period in which Arcadia has progressed so sharply.

Naturally, as was the case in most of America's geographic areas, the land was originally occupied by the Indians. The Indians referred to this area as "Aleupkingna" which in their dialect meant "where the wind enters your heart, and which you inhale to cool off."

Because the land in the vicinity of Arcadia was so naturally rich, the Gabrielino Indians, members of the Shoshone tribe, were able to live by hunting, fishing, and nut gathering. There was no need for them to cultivate the land or to raise animals.

The Indian era ceased with the arrival of representatives of the King of Spain. For the glory of God and the King, the land of Arcadia yielded to the colonists who came out to live and to "civilize" the rich valley.

This was a quiet era in which the valley saw the coming of the missionaries of Spain and the building of the large mission in nearby San Gabriel.

In 1821 Mexico became independent of Spanish rule; the rich and extensive Spanish mission lands passed into the hands of the newly formed Mexican government.

In 1833 there was an edict issued by the Mexican government secularizing all of the mission lands and making them available to any Mexican national or naturalized citizen.



*Gabrielino Indian home typical of those
inhabited by Arcadia's first residents long
before the arrival of the white man.*



ugo Reid, a Scottish trader, arrived in California by way of South America to locate himself in the vicinity of Mission San Gabriel. Soon after his arrival he married a full-blooded Gabrielino Indian widow with four children.

Victoria and Hugo Reid were married at the Mission, where he converted to Catholicism. With his conversion, Reid became eligible to apply for a land grant from the Mexican government. In 1839 he requested title to the 13,300 acre Rancho Santa Anita, and in 1841 his request was granted.

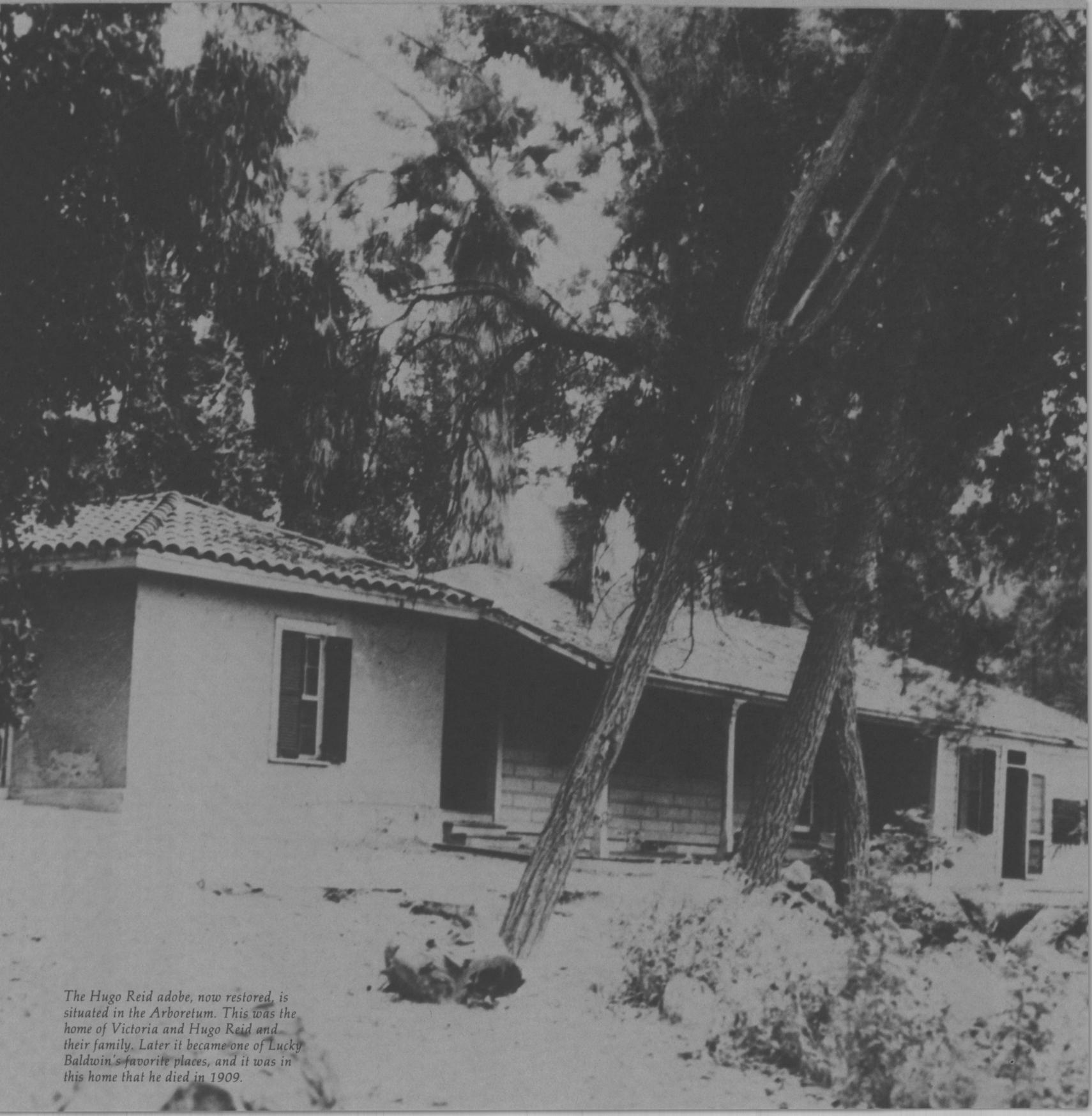
Reid and his family held the ranch until 1847, when he sold it to his old South American trading partner, Henry Dalton. From Dalton the rancho passed through the hands of several subsequent owners, with title going to William Wolfskill in 1865. This gentleman is credited with planting twelve eucalyptus trees from seeds brought here from Australia. The trees were planted in the area of the lagoon on the rancho. It is suggested that Mr. Wolfskill might have planted the first eucalyptus in Southern California.

When Harris Newmark purchased the ranch in 1872, several of the original trees continued to grow in the area near the lagoon.

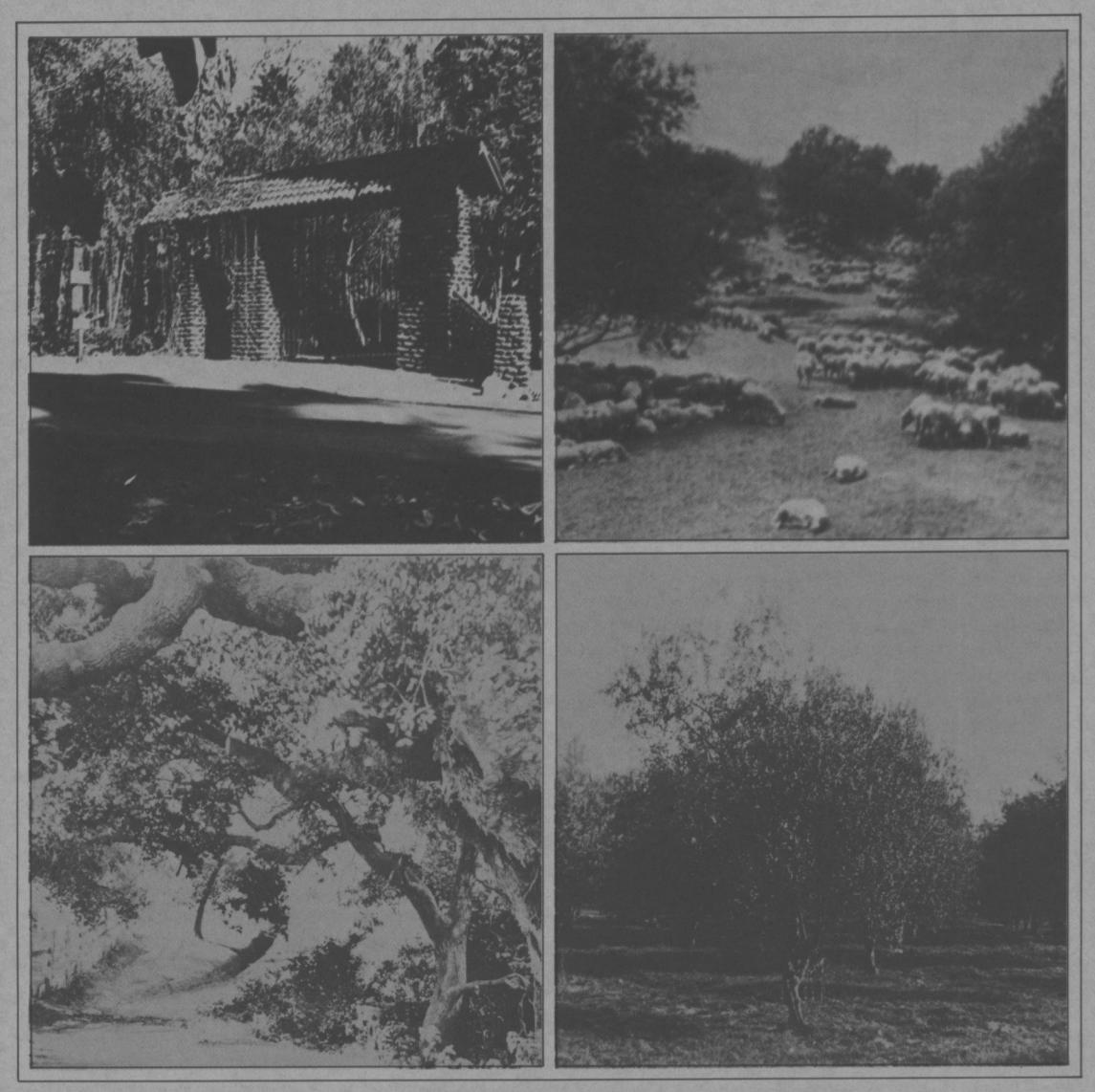
The next owner of the Rancho Santa Anita was Elias Jackson Baldwin, the man whom everyone associates with the rancho as we know it today.

Mr. Baldwin came to California in 1853 from Racine, Wisconsin, and it did not take him long to establish himself on the West Coast. At the age of 47, in 1875, Baldwin, already the first President of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange, purchased Rancho Santa Anita.

Santa Anita changed hands once again with E. J. Baldwin paying \$200,000 to Harris Newmark for the land. The worth of the rancho land was 20 cents an acre when Hugo Reid owned it, and in just a few years it had gained in worth to \$25 an acre. The Los Angeles Herald called Baldwin's purchase the largest real estate transaction in area history.



The Hugo Reid adobe, now restored, is situated in the Arboretum. This was the home of Victoria and Hugo Reid and their family. Later it became one of Lucky Baldwin's favorite places, and it was in this home that he died in 1909.



East gate into the Rancho Santa Anita.

Ancient live oak trees which abounded on the Rancho Santa Anita, c.1900.

A pastoral scene on Santa Anita Rancho in 1890, just north of present Colorado Place.

An olive grove on the productive lands of the Rancho Santa Anita.



*A family reunion in front of one of
Arcadia's earliest homes, the Harris
house.*



aldwin, a resident of San Francisco where he had made a great deal of money, became interested in Southern California, and in 1873 sailed to the Southland headed for Bear Valley in the San Bernardino Mountains. En route overland from Los Angeles, "Lucky" Baldwin found himself quite impressed with the area known as Rancho Santa Anita. On seeing the rich

area, Baldwin is reported to have said, "By Gad, this is paradise." After deciding the land was rich enough to grow anything, Baldwin expressed an interest in buying the land from Mr. Newmark. Mr. Newmark drew a hard bargain, but eventually the land changed hands and Lucky Baldwin's Rancho Santa Anita became a reality.

Although Baldwin himself returned to San Francisco, he hired a foreman and a group of Mexican ranch hands to begin work on his new ranch while he took care of his business in the north.

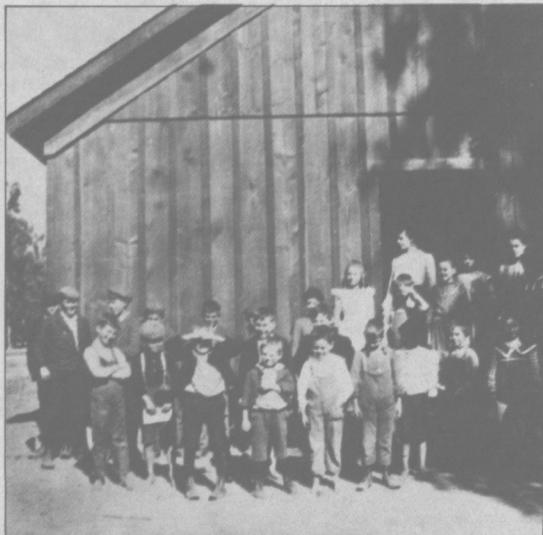
Through wise investment in the Los Angeles area, Lucky Baldwin lived up to his nickname and became the proprietor of a virtual empire. When several banks and ranchers to whom he had loaned money fell bankrupt in 1875-76, Lucky was able to obtain, after foreclosure and sheriff's sales, much additional land. At that time Baldwin not only had Rancho Santa Anita, but obtained Rancho Potrero Grande's 4,631 acres; Rancho de Philip Lugo's 4,042 acres; Rancho La Merced's 2,362 acres; Rancho La Puente's 40,000 acres; and one-half interest in the 2,200-acre Rancho Las Cienegas.

The hotel manager from Wisconsin had come a long way, but his luck was not the same at home. His first marriage to Sarah Unruh ended in divorce in 1862 with daughter Clara as the only surviving child of that union. Two children had died since their arrival in California, including a son Elias Jackson Baldwin, Junior. Clara, the eldest child, had come west with her parents.

On tour of the United States in 1869, Lucky returned with a new wife, his second, Mary Cochrane of New Orleans. That same year, Lucky's daughter Clara divorced her first husband and married a second. That second marriage for Clara lasted only three years and produced a grandson for Lucky, Albert Snyder, Junior.

Lucky Baldwin's sense of timing regarding investments was uncanny, and his nickname "Lucky" began to hold true with his fortune ever on the increase.

By the time Clara's second divorce took place, to be followed by a third marriage, Lucky's second marriage began to have problems. That marriage, too, ended in a divorce. It was not too much later that he married a third wife, eighteen-year-old Jennie Dexter.

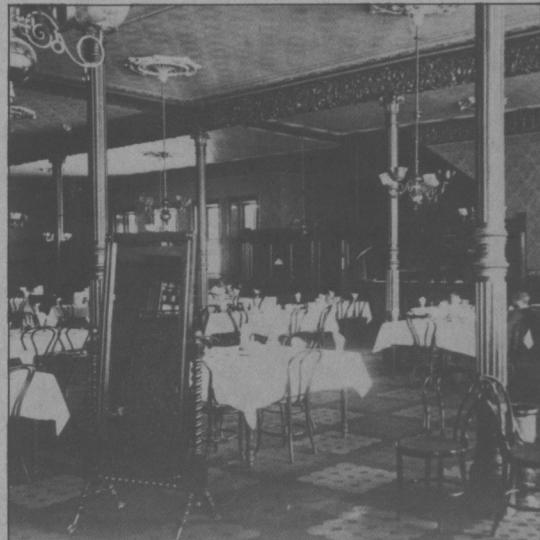


*The first school in Arcadia located in a
shed donated by Lucky Baldwin.*

*An early view of Huntington Drive,
Arcadia.*

*First school house built in Arcadia on site
of present First Avenue School, with
pupils of 1908.*

Arcadia's earliest school bus, c.1922.



View of the elegant dining facility in the Oakwood Hotel.

An outing on the lake in the early days of the Rancho.

The McCoy Building located until recently at First Avenue and St. Joseph Street. The McCoy family were well-known early residents of Arcadia.

Members of the McCoy family on an outing at the top of Mount Wilson in 1902.



Arcadia's famous Oakwood Hotel formerly located on First Avenue near Santa Clara. One of the West's finest hotels, it was noted for excellent cuisine. The Oakwood was a favorite stop for tourists to Southern California, and a must for those visiting the Rancho from Los Angeles.



aldwin was nearing fifty when this marriage took place. His new wife was nine years younger than his daughter, Clara. From this marriage union a second daughter, Anita, was born. But tragedy struck again and Baldwin's wife Jennie died less than three years after the marriage took place.

Emphasis was once again placed on work at Rancho Santa Anita. A relative of Lucky's, Julius A. "Dick" Kelly, was hired to manage the ranch at \$60 a month. Dick then hired about three hundred Mexican, Chinese and white laborers to carry out all of the projects Lucky planned for his ranch.

In those days a Chinese laborer earned a dollar a day, the Mexicans \$25.00 a month plus board, and the whites received \$35.00 a month plus board.

Daughter Clara divorced her third husband, Mr. Doble, and married for the fourth time. A daughter, Rosebudd, was the product of the Doble marriage. As her fourth husband, Clara married retired opera singer Harold B. Stocker, and spent the rest of her days as Clara Baldwin Stocker. Clara invested considerable capital in the Arcadia area in a variety of businesses. She died in 1929 at the age of 82.

Dick Kelly, Lucky's ranch manager, was fired from his job as manager and became a federal tax agent. He tried to even the score with Lucky by reporting violations of the Revenue Act due to Lucky's busy winery on the rancho. Baldwin was arrested and scandalized, but again luck was his and he settled the case in his favor.

Hiram Unruh was hired to manage the rancho and he did so with great success until after Lucky's death in 1909.

In 1884 Lucky married wife number four, Miss Lillie Bennett, daughter of the architect who planned the Queen Anne cottage. The new Mrs. Baldwin was 16 years of age and forty years her husband's junior.

With the land boom in Southern California, Lucky sold much of the Rancho and began to subdivide the land. Baldwin decided to form a town and planned it himself. He called his special town Arcadia.



Peacock design cut into a door window of a south entrance into Anoakia. The peacock was Anita Baldwin's insignia.

Anoakia, the exquisite residence of Anita Baldwin. One of the finest homes in Southern California, it was located on Foothill Boulevard in the northwest area of Arcadia.

An early photograph of Anita Baldwin.



Nin the center of town Lucky developed the famous Oakwood Hotel, and Arcadia gained great fame as a resort area. Other hotels followed and the Rancho Santa Anita became a favorite spot for tourists. Daily tours started out in Los Angeles and were the highlight of visitors' days in the southwest.

Baldwin's last twenty years were full of highs and lows, but the ranch in Arcadia continued to prosper under Mr. Unruh's care and able management.

Lucky's interest in race horses and their breeding never lagged, and Rancho Santa Anita became the home of his finest stables. At one time, seventy-six valuable horses lived in the rancho stables. For his racing insignia, the Maltese Cross was used against the colors red and black. A giant maltese cross built by his daughter Anita still has a position of prominence at Santa Anita Race Track.

Lucky's town, Arcadia, had been well planned and remained unincorporated for twelve years.

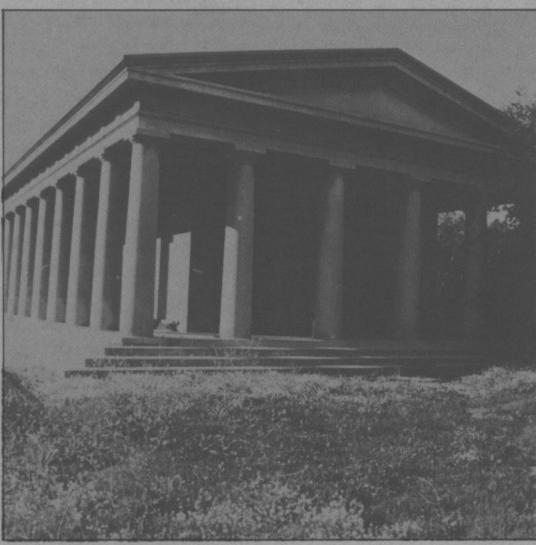
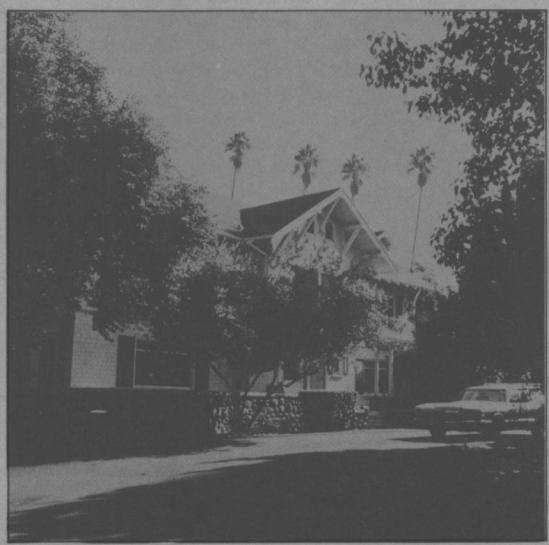
In 1903, since Lucky Baldwin was spending most of his time at the rancho, he began to concentrate on the development of his city.

At that time the population of Arcadia was sparse, and the city quite spread out among the various orchards. The rancho itself had the prime location, with the small downtown area being concentrated in the northeast on First Street and Santa Anita Avenue. The city was even then quite impressive due to the many tree-lined lanes.

On March 15, 1903 the people of Arcadia petitioned for status as a city, and on August 17, 1903, Arcadia became incorporated.

The first city government was essentially a Baldwin family affair, with E. J. Baldwin elected as Mayor.

Although Lucky Baldwin was almost eighty years of age, the sparkle was still there, and he had yet another dream. He wanted to establish a first-class race track in the city of Arcadia, and by December, 1907, Santa Anita Park was ready for business.

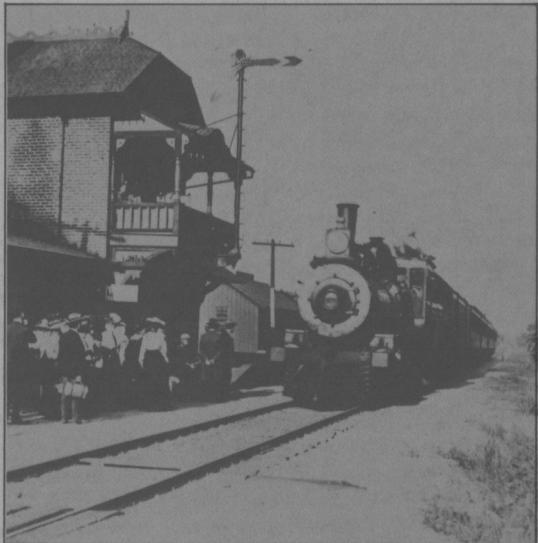


A fine residence, still in use, which was the home of Clara Baldwin Stocker on Foothill Boulevard in Arcadia.

The veranda on the south side of Anoakia.

The Gymnasium built as a play area for Anita Baldwin's children. It was located on the grounds of Anoakia.

The library in Anita Baldwin's home, Anoakia.



Santa Anita station

*Waiting for a train at Arcadia's
Santa Fe Station.*

*Pacific Electric "Red Car" served
Arcadia until the 1950's.*

*Gas station at corner of Duarte and
Baldwin.*



Arcadia Santa Fe Station, c.1900.

C

he race track was built on the land now incorporated into the County Park. On the 1st of March, 1909, fourteen months after his dream had become a reality, Elias J. Baldwin died of pneumonia in his home, the Hugo Reid adobe. His body was taken to San Francisco for burial.

Baldwin's estate of eleven million dollars was left to his two daughters, Clara and Anita.

Anita Baldwin's life was quite conservative next to that of her father and sister. Her first marriage at age 16 to her cousin, George Baldwin, ended in divorce. Her second marriage was to attorney Hull McClaughry and two children were born to that union. After a second divorce, Anita resumed her maiden name. Her children, too, assumed the family name as Baldwin M. Baldwin and Dextra Baldwin.

After her father's death, Anita took over the management of the ranch in Arcadia, and under her operation the ranch ran efficiently for years. Upon her death in 1939, the rancho was subdivided into beautiful residential neighborhoods with Anita's own home, Anoakia, later becoming a private school.

From that time on the beautiful city of Arcadia began to prosper and grow.

Building and development were temporarily halted during World War II when the area of the Race Track became a relocation depot for Japanese-Americans who were being sent to inland camps for the war's duration.

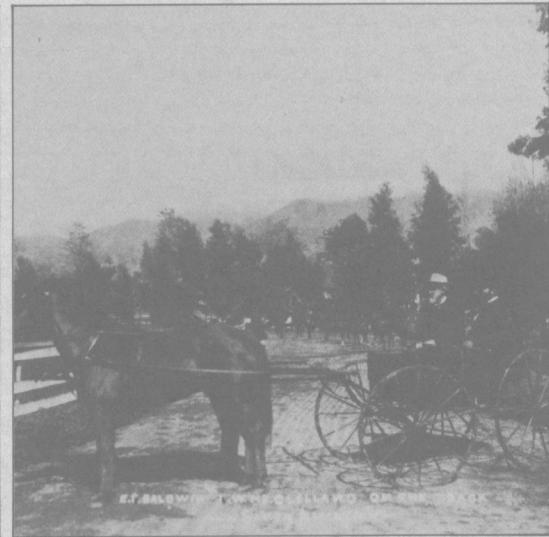
From the end of World War II the city grew rapidly to what we know today, a fine residential community.

The tourist appeal remains now, with the beautiful Santa Anita Race Track, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, and the newly developed Fashion Park as highlights to be seen by all who visit the area.

Good government has presided in Arcadia, and while citizens have seen much change over the years, the aura of the city remains as one with a great deal of appeal.

New businesses continue to come to Arcadia making life for residents more convenient as well as more complex, but most residents continue to point with pride at the city in which they choose to reside.

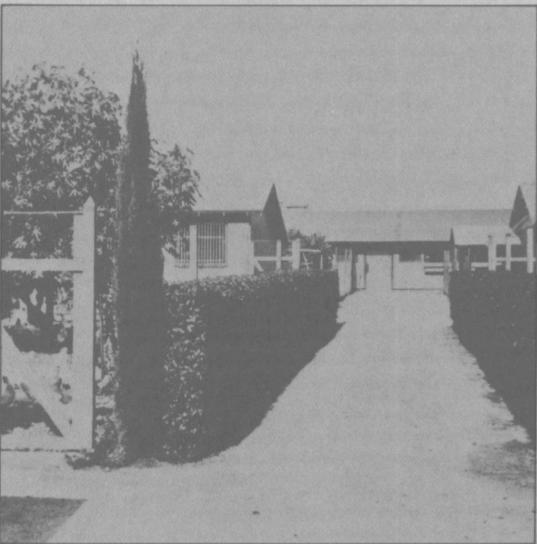
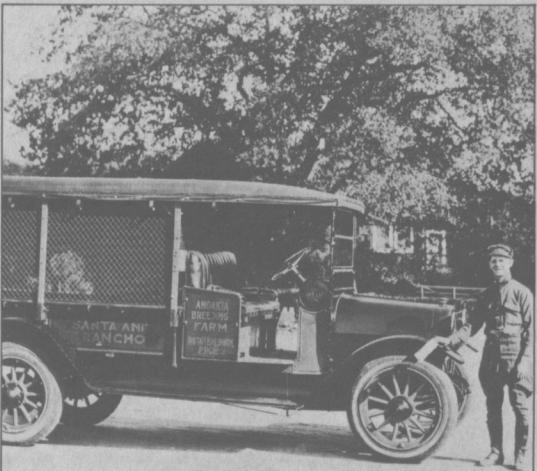
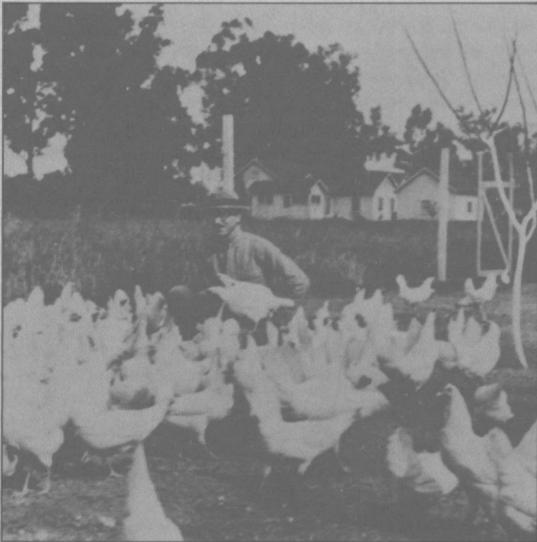
Arcadia is truly a city of which its residents can be quite proud.



Lucky's Race Track, c.1907.

An aerial view of Arcadia, c.1918. Note the race track in the center.

Scenes of Lucky Baldwin on his track in the Rancho Santa Anita.



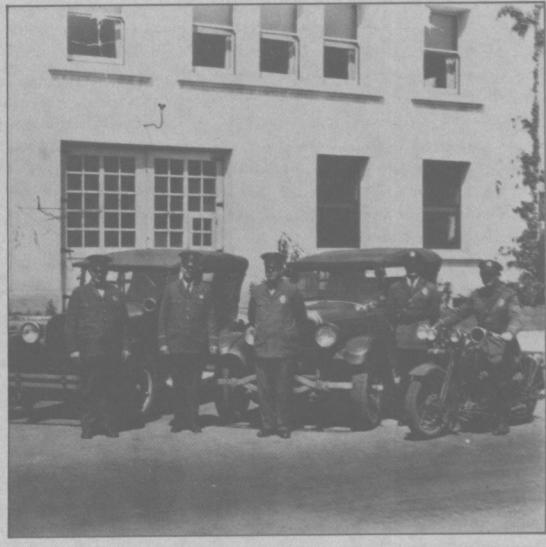
Fruit drying in the sun.

Truck belonging to the Rancho Santa Anita.

Scenes taken on chicken ranches which were located in South Arcadia.



Picking peaches on the Cuccia ranch in southwest Arcadia.



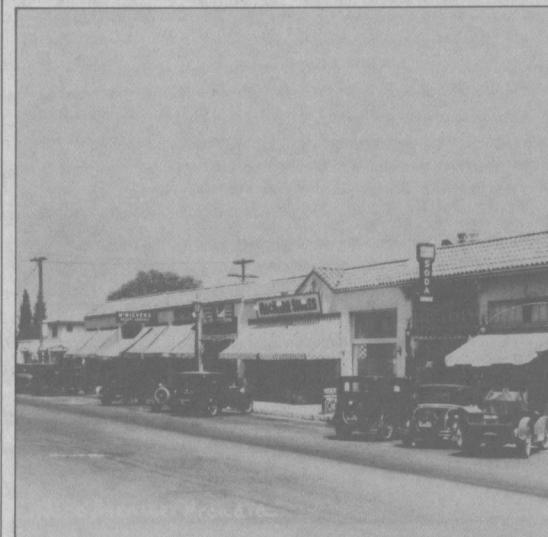
Arcadia firemen and truck, c. 1938.

Old firehouse and trucks on Wheeler Street, Arcadia, 1930's.

*Arcadia's early police force in 1932 (top)
and 1928 (bottom).*



*Another fine Arcadia home, the Millard
house located at Sixth and Camino Real.
c. 1910.*



*North First Avenue, Arcadia.
The two prominent business areas of
Arcadia, c. 1930.*

*Drug store on the southwest corner of
Duarte and Baldwin Avenue, 1930's.*

*Wetmore's Service Station, Baldwin and
Duarte Road, 1938.*

*Balloons over Arcadia, World War I.
A famous Army balloon school was
located in Arcadia during the war.*

*Lucky Baldwin with his daughter, Anita,
and her two children, Baldwin and
Dextra (opposite page).*



