



Monterey Park . . . Then and Now



“Monterey Park -- Then and Now”



May 2001

Pride in the Past, Faith in the Future

Monterey Park . . . Then and Now

A pictorial survey of Monterey Park, presenting photographs from the Browning Collection and photographs by Charles Carter.

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In Celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Incorporation
of the City of Monterey Park, May 29, 1916.

Introduction

The year 2001 marks the 85th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Monterey Park. As we begin this new millennium, we look back on the dramatic development which took place in our City during the 1900's. What a difference between Then and Now!

In the early 1900's, Monterey Park was a truck farming community, with no paved roads. Coyote Pass, now known as Monterey Pass Road, was the way to downtown Los Angeles before the great bridges and paved roads were constructed. The first subdivisions in 1906 were north of Garvey and east of Garfield, along with the exclusive Midwick Country Club.

By 1915, the growing but somewhat sleepy community suddenly awoke with the threat that a high sewer farm was to be built in the area. Annexation proceedings for portions of land in what is now Monterey Park were initiated by the City of Alhambra on April 17, 1916.

A committee headed by Thomas A. Berkebile, the first City Attorney of Monterey Park, immediately started organizing opposition to the annexation attempt. Their weapon would be incorporation as a city. When residents of Ramona Acres went to the polls on May 16, 1916, there was little doubt left as to how they felt on the issue. The vote for incorporation was 455 to 33. The incorporation proceedings were completed May 29, 1916 when Thomas Berkebile and P. A. Hannigan made a hurried trip to Sacramento to file the necessary papers nearly two months before Alhambra claimed to have completed annexation proceedings on August 14, 1916.

The Monterey Park Board of Directors, as a new governing body was known, immediately passed an ordinance outlawing sewer reduction plants in the new City. They were opposed by the Tri-Cities organization that owned the land where the sewer farm was planned. Tri-Cities launched a legal battle against the City's incorporation, claiming that legal annexation was completed. Four years later, after stormy sessions in the courts and two battles on the floor of the State legislature, Monterey Park was victorious and our incorporation was recognized!

This look at "Monterey Park --Then and Now" gives our citizens, both new and old, an opportunity to see what has happened in our community since those early days when we fought to become a City. This publication includes photographs from the "Browning Collection," never before published. As I took the "Now" photographs, I was amazed to see the changes that have occurred in my own lifetime here in Monterey Park.

Together, let us celebrate our past and look forward to our future as a beautiful City with a great heritage!

Charles Carter



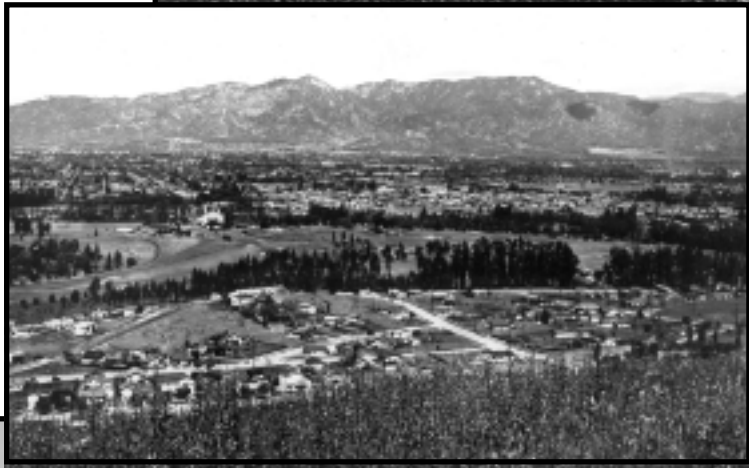
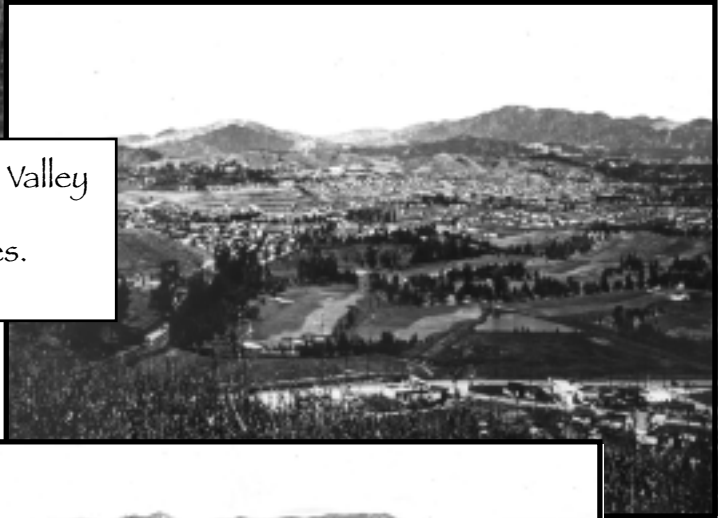
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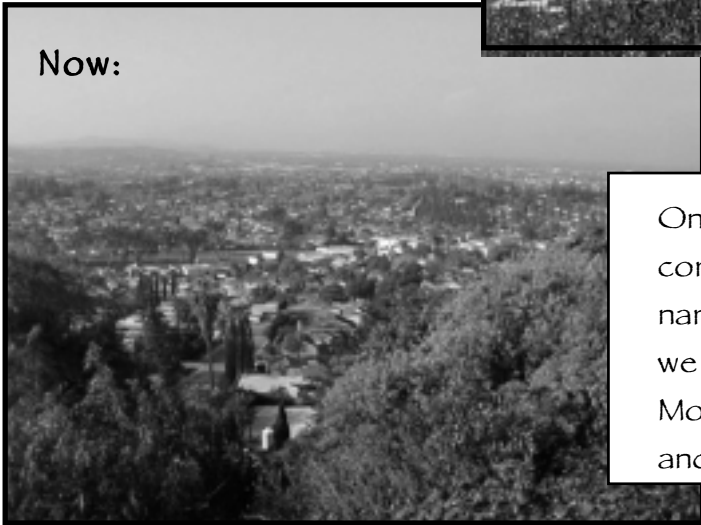
Then:

View of Midwick Country Club, San Gabriel Valley and Sierra Madre Mountains from Golden Gate Hills, Midwick View Estates.

P.N. Snyder, Owner and Developer



Now:



On May 29, 1916, by a vote of 455 to 33, the community voted itself into cityhood and named the new city Monterey Park. This year we commemorate the 85th birthday of Monterey Park with the visual history of "Then and Now."