

Important Milestones in the Life of Monrovia The First Thirty Years (1886 - 1916)

- 1886 The first lots in the new Town of Monrovia were sold on May 17.
- 1886 Monrovia's first public school opened in Barnes Hall.
- 1886 Monrovia's first newspaper, the "Planet", began publication.
- 1887 The first celebration of Monrovia Day took place.
- 1887 Monrovia's first public school building was constructed.
- 1887 Monrovia was first served by a transcontinental railroad.
- 1887 The election to incorporate the City of Monrovia took place on December 8.
- 1888 Monrovia had a population of 2,500.
- 1888 Monrovia City School District was formed.
- 1888 Monrovia's first fire-fighting equipment was purchased--a hose cart!
- 1890 Monrovia had a population of 907.
- 1893 Monrovia City High School District was formed.
- 1894 Monrovia's first Library Board was elected. The men who were elected promptly resigned so that women could be appointed in their places.
- 1895 Monrovia's first public library opened. Rent was \$2.50 per month and the Librarian was paid \$1.00 per day.
- 1899 Monrovia was finally assured of an adequate water supply with the purchase of the Chapman Wells for \$3,973.
- 1899 Passage of City Ordinance No. 120 ended the era of Monrovia being known as the "Free Water Town".
- 1900 Monrovia had a population of 1,500.
- 1900 Monrovia's first street lighting was provided by the Monrovia Electric Light and Power Company.

- 1900 Monrovia Telephone & Telegraph Company was organized.
- 1903 The Pacific Electric Railway began service on March 1. Monrovians could leave Myrtle and Olive and arrive in downtown Los Angeles 53 minutes later.
- 1903 Monrovia Police Department was created.
- 1905 Monrovia received a \$10,000 grant for a library building from the Carnegie Foundation.
- 1905 Bonds were authorized for the purchase of the Granite Bank Building, home of the Monrovia City Hall, and the creation of Library Park.
- 1905 Gas mains were installed in Monrovia and service began.
- 1907 Monrovia's first movie theater opened.
- 1908 Monrovia's first public library building opened in Library Park.
- 1909 The first light standards were installed on Myrtle Avenue.
- 1910 Monrovia had a population of 3,505.
- 1910 Monrovia purchased its first fire truck – a converted automobile.
- 1911 The road to Monrovia Canyon Park was constructed.
- 1914 The Monrovia Day Association began as the Ten Thousand Club.

By Steve Baker, City Historian
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