

ALBERT EMANUEL CRONENWETT AND MINNIE ELLEN McCALL CRONENWETT.

In March, 1888, Monrovia welcomed its first jeweler, A.E. Cronenwett, and his young wife, Minnie, from Carrollton, Ohio. He became one of Monrovia's most able and enthusiastic boosters. He was active in every civic enterprise and left an impressive record.

His jewelry store was located on the northeast corner of Myrtle and Orange avenues, the present site of the Monrovia office of the Security Pacific National Bank of Los Angeles. He founded the Monrovia News, he owned and managed the La Vista Grande Hotel and several other enterprises as well, including the first Monrovia Day Parade celebration in 1892. He was an expertly trained musician and had a life-long interest in music. He organized the first orchestra in Monrovia which consisted of thirty-six pieces.

He organized and led the Monrovia City Band. It went wherever music was needed. For years the band thumped and tootled up and down Myrtle avenue and no doubt helped mightily to keep up the morale of the men who were trying to make a living for themselves and their families. On New Year's Day in 1891 it was the first musical organization to march in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. "Cronnie's Band" will long be remembered.

The Cronenwett's had two children, Fred and Clara; she was called Clare by her friends. She took an active part in the cultural life of the city. She studied art at USC and at her "Little Studio on Gold Hill" she held exhibits of her own and other artist's work. She was a member of the Print Makers of Los Angeles and exhibited at their Fourth Annual Spring Exhibit in March, 1918. She was chairman of the Art Committee of the Mac Dowell Club of Allied Arts in Los Angeles. She also took an active interest in the Foothill Community Players, a local organization "which affords individuals opportunity for self-expression in the Allied Arts." We lost her influence in the cultural life of the city with her passing in 1969.

T.M. Hotchkiss
June 8, 1986.