

TWO EARLY-DAY MONROVIA PHYSICIANS--Drs. R.D. Adams and F.M. Pottenger.

Many years ago Monrovia had a reputation as a health center and people came from distant parts to partake of its mild winters and generally healthy climate. Likewise, this attracted a number of doctors who established practices and administered to their needs.

Among the earliest was Dr. Russell D. Adams who was a native of Michigan where he received his degree in medicine. Afterward he served as a surgeon in the Civil War. In 1888 he came to California with his family and after brief stays in Alhambra and El Monte, he moved to Monrovia. He took over the practice and bought the residence of Dr. J.T. Stewart, who moved to Los Angeles where he had a small private hospital. At that time the residence was at the northwest corner of Primrose and Foothill. It has since been moved north on Primrose and now stands, in an abbreviated form, at No. 113.

In 1895 Dr. Adams acquired a partner, named Dr. F.M. Pottenger who, with his ailing wife, came here from Ohio. At the end of about a year and a half, his wife's health not being improved, they returned to Ohio and he resumed practice there. They stayed in Ohio until Mrs. Pottenger died and in 1888 Dr. Pottenger returned to Monrovia and resumed practice with Dr. Adams. Their office, shown in the photograph, was at 509 South Myrtle avenue.

In 1900 Dr. Pottenger married Miss Adelaide Gertrude Babbit, who was vice-principal and a teacher of Latin and Greek in the high school. They had three children: Francis Marion, Jr., Robert Thomas, and Adelaide Marie who grew up in Monrovia.

In 1903 Dr. Pottenger established the Pottenger Sanatorium for the treatment of diseases of the chest, in the foothills above Monrovia. It became widely recognized and brought considerable attention to Monrovia as a health resort and gave important impetus to the growth of the town. At the same time commuter service on the Pacific Electric railway to Los Angeles began, and these two factors which prevailed for many years gave a much needed boost to Monrovia.

However, "Time brings all things." Advances in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis with new drugs made obsolete Dr. Pottenger's methods and the steady increase in the use of automobiles for personal transportation killed the Pacific Electric. Dr. Adams

spent the rest of his life here, taking an active part in the betterment of the community until his death on June 11, 1917, followed by Dr. Pottenger in June 1961 at the age of 91 years.

T.M. Hotchkiss.

March 6, 1986.

photo- 4x5 #213