

## 120 May Avenue

Col. Samuel Keefer and his wife, Eliza J., came to this area in 1885 as house guests of the William Monroe family at "The Oaks" before there even was a Town of Monrovia. When the new community was formed in the spring of 1886, Col. Keefer invested heavily in real estate, and was responsible for building the Grand View Hotel, an elegant Queen Anne style structure that stood where the Monrovia City Hall is today. Col. Keefer was joined in his real estate activities by his son, John S. Keefer. Among other properties, the Keefers purchased from E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin Lots 69, 70, 74, and 75 of the Santa Anita Tract, formerly part of Rancho Santa Anita. By May of 1887, a portion of Lot 70 had been subdivided as the Oak Grove Subdivision, named for the beautiful native oak trees that covered the land. The subdivision consisted of 51 residential lots and was bounded by Charlotte Avenue, named for Col. Keefer's daughter, on the east, White Oak Avenue on the south, and Ivy Avenue on the west. Charlotte Avenue is now Canyon Blvd. and White Oak Avenue is now Foothill Blvd. Even though sales in the new subdivision were brisk, many years were to elapse before substantial development of the residential lots took place.

Prominent in the development of May Avenue in the early 1900's were the Tifal Brothers, Charles and Gustave. The firm specialized in the design and construction of fine homes in the Craftsman Style, and examples of their work are to be found throughout Monrovia, especially in the Wild Rose Tract. Early in 1913 the Tifals built the houses at 115 and 116 May Avenue. The following year they purchased the two lots north of 116 May Avenue and, on April 8, 1914, a building permit was issued to the Tifal Brothers for a new house to be constructed at 120 May Avenue. \$4,800 was the permit value for the new construction. For some reason the Tifals found it necessary to sell the property prior to the completion of the house. The new owner was Letha L. Storrow, who also purchased 124 May Avenue. An additional building permit was issued on June 10, 1915 for the completion of the residence. \$1,500 was the permit value for the completion, making \$6,300 the total cost of the house - a significant price for the period. Letha Storrow apparently purchased both

houses as an investment, since there is no evidence that she ever lived in Monrovia. She was living in Pasadena in 1920, and perhaps she was living there earlier when she made her Monrovia purchases.

The earliest record of a resident in the house appears in the April, 1918 Monrovia Telephone Directory, where J.W. Thomas is listed at 120 May Avenue. The following year Mrs. Clara S. Black and her son Lewis P. Black were living in the house. Clara Black was the widow of G.W. Black, an early Monrovia grocer, and Lewis Black served as the Monrovia City Clerk from 1917 until 1928. The Black family, however, only rented the house. It was purchased in 1920 as a retirement home by Charles and Ella Culver, who came to Monrovia from Clarence, Missouri with their unmarried daughter and only child, Mertie M. Culver. The Culver purchase began the first period of long ownership. Charles Culver passed away in the house on May 27, 1928. He is buried at Live Oak Cemetery. Ella Culver continued to live in the house with her daughter, Mertie, until advancing years made a change of residence necessary. Ella Culver died at the Civic Old People's Home in Hollywood on August 11, 1940 at the age of 90. She is buried next to her husband at Live Oak Cemetery. Mertie Culver presumably inherited the house from her mother, but there is no further record of her living in Monrovia after 1939.

When the Monrovia City Directory for 1944 was compiled, Verl Murray and his wife Davena were residents of 120 May Avenue. Verl Murray was a beloved teacher and coach at Monrovia High School for over forty years. The Murrays resided in the house briefly and rented it. O. Edward Blomgren and his wife, Victoria, purchased the house circa 1945, and the second long period of ownership began. The Blomgrens had come to Southern California from the Chicago area in 1944. The Blomgren children--Charles, Joan, Elaine, and Lorna--grew to maturity in the house, and Victoria Blomgren continued to make it her home after her husband's death on September 8, 1952. His final resting place is also Live Oak Cemetery. After over twenty years of ownership, Victoria Blomgren and her second husband, Kurt James, sold the house to Athol Raymond Bolin and his wife, Barbara. The Bolins were residents of the house when the last Monrovia City Directory was compiled in 1971.



The present owners purchased the house in May of 1987. During their ownership, significant restoration has taken place: the distinctive fireplace was rebuilt with the assistance of a grant from the Monrovia Old House Preservation Group, the missing built-in buffet in the dining room was recreated, and aluminum windows in the rear of the house, installed by a previous owner, were replaced with windows authentic to the style of the house. The interior has been enhanced with fine Craftsman style furniture. The house was designated Historic Landmark Number 43 by the City of Monrovia on September 10, 2002.

new community was formed in the spring of 1886,

110 May Ave  
Owner Information

Bill and Sandi Deets  
357-9936  
Owned since 1988 (Recording date 05/29/1987)  
Grants received: rebuilt fireplace  
Landmarked: September 2002

Legal Description

Oak Grove Subdivision, being a part of Lot 70 Santa Anita Tract, Lot 34

Permit Information

Building Permit: 04/08/1914  
Owner: Tifal Bros.  
Contractor: Tifal Bros. Investment Co.  
Value: \$4,800

Building Permit: 06/10/1915  
Owner: Letha L. Storrow  
Contractor: Tifal Bros.  
Value: \$,1500  
Finish residence

Note for 124 May Avenue:  
Building Permit: 06/10/1915  
Owner: Letha L. Storrow  
Contractor: Tifal Bros.  
Value: \$2,400  
Finish residence

United States Federal Census

1900 Clay Township, Shelby County, Missouri (Married 27 years; 1 child, 1 living)  
1920 Clarence, Shelby County, Missouri  
1920 Pasadena, Los Angeles, California Storrow, Samuel 56 and Storrow, Letha L 35  
1930 Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California Storrow, Letha Lewis 45

California State Death Index

Culver Charles M Spouse EA 78 Los Angeles County 05/27/28  
Culver Ella 05/20/1850 FLN: Balcom New York Los Angeles 08/11/1940 90 years  
Culver Mertie M 01/08/1874 Missouri Los Angeles 11/22/1966 92 years  
Blomgren, Oscar Edward 05/20/1897 Illinois Los Angeles County 09/08/1952

Live Oak Cemetery

Culver, Charles M. 1850-1928  
Culver, Ella 1850-1940

Monrovia Telephone Directories

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| August 1915   | No Record                      |
| July 1917     | No Record                      |
| April 1918    | Thomas, J.W.                   |
| February 1919 | Black, Mrs. G.W. 120 May Ave.  |
| January 1920  | Black, Mrs. G.W. 120 May Ave.  |
| January 1921  | Culver, Mrs. C. 120 May Avenue |
| January 1922  | Culver, Mrs. C. 120 May Avenue |

#### Monrovia City Directories

|           |                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1916-1917 | No record                                                                                                   |
| 1919-1920 | Black, Clara librarian Christian Science Library h<br>Black, Lewis P city clerk r                           |
| 1922-1923 | Culver, Charles M (Ella) h<br>Culver, Mertie M r                                                            |
| 1923      | Culver, Charles (Ella) h<br>Culver, Mertie M. r                                                             |
| 1924      | Culver, Charles M (Ella) h<br>Culver, Mertie r                                                              |
| 1925      | Culver, Charles M (Ella) h<br>Culver, Mertie r                                                              |
| 1927      | Culver, Charles M (Ella) h<br>Culver, Mertie r                                                              |
| 1928      | Culver, Charles M (Ella) h<br>Culver, Mertie r                                                              |
| 1930      | Culver, Ella (wid C M) h (o)<br>Culver, Mertie r                                                            |
| 1931-1932 | Culver, Ella (wid Chas) h (o)<br>Culver, Mertie r                                                           |
| 1935      | Culver, Ella (wid Chas) h (o)<br>Culver, Mertie M r                                                         |
| 1937      | Culver, Ella (wid Chas) h (o)<br>Culver, Mertie M r                                                         |
| 1939      | Culver, Ella (wid Chas) h (o)<br>Culver, Mertie M r                                                         |
| 1944      | Murray, Verl (Davena) tchr Pub Sch                                                                          |
| 1948      | Blomgren, O Edward (Victoria H) h<br>Blomgren, Victoria H tel opr CW&TCo                                    |
| 1953-1954 | Blomgren, Victoria H (wid Edw) clk Wild Rose School (o)<br>Blomgren, Charles E USN<br>Blomgren Joan L studt |
| 1955      | Blomgren, Victoria H (wid Edw) clk Bd of Educ (o)                                                           |
| 1958      | Blomgren, Victoria H (wid Edw) clk Wild Rose School (o)<br>Blomgren Joan L studt                            |
| 1959      | Blomgren, Victoria H (wid Edw) clk Wild Rose School (o)                                                     |
| 1961      | James, Kurt (Victoria) gdnr                                                                                 |
| 1963      | James, Kurt (Victoria) gdnr                                                                                 |
| 1965      | Mulder, James (Joan L Blomgren) missionary                                                                  |
| 1966      | James, Kurt (Victoria)                                                                                      |
| 1967      | Bolin, Raymond (Barbara) emp S P Co h<br>Bolin, Joy studt r                                                 |
| 1968      | Bolin, Athol (Barbara) truck driver h (o)<br>Bolin, Joy studt r                                             |
| 1970      | Bolin, Athol (Barbara) truck driver h (o)<br>Bolin, Joy studt r                                             |
| 1971      | Bolin, Athol (Barbara) truck driver h (o)                                                                   |

Bolin, Joy studt r



the evening. Prize winners Miss Lundquist, Miss Arrington and Mrs. Swahn.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

meeting of the W. C. T. U. on afternoon at 2:30 o'clock officers will be elected.

At 5 o'clock Mrs. Arthur Reith will talk on "National Trends" and by her in a recent trip to country.

Meeting will be held in the parlour room of the Methodist

will personally manage the Chicken-in-the-Rough Cave where this type of fowl will be featured. Which executive Maestro Eaton will place in charge of the fountain lunch is yet to be determined.

## FUNERALS

### MRS. CHARLES CULVER

Funeral services for Mrs. Charles Culver, former resident of Monrovia, who died last week at the Civic Old People's home in Hollywood, will be held there tomorrow at 1 p. m., with interment in Live Oak cemetery here. Mrs. Culver formerly resided at 120 May ave.

## What You Eat?

THEN COME TO  
— STOWE'S —

A fine home cooked meal  
with dessert and coffee

**25c and 35c**

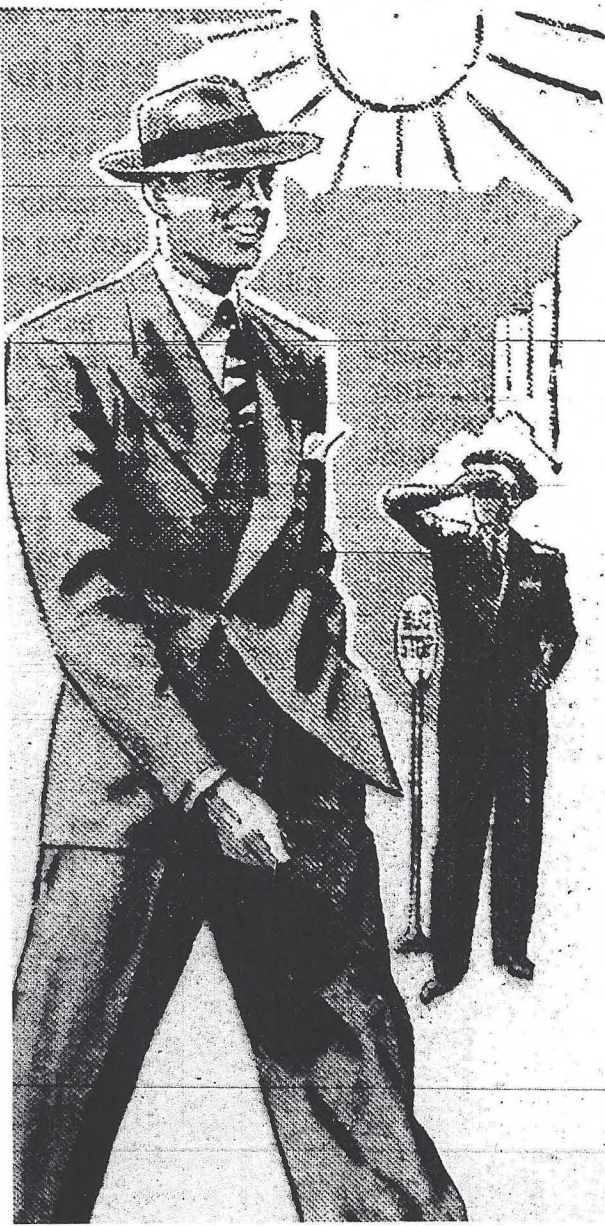
BREAKFAST, LUNCH and  
DINNER SERVICE

Open 7 A. M. to 7 P. M.

**H. H. Stowe Co.**

601 S. Myrtle

# Beat the Heat...



Wear a Comfortable  
Light Weight Suit  
and—

Keep it Neat  
with Blue Seal  
Dry Cleaning  
and Pressing

MEN'S  
PALM  
BEACH  
SUITS

**65<sup>c</sup>**

Call for  
and  
Deliver

Cleaned and Pressed

Your  
Guarantee



of  
Satisfaction



test at the meeting yesterday as Richard Peterson, student M-D High School who mounted this area at the national airplane contest in Des Moines.

Hudson was also a guest, viewed for the club members highlights of the conference, which opens at Duarte High School.

st Tolmie and Kenneth presided jointly at yesterday's meeting.

## STOCKS

NEW YORK (AP) A marked decline in the stock market today over a wide area of the

was fairly general and from fractions to around 2 among leaders.

ness came to an estimated 10 shares, as compared with 10 shares traded yesterday. Roads were the most active among harder hit groups. encouragement was given to division by the report of association of American Railroads estimating July net income million dollars, as against million in July of last year.

## BLOODY GROUND

days before the white man Kentucky was known by the name as "The Dark and Bloody Ground" because of the wars between the Iroquois and Cherokees for possession.

DAILY NEWS-POST  
MONROVIA NEWS-POST  
Post Bldg., 119 W. Palm Ave.  
Monrovia, Calif. Ph. Elliott 8-4517  
classified as Second-class matter March 1, 1951  
at Post Office, Monrovia, Calif.,  
the act of March 3, 1879.  
presented nationally by West-Hor  
Inc., San Francisco (5), 625  
4th Portland 520 S.W. Sixth

## Quiet After Riot

CHILLICOTHE, O. (AP) A deep quiet settled over the 1,070-inmate federal reformatory here today. It followed a night of wild rioting in which one prisoner was shot and two others beaten by fellow inmates.

Associate Warden John J. Galvin said the situation was "entirely under control."

But the big 72-acre reformatory was far from normal.

## Services Set for O. E. Blomgren

Funeral services for O. Edward Blomgren of 120 May Ave., who passed away yesterday will be conducted Thursday at 2 p.m. at Bethany Church in Sierra Madre, of which Mr. Blomgren was a member.

Interment will follow in Live Oak Cemetery.

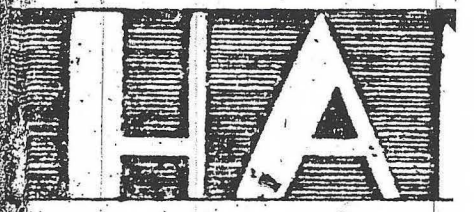
W. B. Temple Mortuary is in charge.

## Y's Men Meeting

Semi-monthly meeting of Monrovia Y's Men's club will be held tonight at Swan Hall, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, at 6:15 with President F. T. Pollard presiding.

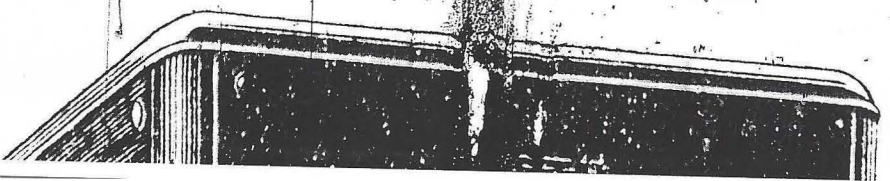


WE HAVE SERVICE  
EST HOMES IN THE  
BRIEL VALLEY FOR  
MANY YEARS.



LEANIN  
ALLEN A. BELL and  
ESTABLISHED  
40 EAST LEMO

# Get a Studebaker to cut down on opera





## Santa Fe P. T. A. Will Elect New Officers at Meeting Tomorrow

The Santa Fe P. T. A. will close their meetings for the year tomorrow with the election and installation of officers, followed by a "Thrift Play."

The meeting will start at two o'clock. Reports from officers and committee chairman for the past year will be given.

## Invitations Issued for Wedding June 14th At Pasadena Church

Two hundred and fifty invitations have been issued for the wedding of Miss Julia Rounds, daughter of Mrs. Fred C. Rounds, of Pasadena, to Mr. Kenneth Colburn, of Monrovia, June 14th, at the All Saints' church, Pasadena.

The ceremony will be read at 4 o'clock followed by a reception at the home of Mrs. Rounds.

service by driving aged Civil War veterans and disabled veterans of other wars in the Memorial day parade, are requested to report at the Knights of Pythias hall at 9 o'clock, Wednesday morning, according to Commander John Harris, of Monrovia Post 44, American Legion. The American Legion has been placed in charge of the order of march for the parade.

## Native Ohioan Is Dead Here

Charles M. Culver, 78 years of age, died yesterday at his home, 120 May avenue, at 9:30 o'clock. He was born in Ohio and came here eight years ago from Missouri.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Ella A. Culver; and one daughter, Miss Mertie Culver, of Monrovia.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock from the Renaker chapel. Dr. John W. Haman, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, will officiate. Interment will be made in Live Oak cemetery.

With the discovery of a talking flea, the mosquito, which will ring a bell before going to work, cannot be far behind.

## Too Late to Classify

FOR SALE—ONE BOYS' \$30 scooter-bike for \$10. Also one wagon and scooter. 163 Melrose. 5-28-1tp

Jim, Guard..... Billy Bailey  
Jack Guard..... Ralph Ornduff  
Joe, Guard..... Norman Nelson  
Chorus of Boys.....

## PART II.—PAGEANT

America—Yesterday and Today  
Episode I.

The Spirit of Indian Days.....

(Elinor Bender)  
The Spirit of Indian Days speaks. Indian men, women and children are gathering for the Corn Dance, an Indian ceremonial when the last harvest is brought as a sacrifice to the Great Spirit.

Arrival of another tribe.  
Laying of the Peace Pipes.

## EPISODE II.

The Spirit of the Wilderness.....

Mercedes Langlie  
The Spirit of the Wilderness

speaks. Groups in order of their entrance: The Daisies, the Wild Roses, the Butterflies, the Dryads, the Grasshoppers, the Pioneer group, the Trees, the Tree Nymphs, the Mist Maidens.

(The Pioneers overcome the Forests).

## EPISODE, III.

The Spirit of Patriotism.....

Maxine Eubanks  
The Spirit of Patriotism speaks.

Persons and groups in order of their entrance: The Spirit of California, Evelyn Bender; the Little Town Spirit of Monrovia, Julia Reeler; the Little Town Interests, Rural, Town, School, Church; the Grown Town Spirit of Monrovia, Margaret Quick, the Grown Town Interests, Christianity, Education, Community Spirit, Music, Art, Drama, Welfare, Play, Forest Preservation.

The Spirit of Yesterday—Blue.....

Charles Cowen  
The Spirit of Yesterday—Gray.....

James Clayton  
The Spirit of Today—Boy Scout.....

Bobby Plummer  
The Spirit of New America.....

Louise Gridley  
The Folk groups who pledge Allegiance to Our Flag: Dutch, Swedish, Scotch, Russian.

Recessional "America"

## TODAY'S SCORES

## AMERICAN

At Boston (first game):  
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## Memorial Day

All Colors

## DIOLUS

## VIEW NURSERY

East of Second Ave.

Arcadia

## Others See Us

Following tribute to this store was one of the prize in the Monrovia Daily News Essay Contest:

## The Erskine Six

For Speed and for Style

The Erskine Six

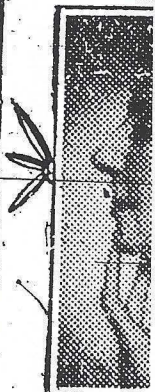
Has scored over all other makes,

In London, in Paris,

Wherever this car is,

All records and prizes it takes.

For Power and Smoothness



Mad

One of th  
the Paris  
the heart  
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La-Garçon  
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MLC