

## 320 Wild Rose Avenue

Willis S. Laird and his wife Elizabeth were already residents of Monrovia in 1911 when the city directory for that year was compiled. Willis was a barber by trade, working for Henry Kirchenschlager in the Gem City Barber Shop at 620 S. Myrtle Avenue. That same year Willis and Lizzie purchased this newly completed house. The house had apparently been built on speculation for K.R. Olmstead, who was the owner of record when the assessment roll for the City of Monrovia was completed in August of 1911.

By 1913, Willis had gone into partnership with Charles Morrison at 428 S. Myrtle Avenue, one of four thriving barber shops in Monrovia at that time. The barber shop still exists as one of Monrovia's oldest businesses, but it has moved from its original corner location.

The Laird family circle was broken in 1918 by the untimely death of Willis, who fortunately left his wife and daughter with a measure of financial security. Lizzie was able to remain in their home, and Thelma, a 1919 graduate of Monrovia High School, was able to continue her education at U.C.L.A. The last record for Lizzie at this address appears in the 1931-1932 Monrovia City Directory. She died in 1933 and is buried with her husband at Live Oak Cemetery. Other long time residents of 320 Wild Rose Avenue were Valmore and Virginia Calvert.

It is not currently known who the architect and builder of 320 Wild Rose were, but the similarities between this house and others in the Wild Rose Tract point to the Tifal Brothers. The house does have several characteristics which distinguish it from its immediate neighbors, however. The porch posts are composed of heavy cross-stacked timbers resting on a base of split granite and river rock, while the porch roof is supported by another heavy timber assembly. The porch rail is constructed of vertically placed timber slabs. Three-over-one casement windows and widely spaced offset barn shingles on the exterior of the house complete its Craftsman styling.

## 320 Wildrose Avenue

King R. Olmstead and his wife, Adelia A. Olmstead, were the first owners of this house. King was a native of Canada, but immigrated to the United States in 1847 with his parents. For many years he was a farmer in Michigan before retiring and moving to Long Beach, California. He and Adelia were living there in a rented house when the 1900 United States Federal Census was enumerated. Eight years later, when the first Monrovia City Directory was compiled, King and Adelia were living in a small Victorian cottage at 417 S. California in Monrovia. They were only a few blocks away from the new Wild Rose Tract when it was placed on the market in 1909, and they purchased Lot 24 in the tract the following year. By May of 1911, a new house had been constructed for the Olmsteads. The architect and builder are not known at this time.

In the meantime, Willis S. Laird and his wife, the former Elizabeth Herron, decided late in 1910 to leave Atlantic, Iowa, where they had lived for a number of years. Willis and Elizabeth were the parents of three children: Burton, Farley, and Thelma. It appears that Thelma was the only child in the family to accompany the parents when they moved to California. Willis and Elizabeth (Lizzie) had become residents of Monrovia when the 1911 Monrovia City Directory was compiled in January. They were living in a rented house at 320 W. Foothill Blvd. They purchased the Olmstead House between August of 1911 and June of 1912.

Willis Laird was a barber by trade. After moving to Monrovia, he began working for Henry Kirchenschlager in the Gem City Barber Shop at 620 S. Myrtle Avenue. By 1913, Willis had gone into partnership with Charles Morrison at 428 S. Myrtle Avenue, one of four thriving barber shops in Monrovia at that time. The barber shop still exists as one of Monrovia's oldest businesses, but it has moved from its original corner location.

The Laird family circle was broken on July 10, 1918 by the untimely death of Willis at the age of 58. Fortunately Willis left his wife and daughter with a measure of financial security. Lizzie was able to remain in their home, and Thelma, a 1919 graduate of Monrovia High School, was able to continue her education at UCLA

Thelma married Leonard E. Schultheis, and they made their home with Lizzie for several years after their marriage. Their son, Jack L. Schultheis, was born in 1923 while they were living in the house. By 1925, Leonard and Thelma had moved to their own home nearby. They were living there when their daughter Rose Mary was born in 1926.

The last record for Lizzie at this address appears in the 1931-1932 Monrovia City Directory. She died in 1933 and is buried with her husband at Live Oak Cemetery. After Lizzie's death, it appears that the house was rented for a number of years before becoming the property of Olive M. Keller, a widow. She lived in the house from approximately 1948 until 1958. Valmore H. and Virginia Calvert were the next owners of the house, and they were still residents in 1971 when the last Monrovia City Directory was compiled.

The current owner of the house purchased it in 1991, and has conducted considerable restoration. The house was designated as Monrovia Historic Landmark #21 on December 8, 1998 by action of the Monrovia City Council.



STATE Ill  
 COUNTY Law  
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Bellevue, Prairie

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
 THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 9 SHEET NO. 111A  
 ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 10 WARD OF CITY 3530

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Atlanta City

ENUMERATED BY ME OR THE J. J. DAY OF April 1910

WARD OF CITY 3530

ENUMERATOR Joseph W. Dufford

LOCALITY	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION			NATIVITY			SEX	MARRIAGE	OCCUPATION	EDUCATION		NUMBER OF CHILDREN
			Color	Sex	Age	Place of Birth of this Person	Place of Birth of Father of this Person	Place of Birth of Mother of this Person				Years of School Attended	Years of School Completed	
108 76 73	Summit Harold	Son	W	M	14	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	Mrs. Moore	Wife	W	F	31	Ill	Ill	Ill	F	None	0	0	0	
	Richard Frank	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	Physician	4	4	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 73 74	W. L. Bell	Head	W	M	47	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	Contractor	4	4	0	
	Thomas Allen	Son	W	M	17	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	Thomas Cynthia	Daughter	W	F	15	Ill	Ill	Ill	F	None	0	0	0	
	Thomas	Son	W	M	12	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
100 75 76	Queen Sarah A.	Head	W	F	45	Ill	Ill	Ill	F	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
111 76 77	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 77 78	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 77 79	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 79 80	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 81 82	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 83 84	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 85 86	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 87 88	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 89 90	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 93 94	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 95 96	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 99 100	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 101 102	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 105 106	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 107 108	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 111 112	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 113 114	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 115 116	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
101 117 118	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
107 119 120	John Frank C.	Head	W	M	37	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	
	John	Son	W	M	11	Ill	Ill	Ill	M	None	0	0	0	

## 320 Wild Rose Avenue Fact Sheet

### Monrovia City Directories

1908-1909	Olmstead, K. (King) R.retired	(417 S. California)
1911 (Jan.)	Laird, Willis H. barber, H. Kirchenschlager	(320 W. White Oak)
1913-1914	Laird, W.S. barber, Laird & Morrison	
1919-1920	Laird, Lizzie Mrs. Laird, Thelma A. Harshnan, Frances, Mrs.	
1923	Laird, Elizabeth wid W.S. Schultheis, Leonard E. (Thelma)	
1924	Laird, Lizzie wid Willis S. Schultheis, Leonard E. (Thelma A.) slsmn Doty & Peteler	
1925	Laird, Lizzie wid W.S. Schultheis, Leonard E. (Thelma A.)	(330 California)
1927	Laird, Lizzie wid W.S.	
1928	Laird, Eliz wid Willis	
1930	Laird, Eliz wid Willis	(Owned)
1931-1932	Laird, Eliz wid W.S.	(Owned)
1935	Smith, D.E.	(Not Owned)
1937	Owens, Lester O. (Lydia)	(Not Owned)
1939	Trump, Ann P. wid W.W.	(Not Owned)
1944	Vacant	

1948	Keller, Olive M.	wid O.M.	(Owned)
1950	Keller, Olive M.	wid O.M.	(Owned)
1952	Keller, Olive M.	(wid Oscar M.)	(Owned)
1953-1954	Keller, Olive M.	(wid Oscar M.)	(Owned)
1955	Keller, Olive M.	(wid Oscar M.)	(Owned)
1958	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)
1959	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)
1961	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)
1963	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)
1965	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)
1966	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia) slsmn P. G. Calvert Ent.	(Owned)
1967	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia) slsmn P. G. Calvert Ent.	(Owned)
1968	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia) slsmn P. G. Calvert Ent.	(Owned)
1970	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)
1971	Calvert, Valmore H.	(Virginia)	(Owned)

**Los Angeles County Tax Assessor:**

Recording Date 05/18/2000

Square Footage 1,134

Year Built / Effective Year Built 1911 / 1911

Bedrooms / Bathrooms 2 / 1

Units 1

**Department of Plumbing, City of Monrovia**

Owner: W.S. Laird

Street: E. Wild Rose

Sewer Permit #55306/17/12

**City of Monrovia, Assessment Roll:**

1909	Erickson & Harvey	\$175		
1910-1911	Erickson & Harvey	\$200		
1911-1912	K.R. Olmstead (Laird)	\$400	\$1,000	(08/01/1911)
1912-1913	Lizzie Laird	\$400	\$ 800	
1913-1914	W.S. Laird	\$400	\$ 900	
1914-1915	W.S. Laird	\$500	\$ 900	
1915-1916	W. S. Laird	\$500	\$1,500	

**1900 United States Federal Census: Atlantic City, Cass, Iowa.**

June 14, 1900

Laird Willis S.	Apr 1860	Illinois	17	Barber
Elizabeth	Sep 1856	Iowa	17 2 2	
Burton H.	Jun 1884	Iowa		
Farley	Feb 1890	Iowa		

**1910 United States Federal Census: Atlantic City, Cass, Iowa.**

April 23, 1910.

Laird Willis S.	48 27	Iowa	Barber	Own Shop
Lizzie	53 27 3 3	Illinois		

Farley	20	Nebraska	Manager	Shoe Store
Thelma	9	Iowa		

**1900 United States Federal Census: Long Beach, Los Angeles, California**

June 14, 1900

Olmstead	King	57	Oct 1842	31	Canada	Retired Farmer
Adelia A.	47	Jul 1852	31 2 0		New York	

King was a naturalized citizen, immigrating in 1847. They were living in a rented house

(They had retired from Michigan.)

**1910 United States Federal Census: Long Beach, Los Angeles, California**

April 29, 1910

Olmstead	King R.	67	42		Canada
	Adelia	57	42 1 0		New York

King and Adelia were living in a rented house.

**California State Birth Index**

Jack L Schultheis	8 May 1923	Male	Laird	Los Angeles
Rose Mary Schultheis	5 Oct 1926	Female	Laird	Los Angeles

**California State Death Index**

LAIRD WILLIS S SPOUSE: J AGE: 58 LOCALITY: 70 DATE OF DEATH  
07/10/18

RUCKMAN THELMA L 02/20/1901 HERRON LAIRD F IOWA ORANGE  
10/08/1988 87 yrs

KELLER OLIVE M 06/12/1879 LAMB F SAN BERNARDINO 05/14/1961 81  
yrs

CALVERT VALMORE HERMAN 02/24/1915 SKAGGS M ILLINOIS LOS  
ANGELES (19) 10/28/1988 73 yrs

CALVERT CATHERINE VIRGINIA 09/05/1918 HUDSON TURNER F  
ILLINOIS LOS ANGELES (19) 06/20/1989 70 yrs

on, packed up the contents of the house, and shipped everything  
to Nebraska.