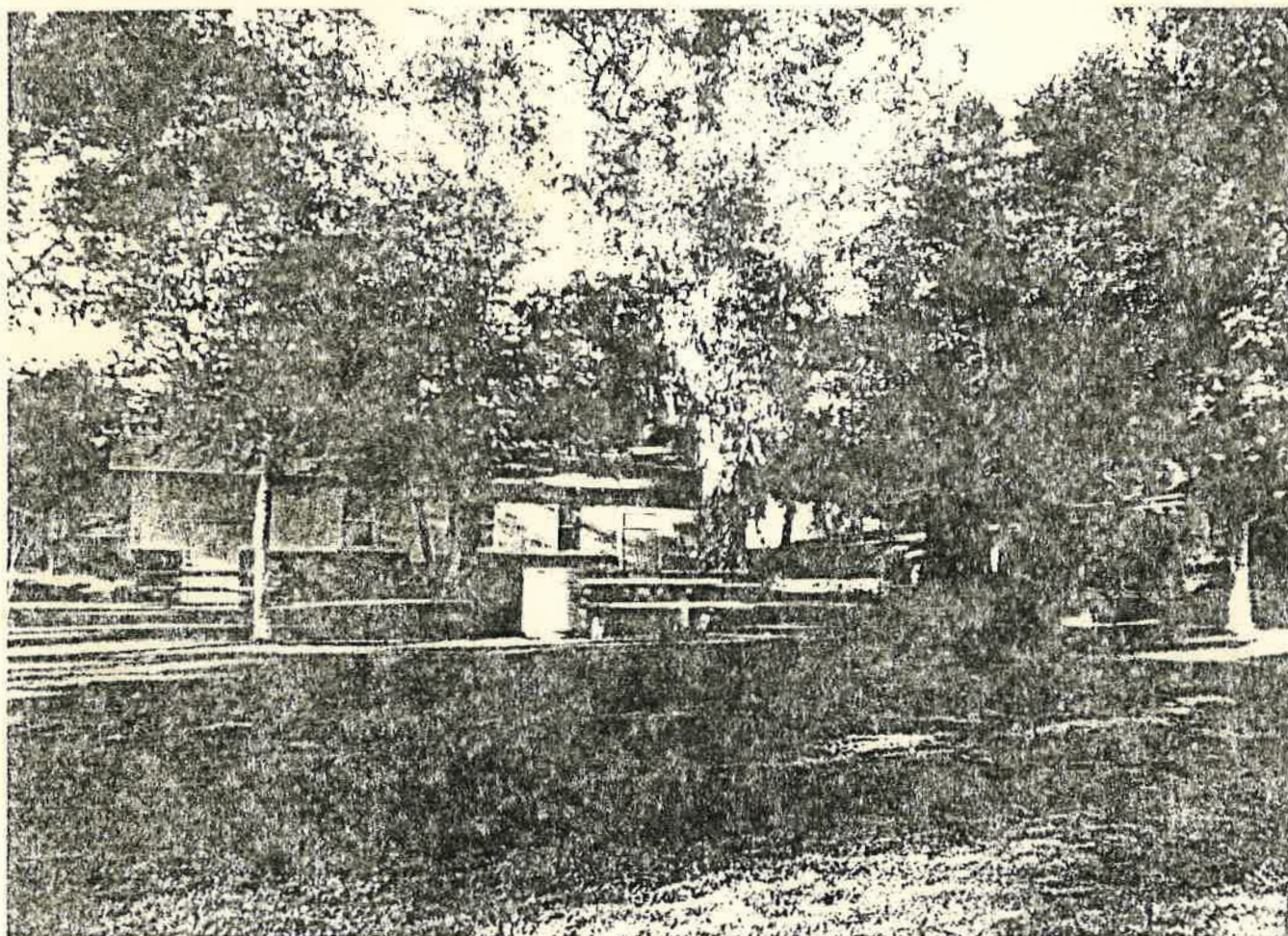


#3



COLLIER PARK

La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

Collier Park and the Spring House

October 22, 1985

LA MESA HISTORICAL LANDMARK

NOMINATION FORM

1. Name

historic Collier Park/La Mesa Springs Bottling Works

and or common Collier Park and Spring House

2. Location

street & number 4401 Palm Avenue

___ not for publication

city, town La Mesa

___ vicinity of

state California 92041

code 06

county San Diego

code

3. Classification

Category

___ district
☒ building(s)
 ___ structure
☒ site
 ___ object

Ownership

☒ public
 ___ private
 ___ both

Public Acquisition

___ in process
 ___ being considered

Status

___ occupied
 ___ unoccupied
 ___ work in progress

Accessible

___ yes: restricted
☒ yes: unrestricted
 ___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture
 ___ commercial
 ___ educational
 ___ entertainment
 ___ government
 ___ industrial
 ___ military

☒ museum
 ___ park
 ___ private residence
 ___ religious
 ___ scientific
 ___ transportation
 ___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of La Mesa

street & number 8130 Allison Avenue

city, town La Mesa

___ vicinity of

state CA 92041

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Clerk's Office, City of La Mesa

street & number 8130 Allison Avenue

city, town La Mesa

state CA 92041

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic & Cultural Resources, Inventory of Non-Structural Resources

title Historic Preservation Element

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

La Mesa General Plan

date June, 1984

___ federal ___ state ___ county ☒ local

depository for survey records La Mesa City Planning Department

city, town La Mesa

state CA 92041

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Collier Park, the site of the original La Mesa Springs, is today a pleasant and attractive recreational area containing 6.23 acres. The park is bounded on the west by Palm Avenue, on the north by Pasadena Avenue and residential development, on the east by Fourth Street, and on the south by commercial development. The northern half of the park consists of a high knoll covered with native vegetation, which has been graded and flattened at the top. An access road enters on the west as an extension of Pasadena Avenue and curves around the base of the knoll to Fourth Street. A lawn area extends along Palm Avenue in the west side. The main original spring lies in the northeast corner of the present park. Water, which is now presumably at least partly runoff, flows out of a culvert and down a rock-lined concrete channel along the east side.

The spring house is set partially into the slope immediately below the access road, with the reconstructed drinking fountain slightly to its south. In the southern half of the park are a grassy picnic area with tables, a tennis court, children's playground, restrooms and parking lot. Massive, mature eucalyptus trees shade the area.

The spring house was originally built by D. C. Collier in 1907 as a bottling works for the spring water piped to it from the hillside to the north. Built partially into a hillside, this simple, functional structure is based on a thick, approximately four-foot-high perimeter foundation wall composed of locally-quarried granite in cement. Wood frame walls rise above this, finished in cement rubble. The exterior walls have a rustic "tudoresque" appearance, with cement wall sections accented by wooden half-timbers. The side-facing gable roof has deep overhanging eaves. Exposed 2 x 4 eave supports run perpendicular to narrow tongue-and-groove eave planks, which continue inside as the original finished ceiling. The original roof material is unknown. There are two doors on the south, or front wall of the structure, one on the west, and one on the north. Windows are double-hung wood sash. The interior was marked by exposed roof trusses and the narrow-plank ceiling following the slope of the roof above. Basically, this original structure was little more than an enclosure for a cement cistern for the spring water and an adjacent platform for bottling the water.

A 1907 San Diego Union newspaper article describes the works as a "double building under one roof." The structure today shows evidence of the eastern approximately 15 feet of frame walls and roof being a later addition. This may have been a later enclosure atop the existing extension of the stone foundation. The date and purpose of this extension are unknown.

After the site was acquired by the City of La Mesa in 1915 and used as a municipal park, the bottling works structure was used for various recreation purposes. In 1949, the fireplace and chimney were added to the east wall of the building, necessitating a reworking of the stone foundation on that side. Also at that time, half of the cement cistern in the west part of the building may have been removed to give it its present appearance.

This building has been closed to the public since 1981 by the City Department of Housing and Building Inspection due to deterioration. Settling under the southwestern corner of the foundation seems to be occurring, and this portion of the foundation wall is failing. The roof exhibits dry rot and possible termite damage. City funds have been allocated for fiscal year 1984-85 to alleviate the worst of the problems.

Immediately south of the present spring house is the reconstructed drinking fountain, which was originally built about 1915 at the corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street. The rectangular base tapers toward the top where it is covered by a gable roof with red clay tiles. When the fountain was reconstructed in the park in 1965, the base was rebuilt with brick rather than the original stucco. Portions of the original roof were reused, however.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☒ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☒ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☐ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☒ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Collier Park, the site of the original La Mesa Springs, was named for Colonel David Charles Collier, a distinguished San Diego citizen and early La Mesa developer. Collier at one time owned the springs and the surrounding property and donated at least a portion of this site to the residents of La Mesa. The park, which was acquired by the city in 1915, has a fascinating but complicated history. Points of historical interest include the springs, the spring house, and the fountain.

The natural springs rising at this site first made it a seasonal stopping place for the Kumeyaay Indians. After Robert Allison purchased in 1868 over 4000 acres of ex-Mission Rancho land which included most of the southern part of La Mesa, his family used the springs to water their herds of sheep. Cabins for the shepherders were built near the springs. As the area developed into a lemon growing agricultural section in the 1890s, it became known as Allison Springs and then from 1894 to 1912, as La Mesa Springs. The tiny community was centered slightly north of the springs.

In 1905, Col. D. C. Collier's purchase of a substantial tract of La Mesa land set in motion events that would begin the transformation of the area to a residential community. His purchase included the springs site. Collier's refusal to sell fewer than 100 acres to fellow San Diego developer Sherman C. Grable, who was then seeking a homesite here, is credited with inducing Grable to start his La Mesa real estate activities. Grable, who filed his first La Mesa subdivision map in 1906, was eventually to develop, with partner Charles C. Park, 200 acres in and around the present downtown La Mesa. Collier himself subdivided an area east of Spring Street as Collier's Addition Number One and Number Two, filed in 1908.

Colonel David Charles Collier was a colorful and dynamic individual. Born in Central City, Colorado in 1871, he came to San Diego in 1883 with his parents, David Charles and Martha Collier. In 1885, he entered his father's law firm. After being admitted to the California Bar in 1891, he practiced law in San Diego until 1905. During this period he gained the distinction of being the first person in San Diego to own an automobile when he had one shipped here in 1900.

Collier's real estate activities were extensive. In 1905, he organized the realty company that became D. C. Collier & Co. Among the many large subdivisions he developed were University Heights, Normal Heights, Encanto, Ocean Beach and Point Loma Heights.

Collier was active in politics for much of his life and received his honorary title when serving as Colonel on the staff of California Governor James M. Gillett in 1908 and 1909. A firm believer in aviation, he was personally involved in bringing Glenn Curtiss to San Diego and establishing a flying field at North Island. He demonstrated his concern for civic beautification and provision of adequate parkland by donating land for this purpose, and today parks in Ramona, La Mesa, and Point Loma bear his name.

Col. D. C. Collier is perhaps best known for his achievements in organizing the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego in 1915. He served as its director general and its president from 1911 to 1915. His insistence on retaining Bertram Goodhue as architect and Frederick Olmstead as landscape architect resulted in the beautiful exposition buildings and grounds which remain a legacy to this day. George Marston called him "the creative genius of the Exposition," and others credited his vision, enthusiasm and determination for making the event so successful.

Recognition for his work in San Diego led to his appointment by President Harding in 1922 as Commissioner General for the United States to the Brazilian Centennial Exposition in Rio de Janeiro. In 1925, he was involved in preparations for the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia as its director general. Collier also assisted in the initial planning for Chicago's Century of Progress of 1933. For over 20 years, he was considered one of the country's leading exposition authorities.

In 1930, Collier returned to San Diego where he again engaged in the practice of law and real estate until his passing in 1934. Col. D. C. Collier left behind a legacy of exposition buildings and park lands. Collier Park in La Mesa was named in his honor.

When Collier first purchased the property surrounding the springs, he planned the site as his country estate and began to make some improvements. By June, 1907, the largest of the three springs on the site emptied into an octagonal concrete well 12 feet deep over which a spring house had been erected. A pipeline two feet in diameter was being laid to carry the water to a bottling works 100 yards away, and construction of the bottling works itself had begun. Here the spring water, believed to have healthful properties, would be poured into five-gallon bottles and sold. Also planned for the property were watercress beds, a large poultry farm, and Col. Collier's residence.

When completed, the bottling works (known as the spring house today) had concrete rubble walls rising above a high foundation of locally-quarried stone. Inside was a storage reservoir into which the water was piped. By 1912, a fountain covered by a hipped roof had been constructed to the west of the bottling works, closer to Palm Avenue, for the convenience of those who came to get water. Other planned improvements apparently were never carried out.

While the improvements were underway around the springs, the development activities of Collier, Grable, Park and others brought a rapid increase in the population of La Mesa; by the time of its incorporation in 1912, the community had grown to over 700 residents. Even during this early period, citizens recognized the importance of setting aside land for parks. The La Mesa Scout of April 5, 1912, reported that two years previously D. C. Collier had given to the town a five-acre parcel of land to be developed as a park by local people. As there was at that time no incorporated city to receive the donation directly, the land must have been set aside by some other method. The property lay south of Pasadena Avenue and ran from Spring Street to approximately 100 feet east of Palm Avenue. Collier's donation did not include the springs or the bottling works, but the portion he gave east of Palm is now part of the present park.

In November, 1910, the Collier Park Association was incorporated for the purpose of acquiring and improving park land for the residents of La Mesa. Shares were sold at \$10

each, and soon the Association was actively engaged in the improvement of what was then known as Collier Park (the area mostly west of Palm). Between April 1911 and March 1915, the association expended approximately \$1900 for improvements that included grading, landscaping, and sinking a well.

To make the history of the area even more complicated, title to Collier's land containing the springs passed to the La Mesa Springs Corporation from Union Title and Trust Corporation on January, 1914.

Since land acquisition costs were beyond the regular income of the young city, the La Mesa City Council decided in May 1914 to call a special bond election. Proposition 1 called for acquiring "for water purposes" the property containing the springs (Ex-Mission Rancho: Lot 17 in Subdivision 4 of Tract 12, and Lots 14 and 15 in Subdivision 1, excluding "Collier Park" and a smaller parcel which had been sold to Christopher Wentz), the land to cost \$5,200 and the improvements \$600. Proposition 2 was the acquisition of "Collier Park" (the parcel that was mostly west of Palm) for park purposes at a cost of \$1700. At the election in August, the first proposition passed; the second did not. On March 22, 1915, the city purchased the springs from the La Mesa Springs Corporation.

The same month, the Collier Park Association presented a petition signed by many citizens requesting that a new bond election to acquire Collier Park be held, again essentially asking only the cost of reimbursing the stockholders for their expenditures on improvements. The council took no action to do so. Denied public acquisition, the Association finally sold its land to private owners in 1920. Only the portion east of Palm would eventually be incorporated into the present park.

About 1915, the spring water was first piped to a drinking fountain which had been built at the southwest corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street, just north of the La Mesa depot. This graceful Mission-style structure had a rectangular stucco base tapering toward the top where it supported a gable roof covered with red tile.

It was evident from the beginning that the 14 to 18 acre parcel around the springs that the city had purchased was itself suitable for a park. In 1916, the city was already buying acacia and pepper trees for "the park at the springs." Not until 1920, however, did the city officially take action to develop the property as a municipal park. Plans announced in July of that year met with great enthusiasm in the community and included landscaping, driveways, construction of restrooms, and the conversion of a small reservoir on the site, then located approximately where the tennis court is now, into a municipal swimming pool.

Funding for construction of the pool came from the city with the addition of money raised by a community benefit dance and entertainment. Despite a few setbacks - the walls of the pool showed a distressing tendency to cave in after heavy rains - residents were able to enjoy their first plunge in the new pool in August, 1921. The spring house (the old bottling works) was converted into dressing rooms for the bathers. A new recreational activity was added in September of the following year with the completion of a tennis court just west of the pool.

By 1924, the city had appointed James M. Tarpley as caretaker for the park, and he and his wife, Ettie, lived in the small bungalow which stood east of the spring house. Today, those who swam in the pool as children have vivid memories of Mrs. Tarpley as a kind, but strict, disciplinarian.

By the 1930s, the "city park at the springs" was known as Collier Park. A 1933 site plan showed proposed development in the eastern portion of the park including a new municipal swimming pool. In 1936, the city hoped to attain WPA assistance in constructing a new pool. At the time, the old one was apparently no longer in use.

Plans for developing the portion of Collier Park that was east of Fourth Street for park purposes were never realized, and in November, 1944, the city council passed a resolution to abandon and sell an area of approximately eight acres. In May, 1945, the council authorized the sale of Lot 17, excepting the west 175 feet, thus reducing the total park area by about a half and making the extension of Fourth

Street the eastern boundary of the park.

By the late 1940s, the condition of Collier Park had deteriorated. Police Chief Glenn Adams and his wife, Ruth, then living in the caretaker's house, had undertaken a clean up of weeds and debris, but a 1948 La Mesa Scout article cited neglected grounds, the spring house in need of repair, and a lack of restrooms. Inspired by hopes of winning an award in the Better Homes and Gardens magazine "More Beautiful America" competition, a group of 25 women gardening students decided to adopt the beautification of Collier Park as a project. After receiving City Council permission, the Spring House Garden Club launched its project in April, 1948. Plans included the renovation of the spring house, which the club intended to use as a meeting place. Under the energetic direction of Mrs. Margaret Tipton Wheatley, gardening instructor for Grossmont Adult School, the women cleaned up the grounds, created flower beds, planted succulents, built a campfire circle for the Campfire Girls and purchased bougainvillea vines for the pergola. The hillside near the spring was planted, and the water from the spring flowed down over rocks. The spring house received a new interior coat of paint and glass for its windows. The city worked with the garden club, reroofing the spring house, grading roads, and constructing rest rooms. The completion of the beautification project was celebrated by a formal rededication of the park on September 18th, attended by 350 people.

The hard-working women of the garden club received further recognition for their efforts. They had submitted documentation of their work to Better Homes and Gardens magazine and in March, 1949, were notified they had won third place in the 1947-1948 "More Beautiful America" competition in the Community Division for towns of 10,000 to 100,000 population. On June 23rd, representatives of the magazine presented them with the bronze plaque which is now mounted on the interior of the spring house. A \$200 cash prize went with the award.

By October 1949, a fireplace had been added to the east wall of the spring house to provide heat during the winter months. Apparently at this time a portion of this wall and its

foundation were also reconstructed.

Collier Park continued to serve the recreational needs of La Mesa's young people. In August, 1947, the city council agreed to set aside a portion of Collier Park for the community's Boy Scouts. A surplus frame building 20 by 40 feet was moved to the area south and east of the tennis court in April, 1948, and on November 19 and 20, 1949, Wa-di-ta-ka La Mesa Boy Scout Memorial Camp was dedicated. After years of use by the scouts, the Scout House was finally demolished in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

Although it no longer dispensed water piped from the springs, the Mission-style drinking fountain continued to stand at La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street until threatened by the widening of Spring Street late in 1964. Concerned by the potential loss of this early landmark, citizens asked the city council to move the fountain to one of the city parks. Letters were received from the Chamber of Commerce and from elementary school students in December. In January, 1965, the La Mesa Community Welfare Association donated \$300 toward the fountain's relocation. The council decided to reconstruct the fountain in Collier Park, incorporating reusable parts of the original, as a memorial to all those in the community who had used the fountain over the years. Plans called for rebuilding the base with brick rather than stucco, but reusing the original roof framing and tiles. The fountain was ready for use in its present location by July of 1965.

The spring house continued to be used as a meeting place for a variety of community and youth groups through the Park and Recreation Department until its deteriorating condition forced its closure to the public in 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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La Mesa. 1924.

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San Diego: San Diego Press Club. 1936.

McGrew, Clarence Alan. City of San Diego and San Diego County. Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society. Vol I. 1922.

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La Mesa City Clerk's Office, Records.

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12/30/05; (525/252) 8/23/11; (641/44) 1/7/14;
(680/68) 3/22/15; (777/13) 3/14/19; (816/359) 2/17/20.

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La Mesa Scout 5/5/12, 3/24/16, 6/11/20, 6/25/20, 7/2/20,
7/16/20, 10/8/20, 4/15/21, 5/20/21, 7/29/21, 8/5/21,
12/23/21, 3/31/22, 6/9/22, 6/16/22, 7/14/22, 9/29/22,
10/22/35, 4/8/48, 7/15/48, 8/26/48, 9/16/48, 9/23/48,
9/30/48, 3/24/49, 6/16/49, 9/29/49, 10/6/49, 11/10/49.

La Mesa Historical Society Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.23 acres

11. Form Prepared By

Craig Jones, Associate Planner
City of La Mesa
8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, CA 92041

(619) 462-0171

Donna Regan
Historic Preservation Commission
City of La Mesa

VICINITY MAP

LANDMARK DESIGNATION L-85-3

WORK PROGRESSES ON LA MESA HOME

Men Begin Laying Foundation For New Bottling Works

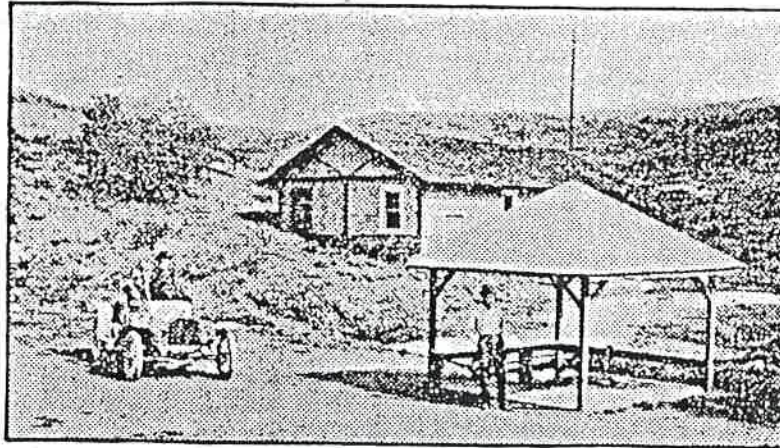
As fast as men and materials can make it the country estate of Col. D. C. Collier at La Mesa Springs is taking definite form and revealing in a measure what it will be when the work is finished. The largest of the three springs now empties its clear, sparkling water into a concrete well octagonal in shape and twelve feet in depth. The well rises to the level of the surface of the ground and is covered with a neat spring house. A pipe line two feet in diameter leading from the well to the storage reservoir on the site of the bottling works is being laid and yesterday the work on the foundations of the bottling works was started. This will be a double building under one roof, located between the big spring and the artificial lake, and here the water of the springs will be bottled in five gallon bottles and prepared for the market.

To the west of the bottling works will be the water cress beds, work on which has been started. The second largest spring lies above the beds and the water from it will flow directly through them to the lake. The mud in the bed of the creek will all be cleaned out and fine, clean sand laid instead.

Across the road from the water cress beds is the poultry farm, which will be stocked with the finest breeds of poultry and marketable water fowls that can be bought. About fifteen acres of the estate will be used for the poultry farm alone.

The residence will be located on a knoll above the bottling works, which will command a view of the entire place. The work of laying out the grounds is being done by George Cook, of the Southern California Construction company, and shade trees of many varieties will be planted to enhance the beauty of the place. In addition to this the roadways leading from the various points of interest will be placed in fine condition.

San Diego Union
June 22, 1907
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Bottling Works and Fountain at La Mesa Springs

INDIAN MEDICINAL SPRINGS ARE HERE

Bottling Works Has Been Erected On Property Of Col. D. C. Collier

The famous Indian Springs, now known as La Mesa Springs, are located here. The water from the springs is noted for its medicinal qualities. Col. D. C. Collier of San Diego is the owner of the springs property. Efforts have started at several times to make of the springs property a health resort, a plan being to erect a large hotel near the spring and surround it with beautiful gardens. This plan, however, has never been carried out.

Several years ago, when Col. Collier became the owner, a deep basin was excavated and covered by a neat octagonal spring house. Storage tunnels were driven into the hillside. From the spring a 24-inch vitrified pipe carries the water to a large bottling works, a hundred yards distant. This is built of squared stones quarried in the neighborhood, laid in cement, and all framing plastered in cement rubble. Since, a fountain has been constructed near the bottling works, where water is received direct from the spring house through pipe. This was built near the street as a convenience to those who make daily trips for the water.

La Mesa Scout

April 5, 1912

Collier's bottling works, the present spring house, can be seen at center rear.

Death Calls D. C. Collier Soon After Heart Attack

Was First Head of 1915-16 Exposition, Later Sent to Brazil, and Started Philadelphia's Celebration.

Col. David Charles Collier, 63, died yesterday in Scripps Metabolic clinic at La Jolla following an attack of heart disease Monday afternoon at his ranch near Ramona. Death of Col. Collier, who had lived in San Diego for 50 years and who was active in making possible San Diego's 1915 exposition, came as a shock to his many friends and associates.

Col. Collier's body is at the Bradley-Woolman mortuary. Funeral arrangements, which will be announced later, probably will be in charge of the Masonic order, of which he was a member. Col. Collier is survived by his widow, Mrs. Clytie Collier; a son, Ira Clifton Collier, and a daughter, Clytie Lyon Collier, all of San Diego; a brother, Judge Frank Collier, Los Angeles, and a sister, Mrs. Mabel Sharpsteen, Berkeley. The Collier home is at 3416 Park blvd.

Native of Colorado

Col. Collier was born in Central City, Colo., Aug. 14, 1871, and came to California when still a young man. He was admitted to the California bar in 1891 and practiced law in San Diego until 1905.

Col. Collier was married three times. His first marriage was Jan. 1, 1896, to Ella May Copley. They were divorced in 1914. The following year Col. Collier at Oakland married Ruth E. Emerson, but she died Aug. 28, 1916. On Dec. 13, 1919, Col. Collier was married to Clytie B. Lyon.

In addition to practicing law in California, Col. Collier was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1929. In 1904 he organized the Ralston Realty Co., which later became known as D. C. Collier & Co.

Col. Collier earned the rank of colonel by serving as a lieutenant colonel on the staff of Gov. J. N. Gillette of California from 1907 to 1911.

Col. D. C. Collier



death ends career

Col. Collier played an important role in San Diego's Panama-California Exposition in 1915 when he was its first director general and later president. He was a former director of the San Diego museum and a member of the board of managers, American School of Research, Santa Fe, N. M.

Appointed by President

In 1922 Col. Collier was appointed by the late President Harding as commissioner general to represent the United States at the Brazilian Centennial Exposition at Rio de Janeiro, and in 1925 was made director general of the Sesquicentennial at Philadelphia, and was director general of the Order of the Liberty Bell since 1930. He was interested in the start of A Century of Progress at Chicago.

Col. Collier was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Archeological Institute of America, California Historical society, Sons of Colorado, Colorado Pioneers, San Diego cham-

ber of commerce, honorary life member of Ramona chamber of commerce, and an honorary member of Associação Brasileira da Imprensa, Rio de Janeiro. He also was a member of the Chicago Athletic club, the San Diego Yacht and Rowing clubs, the Sojourners, the Pen and Pencil, State Fencibles and the Boosters' club, Philadelphia.

In 1932 Col. Collier was a candidate from the first district for the San Diego county board of supervisors, but was defeated at the primaries. In recent years Col. Collier had engaged in the real estate business and passed much of his time at his ranch near Ramona, where he was taken ill Monday.

San Diego Union

November 14, 1934

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COLONEL DAVID CHARLES COLLIER

David Charles Collier was born in Central City, Colorado, August 14, 1871, a son of David Charles and Martha Maria (Johnson) Collier. He came to San Diego with his parents in 1883, and completed his grammar and high school education in the San Diego City Schools.

During 1885 he worked as messenger boy for the First National Bank, but in 1886 he entered the law offices of Collier & Mulford, of which firm his father was senior partner. In 1891 he was admitted to the California Bar, and went into partnership with his father. In 1905, with H. A. Howard, he organized the Ralston Realty Company, and in 1908 he purchased Mr. Howard's interest, and the firm name was changed to the D. C. Collier Company.

Colonel Collier organized and developed many large subdivisions in San Diego city and county, most prominent among which were University Heights, Normal Heights, Teralta Heights, East San Diego, Encanto, Ramona, Ocean Beach, and Point Loma Heights.

In 1908, in order to advance his subdivision work in Ocean Beach and on Point Loma, Colonel Collier built the Point Loma Railroad, which, upon its completion in 1909 he sold to John D. Spreckels. It is today part of the San Diego street railway system.

When the Panama California Exposition was projected in 1909, Colonel Collier became its first director general, in which position he served until 1912, when he was elected president, which latter position he occupied until the Exposition was practically completed and ready for opening. For a period of over five years, he was the driving force back of the Panama California Exposition, and in the words of George W. Marston, "Colonel Collier was the crative genius of the Exposition." It was due to his vision and determination that the Exposition retained Mr. Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the world's foremost authority on Spanish Colonial Architecture, who designed the principal buildings for the exposition, and the California State building in Balboa Park. It was also through Colonel Collier's insistence that the Exposition Company retained the services of Mr. Frederick Olmstead, one of America's best known landscape architects, under whose direction the beautiful landscaping of the Exposition was carried out. It was the artistic efforts and abilities of these two great American authorities that made the 1915 Exposition buildings and grounds a creation of enduring beauty. It was the buildings and grounds of the 1915 Exposition which made possible the holding of the 1916 Exposition, and later the Expositions of 1935 and 1936. Without Colonel Collier's vision and his determination and insistence, San Diego would



COL. DAVID CHARLES COLLIER

not have engaged the services of these two outstanding authorities, and without their services Balboa Park and all our Expositions could have been very ordinary.

In five years of intensive service for our exposition and our city, Colonel Collier received no salary or other financial remuneration, and during this period he expended out of his personal funds a sum in excess of half a million dollars; an example of unselfish, devoted, and generous public service that has never been equaled by any citizen of San Diego.

In 1917 Colonel Collier suggested that our exposition buildings be tendered to the United States Government for use as a Naval Training Station for the duration of the war. He accompanied Congressman William Kettner to Washington, D. C., to present this offer to the Navy Department. The offer was accepted, and the fine record of the Balboa Park Naval Training Station resulted in San Diego's being selected for our present Naval Training Station on Point Loma.

Colonel Collier was a staunch advocate of aviation. In 1910 he organized and was made president of the Aero Club of San Diego. He was personally responsible for bringing Glenn H. Curtiss to San Diego, and for establishing a flying field at North Island. North Island is now the home of the oldest and finest flying field of the United States Navy.

In 1913 Colonel Collier fathered a proposal that the State of California cede to the City of San Diego the tide lands fronting the city on San Diego Bay. With the assistance of prominent citizens and our members in the State Legislature, he succeeded in securing the passage of the necessary legislation. This has given to the city of San Diego title to its tide lands, which are the basis for our present water front and harbor development.

Colonel Collier's work with the Panama California Exposition of 1915 was so outstanding that in 1922 he was appointed by President Harding as Commissioner General for the United States to the Brazilian Centennial Exposition at Rio de Janeiro. His work as commissioner received the warm praise of the official representatives of the principal national participating, as well as of the Brazilian Government itself. The government, in addition to conferring many high honors upon Colonel Collier, made him and his wife and daughter the guests of the nation on a tour through the principal states of Brazil. In 1925 Colonel Collier was appointed Director General of the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, and was largely instrumental in laying a proper foundation for that exposition. He resigned when exposition officials failed to keep their verbal pledges to the exhibitors he had personally secured. He was retained by the Republic of Panama in 1925 and 1926 as exposition consultant. In 1927 and 1928, he assisted in laying the

foundation for the Chicago A Century of Progress of 1933. For a period of nearly a quarter of a century, Colonel Collier was recognized as one of America's leading authorities on exposition matters.

In 1930 Colonel Collier returned to San Diego and again engaged in the real estate business and in the practice of law. In 1931 and 1932 he suggested the holding of a Centennial Exposition in San Diego during the year 1934. This proposed exposition was to be held on the harbor front for the definite purpose of beautifying and developing this area, and of making the harbor front as attractive as the 1915 Exposition had made Balboa Park. The suggestion of the 1934 Exposition was considered untimely by some of our civic leaders, and although the foundation for the exposition had been well laid, the plans were not carried through. It is interesting to note that the efforts expended on this project by Colonel Collier and his associates created the civic interest that made possible the 1935 Exposition fostered by the group that considered the 1934 Exposition "untimely." Had the harbor front exposition project been carried through, it would have been an outstanding success because of the tremendous sums which would have been made available by government appropriation under the C. W. A. and the W. P. A. To Colonel Collier, more than to any other single individual, is due the credit for the 1935 Exposition, first because of his vision in creating the beautiful buildings and landscaping of the 1915 Exposition, and second, because he made the community exposition conscious by his projected 1934 Exposition.

Colonel Collier was married in 1896 to Ella May Copley, (since deceased), and through this union had two sons, David Copley Collier, (deceased), and Ira Clifton Collier. Colonel Collier was married again in 1915 to Miss Ruth E. Everson of Oakland, California, who died in August, 1916. In 1919 Colonel Collier married Clytie B. Lyon who survives him.

Colonel Collier was very active in city, county, state, and national politics for many years. In 1902 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress. In 1908 and 1909 he was a colonel on the staff of Governor James M. Gillett of California, and was active in the state and national conventions of the Republican party.

Colonel Collier was a director of the San Diego Museum; a member of the board of managers of the American School of Research at Santa Fe, New Mexico; a member of the Sons of Colorado and the Colorado Pioneers. He was a past president and life member of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce; a life member of the Archaeological Institute of America; the National Geographic Society; an honorary member of the Brotherhood of North American Indians. He was a member of all the Masonic bodies; a life member of Al Bahr Temple of the Shrine; a life member of the Elks; a director

of the State and County Parks Association. Among his club affiliations were the Rowing Club, the San Diego Yacht Club, and the Advertising Club. He was an honorary life member of the Rotary Club, and a member of the Sojourners Club, the Cuyamaca Club, the Athletic Club, the San Diegans, and the San Diego Press Club. He was an honorary member of the Associaçao Brasileira de Imprensa of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and of the Institute Geographico e Historico da Bahia, Brazil.

Colonel Collier was a firm believer in the beautification of the city and county, and was very active in the work of establishing adequate parks. He gave many acres of land to the city and county for park purposes, notable among which are Collier Park, several blocks in area on the summit of Point Loma, this park has not yet been improved by the city; Collier Park at La Mesa, which has been improved to some extent; and Collier Park at Ramona, an area which has been greatly improved by the supervisors and the citizens of Ramona.

Colonel Collier died November 12, 1934. As this volume goes to press, arrangements have been completed for placing in the California Quadrangle in Balboa Park, a beautiful bronze plaque as a permanent memorial to San Diego's most dynamic and forceful citizen. This plaque will bear the following inscription:

COLONEL DAVID CHARLES COLLIER

A man of vision—a dynamic leader—a developer and builder

A great and lovable character

The creative genius of the Panama California Exposition of 1915

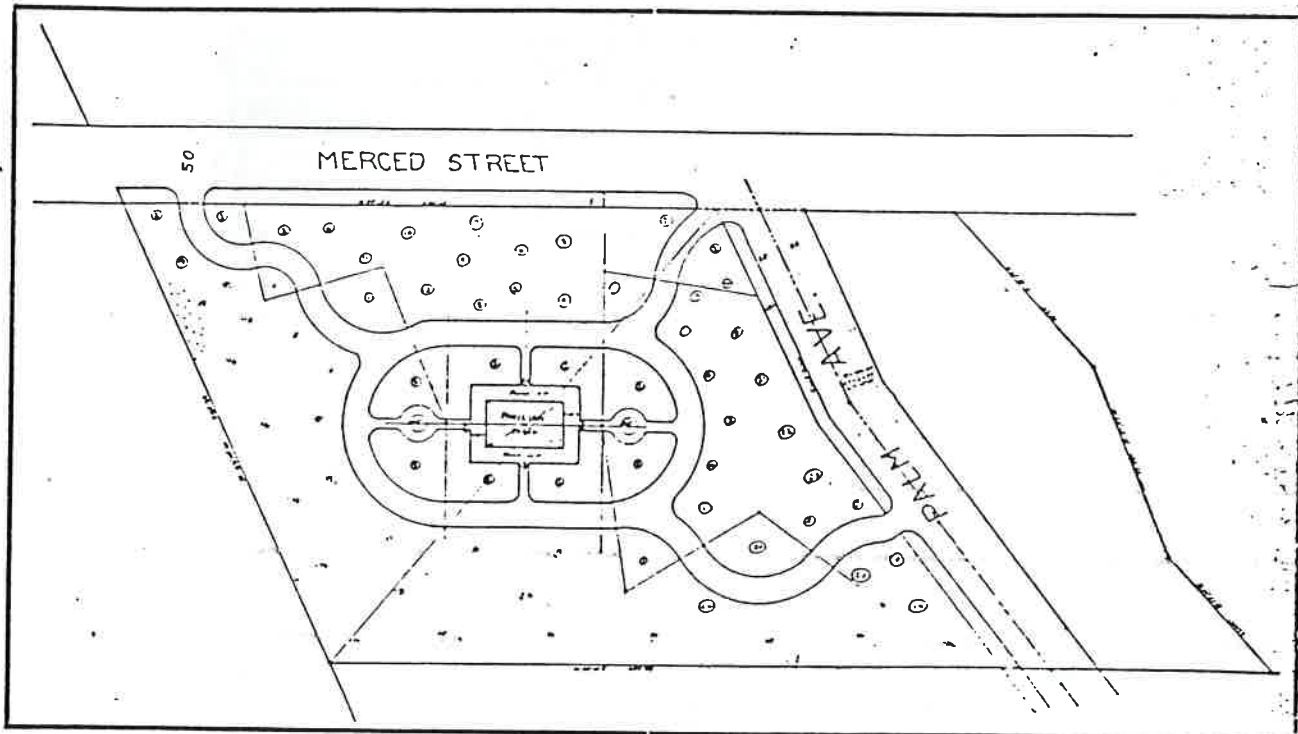
An inspiration to the citizens of today

FRANK JOSEPH FERGUSON, M. A., C. E.

Frank Joseph Ferguson was born in Pinole, Contra Costa County, California, June 18, 1884, a son of Patrick J. and Katherine M. (Kearney) Ferguson. Both Mr. Ferguson's parents were of Irish extraction, his father having been born in Ireland, and his mother in New York State. Mr. Ferguson received his early schooling at Suisun, and his high school training at Fairfield, California. He received his C. E. degree with the class of 1905, at St. Mary's, returning later to take his M. A. degree from the same college in 1910. For the past thirty years Mr. Ferguson has been known as the greatest pitcher in the history of St. Mary's, being their star moundman in 1904 and 1905.

For a short time after leaving college, Mr. Ferguson played professional baseball and was the pitcher for the Stockton team of the California State

Design For The Improvement of The Collier Park



The figures marked over the outline of the park represent the kind of trees to be planted at each place. The key to the numbers is as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Phoenix Canariensis. | 8. Jacaranda Mimosotolia. | 20. Acacia Saligna. |
| 2. Cocos Plumosa. | 9. Rubber Tree. | 21. Acacia Verticillata. |
| 3. Brazillian Pepper. | 10. Lagunaria. | 22. Acacia Elatior. |
| 4. Acacia Floribunda. | 11. Camphor. | 23. Acacia Linifolia. |
| 5. Araucaria Excelsa (star pine). | 12. Cedros Deodora. | 24. Acacia Armata. |
| 6. Eucalyptus Leucoxylon. | 13. Magnolia. | 25. Casurina Strictos. |
| 7. Acacia Dealbata. | 14. Wild Cherry. | 26. Metrosideros. |
| | 15. Eucalyptus Polyanthema. | 27. Eucalyptus Corynocalyx. |
| | 16. Eucalyptus Ficifolia. | 28. Eucalyptus Globulus. |
| | 17. Acacia Balleyana. | 29. Eucalyptus Botryoides. |
| | 18. Acacia Mollissima. | Eucalyptus Cultifornis (Sugar Gums.) |
| | 19. Pinus Hallpensis. | |

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The original "Collier Park" lay south of Pasadena Avenue (Merced Street) and mostly between Spring Street and Palm Avenue, with a portion east of Palm.

CITIZENS BELIEVE IN CITY BEAUTIFUL PLAN

Parks Set Aside For Present and Future Development While

Land Is Cheap

Two years ago a five-acre tract of

land was given to the town by Col.

D. C. Collier, who, with his company,

is the owner of considerable prop-

erty in the vicinity, with the under-

standing that it should be improved

as a park by local people. The tract

is admirably located for a park, less

than a quarter mile from the center

of the city and bordering the well-

known Collier springs. A stock

company was formed with a capital

of \$2,000 for the purpose of improv-

ing the tract. In a few months the

entire issue of stock had been taken

and work was commenced toward

improvement. Desiring an inde-

pendent water supply for the park

a well was sunk on the portion of

the property bordering the Collier

springs and an electric pumping

plant installed. The pump elevates

the water to a large tank in the

northwest corner of the tract, the

highest point in the park and a few

feet above the center of the city.

Other improvements in the park

have been carried forward steadily,

the plans of which, made some time

ago, include two fountains and pools,

a pavilion and rest place, contour

walks and trees and shrubs of a

tropical nature.

To utilize an excess in the supply of water from the well, for operating the fountains and irrigating the trees and shrubs in the Collier Park, a plan has been evolved by the Park Company to pipe water from the reserve tank in the park to a point in the business heart of the city, where

a small corner has been secured at the intersection of Allison, Orange and Palm avenues. A plan for this work includes the erection of a drinking fountain, two public ser-

vice buildings and a rest pavilion. It may be, also, that in carrying the argument of low values in prop-erty at the present as against inev- of two or three business streets, so- of as to provide the water in the most

tracts, especially desirable as parks, convenient places for drinking. Smaller tracts in different quar-

ters of the city have been reserved, either in the subdivision of the prop-

erty or later and before buildings have been erected, for the purpose

of making parks. One of these places selected to beautify is located

in Lookout Park, on the eastern slope of Mt. Nebo. On this spot, a

triangular block of several hundred square feet, donated by public-spirit-

ed owners, trading had been done and some trees and shrubs planted. A

beautiful outlook over the city and valleys surrounding it.

On the summit of Mt. Nebo a cir-

cular park was made several years ago, at the opening of the Lookout

Park tract. A pavilion has been built here and trees and shrubs

planted then are now nearly full grown. This is called Prospect

Point. On any day one may climb to the park, which is above the city

less than 250 feet and about a half mile distant from the heart of the

city, and enjoy there the cool ocean breeze. On the west San Diego city,

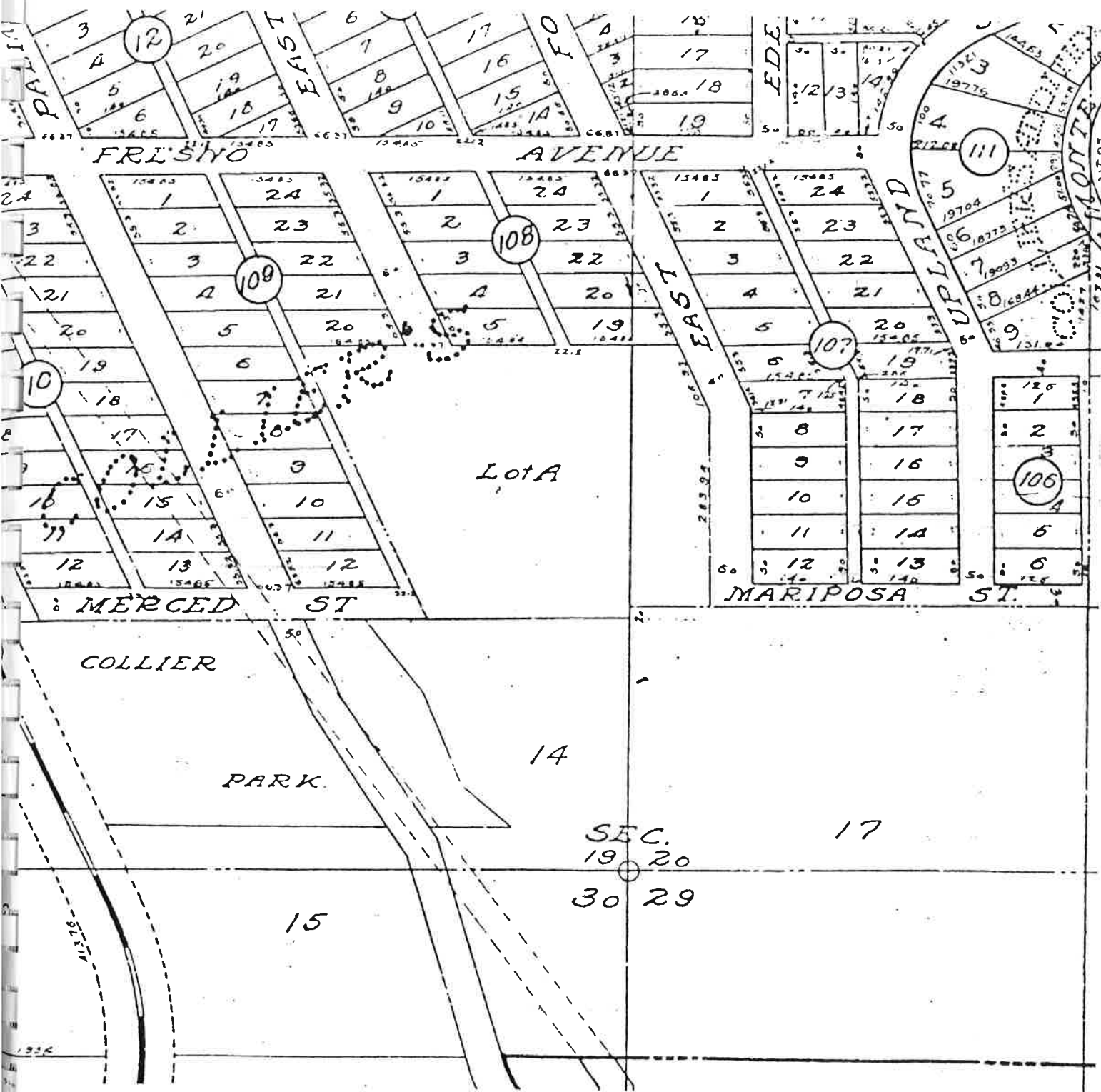
ten miles distant; the San Diego bay; Coronado and Point Loma, the

peninsulas that inclose the bay, and the deep blue oval of the Pacific

ocean, can all be seen with the naked eye. On the south the mountains of

Old Mexico are visible; on the east the higher peaks of the Coast Range

mountains in the county, together with the fertile valleys intervening, are easily distinguished.



Map, circa 1912

The original "Collier Park" lay mostly between Spring Street and Palm Avenue; the portion east of Palm is now part of the present park. In 1915 the City of La Mesa purchased Lot 17 and portions of Lots 14 and 15, excluding "Collier Park" and another smaller parcel. Collier's Addition Number One subdivision lies immediately north of Pasadena Avenue (Merced Street).

New Park for La Mesa

The chamber of commerce and all citizens will be delighted to learn that the local board of trustees have taken it upon themselves to beautify the 14-acre park adjoining the spring. The city has taken example from its neighboring friend, San Diego, and has provided this 14 acres for a park, hoping to emulate in a smaller way the wonderful results accomplished by San Diego in their 1,400-acre park. At the last regular meeting the board of trustees appointed a committee to purchase trees and arrange for planting them in this tract, which they hope in time to make one of the beauty spots of La Mesa. Should not this action of the board spur some of our good citizens who desire to make La Mesa the most beautiful city in Southern California to plant ornamental trees in the parkings in front of their homes? "What sort of a city would La Mesa be if every citizen were just like me?" Let's do it now and make the other fellow ashamed of the appearance of his front street parking, rather than be ashamed of our own. Our city has the reputation of being the cleanest home town in this locality, and with very little effort can be made the most beautiful and attractive.

LA MESA CITY COUNCIL TO BUILD MUNICIPAL PARK

**CITY CHIEFS CONSIDER SITE
NEAR THE SPRING HOUSE AS
ONE MOST SUITABLE FOR
PARK PURPOSES.**

At the last meeting of the city board of trustees the proposition of building a municipal park for the city of La Mesa was taken up and discussed at length. A committee of three was appointed by Mayor Porter to investigate the matter thoroughly and formulate plans for the carrying out of the project. The committee is composed of one councilman, Mr. Al Swanson; one member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a third to be selected by those two. The Chamber of Commerce member is yet to be appointed at the next regular meeting of the chamber, Tuesday evening, July 6. The third will then be chosen.

Although as yet no action has been taken by the committee, yet if found feasible and the cost is not too great, steps will soon be taken to improve the property about the La Mesa spring house and convert it into a municipal park that will be one of the best improvements of which the town can boast. At present the city owns 18 acres of land about the springs, which could easily be made into one of the most delightful beauty spots in Southern California.

The plans as discussed at the council meeting will include the clearing off of the grounds, cleaning, draining and filling the little reservoir, the construction of lavatories and out-houses, the installation of an adequate drinking fountain at the springs, and all the arboricultural and landscape gardening work necessary to make the place attractive and pleasant.

Later, if the park commission sees fit the site will be still further improved and made a municipal camping ground similar to those now in existence in nearly all California cities. In that case the reservoir or pond below the springs will be converted into a magnificent municipal swimming pool, and the tank house remodeled into a commodious bath house with showers and all necessary equipment, and the land lying over the hill to the east improved and cleared off.

In accordance with the advice of the city attorney given at the trustees' meeting Friday evening, the council was instructed to first select this special committee which is vested with full authority by the council to proceed with all plans for the building of the park, and then later this committee will be converted into a park board or commission which will have full charge of the work subject to the control only of the city council.

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July 2, 1920

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PLANS PROGRESSING WITH NEW CITY PARK

The two members of the new park board committee, Councilman Swanson and Henry Levy, this week selected their third member, Dr. C. E. Strite, city health officer. It has not yet been learned whether or not Dr. Strite will accept the appointment, but it is hoped he will not refuse.

The committee has gone ahead with plans for extensive improvement of the spring house site for the city's municipal park. They have laid out driveways leading to and from the grounds from off the highway; all the rubbish is to be removed from the site; outhouses are to be erected; a caretaker is to be appointed; the bottom of the little pond is to be cemented and the reservoir to be converted into an excellent swimming pool; two more pavilions are to be built; and flowers and shrubs planted and the place beautified and cleaned up in fine style. The committee is determined that the place shall have every facility and advantage that a municipal park of its size should have.

In addition their plans include the piping of the ground for both water and gas, and wiring for electric lights, the gas to be used in connection with several plates which are to be installed about the grounds for the use of campers and picnic parties.

These plans, the committee stated, are tentative, however, and must be submitted to the board of trustees for ratification, together with an estimate for the cost of installing the same and also an estimate of the running expenses or cost of maintaining the park for a year.

The board will act on this report and then the permanent park commission will be created, which will proceed to carry out these plans under an annual appropriation from the council.

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July 16, 1920

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SWIMMING POOL IS OPENED; CROWDS ENJOYING PLUNGE

Owing to the personal efforts of several of the business men the new swimming pool has been completed earlier than expected, and the water was first turned on Sunday morning. By Monday evening the tank was full enough to swim in and a large crowd enjoyed their first plunge in La Mesa's new municipal swimming tank on that day. By Tuesday night the water was up to within a few inches of the top, and every evening this week the "kids" and grown-ups have been enjoying the time of their lives.

The women's dressing rooms have been completed, and the tank is now ready for ladies. The rest of the fence was strung the first of the week, and the board walk laid, and the pool now presents a most inviting and clean appearance.

Owing to the location of the tank in the little hollow with the full rays of the sun upon it practically all day long, the water is quite warm, but in the early evening when the sun drops down behind the hills on the west, the air about the tank is quite chilly, so that bathers find it more comfortable to stay in the water than to loiter on the edge.

TENNIS COURT COMPLETED

The new cement tennis court at the swimming pool was completed last week by Richardson & Donahoo, local contractors, and play was started on the court Saturday afternoon, when Henry Hall took Frank Park for a cleaning of five or six straight sets.

The new court is a dandy and is as good as any in the county. Undoubtedly there will be a revival of the popular game in La Mesa, and as the news is spread that this town possesses a concrete court it will grow steadily in popularity.

Garden Club Beautifying Collier Park Spring House

Members of the Spring House Garden club, who have taken as a project the beautifying of Collier park, are now renovating the spring house, which they will later use as a meeting place.

The club, with the assistance of city officials and funds, is planning to take out partitions, put in new floors and windows, repair the roof and redecorate the entire inside of the building.

Members are also landscaping the grounds surrounding the building. They plan, among other things, to beautify the running stream and construct a plant-rimmed rock pool.

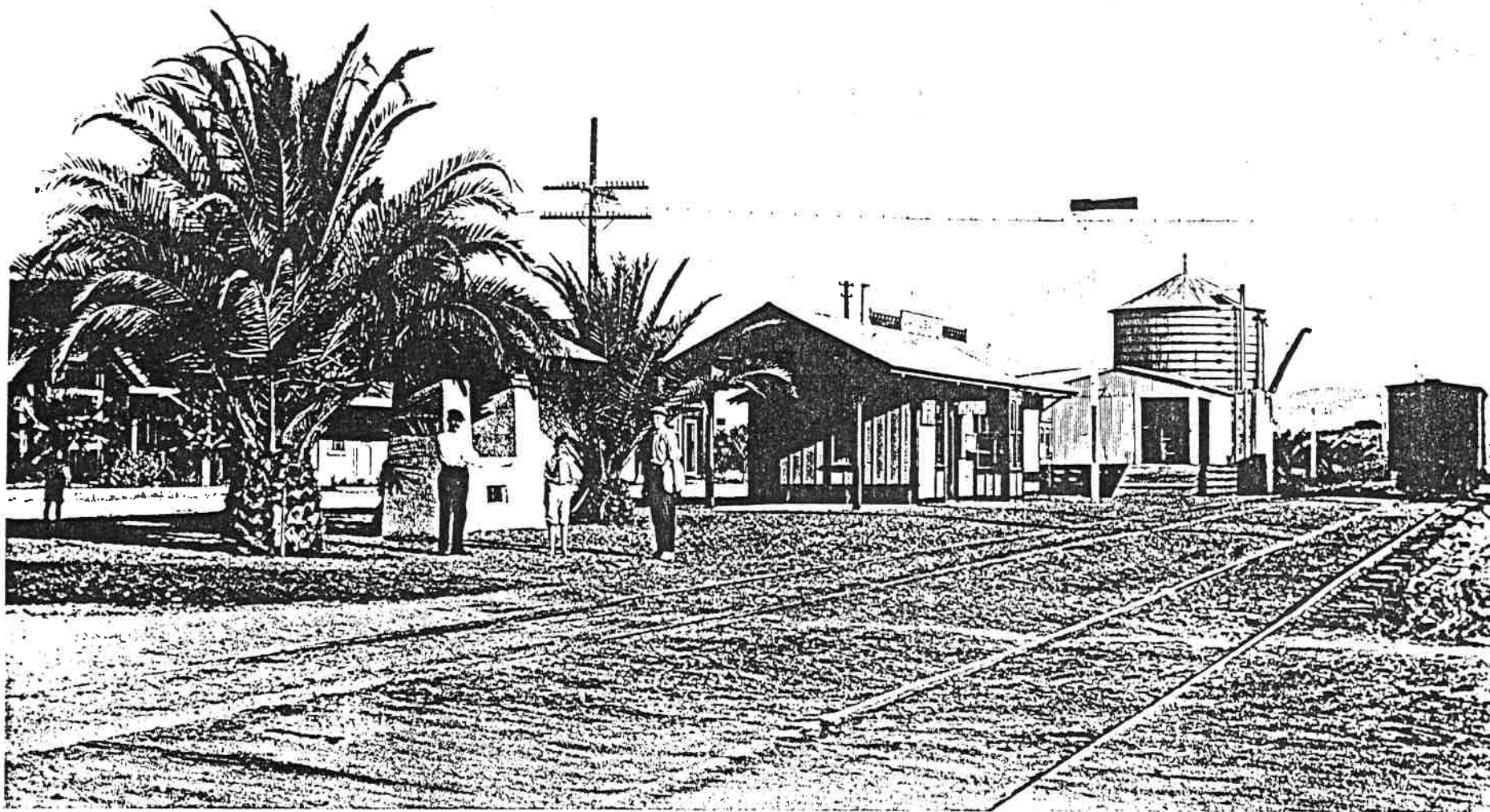
With this project, they hope to win a \$1000 prize being offered by Better Homes and Gardens magazine for the most ambitious beautification project followed to completion.

The club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. for a morning of work on the grounds. A luncheon is held at 1 p.m., followed by a gardening class conducted by Mrs. Margaret Tipton Wheatley, of the Grossmont Adult Education department. Membership of the club is drawn from La Mesa, Spring Valley, Lemon Grove and surrounding areas.

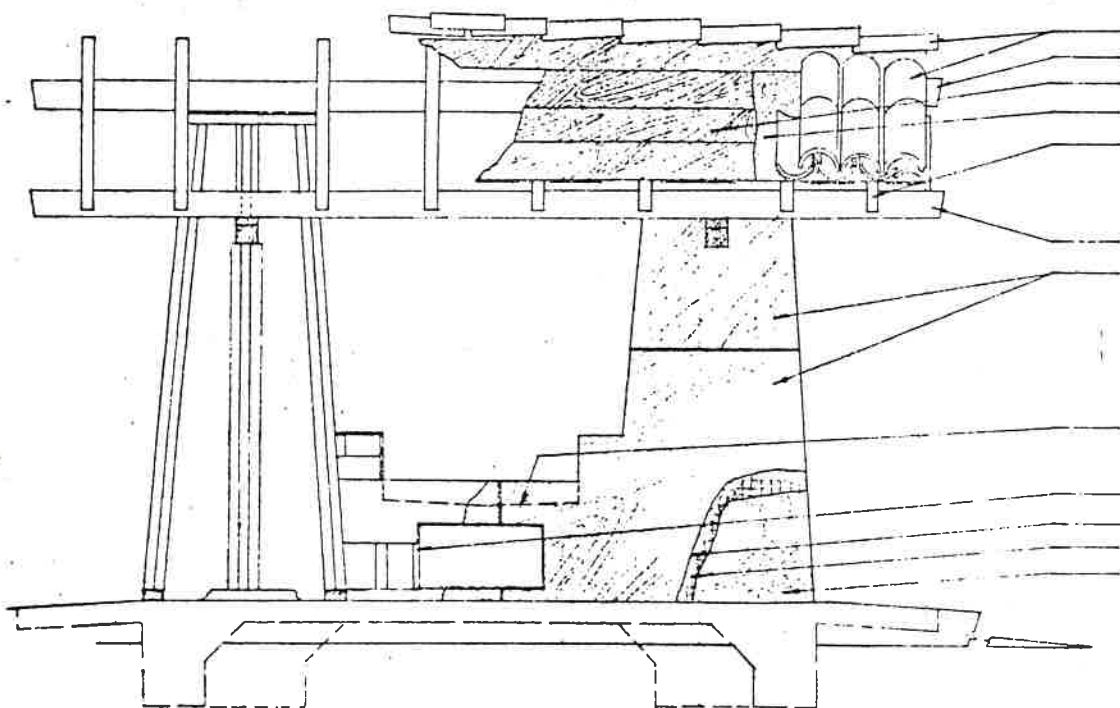
The president, Mrs. Homer Smith, announces that Tuesday Roy Edwards, La Mesa city engineer, will meet with members to assist in planning future improvements.

August 3 there will be an all-day meeting on corsage making. Anyone interested in this subject is invited to come and bring flowers. Equipment needed for the making of corsages will be obtained at cost. Tea and cookies will be served.

Anyone interested in gardening, but who is unable to come for the full day, is invited by the president to come for any portion of the program which is most convenient for them to attend.



Looking south from La Mesa Boulevard with Spring Street on the left, circa 1916. The drinking fountain can be seen north of the depot. Water was piped to this fountain from the springs.



RED TILE (EXISTING ORIGINAL)
 4x6 BEAM (E.O.)
 1x12 SHEATHING (E.O.)
 15# FELT & HOT MOP
 2x6 RAFTERS @ ORIGINAL SPACING, FIELD CK. DEER. BEFORE DESTRUCTION (E.O.)

4x6 BEAM (E.O.)
 1\"/>

LINE OF BASE OF DRINK. FOUNT

1x4 CONT. GRADE OF FRAME W/ PLANK. DR & HAND
 15# FELT
 RICE LATH
 STURCO

1965 drawings show planned reconstruction of the fountain in Collier Park reusing some of the original elements.

SHT/CF/	CITY OF LA MESA	
CITY OF LA MESA PUBLIC DRINK- ING FOUNTAIN LAY OUT AND RE- LOCATION DESIGN		
CITY ENGINEER J. E. ADAMS	CK. BY:	
DRAWN BY C. W. L.		Nº 2326.