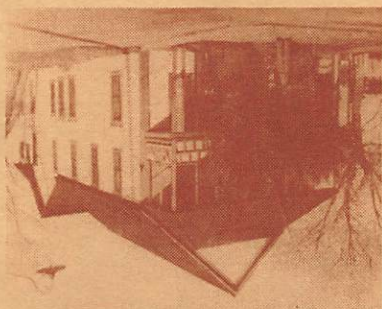


(Just west of Sierra Highway)

557 West Lancaster Blvd.

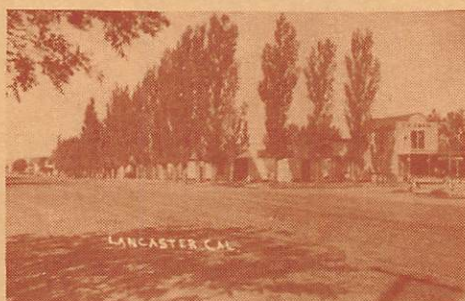


THE WESTERN HOTEL

Lancaster's Oldest Historic Building



*20 mule team resting
in downtown Lancaster*



*Lancaster Blvd. and Sierra Hwy.
looking west early in the
20th century*



*Sierra Hwy. looking south before
the popularity of automobiles*

The Western Hotel Historical Society was formed in 1974 for the purpose of acquiring this property and restoring the building to be used as a museum to display the history of Antelope Valley. The surrounding grounds will be developed into a Pioneer Park to serve as a downtown rest area and also provide public restrooms.

Since the founding of the organization, non-profit status has been acquired, the property was purchased with the help of a mortgage through Valley Federal Savings & Loan and the James Price Engineering firm has been retained to provide plans for the restoration.

Funds for the restoration of the ground floor are available but contributions of monetary gifts, services and materials will be needed to complete the project.

Memberships are available: Participating — \$5 to \$10

Sustaining — \$10 to \$200

Lifetime — Over \$200

Deeds are being issued for \$5 a square foot of Pioneer Park.

Rooms are available for dedication to organizations, businesses or individuals. For more information contact the:

WESTERN HOTEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 304, LANCASTER, CA 93534

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P.O. Box 304

Lancaster, CA 93534

I wish to become a member of the Western Hotel Historical Society with a contribution of:

\$5.00 Participating

\$10.00 Sustaining

\$20.00 Lifetime

____ Services

I would like

T-Shirts (Sizes 6 thru 14) \$6.00 ea.

(Sizes 34 thru 46) \$8.00 ea.

Deed — Contribution of \$5 per square foot.

Stationery — \$2.50 per pack of 10 notes

Western Hotel Pictures (matted and ready for framing) \$6.50 ea., set of 5 - \$30.00

No. 1—1890

No. 2—1908

No. 3—1910

No. 4—1930

No. 5—1936

The Story of the Western Hotel

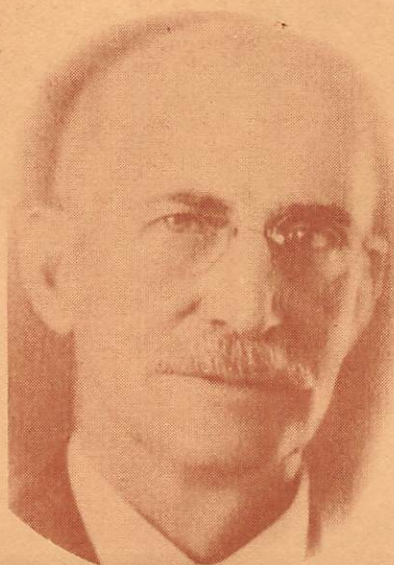
The Western Hotel will be 100 years old in 1988 . . . if it should live so long.

It was back in 1888 when a carpenter, who failed to carve his name into the studding at the time, nailed together a home, that later became the Western Hotel, the focal point of the young town of Lancaster.

When the building first changed its identity from a home to an inn, it was known as The Gilwyn Hotel. It was an exciting place, providing shelter and food for prospectors, mule skinnners, farmers and a whole host of real live characters, since stereotyped in thousands of Hollywood Westerns.



*Western Hotel before the turn
of the 20th century*



George Webber

George Webber, who came here from England in the 1880's to experiment with the making of wood pulp from the Joshua Trees, purchased the hotel in 1908 and renamed it the Western.

But it was Myrtie Webber, who married George Webber after she arrived in Lancaster to improve her health in the early 1900s, who became the long-lived symbol of the hotel.

The high desert air and sunshine breathed new life into the ailing Myrtie and she and the hotel grew old together, gracefully.

The Western Hotel became the founding place of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, whose members continued to meet there for many years. The Kiwanis Club found a home there and hundreds of community meetings of all types were held there on the warmth of the buildings embrace.



Mrs. Myrtie Webber

The bustling, burgeoning Los Angeles, a pueblo grown fat in the Southern California sun, became thirsty as its population grew and established family footholds across the land. More water was needed for what was to become one of the world's major metropolitan areas.

When the mighty engineering task of building the Owens River-Los Angeles Aqueduct got underway, construction men by the hundreds made the Western Hotel their place of rest and recreation.

When there was no longer room in the inn, a tent city was staked out adjacent to the hotel and Myrtie and a limited number of helpers took on the task of feeding as many as 250 construction workers a day.

There was gold in the hills and many miners who picked and shoveled their way to good wages in the productive Tropic Gold Mine used the Western Hotel for lodging.



Lancaster Blvd. around 1920

But now, with its longtime mistress dead, the building needs human help to survive.

There is a need for money and renovation and restoration and love of a standing monument to the precious pioneer past that belongs to this generation and generations to come.

The Western Hotel Historical Society, formed in 1974, needs your aid in preserving the hotel as an open-to-the-public museum.

On a cold windy wintry night on the high desert, there are those close to the ancient hotel who say you can almost hear it crying out for help.



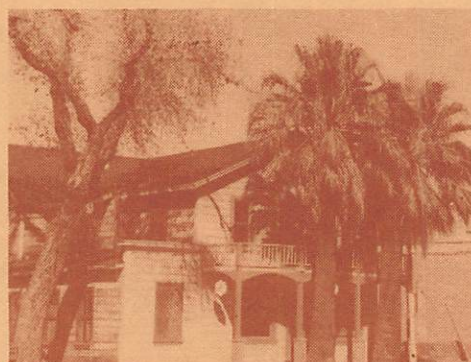
*Tent city surrounding
the Western Hotel*

Despite the loss of her husband in 1934, Myrtie Webber continued to operate the hotel by herself until late in the 1960s, mothering the aging building for more than six decades.

With her past completely tied to the hotel, she continued to live in the hotel until age forced her into a convalescent hospital in 1971.

Myrtie Webber died in 1978 at the age of 110, a legendary pioneer with a lifespan of more than a century.

The Western Hotel still stands proudly, surrounded by younger buildings that may prove to be less durable, and still towering two stories tall, protected by two sentry palm trees against the invasion of time.



Western Hotel 1976