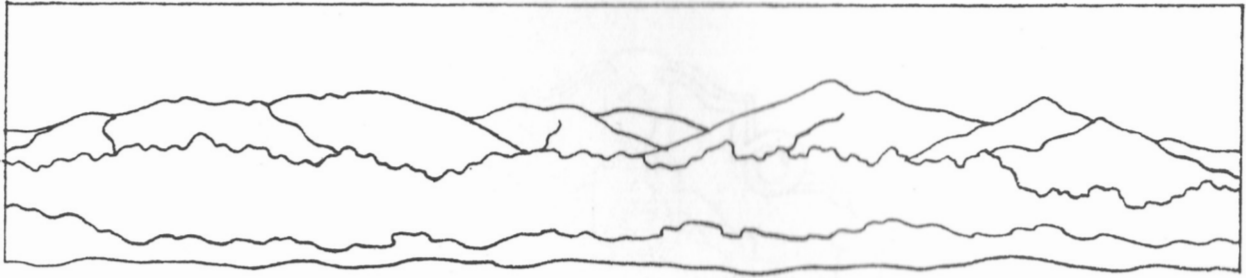


A RESOURCE GUIDE
By Claremont Heritage



I. INTRODUCTION

ONCE UPON A TIME there was no city called Claremont. There were only the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains, lots of water under the ground and a few people living in the area we call Memorial Park, a few more scattered on Indian Hill Mesa, but no town, no schools, no streets.

Then, in 1887, two things happened that would make Claremont a real city and bring more people and families to live here. First the Santa Fe Railroad built tracks from Chicago to Los Angeles, setting up lots of towns along the way. One of those towns was Claremont. The railroad built a big hotel for all the visitors they hoped would move to Claremont to buy land and make their homes here. Not many people came, so the railroad owners asked a small college that was just getting started in Pomona to use the hotel for their school. Pomona College moved here and Claremont got its second chance.

Those two things, the railroad and Pomona College, gave Claremont its start. Claremont became a college town, teachers and students moved here (many came on the railroad) and they named the streets after colleges from all over the United States and England. They planted trees so that their new town would look like the places they came from in the east. Because of good weather, more people came and planted orange and lemon trees as a way of making their living. Soon, most of Claremont was covered with these citrus trees. The local growers worked together to start a system for picking and selling their fruit that was called a cooperative. This cooperative idea grew and spread all over California and now has the name "Sunkist"

Pomona College also grew, and other colleges were started. Now there are so many you need more than the fingers of one hand to count them. They are Pomona College in 1887, Claremont Graduate School in 1925, Scripps College in 1926, Claremont McKenna College in 1947, Harvey Mudd College in 1955, Pitzer College in 1963 and Keck Graduate Institute in 1997. These schools are all different, but they share a library, athletic teams, and health services, and if you go to one you can take classes at any of the others.

From 1887 to 1940 Claremont was a college and citrus town with a small village for shopping and a famous highway on the northern part of town called Route 66, which is now called Foothill Boulevard. It was on this road that a well known landmark called Griswold's once sold candied fruit and jams to tourists who drove to California. Even though Claremont was small (in 1940 there were fewer than 4,500 people here) there were many interesting people and places in town. A group of retired missionaries lived in a neighborhood, called Pilgrim Place, and brought stories from all over the world such as China, India, and Africa – places where they had spent their lives sharing their religion. When people came to Claremont they often visited the Padua Hills Theater in the foothills to listen to the actors and dancers of "The Mexican Players" sing and dance and perform their plays in Spanish, or they came to one of the concerts at Big Bridges Auditorium on the Pomona College campus. Many Mexican families came to Claremont in the 1920s to work in the orange and lemon groves. Many of these workers made beautiful buildings out of the stones that fill our rocky soil. Those stone barns, water pump houses, and ranch houses can still be seen all over town.

When the 10 freeway was built from Los Angeles to Claremont in the 1950s, more and more people wanted to live here. Citrus ranchers sold their land, the trees were cut down and houses began to go up. New Claremonters liked the same things that everyone had always liked about this town: a good place to raise children, quality schools, parks, safe streets, a village of small shops, lots of big trees, and great old buildings that tell the story of the town. Have fun learning more about Claremont.

II. NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE “INDIAN HILL”

Native or indigenous people, sometimes called Indians, were the very first people to live in our part of California. Some of them made their home on the mesa near Foothill Boulevard and Indian Hill Boulevard, long before those streets were there. When the first Europeans came they called the mesa “Indian Hill.”

These peaceful Indians lived lives connected to the seasons and the land. They gathered grass, berries, seeds, and nuts and dug roots to eat. Acorns were their main source of protein. There were many steps to preparing them, and each step was done in a special kind of basket. Some baskets could hold water. To heat the water, they put stones in the fire and then dropped them in the basket of water.

Tribes of the area, such as the Tongva or Serrano people also ate deer, coyote, squirrels, birds, grasshoppers, and snakes. The men used rocks or bows and arrows, and sometimes dressed in animal skins so they could get closer to the animals.

The people lived in a “ki”, a brush dwelling made of poles tied at the top with cross-poles covered with bunches of brush. They made their clothes from skins and plants.



The first residents of Claremont were native people called the Tongva who made their homes from the branches of trees. Indian Hill Blvd is named for them. Their main food came from the acorns that grew on oak trees. They also hunted rabbits and deer.

III. THE SPANISH COLONIAL AND MEXICAN PERIOD

In 1771, the country of Spain colonized the land we now know as California. When Spanish explorers came by land from the south, some of them came by Indian Hill. The explorer De Anza may have stopped near the native camps to drink from San Antonio Creek, which ran by the mesa. San Gabriel Mission was built, with land stretching from the San Bernardino Mountains all the way to the ocean.

A mission was a large farm or estate organized around a church. All of present-day Claremont was part of the Mission land. Cactus corralled cattle where Claremont Manor is today. Many of the Indians were forced to work the missions. The Indians watched Mission sheep and cattle that grazed right where people now live.

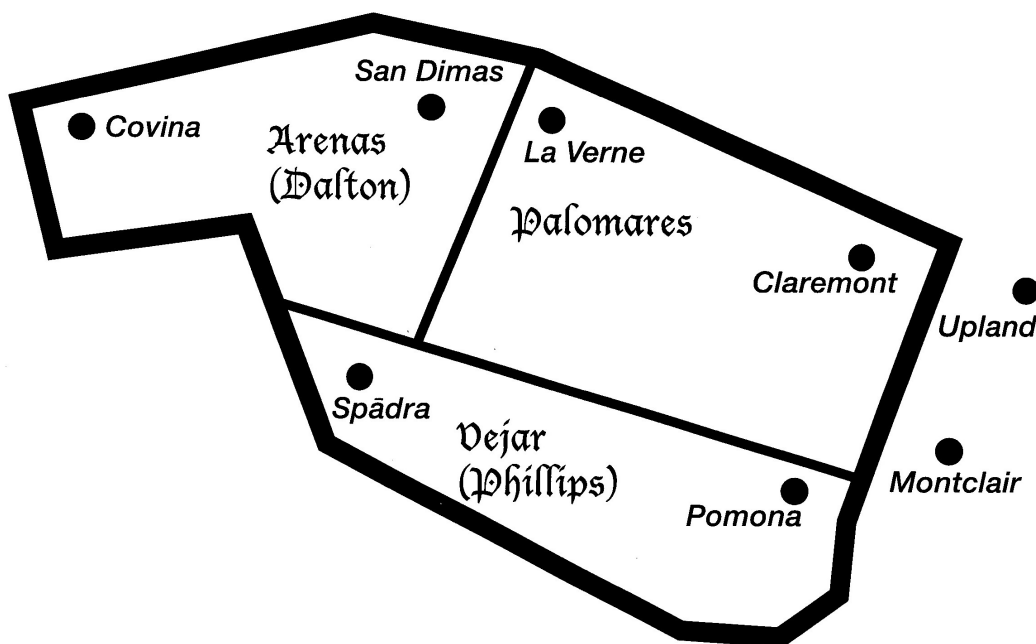
Jedediah Smith, the first man of European descent to enter California overland, passed through the Claremont site in 1826 on his way to the San Gabriel Mission.

When Mexico won its independence from Spain, the government took the mission lands from the church and turned them into private land-grant ranches or "ranchos." In 1837, the lands of the present city became part of the Rancho San Jose, owned by Ricardo Vejar and Don Ygnacio Palomares. This grant also included what is now Pomona, La Verne, San Dimas, Glendora and Walnut.

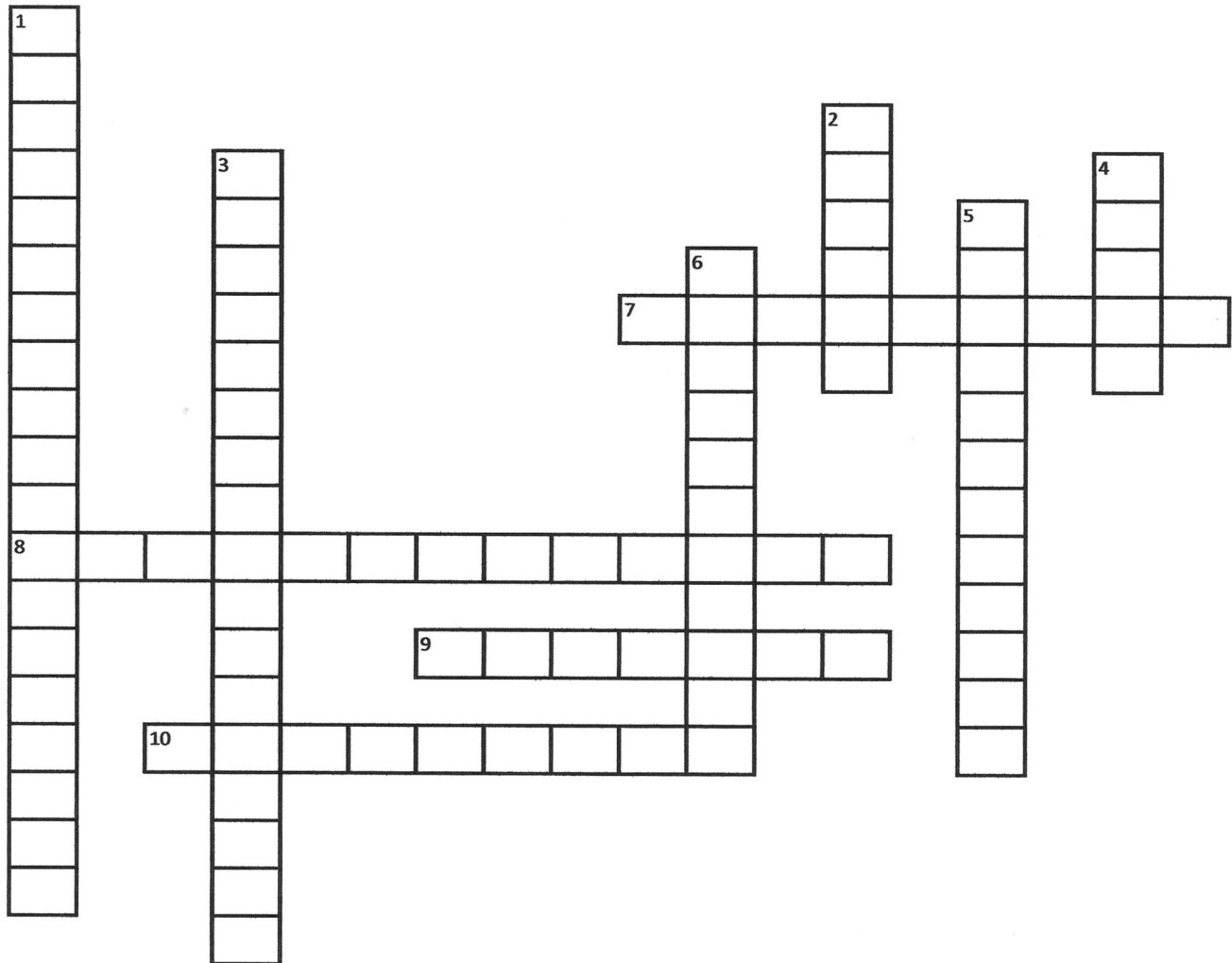
PALOMARES

Palomares built the first house in the area, which still stands on Park Avenue in Pomona and is called "La Casa Primera." Later, he built the house on Orange Grove that we know as the "Adobe de Palomares." It was called "The House of Wood" because of its wooden roof and floors. A store at the front sold goods to travelers and the house without fences or walls was open to all. The Palomares family had many happy, successful years here.

The members of the Tongva, worked for the family. They helped Doña China Palomares in her house and garden, and tended cattle for Don Ignacio Palomares. Like other rancheros, he kept cattle for their tallow (fat for candles) and hides. Hides were staked in the sun to dry, scraped and salted. Tallow was cooked in huge kettles and poured into rawhide bags. Trading ships took tallow and hides east to people who wanted to buy them



PALOMARES



Down:

1. Wife of Don Ignacio Palomares
2. Cooked in huge kettles
3. "House of Wood"
4. Staked and dried in the sun
5. Took hides and tallow to the east
6. Tallow stored in these

Across:

7. Built the first house in the area
8. Located on Park Avenue in Pomona
9. Worked for the family
10. Private land grants

IV. SANTA FE RAILROAD

In 1887, the Santa Fe Railroad completed its tracks from Chicago to Los Angeles. Towns were started all along the railroad route. In Claremont, lots were staked out, Hotel Claremont was built for visitors to stay, and plans were made for a thriving town. The railroad company hoped people would move to Claremont and buy land.

The name 'Claremont' was selected because it boasted of clean air and a clear view of the mountains. There was a supply of fresh water because of the artesian wells, and many live oak and sycamore trees. The Pacific Land and Improvement Company advertised, "Come to Claremont, the Beautiful!"

Despite high hopes, the land boom fizzled and land remained unsold. Only a few houses, stores, the hotel, and the railroad depot had been built before the land values began to fall.

The Claremont Depot was originally built as a wooden Victorian style station. Later in 1927, it was replaced by a Spanish Colonial style with thick stucco walls, frescoed ceilings, and a red tile roof.



SANTA FE RAILROAD

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word or phrase.

1. The _____ Railroad laid tracks from Chicago to Los Angeles.

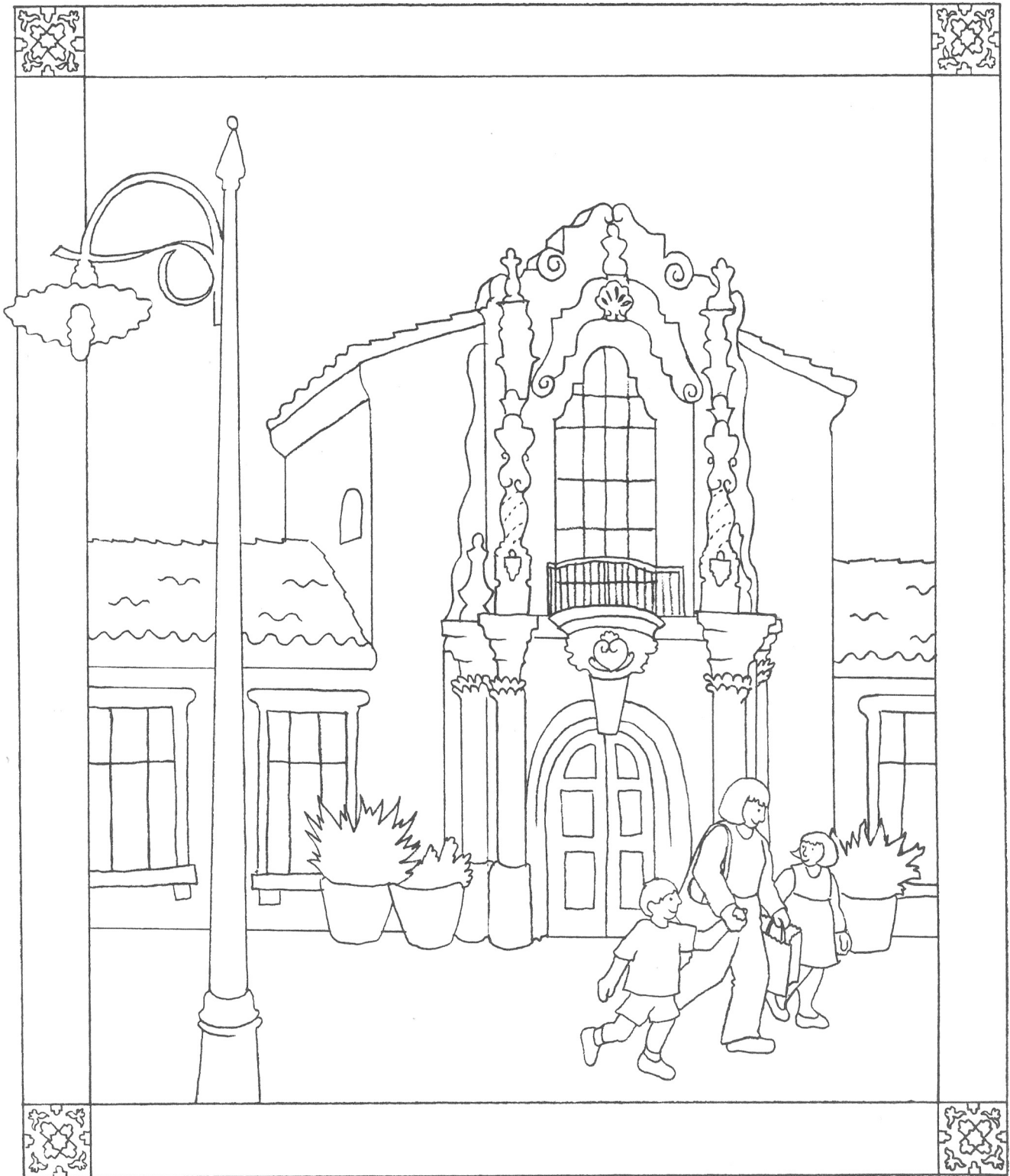
2. When the Pacific Land and Improvement Company sold lots in 1887 they advertised, "Come to _____ the Beautiful!"

3. The Land Company built a large _____ so that buyers would have a place to stay.

4. The name Claremont was chosen because it boasted of _____.

5. The _____ supplied fresh water.

6. The Claremont Depot was replaced in _____ by a Spanish Colonial style.



Claremont's train depot is one of the city's most distinctive buildings. It was built in 1927 by the Santa Fe Railroad as a train station. Now it is home to the Claremont Museum of Art. When you visit the depot, look up at the beautiful painted ceiling in the old waiting room.

V. THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

Reverend Charles B. Sumner, a Christian minister from the Congregationalist church, began a college in Pomona in 1887. They tried to build a college campus, but soon ran out of money. In 1889, the Pacific Land Company offered a perfect solution. If Pomona College would move to Claremont, they would give them "Hotel Claremont" which at the time was sitting empty after the land boom was over. They would use this for their college. These first people had a dream for the town. They wanted a center for intelligence and high morals, "with God near."

Students and faculty both spent holidays clearing rocks or planting trees. Trees that had come from the San Gabriel Mission and Rancho San Jose were planted. Cyrus G. Baldwin was the first president, and Pomona College was here in Claremont to stay.



Hotel Claremont

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

Match the phrase with the answer:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Building given to Pomona College | A. _____ Intelligence and high morals |
| 2. The first president of Pomona College | B. _____ Seven |
| 3. The number of colleges now in Claremont | C. _____ Hotel Claremont |
| 4. Where trees came from to be planted around the college | D. _____ Pomona College |
| 5. Helped the town get its start | E. _____ Cyrus G. Baldwin |
| 6. The dream for Claremont was to have a center for... | F. _____ San Gabriel Mission and Rancho San Jose |

VI. THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

During the Spanish Colonial period, the Catholic priests imported orange trees to plant at the missions. Rancheros had taken cuttings to plant and the first orange grove was started by the Palomares family in 1875.

At the time that Pomona College was getting its start, the citrus business was beginning. In 1888, the first orange trees were planted in Claremont by Peter Dreher. Soon, other settlers also planted orange and lemon groves that grew so well in this climate. At first, their costs for marketing were so high that they couldn't make any money, but then they got together and formed the Claremont California Fruit Growers Association and they began to make a profit. Claremont growers were among the first to organize this cooperative method for marketing their fruit. Their system, which was adopted statewide, became known throughout the world as "Sunkist."

Growers fumigated their trees to kill pests and used "smudge pots" with oil to keep them warm during freezing weather. Packing houses and an Ice House were built by the Santa Fe tracks. It was there that the fruit was washed, graded, stored, and shipped all over the United States and Europe, and eventually even Japan. Workers wrapped oranges and lemons from the groves and put labels on the wooden crates showing the brand of each kind of citrus fruit.

Citrus was the chief industry in Claremont early in the twentieth century (1900s). The industry diminished after World War II when grove lands became more valuable for houses than for the fruit bearing trees.

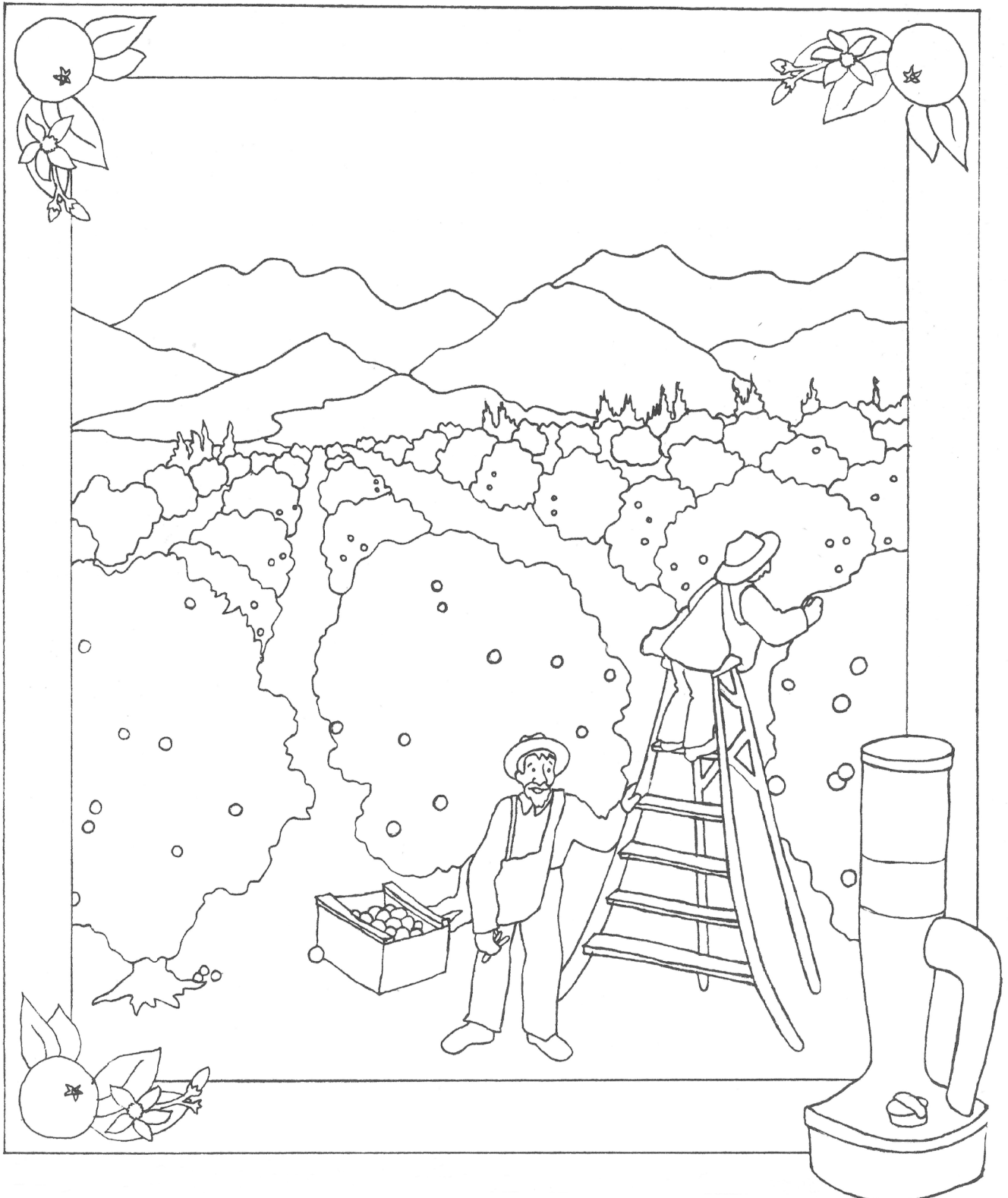
THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

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CRATES
FUMIGATED
ICEHOUSE
PACKINGHOUSE
SHIPPED
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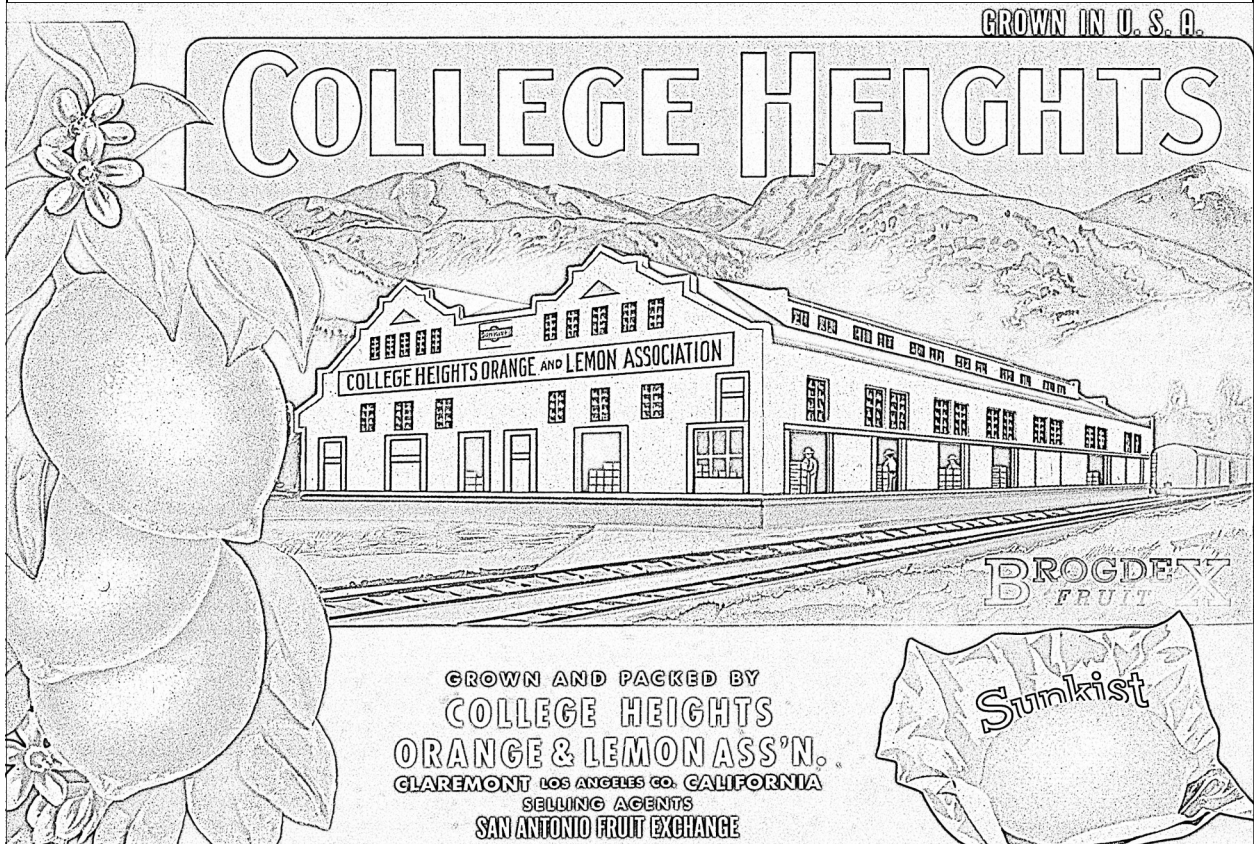
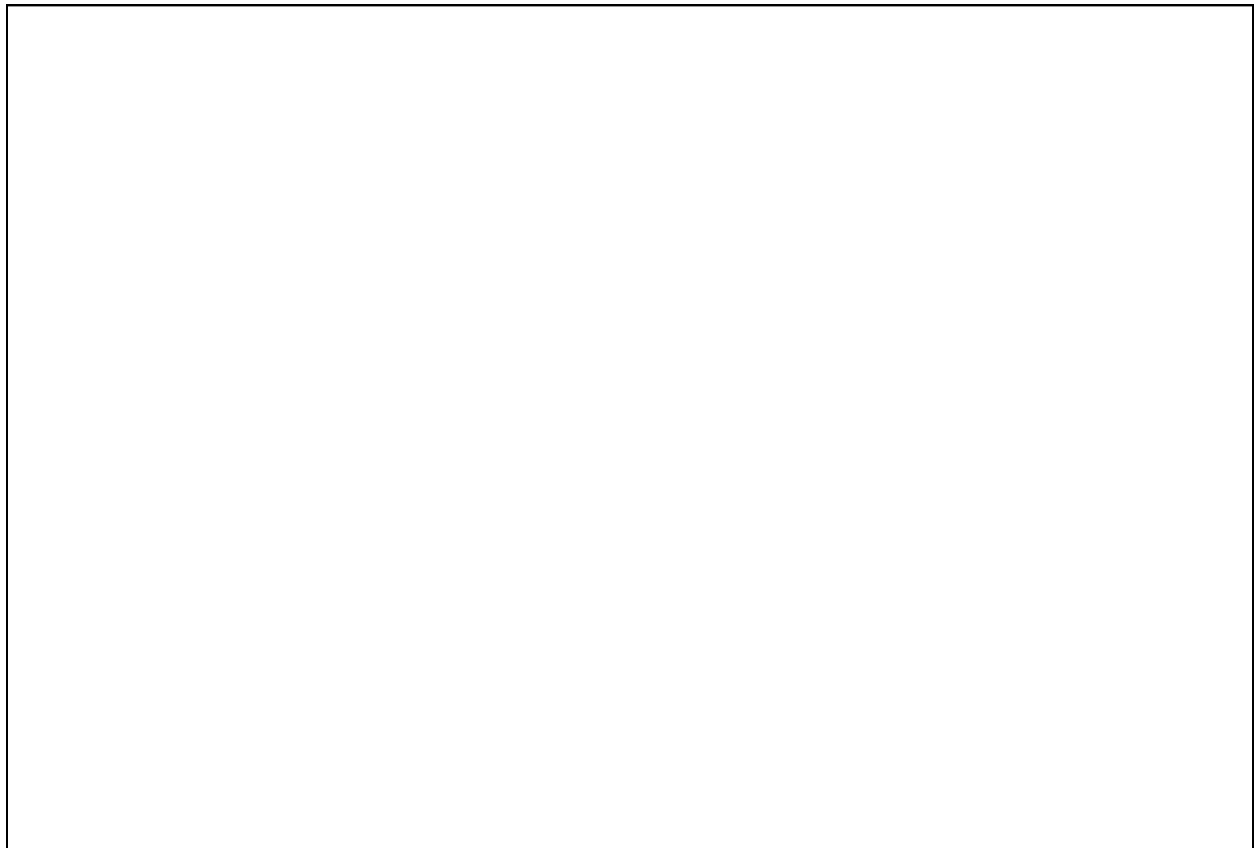
CUTTINGS
GRADED
LABELS
PADRES
SMUDGEPOTS
WASHED

FRUIT-GROWERS-ASSOC
GROVE
OIL
PETER-DREHER
STORED



Long rows of citrus trees used to be planted in groves all over Claremont. When it got cold, citrus ranchers would light fires in "smudge pots" so that the fruit trees would not freeze. Many of our houses are built on land that once was a citrus grove.

CREATE YOUR OWN CRATE LABEL



VII. COMMUNITY LIFE

As Claremont grew, its citizens had to make decisions and solve problems. They formed a Town Meeting to run the town. At the meetings people all said what they thought and then voted on what to do. They decided to incorporate and became a city in 1907.

President Baldwin, of Pomona College, helped to resolve many of the issues that came up in the development of the city of Claremont. Electricity was needed to run an electric railway car instead of the horse-drawn bus for the students. He started the San Antonio Light and Power Company using water from the canyons above Claremont.

A group was formed to find more water for the people to use. When a well was unsuccessful, they dug shallow ditches for the mountain water to run off into.

In 1906, the Town Meeting organized the volunteer fire department. For years the fire whistle could be heard all over town and a special code told everyone where the fire was.

The first streets were laid out by the Land Company. They decided to have ten numbered streets north of the tracks, and six streets that ran north and south were named after company directors.

The first residents of Claremont were interested in trees and planted them along wagon paths. The Town Meeting formed a street tree committee. The members planted trees on the new streets and cared for them, often carrying pails of water to them to keep them alive. The committee decided each street should have its own kind of tree and this policy is still in effect and makes Claremont a beautiful residential town today.

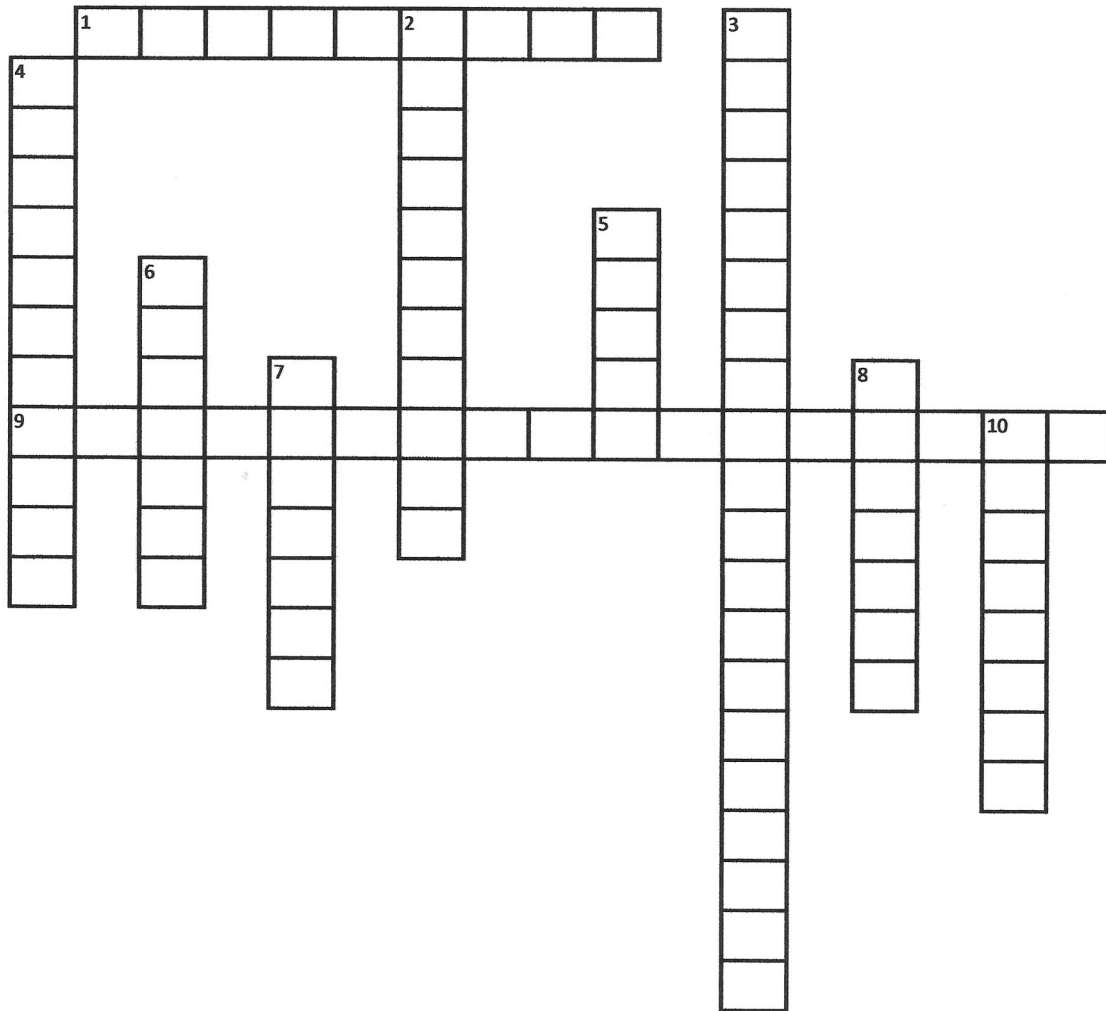
Until 1946, there were no city owned parks. Then the city had the opportunity to own the Garner property between Eighth and Tenth Streets, and Indian Hill Boulevard and Yale Avenue.

At one time this property was called, "El Alisal" and it had a flowing spring, oak, willow, and sycamore trees. The Garner family had built a lovely home surrounded by orange trees. Committees worked hard to get the people to vote for the park as a memorial to Claremont's war dead from World War II. It took two elections, but was finally passed. Memorial Park is still the most popular park in town and is busy year-round. Soon parks were built near every school so that people in every part of town had a place where they could play and relax.

This Garner family was very wealthy, and well known because they owned the Vortex Company and developed the Padua Hills area. They also started the Padua Hills Theater, that was home to the Mexican Players. Tourists came from miles around to have dinner and watch the performances.

Claremont today is a city of more than 36,000 people located 30 miles east of Los Angeles. It is on the lower slopes of the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains at an elevation of 1,165 feet. At the foot of Mt Baldy between Pomona and Upland, Claremont is the last city in Los Angeles county. Claremont has 140 acres of parks and tree-lined streets.

COMMUNITY LIFE



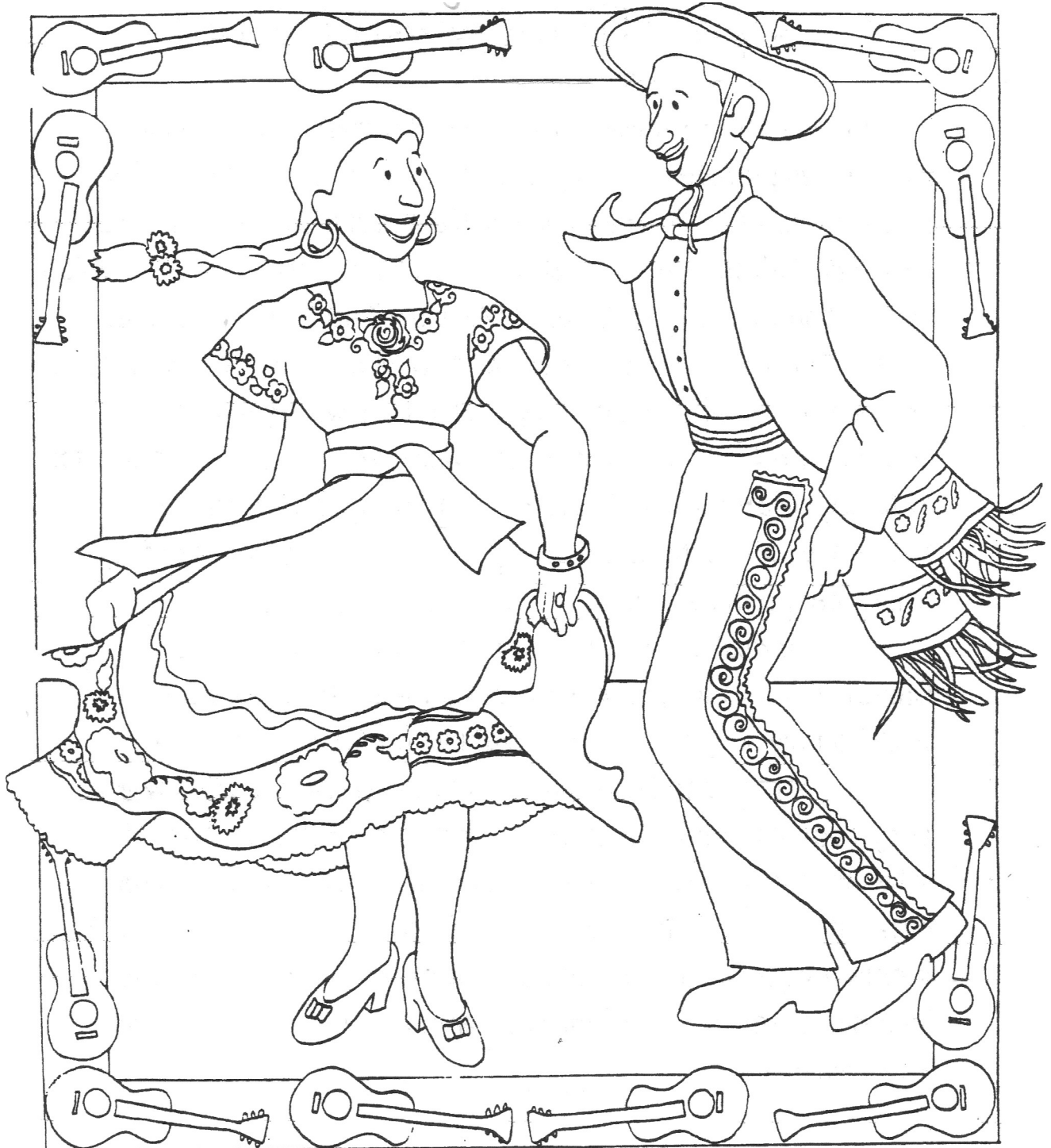
Across:

1. The type of fire department in early Claremont
9. A place where Mexican plays and songs were hosted

Down:

2. The group formed to run the town
3. When Claremont became a city
4. Who first laid out the streets of Claremont
5. Planted along the wagon paths
6. He started the San Antonio Light and Power Company
7. They owned the Memorial Park land
8. Who Memorial Park commemorates
10. The first name of Memorial Park

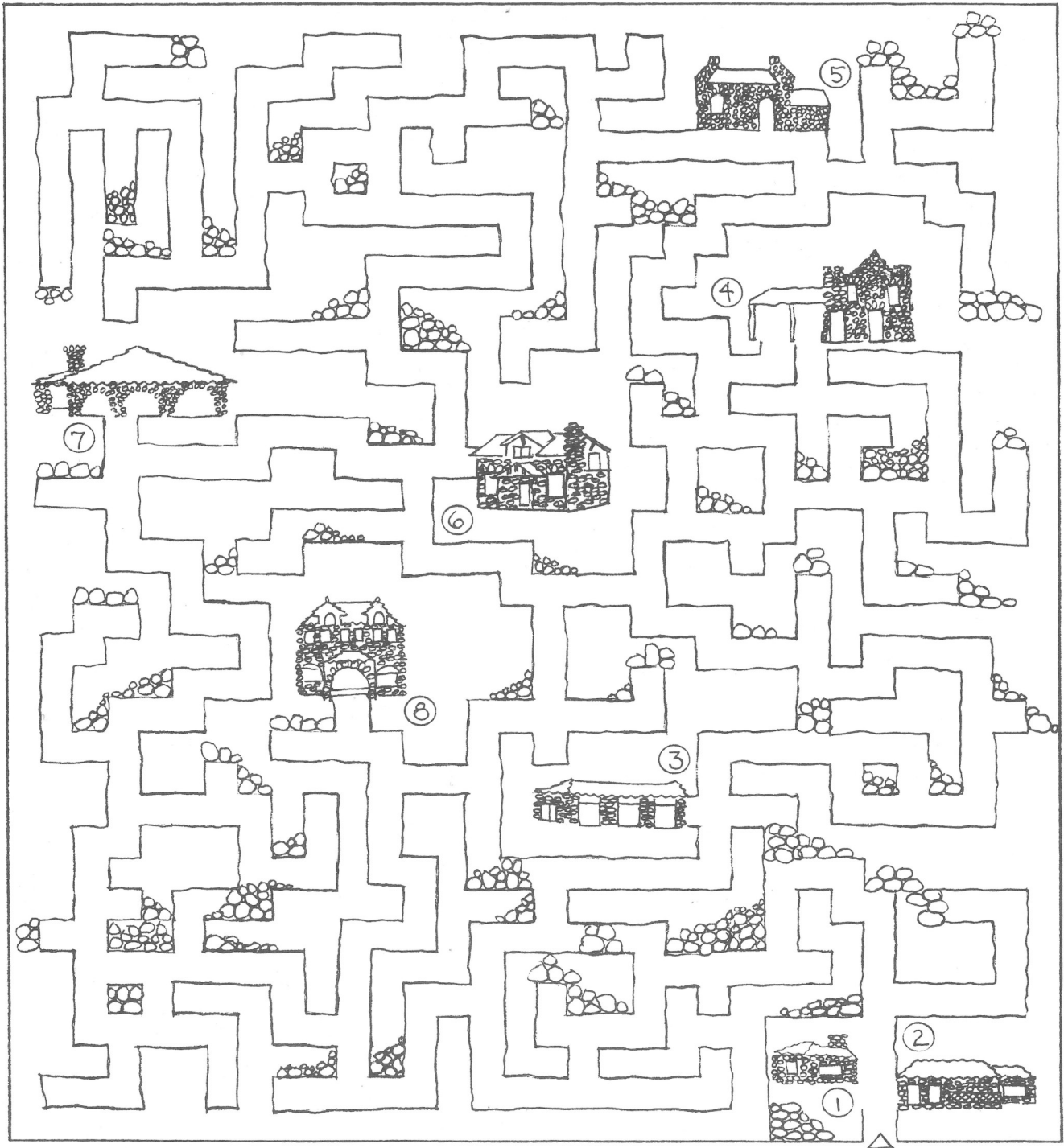
THE MEXICAN PLAYERS AT PADUA HILLS THEATRE



The Mexican Players, who performed at the Padua Hills Theater from 1930 to 1974, were talented dancers, singers, musicians, and actors.



Everywhere you go in Claremont you will see buildings made out of stone because our soil is so rocky. Even the curbs are made of stone on some of the streets. The Pitzer-Pearis House, at the corner of Towne and Baseline, was built out of stone in 1912 by citrus rancher Lee Pitzer.



Follow the maze to some of Claremont's stone houses and barns.

- 1 & 2 Russian Village houses
300 block of S Mills Ave.
- 3 Fumigation Factory for citrus
404 W Foothill Blvd.
- 4 Pitzer Ranch Headquarters
800 Baseline Rd.

- 5 Water Company Pumphouse
920 W Pomello Ave.
- 6 Dr. Johnson's Ranch Headquarter
618 Baseline Rd.
- 7 Pitzer-Pearis House
2053 N Towne Ave.
- 8 Dr. Johnson's house
1333 N Mountain Ave.