

Once Upon a Time in North Park
The Lynhurst Building
By Ruth Dahl, NPCA History Committee
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At the intersection of 30th and Upas where 30th Street jogs south you will notice a two story building named The Lynhurst. The building as you see it today, remains much the same as it was constructed nearly 80 years ago. Back in the early 1900's as the Trolley lines extended and North Park began to be developed we know that the Lynhurst tract was opened by the San Diego Construction Company. This tract consisted of two blocks between 29th and 30th Streets and Upas and Thorn Streets. On December 12, 1912, a building permit was issued to Eugene Weathers, Architect, for a wood frame, two story building with stores on the ground floor and apartments on the second floor. According to the San Diego City Directory, the first listing of the Lynhurst Building was in 1913.

In the early 1920's, a lot was happening at this building which served as the cornerstone for the Lynhurst Tract. The first listing of the Lynhurst Apartments appears in the San Diego City Directory in 1921. I am told that these five apartments are quite nice, with hardwood floors, etc. The building also served as the meeting place for the Pershing Heights Businessmens Association, an organization formed by the merchants of 30th and Upas area to call attention to their independence from the commercial district of 30th and University.

According to the 1921 San Diego City Directory and a photo taken of the Lynhurst Building that same year, we know that several stores served the neighborhood well. The Hughey Drug Company, located in the corner store, advertised perfumes and toiletries, peanut brittle for \$.25 a pound and if you were lucky to be around then, you could sit at their marble topped soda fountain and enjoy a dish of Purity Ice Cream. Next to the Hughey Drug Company was the M&L Market which advertised that "we cut prices on everything you eat." Long time residents of the area testify to doing their shopping at this fine store for many years. You could also fill your tank with gasoline at the curbside pump that sold Red Crown Gasoline for \$.23 ½ a gallon.

As time passed, these stores were replaced by newer businesses. About twenty-five years ago the well known Strom's Florist in downtown moved to the corner store where Hughey Drug Company was. Chester and Muriel Strom retired and closed the store one year ago. However, Pam Pierson, who worked as the manager and designer at Strom's for the past 16 years has opened her own florist shop called Pam's Flowers just up the street at 3552 30th Street. She provides quality work at very reasonable prices. Just new to the Lynhurst Building is Collections – The Gallery which opened in March and features antiques, collectibles and art work. Next to it on the corner is the Crossroads which opened in April and serves as neighborhood gathering place with entertainment and featuring local artists with monthly exhibitions.

In the southern end of the Lynhurst Building where the Dawco Press has been for the past twelve years there once was a sporting goods store and also a store that featured

embroidery and blouses. The current owner of the Lynhurst Building is the Rainbow Heights Ranch who bought it about a year and a half ago from Theodore Fintzelberg who owned it for the previous fifteen years.

If you would like to add to our knowledge of the Lynhurst Building, please contact the North Park Historical Committee.

Note: Since this article first appeared in the North Park Community Association newsletter almost 13 years ago, there have been many changes in businesses operating in the Lynhurst Building. Current businesses include La Salsa Chilena, the Urban Method Salon, Zensi Sushi Restaurant, Frank's Appliance Service Center, the Kung Fu Academy, and the Linkery Restaurant.