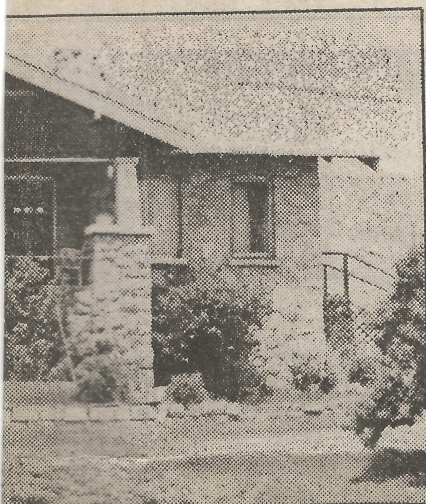


TOM PATTERSON

The ruins of the Garcia house, which dates to La Placita days.



occupied by lessees of the land from

board bills to reclaim them.

In the first election following Riverside's founding, L.C. Waite was chosen justice of peace of the San Salvador Township. He upheld the fence law to the consternation of La Placitans. Troubles were built into the situation.

The earlier community, having more eligible voters, rallied and elected Miguel Bustamente as justice of peace. At Riverside's request, the San Bernardino County supervisors — Riverside was then in that county — split the judicial township. Waite was elected as first justice of the peace of the new Riverside Township.

Young people moved from La

Placita and Agua Mansa, some to mining in the Gavilan Hills and others to widely scattered areas, including the Highgrove area and north Riverside. Many became laborers in citrus orchards throughout the citrus belt.

Riverside County, formed in 1893, took in only one of the La Placita homes — the Trujillo Adobe, built by one of the later Trujillo families.

The Trujillo public school had been located in what became Riverside County. After the county separation, the La Loma School was built a few blocks north along the west side of what is now called Pellissier Road and sometimes North Orange Street. At least once it was mapped as Spanshtown Road.

In 1971, the late Salvador Alvarado, who was born in La Placita and who attended La Loma School, showed me the location of many of the landmarks of La Placita, including the home of his uncle, Pedro Garcia. That's the frame building still standing in ruined condition.

"It wasn't like this at all," Alvarado recalled. "Everything was green."

The Lower Canal ran alongside the house. The Garcia flume of the Upper Canal crossed the ravine above the house.

"It wasn't like this at all," he repeated sadly.

Antoine Pellissier, born in France in 1869, came to Los An-

geles at age 16. He and related Pellissiers prospered in and around Los Angeles through sheep and dairy operations and city real estate. He came to Riverside in 1903 and started buying La Placita farms in 1905, adding to the property as older owners died.

He started his vineyard and winery and then his dairy. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army in France. Later he returned to France, made a second marriage and died there. His son, Ernest Pellissier, carried on with the dairy.

Primarily because of the water rights involved, Riverside bought the ranch in 1956 from Ernest Pellissier and his sister, Florence Radney.

The Jacksons, Joe and Mary, have leased the ranch for approximately a decade, raising hay and grain in the fields. Jackson and a partner operate a dairy in the Rialto area. The animals at the Pellissier ranch include calves from the dairy cows.

What's the fate of this, the major portion of La Placita? Can Colton annex it? Can Riverside County make a deal with San Bernardino County to change the county line?

In any event, what's the fate of the landmarks there — from the La Placita years, the Pellissier years and the untidy years under Riverside City ownership and San Bernardino County political control?