CITY OF BURBANK
Annual Report & 1977 Civic Calendar

Burbank Villa (Burbank’s grand hotel, later called Santa Rosa Hotel) as it looked shortly after construction by city founder Dr. David Burbank and his son in 1887-88. Built for $30,000, it was located at present site of Olive Avenue Post Office.
Then...

**FOUNDER'S HOME**

Ranch home of city founder, Dr. David Burbank, was built about 1887 on present site of The Burbank Studios. In 1926, First National Pictures, Inc., bought 78 acres and constructed eight huge stages. Later that year, Warner Brothers purchased the vast studio, and the old ranch house was on Warner’s back lot for years.

...Now
Then...

MEETING PLACE

In this turn-of-the-century photo, Burbank families hitch their buggies at Post Office on east side of San Fernando Boulevard between Orange Grove and Olive Avenues to check their mail and visit. One of several main Post Offices in city history, the one on Olive Avenue, built in 1937, was the last in downtown Burbank.

...Now
LAND VALUE

In 1914, this home was built by carpenter J. Warren Forbes on 13.6 acres of land which he had purchased in 1909 at the northeast corner of Lake Street and Olive Avenue for only $6,500. With that site since occupied by the Olive Avenue generating plant of Burbank's Public Service Dept., the land value should be up considerably.
CRIME FIGHTING

Burbank’s old City Hall, built in 1916 on the southeast corner of Olive Avenue and Third Street, had only a tiny jail. By 1942, the new City Hall across the street offered larger police facilities. In 1958, the old City Hall fell to progress, the present Police Services Building being completed on the site in 1961.
Then...

READY FOR ACTION

Members of Burbank's Volunteer Fire Department of 1923 proudly pose on their immaculately kept fire engine. Today, the Burbank Fire Department is made up of 116 full-time employees, maintains six modern fire stations, and, since January 1975, has operated its lifesaving Paramedic service.

...Now
Then...

SALE DAY

Scene above shows the power of advertising in the 1920's when Burbank shoppers jammed sidewalks to attend a sale at store on east side of San Fernando Boulevard between Orange Grove and Olive Avenues. The open touring cars are gone, and San Fernando has become the Golden Mall, but shoppers still turn out for good bargains.
Then...

**AVIATION AGE**

Photo shows construction in 1929 of United Airport at Hollywood Way and Vanowen Street. Dirt runways had been diced and oiled seven times, hangers erected, and construction begun on Spanish-style terminal. As Lockheed Air Terminal, it was for years Los Angeles' main air entry, becoming today's Hollywood-Burbank Airport.
Then...

CHANGED LANDSCAPE

Alameda Avenue, just east of its intersection with Olive Avenue, was badly undercut by floodwaters during Burbank's great storm of 1938. Damaged area in foreground is now site of the National Broadcasting Company complex, which opened its huge television studio and west coast headquarters in 1952.

...Now
Among the many famous persons who have known and been known in Burbank are hometown girl, actress and Burroughs High School baton twirler Debbie Reynolds; aviator Amelia Earhart, who flew from Lockheed Air Terminal in the 1930's; General George S. Patton, who spoke at a City Hall bond rally in World War II; heavyweight boxing champion James J. Jeffries, who bought a ranch here in 1904; and President Gerald R. Ford, who accepted a key to the city from Burbank City Councilmen in 1976.
Then...

TURKEY CROSSING

World War II workers at Lockheed may remember “Turkey Crossing,” at Victory Place and Empire Avenue. Victory Place, right, was closed off, while Empire was open across the railroad tracks to San Fernando. That was 1942, but now the situation is just the reverse, with San Fernando going under the freeway.

...Now