

CASTELAR SCHOOL HISTORY PACKET

Street Names

In the early days, many of the city streets were given Spanish names. Yale Street was Calle de los Arispas, translated to **mean** Wasp or Hornet Street. College Street was Calle del Colejio because there were several colleges on that street. Alpine Street was Calle de las Virgines.

North Hill Street had several name changes. It was originally named Calle del Toro, Toro Street, and then Bull Street because of a bullfight arena nearby. Later, it was changed to Castellar Street with two "ls". On August 29, 1912, the City Council officially changed the name to Castelar Street with one "l". Castelar Street was named after Emilio Castelar y Ripoll, a famed orator, statesman, author, journalist, historian, and president of the first Spanish republic.

School Name

Castelar School was once called Castellar Street School after the street name and then Castelar Street School when the extra "l" was dropped by the City Council. In the 1950's, Hill Street extended to the north from downtown Los Angeles. On May 27, 1960, the City Council officially changed the name Castelar Street to North Hill Street to show the continuation northward of Hill Street. In 1965, the Los Angeles City Board of Education deleted the word "street" from the school name and it became Castelar School.

School Buildings

The original school building on Castelar and College Streets opened September, 1882 with four rooms and was two stories high. In 1890, it was remodeled and four more rooms were added. Two smaller rooms were used for kindergarten and a cooking school. In the summer of 1904, the school structure was destroyed by fire and a new wooden building was built in its place in 1904 with a child care center to the north of the school and a two story cafeteria to the south of it. The auditorium and main building on College and Yale Streets were added in 1923 but torn down and rebuilt in 1955 to make them safer in case of earthquake. The big frame building met all the strict requirements for earthquake protection. Both buildings had fire sprinkler protection, modern lighting, acoustic treatment, and electric clock and bell systems.

On July 30, 1973, the oldest wooden frame school in Los Angeles, which was Castelar School, and the Castelar School Children's Center were torn down for a modern building that would meet the present earthquake standards.

School Buildings (cont'd)

In 1977, a \$2.4 million two-story building on Yale Street with an underground garage was completed on the 2.7 acres of land.

Today in 1982, 100 years later, Castelar School consists of this modern building and the main building that was rebuilt in 1955. The 1955 rebuilt auditorium is at present being remodeled to become the Los Angeles Public Library, Chinatown Branch, which will also house the school's media center and school library.

In 100 years, Castelar School has transformed from a 4-room school to a 33-room school of distinction. It has the distinct features of being the second oldest continuing school in the district, the only school with an attached Children's Center, the only school with a public library on the grounds, and has the largest number of Indochinese refugee children of any school in the district. Castelar School also has the first Chinese principal.

Castelar School continues to educate students as the school population continues to grow. With the present facilities having a capacity for housing only 800 students, Castelar began a Year-Round Program in the 1981-82 school year to accomodate this growing student population that has numbered about 1100.

Emilio Castelar y Ripoll from Encyclopedia Brittanica

CASTELAR Y RIPOLL, EMILIO (b. Sept. 7, 1832, Cadiz, Spain - d. May 25, 1899, San Pedro del Pinatar), statesman and author who was one of the most powerful champions of Spanish Republicanism in the latter half of the 19th century, and who served as president of the first Spanish republic from September 1873 to January 1874.

Castelar was educated at the University of Madrid, where he became professor of history and took an active role in politics. He achieved fame as an orator and notoriety for his speeches against the monarchy, which activity lost him his chair in April 1865. After the abortive Republican rising of 1866, he was sentenced to death but escaped to France. After the successful Revolution of 1868, he returned and entered Parliament as an energetic and effective defender of Republican ideals.

When Castelar assumed leadership of the republic (1873-74), Spain was at the height of disturbance and turmoil. He strengthened the army and resolutely undertook to crush rebellion. He also embarked on a policy of conciliation with the Roman Catholic Church. His tactful and statesmanlike stance prevented rupture with the United States over the "Virginus" affair (Oct. 31, 1873), in which U.S. seamen were executed as pirates by Spain during a Cuban insurrection.

Castelar was ousted from office by Republican opposition to his conservative and conciliatory policies. A military coup followed, and he went into exile. After the accession of King Alfonso XII (1874 -85), Castelar returned and was elected to Parliament. Although he became reconciled to the monarchy, he continued to champion a unitary and conservative republic that would be established and run by legal and peaceful means. As leader of the opposition, he found himself increasingly estranged from the revolutionary and federalistic doctrines espoused by the extreme Republicans; yet he favoured religious toleration, universal suffrage, and the abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico.

Castelar also found time for literary and journalistic efforts and left behind him more than 90 works, including novels, histories, and political speeches.

CASTELLAR SCHOOL HISTORY -4

General Information (from Annual Reports, Board Minutes, newspapers, etc.)

June 5, 1882 Spring and Bath Street school properties condemned as unfit for school purposes and sold. In their place a 4 room building be erected near French Hospital.

July 15, 1882 W. S. Reavis, principal Castellar Street School

August 15, 1882 First installment of \$1600 paid contractors of Castellar School building

September 8, 1882 \$1800 paid contractors of Castellar Street schoolhouse.

December 27, 1882 Committee on Repairs instructed to see that the waste water from Castellar Street school find a proper place.

1882-83 Mrs. Cannon's 5th and 6th grade classes were composed of 1/3 Spanish surnames, 1 Jewish, remainder Anglo surnames

April 2, 1883 Application to use Castellar Street School for Sunday School purposes denied

May 22, 1883 President of the Board asked Council to fence Castellar with money in School Building fund

August 23, 1883 Faculty: W. S. Reavis, Principal
Mrs. Connor
Mrs. Hughs
Mrs. Cannon

August 30, 1883 Monthly pay: Reavis \$100
Connor 75
Hughs 75
Cannon 70

September 3, 1883 Mrs. Cannon transferred from Castellar to 8th Street School
Mrs. Jennings transferred from 8th Street School to Castellar

October 1, 1883 Superintendent instructed by Board to make double sessions at Castellar where necessary

April 8, 1884 Mrs. J.E.S. Bell substitute for Mr. Reavis.

Newspaper article, no date As enrolled in Castellar Street building 300, capacity (4 rooms) 200

CASTELAR SCHOOL HISTORY PACKET -5

General Information (cont'd)

1883-84	W. S. Reavis, Principal and 3/4 grades Mrs. C. M. Patten 5th grade Miss L. A. Jennings 6th grade Mrs. M. M. Hernes 7/8 grades																																				
1884-89	1885-86 total enrollment = 413 1886-87 total enrollment = 395																																				
1885-86	Miss L.F. Keller B1 Adeline Verhave Db1 session A2, B2, A1 Mrs. F.J. Fitzgerald Db1 session B4, A3 Mrs. DuBois, Principal and A5, B5, A4																																				
1886-87	8 female teachers 4 rooms 350 pupils 44 pupils per teacher																																				
1886-87	Miss Lizzie F. Keller B1 A.M. Cora M. Getchell B1 P.M. Adeline Verhave A1, B2 A.M. Anna Harris A1, B2 P.M. Mary McDonald A2, B3 A.M. Mrs. F.J. Fitzgerald A3, B4 P.M. M. H. Swift A4, B5 P.M. C.G. DuBois, Principal and A5, B6 A.M.																																				
1887-88	8 teachers includes Mrs. C.G. DuBois, Principal Mrs. F.J. Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal																																				
1888-89	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Yrs. Exp.</u></th> <th><u>Grade</u></th> <th><u>No. Desks</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Miss Cora Barnum</td> <td>5</td> <td>1-2</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss Mabel Davisson</td> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss Adeline Verhave</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss Cora Getchell</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss Mary McDonald</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss Louise Walters</td> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. C.G. DuBois, Princ.</td> <td>27</td> <td>4</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss Bertha Gordon, A.P.</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Yrs. Exp.</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. Desks</u>	Miss Cora Barnum	5	1-2	54	Miss Mabel Davisson	6			Miss Adeline Verhave	4	2	51	Miss Cora Getchell	4			Miss Mary McDonald	6	3	47	Miss Louise Walters	16			Mrs. C.G. DuBois, Princ.	27	4	52	Miss Bertha Gordon, A.P.	12	5	
	<u>Yrs. Exp.</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. Desks</u>																																		
Miss Cora Barnum	5	1-2	54																																		
Miss Mabel Davisson	6																																				
Miss Adeline Verhave	4	2	51																																		
Miss Cora Getchell	4																																				
Miss Mary McDonald	6	3	47																																		
Miss Louise Walters	16																																				
Mrs. C.G. DuBois, Princ.	27	4	52																																		
Miss Bertha Gordon, A.P.	12	5																																			
1889-90	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Semester</u></th> <th><u>No. Tchrs.</u></th> <th><u>Princ.</u></th> <th><u>A.P.</u></th> <th><u>Grades</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1-5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd</td> <td>8</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>K-6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Semester</u>	<u>No. Tchrs.</u>	<u>Princ.</u>	<u>A.P.</u>	<u>Grades</u>	1st	6	1	1	1-5	2nd	8	1		K-6																					
<u>Semester</u>	<u>No. Tchrs.</u>	<u>Princ.</u>	<u>A.P.</u>	<u>Grades</u>																																	
1st	6	1	1	1-5																																	
2nd	8	1		K-6																																	

CASTELLAR SCHOOL HISTORY PACKET -6

General Information (cont'd)

	<u>Semester</u>	<u>No. Tchrs.</u>	<u>Princ.</u>	<u>A.P.</u>	<u>Grades</u>
1891-92	1st	9	1		K-5
	2nd	9	1		K-6
1892-93	1st	9	1		K-6
	2nd	10	1 (DuBois)		K-7
1893-94	1st	11	1 (DuBois)		K-7
	2nd	10	1 (DuBois)		K-7
1894-95	1st	10	1 (Plummer)		K-7
				1	
	2nd	10	1 (Plummer)	1	K-7
1895-96	1st	14	1 (DuBois)		K-7
	2nd	12	1 (Plummer)		K-8
				1	

1903
 Kdgn. teacher paid \$60 month for 10 months
 Class includes 6 born in Mexico
 3 born in Italy
 1 born in Spain
 Anglos

Examiner
 September 24, 1904
 Dr. Powers, Health Officer, recommends that bath tubs have a place in every school building in the City. Some people object subjecting the pupils to the weakening effects of warm water. They also think it will be embarrassing situation if teacher sends pupil to wash up. The Board of Education will decide the Castellar controversy. The Amelia Street School principal says it has been a great success.

June 20, 1912
 Finance Committee Report. On the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it was passed that Castellar Street School conduct a Penny Lunch program, school lunch not to exceed \$80 per month.

Early 1920's
 Large number of Mexican American students. Placed in Foreign Ungraded classes.

Mid 1920's
 Some Japanese names appear.
 First Chinese, Mary Jane Fong

1980-81	42 teachers	1200 students	1 Princ.	1 A.P.	K-6
1981-82	42 "	1100 "	1 "	1 "	K-6
1982-83	41 "	1000 "	1 "	1 "	K-6

Early Days notes of the immediate surroundings of the Chinatown Branch Library

In the early days of the Pueblo, Yale Street ended in a cañon that made a natural corral for the animals -

On Sunday and Holidays, Roderos and Bull fights took place here - also popular then was the "Correr el gallo" where the horseman riding at top speed bonded to pick up a poor fowl buried in the ground. Then the street was called "Calle de Toro" or the "Street of the Bull" -

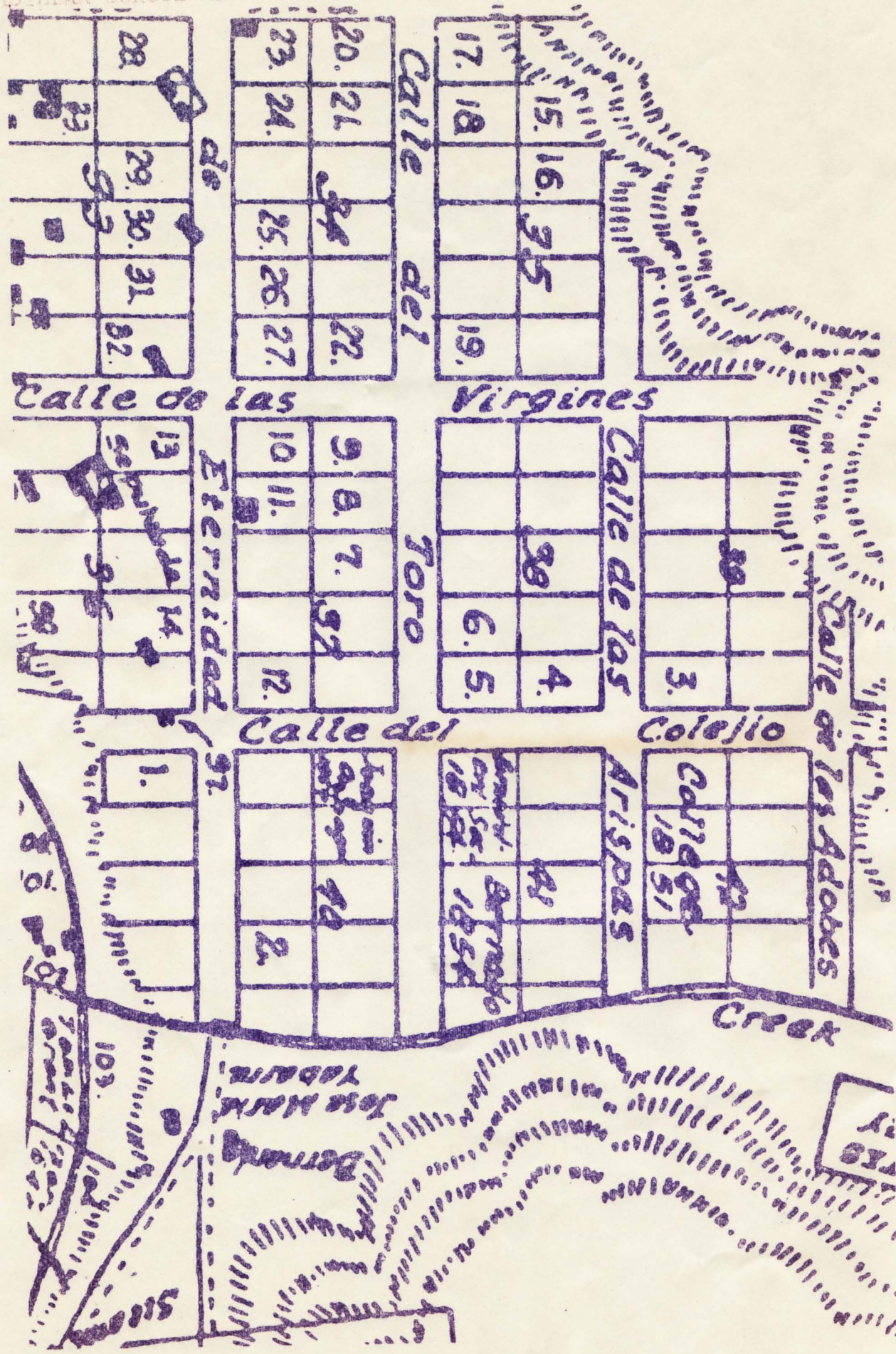
Before the French Hospital was built, it was the site of a huge warehouse ^{a barn-like wooden building}. It was a busy place where town folks came to buy their goods. Goods carried in an ox drawn carts from Chinese and East Coast vessels anchored in San Pedro Bay. Anglinos traded sheep and cattle products with imported goods much needed here - around 1870 The French Benevolent Society began construction of the first unit of the French Hospital.

The wonderful Sarah Bixby Smith who for many years lived on Court Street hill which at the time overlooked this area wrote in her California Classic "Adobe Days" the following:

"Who that saw the many-footed dragon that wound its silken, glistening way out of Chinatown into the streets can ever forget its beauty? Or the floats that carried enchanting little Chinese children wearing their ~~and~~ vivid embroidered garments and beaded head-dresses? Alas, they are buried now in their American coveralls and corduroys' —

As ~~far~~ back as in her days, at the turn of the century, she was lamenting with the fear of losing these beautiful customs —

Leo Politi



EARLY DAYS NOTES OF THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS OF THE
CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY

In the early days of the Pueblo, Yale Street ended in a canyon that made a natural corral for the animals.

On Sunday and holidays, rodeos and bullfights took place here. Also popular then was the "Correr el gallo" where the horseman riding at top speed bended to pick up a poor fowl buried in the ground. Then the street was called "Calle de Toro" or the "Street of the Bull".

Before the French Hospital was built, it was the site of a huge warehouse, a barn-like wooden building. It was a busy place where town folks came to buy their goods--goods carried in on ox-drawn carts from Chinese and East Coast vessels anchored in San Pedro Bay. Angelinos traded sheep and cattle products with imported goods much needed here.

Around 1870, the French Benevolent Society began construction of the first unito of the French Hospital.

The wonderful Sarah Bixby Smith who for many years lived on Court Street hill which at the time overlooked this area wrote in her California Classic "Adobe Days" the following:

"Who that saw the many-footed dragon that wound its silken, glistening way out of Chinatown into the streets can ever forget its beauty? Or the floats that carried enchanting little Chinese children wearing their vivid embroidered garments and beaded head-dresses? Alas, they are buried now in their American coveralls and corduroys."

As far back as in her days, at the turn of the century, she was lamenting with the fear of losing these beautiful customs.