

Looking Back

August 28, 2005

John W. House, M.D.
House Clinic
3rd and Alvarado
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Dr. House:

Enclosed please find a picture of your House Clinic location back in 1941. This is the view from the Alvarado side, which was the entrance. A dirt parking lot was in the rear where yours is located now. I lived here during 1941 with approximately 20-25 other people and paid \$7.50 per week with breakfast and supper included. I got my first job after watchmaker's school in Glendale at Al Holman Time Equipment on West 11th Street. It was located near where the convention is now. My job was to repair the watchman's clocks. My starting salary was \$15.00 per week.

I lived at this boarding house called "Hilltop Hotel" until January 17, 1942, when I stood in line on Main Street for three days to join the air force. This "Hilltop Hotel" had a circular staircase and a lot of wood-carved décor. It was a beautiful place that was probably a victim of the Depression. I don't know when it was demolished. I went by there one time some time later and a service station had taken its place. I think St. Vincent Hospital was also there at that time.

I felt fortunate in returning to the site to be treated by physicians at the House Clinic. My visits with the doctors were congenial and I felt confident in their observations. Now it is just the decision of which hearing aid to get.

Thank you for your interest. You may keep the picture.

Sincerely,

Jake E.
Dinuba, CA





House Clinic
Advancing Hearing Treatments

Dear Mr. E:

Thank you very much for your kindness in sending me a picture of the boarding house called "Hilltop Hotel." What a beautiful building that was, and what it must have been when it was built in the late 1800s! It is a shame that these older buildings were not preserved in their original condition. I am going to treasure this picture, and I may use it in some of our publications for "House" to show what our current site originally looked like. You are correct; a gas station stood on this corner for many years and was ultimately torn down to make way for a parking lot. The spot where the Hilltop Hotel used to be is now the northeast corner of the House Clinic and House Ear Institute.

Sincerely yours,

John W. House, M.D.
House Clinic