



**CARRILLO SCHOOL**  
**440 S. Main**  
**1930**



Carrillo School was named after Leopoldo Carrillo who was responsible, in the late 1800's for Carrillo gardens. The Carrillo family owned the property on which the school now stands and the properties west and north.

*Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #69676*

The original school did not have a south wing. The new wing made possible a library and two upstairs classrooms and a basement auditorium (later converted to classrooms).



**TRADITION** Las Posadas is the reenactment of the journey of Joseph and Mary and the Christ child looking for shelter. Las Posadas began in 1937 led by Ms. Collier. The tradition has continued each year. Children from the school learn the traditional songs and on the appointed night in December the streets are blocked off and the children create a long procession carrying the crèche (manger scene) through the neighborhood. The entire Tucson community is invited to attend.

**FOLKLORE** Ms. Collier wore her long hair either down or as a bun wrapped over her left ear. The rumor began among the children that the hair style had a purpose...it covered her missing ear! Mrs. Segerstrom, the second director of Las Posadas, and student teacher to Ms. Collier, attended a La Pilita Museum exhibit in 2007. Mrs. Segerstrom put the rumor to rest when she confirmed that Ms Collier did indeed have a left ear.

**FOLKLORE** There is a tiny window on the upper story where the north wing meets the main building. That window opens on a closet where the school traditionally stores the costumes for the Las Posadas. The folklore is that at night the ghost of the nurse who was slain by the custodian can be seen in that window. There is no written history of a murdered nurse, but the story persists.

