

# ELYSIAN GROVE

## 1903-1921

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Carrillo gardens was purchased from Leopoldo Carrillo's daughter in 1903 by Emanuel Drachman. The new name "Eysian Grove" was likely inspired by the Elysian Fields of Greek mythology. To this day, residents refer to their neighborhood as El Jardin in memory of the lovely gardens here.

Drachman and his brothers continued the legacy of a park-like place for citizens to come on the weekends. There were saloons and dance halls here, and even a skating rink.

There was good reason to ride the mule trolley to The Grove. There were barbecues, greyhound races, and baseball games (Manny Drachman was the first to throw a curve ball in AZ). People came to see the latest entertainment experiment of the young Drachman brothers.

Those experiments provided many of the "firsts" of Tucson. Here in 1903 was the first movie show "The Great Train Robbery". The show was outdoors using a hand-cranked projector. Electricity had arrived in Tucson only six years previously.

Here in 1910 was the first dog race. During the race one dog caught the fake rabbit and wandered off with the cloth ear.

The first airplane show took place in 1910. The plane reached the great speed of 35 mph and an altitude of 900 feet. There were four crashes, however, into a low fence. Profits were undermined by the fact that folks could see easily over the fence...so why pay admission? The pilot, Charles, the Birdman, Hamilton received \$2000 for the show.



*Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #7690*

Above: Chinese vendor at Elysian Grove. Farms between the Santa Cruz River and Elysian Grove Park produced vegetables and fruit for the Chinese who farmed them. Vendors would bring their produce to town and to the gardens to sell.

Below: 1906 celebration in Elysian Grove of Tucson's first electric street cars.



*Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #27187*

