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THE LEFTOVERS

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Good-Bye, Adachi Nursery

For over 50 years, since 1967, the Adachi Florist and Nursery has been an integral part of our local economy, and a favorite place to purchase flowers, plants, and gardening supplies. Members of the Adachi family were always on hand to offer advice and tips on growing flowers and vegetables in our challenging soil. That is now all in the past. As of June 21 of this year, the store has closed for good.

The closing of the El Sobrante outlet represents the ending of an era. The Adachi family started their first nursery business in El Cerrito in 1905. That business, located about where the El Cerrito Home Depot is today, closed in 1992.



El Cerrito Adachi shop 1930s.

In time, the children of the children of the original founders took over the running of the El Sobrante business. As such things go their children were not interested in carrying on in the same family tradition. And of course, there were strong economic reasons for closure; flower growers and nurseries have a hard time in this climate of skyrocketing land prices and overseas competition.

The El Sobrante Nursery, located at the corner of Valley View Road and Sobrante Avenue, opened on Saturday, March 11, 1967. Guided tours were conducted all day. Prizes were awarded, including power (both gas and electric) lawn mowers.

Adachi NURSERY
1111 Van Riper Ave. El Cerrito

GRAND OPENING SALE!

PANSIES
Work a little posy magic on those empty beds and drivs borders! Just a few weeks from now they can be masses of color with these sturdy, easy-to-grow flowers. Jumbo size, mixed colors, in peony packs. **49¢** per box.

JAPANESE BLACK PINE
A wonderful container plant for falls or decorating in the hottest months. Dark lustrous needles and handsome shape make these a natural for annual effects. Gal. size, reg. price \$2.50. **99¢** GAL. SIZE

PRICES GOOD AT BOTH STORES!
Both our new El Sobrante nursery and our older place in El Cerrito have been stacked check full in celebration of this event! ... Hundreds and hundreds of special buys! Banners and dozens of gifts for all comers... plus a chance for a real big door prize for many! Don't miss this! **SALE STARTS TODAY THRU MARCH 1967**

88¢ SPECIALS **66¢ SPECIALS** **99¢ SPECIALS** **WIN!**

This ad appeared in the local *El Sobrante Herald* on March 9, 1967.

At right are some of the local businesses that added their best wishes for the success of the new nursery business. In fact, the Adachi Nursery lasted far longer than most of the businesses on this list, none of which is in operation today.



Nursery at the time of its opening

The Adachi Nursery was designed by the firm of Hardison and Komatsu. Donald Hardison was a local architect who was heavily influenced by Japanese design. He achieved national recognition with his design of the Easter Hill housing project in Richmond (constructed in 1954). This was one of the few housing projects built in Richmond following World War II to accommodate the workers drawn to the Kaiser Shipyards (the hastily constructed projects built during the war were torn down following the

WELCOME!
Greetings to our new neighbor
with every wish for success—
From your fellow area merchants

ARVY JAY GOMES
INSURANCE BROKER
450 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Phone: 223-5331

CHUCK'S
VALLEY VIEW BARBER SHOP
4211 Valley View Road, El Sobrante
Phone: 223-0650

DICK'S RADIO & TV SERVICE
4207 Valley View Road, El Sobrante
Phone: 222-1533

FOWLER'S JR. DEPT. STORE
425 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Phone: 223-2741

LITTLE ACORN COFFEE SHOP
5070 Appian Way, El Sobrante
(in the 7 Oaks Center)
Phone: 223-7542

7 OAKS COIFFEURS
WIG STYLING & SALES
5070 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Phone: 223-7432

7 Oaks Laundrette - Dry Cleaner
5074 - 5078 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Phone: 223-3163

5106 Appian Way
El Sobrante Phone: 223-4441

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end of the conflict). Richard Komatsu was a fellow graduate of UC Berkeley.



As stated above, the El Cerrito store closed in 1992. This aerial view of the Nursery was probably taken about that time. Shortly after this picture was taken, Valley View Road was widened to 4 lanes, which caused the closure of the Horseshoe Tavern just visible at the lower left.



We visited the nursery just prior to its closing, and were able to take a few pictures and pick up some artifacts to add to our growing collection. We chatted with both Paul and Ken Adachi about their experiences here in El Sobrante and their plans for the future. Both men are looking forward to retirement, but it was clear

that this ending was a little unsettling. They grew up in and around this demanding business and the future is yet unclear. But that is the nature of retirement. We sincerely wish them the best. Above, Ken Adachi with wife Myrna

At right, Paul Adachi making final preparations for the closing of the Adachi Nursery in El Sobrante



New Acquisitions:

All courtesy of Paul Adachi and the Adachi Family



Large painting of Adachi Nursery and Florist. Artist unknown. Probably dates from 1992 or shortly thereafter; the store sign was taken from the El Cerrito store, which closed in 1992.



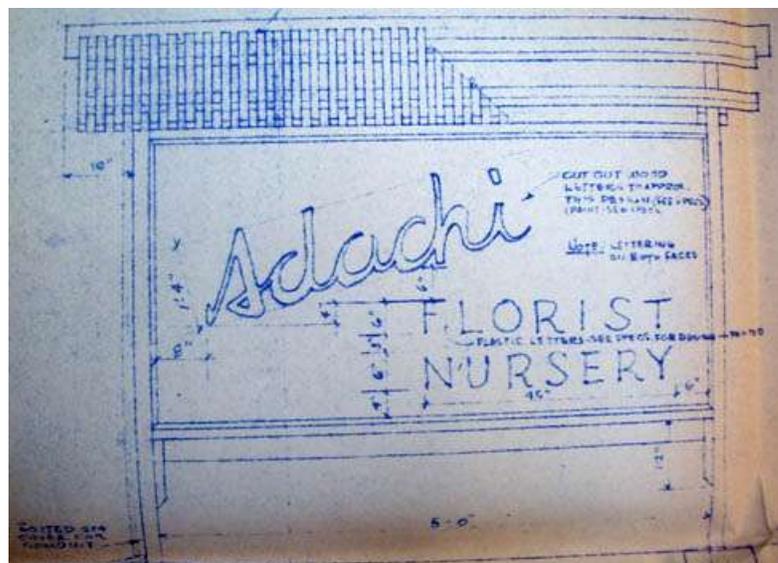
Large colored (watercolor and pen) rendering of new Adachi nursery, done by architectural firm of Hardison and Komatsu, December, 1965



Nursery Signs



From top left, clockwise: Can cutter. Used to cut open metal potting cans. Not used for years since industry changed to plastic cans.



Quadruple hole punch. Used to punch weep holes in metal potting cans. Like the can cutter, this device has not been used for years and is probably quite rare.

Architectural blueprint, from the firm of Hardison and Komatsu, for new El Sobrante Adachi Florist and Nursery structure, dated 1966.

Rancho Line Exhibit Update:

In the fall, 2016 edition of our newsletter, we reported on tentative progress being made on the installation of historic markers showing the actual location of the boundary line between the Rancho San Pablo and the Rancho El Sobrante. Point man on this project is Maurice Abraham, who has been in regular contact with the County Public Works department. The County is currently finalizing plans to construct sidewalks on both sides of San Pablo Dam Road between Appian Way and May Road. The historic boundary line between the two Castro-family grants lies within this area, between Clark Road and Milton Drive. According to County engineer Trevor McGuire, their study indicates that space exists for markers on both sides of the street. Additionally, it is the County's understanding that installation of the markers will be done at County expense, while cost of the markers will be borne by the Historical Society. According to Mr. McGuire, "I think there is a lot of potential for this to be a really special addition to the project and I'm excited to see what the historical society proposes as a design." We'll keep you posted.

Remembering Robert (Bob) Jeha



We were sorry to hear of the passing, on June 24th of this year, of Robert Jeha, founder of the Park Rexall pharmacy in El Sobrante. As you know, the pharmacy just recently closed after almost 60 years in operation.

Bob, along with his brother Richard (Dick) were early entrepreneurs in El Sobrante. Dick opened the Park Theatre in 1949. Bob opened a little pharmacy that was attached to the theatre building in 1955, expanding to the larger building in 1961.



Sadly, we are losing not only our pioneers but the evidence of their time with us.

**See you at the Stroll!
Sunday, September 17**

The Leftovers is published quarterly. Articles for publication are encouraged, as are comments. See e-mail address below.

The El Sobrante Historical Society is an informal nonprofit organization, dedicated solely to the preservation and display of the history of the community of El Sobrante. We depend on our members and local residents for the information, artifacts, and photographs that make up the society's collection. Become a member and help out! It's free and simple. Just visit the website, at eshist.org.

Visit us on **Facebook**.

Mission Statement

To promote the awareness and appreciation of El Sobrante Valley history through preservation and education, and chronicling of the community's heritage for current and future generations.

ESHS Steering Committee:

1. Maurice Abraham:

Administrator, Facebook Page;
Historical Researcher and writer.

2. Donald Bastin:

Administrator,
Website; Newsletter Editor;
Historical Researcher and writer.

3. Steve James: Membership and
Communication Secretary;

4. Lyle Miller: Community Liaison
and general support.

Visit us on-line at: www.eshist.org

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