



Above: The Hollywood Hotel dominated Hollywood Boulevard at Highland Avenue in 1910 (demolished).

Below: The dining room of the Hollywood Hotel.

Hershey had her hands full once she decided to rent to actors. Suddenly, she found herself policing her tenants. Slight infractions included catching them with an extra dish of peas when she counted their courses. Worse ones involved sex. Miss Hershey tapped nightly on the doors of starlets to ensure they were in their own beds and alone. If not, they got evicted. She was powerless, however, when it came to drinking. As actors smuggled booze into her dining room, she watched helplessly as the level of hilarity ballooned around her.

Thursday night dances in the lobby, a left-over from the hotel's tourist days, proved another headache. The thirsty thespians at these socials stayed well lubricated in no-drinking Hollywood. While a string quartet of lady musicians played refined selections, actors sashayed among the more arthritic hotel guests as Miss Hershey shoved amorous couples apart on the dance floor, ordering them off if they got too lewd. Anita Loos wrote that everyone laughed behind Hershey's back when she admired two young ladies so much for dancing together — they were lesbians.

From 1912-1925, Mira Hershey's yellow hotel saw a thriving business. Hershey found companionship in her sunset years with the movie mothers, who liked to knit on the veranda. Many of Hershey's guests became huge stars, like Nazimova, Valentino and Garbo. Many guests discovered that their film careers spanned only ten years. So many famous people signed the register of the Hollywood Hotel, it is now in the Smithsonian Institute.





## HOME TO THE STARS

If local residents chose to ignore movies, the feeling was mutual. Movie people didn't even mix with workers from other studios. To vagabond performers, Hollywood represented a paradise of sunny streets and airy homes. Used to dark hotel rooms, they marveled at the beautiful high desert a few steps from Hollywood Boulevard. At night,

when the coyotes howled under a star-filled sky, the romance of the place was obvious.

Cecil B. DeMille became the first "movie" to have a house in Hollywood, renting a shack in the Cahuenga Pass. The road was so bad that DeMille rode a horse to the studio, relishing the pioneer existence. He even claimed someone shot at him in

*Above:* Cecil B. DeMille's first Hollywood home (at left) in the Cahuenga Pass, 1913 (demolished).

*Left:* Cecil B. DeMille built his permanent home in Laughlin Park, north of Franklin Avenue and east of Western Avenue. Flower and vegetable plots remained on the north side of Los Feliz Boulevard for years.

