



Twenty years ago the land on which the magnificent structure, known as the Barker Block, is built, was used as a dairy ranch and as a nursery for growing fruit trees and ornamental shrubbery. Mr. J. L. Barker, the builder and owner of this beautiful building, has had a fixed opinion that the many advantages in Berkeley and its environment for homes and commerce was superior to any on the Pacific Coast. For nearly a quarter of a century he has given a large portion of his time in building the "Beautiful Berkeley." When the first trains passed up Shattuck avenue past Dwight Way there were only eight daily trains, now there are over 100, including street cars. In accessibility, climate, pleasant and attractive homes the Barker Block is most favorably situated, and Mr. Barker's prophecy that this locality would be a great commercial center has been fully realized.