

22.

Lawndale – Colma

ALTHOUGH THE ELECTION of 1911 created the City of Daly City, annexation continued to occupy the minds of the citizens of northern San Mateo County. From its birth Daly City spread in all directions, annexing plots of land and whole districts, including the business area of Colma, the western sand dunes, and even a portion of the Colma Hills, until it stretched from the San Bruno Mountain to the Pacific Ocean.

Watching Daly City's growth, the proprietors of the cemeteries, together with the florists and ranchers, restated their old fears of city regulations and determined to resist the southern march of Daly City.

As a result, long, bitter debates between Daly City and Colma residents accompanied each annexation scheme that was proposed. Sometimes life-long friendships were shattered and long feuds were created in their stead.¹ Even among the children the battles of incorporation caused fights at school with tomatoes and eggs serving as bullets.

Apart from the threat of annexation to Daly City, the owners of the cemeteries and the residents of Colma were worried that San Francisco would be able to enlarge its boundaries by annexing unincorporated lands in San Mateo County. On August 11, 1924, therefore, the owners of the cemeteries and the lands that surrounded them agreed to incorporate into a town they called Memorial Park.

They soon learned that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors would not permit the use of the name they had chosen, since there was already a Memorial Park in the county. On the spur of the moment, they proposed the name of Lawndale, which was accepted, only to be rejected by the United States Post Office Department.

Finally the matter of a name was submitted to a vote of the people of the area who decided to use the old name of Colma for their newly created town. Then its newly elected mayor, Mattrup Jensen, who was the General Superintendent of Mount Olivet Cemetery, wrote, "I am the Father of the City of Lawndale, name now Colma, the only city of its kind in the world May it always be held sacred to posterity."²

At the beginning of 1973, Colma covered an area of one and eight-tenths square miles. It is governed by a five man city council. One member of the council is named mayor and presides over meetings, which are held twice monthly.

The city has a city clerk and a treasurer, who are elected, and a chief of police. At night and on week-ends further police protection is furnished by the special district of Broadmoor. Fire protection is provided by the Colma Fire District.

PRESENT CITY HALL
OF THE CITY OF COLMA



below: COLMA HOME ON HILLSIDE BOULEVARD NEXT TO
PETS REST CEMETERY



ST. ANN'S CHURCH, COLMA—DEDICATED IN 1864





HENRY DOELGER—DEVELOPER & BUILDER