

# THEN AND NOW



Despite a decade of worldwide economic depression, H. Spencer Lewis's vision of Rosicrucian Park, seen at left in an aerial photo in 1939, came to fruition. Beginning at the top center of the photo and moving clockwise, we see the Egyptian Obelisk (in its previous location), Planetarium, Park Portal, Francis Bacon Auditorium, AMORC Administration buildings (previous), and the Egyptian, Oriental Museum. A rounded section of the building (behind the Museum) contained the private office of Emperor H. Spencer Lewis, behind which can be seen the two radio broadcast towers of AMORC.

In the center of Rosicrucian Park are the Plaza Fountain, Akhnaton Shrine, and Rose-Croix University Building – behind which is the just-completed Rosicrucian Research Library. Adjacent to the Library (left center side of photo) is a large vacant lot, the eventual site of the Grand Temple, constructed in 1949. As can be seen, in 1939, there were still a number of private homes occupying the city block that was rapidly becoming Rosicrucian Park. Emperor Ralph Lewis later purchased these homes and removed them.

Today's verdant Rosicrucian Park, seen at right, is an oasis in San Jose, now the tenth largest city in the United States. Lush gardens and the coolness of shade trees welcome and refresh guests. The Grand Temple (1949, top left with solar panels and golden roof trim), the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum (1966, top center with solar panels on white roof), Administration Building (1971, right center), Peace Garden and Alchemy Garden (2004 and 2014 respectively, behind the Administration Building), Medicinal Native Plants Garden and Labyrinth (2015, left center) are all additions after 1939.

