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Though we all attend AHS, how many of us are aware of the history behind our school? We all know that our mascot is the Moor and that our school has been influenced by the Alhambra in Spain. However, many do not know why our school has adopted the Moor as our mascot or why our school was founded. Perhaps it is time to explore the roots of AHS, from the original Alhambra and the Moors in Spain to our establishment in 1898 and the achievements we've accomplished since then.

ANGELA YANG Staff Writer

Moor About the Start

ORIGINS OF THE MOOR

DEREK WU
Staff Writer

AHS was not the first institute established in the San Gabriel Valley. In 1886, Alhambra citizens desired to establish their own school that would be separate from the districts. Old Mill Creek became the line that separated Alhambra and San Gabriel. Students from Alhambra set up classes on South Chapel in a redwood cabin. Later that year, the building caught on fire; however, a bond resided among the students and another school was built in 1898 between Second and Third Streets, where we reside today.

Current day AHS has changed much over the last 116 years and has been awarded several times in different categories. In 2007, Alhambra High School won a "California Distinguished School" award, rating 8 out of 10. AHS also boasts several Allmont Leagues awards won in baseball, basketball, football and track and field in several years. Clubs are also offered therefore providing a wide range of interests such as volunteering.

AHS has changed and thrived through the 116 years, and AHS will continue to provide excellent academics in the future.

ALL ABOUT ALHAMBRA

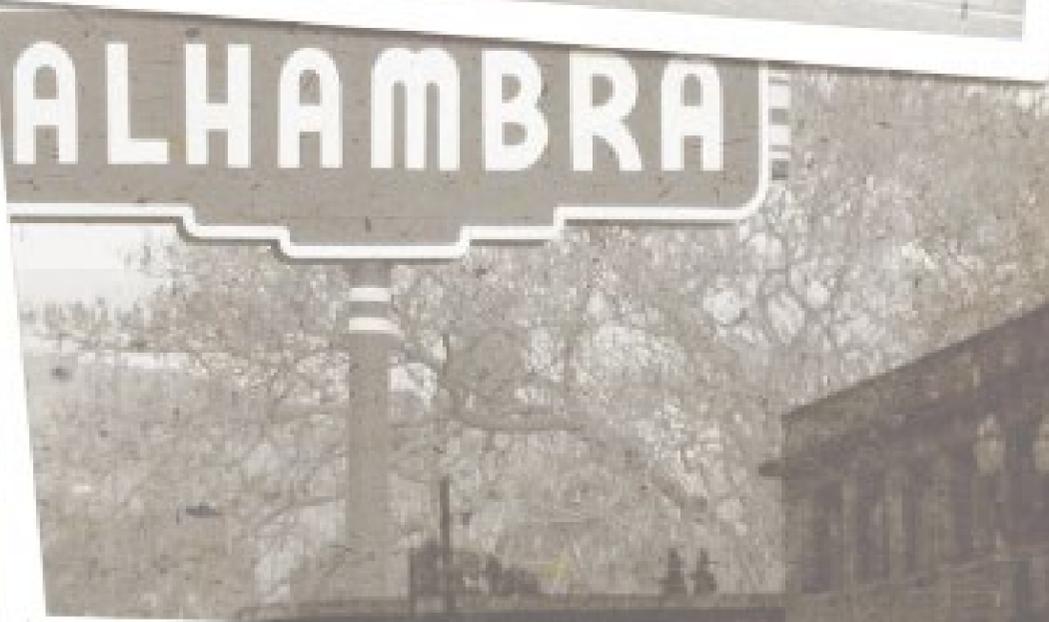
REBECCA ZENG
Staff Writer

You might think that some fancy, prestigious officer got to name our beloved city, but no—the person who named our city was actually a 10-year-old girl named Ruth Wilson. Ruth and her sister were reading a book called *Tales of the Alhambra* when their father bought the land that would soon be known as Alhambra.

However, the Alhambra we know is unlike the Alhambra in *Tales of the Alhambra*. The Alhambra in the book is about a Spanish palace, whereas the Alhambra we live in is a city. Another difference between the Alhambra in Spain and the city of Alhambra is the difference in the population. No one currently lives in the palace, but there were once 2,000 residents in the Alhambra. According to the U.S. Census in 2010, about 84,322 people live in the city of Alhambra.

In addition, the City of Alhambra website shows many fun facts and figures about our city. For example, did you know that the annual rainfall of Alhambra is recorded as about 13 inches? The average temperature of the city is about 73 degrees Fahrenheit. The City of Alhambra website even goes as far as stating that there are over 18,000 trees in the city of Alhambra.

Those facts, and many others, show that even while several of us have lived in Alhambra for quite a while, we still have a lot to learn about our beloved city.



A MOOR HISTORY

JANET GUAN
Staff Writer

By looking at our mascot's weapon of choice, many can tell that the Moor symbolizes our school's fighting spirit. However, numerous students do not know the origins of the Moor.

The word "Moors" refers to the Muslim inhabitants of the Iberian Peninsula in 711 A.D. These invaders were usually known to originate from Algeria or Morocco. Although set to conquer more European land, the Moors were resisted by surrounding people. However, in the lands they did take over, the Moors were able to convert multiple Iberians to Islam. The Moor state gradually declined in influence as it split into separate factions and as the Reconquista in the 15th century drove the remaining Muslims out of Spain. Nevertheless, the Moors left behind significant remnants of their past, such as buildings and art forms, which still stand today.

One such building that represents the Islamic presence in Spain is the Alhambra, a palace found in Granada, Andalusia, Spain. Its original purpose was to be a small fortress, until it was renovated by Moorish king Mohammed Ben Al-Ahmar of the Kingdom of Granada. The palace was seldom used after the Reconquista and gradually fell into disrepair. After being rediscovered in the 19th century by European tourists and undergone renovations, the Alhambra is a United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site, housing both Islamic and Christian influences.

In 1874, Benjamin D. Wilson bought 275 acres of land between the Arroyo, a seasonal river and canyon, and the Old Mill Wash. Wilson named his venture "Alhambra" as his daughter Ruth had insisted, since she had been reading Washington Irving's book *Tales of the Alhambra* along with her sister Anne.

The great Alhambra palace in Spain inspired our city's name, as well as our school's name. The Moor serves as the well-fitting mascot behind our home's namesake.

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