



# Altadena Historical Society

From our Files

*Business*

*November 26, 2010*

## Altadena Landmark Likely to Change Ownership



*Caption above photo: "The soda fountain at Webster's during the late thirties and early forties. H. F. Webster in the right rear."*

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The sale of Webster's is pending. The former owners of South Pasadena's Fair Oaks Pharmacy and Soda Fountain, Michael and Meredith Miller, will likely own our Altadena landmark by the beginning of the year. The text below is a brief description of Webster's early history from the May 1, 1975, edition of the Altadena-Pasadena newspaper.

"This striving commercial enterprise stands as a testimonial to its founder, Harold F. Webster, and his belief in Altadena and its future." Webster studied pharmacy at USC. In 1926 he and his brother purchased Bailey's Drugstore, located on Lake Avenue north of the old La Mariposa hotel. After buying out his brother's share of the business, Webster built a career making him "the best known and well-liked merchant of the area." Pre-World War II Altadenans enjoyed Webster's soda fountain. Webster enforced a strict moral

code: "No underage smoking and no swearing or out you went with a call to your parents." For those waiting for prescriptions to be filled, there was time for a coke at the soda fountain, "and it usually wound up being on the house."

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*Caption photo below: "Pictorial evidence of the complete stock of drugs and drug merchandise which H. F. Webster maintains at his drug store at Lake and Mariposa is given here. In addition to the many departments which helps to make this store a complete shopping center, the rear office is in charge of a registered pharmacist at all times."*



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