



*Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society*

No. 16

**WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

October 1984

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**NEWSLETTER**

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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the residents of the West Pasadena and San Rafael areas about issues of possible concern. It is the hope of WPRA to publish this newsletter four times a year. I'd like to keep the newsletter informal, and I would welcome any news articles, suggestions, comments, and help.

Virginia Kimball — (213) 258-3524

**MEETINGS**

WPRA Meetings are held monthly at various homes, usually the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Residents are always welcome. Please call Annette Serrurier, WPRA Secretary, for the date, time, and place (799-2556).

## ARROYO SECO PROJECT

If all goes well, we will soon see a welcome addition to the Lower Arroyo Seco. On July 31, 1984, the City Board of Directors endorsed a plan to divert water from the flood control channel, creating a 300 yard free flowing stream along the east side of the channel from the El Circulo Bridge/slippery slide to a point below La Casita, where the water will return to the channel.

The stream is part of the City's Lower Arroyo Master Plan adopted in 1982. The purpose of the stream is to introduce and maintain free flowing water throughout the year in the area east of the existing concrete channel so that we can restore a natural setting like that which existed many years ago.

The City Board has appointed a committee consisting of WPRA members Charles McKen-

ney, George McQuilken, John Fauvre, Parks and Recreation Committee members Norm Johnson and George Littke, Margaret Correll and Vice Mayor John Crowley to implement the program. The Committee will use a combination of City funds and equipment, private donations, and on two weekends this Fall, local manpower, to build the stream.

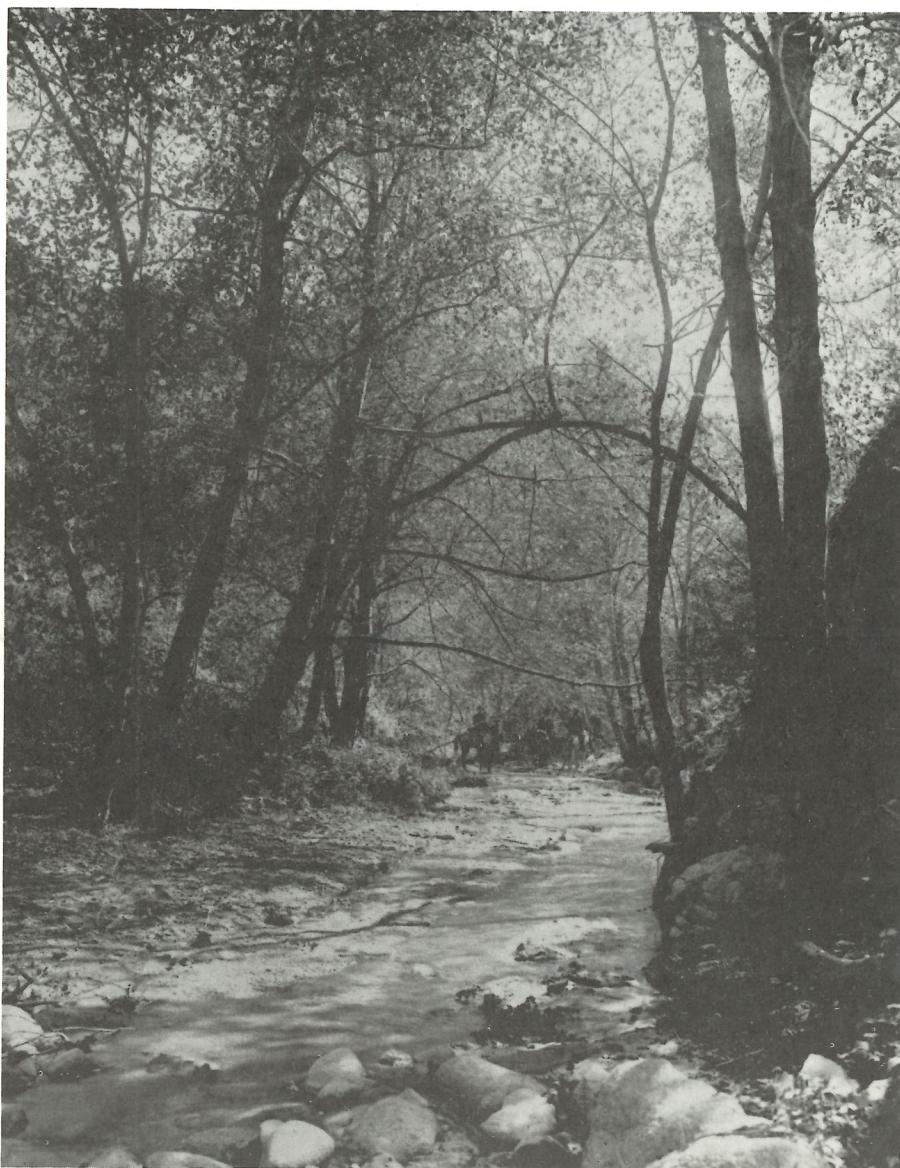
The WPRA Board has endorsed the program as a welcome change in the Arroyo.

If you are interested in contributing yourself or your tools to making a free flowing stream in the Arroyo, call Charles McKenney, 682-1269, or you can send a contribution to the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Foundation, 100 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109. Earmark your contribution for the Lower Arroyo Project.



*Crossing the Arroyo Seco, 1897. Photo Courtesy Pasadena Public Library, Adam Clarke Vroman Collection*





*The Arroyo Seco in 1900. Photo Courtesy Pasadena Public Library, Adam Clarke Vroman Collection.*

## REPORT FROM WILLIAM J. BOGAARD

### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Plans are moving into high gear for the 100th birthday of the City of Pasadena, which occurs in June, 1986. Interest on the part of Pasadena citizens and organizations is great. The City Board is forming an organizing committee which will ultimately be expanded to the Citizens Centennial Committee, which will coordinate the various centennial celebrations. Interested persons are invited to contact the office of the Mayor, 405-4311.

### CABLE TELEVISION

A ceremony was recently held to mark the beginning of the installation of the cable television network in the City. The franchise operator, Falcon Communications, informs us that the network will be completed in mid-1986. The construction is being done first in southwest Pasadena and interested persons will be able to have cable service in the southwest before the end of 1984. Information about the services and charges are available from the Pasadena headquarters of Falcon Communications.

### PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

A proposition has been placed on the November 6 ballot for voter approval of a proposed new Public Safety building which will provide the Pasadena Police Department with a modern and efficient headquarters and communications center. The new building would be located on Marengo Avenue, south of Walnut Street. The approval requires the favorable vote of two-thirds of the voters in the November 6 election and would result in an assessment for commercial businesses of \$100 per year and for residences of \$40 per year. The City Board believes that significant efficiencies can be achieved by the Police Department in a new facility.

### ARROYO SECO

It appears that agreement is being reached between the City and the San Pasqual stables in South Pasadena for the repair and restoration of the Arroyo Seco park area that has been used by the stables in recent years for storage and other inappropriate purposes. Manage-

ment of the stables has agreed to a work program of corrective action that will be carried out during the next 60 days.

### ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Singer Park Neighborhood

Pasadena Heritage will conduct walking tours of the Singer Park Neighborhood on Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for \$7.00 (\$4.00 for members of Pasadena Heritage). Docents will guide small groups through the neighborhood, focusing on portions of St. John Avenue, Markham Place, and Congress Place. Many of Pasadena's earliest residents lived in this area where homes now date from 1887. The neighborhood reveals a progression of architectural development from Victorian to contemporary. The tour will include several interior visits and light refreshments. Reservations are essential. Call Pasadena Heritage at (818) 793-0617.

### DIAL-A-RIDE

Utilizing Proposition A funds, Pasadena is going to have a Dial-a-Ride Program. This program will be available to handicapped people and seniors (60 years and over). Each ride will cost 50 cents, and there will be no income limitation. Taxi-cabs and non-emergency medical vehicles will provide transportation. Service will not begin until October 22nd, but interested persons may sign up by calling 405-4094.





## WPRA RESTAURANT NOTES

It used to be that one couldn't really *dine* out in West Pasadena. Oh, you could *eat* at a couple of down-home friendly eateries, but if you wore your new pair of Levis, you might have been considered over-dressed. The only exception was the Nightwatch, and that doesn't count because it's too dark to see anybody.

But times have changed. Urban chic has come to West Pasadena. Colorado Boulevard has been sprouting restaurants faster than roses, and most of these are on our side of town.

From Stoney Point, a small well-kept secret at 1460 West Colorado, past the Ritz Grill, and Chicago for Ribs, to Rossicler, at 24 West Colorado, it's getting hard to keep up with all the new restaurants. The Ritz Grill (168 West Colorado) is the newest entry. It's part of the Tanner Market complex, located where that funny gas station used to be. The Ritz Grill seems to be one of the "in" places to go — the people who have been there say they like it, and the people who haven't keep quiet and pretend they have. I'm not saying.

Chicago for Ribs is also quite new. It's that Art Deco place on the south side of Colorado (90 West). The decor is trendy. Restaurants used to be red leather and dark wood — now they're mauve (or is it puce?) with palms or cactus. But the ribs, both pork and beef, are terrific and the service is good.

Besides the restaurants that are officially within WPRA borders, there are many new ones within a few blocks of Fair Oaks and Colorado, our northeastern corner. You don't have to drive far to dine out now — and although it's not really necessary, you can even dress up.

### STILL UNSOLVED: THE CASE OF THE MISSING FLUTE

An engraved flute is still missing from San Rafael School, and it is suspected to be hiding out in someone's closet. Although San Rafael's orchestra disbanded some ten years ago, it has been brought back to life again under the direction of Mrs. Janitta Keck.

Some thoughtful neighbor has been storing the flute for lo these many years, and we are trying to let that person know that the flute is once again needed at San Rafael School.

If you can help solve the mystery, please call Virginia Kimball (213) 258-3524, or take the

flute to the school office. REWARD: A pair of season tickets for information leading to the flute's return.

### BOUNDARIES FOR THE WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The boundaries of WPRA are:

West Colorado on the north

Fair Oaks on the east

South Pasadena boundary on the south

City of Los Angeles/Eagle Rock boundary on the west.

### WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Studies indicate that Neighborhood Watch is effective in reducing crime. What are you waiting for? Once organized in this program, you and your neighbors can work together, for example, by being observant about suspicious vehicles or people and alerting the police about possible burglars.

The first step is to call the Pasadena Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit (405-4551). Then arrange a neighborhood meeting at which the Police Department will teach everyone how to make their homes safer and how to work together to make the neighborhood safer.

### MONDAY NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Beginning October 1st, San Rafael Branch Library will be open one evening a week. Librarian Susan Mackall has come up with a clever solution to the challenge of increasing the availability of the library to the community without increasing the total number of hours per week. By opening at 1:00 p.m. Mondays, the library will remain open until 9:00 Monday evenings. The rest of the week will follow the usual schedule: Tuesday through Thursday 10 - 6, Friday closed, and Saturday 10 - 6.

Adult programs have been planned for some of the Monday evenings:

Monday, October 29 at 7:30 "Getting Along with Your Teenager" presented by Madeline Marks, Clinical Social Worker.

Monday, November 5 at 7:30 "Take Charge of Your Finances — Financial Planning" presented by the Pasadena Bond Club.

Monday, November 19 at 7:30 "Stock Selection" presented by the Pasadena Bond Club.

For further information, call 795-7974.