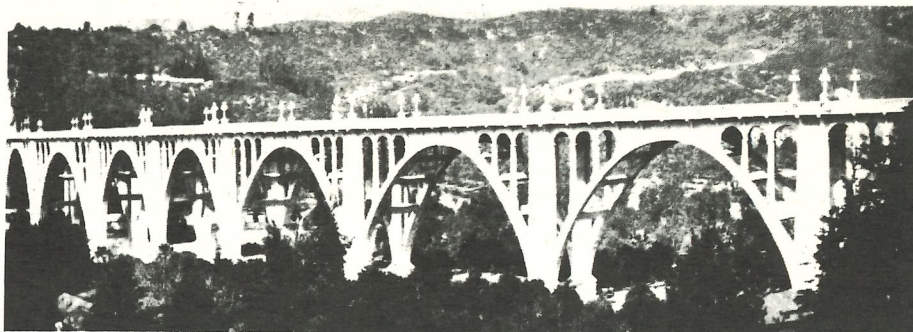


West Pasadena
Residents' Association
Est. 1962



Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society

WEST PASADENA RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

No. 14

February 1984

NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 8
7:30 P.M.

La Casita del Arroyo
177 South Arroyo Boulevard

MEET your friends and neighbors!

ENJOY our food and drink!

VOTE for new Directors!

LISTEN to updates on Vista del Arroyo and Old Town

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Berwanger
Mrs. William J. Bogaard (Claire)
John Borovicka
Mrs. Henry Fauvre (Marynette)
James Gamb
David Hotchkin
Mrs. John Kimball (Virginia)
Lewis Kimball
Mrs. William McDonald (Nancy)
George McWilliams
Mrs. Rodman Paul (Anne)
John L. Poole
Diane Philibosian
Steven Reyes
Mrs. Gerald Secundy (Donna)
Tom Seifert
Mrs. Steven Serrurier (Annette)
Mrs. Bruce Stewart (Peg)
Richard Yadley

OFFICERS OF WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT Jim Gamb
1st Vice President Tom Seifert
2nd Vice President Peg Stewart
Secretary Diane Philibosian
Treasurer Richard Yadley

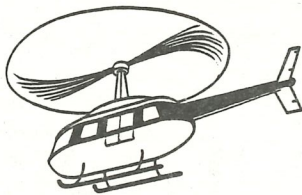
A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the residents of the West Pasadena and San Rafael areas about issues of possible concern.

I would welcome any news articles, suggestions, comments, and help.

WPRA Meetings are held monthly at various homes. Residents are always welcome. Please call Diane Philibosian, WPRA Secretary, for the date, time, and place (441-3589).

Virginia Kimball (258-3524)



REPORT FROM JIM GAMB W.P.R.A. President

Huntington Hospital Helipad

The Huntington Hospital's helipad facility became operative on December 15, 1983. An operating helipad facility was a requirement which the hospital had to satisfy in order to be designated a Level I Trauma Center in Los Angeles County. Prior to the beginning of the helicopter transport to and from the hospital, a use permit from the City of Pasadena had to be obtained by the hospital. The WPRA worked closely with the hospital in order to insure that the concerns of nearby residents were adequately addressed in the approval process. We strongly supported the conditions incorporated in the permit by the Zoning Committee.

Since air traffic has now commenced, both the hospital and the WPRA are very interested in the reactions and attitudes of residents near the hospital. If you have concerns, they should be conveyed to the hospital by calling Kay L. Murphy, Director of Public Affairs, Huntington Hospital at 440-5464 or to any director of the WPRA.

Speed Humps

As many of you know, on June 8, 1982, the City Board of Directors approved a staff recommendation to install two four-inch speed humps on Bellefontaine Street between St. John Avenue and Orange Grove Boulevard for a six month trial period. The Board's decision to install the speed humps as an experiment was in response to a majority petition from Bellefontaine Street residents regarding a speeding problem on their street.

After an initial period of observation, the four-inch humps were removed and were replaced with three-inch speed humps. Following an additional period of observation, the City Staff has concluded that speed humps can be an effective method of controlling speed on local residential streets and they are recommending that the Board of Directors permit the existing three-inch speed humps to remain on Bellefontaine Street for an indefinite period of time. In

addition, the City Board is being asked to adopt a set of proposed policies and procedures for the installation of speed humps on other local residential streets, where they might be desired by the residents.

Our City Director, Bill Bogaard, had been actively involved in the Bellefontaine experiment and strongly urged the development of proposed policies for the use of speed humps in the City of Pasadena. Passage of such a policy would clearly be an important victory in the effort to control the speed and volume of traffic in our residential neighborhoods. Many thanks Bill.

Nomination of Directors

Once again the time is here to consider nominations for Directors of the Board of our Association. WPRA Bylaws provide for a total of 21 Directors with seven terms expiring each year. We are most anxious to consider all who may be interested in participating in the work of the Association and serving on the Board. If you have an interest, I urge you to contact any Director of the Association. All of us who are involved in the Association strongly believe that the membership of the Board of Directors should reflect as completely as possible the range of attitude and opinion about neighborhood and city issues which exists among our membership. We solicit your interest and participation.

REPORT FROM WILLIAM J. BOGAARD, VICE MAYOR

Lower Arroyo Seco Improvements

The Lower Arroyo Seco of Pasadena was designated a permanent City landmark and a natural preservation area under the Arroyo Seco Ordinance. In 1983, a Lower Arroyo Master Plan was adopted by the City Board to guide the present and future use of the Lower Arroyo in accordance with the Arroyo Seco Ordinance.

The objectives of preservation and restoration of the Lower Arroyo are viewed as a long-term endeavor. Some progress is being made. A donation of 15 large native sycamore trees were planted this spring and a contract for the care of the landscaping at La Casita del Arroyo has been entered into by the City with the Pasadena Garden Club.

Current plans include a feasibility study of extending some of the unchanneled free-flowing water to retain some of such water that

would otherwise be channeled out of the Lower Arroyo.

Colorado Street Bridge Rehabilitation

The deterioration of the Colorado Street Bridge, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been a concern for a number of years. In December, 1982, an engineering firm was retained by the City to conduct an extensive inspection, testing and structural analysis of the bridge. The report on the bridge is now being completed.

The report concludes that the Colorado Street Bridge *can* be rehabilitated. It indicates that the bridge is experiencing some deterioration, including cracking, disintegration of the concrete, and corrosion of the reinforcing steel. Also, there are some structural weaknesses as a result of the original design of the bridge.

One of the alternatives for rehabilitation is eligible for funding with Federal bridge rehabilitation funds. When the final report is presented to the City Board during the next 45 days, a strategy for bridge rehabilitation and application for Federal grant funds will be proposed.

TSM Coordinator Hired

The position of Transportation Systems Management Coordinator has recently been filled at City Hall. The position is a part of the Department of Public Works and is financed from Pasadena's share of the ½¢ sales tax approved by voters of Los Angeles County for transit improvements under Proposition A.

The TSM Coordinator, Mr. Rob Blanche, will assist major employers in developing alternative transportation plans, including ride sharing, staggered work hours, and transit usage to alleviate traffic congestion on City streets and increased traffic volume through residential areas.

Mr. Blanche will also be responsible for planning, developing and administering future local transit improvements to be approved by the Board of Directors.

SPEED BUMPS HUMPS

Now that the city is looking favorably on the effectiveness of speed bumps (they call them humps) to reduce traffic speed, other neighborhoods can request to have them installed. It is our understanding that a substantial majority of neighbors must be in agreement, and that speed humps would be considered only on local residential streets. If you feel that your street would benefit from the installation of speed humps, the first step would be to submit a request in writing to the Traffic and Transportation Engineering Division. If they determine that your street would be eligible, they will explain about preparing and circulating a petition.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE HELIPAD?

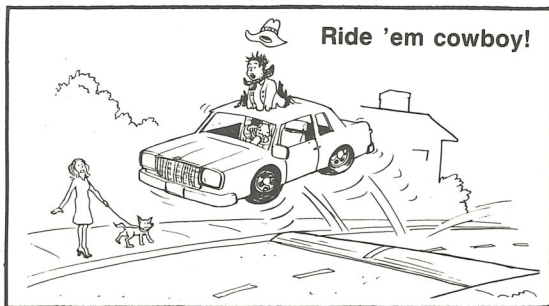
Would you be interested in visiting Huntington Memorial Hospital's helicopter pad to learn about the facility and its use? If so, please call Jim Gamb (799-3556) or Annette Serrurier (799-2556). If there is sufficient interest, we'll work with the hospital to set up an open house.

MORE THAN BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

The San Rafael Branch Library offers activities for many different interests. "Fun with Paddington Bear" is a story and activity hour on Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30, for ages 6 to 10, beginning January 25. There are adult programs the first Wednesday of each month, from 2:30 to 3:30. Another adult get-together happens the second Thursday of the month. In February it will be a salad luncheon, 12:30-2:00, but beginning in March it will be after lunch, with coffee served as people share an informal book talk. For details of these and other activities, call 795-7974.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

If your son or daughter will be entering kindergarten this September, you will have an opportunity to observe part of a kindergarten class at San Rafael School and to meet with Mrs. Edwards, the principal, for a question and answer session. The date is Tuesday, February 7, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. The school is located at 1090 Nihtsdale Road. For more information, call the school, 793-4189.



OLD PASADENA

Old Pasadena is undergoing a facelift these days! A visit to the corner of Colorado Boulevard and Raymond Avenue offers a few surprises — new businesses, many construction workers, restaurants, ice-cream shops and pedestrians — day and night.

With the passage of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, restoration of historic buildings became an attractive investment and a number of developers began seeking National Register buildings for major rehabilitation projects. Old Pasadena which is roughly eleven blocks offered many such opportunities. Most of the buildings now standing empty with barricades across the lower facades belong to Santa Monica developer John Wilson. Mr. Wilson has completed restoration of 64 East Colorado Boulevard and is nearing completion of two other buildings which will be used for retail, restaurants and offices. Work should begin this spring on Mr. Wilson's grand "Marketplace." That project will encompass one entire block bounded by DeLacy, Union, Fair Oaks and Colorado.

Other new neighbors in Old Pasadena include:

Giani's, an Italian ice-cream store; William Forrest, an elegant clothing store; and Mise en Place, a kitchen store located within the Braley Building. There are a variety of restaurants to be found in Old Pasadena, including: Rosicler, Josephina's, Barney's, Gallery 8, Cafe Jacoulet, Patis France, and a new Australian restaurant called the Billabong.

One hundred years ago, the corner of Fair Oaks and Colorado was the commercial center of the town — we may see that happen again!

THE VISTA DEL ARROYO COMPLEX

Neighbors of the Vista del Arroyo are beginning to believe that the rehabilitation of the Vista tower will indeed come to a conclusion. Representatives from the General Services Administration (GSA) anticipate that two or three more months are needed to complete the work on the tower.

Much of the exterior work is complete, including new stucco, major re-roofing, and fresh paint. The northern wing which was destroyed by fire over a year ago is nearing completion. Great care was taken to replicate the earlier Sylvanus Marston structure. Inside the tower, all three courtrooms are receiving the final touches. The library which is on the ground

floor on the west side may be among the more spectacular spaces within the tower. It is a dramatic room with high ceilings and tall windows overlooking the Arroyo Seco. Much care was taken to replace the ceiling and the columns in the room which had been badly damaged while in use as a hospital during World War II. On the floors above, the workmen are finishing the offices to be used by the Circuit Court Judges and their staff.

Meanwhile, GSA is continuing with "disposal procedures" for the balance of the property which includes the seventeen bungalows, a large swimming pool and other land at the bottom of the hill. The City of Pasadena is investigating possible ways of acquiring the land with the intention of rehabilitating the bungalows for residential use. The Tournament of Roses is considering the possibility of locating a sport's museum in the historic Maxwell House (the large villa at the end of Green Street on South Grand). A number of local non-profits recently toured the Maxwell House to discuss the possible use of the villa as a non-profit community center. But — the non-profits or the Tournament would be responsible for the Maxwell House restoration which is estimated to be close to \$700,000.

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

The Linda Vista School PTA will begin a new session of after school classes in February. Classes are for Kindergarten through sixth grade children, whether or not they are enrolled at Linda Vista. Science, drama, art, and dance will be offered in six week sessions. For information, call Joan Fauvre (796-4432).

PASADENA IN THE PAST

I spent another fascinating afternoon in the library of the Pasadena Historical Society trying to track down some of the legends of Poppy Peak. At our last WPRA board meeting, Claire Bogaard shared the story of Indian signal fires being lit on Poppy Peak to be seen for miles around. I recalled hearing of a study in the thirties that identified Poppy Peak as the healthiest place in the Los Angeles area — because breezes kept its air so clean. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any mention of these stories. Maybe one of our members will give me a call with more information?

A foothill of the San Gabriel mountains, Poppy Peak received its name from the blanket of California poppies it wore each spring. Early explorers on ships told of looking across the Los Angeles basin to the golden peak reflecting the sun. With an altitude of 1080 feet, this is the highest spot in San Rafael. (Poppy Peak is located just south of La Loma Road, between Avenue 64 and Figueroa.)

As I was reading about the Poppy Peak area, I came across an interesting clipping from the turn of the century or a bit earlier, describing a reporter's walking trip from Los Angeles into Pasadena. The unidentified reporter described walking up a country lane called Mountain Road. We know it as the not-so-mountainous Avenue 64. He passed a stone church with a tall steeple (Church of the Angels, built in 1896).

When the road turned to the left (and probably ended at a stone foothill), the reporter walked to the right, through a tunnel which had been bored through solid rock. The Beaudry Tunnel was about 380 feet long, and wide and tall enough for a loaded wagon of hay to pass. The tunnel emerged into a valley on the other side of the hill. The writer continued:

"It was a wondrous view that met our gaze. Here was a valley containing no less than 1,000 acres, part lowlands, part rolling hills and part plateau. In the distance on all sides of the valley rose the mountains, high, impassable, the only entrance being the tunnel from which we had just emerged. We walked a mile across the valley. There was a winery and a wine cellar on our right, and just over the hill some 50 acres planted in grapes. There was an artificial lake on whose surface floated ducks and swans."

We know this area as Johnston Lake. The tunnel, built in 1876 by Prudent Beaudry (who owned Rancho San Rafael until 1882), connected Avenue 64 to the lake area in the vicinity of what is now Burleigh Drive. When the tunnel was built, the excavated dirt dammed a stream, forming the lake. The tunnel was closed in 1907 and destroyed in 1923.

The reporter walked on, past the overseer's house to the Campbell-Johnston homestead. The three sons of Robert Campbell-Johnston operated the ranch after their father bought it from Beaudry in 1882. Their mother was responsible for building the Church of the Angels in their father's memory. The reporter described the buildings and the people he met, observing: *"The brother we found 'at home' lives like a king here in this secluded valley, entered only by a tunnel cut through the mountain side."*

The "king" is dead, the tunnel is gone, and Avenue 64 is no longer a country lane, but San Rafael is still secluded enough that there are a lot of Pasadenans who don't know about Johnston Lake or Poppy Peak.



1896 view of the Church of the Angels, looking northward on Avenue 64.