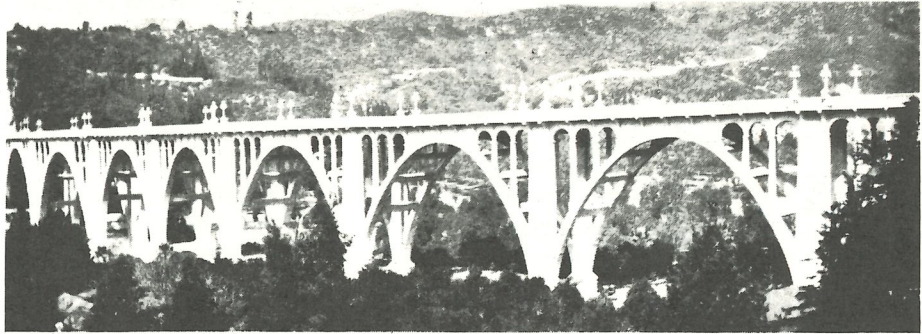


West Pasadena  
Residents' Association  
Est. 1962



*Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society*

No. 19

February 1986

**WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
• • •  
**NEWSLETTER**

**NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM  
ON CITY FINANCES  
WITH MAYOR BILL BOGAARD  
7:30 - THURSDAY, MARCH 20  
San Rafael School Auditorium  
1090 Nithsdale Road**

**OFFICERS OF WEST PASADENA  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**PRESIDENT . . . . . Tom Seifert  
1st Vice President . . . George McWilliams  
2nd Vice President . . . Diane Philibosian  
Secretary . . . . . Annette Serrurier  
Treasurer . . . . . Donna Secundy**

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Annette Serrurier  
Peg Stewart  
Robert Takata  
Randy Wilson

**MEETINGS**

WPRA meetings are held monthly at various homes, usually the third Wednesday 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).

Our annual meeting will be held in May. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

**ADVISORY BOARD**

William J. Bogaard, Mrs. John C. Chulay (Lloyd), Peter Brown Dolan, Everett B. Clary (Bud), Norman P. Clement, Mrs. J. Lawrence Judy (Ann), Charles P. McKenney, Thomas E. Parrington, Stevens Weller, Jr., Willard W. Wheeler, Jr. (Bill).



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: REFLECTIONS ON OVERNIGHT PARKING

I call your attention to the street on which you live and what you may like about it: the width, the trees, the cleanliness, the absence of trash containers left on the street for collection. My guess is that we cannot think too long before concluding that we benefit from the actions of our city fathers who, in their wisdom, passed an ordinance prohibiting overnight parking.

We differ from Los Angeles and Glendale, among others, who are not so fortunate. A drive down the streets of cities where overnight parking is not prohibited, or not enforced, illustrates yet another reason Pasadena is so special.

Our situation, however, is changing if one reflects on the increasing number of automobiles we see parked on Pasadena streets illegally overnight and the absence of parking citations being issued as a result. The growing number of automobiles per family, multi-family residential development with inadequate parking, and the pressures on the Police Department to deal with more crime-related activities have all been contributory factors.

The two key issues involved are the issuing of overnight parking permits and enforcement. The City Board is currently reviewing these issues, and the Directors are under pressure to deviate from strict enforcement of the ordinance. The WPRA board, after discussion and review, feels strongly and so recommends to the City Board that overnight parking permits be issued sparingly, and that violators of the ordinance be cited with regularity.

We hear the phrase "quality of life" often, and particularly in relation to why people chose Pasadena as a place to live. The quality of our streets with the absence of parked cars is but one practical aspect of the overall quality of life.

Thomas D. Seifert

## REPORT FROM MAYOR BILL BOGAARD

The formal dedication of the Vista del Arroyo Hotel for use as a U.S. Court House occurred on February 3. Chief Justice Warren Burger of the U.S. Supreme Court was the featured speaker.

I had the honor of speaking on behalf of the City in welcoming the Court of Appeals to Pasadena and in celebrating the history and architectural heritage of our great City as it is reflected in the historic building.

Discussions are underway regarding the use of the balance of the Federal property although the direction of these discussions is not yet clear. The concern of neighbors about traffic and parking is the basic consideration of these discussions.

Information is now available regarding the Army Reserve property below the Vista del Arroyo, indicating that discussions about a possible exchange of this property with other City-owned property in east Pasadena will not be pursued. The proposal contemplated that the Army Reserve property would be converted to a residential use.

However, the Army's appraisal of the properties involved in the proposed exchange confirmed that the proposal was not economically feasible and therefore discussions have been discontinued.

I want to thank the many neighbors of the area who participated in a consideration of this proposal and who expressed views and suggestions regarding it. The benefit of the current situation is that the traffic requirements are presently known and the neighbors find the use not to be incompatible with the nearby residential areas.

A Charter Study Committee has been established, with former City Director Charles McKenney as acting chair, to undertake a study of the question of eliminating the position of City Manager and replacing the position with a full time Mayor directly elected by the people. It is expected that this committee will take several months to study and to receive public comment on the various questions relating to this proposal.

Meanwhile, an initiative petition has been submitted to City Hall seeking to place a revision of the Pasadena City Charter before the voters in June. The signature validation process will be completed by mid-February and

(continued on page 3)



## MAYOR'S REPORT (continued)

the City Board will determine how to proceed when the compilation has been received. This proposal would provide for direct election of the Mayor, City Attorney, City Clerk, and Chief Financial Officer, paying such persons as much as Los Angeles Superior Court Judges, and would eliminate the position of City Manager.

The Mayor would have the power to terminate department heads without cause and it would be unlawful to limit in any way the presentation of public comment to the City Board.

If you have questions about any of these matters, or other City issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at (818) 405-4311 or call Nancy Esbenshade, my field representative, at the same number or at (818) 799-6237.

## FOR THE ARROYO

Friends of the Arroyo Seco (FOTAS), a new support group dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Arroyo Seco for "passive" outdoor recreation, has filed for non-profit status with the State of California.

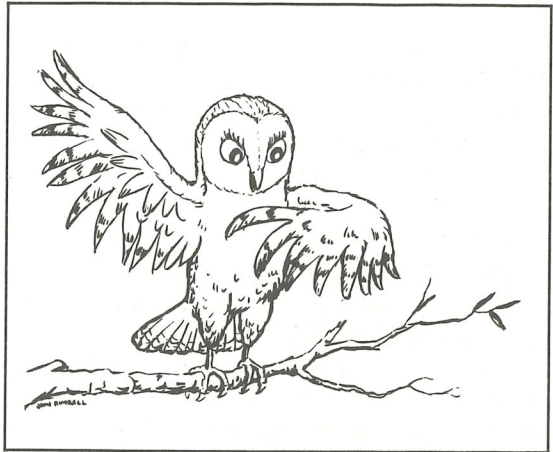
The group, increasingly active in the past 12 months, is headed by Arroyo area resident George McQuilkin.

One project recently completed by FOTAS is publication of a free interpretive brochure entitled "Five Vistas: Nature Discovery Trail, Lower Arroyo Seco."

Funded by a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a state agency, the brochure introduces hikers and strollers to five distinctly different environments and views within the Arroyo. It also includes brief descriptions of Arroyo geology and early Gabrielino Indian activity and contains renderings of Arroyo plants and birds. More than 100 birds which have been sighted in the Lower Arroyo are listed.

In another project, the Friends built and installed an owl house high above the Arroyo, then introduced a pair of barn owls from a raptor center near Mt. Baldy, hand-feeding the pair for a two-week period until they were acclimated.

Goal of the project is to control the burgeoning gopher population through natural processes. Arroyo area residents for years have come to enjoy the sight of owls on the wing.



*Whoose Arroyo is it, anyway?*

In still another project, a study is underway to assess the feasibility of re-directing the "low flow" of water from the Lower Arroyo's flood control channel to a swale alongside the channel just south of the dam under the Colorado Street Bridge. That study was also funded by a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Other Lower Arroyo plans embraced by the Friends include an old-fashioned public tree planting and picnic March 8 at the foot of California Boulevard, an area trugged one evening last July by about 50 hikers anxious to catch a glimpse of crepuscular and nocturnal Arroyo creatures. That hike was organized by FOTAS, which plans other such outings in the months ahead.

The group also reports on two non-FOTAS activities affecting the Upper Arroyo (north of the 134 Freeway bridge). A major restoration is planned for the swimming facilities at Brookside Park and a study will soon begin aimed at restoration of the Devil's Gate area, north of the dam and 210 Freeway bridge just below the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. A joint powers planning agency (city, country, state) is being formed to proceed.

Friends of the Arroyo Seco actively seeks and is supported by members. To receive membership information or informational mailings or to obtain further information or a free copy of the new Arroyo Seco brochure, contact Friends of the Arroyo Seco, 250 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105.

## REBUILDING LA CASITA

At its most recent meeting, the Board of WPRA voted a sum of one thousand dollars to "kick off" a fund raising drive toward the restoration of La Casita del Arroyo which was severely damaged by fire last summer. The Board further stipulated that the money should be used to buy materials necessary for the restoration.

Already the City of Pasadena has appropriated \$110,000 to stabilize the hillside below the building. In addition, the insurance settlement from the fire will amount to approximately \$120,000. Any further monies needed to rebuild La Casita will have to be raised in the community. The Board hopes that its decision will encourage other persons and groups to make similar contributions.

In the meantime, work on the building is going forward. Conrad Buff has volunteered as architect for the job and has recently been supervising "selective demolition" to determine the extent of the fire damage and what can be salvaged. One of the major building materials for La Casita was salvaged bicycle track from the velodrome of the 1934 Olympics. It turns out that the track is throughout the building and even a part of the roof. One recent Saturday morning, members of the restoration committee could be seen on the roof of La Casita removing burned shingles and following a painted lane marker on the old track.

### **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.

## WAITING FOR A RESTAURANT

When someone forgets my birthday, I can understand and forgive. After all, it's only once a year. I always forgive someone who forgets my name, because I'm terrible with names too. But I hate to be forgotten by a waiter or waitress.

My first visit to Christopher's, An American Restaurant, in the Braley Building on Raymond, ended dismally when the waitress simply forgot that we were there. Everything was fine through the ordering and delivering of food and drink. The lunch was very good, especially the side vegetables and crab chowder. But when I asked if it was paprika that made the Maui onion rings orange, she promised to find out and never came back. Okay, maybe it was a stupid question, but I'd never seen orange onion rings before, and I was curious.

We finished lunch and waited. Now and then we'd see her pass to and from other tables, and we'd try to catch her attention with a polite raised eyebrow or nod. Then we tried the discreet raised index finger, and finally a large arm wave. After twenty minutes, I gave up, went to the kitchen, and asked for the check. The apology, when it came, was too late.

From the crowd at the noon hour, it appears that Christopher's is one of the "in" spots now. Our experience was presumably unusual, since other people seemed to be quite satisfied. Its bright and airy decor with absolutely no mauve (forest green, yes, but no mauve, thank goodness) is simple and effective. I might even go back and give Christopher's another try. If I don't forget.

Virginia Kimball



## THE LOWDOWN ON SPEED HUMPS

I was asked by the WPR Board to offer a clarification of how speed humps come into being.

As background information, the first humps were put in on Bellefontaine Street between Orange Grove and Pasadena Avenue on October 28, 1982, in response to a petition from residents concerned about speeding on their street. In May of 1983, staff reported a significant reduction in speeds but recommended cutting the humps from 4" down to 3" and extending the experimental period.

On January 10, 1984, the City Board adopted Policies and Procedures for the Installation of Speed Humps in Pasadena. This was based on the experimental program on Bellefontaine Street, which was judged from a traffic engineering viewpoint to be "an effective method of controlling speed on local residential streets." In addition a Resident Opinion Survey showed substantial residential support for the program. There were no reported accidents related to the speed humps.

Since that time, speed humps have been installed on eleven more sections of Pasadena residential streets. The procedure requires that a resident submit a request in writing and the street is then evaluated by the Public Works Department and Emergency Services. Suitability is determined on a case by case basis, some of the criteria being that there must be a 25 MPH speed limit, no grade greater than 5 percent, not a truck route, and other determinations. Traffic speed and volume are measured and accident reports are studied. The last are used not as a qualification, but to help prioritize the streets once accepted, along with the other data.

If a street is found to be eligible, the residents must then gather signatures of 65 percent or more of the abutting property owners on a petition supporting installation of the humps. If subsequent removal is requested, there must be another petition plus funds from the property owners for the removal. This information is included in the initial petition, so that the signatures will not be given without thoughtful consideration.

The City Board, staff, and the Police Department have experienced much difficulty and frustration in dealing with excessive speed and volume on residential streets all over Pasadena. With inadequate person power to

regularly enforce speed limits in all areas, speed humps appear to be one, apparently successful, way to go.

Nancy Esbenshade  
Field Representative to Bill Bogaard

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This newsletter is intended to focus on news and issues of concern to West Pasadena, the area west of Fair Oaks and south of Colorado Blvd. We appreciate your comments and suggestions.



*Vista del Arroyo*

One of our neighborhood's special treasures, the Vista del Arroyo, was dedicated this month as the new courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. WPR Board members were honored to have been invited to share the celebration for the new courthouse. After standing vacant for years, the Vista is once again a beautiful Pasadena landmark. We extend a warm welcome to our new neighbors, the judges and members of their staff.

Virginia Kimball  
(213) 258-3524

## DOWNTOWN NEWS AT THE BRANCH LIBRARY

If you've been to the San Rafael Branch Library lately, you may have noticed the new community information kiosk. It would be hard to miss the square booth to the left of the door with lots of information available. If you're interested in news from City Hall such as Board Meeting Agendas, minutes, and special reports, this is the easiest place to go.

Regular activities at the library are offered for many different ages and interests. The Wednesday story time, for example, is for preschool age to ten at 3:30. For more information, call the library at (818) 795-7974.