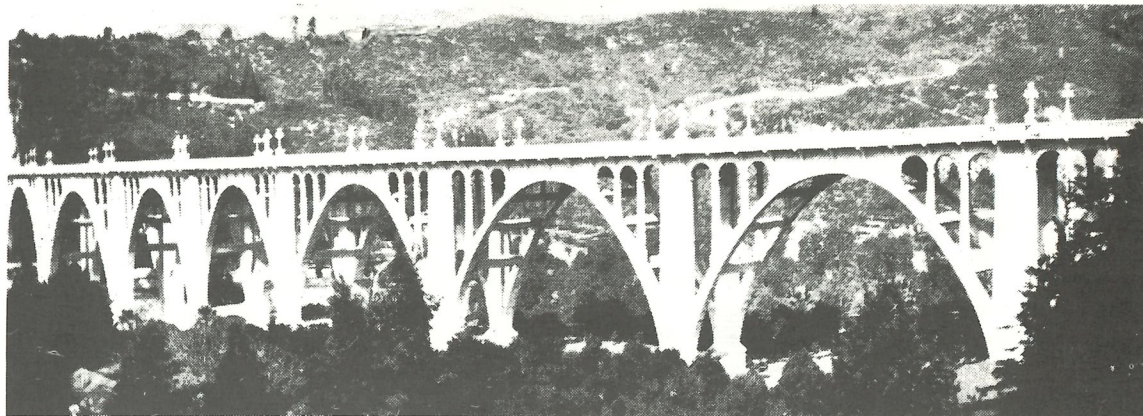


West Pasadena  
Residents' Association  
Est. 1962



Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society

No. 20

May 1986

**WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

• • •  
**NEWSLETTER**



Vista del Arroyo

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Wednesday, May 28 - 7:00 p.m.  
Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals  
(Vista del Arroyo Hotel site)  
125 South Grand Avenue  
*Pasadena—A City to Celebrate*  
John C. Wood, Chairman  
Pasadena Centennial Committee

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

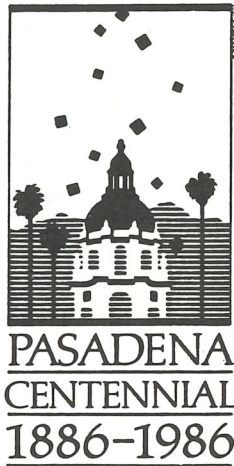
- Charles Berwanger
- Claire Bogaard
- Dory Burton
- Lyn Casani
- Marynette Fauvre
- James Gamb
- David Hotchkin
- Virginia Kimball
- George A. McWilliams
- Robert G. Melissa
- John L. Poole
- Diane Philipbosian
- Steven Reyes
- Paul Secord
- Donna Secundy
- Tom Seifert
- Annette Serrurier
- Peg Stewart
- Robert Takata
- Randy Wilson

**YOU ARE INVITED**

Please join us at the newly restored Vista del Arroyo for the WPRa annual meeting. After years of neglect, this beautiful hotel has been reopened as the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Docent tours and refreshments will be available. In honor of Pasadena's Centennial, we have invited John C. Wood, Chairman of the Pasadena Centennial Committee, to talk about Pasadena's history and the centennial celebration.

**OFFICERS OF WEST PASADENA  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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



## REPORT FROM CITY DIRECTOR BILL BOGAARD

On June 19, the Pasadena Centennial will be celebrated with a formal ceremony at 12:30 p.m. in front of City Hall and a festival and community reception in the evening at 7:30 p.m. All members of the community are invited to attend these activities.

The 100th birthday of Pasadena's incorporation will occur in the midst of a 10-day celebration, which begins with the Pasadena tradition, a parade on Saturday, June 14th. The details of Pasadena's Centennial celebration, and numerous Centennial events beforehand, have been extensively covered in the newspapers. But happily, the Centennial is doing exactly what it should do, spotlighting Pasadena's great history and traditions and its great present, as an inspiration to all of us to undertake the challenge of Pasadena's second century with confidence and commitment.

At the Centennial ceremony in front of City Hall, the Strategic Plan which has been developed during the last 18 months by a task force consisting of 150 citizen volunteers will be presented to the Mayor as a gift to the City. It will contain over 40 "action strategies" which are designed to benefit Pasadena in important ways and to enhance the community as a place to live and to play, to study and to work.

The Strategic Plan was one of my major efforts during my two years as Mayor, which drew to a close on Monday, May 5.

At that time, the Board chose John C. Crowley to serve as the new Mayor. Mayor Crowley served as Vice Mayor during the prior two years. He has committed himself to the implementation of Pasadena's Strategic Plan and to a program of progress for the City during his mayoral term.

One of the major efforts that just got underway is a review of the City's multi-family zoning and building requirements. The City Directors expressed two strong concerns: (1) increase in the loss of sturdy and affordable family homes in the City; and (2) the construction of multi-family housing units with poor design and poor construction. The hope of these studies which are underway is that single-family residential neighborhoods can be accorded greater protection and that new construction that does occur will achieve a quality in design and construction that is consistent with the standards of our City.

There is no assurance that these goals can be achieved, but the active concern and the active support of citizens of the City will greatly increase the chances of success.

Having transferred the duties of Mayor to my successor, I look forward to more regular meetings with the citizens of District 6 and actively solicit our comments and your concerns about the future of our City. Support during the last two years is sincerely appreciated. Without it, the progress that was made in our City would not have been possible.

## SHOPPING DOWN ON THE (BRISTOL) FARM by Virginia Kimball

Grocery stores are changing. Designer cookies and paper towels have emerged alongside the usual name and non-name brands. El Rancho opened a New York Deli. The local Safeway added a fish market, cheese bar, and even a video counter. Now there's a whole grocery store devoted to upscale, trendy shoppers: Bristol Farms, at 606 Fair Oaks Avenue in South Pasadena.

Herb vinegars, Cajun cooking, fresh pasta, and gourmet take-out seem to be hot items now, edging out the croissants, sushi, and warm duck salad. With a kitchen equipped with microwave, food processor, pasta and gelato maker, the question naturally arose to the up-to-date chef, "Where can I buy passion fruit salad dressing with herbs?"

Bristol Farms is the answer. They offer sixty-eight varieties of vinegar, fourteen brands of olive oil, and 131 salad dressings. You can also buy fresh pasta, sushi, Cajun seasonings, and almost any "in" food which might come to mind.

Bristol Farms is a fun place to shop. (I'm waiting for a fun gas station and bank, too.) While sipping your free sample of coffee from the coffee and tea bar, you can browse (and nibble) at the bakery counter which stocks fancy desserts, several flavors of croissants, bagels, and muffins, brownies, fudge, and cookies. They even sell bread, including long French baguettes.

After the bakery comes the gourmet take-out, the deli, meat and fish counters which stock a vast array. The produce section is large and impressive. If you're tired from shopping, you can sit down at the Farm Kitchen and eat a meal (or take it home).

There's a price for all this, of course. The prices reflect the quality, service, and the convenience of having such a wide variety under one roof. El Rancho, Vons, Safeway, or Trader Joe probably aren't terribly worried about the competition from Bristol Farms.

I wonder who buys all this stuff, though. How many people barbecue so often that they need twenty-four barbecue sauces? Who is thrilled by the options of 131 different salad dressings? Somewhere in this area there must be people who use blueberry orange white wine vinegar, or California raspberry vinegar, or plum clove salad dressing. There must also be people who are sure that their choice of olive oil is better than the other thirteen. Perhaps their palates are better educated. I especially wonder about the person who uses passion fruit with herb salad dressing. There couldn't be more than one.

## WEST PASADENA STREET LIGHTING REPORT

by Robert Takata

The following is a summary of my 4/4/86 meeting with Dave Barnhart and Evan Lahay of the Public Works Department:

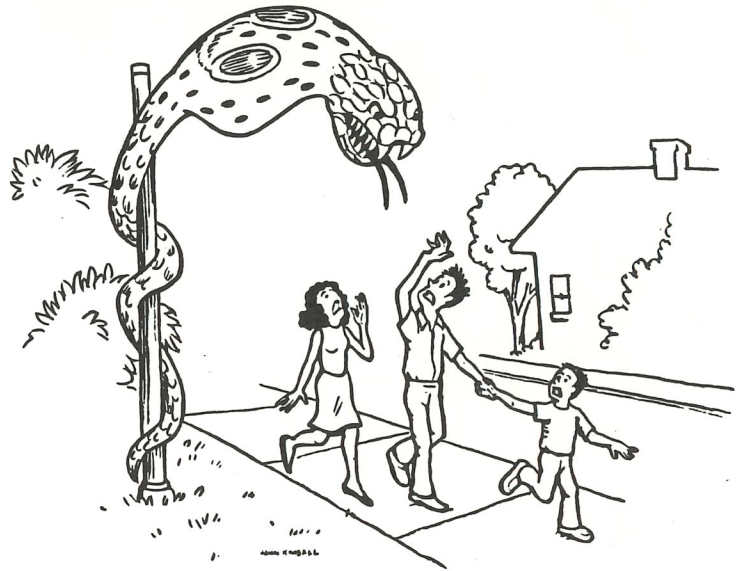
Background: Since 1975 the City has been converting many of the older street lights, which are mounted on existing power poles, to "high efficiency street lights." The rationale for the conversion include on-going maintenance and safety considerations with energy conservation a lesser reason. The West Pasadena neighborhood is currently identified for this conversion program and portions of this program have already been implemented, especially on the west side of the Arroyo. Because of the neighborhood's concern about these conversions the program is currently on hold until WPRC and the City can identify ways to mitigate our concerns.

Issues: I told the public Works Department that there were some serious concerns that our neighborhood has about this program; they included the following:

- a. Type of light fixture: one of the major concerns was the use of the modern "cobra-head" type light fixture design. These fixtures are usually used on freeways and highly traveled streets; they are out of scale and from an historic perspective inappropriate for our neighborhood.
- b. Light intensity levels: the proposed light intensity levels will be increased dramatically. For instance, the proposed conversion of Arroyo Boulevard will yield 7 to 10 times the existing light levels (1000 lumens to 6000-9000 lumens). The increased light levels would dramatically change the night image of our neighborhood and could possibly cause glare problems to adjacent residences.
- c. Removal of existing light poles and fixtures: recently the Public Works Department attempted to remove an existing pole and fixture on Green Street, near Grand Avenue for relocation on Colorado Boulevard. Because there was concern about removing this older pole and fixture, work was stopped.
- d. South Orange Grove Boulevard: There had been rumors that the post type lamps on South Orange Grove Boulevard would be replaced by more modern fixtures. The Public Works Department confirmed that the wiring on South Orange Grove Blvd. is deteriorating and would require new conduit and wiring. When this happens, the City will explore other alternatives to light the street, including other types of designs and retrofitting other types of lamps on the existing poles.

Recommended Action: The WPRC Board write a letter to the City Board of Directors identifying our concerns and request WPRC involvement in the following areas:

- a. Selection of acceptable light fixtures and intensity levels: The Public Works Department has indicated that other light fixture designs acceptable to WPRC may be selected. The Board should review alternative light fixtures and select an appropriate one for our neighborhood.
- b. Review future lighting proposals for South Orange Grove Boulevard and other key streets and boulevards in our neighborhood.
- c. Notification of the removal of existing lighting poles and fixtures within our neighborhood.



"Cobra-head" light fixture

### MORE THAN BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

The San Rafael Branch Library has expanded its collection of audio tape cassettes, with a new focus on classical, big band, jazz, and musicals. There are also a few new children's cassettes, bringing the total collection to over 300 titles.

The kiosk to the left of the entrance is provided by the Neighborhood Information Service. It's a convenient place to check the agendas for Pasadena's Board of Directors, other boards, commissions, and committees, and news from Pasadena City College and the Pasadena Unified School District.

Children are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal to the Stuffedie Tea Party, Wednesday, June 18 at 3:30 p.m. The Summer Reading Club for pre-school through junior high begins June 21st, with the theme, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road." It opens with a puppet rendition of the *Wizard of Oz* and continues through the summer with storytime crafts and specials. For information regarding these or other programs, please call the library, 795-7974.

### 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. This issue, our annual membership and meeting notice, is being mailed district-wide. The other issues, usually published every three months, are mailed to our membership list. If you are not a member, we hope you'll join us, and we're asking our present members to renew their membership with the enclosed envelope.

We welcome your ideas and comments about the newsletter and issues of concern to our neighborhood.

Virginia Kimball  
(213) 258-3524



Punky Brewster is "spokeskid" for the "Just Say No" Clubs.

## CHILDREN LEARNING TO "JUST SAY NO" TO DRUGS

Hundreds of children from local schools will participate in a march to the Rose Bowl on the morning of May 22nd as a part of a "Just Say No" walk against drugs. The "Just Say No To Drugs" Clubs are part of a nationwide movement to teach children through self-esteem that they can say no to drugs and alcohol.

Nancy Reagan will lead the nation on May 22nd with similar walks being planned in many cities. The Rose Bowl activities will include the release of helium-filled balloons with messages, celebrity appearances, and Officer McGruff of the Pasadena Police Department.

A community forum for all ages will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall of the Pasadena Conference Center featuring John Bradshaw, a nationally known lecturer on addiction.

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## OPEN HOUSE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

If you're interested in our local elementary schools, here's your chance to visit the classrooms. May 20 will be Open House at all public elementary schools in Pasadena. The local school for WPRA residents west of the Arroyo is San Rafael, located at 1090 Nithsdale. West Pasadena students east of the Arroyo attend Linda Vista School, 1259 Linda Vista Avenue. Classrooms will be open from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at both schools, allowing students to show off their classwork.

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## BOUNDARIES FOR

### THE WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The boundaries of WPRA are:

West Coloardo on the north -

Fair Oaks on the east -

South Pasadena boundary on the south -

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

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## 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).

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As our Annual Meeting approaches at the end of this month, reflections over WPRA activities for the past year seem appropriate. I think our 25th year can best be described as the year of the "holding pattern." The WPRA organization is well in place, we have an impressive list of board members, our traditions are strong, and our past accomplishments are many. But the current feeling is much like that of a well trained military person: plenty of exercises, but no major battles to fight. Perhaps that is the result of past successes which, of course, would be a comforting thought. The downside to that thinking would be a vulnerability resulting from disinterest and inactivity. The next major battle just might sneak up on us and find us ill prepared.

I encourage your attendance at our Annual Meeting and your active participation during the coming year. The greater strength and general level of interest, the less likely we'll be caught off guard. And who knows? The training exercises just might be fun.

Thomas D. Seifert

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# INDIANS OF THE ARROYO SECO

by Paul R. Secord



THE ARROYO SECO IN 1900

(Photo Courtesy Pasadena Public Library, Adam Clarke Vroman Collection)

bowls and frying pans were manufactured, as were stone grinding tools. Beautiful baskets were made by the women. These baskets were constructed of several types of plant material and had three-color patterned decorations. Many fine examples of Tongva baskets, and other artifacts, can be viewed at the Southwest Museum in Highland Park.

The warm Southern California climate resulted in little need for clothing; men usually went naked, while women wore short aprons of either deerskin or the inner bark of willow or cottonwood trees. During cold or wet weather capes of deer-skin, rabbit fur or bird skins were worn. Everyone usually went barefoot.

There seem to have been three social orders; an elite, including village leaders and the very rich, a middle class, and everyone else. Men carried out the heavy labor, including hunting, fishing, some gathering, and trading. Women were involved in collecting and preparing food and making utilitarian objects and clothing. When old they shared with the old men the task of teaching, supervising, and caring for the young.

Intervillage conflicts were common. While the "wars" were not lengthy, they could be deadly and often involved several villages. Reed armor, war clubs, swords, and large heavy bows were used for warfare.

As you walk or drive through the Arroyo, remember that less than 300 years ago this was the home of the Tongva, a group of people who lived here for nearly 2,000 years.

For further reading see: "California's Gabrielino Indians" by Bernice Eastman Johnston, Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, 1952; and the "Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California," Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1978, p. 538-549.

The small band of men and women could hear the rush of the creek below them as they walked down the trail into the Arroyo. It was early morning, the sun had not yet risen, and it was time for the morning bath. The large bathing pools were located in a grove of sycamore trees near the present crossing of the Arroyo by the Colorado Street Bridge. Soon the air would be filled with the sounds of splashing bathers, birds bustling about in the tree tops and squirrels racing through the oaks.

The morning bath was the typical way the Indians living along the Arroyo started their day. Known today as the "Gabrielino" (after the San Gabriel Mission), these Indians are more accurately called the "Tongva." There were a large number of them living in small villages which ran the entire length of the Arroyo Seco. The Arroyo was a particularly good place to live because of the shelter it provided, along with plentiful water, and extensive oak groves (acorns were a principle source of food).

The archaeological record indicates that the Tongva arrived in the Los Angeles basin around 500 B.C., displacing a poorly known indigenous population. The cultural pattern encountered by the Spanish in the eighteenth century is thought to have crystallized as early as A.D. 1200. Shortly before the Spanish arrived in force, about 1770, at least 5,000 native persons were living in the Los Angeles area.

The Tongva lived in villages comprised of circular thatched structures called "wickiups." Other structures included sweat-houses (small earth-covered buildings used as clubhouses by adult males), menstrual huts, and a ceremonial enclosure called a "yuva'r." A recreation of a Tongva village can be seen at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia.

Most of the tools and other items made by the Tongva have been lost. Many everyday items were elaborately decorated with shell mosaic inlaid in asphaltum, rare minerals, carvings, and painting. Soapstone