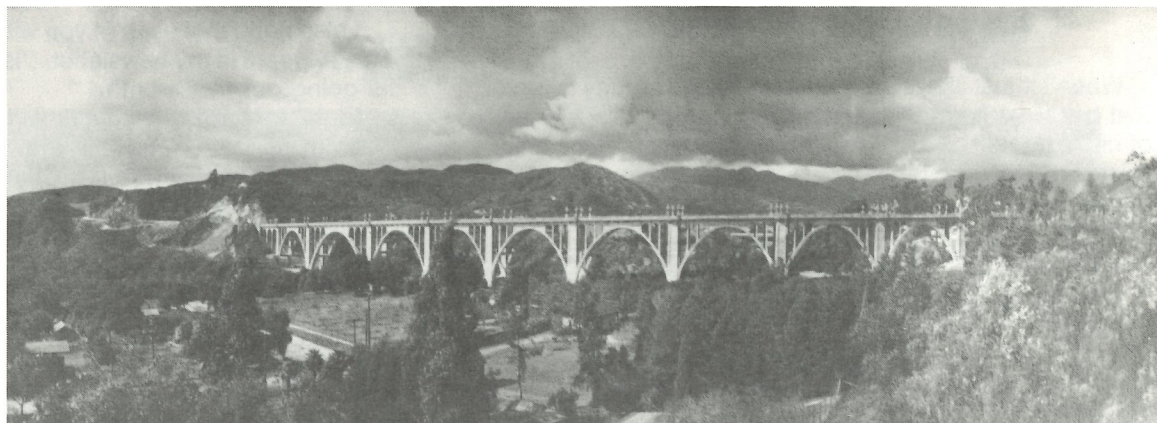


West Pasadena Residents' Association

Est. 1962



Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society

No. 21

January 1987

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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TO ALL NEIGHBORS IN WEST PASADENA

This special edition of our newsletter is intended to honor and thank our former City Director, Bill Bogaard, for his outstanding service to the community. We also extend our welcome to his successor, Bill Cathey.

This newsletter is being mailed to "current resident," and is intended to arrive at every residence within the boundaries of the West Pasadena Residents' Association. These boundaries are:

on the north—Colorado Boulevard
on the south—City of South Pasadena
on the east—Fair Oaks Boulevard
on the west—City of Los Angeles

We encourage anyone who is new to the neighborhood or anyone who is not yet a member of the WPRA to send a check payable to the WPRA for annual dues to Post Office Box 50252, Pasadena, California 91105-0252. Dues are \$5.00 for a family or individual membership, and \$25 for a contributing membership.

The money collected from dues is used to cover the cost of mailings, the printing of the newsletter, and an occasional special project. Recently, the WPRA has contributed to the restoration of La Casita del Arroyo and Friends of the Arroyo. Membership includes the quarterly newsletter and announcements of meetings important to the residents of West Pasadena.

Last quarter's newsletter was not published because there seemed to be so little news that was specific to this community. Now we have a new City Director, new proposals aimed at the bungalows surrounding the Vista del Arroyo, and numerous other lively issues of concern. We hope to be back on schedule with quarterly editions. Thank you for your patience.

WPRA meetings are held monthly at various homes. Residents are always welcome. Please call Annette Serrurier, WPRA Secretary, for the date, time, and place, (818) 799-2556.

Virginia Kimball
Editor (213) 258-3524

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wasn't it just like Bill Bogaard to resign as City Director just because he could no longer give 120%? The news of his resignation as Director of District VI came as a surprise and disappointment. Bill has served District VI for the past eight years and has been a true friend of West Pasadena residents and the WPRA.

The Bogaard methodical approach to problem solving is legendary and has earned the respect of even those who might not have agreed with his positions. His tenure has reflected reason, a balanced perspective, and a keen sense of negotiation and compromise in his attempts to satisfy both his constituents' and the broader city-wide interests. We have, indeed been fortunate to have been represented by such an outstanding individual.

Bill's newly appointed successor, Bill Cathey, is a known quantity and has demonstrated, over the years, an appreciation for and sensitivity to the variety of issues that are of interest to the WPRA. Just as Bill Bogaard maintained strong ties to neighborhood concerns and served as WPRA president, so has Bill Cathey been active in a broad range of organizations and causes that share WPRA objectives.

To Bill Bogaard: We wish you well in your endeavors and thank you.

To Bill Cathey: We welcome you as our representative and offer our support in maintaining close ties and a strong traditional relationship.

Thomas D. Seifert

A LETTER FROM BILL CATHEY, OUR NEW CITY DIRECTOR

To the Members of the WPRA:

I am honored to become the City Director from District 6, and deeply appreciate the confidence that has been expressed in me.

You can be sure that I intend to handle my duties as your representative in a diligent manner and to emphasize both services to the citizens of Southwest Pasadena and responsiveness to the views of citizens regarding citywide issues.

My work in Pasadena extends over several years, including several positions for the City and in community organizations. In the City, my work has included my serving as Chairman (1983-85) and Vice Chairman (1982-83) of the Community Development Committee and Vice Chairman of the Strategic Planning Panel on Business and Jobs Development. In the community, I have served as President (1980-81) of the Pasadena Educational Foundation, and as Chairman (1981-83) of Pasadena Heritage.

I believe that these activities provide excellent background for my work as City Director.

You will be pleased to know that Nancy Esbenshade has agreed to join me as Field Representative for District 6. Her record of service to constituents is excellent. She can be reached at (818) 405-4444 or 799-7892.

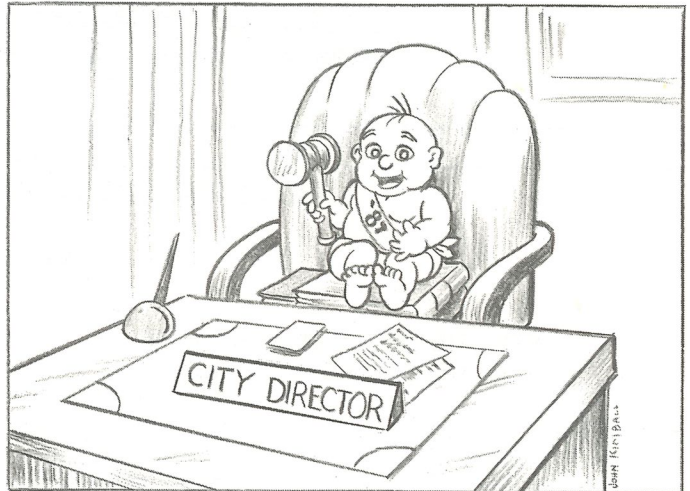
It is important that I have the benefit of your views and comments on city activities. Accordingly, neighborhood meetings will be held starting after January 1, to which you will be invited. My hope is that large numbers of District 6 residents will come to these meetings and engage in a discussion on City matters.

I also hope that each of you will return the questionnaire that appears in my newsletter, "Issues in District 6," which is going out this month.

I look forward to my work with you and hope that you will not hesitate to let me know whenever you feel that I can be helpful regarding City Hall.

Sincerely

Bill Cathey
City Director, District 6



Pasadena welcomes a new City Director and a new year.

NOTES FROM CITY HALL by City Director Bill Cathey

Traffic Control—The City has purchased new traffic control equipment that promises to assist in the difficult challenge of keeping the speed and volume of traffic in our neighborhoods under control. The equipment displays the speed of passing autos to the drivers, giving the drivers immediate feedback about their speed and by implication, urging compliance with Pasadena's speeding laws. This equipment will be used in various locations, such as west La Loma Road, in the months ahead.

Cable T.V.—The City's cable communications program takes a major step forward this month by beginning the live broadcasting of the City Board's weekly meetings. The live broadcast, as well as two weekly replays will appear on Cable Channel 55. This service will facilitate communication with the citizens of the City. Please take advantage of this new cable programming.

Strategic Plan—The Toward 2000 Committee, which was established in September 1986 to promote implementation of Pasadena Renaissance, the Pasadena Strategic Plan, has made its first matching grants for one of the strategic ideas. A newsletter will be disseminated during the next year to all teachers in Pasadena schools, public and private, as an innovative communications vehicle. The strategic plan brought public and private school teachers together for the first time, in an effort to assure the best use of resources for the education of Pasadena young people.

Old Pasadena—A six screen theatre has opened in Old Pasadena on West Colorado at De Lacey. U.A. Marketplace opened first as a benefit for Pasadena Art Workshops and is the first of two, maybe three, theatres that will be located in Old Pasadena as part of its revitaliza-

tion. Construction on two parking structures will get underway after January 1, 1987, and then are expected to be ready for use during the 1987 Holiday Season.

Fire Protection—The City is proposing the construction of a Fire Station on South Marengo Avenue about two blocks North of California. Such a facility would provide an increased protection for Southwest Pasadena. In the San Rafael neighborhood, the Avenue 64 Fire Station remains a critical element in protecting our homes. Since there is concern about the staffing procedures for this Fire Station, I will be conferring with affected residents and with Chief Peckerol to clarify the issues. This issue will be discussed at one of the upcoming neighborhood meetings.

Gas Leafblowers—There continues to be a feeling among some residents that leafblowers should be prohibited in the City, or at least regulated as to hours of use. Since this piece of equipment is considered to be a cost effective tool, any legislation would require that the interests of the gardeners be balanced with the concerns of our residents. I am open to your suggestions in this regard and hope that you will bring your views to me or to Nancy Esbenshade.

If you have any questions about City issues, please do not hesitate to call Nancy at (818) 405-4444 or 799-7892, or call me at (818) 449-0543.

Bill Cathey
City Director, District 6

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT by John Poole

Recent purchasers of the 11-unit apartment complex at Orange Grove and Palmetto (505 South Orange Grove) applied to rezone a single-family lot fronting Palmetto. The parcel is the only one of four utilized by the current complex which is zoned single-family instead of multi-family. To date, the parcel has been incorporated in the project through a use permit and/or use variance granted many years ago.

The developers propose to demolish the existing apartments and erect a 21-unit complex. The City staff recommended a denial of the application and the Planning Commission, after an hour of deliberation, voted four to three to adopt the staff's recommendation. Unless the City Board of Directors exercises discretion to call the matter up before it, the issue is dead in respect to this application. The WPRA wrote a letter urging denial of the application and nearby residents voiced opposition. In favor of the application was a representative from a local realtors association.

At the hearing, there was much question as to whether the Commission was considering rezoning the whole parcel or a 9 foot strip. Counsel from the City Attorney's office opined that the Commission could grant much lesser zoning relief than was publicized in the notices. Two residents voiced objection to the fact that the Commission was considering granting some relief other than what was given in public notice. The result of such a procedure would encourage applicants to request everything possible, and then obtain zoning relief which has not been considered by the public.

Given the Planning Commission's hesitancy to grant relief other than the relief that was put in the statutory notices, the WPRA stresses that personal attendance to public hearings cannot be underemphasized. If the Planning Commission is going to adopt a policy of negotiating with applicants, then the public must attend the hearings to give comment on any new proposals that may arise during the hearing.

LETTER TO JUDGE NELSON

The WPRA board's position on the Vista del Arroyo bungalows is outlined in this letter to Judge Dorothy Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals:

December 4, 1986

The Honorable Dorothy Nelson
U.S. Court of Appeals

Dear Judge Nelson:

I am writing on behalf of the WPRA Board of Directors to express our thanks for your appearance at the recent board meeting and to offer our comments on the proposed legal research center on the Vista property near the U.S. Court of Appeals in west Pasadena.

The proposal has an appeal, because it involves the activation of a critical parcel of real property in our neighborhood which has been unused for many years. We are concerned about the attractive nuisance that exists on this site.

For some time, we have been working with the City to pursue reuse of this property and to eliminate the undesirable state that presently exists. One of the WPRA's important concerns is that the single family residential character of the area be retained. Thus, we have been attracted to the proposal that involves placing the property in the hands of a qualified owner who would have responsibility for rehabilitating the structures for residential use. This would be compatible with the nearby areas and would conform with the covenant that applies to the property requiring that these structures be retained.

The time schedule for this project is appealing to the neighbors because the General Services Administration has scheduled disposition of the property for early 1987.

In our discussions at the board meeting, concern was expressed about the feasibility of the legal research center as well as the time for its completion. Our information indicates that the Department of Education program under which it is proposed to pursue the legal research center requires that various criteria are met. At the conclusion of our discussion, the board determined that the better course of action would be to support the GSA disposition to determine what is possible in regard to the proposed residential development. If that should not succeed, the WPRA board would be pleased to review once again the legal research center. Meanwhile, we hope that the latter effort continues in its formation activities so that its feasibility can be better assessed.

We stand ready to discuss this matter with you at any time and I hope that our position is understandable in light of the long history of concern that exist about the property.

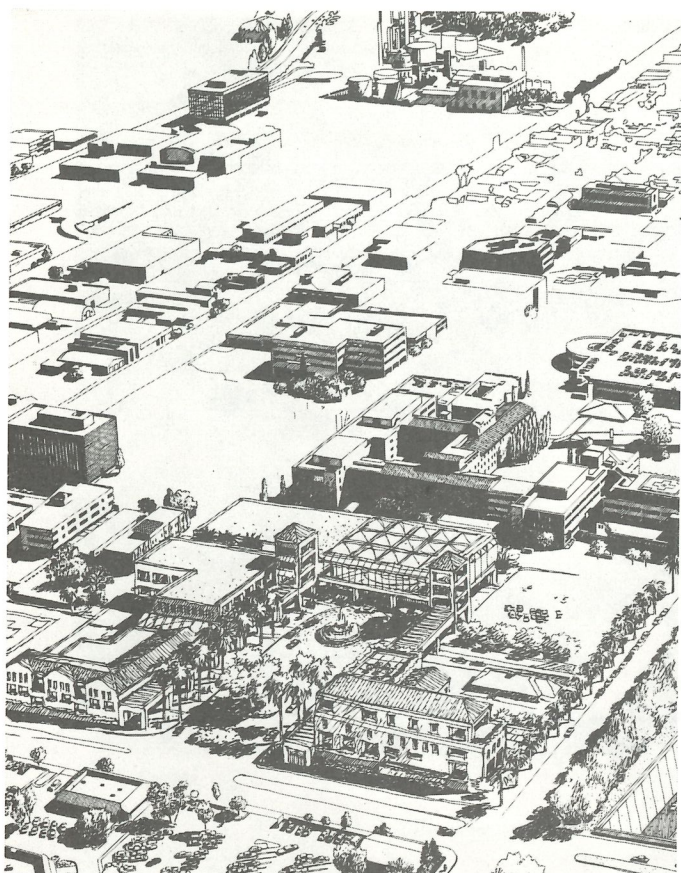
Sincerely,
Thomas R. Seifert
President

SAN RAFAEL BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

Susan Mackall recently resigned as San Rafael's Librarian after five years in the position. She was a creative, innovative, and energetic librarian who accomplished a great deal in her time there. She resigned to become the librarian at St. Mark's School in Upland, where she lives. We can't blame her for wanting to give up that long commute to work, but she will be missed.

Emily Ferry is filling in as librarian at San Rafael until a permanent replacement is named.

NEW MASTER PLAN FOR HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



Architect's rendering of proposed master plan. Southeasterly view from California Blvd. and Pasadena Avenue.

Huntington Memorial Hospital will be celebrating its 100th Birthday in the year 1992. This date will mark a century of expert health care provided for a regional community. Since 1892, Huntington has steadily grown to become a full-service, community health care center, combining the best in quality care with personalized service.

In order to strengthen this 100-year tradition of excellence, Huntington is presently developing a long-range master site and facility plan which will insure that the quality care being provided today will continue to meet future patient needs. This master plan is designed to replace older buildings and to construct new facilities which will meet the needs of our patients and staff well into the 21st century.

Phase I of the master plan relocates the Emergency Department and Trauma Center to a new 167,000 square-foot building which will be constructed on the north side of Congress Street. A new Women's Center, incorporating Labor and Delivery, OB/GYN, Newborn Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care, will also be housed in this two-story location. Sophisticated new surgical facilities, including an expanded Surgical Intensive Care Unit, will be located on the second floor of the new building. A new hospital lobby, with an atrium boulevard entrance off of California, will include admitting and discharge areas as well as an expanded Gift Shop.

Construction of Phase I of the master plan is expected to begin in the summer of 1987, with patient occupancy scheduled for July, 1989.

Keeping city officials and community residents abreast of the master plan is one of Huntington's goals. For this reason, last September, the West Pasadena Residents'

Association was invited to visit the hospital and to preview the architectural model. As more design details are confirmed for the long-range master plan, Huntington's project team will periodically welcome visitors to view the evolving model.

Huntington's first century of service has established a unique balance between strong community traditions and progressive growth. As the master planning process unfolds, Huntington's tradition of excellence will continue to provide a clear focus for community health care.

This article was submitted by the Public Affairs Office of Huntington Memorial Hospital.

UPSCALE TAKEOUT TRENDS IN WEST PASADENA by Virginia Kimball

I thought that I was up to date on eating trends around Pasadena. I'd discovered Cajun food and funny toppings on pizza. Blue corn tortillas and sushi or sashimi don't seem particularly foreign anymore. I even know about leaving the skins on potatoes for potato salad and pouring the sauce under the dessert instead of over it, although I haven't quite mastered the technique for that last one. Lately, I've been falling behind.

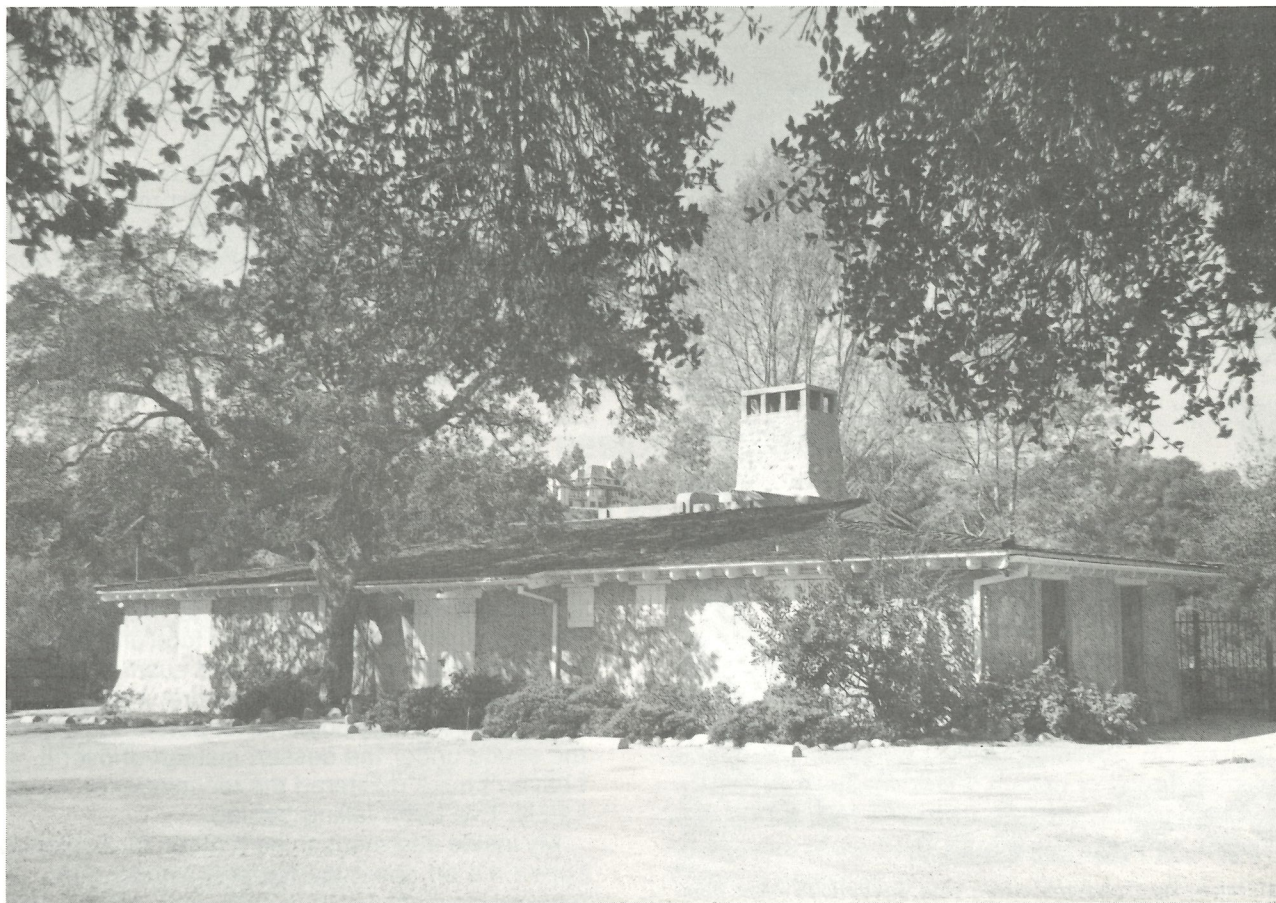
My inside informant at the Kitchen for Exploring Foods tipped me off about the latest fad making the rounds of fashionable dinner parties: *baby food*. Happy Trails, West Pasadena's other gourmet takeout and catering establishment, serves it too. The strained carrots, broccoli, or beets are popular for adding color and texture variation to dinner plates. They don't call it baby food, of course, but as far as I know, pureed veggies are still most popular with the Gerber and Beech-Nut crowd.

Happy Trails and the Kitchen reflect the national trend for service-oriented businesses. The service is cooking, and they do it well. Whether it's a huge party, a carefully planned dinner for two, or a last minute *what-can-I-serve-for-dinner?* panic, these people can solve your problems.

Happy Trails, located at 207 South Fair Oaks, is owned by Ellen Roth and Robert Jenkins. You wouldn't guess from driving by, but behind their cute little store is one of the best places to have lunch in the whole city. The garden consists of a shady, grassy green area dominated by a 150-year-old camphor tree with a raised platform for chairs and tables around it. On a fine day, a sandwich or quiche with sun-dried tomatoes and olives carried out to their garden is idyllic. You'll forget you're in the middle of the city. But wait! Until the weather warms up again, the lunch operation has been suspended. In the meantime, they're carrying on with catering and special takeout orders. Little grilled goodies are popular now, such as shrimp, beef, or chicken appetizers cooked over a hot mesquite fire.

Peggy Dark owns the Kitchen for Exploring Foods at 1434 West Colorado Blvd. Most of her business these days is catering, and she's very busy. There's a lively takeout business too, with or without advance ordering. Besides the baby food, "hot" foods these days are vegetables such as red and green peppers roasted in garlic oil, and seafood lasagne.

LA CASITA UPDATE
by Peg Stewart



La Casita del Arroyo before the fire.

(photo courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society)

Into the second week of December, work was continuing apace at La Casita del Arroyo, the community building vandalized by fire in the summer of 1985. Until recently the restoration seemed to be more demolition than restoration. The walls were taken down, the roof removed, and old flooring also removed. Now the parts are being re-assembled. A new roof has been installed. This time it is of fire-proof, shake-like shingles.

Just last week, the building was crawling with workmen—replacing the windows, painting the bathrooms (now designed for handicapped use), replacing window frames, and re-installing bicycle track on the walls. The walls had originally been covered with bicycle track confiscated from the velodrome of the 1932 Olympics. Enough track was rescued from both the ceiling and walls of the building after the fire to reline the walls, but not the ceiling.

The kitchen has had to be entirely rebuilt. There will be new cabinets, counters and cupboards as well as refrigerator and stove.

The community ought to take great pride in the restoration of La Casita. Originally built as a community project during the Great Depression, it has been rebuilt with the same sense of community spirit. Some \$7000 has been received in community donations toward the project. WPRA, Friends of the Arroyo, the Pasadena Garden Club, Pasadena AIA Chapter, Pasadena Heritage, Parks and Recreation, and the Cultural Heritage Commission have had representatives working on the advisory committee for the restoration.

Most of the construction work has been done by City employees who have been on the job since the beginning of the restoration. Lyle Erickson, of the City of Pasadena, will be retiring in January after having overseen the construction and ordering of materials for La Casita. I hope that he wasn't worn down by the project.

La Casita's Restoration Committee has developed a "wish list" for completing the restoration and furnishing of La Casita. A primary need is Batchelder tile for the hearth, approximately 48 square feet of area. A few organizations have contributed money toward the stove, light fixtures, rugs, and window coverings, but additional donations would be welcome. Your tax deductible check to La Casita Restoration Fund may be sent to Bob Edgerly, Administrative Services Director, at City Hall. Questions regarding a donation of materials or other volunteer services may be directed to Bob Edgerly at (818) 405-4315.

Erosion protection of the arroyo bank on which La Casita sits will begin at the end of the rainy season. At that time, the parking lot will be resurfaced, and landscaping will begin. The Pasadena Garden Club, which has been a contributing sponsor of La Casita since its construction in 1933, will initiate its generous project. Landscape architects, Isabel Greene and Yosh Befu, have worked with the Pasadena Garden Club to produce a comprehensive plan for the gardens on the entire site. The plans call for three different demonstration gardens and a very attractive entrance to the building.

If WPRA plans well, perhaps our annual meeting could be an inaugural event in returning La Casita to public use.