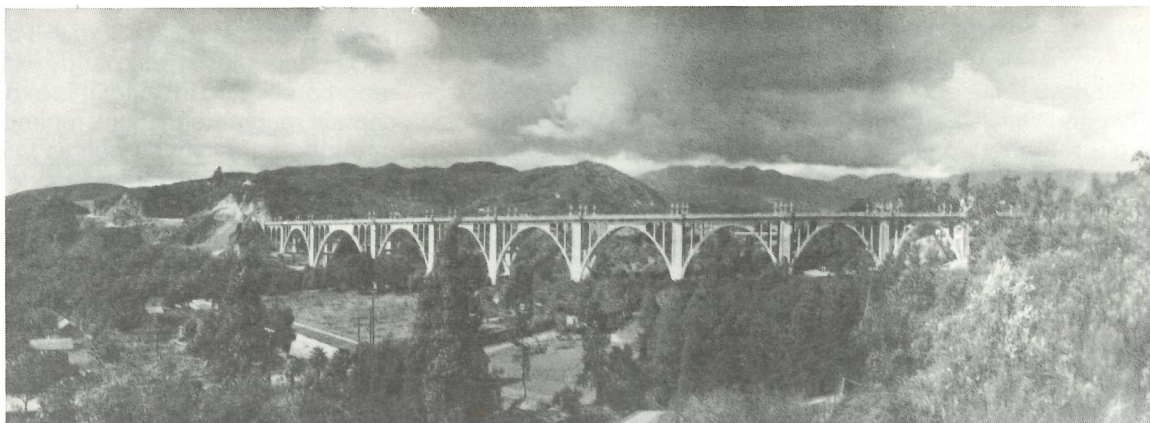


West Pasadena Residents' Association

Est. 1962



Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society

No. 22

September 1987

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS OF WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Co-Presidents	Donna Secundy Annette Serrurier
1st Vice President	Randy Wilson
2nd Vice President	Robert Takata
Secretary	Diane Philibosian
Treasurer	George McWilliams

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW
OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
REGARDING PROPOSED
VISTA DEL ARROYO ZONING CHANGE**

7:00 p.m., Council Chambers
Room 247, City Hall, 100 North Garfield

This is the opportunity for public input on the EIR and the proposed zone change. The deadline for written comments is September 18. Copies of the report are available at the San Rafael and Linda Vista Branch Libraries.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Robert Takata
Randy Wilson

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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 everyone residing in our area to join us by sending a check for annual dues in the enclosed envelope. Once a year, we send the newsletter district-wide, but the other issues (hopefully, three or four a year) are sent to our membership list. The list is also used for mailing post cards to announce public hearings and meetings which would be of special interest to our members.

Putting the newsletter together is a cooperative effort, and I am grateful to the many neighbors who make it possible. If you have comments on this newsletter, or ideas for the next one, please call me or our presidents, Donna and Annette. Thank you.

Virginia Kimball
Editor (213) 258-3524

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENTS

We have once again arrived at our annual membership drive and with that in mind we offer a big welcome to all of our members past, present, and future.

This year we have decided to have co-presidents. The position of president in recent years has become one whose demands normally take more time than a single volunteer can reasonably provide. By splitting the workload, we hope to be able to tackle any and all problems and to serve you with enthusiasm, dedication and high energy.

Our neighborhood contains many historic sites and buildings that enhance the attractiveness and desirability of our locale. These sites and buildings also bring with them a responsibility to see to it that they are maintained in a way that will continue to benefit the city and our district. Two of these sites, the Colorado Street Bridge, and the historic bungalows next to the Federal Court building, are undergoing active review. We urge all of you to become involved and to express your continuing views.

At this time we would again like to welcome Katie Nack as our newly-elected District 6 Representative. Katie comes to us with impressive credentials from many long years of dedicated service to our community. We are certain that she will continue to do her best to serve our district's needs.

In closing, we would like to remind you that all W.P.R.A. board meetings are open to members of the association. The meetings will be held at "La Casita," on the third Thursday of every other month, at 7:30 p.m., beginning in September. Please feel free to attend.

Sincerely,

Donna Secundy — (213) 681-0484
Annette Serrurier — (818) 799-2556
Co-Presidents

REPORT FROM CITY DIRECTOR KATIE NACK

This is an exciting time to begin the job of Director for Pasadena's City Board because of the many events and projects proposed, just beginning and on-going. I am pleased to represent you from District 6.

The general area covered by the West Pasadena Residents' Association Newsletter includes a number of major city projects. Of vital interest is completion of the Vista del Arroyo project for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, finding a solution to parking concerns generated by the tower building, and disposition of the bungalows at the northern end of the site. Meetings of interested parties have been occurring over the past 4 months and I refer you to another article in this newsletter for an update on those discussions.

The first public hearing on the Environmental Assessment Study for the Colorado Street Bridge was held on July 22nd. The report delineates measures to be taken which acceptably replicate the bridge except for the pedestrian Refuge Bays. Under the proposed highway safety requirements the bays could be eliminated in order to accommodate a safety barrier along the bridge rim. I have responded to the EIR process by submitting in writing an alternate solution which could, I believe, meet the safety requirements while retaining the historic recesses.

On August 31st City Staff will be returning to the Board of Directors with a traffic study expanding on a preliminary report presented in June. It is expected that this study will contain recommendations for improving traffic conditions throughout the city as well as in District 6. I will be looking carefully at measures designed particularly to alleviate speed of traffic through District 6 streets and will appreciate hearing from you on your reactions to publicized reports.

"Old Pasadena Celebrates," a 3-day festival is coming in November. Creative minds that have brought excitement, color and activity to the Old Pasadena business area are planning a memorable weekend. Betty Ho, District 6 Field Representative, and I are available to facilitate this planning process wherever needed.

Seven city-wide goals have been adopted for 1987-88 and staff has returned to the Board of Directors with a work plan for implementation which has been approved.

Please, continue to telephone and write to me and to Betty Ho about your concerns and problems as well as supporting whatever actions are of interest to you. My telephone numbers are (818) 793-6838 (home) and (213) 254-6775 (office). Betty Ho may be reached at (818) 799-1925 or at City Hall, (818) 405-4444, where messages may be left if Betty is not there. We will continue to respond and help in appropriate ways.

FESTIVAL IN OLD TOWN, PASADENA



NOVEMBER 27-28-29-1987

Old Pasadena's planning a party to celebrate its revival, and you're all invited. Since the Doo Dah Parade is already scheduled for November 29th, "Old Pasadena Celebrates" will inspire a whole weekend of excitement November 27, 28, and 29th. Just about everyone involved with Old Pasadena has joined together to work with the City in scheduling a big "Open House" for the Old Town area.

The celebrations begin with the grand opening of the DeLacey Parking Structure Friday evening, November 27, which will be followed by a street dance. Saturday features jazz concerts and a fashion show with a chance that Santa Claus may "drop in" (from his helicopter, of course) to kick off the Toys for Tots drive.

Sunday starts bright and early with a charity run before the Doo Dah Parade at noon. Sunday afternoon will give us a chance to sample the new taste of Old Pasadena when the area's restaurants will put on a food festival. There will be a moderate charge for the food festival, but all other events will be free.

Throughout the weekend there will be street performers, architectural tours, public service booths, and special gallery shows. If you haven't been introduced to the restaurants, shops, and galleries in the newly restored National Historic Landmark Buildings, here's the perfect opportunity. The event will be the result of cooperation with the developers, retailers, public relations firms, graphic artists, interior designers and all who have shared in the renaissance of the first downtown area of our city.

The organizations backing "Old Pasadena Celebrates" include Pasadena Heritage, Pasadena Historical Society, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena City College, The Armory Art Center, Pasadena Art Workshops, Pasadena Alliance of Street Performers, The Castle Green, Pasadena Central Improvement Association, the Chamber of Commerce, Pasadena Media, Pasadena Journal of Business, and the Pasadena Star-News.



People strolling through Old Pasadena

STROLLING THROUGH OLD PASADENA by Virginia Kimball

If you want to know how Old Pasadena has changed, go to a movie at the Marketplace or enjoy a meal in one of the many restaurants. Then, instead of getting in the car to go back home, go for a walk instead. These warm late summer evenings are perfect for a stroll, and you certainly won't be alone, especially on weekends. There are street musicians, ice cream tables, and people of all ages. You'll probably even see people you know, and that gives a nice feeling of community.

Walking eastward from the Tanner Market, the southeast corner of Pasadena and Colorado, you'll pass the Ritz Grill, Sweet Desires, and the other shops of that complex, plus the partially restored old Tanner Livery building. The front view is pretty spiffy, but from the side and back, the crumbling brick building seems to be held up by braces, jacks, and crossed fingers while the seismic and other strengthening is done.

The Cellophane Building looks like it's almost fully restored, and a Malaysian Restaurant, Kuala Lumpur, is (at this writing) "coming soon." Next to our old friend, Ernie Jr.'s Taco House, an antique store called Our House has a wonderful cat which is often in the window. At first glance, it looks like an amazingly realistic statue, but it's alive and friendly.

Chicago for Ribs was one of the first new restaurants in Old Pasadena, and it's definitely an old favorite now. Besides their specialty, the delicious ribs, they make fantastic onion rings, and the service is outstanding. The collection of Life Magazine covers on the wall is good for conversation or observation.

Continuing eastward past the UA Marketplace Theater, you'll find the Art Center Downtown, a new gallery sponsored by the College. Next door is The Pasadena Creamery, which sells ice cream, sorbets, and delicious frozen yogurts with lots of toppings. They have a mini-scoop so you can try six flavors in one serving, and there's a table and benches to give a sidewalk cafe atmosphere.

Stop in at Z Gallerie, presumably named so for selling everything in pop culture from A to Z. This is the place to buy a card or gift for all your hip friends. Next door is Tamara, a shop featuring hand decorated women's clothing. Continue on to Old Pasadena Travel, Rosicler Restaurant, and Aux Delices, a French bakery and cafe. Check out the latest in trendy men's wear at Male I.D., before you reach the corner of Fair Oaks, and the Dodsworth Bar and Grill.

The Dodsworth is definitely old Pasadena. It's new, but it looks like a respectable restaurant of the twenties or thirties. This is where the "old money" Pasadenans might have come, if they went out for meals. Just to keep up with the times, a jazz band entertains on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

We've only covered a few blocks on the south side of Colorado Blvd., just along the boundary of west Pasadena. Around the corner, across the street, and throughout Old Pasadena, there are discoveries to be made by those who take the time to stroll.

ONCE IN A QUARTER CENTURY... by Donna Secundy and Annette Serrurier

The West Pasadena Residents' Association has been in existence for the past 25 years. During that time many controversies have been faced and challenged. We, as your representatives, continue to do our best to keep our neighbors informed, involved, and aware as things arise. It is because of our desire to maintain an open line of communication that we are forced to raise our annual dues from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per family. Even though we remain a non-profit fully volunteer organization, the ever rising costs of paper, printing, and postage, makes this an absolute necessity.

We hope that you will understand and continue to generously support our ongoing efforts. We will be updating and revising our current mailing list with our new members. Postcards announcing hearings and other events, as well as the Newsletter, will be mailed to those names on our updated list.

BACK TO SCHOOL

September means it's back to school time in Pasadena. Our public school children will be returning to San Rafael Elementary School, Eliot Middle School, and John Muir High School if they live west of the Arroyo Seco. Those east of the arroyo attend Eliot too, but they go to Linda Vista Elementary and Blair High.

We join the San Rafael School community in welcoming their new principal, Robert Densford. School starts Monday, September 14, and we wish all of them a very good year.

NAG, NAG, NAG

The District VI Neighborhood Action Group (NAG) was originally formed by Bill Cathey, then City Director for Pasadena District VI. The motivating factor leading to formation of NAG was the response that Bill received to a constituents' questionnaire regarding traffic in West Pasadena and the Long Beach Freeway gap. Volunteers were solicited and NAG, which is an ad hoc group, had its first meeting last March. Bill's intent in forming the group was to see if the local citizenry could come up with some solutions to local traffic problems and the local problems related to the Long Beach Freeway corridor situation.

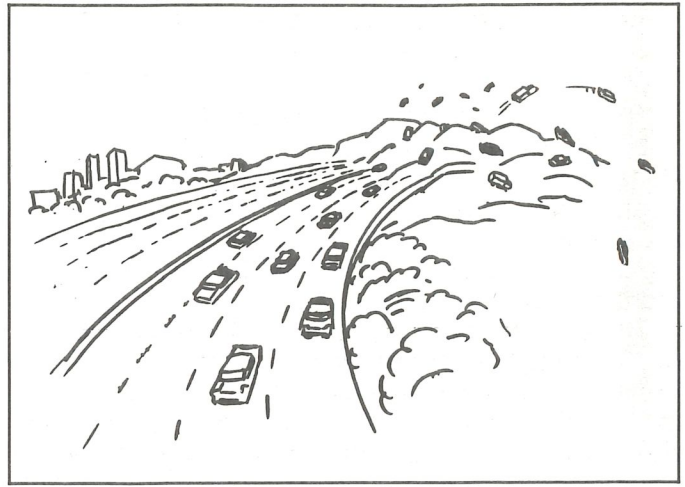
Dorrie Poole was NAG's first Chairman and guided the group through a phase of analyzing the perceived problems and establishing group goals as well as an immediate action plan. During this planning phase it became very obvious that the problems that were not associated with the non-completion of the Long Beach Freeway were impractical to mitigate. This is based on the fact that the transportation infrastructure of West Pasadena was designed to handle residential traffic and not for the purpose of providing thoroughfare to commercial or commuter traffic, both of which have increased dramatically over the past twenty-five years.

Consequently, the group turned its attention to the Long Beach Freeway situation. It was resolved that NAG's goals would be to mitigate traffic in the freeway corridor (the boundaries of which were established as between California Blvd. and Columbia Street, north to south, and Fair Oaks Ave. and Orange Grove, east to west) and the adjacent area; to address the problem of the condition and management of the Cal Trans owned property within the corridor, and; to lobby for the completion of the freeway gap, if not in its entirety, then at least through to Columbia St.

To these ends, in June NAG circulated a questionnaire to over 700 residences in the corridor (both privately owned and Cal Trans tenants) asking about traffic in the area, the management of the area by Cal Trans and the effect of the freeway corridor on the quality of local neighborhood life in general.

On June 18th, NAG sponsored a neighborhood forum to solicit resident comments and gather support for NAG's agenda. At the meeting, which was held in the Westridge School gym and attended by approximately 150 people, the preliminary results of the questionnaire were announced. There ensued a lively discussion, sometimes heated, on the subject of Cal Trans as landlord by residents of privately owned housing and Cal Trans tenants.

Since the forum, many committee members have been on vacation and NAG has been basically inactive as a committee. In July, Dorrie Poole stepped down as chairman and was replaced by David Hamlin. David has been busy planning the agenda for the fall when another neighborhood forum is scheduled to take place. In the meantime, the City has agreed to better enforcement of traffic and parking violations within the corridor as well as addressing some of the deferred maintenance related to streets and sidewalks in the corridor. Hamlin is also in the process of establishing a liaison with a credible member of Cal Trans' local administration.



The Freeway from Pasadena to South Pasadena

VISTA DEL ARROYO REPORT by Randy Wilson

Regular discussions with City Directors Bill Thompson and Katie Nack have been underway for several months regarding the Vista del Arroyo and the disposition of the excess land parcel north of the U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Building.

Parties attending the talks have included members of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the General Services Administration, Pasadena City Board Members and staff, representatives from the Pasadena Southwest Residents' Association, Pasadena Heritage, and other interested people.

The meetings have focused on a number of issues, including the amount of parking required for the Courthouse and how to best provide parking for the Courthouse in a manner satisfactory to users and neighbors on the land to be retained by the federal government.

An additional goal of the study group has been to discuss proposed uses for the excess parcel to the north of the Courthouse with the goal of preserving the bungalows and Maxwell House and encouraging the sale of the excess parcel so it may be utilized within the guidelines to be adopted by the City Planning Commission and Board of Directors.

The calendar of dates regarding the excess Vista del Arroyo property is tentatively set as follows:

June / July: Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

September 2, 7:00 p.m.: Planning Commission and public hearings on EIR

October: Planning Commission recommendations to Board of Directors on EIR and proposed zoning for excess parcel

GSA auction of Vista del Arroyo excess property on October 15

November: Board of Director public hearings on EIR and zoning

November / December: GSA to award the bid on excess property 30 to 60 days from the auction date.

OLD COLORADO BRIDGE by Claire Bogaard

The environmental review process began in mid-July with a public hearing sponsored by the City of Pasadena and Pat Gelb, consultant with the engineering firm of De Leuw, Cather and Company. Approximately twenty-five persons attended the meeting and learned about the rehabilitation plans for the old landmark bridge.

The top roadway, the sides of the upper section of the bridge, spandrel columns and arch beams beneath the roadway will be removed down to the main arches that rise from the Arroyo Seco. Engineers will repair the main arches, rebuild all the upper portions of the bridge and make the necessary seismic improvements. At the insistence of the Federal Highways, the roadway will be two feet wider when replaced. None of the above changes are likely to be noticeable when the bridge is rebuilt.

The major change proposed for the bridge includes the addition of "traffic barriers" to the sides of the bridge as an additional safety measure. Such a change calls for the complete redesign of the bridge sidewalls, the removal of the curved seating bays for a smooth freeway-type concrete wall. Or, the "traffic barrier" could be installed on the edge of the traffic roadway adjacent to the curb which would allow the rebuilding of the bridge as originally designed with the seating bays. Several people in the audience at the public hearing questioned the addition of the "traffic barriers" since the accident rate is so low.

The consultants encouraged written comments regarding the proposed plans. The schedule calls for work on the bridge to begin in approximately eighteen months and will result in the closure of the bridge for about one year. Federal Highways is the agency that will be funding the multi-million dollar repair with funds allocated by Congress for repair and replacement of the nation's bridges.

Should WPRA members wish to comment on the bridge repair, they are encouraged to write to: Ms. Pat Gelb, De Leuw, Cather and Company, 120 Howard Street, San Francisco 94119.



The Arroyo Seco under the Colorado Street Bridge



The seating bays or alcoves are a favorite feature of the Colorado Street Bridge.

WHAT ARE FRIENDS DOING? by George McQuilkin

Recent activities of Friends of the Arroyo Seco have been a geology walk in the Lower Arroyo led by Dr. Bruce Carter, and continued care and tending of a native plant restoration project in the meadow at the base of California Blvd. They are also working on Devils Gate planning efforts and on the Lower Arroyo low-flow stream project.

This fall, Friends will underwrite an all-day seminar for 40 people with noted outdoor teacher and writer Joseph Cornell. They also plan a tree planting project in memory of naturalist Roland Ross who died this May. In the winter they will sponsor an Arroyo Seco wildflower lecture and slide show accompanied by a distribution of wild flower seeds.

Next spring there are two projects on Friends' agenda: a wild foods hike followed by a Native American dinner; and a lecture on the human history of the Arroyo Seco.

If you'd like to participate in Friends' activities, please call Paula Rao, (818) 796-1392; if you want to be on their mailing list and receive their free newsletter, write Alison Hutchings, Editor, 664 Bellefontaine, Pasadena 91105.