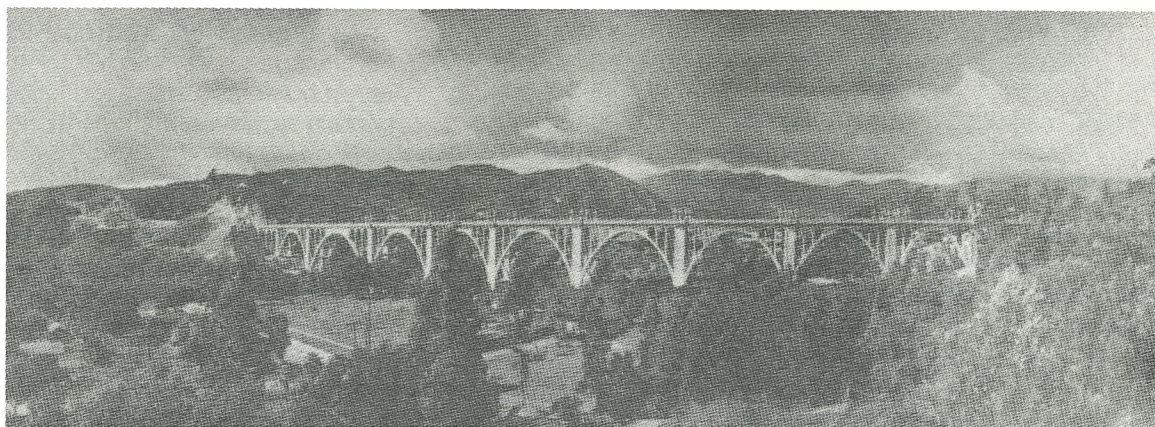


**Est. 1962**

*Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society*

No. 24

November 1988

## NEWSLETTER

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Although 1988 seems to be rapidly passing us by, it has not been without many achievements for our neighborhood. As Director Nack has mentioned, great strides have been made toward saving and preserving our historic bridges. Caltrans is showing signs of increased cooperation in improving and maintaining their existing properties. Landscaping is currently underway in the Bellefontaine triangle area. Repair work has begun on the earthquake damaged flagpole at the northeast corner of Colorado and Orange Grove, traffic patterns along Orange Grove are being evaluated by the City Engineering Department. The long time saga of the old Vista del Arroyo Hotel site continues to be closely monitored by the Association. These tasks are only accomplished by your watchful cooperation within our community.

We would like to give our own special recognition to our District's City Director, Katie Nack for her selection as the "Elected Official of the Year" by the California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons. In addition to this prestigious honor, Katie was also given the "Meritorious Service Award" for outstanding achievement with the Pasadena accessibility task force and community service, by Mayor Bill Thomson. We are proud to have her as our representative.

We look forward to your continued neighborhood support. Please feel free to call on either of us with any questions, concerns, or comments about our area or the city at large.

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

The wintry scene pictured on the back of this newsletter was taken in our neighborhood in 1949. The photograph of San Rafael School in the snow has been hanging in the school office for many years, and I wanted to share it with all of you. The Pasadena Historical Society did not have a copy of the photograph, so I borrowed the school's copy and had a negative and prints made.

The WPRA has reframed and returned the original copy to the school with a new copy for their files. We donated  
(continued on next page)



#### EDITOR'S NOTE (continued)

the negative and one copy to the Historical Society, knowing that those fine people will take care of it and make it available to others. We are grateful to San Rafael School principal Bob Densford for loaning us the photograph.

Maybe this will be the winter of another snowstorm in west Pasadena. Of course it would be hard on our plants and our traffic, and our heating bills would go up, and most of us wouldn't have the proper footwear, but it still sounds like fun to me. Happy holidays to all of you.

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 - (213) 258-3524

#### **SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN PASADENA**

Even without a dusting of snow, San Rafael is one of the prettiest schools anywhere. In recent years, after the schools were desegregated, many neighborhood parents opted for private schools without even considering the public schools. Some parents want "the best school money can buy" for their children. But the Pasadena public schools are just as good as the private schools, and are often better.

Bob Densford has been the principal at San Rafael for just over a year, and says that he is enjoying it thoroughly. "I found a wonderful group of dedicated teachers who are doing a great job. The diversity of the school population enables children to work on academics while becoming comfortable with people of many different cultural backgrounds. I'm convinced that we have much to offer families, and I'd like to invite you all to visit and see for yourselves what a fine school we have."

Principal Bob Densford is working to unite the school with the neighborhood, and is making plans for neighborhood involvement and activities. One major focus is the building of a play structure at the school. Harold Sadring, Jim Bridges, and John Grancich are creating a steering committee to provide a broad base of input while bringing the project to reality. Bob Densford says, "With this project we hope to build not only a play structure, but new relationships in the unique San Rafael area."

#### **LINDA VISTA: OUR OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL**

Linda Vista Elementary School celebrated its centennial celebration last year and is now entering its second century with a renewed dedication to academic excellence. Principal Lonnie Urbina is happy to report that the California Achievement Test Scores are at their highest level in twenty years, and Linda Vista students scored at the 81st percentile in mathematics.

WPRA residents living on the east side of the Arroyo attend Linda Vista. More and more neighborhood children have enrolled there, bringing the student population to 400.

Copies of LINDA VISTA: PORTRAIT OF A NEIGHBORHOOD are still available from the school office, 1259 Linda Vista, for \$25, with the proceeds going toward an educational endowment fund.

#### **MESSAGE FROM KATHRYN NACK DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 6**

##### **Memorial Flagpole**

Restoration of the Memorial Flagpole at Orange Grove and Colorado Blvd. is moving forward, though slowly. Earthquake damage necessitated extensive testing and corrective design work which precludes completion before New Year's Day. However, more important is that the completed restoration will secure this important historic structure for another hundred years. Keep looking at the intersection of Colorado Blvd. and Orange Grove until you see the flag waving again.

##### **Bridges Over The Arroyo**

###### *Colorado Street Bridge*

Historic Colorado Street Bridge is assured of restoration! Congratulations and thanks to each person who, through the years, has supported the cause of directing 12.7 million dollars of Historic Bridge Restoration funds from the Federal Highway Administration toward restoring this landmark.

Many have planned, volunteered, lobbied Washington, D.C. and kept up the pressure to reach this ultimate success in receiving federal funding to add to our own budgeted amount for restoration. Pasadena can now get on with scheduling the work for which we have planned and dreamed so long.

###### *Columbia Street Bridge*

Included in this year's City Capital Budget is money to pay for Pasadena's portion of restoring Columbia Street Bridge. Since half of the bridge is within the City of South Pasadena, it was necessary for that City Council also to budget for the needed work. This is the year, and we can look for work to begin on the bridge in the near future.

###### *San Rafael Bridge*

Also in Pasadena's Capital Budget this year is money for essential safety and restoration work on the San Rafael Bridge. The design is complete and work scheduled to begin in Spring, 1989.

###### *La Loma Bridge*

Last of the spans over the Arroyo to receive restoration budget is the La Loma Bridge. That span is only partially funded in the Capital Budget, but the importance of maintaining these essential, and indeed only passages over the Arroyo is being kept high in the awareness of budget makers with the hope of adding to it next year.

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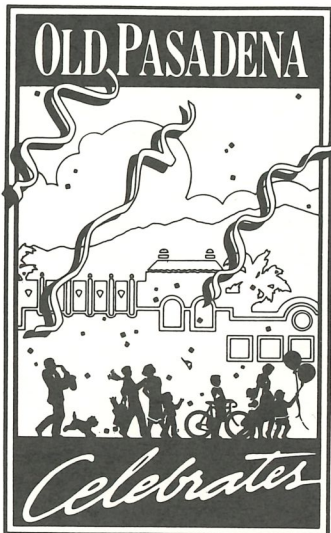
Because I place such high importance on our bridges and have kept their needs visible during budget discussions, agreement was reached on funding this year. We can look forward to renewed safety and beauty in this area.

#### **THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION LINE**

This is a series of recorded telephone messages, keyed to zip code areas, so that residents can learn about city projects in their neighborhood before they happen. Everything that the City is doing in a zip code area, from zoning hearings to street resurfacing to new library hours is included on the three-minute tape, which is changed every Friday. If your zip code is 91105 - CALL (818) 398-0195.



## OLD PASADENA CELEBRATES AGAIN



Last year's Thanksgiving weekend celebration in Old Pasadena was so successful that they're doing it again. The big event will be the 12th Occasional Doo Dah Parade at noon on Sunday, November 27th. The celebration begins on Friday with the Tournament of Toys Parade at 10 a.m., a children's holiday party at 11 a.m. and Open House at the art galleries at 6 p.m. Saturday features the Food & Wine, Fashion & Music Festival from 11

a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday begins with the Five Acres Doo Dah Run at 7:30 a.m. with more Food & Wine, Fashion & Music from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and the Parade at noon.

## CROSS THE BRIDGE TO STONEY POINT

Last May, my friend, Pat, who lives just over on Anita Drive, invited me to lunch at her brother's new restaurant, Stoney Point. Pat was looking the picture of health and happiness, a natural consequence of being nine months pregnant. Her radiance was matched by the enthusiasm of her brother, Richard Biles, and his partner, Ramon Papas.

There's something exciting about people who are producing results . . . whether it's babies or businesses. My problems of not enough hours in the day and a book stalled in production temporarily vanished. The service was good, and the food delicious. Everything began to look rosy . . . or rather peachy.

Stoney Point is a place where color makes a strong statement. Apricot walls, peach ceiling, fresh flowers and linens in the same tones create an atmosphere of warmth and welcome. Even the food on the plate is arranged with an eye for color, and each entree features a garland of five or six fresh vegetables cooked just right. The cuisine is French, with occasional surprises.

"Casually chic" is Ramon's description of their goal for atmosphere, but I'd call it comfortably chic. Although Stoney Point has a very relaxed atmosphere and suits or jackets are not required, my idea of casual runs to jeans and sweatshirts, which wouldn't be quite right. The prices are what most reviewers would call moderate, but I'll describe as on the upper end of the moderate scale.

I have returned "incognito" to verify my first impressions, and the peachy glow was still there. Richard and Ramon's enthusiasm has brought forth a fine restaurant in West Pasadena. Reservations are requested (not required), particularly at the end of the week. You might visit early in the week to avoid the crowds. Stoney Point is located at 1460 West Colorado Blvd., (818) 792-6115. And my friend, Pat? She's still radiant, with a new baby boy to join her daughter, Heather.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ORANGE GROVE SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES?

Your reactions to the recent traffic control changes at Orange Grove and California Boulevards and at Orange Grove and Del Mar would be helpful in the evaluation process. The LEFT TURN ARROW at California and the NO LEFT TURN sign at Del Mar are measures agreed upon by a neighborhood committee. A combined street improvements project is scheduled for Orange Grove Boulevard in 1990. Please respond to the following positions and return to: WPRA, P.O. Box 50252, Orangewood Plaza, Pasadena, CA 91105-0252 by December 10, 1988.

1. I support; oppose (circle one) the recent traffic signal changes on Orange Grove and California Boulevards which were installed as an alternative to left turn pockets to correct a severe left turn collision pattern.
2. I support; oppose (circle one) the recent posting of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. NO LEFT TURN signs on Orange Grove at Del Mar Boulevard as an alternative to installing a left turn pocket to correct collision problems directly related to intersection left turns.
3. I support; oppose (circle one) replacing the new intersection traffic controls on Orange Grove Boulevard at California and at Del Mar with standard left turn pockets and arrows. This would include removal of part of the parkway on each side of Orange Grove, requiring that some street lights would be moved out of the present alignment.

## LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ALONG THE LONG BEACH FREEWAY *by Bob Takata, WPRA Board Member*

Because of concerns of the lack of landscaping of the unfinished portions of the Long Beach Freeway between Del Mar and California Blvd., the Atherton Home Owners' Associon, led by Bob Hardie, approached the West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA) for assistance in the possibility of landscaping portions of the freeway right-of-way. WPRA contacted Mrs. Theo Walker, Executive Assistant, Caltrans and subsequently set up a meeting with Caltrans representatives, Bob Hardie, Betty Ho, field representative for City Director Katie Nack, and me. It was agreed by all the parties that this project was an opportunity for enhancing our neighborhood through sensitive landscaping of this portion of the freeway and also an opportunity to minimize Caltrans' maintenance costs currently spent for weed abatement and general upkeep.

The landscaping project will have tall evergreen flowering shrubs that would extend from the north side of Bellevue Drive, roughly 780 feet south just beyond Palmetto Drive. Caltrans agreed to provide eighty shrubs and Betty Ho of Director Katie Nack's office arranged for the California Conservation Corps to help with the planting.

The flowering shrubs were planted on November 2, 1988 by a group of enthusiastic neighborhood volunteers and the California Conservation Corps. The plantings were supervised by Bill Koval, landscape architect, Caltrans, Mr. Riley Caudill, arborist, City of Pasadena and Ray Cary of the California Conservation Corps.





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San Rafael  
Elementary School,  
1090 Nithsdale Road,  
January 11, 1949.  
Photo courtesy  
San Rafael  
Elementary School.