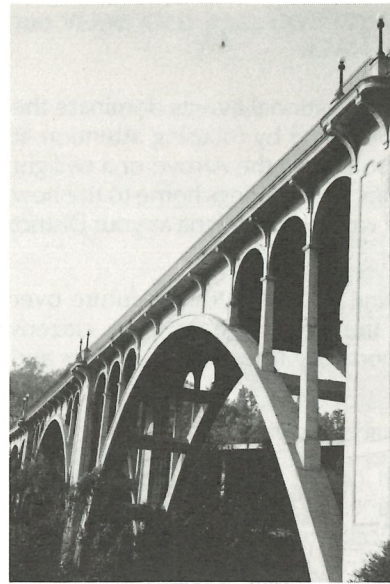


WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOC. NEWS



Established 1962

No. 28 February 1991

\$200,000 GRANT GIVEN FOR LOWER ARROYO PLAN

The Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy (SMMC) has awarded the City \$200,000 to begin the implementation of the Lower Arroyo Master Plan. The grant was obtained through the efforts of WPRA member Ernie Messner.

This represents the culmination of efforts to preserve the Lower Arroyo Seco which began over 25 years ago with the adoption of a Board resolution in 1964 followed by the designation of the area as a Cultural Heritage Landmark in 1979.

Specific projects which will be funded by the SMMC grant include trail repair, stabilization of arroyo stone walls and oak grove revegetation. The establishment of a nursery on U.S. Forest Service property near Devils' Gate for the propagation of native trees to be planted in the Lower Arroyo will also be included in this phase.

Removal of abandoned restrooms near the San Rafael Bridge as well as existing structures housing the Casting Club and Roving Archers is anticipated. These two organizations may be consolidated into a single, new building designed in a manner sensitive to the area. The parking areas will be improved to the extent funding allows.

Additional recipients of a portion of the SMMC grant include the Police Department's Equestrian Patrol for corrals in the Devils' Gate location and the Armory Center for the Arts for children's programs in the Lower Arroyo.



No expanded or more intensive use of the Lower Arroyo is envisioned by the Master Plan which was developed in the spirit of the original 1918 plan.

An Arroyo Task Force, appointed by the Board of Directors in November, 1990, will review and monitor master plan implementation progress. Members of the Task Force have been drawn from the Parks and Recreation Commission, Cultural Heritage Commission, Pasadena Heritage, The Roving Archers, the Casting Club and the West Pasadena Residents' Association.

COLORADO STREET BRIDGE REHABILITATION BACK ON TRACK

Construction is scheduled to begin in February on the Colorado Street Bridge rehabilitation, putting the project back on track after a temporary derailment in December.

At that time, the Federal Highway Administration notified the City of Pasadena that additional information and studies were needed before construction could begin.

Following a decade of cooperation among representatives of Federal Highways, Caltrans and a Citizens' Committee which lead to the completion of studies and rehabilitation plans, the suggested delay shocked many in and out of City Hall. It was evident that such a delay would terminate the project.

Mayor Jess Hughston, Director Kathryn Nack, City Manager Phillip Hawkey and Acting Director of Public Works, Cynthia Kurtz, coordinated efforts at City Hall and turned to the community for additional help.

Bridge supporters from both sides of the Arroyo Seco flooded congressional offices and the Federal Highway Administration with letters urging approval of the funds. This outpouring of support, in combination with the skillful work of City staff and elected officials, persuaded Federal Highways to reinstate the funding and give final approval to the project.

The City's remaining bridge rehabilitation project on the San Rafael Bridge, has been underway since early fall. Completion is expected within the next two months. A major component of this project, like the Colorado Street Bridge rehabilitation, includes seismic reinforcement of the structure.

AN INVITATION FROM CITY DIRECTOR KATHRYN NACK

At this time when war and national events dominate the news, some comfort can be found by focusing attention at home. An early morning stroll along the Arroyo or a twilight walk down one of our historic streets brings home to me how fortunate I am to live in and work for Pasadena as your District 6 City Director.

Reflection stimulates thinking about Pasadena's future over this new decade and into the next. Right now we, citizens of Pasadena, have the opportunity to express our ideas and images about that future.

You can participate in Pasadena's vision.

Under California law each city in the state must adopt a General Plan setting guidelines for how the city will develop and look over time. Periodically, revision to the General Plan is required and now is the time for Pasadenans to imagine our City of the future by revising the Land Use and Circulation Elements of our own plan.

How land within our city is used and whether or not we want a change; how we will cherish both the heritage of the past and the promise of the future; what relationship we want between homes and business; how our children and elder citizens will be treated and planned for are all questions to be decided. Only our collective imaginations will limit our vision of Pasadena 20 years from now.

The two city-wide citizen brainstorming meetings held recently gave city planning staff a base for designing the process requested by the Board of Directors. That process will include extensive discussions with the many communities existing in Pasadena so that a picture is built of our city during transitions over the near future into the more distant future.

You are invited to participate. I urge you to let the Planning Department know that you want to be included in the mailing list of scheduled meetings. Look for salmon colored postcards available in city libraries for return to City Hall or call the Planning Department to express your interest at (818) 405-4206.

Be a part of Pasadena's future through your vision and imagination.

Kathryn "Katie" Nack
District 6
City Director

A \$75 MILLION INVESTMENT WORTH PROTECTING

The City is lessening the canopy provided by larger trees (and the recognized environmental benefits) as a result of policy decisions which determine the selection of replacement trees for City streets.

"The canopy we enjoy has been given to us as a legacy from the past," states Alice Thomas, President of Pasadena Beautiful. The organization, most closely associated with the annual Golden Arrow Awards which recognize beautiful gardens throughout the City, has assumed an activist role in the defense of Pasadena's trees.

Mrs. Thomas reports that there are 51,000 street trees in Pasadena planted over the years since the first major street tree planting effort in 1906. They represent a replacement value of \$75 million.

Recently, working with the Design Commission, Pasadena Beautiful was able to forestall the destruction of 163 carob trees on Glen Avenue in Northwest Pasadena, later convincing City departments to remove only 25.

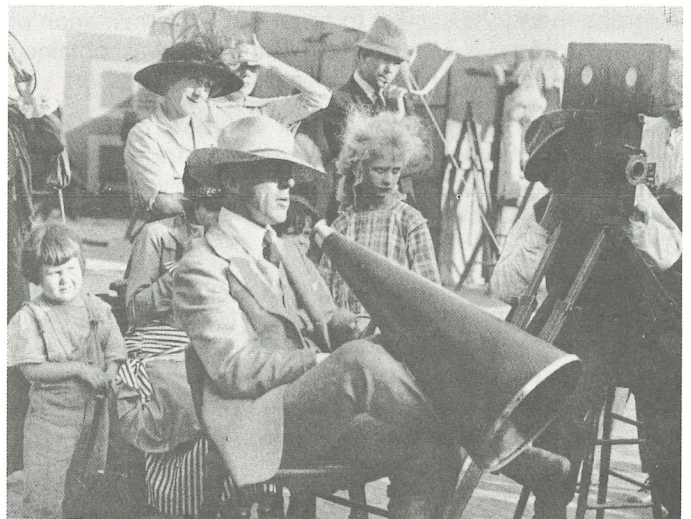
The efforts of Pasadena Beautiful are focused on protection and education as well as encouraging the City to plant additional trees wherever possible.

The organization supports the establishment of a Tree Advisory Commission which would include representatives from the Cultural Heritage, Design, Planning and Parks and Recreation Commissions. In addition, this permanent commission would include three arboriculturists.

Pasadena Beautiful is sponsoring symposia on tree care. The latest, held in late January, dealt with basic tree biology. According to Mrs. Thomas, these sessions are expressly for the purpose of assisting residents in the maintenance of trees on their own properties. They also teach methods for protecting an important part of our City's heritage represented by its extraordinary street trees.

For information regarding the Pasadena Beautiful tree symposia or other events, call (818) 795-9704.

FILMING IN PASADENA A SOURCE OF CONCERN



D.W. Griffith might have been impressed with the amount of technical equipment and support personnel it takes to make a motion picture or commercial these days, but many residents are not.

At a public meeting held in late October at the Pasadena Public Library, property owners heard Lisa Rollins of the California Film Commission explaining concerns which have been raised by the Department of Commerce. These focus on the loss of revenue experienced as a result of film companies and producers electing to go out of state (particularly to Oregon, Washington and Canada), where regulations are more favorable.

Residents, seemingly unimpressed by this argument, continued to press for revisions to the current ordinance regulating filming within the City.

Among issues which are to be addressed in new guidelines are the number of vehicles allowed on neighborhood streets. Currently five vehicles are allowed. These include large trailers which house makeup rooms, restrooms, props and other support functions. Residents asked that this number be reduced.

A reduction in the amount of time allotted to set up and for the dismantling (striking) of sets and props was also requested. Presently production is held to six days, with two additional days allowed for set up and striking. Attendees requested that a total of six days be allowed for the entire process.

City staff was urged to consider increasing the present 500' radius (corner to corner) distance required as a buffer to adjoining properties, to 1300'.

Residents supported the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours of operation now imposed on filming companies. There was agreement that extensions should not be granted.

At the conclusion of the October meeting, City staff agreed to prepare draft guidelines incorporating neighborhood concerns. Since that time, however, there have been personnel changes and those guidelines which have been drafted are not yet public. A new individual assuming the position as Film Liaison will not be on board before mid-February. It is expected that the guidelines and ordinance revisions will be top priority for this City staff member.

NEIGHBORS JOIN WITH CITY TO IMPROVE SAN RAFAEL PARK

San Rafael Park has new life thanks to the efforts of dedicated neighbors and City officials.

Located at the corner of Melrose Street and Colorado Boulevard, the small park had been in decline for many years. It was exemplified by graffiti, aged and broken park furniture and a solitary carousel for children of the neighborhood to play on. A reduction in use by families in the immediate area was evidence of its poor condition.

In order to stem further deterioration, a group of neighborhood parents contacted the City's Park and Forestry Department and Director Kathryn Nack to explore the possibilities for improving the park. Specific requests were made for a gym set, better maintenance and trees to shade the sand ring.

Following several meetings with Park and Forestry representatives and Field Representative Betty Ho, Director Nack sought and obtained City Board support for a new gym set and improved maintenance which included repair and restaining of wood furniture and improved maintenance of plants. Trees, however, were not included in the improvements due to lack of funds.

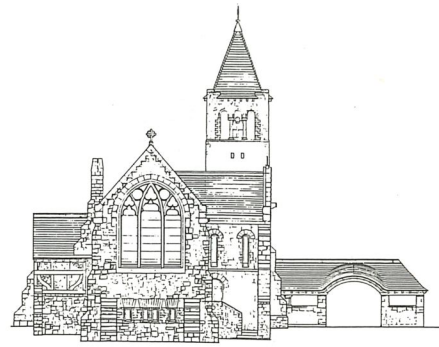
Undaunted, neighbors turned to the Parks and Recreation Foundation. With the Foundation's support, an independent fund drive was undertaken to raise enough to purchase six trees. A total of \$750 plus the donation of one tree was collected within a four week period.

Tree species are being selected that offer shade and beauty but do not obstruct views into the park from the street. Working with the City, neighbors will select, purchase and plant trees during February.

In addition to these improvements, San Rafael Park received a rock sculpture bench donated by local resident, Judge William P. Hogoboom in memory of his wife, Betty.

West Pasadena will benefit by this successful demonstration of cooperative work among neighbors, the City, and elected officials.

100 YEARS OLD AND COUNTING



Architects for The Church of the Angels are planning ahead. In celebration of its first one hundred years, the congregation has embarked on a rehabilitation and restoration project that will lead it into its second century seismically sound and beautifully preserved.

Installing a new roof and repaving the driveway in a more sensitive style to the building (which recalls Holmbury St. Mary's Church, Surrey, England), are among other components of the construction project. As funds allow, the restoration of the steeple, a casualty of the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, will be undertaken.

The steeple was shortened by 11 feet following the quake as a result of structural damage. Wisely, the original stones were carefully stored over the past 20 years and are available to complete the restoration if present fund raising efforts are successful.

The community is invited to an open house to view the work-in-process at The Church of the Angels on March 3, from noon to three o'clock. The Church is located at 1100 Avenue 64.

Those interested in the project's status are encouraged to call the Church for additional information at (213) 255-3878.

WPRA TO SPONSOR FREEWAY FORUM

We were extremely pleased by the large turnout last October 23, at the WPRA Membership Meeting. Many issues facing our neighborhood were discussed with particular emphasis given to City regulations related to filming and traffic.

As you will recall, we proposed that WPRA sponsor a Route 7 Freeway Forum for the purpose of providing information about the 30-year-old Caltrans proposal.

When will the Environmental Impact Report on the Meridian Route be available? What will happen if South Pasadena files suit against Caltrans? Where, precisely, are the interchanges servicing this section of the Route 7 and how are they likely to impact the surrounding neighborhoods? Can we expect that traffic on neighborhood streets will be reduced if the freeway is completed?

There were many questions raised at our meeting and there will be many more which we're certain will come to mind.

We are pleased to let you know that the WPRA Board is currently organizing this forum and expects to offer our members the opportunity to get the latest information on the freeway's status on April 24, 1991. We will forward a special announcement to our membership with time and location well in advance of this date.

We appreciate your continued support as members of this association and look forward to seeing you April 24.

Donna B. Secundy
Co-President

Annette Serrurier
Co-President

