



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall , 2011

We Celebrate!

On October 18, the Society will celebrate fifty years of preserving our history. A gourmet dinner will be held at Fatty's, A Place to Eat. Invitations have been sent to all current members. We will honor, in particular, our second president, Powell Greenland,



founding member, Doris Thielen, and our ninth president John Miller.

Thursday, October 5, 1961 was a red-letter day in the life of Eagle Rock. The "March of Progress" was held, celebrating the official reopening of the resurfaced Eagle Rock Blvd. and 50 years of progress since Eagle Rock became a city in 1911. It was a gala day with a parade, a presentation of certificates to the oldest residents, and finally, a dance.

The death of Mrs. Charles W. (Emma) Young, longtime historian and leader of the History and Landmarks section of the Women's Club, led to concern among the membership that the work of this group might not survive without her leadership. At a Community Improvement Committee meeting, Eleanor Zimmerman gave a report of the celebration and said, "Probably the most valuable contribution to come out of the effort was the request for the formation of an historical society". Mrs. Lela Frances Bailey, chairman, named Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Thielen and Mrs. Harriette Bryson to assist her in structuring the new organization.

The first meeting of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society was held Wednesday, October 25. Mr. Henry Welcome was elected president; Mrs. J.R. Zimmerman, vice president; Mrs. Carl D Basler, secretary; and Mr. Cecil Davis, treasurer. The club met in various places at first, finally settling on the Yosemite Park Senior Center for the quarterly meetings with a potluck picnic in July. The first opportunity to display the historical materials collected by the Society occurred with the opening of the California Federal Savings building (now Citibank). The meetings moved to the bank's community room.

Early in 1968, the society took note of the disused state

Continued on page 2

Mrs. Charles W. (Emma Elinor) Young, shown here with her daughter Amber, joined the Women's Twentieth Century Club shortly after moving to Eagle Rock. Her leadership of its History and Landmarks Section for over forty years showed her passion for the pageant of history.

Members and Friends

Thanks to our members

We depend on you. I hope to see many of you at the ERVHS banquet and other Centennial events. The year has flown by.

Officers and board members

Sadly, we have learned of the passing of longtime board member Lucy Spurgeon. Her energy and intelligence will be missed.

The nominating committee has proposed the following officers and board members for the 2011-2013 term. Eric Warren, President; Fred Guapo, Vice President; Katie Taylor, Treasurer; Karen Warren, Secretary; John de la Fontaine, Frank Parrello, Karin Heyl, Deborah Huntington, Don Krotser, John Miller, Corey Stargel, Sarah Stargel, and Doris Thielen; Board members. Additional nominations and a membership vote will be taken at the banquet.

Ice Cream Social Donors

These local businesses donated to our raffle, please give them your support and patronage.

Super Copy • Colorado Wine Co. • Tritch Hardware • Designer Framing • Curves • The Green Bean

Thanks are also due to the Eagle Rock High School Key Club, Karen Heyl, and to our entertainers: Peter Breede, Fifth Friday Folk Band, Eagle Rock High School Latin Jazz

Band and the Western Educators, Shooters and Troopers.

A personal note

It has been a pleasure serving as your president the last four years. I look forward to continuing our efforts to preserve and disseminate our history and to save and enhance our historic resources. I appreciate all of your volunteer efforts and support for the Society. We couldn't do it without all of you. Thank you.

Continued from page 1

of the old Eagle Rock City Hall. A gathering of 125 persons petitioned Councilman Arthur Snyder to save the building from proposed demolition and refurbish it as a community center. After several years of renovation, the building reopened with a small Historical Society museum housed in the west end. The Society finally had a home and a place to display the artifacts gathered through its efforts. Volunteer docents opened the museum weekly. Later, due to the need for Council office space, the museum was moved to the basement behind the meeting room.

When the old city hall was closed for seismic upgrading, it was proposed that the Society would move to the new cultural center in the renovated old library. Our furniture and archives were stored by the city for several years and then deposited in the new building, which had by then been designated as an art center. Although the community center function for the building had been abandoned, the management of the art center graciously allowed the society to retain storage and meeting space in the building. This arrangement continues with the current Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock. Finding that the materials collected were endangered by improper storage, it was decided that the focus of the Society would change from exhibition to preservation and cataloging. A team of local historians headed by Virginia Neely and Pat Samson aided this monumental effort.

The Society has continued and revitalized the traditions of the founders. Quarterly meetings are still held, lately with an emphasis on our history, in preparation for Eagle Rock's Centennial year and our 50th anniversary. The Ice Cream Social replaced the yearly picnic in July. The Society is joining with Occidental College, Highland Park Heritage Trust and other local organizations to enable the preservation and dissemination of regional historic resources. The Society is enjoying a new burst of creativity and we look forward to the future with an increasing understanding of our community's history and its role in our city.

The objectives of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society

- to preserve, clarify through research and to perpetuate the history of Eagle Rock Valley
- to make this history available to students, researchers, libraries and all interested persons
- to preserve and protect our local landmarks, especially the Eagle Rock

Membership is open to all who would further these objectives

Public Archive Hours 10 to 12 every Saturday
at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Blvd. Eagle Rock CA 90041
for information call 323-257-1357

This journal is published quarterly by
The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society
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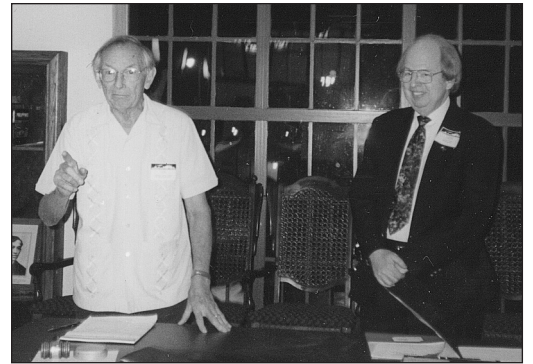
Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

Our Town, Our History



Henry Welcome, our founding president, checks out Eagle Rock's Rose Parade trophies displayed in our museum at City Hall. Henry's enthusiasm was a major factor in the founding and success of the society.

Joe Northrop speaks to the society in 2000, hosted by John Miller, our ninth president. Northrup, our 3rd president, was a descendant of the "pobladores", Los Angeles' first citizens. He wrote their genealogy and organized their descendants. Here he exhorts us to remember and teach our history to the young.



Mr. and Mrs. Ray (Elena Frackelton) Murdock with the car they would ride in for Eagle Rock's 50th anniversary parade. Grand Marshall Elena Murdock was a 75-year resident. She compiled a remarkable scrapbook of our town's early days.



Our Town, Our History

Pat Samson, Virginia Neely, and Ann Walnum enjoy themselves at the first Ice Cream Social in 2005. Pat and Virginia worked many hours to put our archive in order and protect its contents. All three are stalwart supporters of our sister organization, the Highland Park Heritage Trust.



Councilmember Jose Huizar recognizes the society in a ceremony last year in the City Council chamber. Pictured receiving the proclamation are Fred Guapo, John Miller, Sarah Stargel, Cory Stargel, Karen Warren, and Donna Guapo.



Our neighbors enjoy themselves at the 2010 Ice Cream Social. Longtime headliners, the Eagle Rock High School Latin Jazz Band, are entertaining them.

An Extended Member's Corner: Powell Greenland, ERVHS's Second President

Born on June 20th, 1920, Powell Greenland was a third generation Californian. He grew up with his sister and brother in Highland Park. In 1924, his family moved to Eagle Rock and bought a house on the corner of Fairpark and Floristan, which still stands today. His father owned a notions store in downtown Los Angeles that supported the family. He and his siblings all attended Dahlia Heights Elementary school and ERHS. From twelve to sixteen years old, he was involved with the Eagle Rock Boy Scout Troop 8 of which he has fond memories. In particular, he and his troop were given a chance to ride in an eighty foot yacht that sailed around Catalina Island, a trip he remembers vividly to this day.

Powell graduated in winter '39 and was the class president. He was also the captain of the football team that year. ERHS won the San Fernando Valley League championship, quite a feat in those times, which surely must have given his girlfriend, Billie Crowley, quite a few bragging rights. Powell attended Occidental College for two years intending to major in Speech, but his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of WWII. He joined the Merchant Marine and spent the next four years away from home traveling throughout the South Pacific and even to

India. He returned home to Billie, whom he had married during his service, and he enrolled at UCLA as a history major, graduating in 1948. He hoped to teach, but was sidetracked and went into the landscape irrigation equipment business with his brother.

In 1952, he and Billie bought a home on Linda Vista, not far from where he grew up, and raised three of his four children there (all graduated from ERHS). A neighbor of his was Henry Welcome, soon to become the first president of the ERVHS. A local historical society was Henry's vision. "He was a nut about history," said Powell. They were founding members of the ERVHS and attended the first official meeting in 1961.

The ERVHS quickly became popular and had an impressive board of directors, Powell remembers. There were people with history PhDs, Dr. Carpenter from the Huntington Library, and members of the Oxy faculty. After his two-year reign as our second president, Powell continued to be involved and is a Life Member.

When Powell retired in 1987, he and Billie moved to Port Hueneme, where he has spent the last 25 years of his life. He has written four books, served on the boards of both the Museum of Ventura County and the Ventura County Maritime Museum, and become the local historian of that area.

At 91 years old and having lived away from Eagle Rock for several decades now, I asked him how he remembers his life here. "Well, you got a soft feeling for Eagle Rock when you raise your kids there," he told me. He feels that Eagle Rock will always be a home away from home.

We look forward to honoring Powell at our 50th Anniversary gala event on October 18th. Join us and meet this incredible man yourself and maybe learn a thing or two about Eagle Rock and Port Hueneme.

-Katie Taylor



Happy Birthday!

A gathering of past and current presidents met at the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society last Tuesday, Oct. 21, to cut the cake for the society's 25th anniversary meeting. Pictured are, left to right, Joe Northrop, 1969-73; Lois Woods, 1979-81; Henry Welcome, 1961-65 and 1981-83; Walter Dickey, current president; Powell Greenland, 1965-69; and Ralph Sherman, 1973-77.



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Blvd.

**GALA ERVHS FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY BANQUET AT
FATTY'S : A PLACE TO EAT**

Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 6:30

**WHERE TO NOW ?
EAGLE ROCK 2012 —→
Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 7:00**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
FRIENDSHIP, MUSIC, PRIZES
SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2012, 1:00**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Membership Category:

☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Business \$35 ☐ **New**
☐ Family \$25 ☐ Life \$300 ☐ **Renewal**

Will you help with the ongoing activities of the ERVHS ?

☐ Yes ☐ No

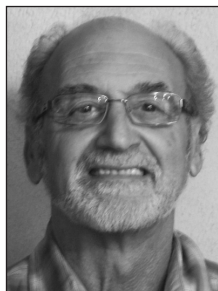
☐ Archives ☐ Newsletter ☐ Oral history
☐ Meetings ☐ Fundraising ☐ E-mail me
☐ Publicity ☐ Displays to help

Other _____

Clip and mail to : **ERVHS**
c/o Center for the Arts
2225 Colorado Blvd.
Eagle Rock, CA 90041

Date _____

The Member's Corner



Frank Parrello

Born and raised in Michigan, Frank Parrello made his way to California after graduating from the University of Michigan with his Masters in Architecture in 1974, settling in Hollywood. Soon thereafter, he moved to Highland Park and eventually to Eagle Rock in 1978. He became one of the founding members of the Highland Park Heritage Trust and is the last founding member still on its Board. While in Highland Park, he met his future

wife, Heather Hoggan. They were both preservationists at heart and bonded over her 1886 Highland Park farmhouse.

Frank worked for the Los Angeles City Planning Department for twenty-five years. He was then recruited by the Historic Resources Group and acted as their planning director for ten years. Frank is currently very busy as a preservation consultant working from his home, which was built in 1926 in the historic "Happy Land" tract on Oak Grove. He and his wife moved there in 1988.

Why have you stayed in Eagle Rock? "I liked the neighborhood quality of it. I have friends on the Westside who don't even know their neighbors." Frank loves the "small town" feel with "attributes of a big city." It is the best of both worlds.

Frank is clearly passionate about preservation, having been involved with more local projects and serving on more local Historical Society boards than I can recount here. We are very happy and lucky indeed to announce that he has agreed to serve on ours! We welcome Frank to our Board and are very excited to have his expertise.

-Katie Taylor