



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring, 2013

Fred Guapo, Local Surfer, Tells All!

The year was 1962. Four of us were on the way to Ventura for a day of surfing. Suddenly the driver turned to me and said "You have no experience and could never be great like me". That made me determined to prove him wrong.

Buying a 1950 Chevrolet and a Joe Quigg surfboard, I took my buddies to Hermosa Beach, Huntington Beach, and Malibu all summer. Soon, I was a dedicated wave rider. I started buying Surfer Magazine, every issue. I read and imagined myself riding those waves until I could feel the movements. It was a Zen experience. My next board was a brand new Dave Sweet, nine feet long and weighing 35 lbs.

I was surfing 4 days a week during the summer months. During my twenty years in the sport, I bought Jacobs, Dewey Weber, and Natural Progressions of Malibu surfboards. My favorite beach was Malibu. I travelled as far as Ventura County to San Onofre in search of its powerful waves.

Over twenty years of surfing, I collected 120 issues of Surfer and Surfing Magazine. I recently donated them to Pepperdine's surfing museum.

Tuesday, April 23 at 7 PM at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock, Fred Guapo will tell of his experiences as a surfer in the 60's and the evolution of the sport from 1907 until 1979.

Presenting images from his collection of Magazines, he will show the development of the surfboard and the evolutionary quantum leaps in design and surfing style during the 60's and 70's.

This presentation of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served.



SURF 'S UP!

Local Surfer Tells All!

Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society

Center for the Arts,
Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado
Tuesday,
April 23, 7:00
Free and Open to All

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Members and Friends

Women's Twentieth Century Club Federal Designation

The club has submitted an application to pursue federal historic landmark designation for their remarkable clubhouse. It has been well received by the state commission and has been placed on the agenda for April 30. If approved, the application will be forwarded for federal consideration.

Various repairs have been proposed for the building. The most obvious and expensive is the appropriate replacement of much of the timber in the north pergola. Also proposed are the rehabilitation of the kitchen windows, replacement of the sliding display-case doors with glass swing doors, and the repair of the mouldings around the front doors. These must await the outcome of the designation process. We encourage the women of the community to join the club and support these efforts.

Councilman Arthur Snyder Remembered

A memorial was held for this remarkable man Saturday, March 23. The upper meeting room at Eagle Rock's City Hall was dedicated to him. Many friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate his life: Councilman Richard Alatorre, Supervisor Mike Antonovitch, Councilwoman Jan Perry and many others shared their memories. See page 5 for more about his involvement with our Society.

"All I Know...."

Our joint efforts with Highland Park Heritage Trust and the Occidental College Library, to digitize our archive of local newspapers have resulted in the granting of \$35,000 by the Haynes Foundation to further these efforts. See page 4 for further information.

Egasse- Braasch House

The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission has voted to declare the Norman cottage style house on Hill Drive a Los Angeles City Cultural Historical Monument. We are appreciative of the efforts of the new owners, Myanna and David Dellinger, to research and care for this wonderful house. Many, including our board member Doris Thielen, remember the house as the home of music teacher and advocate, Constance Braasch.

Dues are due!

Thanks to all of our loyal members who sustain us with their dues. As our system is tied to the calendar year, **those pesky envelopes appear again in this newsletter for those who haven't yet paid for 2013.** As misunderstandings have arisen about the year for which dues have been paid, we will include on the mailing label the last paid membership year in our records. If you disagree, we will adjust, as we value your membership.

Ice Cream Social Sundae July 28

We will welcome the community for music, ice cream, and fun. Be sure to bring the kids of all ages!

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

Visit us at eaglerockhistory.org or in person
Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the CFAER

The Celebrated Yosemite/Eagle Theatre

When the Yosemite Theatre opened in May of 1929, the celebrity headliner was Scotsman George T. Valance (Sir Harry Lauder's son-in-law). Banjo men Andy Gump and Uncle Bim and W.F. Sharples, "the Idea Man," and Volney James, "Eight Ball the Janitor," were radio personalities on station KMTR. Accompanying them on selected numbers were Paul Finstein's Band and the Probkahnoff Bros Russian Orchestra.

Celebrity wattage was considerably increased at the renamed Eagle Theatre when Debbie Reynolds graciously appeared to accompany the fortieth anniversary screening of her classic, "Singing in the Rain," presented by the Chamber of Commerce in 1992. An appreciative crowd of costumed Eagle Rockers greeted Miss Reynolds.

Said the Eagle Rock Advertiser at the theatre's opening: "The theatre is a Southern California adaptation of the Mediterranean style of architecture with a pleasing texture and color of stucco, deep plaster revealed openings and tile cornice. A splendid marquee displays the name and will advertise the shows to good

advantage on account of the entrance being on this important corner."

"The architect, Mr. Kenneth A. Gordon, chose the patio garden effect for the interior of the auditorium, the proscenium arch, exits and light niches forming openings in the high stucco walls with tile coping, back of which colored lights give restful and leasing effect to the auditorium, while the azure ceiling resembles the sky. Back of the grilled openings on the side walls, landscapes depicting the mountains and scenery of California add another feature to the interior."

The exterior is mostly intact although the outdoor lobby has been enclosed. The last remodel was by the Pussycat theatre chain but their effort to exhibit their customary fare was thwarted by concerted local opposition. The Eagle survived under local management until its closing in the '00s. It is now occupied by the Living Faith Evangelical Church and the adjoining retail space by Ballroom Blitz.

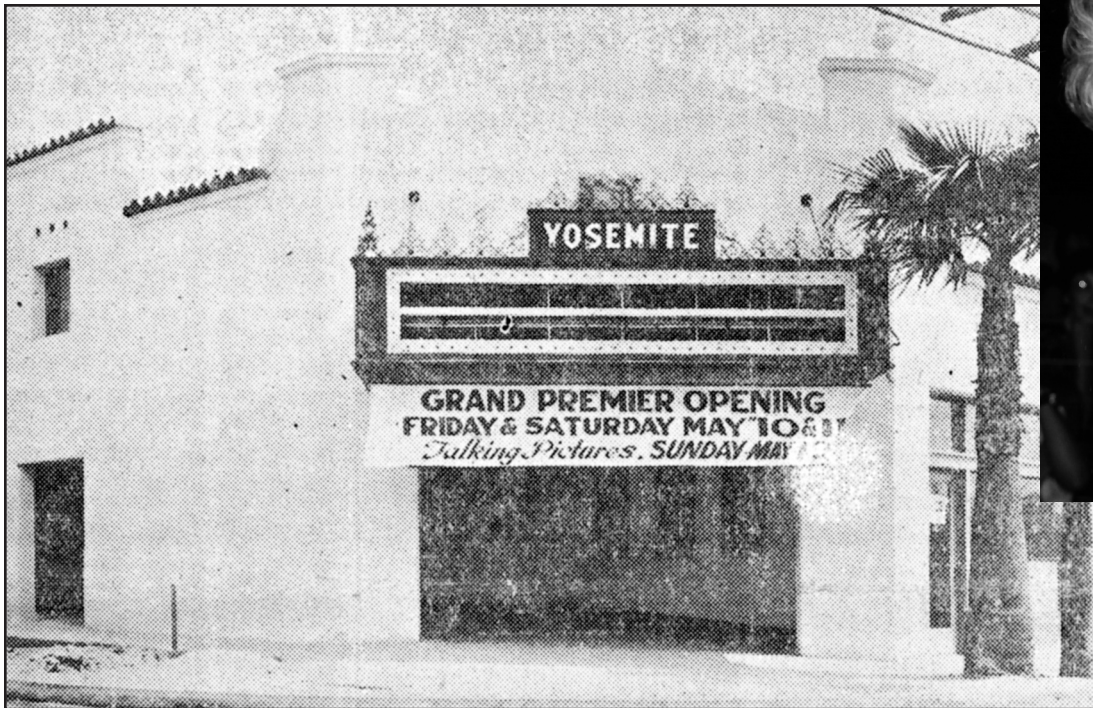


Photo by John Miller

Digitizing Local History

A \$35,000 grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to an innovative partnership between the Occidental College Library and two local historical societies will help preserve a unique historic resource: 20th-century newspapers of northeast Los Angeles.

Developing a plan to create a repository for more than a dozen community newspapers that chronicle local history is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, the Highland Park Heritage Trust, and the Library to promote the preservation and awareness of local historical materials.

"For a century, the newspapers of Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Mt. Washington and other local communities chronicled a vibrant, culturally and socially diverse region of Los Angeles," said Dale Stieber, Occidental's special collections librarian/college archivist. "A repository for print, microfilm, and digitized issues of the papers make an important contribution to northeast L.A.'s historical identity by preserving a resource that isn't available anywhere else and making it more accessible."

Over the years, the Society and the Trust have played a leading role in preserving backfiles of newspapers like the Eagle Rock Sentinel and Highland Park News Herald. Joined by the Library in 2010, the partners have gathered, housed, and inventoried significant holdings in

microfilm and physical copies of more than a dozen local papers from 1906 to 1996.

The grant will fund an archivist/project manager to lead the planning effort to preserve the papers and making them more accessible. The project includes the identification of missing publications and/or issues and the costs of making a representative number of issues available online through the statewide California Digital Newspaper Collection at UC Riverside (<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc>).

The grant also will make it possible for Library staff, Society and Trust members, Occidental students, and community members to develop a pilot project and then move forward to raise resources to sustain the repository and digitization program. The grant proposal was supported by city councilmembers Eric Garcetti, Jose Huizar, and Ed Reyes, whose districts include the newspapers' old circulation areas.

The repository will provide an important new resource for K-12 students, local historians and genealogists, civic groups, and student and faculty scholars. "The existing resources available from UCR have been instrumental in furthering our understanding of the early development of our community. We look forward to the revelations that a searchable database of our local papers will provide," said Society president Eric Warren.

"This grant is a tribute to the partnership that has been developing over the last couple of years with the Society and the Trust to better preserve and document the history of Northeast Los Angeles," said Bob Kieft, College librarian. "Occidental grew up with this quadrant of the city, and the College library is happy to be working with our neighbors on a variety of projects, of which this one is the largest to date."



Recovered bound newspapers in Eric's car.

Our Town, Our History

February 05, 2013

Dear Eric,

I recently received the Winter, 2013 issue of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society Newsletter. As I thumbed through the pages I realized there was **NO** mention or acknowledgement of the passing on November 7, 2012 of Eagle Rock's City Councilman, Arthur Snyder.

Art Snyder lived in Eagle Rock all of the ten (17 ed.) years he served the 14th district: which service not only included Eagle Rock, but also Glassell Park, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights, Boyle Heights, and El Sereno.

As a forty-year member of the Society, I have known and worked with past presidents, Henry Welcome, Ralph Sherman, and John Miller, plus many of the members past and present. During this time I served as Eagle Rock's field deputy under both Councilman Arthur Snyder and Councilman Richard Alatorre.

When the Society was looking for a secure place to hang its hat, it was through courtesy and efforts of Councilman Arthur Snyder to provide a room along with a dedicated telephone line and an answering machine in the old City Hall for the Society's use.

The first tenants of the old Eagle Rock City Hall were the Council field offices and the Building and Safety Office, both especially located there to serve the residents of Eagle Rock and the Northeast Los Angeles area. The Historical Society was then also provided a room of its own--- **all because** of the leadership and action of Councilman Snyder.

In the Society's own "homeroom" there was space to store and display historical artifacts. There were several large glass topped tables to display pieces of Eagle Rock's history. School children were able to visit this history filled room while Henry Welcome, Ralph Sherman or John Miller made them aware of the community's history.

Early on the old Eagle Rock City Hall was scheduled to be demolished and replaced with a parking lot. Councilman Snyder recognized the significant historical value of the building and its location. Through city government, Councilman Snyder stopped the demolition and began a refurbishing plan and process.

The building was old and had many problems, but now it is restored as a historical monument and is upgraded to current building standards and available to serve the Eagle Rock community. Along with the continued local availability of the City offices, the Councilman's restoration plans provided for large rooms for educational classes or community meetings, all courtesy of the City of Los Angeles.

If Henry Welcome or Ralph Sherman were alive today they could provide you with how fortunate it was for the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society to have this first place residency and continuing due to the efforts of Councilman Arthur Snyder. Please note, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights or El Sereno do not have a Los Angeles preserved historic city hall in any of their communities.

As you know one of the objectives of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society is to preserve, clarify through research and to perpetuate the history of the Eagle Rock Valley.

I hope that the Society will soon acknowledge the passing of Councilman Arthur Snyder and his many efforts to document and preserve Eagle Rock's history.

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Minser



Photo by: Mister "D"

We received the above letter and are reprinting it as an acknowledgement of the work of this remarkably talented man who ably represented the 14th district. His efforts while in office were of great service to his constituents and our Society. —Eric Warren, editor



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

SURF'S UP!!!!!!

LOCAL SURFER TELLS ALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013, 7:00

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FRIENDSHIP, MUSIC, PRIZES

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013, 1:00

**The Egasse-Braasch House
Adopting a Historic House**

Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 7:00

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?

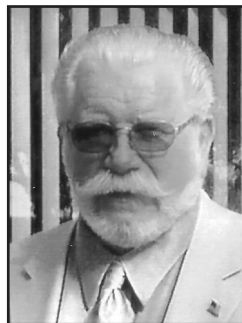
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Archives ☐ Newsletter ☐ Oral history
☐ Meetings ☐ Fundraising ☐ E-mail me
☐ Publicity ☐ Displays to help

Other _____

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

Date _____

The Member's Corner



Mickey Ferrel

Born at the French Hospital in Chinatown in December of 1938, Mickey and his family moved to Eagle Rock from Highland Park the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor. His memories of ER are "absolutely lovely." He remembers turning in bottles as a kid to raise the nine cents it cost to use Yosemite pool. At fifteen, he worked there as a locker room attendant. He grew up on Hepner Avenue, attended Rockdale School, and

Eagle Rock High, and graduated as president of his class, Winter '57. While in school, Mickey was involved in basketball, football, track, and his passion: swimming. He was part of the first ERHS swim team in 1955. They trained in Oxy's pool, and won the championship!

After high school, Mickey married, had two children, and worked for Pacific Telephone Company for 30 years. His work brought him to Burbank where he moved in 1966, remarried, had two more children, and resides today. He now boasts nine grandchildren from 2 to 29 years in age.

In retirement, he exercises every day, volunteers at his local library tutoring adults, reads the newspaper to the blind via radio, records books for the blind, helps in his daughter's 4th grade classroom weekly, gardens, and travels. He is a board member of the ERHS Alumni Association, and a contributing member of ERVHS. Whew! We are delighted he squeezes us into his schedule! Here's to you, Mickey.

-Katie Taylor