



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer, 2015

Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society Welcomes the Community

It is that time of year again! Let's beat the heat together at the Historical Society's ICE CREAM SOCIAL on Sundaes, August 2, from 1pm - 4pm at the Center for the Arts, 2225 Colorado Blvd. FREE admission for ALL. DOLLAR-A-SCOOP ice cream, "endless" toppings provided by the one and only AUNTIE EM'S, a delicious baked goods section, and our ever-popular raffle of prizes from local businesses! As usual our lovely old library is AIR CONDITIONED! Bring the kids!

We will again have family entertainment, Peter Breede and his street organ music (it wouldn't be an ice cream social without him) and folk-dance favorites "Fifth Friday Folk Band". Headlining will be the Eagle Rock High School Latin Jazz Band.

The "EMMA" Awards

For our THIRD year we will be recognizing people and projects that have contributed to the preservation of Eagle Rock's unique history. Come and hear who has made a difference big and small in our community! The award commemorates Mrs. C.W. (Emma Elinor) Young. Mrs. Young organized the History and Landmarks Section of the Women's 20th Century Club of Eagle Rock, the forerunner of ERVHS. A noted historian of not only Eagle Rock but also of California, she is credited with working with Christine Sterling in the establishment of Olvera Street and with Mrs. A.S. C. Forbes in the marking of the El Camino Real.

Highlights from the archive will be shown! There is much to explore and discuss. Come and see what we have been up to this past year! Historical society postcards, notecards, books, and more will be available for purchase. And as always, a FREE Historical Society T-shirt will be given to all new members at the door. (Of course, supplies and sizes are on a first come, first serve, one per membership basis). Please be sure to bring friends and the whole family! This is a wonderful event for all ages. We look forward to seeing new and old friends!

IT'S COOL!

THE EAGLE ROCK VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

SUNDAE, AUGUST 2ND

1-4 P.M.

DOLLAR-A-DIP

"ENDLESS" TOPPINGS

ICY LEMONADE

BAKE SHOP



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FREE ADMISSION! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- ERHS LATIN JAZZ BAND
 - FIFTH FRIDAY FOLK BAND
 - PETER BREEDE, THE ORGAN GRINDER MAN
 - MERCHANT DONATED PRIZE DRAWINGS
 - MRS. C.W. YOUNG "EMMA" AWARDS
- CENTER FOR THE ARTS, EAGLE ROCK 2225 COLORADO BLVD

President's Message

Members and Friends

Coming again, the event of the season !

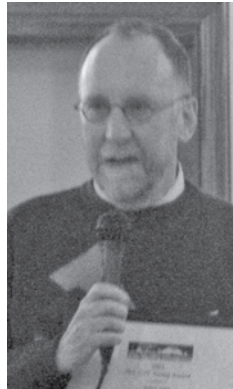
The ice cream social is a chance for people of all ages to get together and celebrate a summer day in Eagle Rock. Fun ! Music ! Prizes ! Again this year, we will recognize people and projects that have contributed to the preservation of Eagle Rock's unique history. Come to the Social to discover who will receive this year's honors. The award commemorates Mrs. C.W. Young, a champion for history.

Reuse and revitalization

We are delighted to see the imaginative re-use of our historic commercial buildings. We hope that business owners will see the value of the original details and main street feel of these survivors. Thanks to the owners of Cindy's for their renovated sign and Arnott Kenpo Karate for their interest in the Sentinel Building.

Robert Kieft, Occidental College Librarian retires

Our dear friend Bob is retiring and moving home to Minneapolis. His strong leadership has been instrumental in our collaboration with Occidental and Highland Park Heritage preserving and digitizing the northeast Newspaper collection and the Friezer photo archive. Although these projects still have far to go, we are off to a great start, thanks to Bob. ERVHS awarded him a 2015 Emma in honor of his contribution.



SurveyLA is Coming – Get Listed or Get Lost

The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society has been researching the history of Eagle Rock for over 50 years, but many important resources remain hidden. If they are not identified in this survey, they will be more vulnerable to demolition and inappropriate development.

We want your help in identifying our hidden treasures. We have heard that Historic Resources Group will begin the survey on behalf of the city of LA soon. If you have a favorite or unknown treasure in mind, please send us a photograph, your comments and the address.

Come join the board

Our Board of Directors is considering how we can go forward and improve our organization and services. We welcome new members with new ideas and strengths to add to the mix. The ever-popular biennial election is coming up in October.

Membership

We had good response to our January request, thanks!

We can now accept memberships and renewals on our website via PayPal. Start that digital cash flowing. We are including a renewal application with this issue for those who have not renewed for 2015. We are facing a gradual decline in membership. Thanks to all who continue to support our work.

-Eric Warren

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

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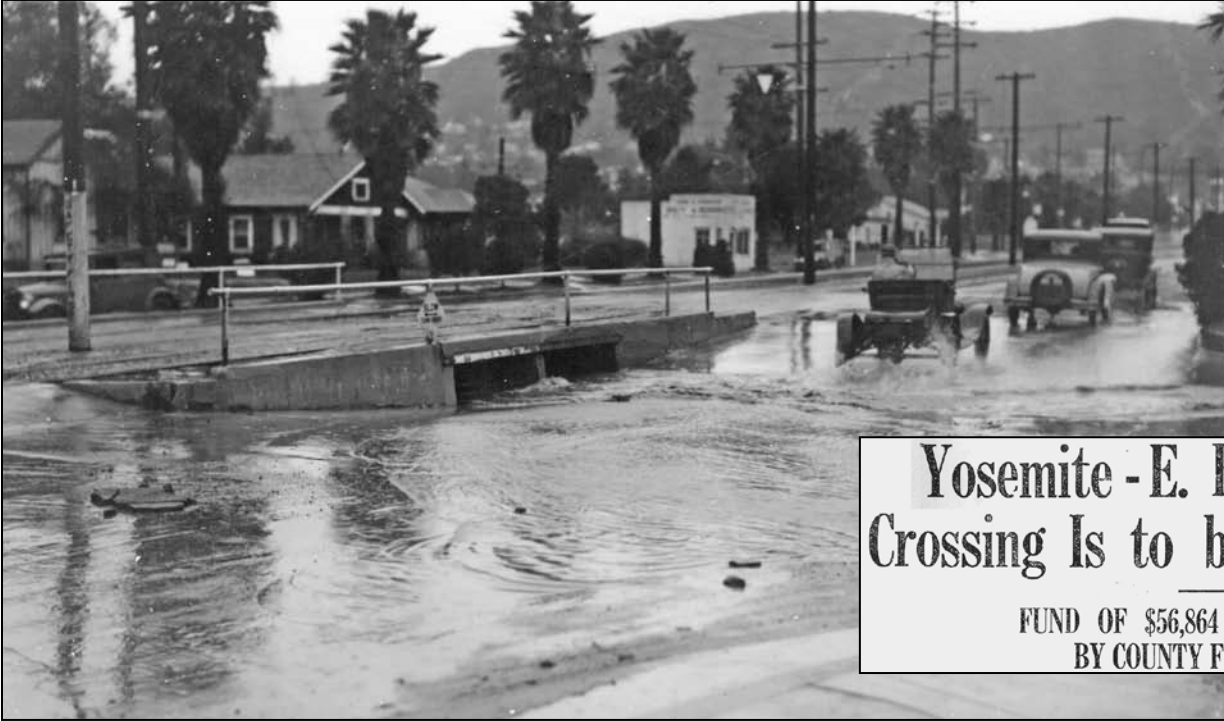
Contributors, Katie Taylor, Severin Martinez, Eric Warren

Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

It's time to renew your membership. If you have already paid your 2015 dues, thank you. If not, please take a moment and mail your check now. If we have not heard from you, a dues form and envelope are included with this newsletter.

Thanks, we depend on you.

Our Town, Our History



**Yosemite - E. R. Blvd.
Crossing Is to be Rebuilt**
9-15-32
FUND OF \$56,864 IS PROVIDED
BY COUNTY FROM GAS REVENUE

September 15, 1932 Eagle Rock Advertiser- This intersection has long been a menace to traffic, and because of the deep dip in the roadway, and has been the cause of numerous accidents, particularly when it during the rainy season when the depression has filled with storm water. (photo courtesy of L. A. Public Works)



F. E. Montee of 4815 Avoca Street, whose house was undermined and the front yard washed away to the front doorstep, said "Tell them for me that we need the Yosemite storm drain system. I hope we get it." (photo ERVHS Archive)

Heavy Damage Caused By By Storm In Eagle Rock

**HOME DESTROYED; ONE SLIDES
DOWN HILL; NO LOSS OF LIFE**
Houses Undermined Along Eagle Rock Slough And
On Hills. Slides and Silt Fill Yards
And Yosemite Playground

January 4 1934 Eagle Rock Advertiser
-Torrential rains of the storm of Saturday and Sunday made a raging torrent of the Eagle Rock Slough, which leads up in to the hills and empties into the meager storm drains provided. The angry waters mounting higher as the storm continued, made families homeless, undermined houses, garages and cut through the Yosemite playgrounds, leaving tons of rock and earth in its path...

Storm Drain Construction

Will Start Friday

**GREAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY WPA**

Work Will Start at Yosemite Drive and Floristan—
Number of Men on Job at Outset
Not Announced—Over
1000 at Peak

November 11, 1935

Assign 420 More Men to Yosemite Storm Drain

August 17, 1936

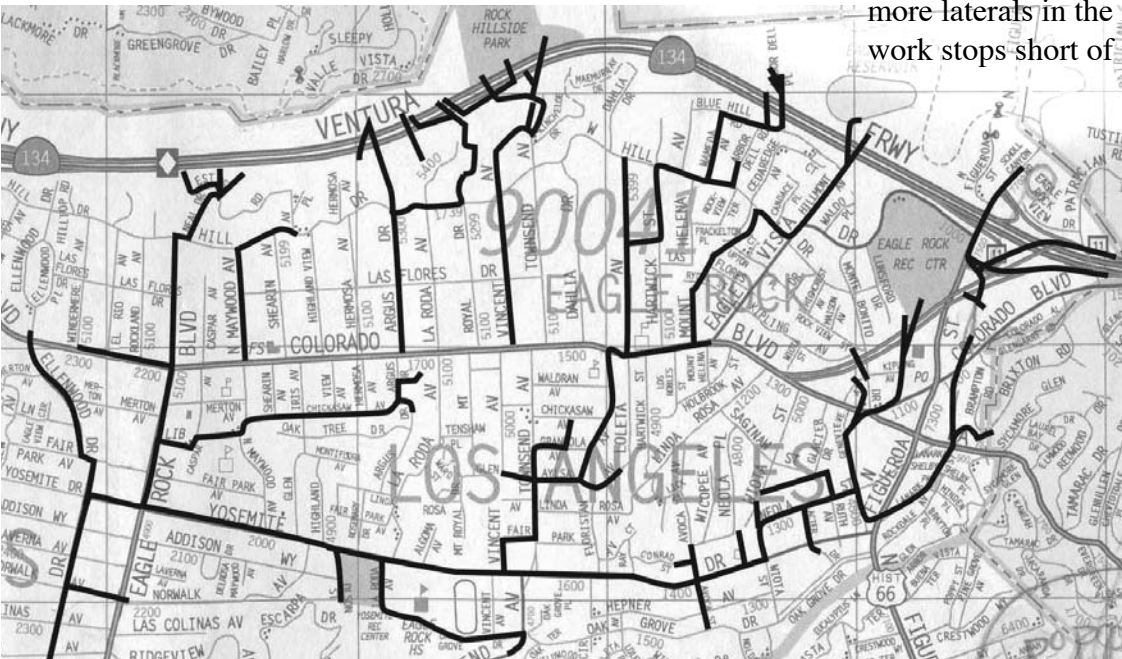


1938 WPA workers labor on a lateral drain on Avoca Street. (photo courtesy of USC Library, CHS collection)

Work Ends This
Week On Drain
— 11/29/37

November 29, 1937 Eagle Rock Advertiser— Work on the Yosemite storm drain project which has been under construction since Nov. 6, 1935, will be wound up this week and 89 WPA workers, the remaining few of a large crew, will be transferred to other projects, it was learned from WPA headquarters in Los Angeles Friday. Work will end Tuesday. During the last few weeks, catch basins in the East section of Eagle Rock have been completed, as has the pouring of a 45 inch concrete monolithic arch, filling, flooding and resurfacing. Cleaning up and dismantling buildings at Floristan Avenue which have been used as field offices storage, etc., will also be completed.

The drain construction stops considerably short of the original plans. In the east section it was planned to install laterals north of Colorado Boulevard to Hill Drive and also more laterals in the N. Figueroa section. The work stops short of these.



The location of storm drains in Eagle Rock is an indicator of where water used to flow. Note the dense branching around areas where perennial and intermittent streams flowed. (map courtesy of Jane Tsong)

Eagle Rock's Freeway Revolt

Las Flores Drive is about 20 feet wide, curb-to-curb. It is one of the narrowest streets to run contiguously for as long as it does, and to also feature sidewalks on both sides of the street. It's no surprise people sometimes mistake it for an alley; it really is a quaint street. However, without community engagement, there is a good chance the street would not exist in its tranquil state, if at all.

134 Freeway Plans Take Shape

In the 1950s, plans to complete the 134 Freeway (then referred to as the Colorado Boulevard Freeway) started to take shape. At this point, the freeway already ran through Burbank and Pasadena, but it did not yet go through Glendale or Eagle Rock. Initially, there were a few routing configurations being considered for the portion through Eagle Rock. One proposal had the freeway running south of Colorado Boulevard



Looking West on Las Flores Drive from Ellenwood Drive. (photo by author)

along Chickasaw Avenue, while the other two placed the freeway north of the boulevard, with one along Las Flores Drive and the other along Hill Drive.

These routes were immediately opposed by a substantial portion of the neighborhood, including local elected officials and the Chamber of Commerce. Hundreds of people attended meetings lasting

several hours. In 1959, Eagle Rock's Assembly Representative, John Collier, boldly proclaimed that a freeway through Eagle Rock "brings no benefits" to anyone. Eagle Rock residents protested on the behalf of the numerous residents that would be displaced by the freeway routing with one local at the time stating:

"A freeway that would cut Eagle Rock in two would kill this community as a lovely residential suburb."

The complete article by Severin Martinez can be viewed below; further excerpts will appear here.

<https://walkeaglerock.wordpress.com/2015/03/23/eagle-rocks-freeway-revolt/>



The grey thick lines show the proposed Las Flores and Chickasaw freeway routes. (map by Eric Warren)



**at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Blvd. Eagle Rock CA, 90041**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015, 1:00**

**A SOUTHWEST MUSEUM UPDATE
PRESERVING A NATIONAL TREASURE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015, 7:00**

**WHERE DID THE WATER GO ?
AN UNDERGROUND HISTORY
TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 2016, 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. **Date** _____
Eagle Rock, CA 90041

The Member's Corner



Vicki Ray

Vicki started playing the piano when she was seven years old. It wasn't until high school though that she began to seriously pursue her talent. She was born and raised in Minneapolis and moved to Montana at age twelve. There, in 1980, she got her undergraduate degree in piano and later her Masters from Arizona State University. She moved to Los Angeles in 1984 and went on to receive her Doctorate from USC. She has gone on to become a Grammy nominated artist, performer with the LA Phil, head faculty member at Cal Arts, and founding member of Piano Spheres. Her career accomplishments are too numerous to list here, please visit vickiray.org.

Vicki moved to Eagle Rock in 2002 and bought her 1923 home in 2007. "Geographically it is the perfect place to live," she told me. "So many artists live here" and it is "a great mix of young hipsters and old timers." Vicki came to the historical society and found a panorama in our archives with her house in it. A copy currently hangs in her kitchen. She loves Eagle Rock because it "feels like a small town in a big city." She summed it up best when she told me it is ultimately a "nice place to come home to." Your love for Eagle Rock is infectious! Thank you, Vicki!

Katie Taylor