



# EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter, 2020

## California Wine Capital

Join the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society on Tuesday, February 18th at the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock (2225 Colorado Blvd) @ 7pm for an in depth presentation about our local wine history! This is a **FREE** and **OPEN TO ALL** public program with light refreshments.

We are honored to have **Mr. Stuart Douglass Byles** speak at our public program. We first met Stuart last year at a round table of local historical societies. Stuart is a founding member of the Stone Barn Vineyard Conservancy, a sponsored volunteer organization of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley, set up in 2007 to promote and celebrate the wine history of

the surrounding area and maintain the commemorative vineyard at the Deukmejian Wilderness Park in Glendale.

In his book, Los Angeles Wine: A History from the Mission Era to the Present, Stuart traces the little-known LA wine tradition through vintners of the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys, Anaheim, Rancho Cucamonga, Temecula Valley, Malibu, and details the San Antonio Winery heritage, the last one standing from old Los Angeles days.

The renowned California wine industry, now famous for northern vintages, actually began near El Pueblo de Los Angeles. Spanish missionaries harvested the

first vintage in 1782 at Mission San Juan Capistrano and then cultivated enormous vineyards at Mission San Gabriel. Their replanted vine-cuttings took root on Jose Maria Verdugo's 1784 Spanish land grant in what became Glendale. Jean Louis Vignes brought a Bordeaux wine-making experience to LA in 1831 and initiated wine trade with San Francisco. By 1848, Los Angeles contained over one hundred vineyards. Who knew?!

Come find out more fascinating facts about our local wine history from Mr. Stuart Byles himself. (Please note: \*no wine\* will be served at this event). We look forward to a night of learning and meeting people like you. See you on the 18th!



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock  
2225 Colorado

Tuesday, February 18, 7:00

Free and Open to All

CALIFORNIA'S WINE CAPITAL:  
LOS ANGELES in the EIGHTIES

with STUART DOUGLASS BYLES  
AUTHOR OF "LOS ANGELES WINE"

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG](http://EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG)

### Hello, Eagle Rock!

Thanks for your continued support. Welcome to 2020, which also means that “the books are closed” on another decade of history in Eagle Rock. History is not just what happened 100 years ago, but also what happened yesterday. Sometimes our perspective of what is more historically important changes over time, but history is history. I wanted to call attention to a few of the events that we had in 2019 by way of a few photos. Many of you attended our annual Ice Cream Social this year. It was a fabulous success for us, but most importantly, it brought many members together for a fun afternoon.

The other event that I wanted to point out was the 14th annual Archives Bazaar at USC, a gathering of archives and heritage societies from all over the area. The ERVHS had a table as we have for many years. This event allows us to show the rest of Southern California what Eagle Rock is about.

**David Dellinger, President**

president@eaglerockhistory.org



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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The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society  
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Layout, David Mc Nutt  
Contributors, Katie Taylor, David Dellinger, PAUL Ohannesian

Visit our website at:  
[eaglerockhistory.org](http://eaglerockhistory.org)

**It's time to renew your membership. If you have already paid your 2020 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.**

## Paul Ohannesian and Rudolph Schindler's Lowes House

Dear Editor,

I greatly enjoyed the Fall, 2019 ERVHS Newsletter on the subject of L.A.'s architecture. I live now in Vancouver, British Columbia, so I was unable to attend the October 15th presentation by Robert Inman on the update of the Gebhard / Winter Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles. However, when I saw the top photograph on the Newsletter's page 3, of the C.P. Lowes house formerly in Eagle Rock, designed by Rudolf Schindler, I could not resist sending you this letter.

I was born in 1947 and grew up in Eagle Rock. I was a student at the "old" Eagle Rock High School. From 1964 to 1969 I studied architecture at USC. In the summer of 1966, I spent weeks with the first edition of the Guidebook driving all over the L.A. region to see and photograph as many of the build-

ings therein illustrated as I could. I still have all of my negatives and a set of contact prints filed by individual building.

As the plans for the 134 Freeway went forward, it became apparent that a number of houses uphill from Hill Drive (on which I lived) would be demolished. In February, 1965, a friend of my mother's, who lived further down Ellenwood Drive from the Lowes House, knowing that I was studying architecture, informed her of this house, suggesting I go see it before it was lost. I did better than that. The house was vacant and standing open, so I explored it completely, being deeply impressed by Schindler's masterful handling of natural light throughout the edifice. I sat in the back yard and made a sketch (Fig. 1) What I also did, fairly much with a clear conscience, was remove and rescue the dining area's

Figure 1





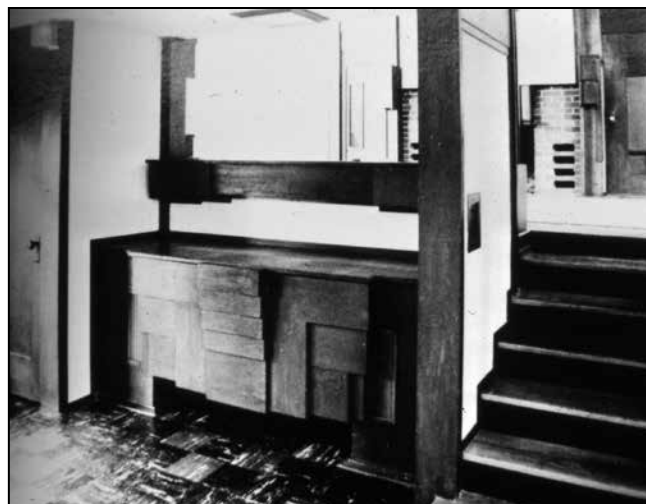
## Our Town, Our History

set of buffet doors and drawers, which completely reflected the design of the house as a whole. Since Schindler had worked with Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles for several years, it is not surprising that he had emulated Wright by designing the interior fittings of the house in "organic" (Wright's terminology) sympathy with the overall architecture.

To quote author David Gebhard from page 19 of that catalogue, after describing Schindler's close study of contemporary (1910's, 1920's) European residential design (RMS was an immigrant to the USA from Vienna, Austria), he says: "A good example of the coloristic effect of contrasts in surfaces was Schindler's first scheme for the C. Warne house (Los Angeles, 1923). This house is a suspended box whose sides batter into the base and whose surfaces come closer to being an agitated relief sculpture than a piece of architecture.... Somewhat more sedate in its expressionistic character was Schindler's Lowes house # 1 (Eagle Rock, 1923). In this house the calm geometry of the undecorated, stucco-covered volumes somewhat contains the elaborate pattern of parallel overlaid boards and the narrow vertical fenestration of the windows and doors. Inside the Lowes house, a similar restless quality can be seen in such details as the fireplace or the built-in sideboard of the dining room."

Indeed! Late one evening, I removed that sideboard and took it home. Here it is, loosely stacked up in the driveway of my parents' house on Hill Drive. (Fig. 2)

I might add that the copper fireplace surround alluded to by Gebhard had been removed from the house before I got to the



These exterior and interior photos appeared in the catalog "An Exhibition of The Architecture of R.M. Schindler (1887 - 1953) Organized by David Gebhard For Presentation at The Art Gallery University of California Santa Barbara, March 30 to April 30, 1967 The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Fall, 1967." (exterior street view photograph by Viroque Baker)



## Our Town, Our History

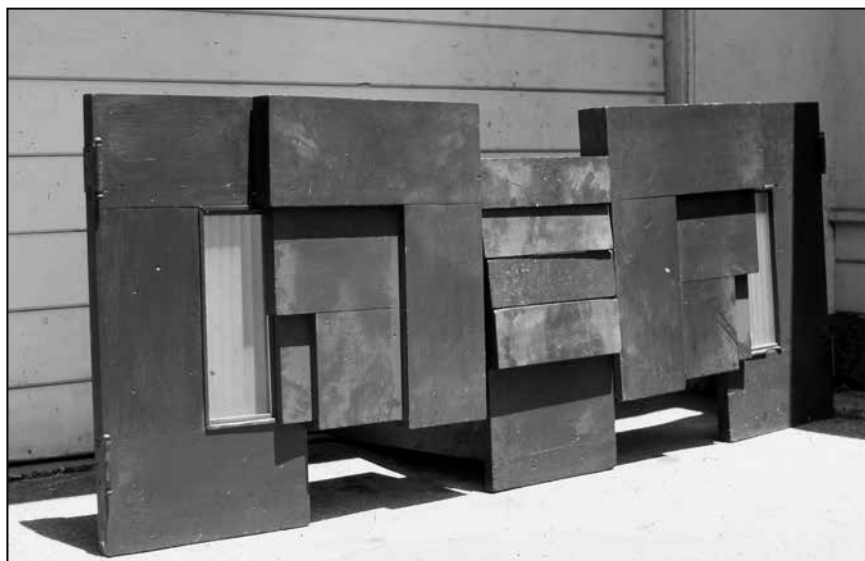


Figure 2

buffet. Well, fair is fair, I suppose!

During my ummer, 1966 photographic tour of Los Angeles architecture, I knocked on the door of Schindler's own house on King's Road in Hollywood and was greeted by none other than his widow, Pauline Schindler. She graciously invited me in; we had a long conversation, and that led to a friendship that lasted through several years by means of long letters back and forth and a few revisits to her home by me from time to time.

When I eventually left Los Angeles, it was Pauline (she liked to be called by her first name) who suggested that I donate the Lowes fittings to the Schindler collection at the University of California Santa Barbara, overseen by David Gebhard himself. This I did, but in all the years since then, I have never visited that campus to see how, if at all, the buffet unit was/is displayed. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who knows about it.

Well, that's my story. I should add that in my own practice, I found myself frequently stimulated by Schindler's design aesthetic. A house I designed that perhaps best reflects my admiration of the Lowes House is this one from 1977 in Vancouver. (Fig. 3)

Thank you for the excellent newsletter that is published by the ERVHS. I have been a proud member of The Eagle Rock Association for many years and, like so many others who have spent

part of their lives in idyllic Eagle Rock, it will always live in my memory as "Home".

Sincerely,

Paul B. Ohannesian  
p.ohannesian@icloud.com  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Canada



Figure 3



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

**CALIFORNIA'S WINE CAPITAL:  
LOS ANGELES in the EIGHTIES**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 7:00**

**A NATIVE GARDEN?**

**CALIFORNIA BEFORE EUROPE**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 7:00**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
MEMBERSHIP, MUSIC, PRIZES  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020, 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



**Matt Gunn**

After growing up in St. Louis, Missouri and then college in New York City, Matt set his young eyes upon California where he landed on a friend's couch in Santa Monica. Slowly moving eastward, Matt met his wife Michelle and they began living in Los Feliz. It was a real estate agent who brought them to Eagle Rock when wanting to purchase their first home. They were immediately charmed. Where else can you have such a small town feel within a major city? Matt noted Eagle Rock's diverse population and intensely creative neighbors cements his love for this place.

Quickly after buying their first home they began their family, raising a daughter and son. The Gunns recently found the lot of their dreams on Argus Dr. and remodeled the existing house. Their contractor found photos and other historical artifacts from the original 1920's owners stashed away in a wall which led them to contact us!

Matt had so much to say and his love for Eagle Rock goes way beyond what I can type in this tiny space. He wants his "grave to be in his backyard"! He believes Eagle Rock's "best days are ahead of us and that's what I am committed to, to make it better and even more awesome than it already is." Matt's deep love for our community and desire to leave a legacy is truly inspiring. Matt, you're living the dream!

Katie Taylor