



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter, 2021

The Northeast Newspaper Project A Fruitful Collaboration of ERVHS, Occidental College Library Special Collections and Highland Park Heritage Trust

For our second venture into the virtual world, we will present a panel discussion held in January with representatives of these groups, moderated by Robert Kieft, former Occidental College Librarian, for a seminar class in collaborations between college libraries and their surrounding communities. A question and answer session will be held after, via chat, with members of the panel. Come join us for a Zoom Webinar on Tuesday, February 23 at 7 PM.

Our involvement with local newspaper archiving began very early in our history with the discovery of boxes of the Eagle Rock Advertiser on top of a disused bank vault. Members spent many hours clipping and indexing stories from this source. The Advertiser also became the earliest microfilming project of the ERVHS in collaboration with the Los Angeles Public Library.

We had been given a copy of the microfilm record of the Northeast Newspapers along with the LAPL by Oxy

alum, publisher Oran Asa, when he was selling this chain of newspapers. Our first collaborative effort came with the placement of this microfilm collection on long-term loan to Occidental College Library Special Collections. They were equipped to view and copy this material.

The collaboration was accelerated by our discovery of the bound volumes of this same material, which had migrated several times, finally to a storage locker in Glendale.


The necessity of preserving this material along with the Advertiser launched a search for a storage solution. This began the Northeast Newspaper Project. This storage is now an ongoing expense shared by all three organizations.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection presented a way to move searchable access to these resources online. Grants were sought and received to organize the process of moving the material. Grants to finance digitization also were sought by the local groups from Neighborhood Councils and local representatives. This ongoing process has resulted in the availability of substantial amounts of these materials online.

The discovery of the Friezer family photo archive while preparing Eric Warren's book, "Eagle Rock" for publication launched another facet of the project. Oxy Special Collections reached an agreement with Henk Friezer transferring over ten thousand negatives taken by Henk and his father Joe to the library.

The collaboration is continuing with efforts at fundraising and discussions of priorities for future digitization. The seminar that we will present marked a moment when we could pause and look back at our success. The collaboration has allowed community organizations access to the archival and fundraising skills of Oxy's library. Local organizations opened the libraries access to research materials allowing faculty and students to study the history of the community in detail.

**THE NORTHEAST
NEWSPAPER PROJECT
A FRUITFUL COLLABORATION
A ZOOM WEBINAR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:00**



**EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Hello, Eagle Rock!

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support. We are looking forward to when we again can have access to our archives and resume our Saturday archive hours. In the meantime, we have not been standing still – our archivist/curator of our archives, Eric Warren, has been working with our webmaster, John de la Fontaine, in publishing a list of Eagle Rock street names which have changed over the years. Visit <http://eaglerockhistory.org> and select “Street Names” in the menu. Knowing the street name can make a big difference when researching the history of a property or even an event, but not knowing that it changed can thwart the best efforts. For instance, if you are looking for information regarding a property along Eagle Rock Blvd, but you can't find anything before 1923, look in this chart, then see that the street was named Central Ave. Eric has added notes associated with some of the name changes.

Recent and planned additions include an expanding look at transit in Eagle Rock and a group of photographs documenting our last extraordinary year. We are seeking contributions for this, see the 2020+ Visions Members Corner. Other interesting items on our website are Notable People, Timeline Important Dates and a Short History as well as several greatly expanded Photo Galleries: The Eagle Rock, First Schools, Eagle Rock Elementary, Eagle Rock's Libraries, Yosemite

2020+ Visions



Boarded up on Eagle Rock Blvd, June 6, 2020
(Katie Taylor photograph)

Park and Helen Pratt “Natural Born Naturalist”.

After you have explored our eaglerockhistory.org website, consider taking a look “Oxy in the Neighborhood - Following the growth of Occidental College in Los Angeles’ York and Eagle Rock Valleys. <http://scalar.cdla.oxycreates.org/neighborhood/>

This project was compiled by Eric Warren and Occidental College Special Collections and College Archives with technical assistance by Craig Dietrich. It is fascinating to see how they utilize some very interesting presentation techniques to display timelines and photos.

October of this year marks the 60th anniversary of our founding, when members of the Women's Twentieth Century Club of Eagle Rock and local history buffs decided that our history needed organized preservation. Many of these early members had been in Eagle Rock for decades already and had lots of memorabilia and memories, so they organized the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society. We carry on their legacy today, acquiring and disseminating our communities' history.

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
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Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

The Five Line on Colorado Boulevard: Early Days



George Diddock's real estate office is on the southeast corner of Eagle Rock and Colorado in 1909. Both streets are still unpaved. The side of the College Inn building is visible on the left. In the center right the newly built Eagle Rock School is visible in the distance. On the right is the Los Angeles Railways trolley from downtown, heading for the end of the line at Townsend Avenue (Published in the Los Angeles Herald Sunday Magazine)

The Edwards and Winters building sits isolated on Townsend Avenue at the end of a widened but still dirt street. Behind us the Eagle Rock Road to Garvanza and Pasadena was small and unimproved. Long known as the Murfield block, it now houses Tritch Hardware. (Courtesy the Elena Frackelton Murdock family)



The business center at Eagle Rock and Colorado Boulevards had continued to grow in 1927 with the addition of the three story Ritchy Hardware building on Caspar, and the addition of a trolley waiting area in the center of the intersection, dubbed the "Merrie Go Round". The concrete structure became a great obstacle to increased auto traffic and was removed in the mid-thirties. (ERVHS)



Post War Prosperity—the Crash



The intersection of Colorado Boulevard looking east from Eagle Rock Boulevard in 1946. The passenger boarding area is shown to the left of the tracks. (Southern California Railway Museum, Ray Youngmans Collection)



In December of 1946 a trolley car's brake failed when it was stopped and due to gravity, it accelerated coming downhill from Townsend Avenue. It failed to make the turn at Eagle Rock Boulevard and crashed into parked cars on the west side near where Chipotle is now. (ERVHS)

Streetcar in wild dash; five injured

One thing Mrs. Dora Kirkpatrick never bargained for when she paid her 10 cents was a wild, one-mile ride aboard a streetcar at 60 miles an hour—with no one to operate it.

But that's what happened when Mrs. Kirkpatrick, 41, of 1715 N. Ave. 46, boarded an unattended car at the end of the line at Townsend St. and Colorado Blvd., in Eagle Rock.

After she paid her fare things began to happen. The streetcar began to move downhill and before it came to a stop it had bounced a taxicab and another automobile out of the way, and had smashed into six parked automobiles. Five people were hurt,

The car jumped the track where Colorado turns into Eagle Rock Blvd., and hit the parked cars.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick miraculously emerged from the wild ride with only a badly sprained arm and a case of shock.

Others injured in the melee were Mrs. Irene Brown, 49, of Colorado Blvd., and her mother, Mrs. Anna Hunrichs, 82. Mrs. Brown's car was one of two hit by the streetcar en route. The two women were treated at Pasadena Ave. Receiving hospital.

Charles Rothwell, 19, of 4353 San Raphael St., a bystander, was cut by glass while trying to aid Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

Also hurt was Adolph Friedman, 61, of 213 S. Soto St., who received bruises. Both Rothwell and Friedman were treated at the scene.

A missing figure in the excitement was the driver of a taxicab hit by the streetcar. Police were unable to locate him.

Motorman Arthur Sweetman, 34, of 5200 S. Normandie Ave., and Conductorette Doyle Williams, 28, of 5411 Second Ave., were in a nearby restaurant while all this happened.

They hitchhiked to the streetcar's final resting place.

The news story. (ERVHS, publication unknown)

End of the Line



The trolley car is shown near the end of the line at Townsend Avenue in 1946. The switch that allowed the car to return on the double-tracked right-of-way is shown in the foreground. (Southern California Railway Museum, Ray Younghans photograph)

The trolley stop at Argus Drive looking West in March of 1948.

The Safeway store on the left has become part of the Pillar's building, last occupied and remodeled by the Renaissance Arts Academy (Alan Weeks photograph)



The trolley tracks are removed in this view east from Mt. Royal Drive in June of 1946. (Alan Weeks photograph)



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

**NORTHEAST NEWSPAPER PROJECT
A FRUITFUL COLLABORATION**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 7:00

SIC TRANSIT EAGLE ROCK

A PANEL DISCUSSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 7:00

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
FRIENDSHIP, MUSIC, PRIZES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1 TO 4
IN PERSON! WE HOPE!**

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

2020+ Visions: Looking for Member Input!

Although we are used to collecting, processing, and digitizing images of our collective past, the events of 2020 focused our attention on collecting the history happening all around us in the present. We will be showcasing soon some of these photos on our website under a new collection heading called 2020+ Visions. In the meantime we are soliciting 2020+ material from you, our wonderful members! Have any photos you would like to share with us to document the unprecedented year in our community? In NELA? Please email us your name, a caption, and the photo to webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org so we can give you full credit. It can be taken with your phone, be informal, a detail or a broader idea, graffiti, signage, whatever!

We encourage you to be a part of preserving Eagle Rock's history! We are constantly grateful for those in our past that did the same and we have an abundant archive now to show for it. All material is welcomed, including stories or other non-photo submissions. This invitation will never expire, by the way, we always welcome material from you of any sort from any time. So please do not hesitate if the inclination crosses your mind. We thank you and our future curious community thanks you!

-Katie Taylor