



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer, 2021

Tour America's First Feminist Asylum With Us Online: Rockhaven Sanitarium!

That title might conjure up all kinds of different images and thoughts. What exactly is an asylum and / or a sanitarium? And a feminist one at that? What does that mean exactly? Where the heck is Rockhaven? Let's get it all straightened out together!

Please join us for an amazing online tour of this unique and historic property located in our neighboring city of Glendale. Sunday, August 8th at 2 p.m. with a special guest speaker Joanna Linkhorst, one of the founders and current President of The Friends of Rockhaven. Joanna will give a short introduction presentation, followed by a professional 25-minute video tour of the Rockhaven grounds, and finish with a Q & A session.

Look for the Zoom meeting link with the I.D. and passcode in an email blast coming directly to your inbox soon! Aren't on our email list? Please email webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org requesting to join and get the latest news on what we are up to!

Founded in 1923 by a former nurse named Agnes Richards, Rockhaven Sanitarium was purposefully built to be run differently than the sanitariums of its day. After witnessing the abuses taking place in asylums first hand, Agnes wanted Rockhaven's mission to be about treating mentally ill patients with dignity and respect. Moreover, Rockhaven was a treatment center almost exclusively run by women for women at a time when that had never been the case. When word spread

about its progressive treatments well known Hollywood stars enrolled their loved ones struggling with mental illness, from Marilyn Monroe's mother Gladys to Clark Gable's first wife, Josephine Dillon. Find out more about this fascinating property and the history behind it by joining us on the 8th!

Finally, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society wants to congratulate Rockhaven having heard the news that on June 29th 2021, Senator Anthony Portantino secured \$8 Million for the creation of the Rockhaven Mental Health History Museum! Already on the California Register of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places, Rockhaven will now also become a destination open to the public dedicated to telling the important story of Agnes Richards and her compassionate care vision for women struggling with mental health illnesses.

**A FEMINIST ASYLUM
ROCKHAVEN MUSEUM?
A ZOOM TOUR AND Q & A
SUNDAY**



**AUGUST 8, 2:00
EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Hello, Eagle Rock!

Thanks to all of our new and continuing members for your support.

Happy Anniversary Eagle Rock! As you may know, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society celebrates our 60th anniversary this year! This year also marks the 110th anniversary of incorporation of the City of Eagle Rock in 1911! With the help of the newspapers scanned and stored on the California Digital Newspaper Collection (<https://cdnc.ucr.edu>), it is possible to see some of the stories of the day.

One of the big local news stories during 1911 was the annexation of many surrounding neighborhoods by the growing City of Los Angeles. "Petitions urging the [LA] city council to call an election for the purpose of annexing all the territory lying south of Tropico, Glendale and Eagle Rock, are being circulated this week, thus bringing the city limits of Los Angeles right up to our very doors. It means that Glassell Park, York boulevard, and the Occidental College grounds will become a part of Greater Los Angeles." As happens with today's issues, there are people on both sides of the issue. Some of the same reasons given for annexation are similar to the reasons that were noted in 1923 when Eagle Rock did become a part of Los Angeles: "high school facilities for the children, the necessity of improved sewer systems and a water supply when the Owens river aqueduct is completed. They also want gas and electric lights regulated and also 5-cent car far." The "car far" (spelled this way at least twice in this issue) is reference to the ticket price of a ride on the trolley line running up Eagle Rock Blvd. Apparently the zone for 5-cent rides was inside city limits of Los Angeles, so they also hoped the zone would include the newly annexed areas. Both of these above quotes are from an article entitled: "GOT THE ANNEXATION FEVER Los Angeles Doubtless Coming to Our Very Doors." Eagle Rock Sentinel, Volume III, Number 20, 19 July 1911.

In the same issue of the Eagle Rock Sentinel on July 19, 1911, on page 2, the first article is contradicted by another article entitled "Coming This Way.", which states "We are blessed with all these public utilities that are so

much needed by some of our neighbors. We have an abundance of the finest mountain water piped into our homes. The supply is sufficient for all needs. We have 80-cent Los Angeles gas and 10-cent per kilowatt electricity. We have fine grade schools and one of the best high schools in the state, and next year Occidental College will build within walking distance of the center of our city. So we think there are abundant reasons for the satisfaction that is within us."

We may be having what is our last virtual meeting on August 8. We really wanted to have an Ice Cream Social, but it still isn't possible. We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on the 8th!

QR CODE

Scan to access our website with your phone.



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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Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

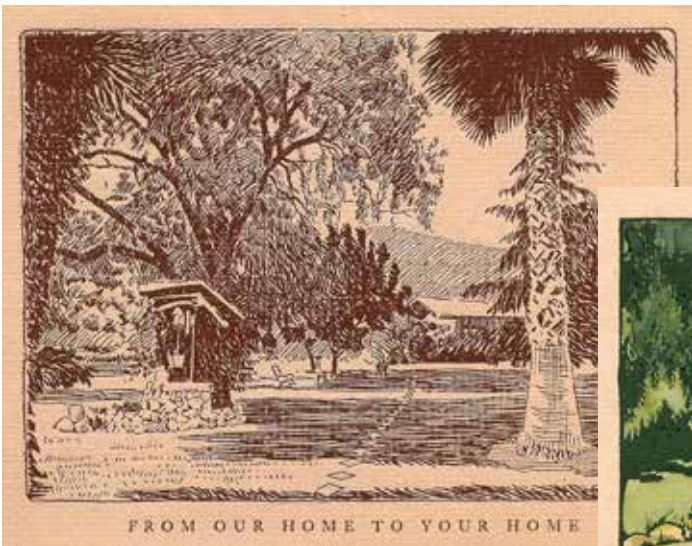
If your mailing label dates before 2021, it's time to renew your membership. Please take a moment and mail your check now. A dues form and envelope are included with this newsletter.

Thanks, We depend on you

The Argus Bowl

The Argus family purchased the expansive 13-acre property on Hill Drive from C.C. Loomis in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Loomis had already developed the garden over the previous 8 years at a cost of \$25,000. It combined features of what was considered “Japanese” with elements of rustic California. Argus was the west coast manager for the Goodyear Co. They then began building a suitable residence on the property. It is unknown whether the outdoor theatre, known as the bowl, existed at this date.

This Christmas card shows the Wishing Well and a palm tree with the Argus home in the background. (ERVHS)



Flora Merriam vividly portrays the rustic bridge and water feature, shaded by wisteria, in this print. These Christmas cards appear to be original prints commissioned by the Argus family. (ERVHS)



Among the earliest and most frequent users of the Argus Bowl and garden was the Women's Twentieth Century Club. The ladies of the club are shown in a portrait on the stage in 1931. The formality of the women's dress and foreground carpets form an interesting contrast to the garden background. (WTCC)

Our Town, Our History

This Argus family Christmas card by P. F. Brown shows the bowl in a sunny California mood. These handmade cards show the Argus' longtime interest in promoting the arts. The bowl seems to have come into its most productive period around 1928. A variety of music and dance performances were presented and they began to be reviewed in the Los Angeles Times. (ERVHS)



MICHIO ITO
presents
**A Series of Dance Compositions
and
Plays for Dancers
at the
Argus Bowl**

1805 Hill Drive Made Howard, Pianist Eagle Rock

**PROGRAM
For Monday Evening, August 19th, 1929**

1. Ecstasique	DOROTHY WAGNER	Schiama
2. Warlike	ARNOLO TAMBO	Schiama
3. Joy	EDITH JANE	Schiama
4. Two Fans	MICHIO ITO	Yamada
5. Sardonic	HEATHER BAIN	Lilly
6. Wala	GEORGIA GRABAM <i>Choreography by GEORGIA GRABAM</i>	Revel
7. Prairie Chicken Dance	LESTER HORTON <i>Choreography by LESTER HORTON</i>	(Native Chant)
8. Etude	HEATHER BAIN DOROTHY WAGNER	Chopin
9. Fan Dance	MICHIO ITO	Ita
INTERMISSION (3 Minutes)		
10. The Fox's Grasp—A Kigen or ancient Japanese farce translated by MICHIO ITO and LUCIA V. LARSON directed by MICHIO ITO with the assistance of Mrs. MAY H. FLETCHER as election judge.	Ralph Mason Lester Horton Thomas De Grafford	
INTERMISSION (3 Minutes)		
11. The Little Shepherd	GEORGIA GRABAM <i>Choreography by GEORGIA GRABAM</i>	Debussy
12. Fan	DOROTHY WAGNER	Yamada
13. Shadow	HEATHER BAIN	Debussy
14. Cymbalist Dance	GEORGIA GRABAM <i>Choreography by GEORGIA GRABAM</i>	Faughn
15. Burmese Temple Dance	MICHIO ITO EDITH JANE ARNOLO TAMBO	(Burmese)

All choreography by MICHIO ITO with the exception noted
Company Manager Paul Nislow
Stage Manager Lewis Harrington
Assistant Peggy Jones, Yoko Miyazaki

Next Monday Evening at 9:00 o'clock
Another Program Featuring
"AT THE HAWK'S WELL"
By William Butler Yeats
"Arabesque No. 2" by Debussy
"Chinese Mandarin" by Scott

Later in 1929, Michio Ito, a Japanese dancer and choreographer, presented a series of dance/drama programs featuring himself and Horton. The remainder of the company were students of Ito and his eclectic approach to composition. Note the "Prairie Chicken Dance" to a "Native chant" performed and choreographed by Horton. (ERVHS)

The performances that are of greatest interest to current researchers were those involving Lester Horton and Michio Ito. Horton first appeared at the Argus Bowl in 1929 as the Chorographer and featured performer in the Song of Hiawatha, a treatment of the Longfellow poem by Clara Nixon Bates. Horton was one of the first to study Native American dance and to incorporate it into his work. (ERVHS)



This newspaper cut shows Ito in Japanese-style costume. (L A Times)

Our Town, Our History



This photograph by Toyo Miatake from the book "Michio Ito: A Man and his Dances" by Helen Caldwell, Ito's student and a participant in the production, shows the costumed musicians for "The Hawk's Well" the William Butler Yeats "Noh" play. Caldwell describes the production: "Although "At the Hawks Well" was mounted with far greater sophistication than that of the chandelier lit drawing room advocated by Yeats, it still had no theatricality in the usual sense; the effect was poetic simplicity. Argus Bowl was a small Greek-style theatre in a hillside on the Argus estate. It seated about three hundred persons. High above the actors one saw in dim outline the jagged peaks of a sierra. All around in the dark were trees. And there was a wizard named Lewis Barrington behind the lights to give the scene the other-world reality Yeats had sought. This new setting still called upon the spectator's imagination, with its black night, the faint suggestion of hills, and light that seemed a part of the verse"

The group photo shows Ito's company seated in the Argus Bowl. The next venue that Ito's company played was at a considerably larger scale, he presented 200 dancers with symphonic orchestra and choruses in the Pasadena Rose Bowl. (Caldwell)

The Argus bowl continued to present artists and events, culminating with a reception for the 1932 Olympics. Mrs. A. R. Rose, Eagle Rock's official Olympic Hostess wrote, "Eagle Rock is to be congratulated that within its limits is such a typical Californian setting as the Argus Bowl and home. This is the type of atmosphere that is readily understood by Europeans familiar with the beauties of Cannes, Monte Carlo and other parts of the Mediterranean coast."

After the Olympics few events seem to have been presented. This was perhaps due the declining health of Mrs. Elizabeth Argus, the gracious hostess of these events. Mrs. Argus died in 1934.



This photograph was taken as part of a photographic survey of historic properties undertaken for the ERVHS in 1961. Today the Argus home still stands. It is unknown whether the bowl still remains on the property. The former Argus estate was subdivided in the mid 1950s. Argus Drive was extended and 8 additional houses were built on the property. (ERVHS)





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

**THE FEMINIST ASYLUM
ROCKHAVEN MUSEUM?
SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2:00**

**ERVHS ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
CELEBRATING 60 HISTORIC YEARS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021 6:00**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED
BEGINNING 61 HISTORIC YEARS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 6:00**

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



Brad Keyes

Not one to shy away from going after what he wants, Brad Keyes has decided that what he wants can be found in Eagle Rock. Born in Chicago, Brad came to Westwood as a young boy. He attended UCLA and hadn't ventured much to the Eastside until he enrolled in Loyola Law School, eventually becoming a real estate attorney. He made his way to Eagle Rock in 2013 and has never looked back.

He bought his dream house on Hill Dr. and has since purchased other properties in Eagle Rock including the beautiful and historic Jennie C. Brayton building at 5119 Eagle Rock Blvd. Having walked by it for years, when it came up for sale Brad knew he had to make it happen. He and his wife Annie now have their real estate business, Keyes Real Estate (www.keyesla.com), located there and recently completed the process of making it an Historic Cultural Monument with the help of ERVHS. He is "pretty invested in Eagle Rock" at this point and has no regrets. Knowing all the real estate options in L.A. he chose to settle here because he loved the "diversity of the people and the architecture" and he found it to be "one of the most 'L.A.' neighborhoods there is" within the city. Thank you Brad for all you add to our community!

-Katie Taylor