



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall, 2021

60 Years of Collecting & Protecting! Happy Anniversary to Us!

Ten years have passed since our fabulous 50th anniversary banquet (!) and we are excited to once again commemorate and bring to light our latest milestone: our 60th! This is an important moment to pause and celebrate the accomplishments of our organization and to take a look at how we got here. There is so much material to cover in the newsletter that our story will be broken up into a special two-part series. Part one will be covering the origin of the Society leading up to roughly 1996.

For our meeting this month join us to celebrate our 60th Anniversary!

“Remembering 60 Years; A Virtual Retrospective” Tuesday, October 19th @ 7pm

A Zoom link will be posted on our website www.eaglerockhistory.org by Monday October 18th or look for it in our upcoming email blasts! (Not receiving our email blasts? Please write to webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org and ask to be added!)

Eric Warren, our current Vice President and author of several books on the history of the area, will be presenting a visual history of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society. Who was at the heart of our institutional origins? Who

were the early movers and shakers of the community who made it all come to fruition? What were the ups and downs of the Society’s past and was there a moment when all felt lost? (Side note: political obstacles and dumpster-diving adventures are part of it!) Your questions need answers and all will all get covered in this meeting!

Finally, please note the next two Members’ Corners will be highlighting founding members of the Historical Society in commemoration of our anniversary. See the back page!

We look forward to seeing you online on October 19th. Bring your Eagle Rock memories and see how they line up with the Historical Society’s timeline!

**HISTORICAL HISTORY
REMEMBERING 60 YEARS
A VIRTUAL RETROSPECTIVE**



**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 19, 7:00
EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Hello, Eagle Rock!

Hello, Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society Members!

We really appreciate your continued support, and even more so in these times. A few months ago, we thought that we would finally be over the pandemic restrictions and that we might be able to have an in-person 60th anniversary celebration – the ERVHS was formed 60 years ago this month in October 1961. Unfortunately, Los Angeles, and the nation, has seen a summer resurgence, so we will have to postpone our celebrations until a later date. We are hoping for February 2022, so keep your fingers crossed!

The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society was spun off by some members of the Women's Twentieth Century Club because they realized that if they didn't do something soon to archive and save old photos and other objects, that the history would be lost. They were very forward-thinking women to whom we owe so much. Many of them had been part of the Eagle Rock community for decades, and started a campaign to save the history of those early days. Eric Warren, our Vice President and Chief Archivist, has put together a fantastic piece on the history of the historical society.

2021 also marks the 110th year since Eagle Rock City was incorporated. You don't have to go further than the recently restored Eagle Rock City Hall, located at 2035 Colorado Blvd., to see evidence of the incorporation of Eagle Rock. The City Hall is still used for city government, now used for Los Angeles City Council CD14 district offices.

Do you consider yourself an "Eagle Rocker"? We use the term to indicate a resident of Eagle Rock, and I thought that it was a fairly recent term. I was surprised to learn that its usage goes back farther than the City of Eagle Rock. Using the California Digital Newspaper Collection (cdnc.ucr.edu), I found that in the September 17th, 1910 issue of the Eagle Rock Sentinel (vol. II, no. 2), there was a front page article about a tennis tournament between The Eagle Rock Tennis Club and a rival tennis club known as Kenilworth. "The Eagle Rock representatives, Donald Douglas Davis and Mark A. Eaton, were unused to the cement courts, and the Kenilworths speedily discovered their advantage and played a lobbing game which secured the nanny of the Eagle Rockers with neatness and dispatch." Those of you interested in the phrase "secured the nanny" will also find several other slang terms and phrases of that period contained in that single article. I was able to find several more references to "Eagle Rocker" or "Eagle Rockers" before 1920, including many references to residents, such

as this headline "SOCIETY VAUDEVILLE WAS GREAT SHOW - The Managers Give Huge Delight to Hundreds of Eagle Rockers" in the June 24th 1915 issue of the Eagle Rock Sentinel (vol. XI, no. 17). The venue for that popular vaudeville show was none other than the newly constructed Women's Twentieth Century Club!

The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society is still working to get more issues put online on the California Digital Newspaper Collection, and you can be proud that your continued support helps support that effort. Thank you!

David Dellinger, President
Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society

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

This journal is published quarterly by
The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society
Editor, Eric Warren
Layout, David Mc Nutt
Contributors, Katie Taylor, David Dellinger

Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

ERVHS History Part One: The Collection and the Museum

After the "Progress" celebration of Eagle Rock's 50th anniversary, in 1961 at a community improvement Committee meeting at the Women's Twentieth Century Clubhouse, Mrs. Eleanor Zimmerman reported "probably the most valuable contribution that came out of effort was a request for the formation of an historical society". The first meeting of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society was held at the clubhouse Wednesday October 25, 1961. Mr. Henry Welcome was elected President; Mrs. Zimmerman, Vice President; Mrs. Carl D. Basler, Secretary and Mr. Cecil Davis, Treasurer.

The earliest years of the society were occupied with the gathering of a wide range of materials from local sources and larger archives to document our history. When the society was presented the opportunity to establish a museum by then Councilman Arthur Snyder, our efforts focused on organizing



Henry Welcome, the first president of our society, shown here browsing his extensive library in November of 1961. Welcome was an inveterate collector and historian of Eagle Rock and the Los Angeles Area. (probably Joe Friezer-Eagle Rock Sentinel)



and displaying the collection. The museum was open to the public weekly with a docent from the society to guide and entertain visitors. Ralph Sherman and later Donna Adams curated the museum and kept it open.

The society began publishing a newsletter quarterly in concert with meetings to discover history with local and regional speakers. A survey was made of buildings thought to be significant, and Henry and Betty Welcome wrote the earliest short history of Eagle Rock. Many short histories were compiled by Donna Adams and shared with the local library.

The most important acquisitions during that period were the complete run of the Eagle Rock advertiser, discovered above a bank vault in the former Westernlore Press offices, and the microfilm archive of the Northeast Newspapers donated to the society by the publisher, Oren Asa. These resources are still being explored today and many are available online at the California Digital Newspaper Collection.



When Eagle Rock's City Hall reopened in 1971, the space that now houses the 14th district council offices was devoted to the ERVHS museum. Joe Northrup, then-president is joined by Mrs. Bernice Eastman Johnston, author of the first book about the "Gabrielino" Indians, and Mrs. Catherine Basilio Gualano, charter member of the society admire Eagle Rock's Rose Parade trophies. (probably Joe Friezer-ERVHS)

The society and community met at the picnic grounds near the Sylvan Theater in Yosemite Park for the annual potluck. The annual Ice Cream Social as a get together and celebration of the community superseded this yearly event. (probably Joe Friezer -ERVHS)

Our Town, Our History



This painting, by Jennie C. Brayton, was discovered behind Arroyo Furniture in Highland Park and restored by the society. Here it is being loaned for display in the new Eagle Rock Branch Library. From left; unknown man; Lois Woods, then-president of ERVHS, Ralph Sherman, past president; Carroll Evans, financial sponsor; Virginia Ruzica, restoration artist; unknown man; and Councilman Arthur Snyder unveil the painting in the community room of the library. (probably Joe Friezer -ERVHS)

All of the then-past presidents of the society gather here to cut the cake at the 25th anniversary celebration. Pictured are from left, Joe Northrup, 1969-73; Lois Woods, 1979-81; Henry Welcome, 1961-65 and 1981-83; Walter Dickey, then current president; Powell Greenland, 1965-69; and Ralph Sherman, 1973-77.



The ERVHS museum in 1985. Many original photographs and artworks were displayed in an effort to educate the public about Eagle Rock's history. As can be seen storage for the collection was scarce. The display cases in the foreground were donated to the society by the Southwest Museum. The bound newspapers were from the Glendale News Press that had been de-accessioned from the Glendale Public Library. They have since been returned there. (John Miller-ERVHS)

History Before the Historical Society

The work of contemporary historians depends on those who valued and documented the past. Particularly important are those who lived that past. Much of our knowledge of early Eagle Rock is derived from these chroniclers. On the occasion of this anniversary we honor three of the most significant.



This formal portrait shows an impressive Emma Elinor Young with the Young's adopted daughter Amber. Mrs. Young was a pioneer clubwoman, historian, lecturer and authority on California History and Landmarks. For over fifty years she urged Californians to preserve their heritage. Her love of pageantry and reenactment caught the attention of many children and adults in Eagle Rock, teaching them, gently, the importance of the past.

Mrs. Young was born Emma Elinor Hine on May 27, 1869, in Geneseo, Illinois. The youngest of eight children, she went to Northwest Normal School, taught school, and became a principal for several years. On November 23, 1899 Emma married Charles W. Young. They left Illinois and in 1906 located in Eagle Rock. There they purchased the Ellis home, a three-story Victorian farmhouse, built in 1888. They called the house "Castle Crags". (Louanna Clark, Emma Young Collection-ERVHS)



CROMWELL GALPIN
Newly listed Mayor of Eagle Rock

Cromwell Galpin, pictured here on the occasion of his election as Mayor of the City of Eagle Rock in 1914. Born in Eagle, Wisconsin in 1853, Cromwell attended Lawrence University then received a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1875. He married Julia Wood with whom he had three children. They moved to Saginaw where he soon became editor of the Evening News of Saginaw. After Eagle Rock became a city in 1911, he was elected to the City Board of Trustees serving until 1922 and was the mayor of Eagle Rock from 1914 to 1916.

Galpin's articles for the Sentinel in 1913 about water supplies and farming provide insight into the farming period from the point of view of a journalist and developer. (Eagle Rock Sentinel)

A much younger contemporary of Galpin, Elena Frackelton Murdock came to Eagle Rock in 1886 at the age of six with her parents, John and Katherine Frackelton. She compiled a family album of photos with notes highlighting her memories of growing up on the family farm. While Galpin's writings focus on the business of farming in the valley, Murdock's words show the wonder of a schoolgirl on a new adventure. She was honored in 1961 as the Grand Marshall of Eagle Rock's 50-year "Progress Parade" celebration. Here she and her family are present in 1969 for the dedication of a plaque in the location of Eagle Rock's oldest house, torn down to provide space for the new Mayfair (now Sprouts) shopping center. From left, Mrs. J. Russell Zimmerman, Alan Tingley of Mayfair Markets, Doris Burdick, Katie Burdick Heath, David Kevin Heath, Mrs. Harriette Bryson, and Elena Frackelton. (probably Joe Friezer-ERVHS)





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

HISTORICAL HISTORY

The History of ERVHS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00

**ERVHS ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
CELEBRATING 60 HISTORIC YEARS**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 6:00

**GAS.LUBE.OIL.TIRES.REPAIRS
AUTO SERVICE IN EAGLE ROCK**

TUESDAY. APRIL 19. 2022 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 _____

Legacy Member's Corner



Founding Member: Doris Thielen

A third generation Eagle Rocker, Doris's father and grandparents emigrated here from Austria in the early 1900's. Doris was born in Eagle Rock, lived her whole life here and died here at the age of 100. She attended Eagle Rock schools and remembers her Senior Prom being held at the Women's 20th Century Club.

After graduation she married Bob Thielen and then moved into the home built by Addison Lee (yes, on the street named Addison Way) where she and her husband raised two sons. In retirement Bob and she traveled the world extensively but always came back to Eagle Rock.

Doris was incredibly active in the community. She was a founding member of the ERVHS and served on the Board for years. She generously donated many important artifacts and family photos of growing up in Eagle Rock as well as sharing her memories with us in an oral history. Special recognition is due Doris for her leadership of the Women's Twentieth Century Club Beautification Committee which led to the planting of many of today's street trees along Colorado Blvd in the early 1960's! It is impossible to relay the depth of dedication she had for our community and for her passion to preserve our local history here. We are all so lucky to have had Doris grace our community with her vision, passion, and longevity.

— Katie Taylor