



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring, 2023

The Evolution of the Los Angeles Skyline

Do you have questions about how and why Los Angeles' skyline looks the way it does? Have you wished your burning questions on this topic could just get ANSWERED??? Well now they can and they WILL!

Please join us via ZOOM on Tuesday, April 18th @ 7pm for a FREE PUBLIC evening of ANSWERS from our incredible speaker, Mr. Dave McMEnamin! (Look for an email from us with the ZOOM meeting information coming soon. Don't receive emails from us? Please write webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org and sign up!)

Have you ever wondered why Los Angeles did not have any buildings taller than the City Hall until the late 1960s, or why, until recently, LA skyscrapers had flat tops, or why downtown LA now has an "old" financial

district and a "new" financial district? David will answer these and other questions covering major events that influenced the development of the LA skyline since the founding of Los Angeles in 1781.

He will discuss the fate of older buildings in Los Angeles, including some that have been restored, and some that were demolished (including the Richfield Oil Building and the Victorians on Bunker Hill), how the architecture of modern buildings has evolved since the 1960s, and the effects of city's "percent for art" program.

There you have it! Join US via ZOOM! for this very special speaker and fascinating subject!

David is a native Angelino, who grew up in Highland Park and Eagle Rock. He has lived the past 38+ years in

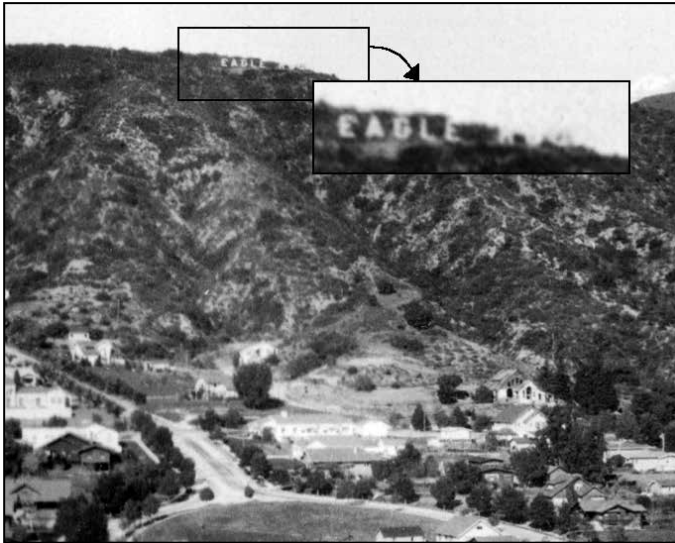
La Crescenta and Shadow Hills. He has a degree in Mathematics from Occidental College, and a Masters and Ph.D. in Economics from UCLA. He taught Economics at Oxy for three years while working on his Ph.D. He then joined a company in downtown Los Angeles, holding various positions for over 35 years until his retirement in 2016. Today he is President of Las Angelitas del Pueblo, the volunteer organization that gives tours of LA's Pueblo and Olvera Street, responsible for training new docents on Los Angeles history and how to give tours. He is a walking tour docent with the Los Angeles Conservancy, and Vice President of the Los Angeles Public Library Docents.

EVOLUTION OF THE L.A. SKYLINE
WITH DAVID MCMENAMIN
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 7:00

A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

FOR ZOOM INFO
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Thank you, ERVHS Members, for your continued support.



The Eagle Rock Sign

You've undoubtedly heard of the famous Hollywoodland/Hollywood sign, which hovers over Hollywood. Did you know that 100 years ago there was also an "Eagle Rock" sign? We can see a bit of it in a panoramic photograph taken in February, 1923. The Eagle Rock Sentinel issue from March 29, 1923 mentions it "The Eagle Rock sign on the mountain at the head of Rowland and Eddy avenues is now lighted every night.". According to our website, eaglerockhistory.org, Rowland Ave. was changed to Rockland Ave. and Eddy was changed to El Rio Ave. Nine years later, the September 22, 1932 issue of the ER Advertiser mentions it again: "That Eagle Rock sign was one of the Eagle Rock unmentionables, hand tailored for the C. of C. [Chamber of Commerce, ed.] with alterations by the weather assisted by the younger generation. The poor old sign died hard and with it went quite a lump of money paid by business men. It was a matter of light globes. As the lights went out one by one in the sign, they came on one by one in other places".

Conduct more advanced searches of the CDNC with these simple tips

Continued from the Summer 2022 issue, here are some more tips on searching California Digital Newspaper Collection – CDNC (<https://cdnc.ucr.edu>). Greatly assisted by the support of our members, in that online collection, there are issues of the Eagle Rock Sentinel 1910 - 1937 (miss-

ing 1920-2), and some more issues 1957 - 1968, with three issues from the 1980s. There's also issues of the Eagle Rock Advertiser 1928 – 1935.

Simple Boolean expressions

Last issue, I showed how if you are looking for two terms or phrases, you place the keyword AND between them to ensure that your results contain both.

Still another way to limit or broaden your search is by using the "Browse" menu at the top the CDNC website. If you select Browse by County, then click on the map of Los Angeles County, then click on the newspaper.

Other search techniques

Picking what to search for is sometimes the hardest part. I recently searched the CDNC for my home street address – omitting the city, etc. I found a death announcement of the husband of the couple who had the house built and lived here for decades. In that same address search, I found a Personal Wanted ad. The original owners had lost their little yellow Persian kitten. In this little ad, it also presumably showed their home phone number in 1928 – ALbany 2524. The fact that they were missing a kitten was both sad and cute, revealing a valuable personal interest. On the other hand, having a phone number is a very important key to searching for more information, as people tended to keep their phone numbers for many years.

-David Dellinger

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

QR CODE
Scan to access our website with your phone.



If your mailing label dates before 2023, 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

A Home for the Historical Society

The Beginning

After the celebration of Eagle Rock's 50th anniversary in 1961, Mrs. Eleanor Zimmerman, reported that "probably the most valuable contribution that came out of this 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 Women's Twentieth Century clubhouse Wednesday October 25, 1961. The Society was incorporated as a 501c-3 Nonprofit corporation in 1962.

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. Our historic preservation efforts were focused mainly on the restoration of the Eagle Rock City Hall, which was declared a Historic Cultural Monument in 1969 (HCM #59).

Community Outreach and a New Home

In 1971, then LA City Council Member Arthur K. Snyder, wrote of this effort:

"Using a concept originally proposed by members of the Business and Professional Women's Club and of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, I obtained financing under the 1969-70 budget of the City for the refurbishing of this grand old building and its conversion to community use.

Under this plan the upper floor, where the former Eagle Rock City Council once met, has been transformed into a municipal art gallery which will be operated by the City's Department of Municipal Arts.... The west wing, empty for so many years, will be utilized by the Historical Society, and will feature continuous displays of artifacts and documents of the early days of Northeast Los Angeles. The great walk-in safe which formerly held the records of the City of Eagle Rock, will now house the irreplaceable historical records of the earliest days of our community."

When we were presented the opportunity to establish a museum, our efforts focused on organizing and displaying the collection. The museum was open to the public weekly, with a docent from the Society, for twenty-two years until the building was closed for renovation and disabled access additions. At the reopening, the museum was relocated into a room in the basement of the Eagle Rock City Hall.

A New Home – The Old Eagle Rock Library Building

It had been evident for many years that the 1927 Library building was inadequate as a modern library facility. When the new Library was opened in 1980, the old building was closed. Efforts began to preserve and reconstruct the building to modern standards. Historical Society and community efforts led to the declaration of the building as a Historic Cultural Monument (HCM #292) in 1987 due to its importance to the community. As a result, state funding was obtained by the council office and our state representatives to upgrade the building.

A "blue-ribbon" committee, including the Historical Society, was formed by then Councilmember Richard Alatorre to discuss the future use of the building. This committee concluded that the building should reopen for joint community use as the Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center.

Perhaps as a result of this proposal and the need for more council office space, the Historical Society Museum was closed and the furniture and archives of the Historical Society was put into storage by the



The ERVHS museum in the Eagle Rock City Hall in 1985. Note the vault in the center right. (Photo by John Miller-ERVHS)

Our Town, Our History

City to be relocated in the proposed community building.

The Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center (now known as the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock) was contracted by the city to operate the reopened building in 1996. Contrary to the community's desires, the City elected to conform the management to a citywide push to form community arts organizations.

The Historical Society's materials had been transferred to the building by the City and were present in the building when it reopened. Historical Society members found our furniture in the upper library area and our archive materials deposited in the basement closets where it is now housed. Some damage had occurred to these due to the seepage in the larger closet (formerly the 1914 library building's lower entrance). Rapid efforts on our part were made to construct adequate shelves and files isolated from water damage. After a brief effort to exhibit our materials in the new building, it was decided to focus on preservation and reorganization of our archives, as much of the previous organization was lost in the move. Our furniture and larger assets were disbursed in the community.



Part of the ERVHS archive materials as found in the large basement closet (the former entrance to the 1913 Eagle Rock Library.

(Photo by Eric Warren-ERVHS)

Community Outreach, Involvement and Collaboration

As we evaluated our holdings, it became clear that the Northeast Newspaper and Eagle Rock Advertiser archives needed to be shared with the public. After a concerted effort to organize and microfilm the materials, they were transferred to an outside storage facility. A collaboration with Highland Park Heritage and Occidental Collage led to their publication on the California Digital Newspaper Collection. Just this year, the now well-organized original materials were transferred to the Occidental College Library. In addition, due to our efforts, the Friezer family collection of over 100,000 photographic negatives documenting the history of Northeast Los Angeles was acquired by Occidental College's Special Collections and College Archives.

We have appreciated our collaboration with the Center and have endeavored to facilitate their efforts to promote the arts. Our public presence was enhanced by the addition of the Ice Cream Social event hosting the community. Local arts groups including the Eagle Rock High School Latin Jazz



The ERVHS museum furniture is on the left and the bound volumes of the Glendale News Press are in the background. The furniture has been disbursed in the community. The bound volumes were returned to the Glendale Public Library. (Photo by John Miller-ERVHS)

Our Town, Our History

Band, the Fifth Friday Folk Band and the Occidental College International Folk Dance Troupe were featured. In addition to our quarterly meetings, free to the public, (continuing on Zoom), we publish historically relevant information on our website and in a quarterly newsletter, also available online. We answer online questions and offered free “open archives days” to the community in which anyone could come and ask questions. We hope to return to public meetings and open archives soon. Our very modest membership fees encourage new collaborators in the community to continue enhance our archival and educational work.

Agreement

For the past 27 years the Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center, under four separate managements, generously continued to host the Historical Society despite the city-mandated change in its focus. We hold our own insurance policy for our meetings and the materials housed at the Center. Periodically we have inquired of these managements whether an agreement could be concluded to define our relationship. They have replied that, due to the uncertainty of their relationship with the City, they were unable to negotiate an agreement. Over our 52-year history of being accommodated by the City of Los Angeles no offer of a contract by the City or its departments was made. We continue to operate in a City-owned building under a long-standing commitment to the importance of our presence in the community.

Recently we were asked, by a representative of the L. A. Department of Cultural Affairs, to produce a written contract with this department. This was in conjunction with a request to remove our materials from the 1914 entrance area to facilitate repairs due to the substantial water intrusion problem which has appeared over the last few years. We have made arrangements to comply with this request despite the considerable expense involved. We also stand ready to negotiate an agreement with either the City or the Community Cultural Center to regularize our status.

Respectfully,

Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society
David Dellinger, President
Eric Warren, Vice President



Katie Taylor's sharp eye and our online camera revealed that the leakage was coming through the south wall of the closet, the walled off historic entrance to the 1914 Library basement. This photo shows the damage to this wall revealed when our materials were removed to storage. (Photo by Katie Taylor-ERVHS)



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

Evolution of the Los Angeles Skyline
David McMnamin, ERHS S'65 Oxy '69
Tuesday, April 18, 7:00

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
MUSIC, ARTS & FUN
August 6, 1:00

Live and in Person (Hopefully)
To Be Announced
Tuesday, October 17, 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 _____

Member's Corner



Linda Allen

Born and raised in Glendale by parents from Chicago, Linda was always surrounded by art. Her mother, a painter and musician, and her father, an illustrator and designer, instilled a deep love for living a life of creative vision. "My parents were my teachers."

Linda met Terry at Glendale High School and they married in 1969. They went on to have two daughters. In 1971 they moved to Eagle Rock. During these years, Linda attended USC, then a year at Occidental, graduating with a degree in Arts Education, her passion still!

Around town, Linda's list of accomplishments is overwhelming. She was a major force at Dahlia Heights, bringing art into the classrooms. When she saw Colorado Blvd changing without community input, her next passion emerged: civic engagement and revitalization. Over the next 30 years she would be: President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chair of ERCPR (Eagle Rock Community Preservation & Revitalization), Founding Member of the Eagle Rock Art Association, Board Member of the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock, President of the Women's 20th Century Club, current President of Eagle Rock Kiwanis, and a member of TERA, ERNC, and ERVHS. *Wow*. She is directly responsible for hundreds of thousands of grant dollars coming Eagle Rock's way for improvements.

"Life is an art piece and I am not done with it!" You heard her! Let's all get out there and make our community thrive through civic collaboration and art. Always art! Linda, you are an inspiration, thank you for EVERYTHING!

-Katie Taylor