



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer, 2023

Designating a L. A. City Historic-Cultural Monument The Jay Risk Standard Station

Happy summer to all of our readers! It is that time of year when people venture out of their routines, take a vacation if possible, and “hit the road” as they say. In honor of that spirit of driving adventure and of our newest Historic Cultural Monument that commemorates our very own stretch of historic Route 66, we invite you to join us in a Zoom conversation with Heritage Conservation Consultant, Steven Luftman!

JOIN US VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, August 8th @ 7pm

Steven was THE pivotal point person and author behind our Historic Cultural Monument nomination

(HCM) for the Jay Risk Oil Service Station at 1659 Colorado Blvd. His incredible research capabilities and passion for historic preservation made this goal a reality for our community AND added to the larger picture of the history of Route 66 in Eagle Rock in the 1930's. Just last month, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously for our unassuming yet larger than life oil service station to be an HCM!

Join us to learn more about the process of nominating a building and hear how Steven uncovered the Jay Risk Oil Service Station's history. What steps had to be taken for this to go from a wish to official news? Believe us, Steven left no stone unturned!

Steven Luftman's career background is as a Creative Director but in 2015, motivated by the prospect that the threatened Mendel and Mabel Meyer Courtyard Apartments might get demolished, he figured out the HCM nomination process and successfully designated the property. Propelled by this win, Steven has gone on to successfully nominate 11 Los Angeles properties including one for the National Register! Read more about him on the back of this newsletter in our Member's Corner! We are grateful and honored to have him work with our organization.

Excited to see you on the 8th!

Look for our eblast with the Zoom meeting information!

Not receiving our emails? Write:
webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org

The Jay Risk
STANDARD STATION
A Historic-Cultural Monument
with consultant
Steven Luftman
TUESDAY
AUGUST 8, 7:00
EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

President's Message

Thank you, ERVHS Members, for your continued support.

As you may have noticed we are unable to hold our annual **Ice Cream Social** again this year. Ongoing contract discussions with the Department of Cultural Affairs regarding our residency in the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock make problematic our presentation of events there. We are in hopes that this discussion will conclude soon as all parties hope for our ongoing future presence in this city owned building. We hope you enjoy the Zoom presentation which we will make on Tuesday, August 8 that 7 PM we will make on Tuesday, August 8th at 7 PM.

Happy 100th anniversary of Eagle Rock's vote to "consolidate" with Los Angeles.

On March, 27, 1923, a special election was held with only one item on the ballot: should the City of Eagle Rock be annexed by the City of Los Angeles. In some references to the election and movement, we also see the word "consolidation". According to the March 29th 1923 issue of the Eagle Rock Sentinel, "There were many elements that entered into this election, including personalities, condition of schools and the almost certain shortage of water and the lack of sewers. But there is no doubt that the two latter items were the ones that brought about the result." There were polling stations at five Eagle Rock locations, with the polls opening at 6am and closing at 7pm. According to the Eagle Rock Sentinel, less than 2000 of the 8000 registered voters cast a ballot. The "annexationists" won with 1107 votes to the "anti-annexationists" with 810 votes.

Many things changed after the "consolidation" with Los Angeles, including many streets changing names. The July 19th, 1923 issue of the Eagle Rock Sentinel noted in an article titled "School Names Changed": "Did you know the names of Eagle Rock's three schools have been changed? We say three though we only know the new names for two. Central School is now Eagle Rock School and

the West End has become San Rafael School. The P. T. A. of the East End have suggested the name of Dahlia Heights, but as yet, have not been informed of the decision regarding same.". Two of those schools still exist. The San Rafael School boundaries are now partially under CA-2 freeway and where Ernie Jr.'s restaurant was. The City of Eagle Rock existed from 1911 to 1923, so roughly twelve years.

Our book "Pioneers of Eagle Rock" covers this and other parts of our early history in the words of those who were there.

-David Dellinger

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Scan to access
our website
with your



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
Editor, Eric Warren
Layout, David Mc Nutt
Contributors, Katie Taylor, David Dellinger

Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

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

Where the Elite Met to Eat and Meet

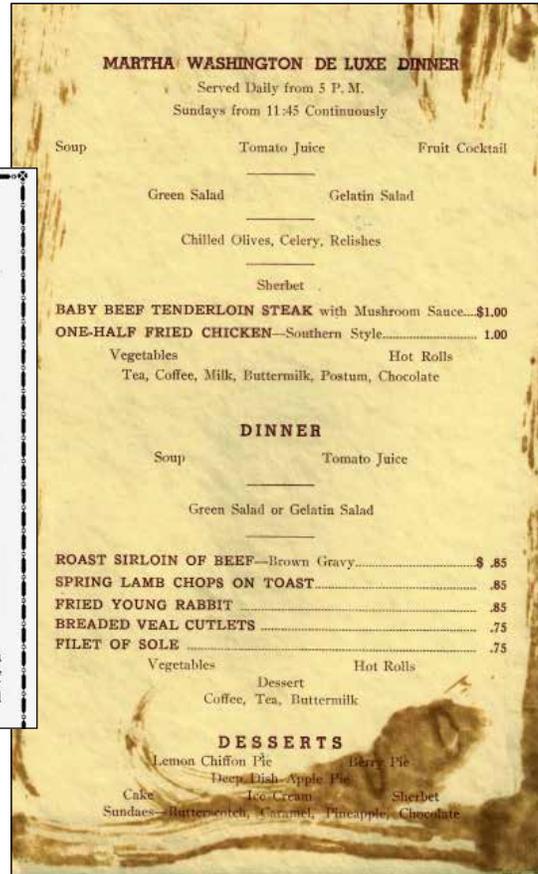


The Martha Washington Tea Room opened in 1928. It was an adaptive reuse of the Colonial style house shown here in a detail from a panoramic photograph taken in 1923. On an otherwise undeveloped stretch on the south side of Colorado Boulevard, the house is across the street from J. W. Eddy's house and the 1914 Eagle Rock Library. The building on the far right is still standing, modified and adapted into several businesses. (Unknown photographer-ERVHS)

The Martha Washington Tea Room

For Seven Years Outstanding in the Northeast Section of Los Angeles and in Eagle Rock. Kiwanis Club Lunches There Every Thursday; The Chamber of Commerce Dinners Are Served Once a Month. Caters to Clubs and Social Functions. Mrs. Lillian Moore, Proprietor.

This ad from a Chamber of Commerce pamphlet published around 1935 touts the importance of this meeting place hosting two of the most important civic organizations at the time. (Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce-ERVHS)



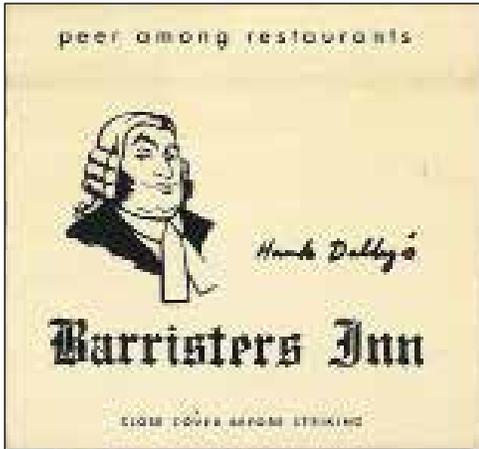
The bill of fare in 1943 featured classic American food. Elsewhere the menu boasts of house-made bread, pies, dressings and marmalade. "A Bit of History" states, "Fifteen years ago as a tea room, the Martha Washington opened with a bang and was at once a success. It has been going that way for these many years and has been gaining and growing steadily since, in success and popularity. It has not been in the "come-and-go" class, but has been and now is one of Southern California's best known eating places, catering to parties, clubs, banquets and associations at prices consistent with the best of service". The owners at the time were Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Marshall. The Chef was Ronald J. McNutt. (Martha Washington Menu-ERVHS)

By 1946 McNutt and his wife Adelaide were the owners of the restaurant. The photograph shows the several additions to the original house which had been made over the years. By 1959, their son David (our layout artist) recalls that the times had changed to the point where alcohol service was increasingly needed. As the McNutts were reluctant to take this step, they sold the business to a group of investors headed by Henry Dally, a local attorney. (unknown-ERVHS)

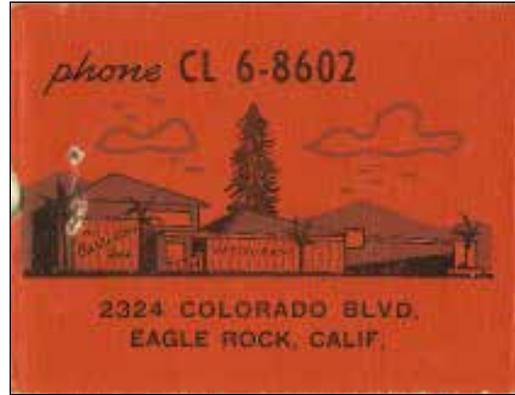
Martha Washington Restaurant, 1946. Owned and operated by Ronald J. McNutt and his wife, Adelaide.

Our Town, Our History

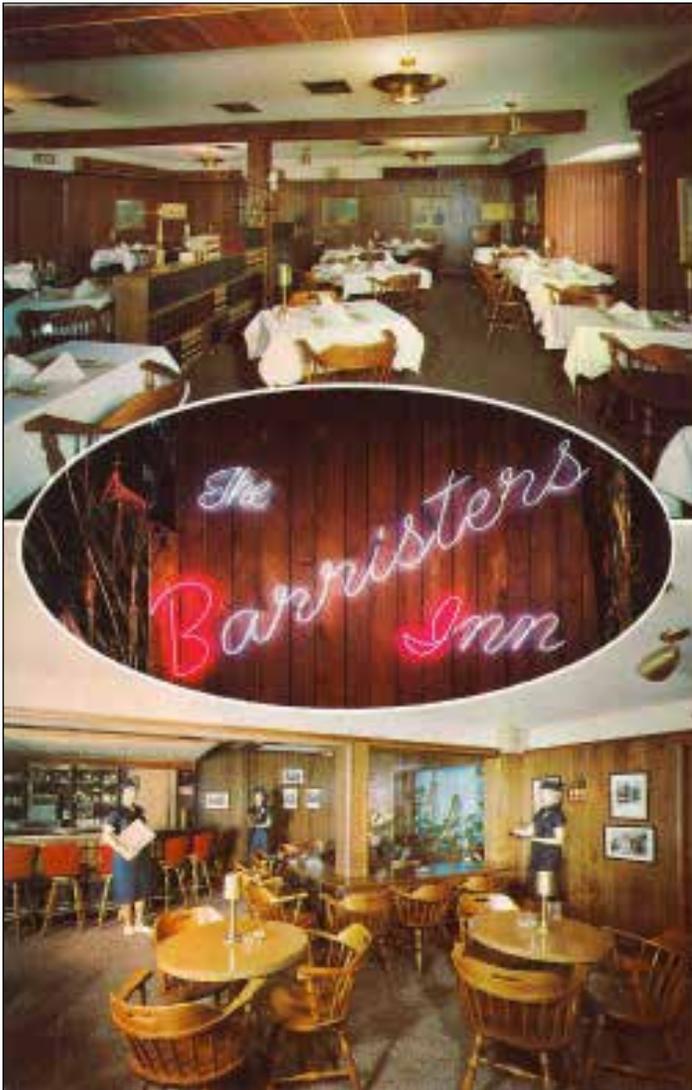
The Barristers Inn



The restaurant opened with a new name and logo, hosted proudly by Hank Dally.



This later matchbook shows the exterior remodel, all vestiges of the Colonial past having disappeared under a Modern façade. (Barristers matchbook-ERVHS)



The interior provided a Modern, legal theme remodel that featured a cocktail bar, a wall-size bookcase filled with law books and a large

*Eagle Rock, Cal
9/25/65*

Dinner De Luxe

Entree Determines Price of Complete Meal
CHOICE OF ONE

Tossed Salad, Choice of Dressing	
Avocado Pear Supreme	Chilled Tomato Juice
Shrimp Cocktail Supreme	Fresh Fruit Cup
Soup du Jour	Marinated Herring

SEA FOODS	SPECIALTIES
Hawaiian Mahi-Mahi Dolphin, Garni 2.75	Roast New York Stripper 3.45
Fresh Guaymas Shrimp 2.50	Roast Prime Ribs of Beef:
Fresh Abalone Steak, Beurre Noisette 2.95	Natural Cut 4.25
Swordfish Steak, Amandine ... 2.50	English Cut 3.25
Alaskan King Crab Legs 3.95	Tournedos of Beef, Garni 4.45
Broiled Australian Lobster Tails, Beurre Fondue 4.75	Breaded Veal Cutlet 2.50
BROILER	Fried Half Chicken, Barrister .. 2.75
Club Dinner Steak 2.95	Chicken Cacciatora 2.95
Teri-Yaki Steak 3.45	Hickory Smoked Ham l'Orange 2.50
Top Sirloin Steak 3.75	Grilled Eastern Pork Chops ... 2.95
Small Filet Mignon 3.85	Pit Barbecued Ribs, Barrister .. 2.75
Delmonico Steak 3.95	
New York Cut Steak 4.95	CHILD'S PLATE (Children Under 12)
Filet Mignon 4.95	30% less upon request
Combination Plate: Small Filet Mignon and Lobster Tail ... 4.95	
Brochette of Beef, Rice Pilaff .. 2.95	
Restraining Order: Broiled Chopped Sirloin Steak, Onion Rings 2.50	
Baked or Long Branch Potatoes	
DESSERTS (Choice of One)	
Alsation Rhum Pie	Chocolate Parfait
Flaming Kona Monaloe	Creme de Menthe Parfait
Chocolate Sundae	Special Cheese Cake
Sherbet or Ice Cream	French Apple Pie

If you prefer you may substitute a Creme de Menthe or a
Creme de Cacao Liqueur in place of Dessert

Coffee or Tea

Above Entrees Served A La Court with Potato Only - 50c Less

The menu remains classic American with the prominent addition of sea-food, perhaps reflecting changing tastes and easier availability.

Our Town, Our History

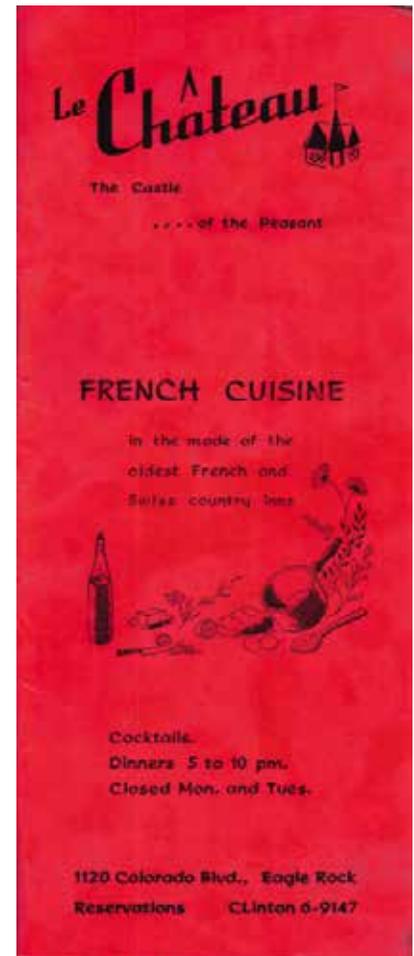
The Barristers Inn (cont'd)



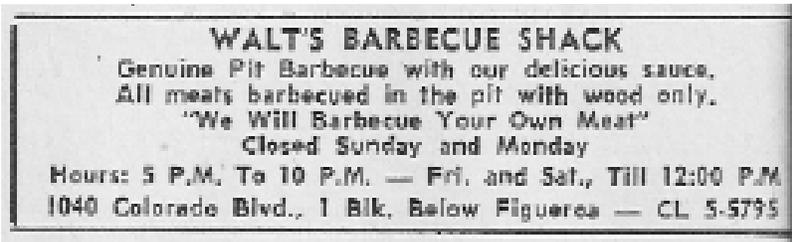
The Barristers closed around 1973 for unknown reasons. Hank Dally, who still owned the business had moved to Palm Springs. He tried several concepts including a dual-cuisine Mexican/Italian restaurant. Other tenants included Casa Riccardo, a part of a small Mexican food chain. This photograph taken in 1988, shows the remnants of the last restaurant on the property. The New Asia featured Cantonese cuisine. (Photograph by Eric Warren-ERVHS)



The property today sports a contemporary facade. The former Colonial-style building appears to have been torn down or heavily remodeled. (Google Maps, June 2022)



Eric Warren's Restaurant Memories at other Eagle Rock locations...



As I was a child, my memories are sensual. The wonderful smell, the sawdust on the floor, and the taste of Walt's beans, a taste I still seek. (Eagle Rock Sentinel 1957)

The circa 1960 Le Chateau was probably the first explicitly French-style restaurant in Eagle Rock, featuring a rather conservative menu with the addition of specialties such as artichokes and snails. The menu explains "Le Chateau is an authentic likeness and has the feel of many old French and Swiss country inns, where recipes, utensils and models of cooking are the same today as they have been for the past 200 to 300 years". The building was an old house with a French feel, hence torn down and replaced by apartments.

I went there with my parents and later took one of my first dates there. Young sophisticate! (Le Chateau Menu-ERVHS)



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

**The Jay Risk Standard Station
A Historic-Cultural Monument**

Tuesday, August 8, 7:00

NIGHTLIFE IN EAGLE ROCK

TELL US YOUR MEMORIES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7:00

Live and in Person (Hopefully)

To Be Announced

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 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



Steven Luftman

Although our newest Life Member, Steven Luftman, does not live in Eagle Rock, he is forever connected to our community's history. Steven was born and raised in the Laurel Canyon area, but after graduating from Art Center in Pasadena he headed to New York City to pursue a career in the advertising world. He lived in New York City for 10 years where he met his wife, Karen Smalley.

Wanting to attend UCLA, Karen convinced Steven to move back to L.A. where in 1997 they settled into an idyllic apartment complex designed and built by the legendary firm Meyer & Holler. Sadly in 2015 the property was sold and the new owners wanted to demolish the building. Steven's passion for architecture and design fueled his motivation to designate the building as an Historic Cultural Monument which he succeeded in doing.

Over a dozen successful designations later, including the Fairfax Theater which also under his efforts is on the National Register, Steven's name was suggested to us. With the threat of the demolition of the Jay Risk Oil Service Station at 1659 Colorado Blvd., Steven became our critical partner in our fight to save the building and he again succeeded!

"It is really important to preserve our past to build a better future," Steven told me. It is his passion to "save places that are important." As a Board Member of the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles, Steven goes above and beyond. Thank you for everything, Steven!

—Katie Taylor