



# EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter, 2024

## Happy 2024 & New Horizons!

**H**ello, wonderful readers of our newsletter! We welcome the potential 2024 has to offer our organization and the opportunities we hope to have with you, our friends and neighbors, in person, in the year ahead.

This is proving to be a big year of change for us. We moved our archives off site in 2023 so our main space at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock could be made safe for the housing of our archives. The work has been completed (yay!) although we await official permission to move back in.



John Power breaks camp at the International Jamboree displaying the muddy sign that the Eagle Rock scouts carried with them through all of their travels. (John Power Collection)

THAT SAID we need to take a break this month from our usual February public programming to get our archives organized in preparation of the move and take the time to familiarize ourselves with each and every treasure in our collection.

We are excited to pique your interest in our community's history with new topics, photos, and information! As always, we WELCOME all ideas for future newsletter articles or public programming. Please write us with yours at: [webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org](mailto:webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org)

We are proud to announce that we have a new partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) in the city-owned building where our archives have long been housed. In our next newsletter and in future online communications from us you will notice their logo alongside ours. We are eager to see how this new partnership will open doors to new opportunities and expose to new audiences the history of Eagle Rock and the Northeast Los Angeles communities.

Thank you to all of our loyal members who keep us financially viable. If you are not a member yet, please consider our nominal membership fees and join at [www.eaglerockhistory.org](http://www.eaglerockhistory.org). Please spread the word about our organization to friends and neighbors, we exist to serve our community!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our next free public program will be taking place Tuesday, April 16th at 7p.m. ...until then!

## Hello Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society member!

We truly appreciate your continued support.

Many of our houses were built during the 1920s, especially in the flatter, lower lying areas, and on a few hillsides. If your house or business was built before Eagle Rock joined with Los Angeles in 1923, the street where your house or business was located may have had a different name.

In 1923, as part of the consolidation process, many street names "must be renamed for the reason that they are duplicated in similar names of streets in the City of Los Angeles", according to an article in the 19 April 1923 issue of the Eagle Rock Sentinel. Also mentioned in the article, a committee of Eagle Rock citizens, called "The Adjustment Committee" was formed "for the purpose of taking the necessary legal procedure with the city of Los Angeles to make these [street name] changes."

It appears that the City of Los Angeles Engineering Department only served an advisory role, and "preferred to leave the matter of renaming of the streets in Eagle Rock to the committee in question and will be governed by their recommendations."

The Adjustment Committee was chaired by O.J. Root, and the other members were A. L. McCamman, Mrs. R. L. McNitt, Mrs. W. W Wier, Mrs. Percy Schumacher, Ben. B. Martsof, Mrs. Earl M. Daniels, Mrs. Godfrey Edwards, Mrs. J. B. Squire and J. C. Clausen.

The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society maintains a list of known street name changes. Check our website: <https://www.eaglerockhistory.org/>, then hit the "Eagle Rock Street Name Changes" tab. For instance, "Central Ave." was renamed "Eagle Rock Blvd."

Sometimes, even the best intentions go awry. The story told by Bob Cota was that Payton Ave. was renamed Loleta Ave, but was intended to be named after Leota Cota, Bob's sister, thus explaining the unusual spelling. Bob's daughter still lives in the family home on Loleta.

This street was originally named Payton Ave., after the manager of the Campbell-Johnston estate. It formed the border between the area originally owned by Benjamin Dreyfus and that eventually owned by the Campbell-Johnston family, part of the great partition of 1870 that divided the Rancho San Raphael. As it sits on this early property division line, the street is the only one in Eagle Rock that runs due north and south.

-David Dellinger

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

Visit our website at:  
[eaglerockhistory.org](https://www.eaglerockhistory.org)

**If your mailing label dates before 2024, 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 Scouting Adventure

by John Power

David Cashion, John Cashion, Dennis Smith, and I, then or soon to be Eagle Scouts from Troop 8, Eagle Rock, traveled to the International Boy Scout Jamboree in Bad Ischl, Austria during the summer of 1951. The Verdugo Hills Council, of which Troop 8 was a member, had asked its troops for indications of interest in attending the Jamboree. The four of us were close friends and wanted to go, and our parents eventually agreed to support our attendance. The cost for the entire adventure was about \$1200 apiece, plus the price of special Scout uniforms, which each of us bought from Bernie at Roberts Clothes Store in Eagle Rock.

The US contingent to the Jamboree was divided into troops. Our troop's Scout master was Robert "Skipper" Hayes, the professional Boy Scout head of the Verdugo Hills Council. Skipper Hayes was a kindly, supportive leader, who remained in touch with all of us long after we returned from the Jamboree.

Our troop departed Los Angeles from

Union Station, June 30, 1951, with families waving goodbye from the platform.

After traveling by train and then by bus or truck, we set up camp at Treasure Mountain Campground in the Grand Tetons to prepare ourselves for camping at the Jamboree in Austria. We remained there for four days, and then traveled on to Yellowstone National Park for some sightseeing.

From Yellowstone, we traveled by bus and then train to Washington, D.C. for some sightseeing, and then on to New York City.

There we embarked on the SS Argentina, headed for Europe. We were told that the ship was a troop carrier in World War II, and that it had been sunk and then salvaged and rehabilitated. My memory is that the rehabilitation was not great.



Commemorative patch issued to Scout campers in Grand Teton. (JPC)



The Eagle Rock Scouts from Troop 8 who were selected to participate in the International Jamboree were John Cashion, David Cashion, John Power and Dennis Smith. This photograph was taken at the Council dinner at the Martha Washington restaurant. (John Power Collection)



John Power and Dennis Smith board the train at Union Station thinking of the long journey ahead. (JPC)

## Our Town, Our History

Our first port of call was Algiers, where, most memorably, we visited the Casbah, an ancient citadel. Our ship then crossed the Mediterranean, and we disembarked in Naples, where the harbor and the city still showed heavy damage from World War II. From Naples, we bussed to Pompeii and Sorrento, with the Isle of Capri occasionally on the horizon, reminding me of Catalina. I was awe struck by Pompeii.

We then traveled from Naples to Rome, where I particularly enjoyed seeing the Catacombs and the Forum. We also attended an opera (my first), outdoors in the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla.

Perhaps the highlight was participating with a large contingent of American Scouts in an audience with Pope Pius XII, in the summer palace of the Pope outside of Rome. We were told that we all should kneel to the Pope. As a non-Catholic, I was not sure how I felt about that, but I and everyone else kneeled, EXCEPT our assistant Scout master, who was Mormon, who conspicuously remained standing.

In Rome, as in all of the European cities we visited, we stayed in a simple "pensione" type hotel.



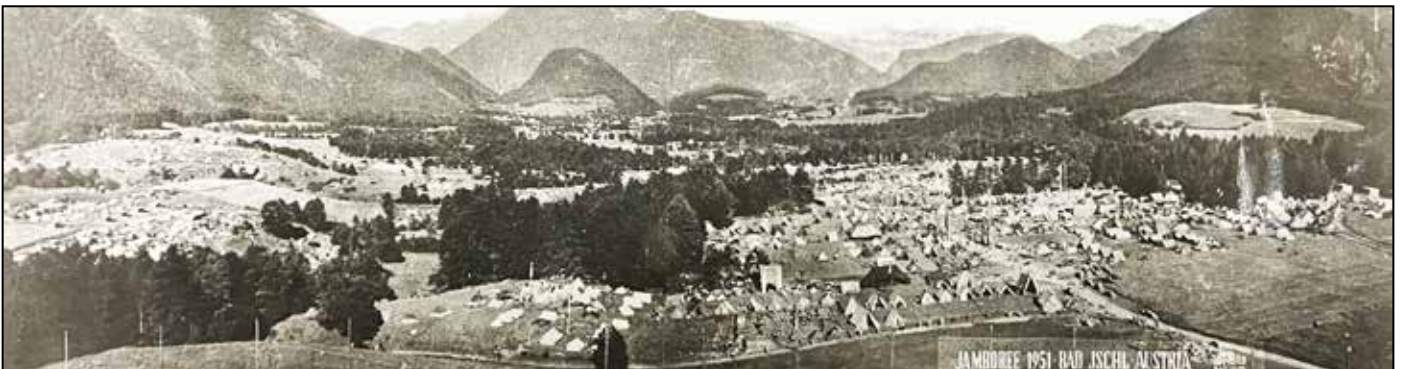
John's fellow scouts await him outside the accordion store in Florence. (JPC)



The S.S. Argentine in happier pre-war times. (Advertising rendering-JPC)

We traveled on from Rome to Florence by train. There we also did a lot of awesome sightseeing

In Florence, I had a personal adventure. Skipper Hayes played the accordion and he brought his along to accompany singing by the scouts. He learned before we left LA that I also played the accordion, and insisted that I bring mine. That meant carrying across Europe my personal effects in a backpack, plus the accordion in its case. While walking near our hotel in Florence, Skipper and I spied a storefront full of new accordions for sale. When I expressed an interest in a particular accordion, which was relatively inexpensive, Skipper encouraged me to ask my parents whether I could buy it. Somehow, I got them to agree, and we figured out how to have money wired to me (in those days that was difficult) so I could buy it. Since I now had two accordions to carry, Skipper asked other scouts to trade off carrying one for me – which made me quite unpopular, or at least the object of a great deal of pointed humor. I do not remember ever actually playing either accordion on the trip.



A panoramic view of the International Jamboree site in Bad-Ischl Austria. (Purchased postcard JPC)

## Our Town, Our History

We took a train from Florence to Venice, where, in addition to wonderful sights, the gondolas were a major interest of us Scouts. Then we traveled into Austria, by train and bus, with brief stops in Innsbruck and Salzburg. Then on to Bad Ischl for the Jamboree.

At that time, Austria, like Germany, was divided into four separate zones, controlled by, respectively, the US, Britain, France and Russia. Bad Ischl was controlled by the US, and the Jamboree encampment was located on a large golf course controlled by the US army. The Scouts from many, many countries camped on the golf course in tents. We attended Jamboree events for all Scouts, and we spent a lot of time trading for badges and other memorabilia with Scouts of different nationalities. Unfortunately, it rained off and on while we were there, and the golf course turned to deep mud after a couple of days.



A scout poses in front of Hermann Goering's bombed out vacation home in the former "Eagles Nest" in Berchtesgaden. (JPC)



Seasoned travelers return home to Union Station. (JPC)

Berchtesgaden repurposed as a recreation area for American troops. (Recreation schedule-JPC)



While in that area, we made a side trip to Hitler's

"Eagles Nest" at Berchtesgaden, which had a beautiful view, but the buildings were a complete ruin.

At the conclusion of the Jamboree, we traveled by train to Paris, with a stop in Zurich. In Paris we did wonderful sightseeing. Memorably, at one point, our troop was escorted, in uniform, to the Folies Bergère, near Montmartre, where we attended a crowded performance that included dancing girls who were only partially clad.

We then traveled by train to Cherbourg, where we embarked on a different old troop carrier, I believe the SS Brazil. We disembarked in New York [on the twenty eighth of August], and traveled by train back to Union Station in Los Angeles, arriving on the second of September.

We received quite a lot of attention in LA, including one or more interviews with the LA Times and, I believe, the Eagle Rock Sentinel. David, John, Dennis and I, together, were asked to do some speaking to other troops in Pasadena and elsewhere, recounting our Jamboree adventures.

IT WAS A GRAND  
EXPERIENCE!!!



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

**Moving Back in (Hopefully)  
No meeting this month  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

**ARCHITECTURE, THE GLORY OF  
RIVER ROCK ARCHITECTURE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 7:00**

**THE CHERRY SOCIETY  
FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024 7:00  
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 10:00**

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**



**Alison Bennett**

It was a two-week business trip which turned into an unforeseen job opportunity that got Alison to Los Angeles. Here now for the last eleven years and Eagle Rock for the last seven, she has no plans of ever leaving and told me: "I will die here!". She has found her forever place.

Alison was born and raised in central Pennsylvania in an 1840's home and by parents who valued historic restorations, ran antique malls, and frequented flea markets. (In other words, she was an easy ERVHS membership candidate!) After graduating from Syracuse University and a decade of comedy writing in NYC, she came to LA and loved it. She met her husband Noah and they drove the streets of Eagle Rock wishing one day of moving here with their growing family. They landed on Addison Way before moving one last time to a Spanish Colonial Revival home on Mt. Royal, Alison's favorite architectural style.

Alison feels that Eagle Rock is "the best of both worlds." She told me she can "walk my kid to school, know all my neighbors, and drive 10 minutes to downtown." She can have the small-town experience with the big city amenities. She and her husband are highly involved in the community, Noah serves on the Neighborhood Council, both are committed supporters of Vidiots, and now they are members of the ERVHS! To learn more about Alison's work please visit . We are so lucky they chose this community!

—Katie Taylor