



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring, 2024

WE ARE BACK!!!

That's right. We are BACK home at the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock and all moved in after a year of being away! Our repaired archive closet is looking tidy and organized. We are even more excited to announce that our next FREE PUBLIC program will be IN-PERSON after 4 long years of using Zoom! Although Zoom had advantages we couldn't have predicted, we are thrilled to mingle with members and neighbors again face to face and to be in the beautiful CFAER space. We are also exploring ways to share our meetings with our online audience. PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST IN-PERSON FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM IN FOUR YEARS

MONDAY, APRIL 15TH @ 7PM (Please note the change in date from our last publication)

2225 COLORADO BLVD @ CENTER FOR THE ARTS EAGLE ROCK

Street parking is available and refreshments will be served.

We are thrilled to share that we have author and speaker Barry Schweiger to present to us the roles and stories of stone buildings in the area. Please see his brief bio below for more details about Barry and get excited to come out, chat with neighbors and friends IN-PERSON. SEE YOU ON THE 15TH!

Barry Schweiger, AIAE, received his degree in Architecture at the University of Southern California and an MBA from UCLA. While at USC he was fortunate to have a number of esteemed architects as his professors: A. Quincy Jones, Ralph Knowles and Pierre Koenig among others.

He taught architecture at Woodbury College, presented seminars for architects and has written articles for architectural publications. He currently holds an Emeritus position at the American Institute of Architects.

His recent book, *Rockitecture: A Symphony of River Rocks and the Men Who Listened to Their Music*, a compilation of over 200 stone buildings, celebrates the indigenous river-rock architecture of Southern California. It tells the story of these stones and the endurance of Southern California's rock homes, churches, castles, waiting stations, and water troughs. The book explores the land, the new towns, and the men who made these stone buildings, which have endured generations of earthquakes, fires, pollution, floods, and of course, developers.

Being raised in the small town of Sierra Madre on the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, his fondness and familiarity with these rounded river rocks grew from the many stone walls and chimneys built there and dry washes in the area.

Having taken eight years to find and document many of these cobblestone structures, he now shares them with you.

ROCKITECTURE
THE GLORY OF RIVER
ROCK ARCHITECTURE

MONDAY
APRIL 15
7:00

EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

EL ALISAL (CHARLES FISHER)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Hello Eagle Rock Historical Society Members

Thank you all for your continued support of the ERVHS. It is always much appreciated.

In mid-March, we were able to move back into our archive space at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock. Thanks to all who helped. An especially large thank you to Eric and Karen Warren who spent three full days sorting and organizing the materials before they were placed back into the archive.

We now have a formal relationship with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. This means that we are officially recognized by the City as occupying the space that we have been in since the mid 1990s.

Let's get physical

We are moving back into a physical meeting format, with hopefully a virtual component for our general meetings. Come 20-30 minutes early and help set up chairs/etc.!

Below is a message from Frank Parrello, a long-time board member and Chief Preservationist about the exciting Route 66 Centennial:

Route 66 Centennial Celebration Coming to Eagle Rock

2026 will be the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Route 66, the first paved transcontinental route of U.S. Highway System from Chicago to Los Angeles. In recognition of this historic event, Congress passed a bill establishing the Route 66 Centennial Commission. Groups in all eight states traversed by America's defining highway are getting ready for the 100th anniversary in 2026.

In the 1930s, it served as the "road of opportunity" for those escaping the devastation of the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression. Its construction provided thousands of jobs, putting unemployed workers to work on road crews. During the Second World War, Route 66 transported troops, equipment and supplies to military bases across the country. After the war, it was used by thousands of troops to return home to their families. By the 1950s, Route 66 had stimulated the rise of tourism and became a symbol of American freedom and independence. Today it encourages us to reflect on a time when a journey was about more than arriving at a destination.

Over the years the route has taken many turns through Los Angeles. Last year, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, as part of its successful efforts to obtain Historic Cultural Monument designation for the J. Risk Standard Oil Service Station, received a letter from the National Park Service confirming that for a period of time in 1930's portions of Colorado Boulevard and Eagle Rock

Boulevard were officially designated part of the historic highway.

In response to our association with Route 66 the Historical Society has established a committee to plan local events as part of the celebration. Our first event will take place this fall at our public meeting when we will be host to a presentation by Scott Piotrowski, author and President of the California Route 66 Association on the history of Route 66 in California and Eagle Rock. Please join us to learn more about our local history and how you can participate in planning for the Route 66 celebration.

-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

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

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

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Eagle Rock and Eagle Rock Related Materials

Occidental College History

This envelope shows the original building of Occidental College. The letter is dated February 1, 1895, the year before this building burned down, leaving Oxy to occupy a temporary home near Pershing Square for the next two years while the first building in Highland Park was built. This and the other two ephemera items were bought at the Santa Anita postcard and paper show. (ERVHS)



This panoramic view of the Oxy campus in Highland Park shows the three major buildings of the college. At center right, on the corner of Avenue 50 and Figueroa Street (then Pasadena Avenue) was the Stimpson Library. The Academic building was to its left along Avenue 50. Part of this building still exists, with the third floor removed, it serves as an apartment building. In the distance at the left is the Academy building. For all of its history until 1912, the school included an academy for high school age students. Starting at the far left in front of the academy building was the main line of the Santa Fe Railroad. This major impediment to future growth prompted the College's search for a new campus. (ERVHS)



This postcard by Thompson and Watson shows the stairs from the Quad leading up to Johnson Hall. Thompson and Watson, the producer of this postcard, was a local firm which seems to have only existed in 1923 (its ads ran in the Eagle Rock Sentinel from January to December of that year). (ERVHS)

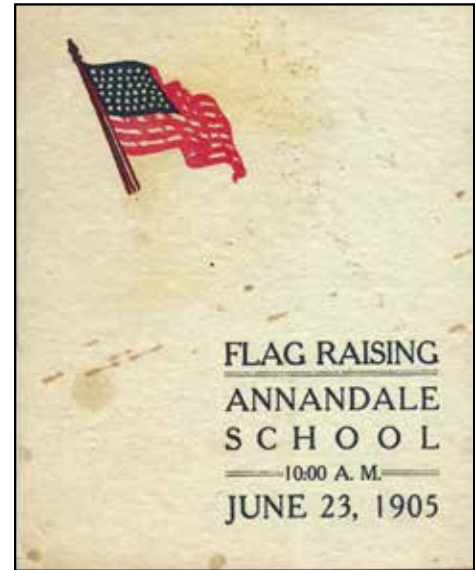
This ad for Thompson and Watson ran in the Eagle Rock Sentinel in June of 1923. We have a few other images from Thompson and Watson including one of our panoramic views of the Eagle Rock Valley. (Eagle Rock Sentinel-California Digital Newspaper Collection)

YOU—
Ought to know that our
print orders have
Increased 20%
since we commenced
using
VELOX
There *Must* be a reason.

THOMPSON & WATSON
210 So. Central Ave.
Eagle Rock, Calif.

Annandale

This little pamphlet was collected by Sherry Sonnet and sold to us at the Antiquarian Book Fair. It was the program for a patriotic ceremony marking the end of the school year. It awakened my attention to the history of Annandale Elementary School, one of two schools located in the Annandale area. Annandale (CA 1902) and Rockdale (1909) were county schools which were separate from the three Eagle Rock schools which were part of a unified district including Glendale and other nearby areas.



ANNANDALE SCHOOL CHILDREN CLOSE YEAR'S WORK WITH FLAG RAISING AND PICNIC

The Annandale school, just outside the city limits at Garvanza, closed yesterday for the summer vacation with a flag raising and picnic. About 200 pupils and patrons of the school were present. J. I. Crites was the chairman of the exercises and made an interesting preliminary address.

The Los Angeles Veteran Drum corps gave a selection, which was followed by the invocation offered by Rev. J. Nicholson, pastor of the Garvanza Methodist church.

The pupils, in charge of their teachers, Miss Mattie L. Steele, principal, and Miss Kathryn Hudson, assistant, marched from the school house to the front yard where the flag raising was held with impressive ceremonies, the children presenting a pretty appearance. Mrs. Helen J. Hough, department chaplain, W. R. C., made the presentation address, which was full of patriotism, and to which Mrs. W. R. Bacon responded in behalf of the school.

The gathering returned to the school house, where the exercises were continued.

Rev. J. A. H. Wilson and Mark Keppel, superintendent of county schools, made patriotic addresses.

The following program was rendered: Song, "Old Glory, We Love Thee," school; "Our Flag," Loyola Weiss; recitation, Norris Kuykendall; song,

"Our Flag," primary pupils; recitation, Ursula Greenshaw; concert recitation, primary pupils; soldier song, primary pupils; recitation, Hazel Thornton; recitation, William Maynard; concert recitation, primary pupils; song, "Flag of the Free," grammar pupils; music, drum corps; song, "Guard the Flag," school; song, "A Vow," grammar pupils; music, drum corps.

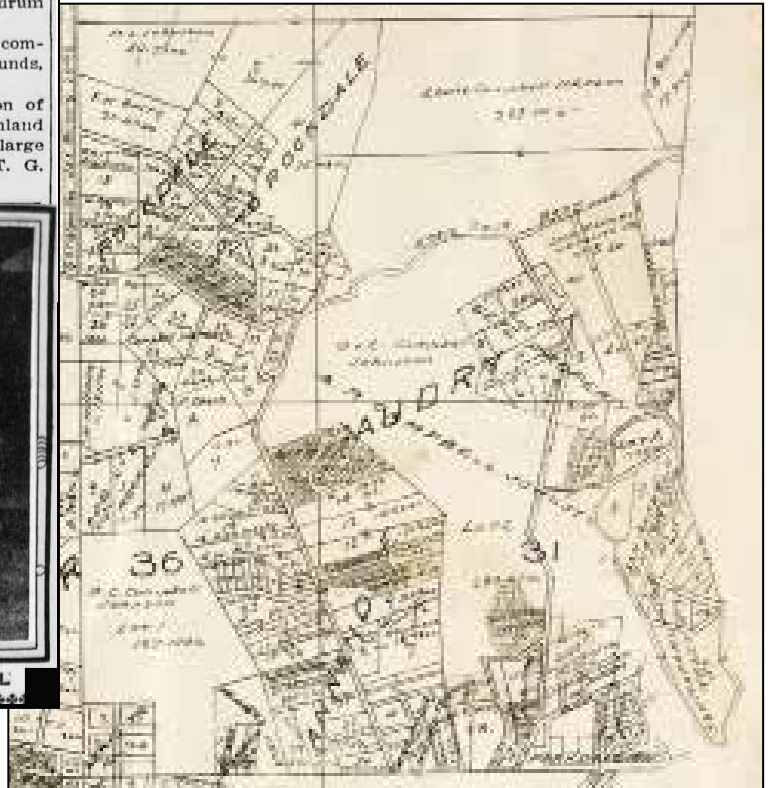
At the close of the exercises the company repaired to the school grounds, where luncheon was served.

Notwithstanding the annexation of a portion of the district to Highland park the school has maintained a large enrollment. J. I. Cates and T. G. Teachout are the trustees.

An article from the Los Angeles Herald describes the ceremony in detail, seemingly a major event in this then-distant suburb. (Los Angeles Herald-California Digital Newspaper Collection)



SCENE AT THE FLAG RAISING AT THE ANNANDALE SCHOOL



This plat map shows Annandale around 1903. By then the area had been partially subdivided into residential lots and larger areas inherited by various Campbell-Johnston family members. The area was named Annandale by the Campbell-Johnston family who had purchased the large plot of land which had originally come into the ownership of Prudent Beaudry at the time of the great partition of the Rancho San Rafael in 1871. Annandale School was located by the third "N" in Annandale on Figueroa Street (then Eagle Rock Avenue). The area was bordered by Loleta (then Payton Avenue) on the west, and the Arroyo Seco on the east, and on the north by a meridian just north of the Eagle Rock, and on the south by a meridian along Meridian Avenue. (Huntington Library—Campbell-Johnston Collection)

Gravzanza

This postcard is one of two issued around 1908 showing the original building USC College of Fine Arts. I have been looking for this one for some time, alerted to its existence by a tiny reproduction on the Judson Studios website. It shows the façade which faced the Arroyo Seco. This building was destroyed by fire in December of 1910. William Lees Judson who was a professor at the USC College of Fine Arts, became Dean in 1913, and remained so until his retirement in 1922. (Information from Wikipedia-postcard ERVHS)



The building shown on this postcard replaced the original building in 1911. The postcard is dated July 7, 1912. The College of fine arts remained there until 1920, when it moved to the main campus. When USC vacated it, Judson Studios moved into the building. (ERVHS)

The Judson Studios today displays the Arts and Crafts detailing and materials typical of the period. It is one of the remaining examples of the original buildings of the historic Garvanza neighborhood, a major transit hub and early commercial and residential center along the Arroyo Seco. The Studio is a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Landmark and the neighborhood is a Historic Preservation Overlay zone thanks to the efforts of neighborhood volunteers and the Highland Park Heritage Trust. (Eric Warren-ERVHS)





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

**ROCKITECTURE, THE GLORY OF
RIVER ROCK ARCHITECTURE
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024 7:00**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
MINDSHIP, MUSIC, PRIZES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024, 1:00**

**ROUTE 66, 100TH ANNIVERSARY
SCOTT PIOTROWSKI
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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



Phil Christ

Born to a Presbyterian Minister father and a school teacher mother, Phil started life in New York City in 1961. His family moved west to Newbury Park in 1965. He loved exploring the untamed mountains in the area after school and feels it was an idyllic place to grow up. When he was 10 years old his father was offered the Alumni Director position at Occidental College so the family moved to Escarp Drive. Eagle Rock proved to be all that Phil hoped for: it was only 10 minutes to Dodger Stadium, he had a diverse class of 5th grade peers, and he realized he loved to live in "the city." He spent much of his remaining childhood on the Oxy campus acting as the "ball boy" for sporting events or sneaking into the pool to swim!

Phil is one of four siblings who all graduated from ERHS. Eventually Phil began substitute teaching at ERHS and in 1992 he got his credential and taught special education for the next 15 years. Later, Phil took on the horticulture teaching position and taught for another 12 years before retiring in 2019. He has not retired, though, from his passion for planting California native plants and his hope to one day to offer nature walks between ERHS and Oxy.

Back in 1993 Phil married and bought a home on Onteora Way where they have been ever since! Why stay? I inquire. "Trader Joe's." (Now that's an answer!) He added that "Eagle Rock has it all!" and we are so glad that includes Phil!

—Katie Taylor