



# EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer, 2024

## It's Ice Cream Time: Celebrate with a Scoop!

Year after year for over two decades we had thrown a community party that drew neighbors and friends together over **ICE CREAM**. It was an old-fashioned event with good times and prices\*\*\*\*. Yes, for only two dollars a scoop and endless toppings (and let's not forget **FREE ADMISSION**) we like to think that in this fast-paced life we all are leading, that returning to some slower moments together and old timey prices feels good. So, take a break from the heat and **JOIN US** please, in celebration of our fantastic community and fascinating local history over ice cream, live music, friends & neighbors, a bakery booth, local history chit chat, and much more!

Here's what you need to know! We can't wait to see you there!

**WHEN:** Sundae, August 11th from 1pm - 4pm

**WHERE:** Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock @ 2225 Colo-

rado Blvd. Street parking only! ADA entrance is on the street level, signs will be posted!

**WHY:** After a four-year hiatus the Ice Cream Social IS BACK!!!! We are ready to throw a party for the community! It is our chance to meet you all and offer our information and services to you. We are a volunteer run organization and are looking to keep our membership up, our archives organized, and our digital preservation goals ever running, so we can keep our shared history preserved and remembered for years to come. We want to engage with you, our local community. Come on by and have some fun!

**FREE ENTRY:** The whole clan can come!

**FREE ENTERTAINMENT:** Listen, Watch and Join In with the Fifth Friday folk group with dancers from Occidental College on stage as well!

Other community bands and entertainers are being sought.

**BAKERY BOOTH:** When ice cream isn't enough.... Take some Home...

**HISTORICAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED:** You know you have some!

**\*FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS CONVERGE!**  
The cherry on top. \*

**\*\*\*See You On The 11th Of August!\*\*\***

**ITS COOL!**  
**SUNDAE**  
**AUGUST 11TH**  
**1-4 P.M.**  
**2\$-A-DIP ICE CREAM**  
**"ENDLESS" TOPPINGS**  
**ICY LEMONADE**  
**BAKE SHOP**  
 THE EAGLE ROCK VALLEY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
**FREE ADMISSION ! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY !**  
 •FIFTH FRIDAY FOLK BAND  
 AND FOLK DANCERS  
 •ENTERTAINMENT BY COMMUNITY BANDS  
 •GAMES AND PRIZES  
 CENTER FOR THE ARTS, EAGLE ROCK 2225 COLORADO BLVD

# Hello Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society Members!

We truly appreciate your continued support. Thank you to all who attended our first physical meeting since the pandemic, our general meeting in April. We also very much appreciate those who volunteered to help set up and break down before and after the meeting, it makes a big difference. As our meetings move from the virtual to the physical, help like this will become more important.

Meeting simulcast – while we had audio problems, our April meeting was our first physical meeting, but it was also was our first hybrid physical/virtual meeting. We will try to have the virtual aspect whenever possible, for our remote or mobility-challenged members.

Now that we have returned our archive materials to the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock in April, many of you have asked about when we will resume one of our most popular aspects - open archives. While we haven't yet exactly settled on a schedule for our open archives, there are things you can do on your own to find out about your house, your family, etc.

### Online Resources:

- The California Digital Newspaper Collection. Drill down to LA County, then Eagle Rock newspapers, then search by year, address, builder, original owner, etc.. <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/>
- The LA Public Library photo collection. Search by address, builder, original owner, etc: <https://tessa.lapl.org/photocol>
- Look up your property on ZIMAS: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, where you will find property maps, zoning information, etc.
- Search <https://ladbsdoc.lacity.org> for even more property information stored at the city. Note that the Eagle Rock City records were transferred to the City of Los Angeles in 1923, but seem to have been notated on the City map books only without issuance of permit documents, so Eagle Rock records prior to 1923 are nonexistent.
- For a fee, search the Los Angeles Times Historic Database <https://www.latimes.com/>. Archived issues are also available on [newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com), also for a fee.

-David Dellinger



It is a pleasure to see one of the oldest houses in Eagle Rock in good repair and with a bright new coat of paint. We are grateful to the owners of historic properties

when they take the time and considerable expense involved in caring for these treasures. The house was built in 1885 by William Broxholme according to Elena Murdock. (Graphic Los Angeles Herald 1909-10-24, Photo Eric Warren-ERVHS)



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](http://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 Historic Building



The architect's rendering of the proposed building, 1907. (Los Angeles Times)

An announcement in the Los Angeles Times in February, 1907 described the building:

"Bids are being received on the Edwards and Winters Company's building to be erected in the townsite of Eagle Rock, on the Corner of Townsend and Colorado streets. The illustration shows the architect's perspective of the building; S. Tilton Norton is the architect. The lower floor is divided into four storerooms, to be occupied respectively by the Eagle Rock Bank, Eagle Rock Water Company, Eagle Rock Building Company, the Eagle Rock Grocery and Market Company and the Eagle Rock Hardware Company. Upstairs are two three-room apartments, three two-room apartments, three one-room apartments each equipped with a private bath, buffet kitchen, etc. The estimated cost of the building is \$16,000 exclusive of the interior fittings of the bank and stores."

Edwards and Winters was probably constructing the building to service the lots that they were selling in subdivided farmlands along Mount Royal Drive north of Colorado and Townsend Avenue to the south, connected by the trolley line which would deliver their patrons from Los Angeles to this then-remote area.

By 1911 the building had acquired a new owner and a new name. John T. Bailey, then president of the Eagle Rock Board of Trustees sold the building to acquire a large tract of land in west Glendale. The announcement in the Eagle Rock Sentinel describes the property thus:



In 1963 Tritch Hardware occupied the central portion of the building. A barber shop was still on the corner. A 1950's era update had been done on the commercial façade. (ERVHS) of that year). (ERVHS)



The corner in 1909. At this point it is clear that the road to the east was unimproved dirt and to the west was little better. The trolley line was the essential link to the city.(ERVHS-Murdock collection)

"The Bailey Block, as it is known, is a landmark in Eagle Rock's history, although less than six years old. It was the first business block to be erected in this valley. And this was where the first business of this present city was begun. It is a fine, well-constructed two story block with four store buildings fronting on Colorado Boulevard and living apartments on the second floor. When the boulevard and Arroyo Seco bridge are put in this block will occupy a very fine position being at the very center of the valley."

"The block is now occupied by the Edwards and Wildey Company and W. E. Werden's Grocery and several families on the second floor."

The building has had many owners, the latest being members of the Tritch family. In their ownership it continues to provide for the practical needs of the neighborhood and provide housing in its second floor.

# A Historic Business

The early history of Tritch Hardware began in 1859 when George Tritch, a German immigrant, founded George Tritch Hardware Co. His obituary stated that he was a man of quick wit, deep thought, & marked business ability. A short time before his death he said: "We came to Denver because the tide of immigration was this way; the people heard of the Pike's Peak country and fabulous stories of gold. When we started out, we had no idea where we were going, but I thought that towns had to spring up, and possibly I could make a living for my family. There is only one reason why we stopped in Denver. There was nothing here that was promising, but when we got this far our money had run out, & knowing that we could not go farther we were content to remain." Mr. Tritch brought with him his tools, a small stock of goods, and at once began business in a cabin on Blake Street near Cherry Creek. His business soon outgrew its quarters, and he built a large store room on 15th & Blake. In 1884 his business again outgrew its quarters and he built a large block on Arapahoe Street & 17th, in which he placed the final George Tritch Hardware Company, which was one of Denver's great commercial establishments. The store was forced to close in Denver after the Great Depression.

Little did George know that his great-grandson Stuart would restart the family business and continue the legacy by reopening the store as Tritch Hardware in 1945, in the beautiful little hamlet of Eagle Rock. **-Beverly Tritch Allaire, 2011**



George Tritch.  
(Tritch Family)

The beginnings of George Tritch Hardware Co. Shown here in a detail from A.E Mathew's 1866 view of F Street in Denver. (Tritch Family)



By 1892 the company had grown to the largest in Denver, now wholesale



Tritch Hardware's first location in Eagle Rock at 1626 Colorado Boulevard. (ERVHS)



Stuart Tritch in 1960 when he was president of the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce. (Eagle Rock Sentinel-ERVHS)

## A Family Business Honored

Stuart worked the store with his sons Jack and Merritt; who eventually turned over the day-to-day operations to Merritt's sons, Jeff and Glenn. With Jeff's retirement; Glenn has assumed the responsibility.

From humble beginnings in Denver, the Tritch brand of "tried and true" community-based service has continued to this day by the grace of the generations of Eagle Rock families have walked through those doors; and continue to do so. Or how many families new to the area have found the benefit of having a small family-owned hardware store where they can walk in, get good advice and a solution to their problems. The commitment to the principles of George's "handshake deal", the give-and-take between community and business; this is what small businesses are founded on. Those principles are still in place 77 years after Stuart opened the doors; and have forged a strong bond between community and store.

**-Beverly Tritch Allaire, 2011**

Recently the family was honored by the community and the City of Los Angeles' CD 14's Councilmember Kevin De Leon by naming the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and south Townsend Avenue as Tritch Family Square.



The eldest son of Stuart Trich, Stuart S., was killed in a Kamikaze attack in 1945 while serving in the US Navy in the Pacific.



Brothers Merritt and Jack are shown here behind the counter in the store around



The Tritch family members who were able to attend the Tritch Family Square dedication were (left to right front): Gail Hase (Tritch), Jennifer Hase-Ameroso (behind), Barbara Jimenez (Tritch)(partial), Joan Chen (Tritch), Mary Lynch (Tritch) (partial), Teresa Hendrickson (Tritch), Kim Tritch, Ashleigh Tritch, Glenn Tritch, William Hendrickson, and Alice Roth (CD-14 Northeast Los Angeles Area Director). (Eric Warren-ERVHS)



Merritt's children, Jeff, Beverly and Glenn are shown here photographed on the occasion of receiving the ERHS Alumni Soaring Eagle award honoring the family's service to the community. (ERHS Alumni Association)



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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
FRIENDSHIP, MUSIC, PARTIES  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024, 1:00

ROUTE 66, 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SCOTT PIOTROWSKI

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 7:00

IN PERSON AT CFAER

TO BE ANNOUNCED

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 7:00



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
City of Los Angeles

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Members' Corner

#### Jason Woliner



One of our newer ERVHS members, Jason was inspired to join our organization after watching our entertaining public program titled "Night Life in Eagle Rock". Being drawn to off-beat history and a cool and interesting neighborhood, he has found his home in Eagle Rock!

Born in the Bronx borough of New York City, he was raised and lived throughout the City until the he was 29. After some time in film school and years of editing and directing he decided to try the West coast and came to Los Angeles in 2009 landing in Los Feliz. He found an apartment and spent the next 13 years living there. Although he knew his wife Rebecca originally from high school on the east coast it took them reuniting here to make it all come together! They married in 2015.

Two children later, needing more space, and "wanting to invest in a neighborhood", they came across a "magical and unusual" home (tricked out by the owner who was an adventure documentarian) on Zillow and the rest is history. For two and a half years they have been living the Eagle Rock dream! Jason thinks culturally "Eagle Rock is hitting a nice moment" with Vidiots, Walt's, and so many other interesting businesses. Here's to you Jason, we are so glad you are here and an official ERVHS member!

-Katie Taylor