



# EAGLE Rock VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall, 2025

## Horses: Stars of the Big Screen

When asked to think of known movie stars, one's first thoughts most likely involve people, not horses. We are thrilled to have this bias challenged and our definition of what constitutes a movie star broadened to include these gorgeous animals by our deeply knowledgeable, renowned ERVHS Member from the cinematic and film history world: Marc Wanamaker.

In 1947 Marc was born in Los Angeles and has been a trailblazing historian, archivist, and lecturer in film history throughout his life. In 1969 he helped form the American Film Institute's facilities in Beverly Hills. In 1971 he founded Bison Archives, a leading repository of research and photographs of

motion picture history. He is the founder of the Los Angeles International Film Exposition and assisted in forming The American Cinematheque. His extensive list of publications includes over a dozen books as well as articles in the Los Angeles Times and interviews in numerous documentaries related to motion picture history. He has tapped into his vast collection in Bison Archives to produce several historical film festivals, conferences, and programs. And the list GOES ON!

**Please JOIN US on Monday, October 20th @  
7pm Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock  
2225 Colorado Blvd.**

Marc will present Horses in the Movies. He describes his program as such: "When it comes to westerns horses are central to the action. In many cases the hero's horse became as much of a star as the actor. Their physical capabilities made much of the action possible and their beauty attracted many devoted fans. This program will focus on the beginnings of the horse star and how they were used in film to enhance the popularity and universality of the genre."

Per usual this is a public program that is FREE and OPEN TO ALL. Refreshments will be served. Street parking only. Please support our organization and spread the word. Come by and meet fellow neighbors, Members, old friends and new! We would love to meet you all!

\*\*\*SEE YOU ON THE 20TH!\*\*\*

**HORSES IN THE MOVIES  
with  
MARC WANAMAKER**



**MONDAY  
OCTOBER 20  
7:00  
EAGLE ROCK  
VALLEY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG](http://EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG)

## President's Message

Hello Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society members! We truly appreciate your continued support. What a fantastic turnout for this year's annual Ice Cream Sundae! We rely on many to make it come together, so we very grateful to everyone who came out to make it a success. A huge thank you to all the groups and individuals who helped make this event so special:

- The Eagle Rock High School Key Club for scooping and serving all that delicious ice cream.
- Fifth Friday Folk Band, including our very own Don Krotser, and the Oxy Historical and Folk Dance Troupe, for getting our toes tapping with their wonderful folk music and dance.
- The talented Peter Breede for providing classic organ grinder entertainment.
- And to our very own Katie Taylor, with technical help from James Arredondo, for creating the highly successful, and very popular, "Kids Karaoke"! The kids loved it, and we even saw a few adults join in the fun.
- Frank Parrello for hosting a information table regarding our preservation projects, and providing information about the Route 66 centennial next year.
- The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, which allows us to host the annual event (and our other quarterly meetings) at the Center for the Arts.

As you can tell, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society collaborates on internal projects, but less obvious is that we are also known for collaborating with outside organizations. For the last fifteen years, we have been collaborating with Occidental College's Special Collections and College Archives on various projects. The ERVHS is also a member of LAasSubject, an organization which puts on the annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar.

This year the Archives Bazaar will celebrate its 20th anniversary and for the first time it will be hosted at the Cal State University Los Angeles campus. If you have never been to the Archives Bazaar, you are missing one of the gems in our city. The tag line of their own website, <https://laassubject.org/archives-bazaar>, says it best: The Archives Bazaar is an annual event, free and open to the public, which gives anyone with an interest in the region a one-stop opportunity to interact with dozens of archives, from large institutions to private collectors.

Please drop by our ERVHS table and say "hi"!

—David Dellinger

**This letter was quoted in 1920 as the town debated a proposal to build a movie studio on Hill Drive.**

"The argument has been put forth that the company pledges itself to the production of high-priced moral plays, but will not the same class of people produce these plays, as do the most maudlin and vulgar? Since the poetry and music of language are omitted, the film must give physical suggestion and expression, either grace, grossness or buffoonery. This is their language, and the players are chosen from this angle alone regardless of morals or education. Is this to be the heritage of Eagle Rock? Are our children to have all of the fineness of home influence destroyed? Through this daily parade of artificiality?" (Eagle Rock Sentinel)

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)

## Eagle Rock in the Movies

This still of a movie being shot at the rock was furnished to us by our speaker, Marc Wanamaker. No information on the film or the (fake) native American actors is known. (Bison Archives)



This is part of a clip reel put together by fan "ApennyW" on youtube. The "Monkeymobile" was a stylized 1966 Pontiac GTO by Dean Jeffries. As best we can tell, from front to back, are Davy Jones, Peter Tork and Micky Dolenz. The large billboard structure center was probably on the roof of a drug store on the corner which was torn down soon after and replaced by the existing gas station. The building on the corner of Colorado and Eagle Rock still today sports its giant billboard. The "Shopping Bag" market is in the background on the left. The Eagle Rock owned market chain would go out of business soon after. The building was later reused as a "One Day" auto painting shop and then torn down for the building of the "Walgreens" complex of stores. (unknown source, Raybert Productions)



Opportunistic, American International Pictures, used the vacant "Shopping Bag" building and incidentally midtown Eagle Rock as the central location for "Record City" a comedy with R and B music. (American International Pictures)



Actors Sylvia Anderson, Ruth Buzzi and Jan Hill are hitchhiking on Colorado boulevard in 1977 in this publicity still from "Record City". This probably would have resulted in their arrest in real life. (American International Pictures)



This shot from the credits of the film shows the 1927 Eagle Rock Library in the background. Neither of the named actors are in the shot. Kinkey Friedman is riding in the back seat of the Hot Rod. (American International Pictures)

The "Asian Nutrition Center" in the store front next to the library may have been the earliest provider of "Oriental Foods" in central Eagle Rock, although the long running "Lee's Kitchen" may have begun earlier. (American International Pictures)



This shot from behind the Shopping Bag building shows the corner of Eagle Rock Boulevard and Merton Avenue. Thankfully the tin signs which were used to "modernize" the older buildings have now been removed. The left hand building is the old Masons Hall which housed in 1916, in the right-hand store front, Eagle Rock's first moving Picture Theatre and in left-hand store front Eagle Rock's City Hall. (American International Pictures)

## The Movies in Eagle Rock Begin

### Moving Picture Show Wanted.

Eagle Rock is in need of something in the amusement line. And we know of nothing that would or could be made to supply the demand better than a good, high grade moving picture theater. Scores of our people go night after night to surrounding cities and spend their time and money. All of these persons have expressed themselves as desiring to patronize home industry. Just so long as our own citizens have to go elsewhere for recreation or pleasure just so long will there be lack of interest in our city by many.

It is probable that the present city ordinance regulating picture shows is somewhat responsible for the failure to establish a theater here this fall. The ordinance is practically prohibitive. No one could run a show here if that ordinance were enforced. If some responsible party wanted to start a moving picture theater in this city we doubt not that the present trustees would change the ordinance so that it would regulate and not prohibit.

This article from the Eagle Rock Sentinel appeared in October of 1914. (Eagle Rock Sentinel)

Curiously, the first theater opened in November of that year. W.K. Cowan was very much an establishment figure in early Eagle Rock. (Eagle Rock Sentinel)

**EAGLE ROCK'S  
NEW MOVIE THEATER**

IS NOW OPEN

The Citizens of this Valley will be furnished entertainment that will be refined and instructive.

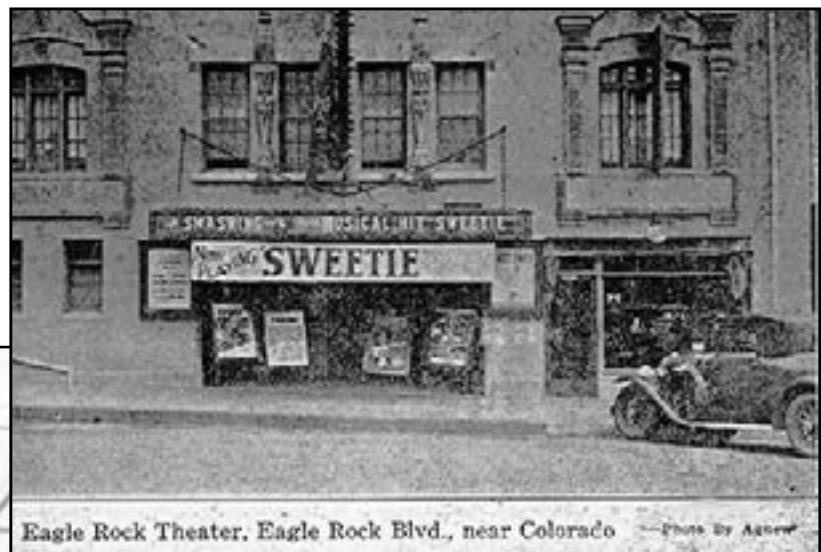
YOUR PATRONAGE IS SOLICITED  
WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO DESERVE IT

Theater will be open every evening  
There will be two shows every evening

**Change of Program Mondays, Wednesdays  
and Fridays.**

**PRICES: Adults, 10c; Children under 12, 5c**

**FAMILY THEATER**  
W. K. COWAN, Prop.  
CENTRAL AVENUE  
NEXT TO CITY HALL



The then "Sierra Theater", shown around 1948, was torn down around 1962 and the building where "Armon's Coffee Shop" and a gym are now located was built. (unknown, ERVHS)



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

**HORSES IN THE MOVIES  
WITH MARC WANAMAKER  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 , 7:00**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23  
2026, 7:00**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED  
MONDAY, APRIL 20  
2026, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Member's Corner

#### In Memoriam: LaDell Stapp



A decades long ERVHS Member, LaDell "Dell" Stapp was born on September 14, 1931, in Rockham, South Dakota where he grew up on his family's ranch. After graduating high school, he served honorably in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War before building a life in Los Angeles with Lani, his beloved wife of 67 years. Together, they raised three children, welcomed four grandchildren, and operated Stapp's Auto Service, a trusted Eagle Rock business, for nearly four decades in the historic building that currently houses "Taco/Social" on Colorado Blvd.

LaDell was a man of faith and service whose generosity touched every part of our community. He led with humility as a Boy Scout leader, Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce officer, and as a BLEND leader serving alongside the LAPD. For his devotion, he was honored as California Veteran of the Year and LAPD Volunteer of the Year. His joy of life shone through in music, as a member of the church choir and a barbershop quartet, and love of the outdoors - whether skiing into his 90s, fishing, traveling, or welcoming friends and family to the home he and Lani loved in Eagle Rock.

Above all, LaDell will be remembered for his devotion to family, his integrity, and the warmth he brought to every gathering. He lived his life in service to God, country, and community, leaving a legacy of love that will endure through all who knew him.

LaDell Stapp, 93, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2025.

—Katie Taylor