



# OVERVIEW

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

ISSUE No. 4

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1991

## WORLDS OLDEST LIVING LOT SPEAKS (FROM VITAGRAPH TO ABC - Part II)

by ISABEL DIETZ

In February 1925, when Harry Warner purchased the Vitagraph Studios at the corner of Talmadge and Prospect, the Warner brothers were definitely not at the top of the heap of nascent moguls struggling to gain a secure foothold in the movie business. But maybe breathing a little of Vitagraph's magic helped. After all, it was the place where in 1916, D. W. Griffith had filmed "Intolerance," one of the three great pacifist films of the time. (The other two were Thomas Ince's "Civilization" and Lewis Selznick's "War Brides.") The set for the legendary Babylonian sequence of "Intolerance," with its spectacular one hundred-and-fifty-foot towers, had been thrown up on ten acres of land at Sunset and Virgil (now the site of a Von's market), then left there for year. Other parts of the filming were completed on the Prospect-Talmadge lot. Warner knew that grabbing the audience's attention would require something new and different - capturing some technical aspect of movie making, perhaps, for their very own. They chose sound.

Successful attempts to synchronize a recorded voice with an image projected on a screen had been

See LOT, p. 6

**NUMBERS  
YOU NEED, p. 5**



Julia Russell leads tour of Eco Home grounds

## ECO HOME: ACRES OF DIAMONDS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

by ROSALIND LIEBERMAN

Perhaps you've seen her jogging down your street early in the morning, or pedaling home from the market on her tricycle, the groceries stowed in a cardboard box in back, her hair looped back in a chignon. She's the kind of person who weds herself to a purpose and pursues it with singular determination. Someone whose remarkable accomplishments may, so far, have only been recognized by a few, but to whom we are all indebted and for whom parks are later named. You may have already

visited her house, nestled between fragrant front and rear gardens, surrounded by prolific fruit trees and flowering vines. If not, permit me to

*"Economical changes are possible. This is a very exciting time. People are beginning to recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy ecology. And to be sustainable, ecology and economy must go hand in hand." - JULIA RUSSELL*

introduce you to our neighbor, Julia Russell, who is well on her way toward becoming a legend, not only in her own time, but in her own place as well.

Julia Russell's place is a modest California-style bungalow on (where else?) Russell Avenue. She welcomes us graciously and we satisfy our curiosity right away.

See ECO, p. 8

## In My Opinion:

We are seeing changes down there — City Hall, I mean. The Mayor says the homeowners organizations are having too much clout and tells City Planning they should get on with their work; not spend so much time listening to the Council members and other special interest groups. What's going on? The City Council members are supposed to be responsive to their constituents. Isn't the rest of City government supposed to be, also? The Councilperson for this district, Mike Woo, is responsible for some far-reaching changes through his new Hillside Ordinance, restricting heights and sizes of homes on almost all hillside streets, although, for my taste, it should be considerably stronger, particularly in height restrictions. However, had this new ordinance been in effect in 1988 we would not be burdened with neighborhood debacles like our Ronda Vista tower (see related letter, p. 9.)

We are going to have to be very vigilant in the next few years: Tom Bradley is seemingly a lame duck mayor and he has proven to be very supportive of large scale developers, intensely interested in big housing projects as well as large (empty) office buildings. While our immediate neighborhood seems to be safe with its R-1 (one house/one lot) zoning, there will always be attempts to change this, at least on a lot-to-lot basis. Isn't it sad to feel that our rights are being constantly eroded by some we've elected to represent us?

Maybe we as homeowners and renters really need paid lobbyists to go to City Hall and State Government to represent us against the developers and insurance companies that do not have our best interests at heart. Fortunately, there are some groups that *are* representing our slow-or-no growth stance. The FHRA has just joined the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations (the Hillside Federation), an organization of over 50 associations like ours. The Federation has proven itself over the years and we look forward to a long and happy relationship.

— DON WALDROP, President  
*Franklin Hills Residents Association*

## LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL UPDATE

by TONY MICHAELIS

The Los Feliz Hills School is no more. The School was foreclosed upon last month and is now owned by Community Bank and Mega Mortgage. Members of the Association's School Committee have been active on two fronts.

We submitted an application to get the site designated an historical monument by the City's Cultural Heritage Commission. This designation would preclude any demolition of the buildings on the site for up to one year. These initial school buildings were designed by John Lautner, a world-renowned architect who studied under Frank Lloyd Wright. The buildings are uniquely designed to suit children and Mr. Lautner created a "floating slab" foundation in order to work with the site's landfill limitations.

The Commission took the application under consideration and visited the site on August 7th. They were to make a final determination at their September 4th meeting but, based on a agreement between the owners, the L.A. Conservancy (which has been working with us on this application) and this Association, decision was delayed until October 2nd.

This agreement resulted from a request by the new owners for a one month delay to pursue an opportunity which might benefit both our interests. The new owners' plan is to file a legal action against the City.

We believe they are acting in good faith and this effort of theirs may result  
See LFHS, p. 11

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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VIOLET WEBER

To better serve the community, the FHRA's Board has formed teams to deal with the issues that concern our neighborhood on a day-to-day basis:

#### ABC-TV/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Don Waldrop, 664-4124

#### PLANNING and ZONING

Charley Mims, 665-8239

#### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

Violet Weber, 663-6427

#### RECYCLING /ENVIRONMENTAL:

Marcelle Zonta, 664-4124

#### LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL:

Tony Michaelis, 666-8166

#### CRIME/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

Violet Weber, 663-6427

#### NEWSLETTER:

Don Waldrop, 664-4124

#### BYLAWS:

Jim Churchill, 663-0580

#### MEMBERSHIP

Bruce Carroll, 665-9875

#### GRAFITTI

Isabel Dietz, 661-4531

The OVERVIEW invites your comments and, space permitting, will publish letters mailed to Editor, Overview, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027

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Tony Michaelis

Violet Weber

#### *Advertising Sales:*

Fred Pyrczak, Randy Bruce  
(213) 660-7600

## ANNOUNCING A NEW LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT 7-WEEK DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING COURSE

Because of the popularity of last year's course, we are able to offer a NEW 7-WEEK COURSE beginning Tuesday, January 14, 1992. It is very comprehensive and includes Search and Rescue, Medical/First Aid, Fire Suppression and other vital services needed to save lives and property. **Living in Los Angeles means living with the threat of a major earthquake at any time.** Knowing how to cope won't stop an earthquake, but it may save neighborhood lives that could otherwise be lost. Let's make this just as successful as the last one.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: VIOLET WEBER, (213) 663-6427**

• SPOTLIGHT • SPOTLIGHT • SPOTLIGHT • SPOTLIGHT • SPOTLIGHT •

### MARY ORR

by VIOLET WEBER

Franklin Hill may not number a Madonna or a Michael Jackson tucked away in its leafy heights, but it probably has community activists who have done more for the good of their neighborhood. Mary Orr is one of them.

Mary admittedly came late to activism. Perhaps over-awed by her memorably energetic mother, it took a juvenile crime spree in the neighborhood, in which an elderly woman, harassed by mean-spirited youths, barricaded herself in her home and died in a subsequent fire, to arouse an already irritated group of neighbors. They vowed that it would never happen again and called upon Mary to help.

Mary spearheaded the group, now known as the Franklin Hill Community Patrol and Homeowners' Association. Their early meetings were held at ABC, block captains were appointed and signs, visible all over the Hill, alerted perpetrators that someone is indeed watching them, and crime fell in the area by 13%.

The Police Department was ecstatic, but like all associations, attendance has been difficult to maintain after the initial rush to join.

By dint of regular meetings, interesting speakers, quick response to alert neighbors of any crime going on in the neighborhood, Mary Orr has kept the Community Patrol alive to celebrate its tenth anniversary in August this year, one of the longest cohesive crime watch groups in the City of Los Angeles. Mary is quick to credit the diligence of block captains and Patrol members in keeping the group viable for this length of time.

Mary is as indefatigable in her personal life as she is in trying to right neighborhood wrongs. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, she has attended every alumni reunion

but one when only a knee operation prevented her from driving cross country.

Mary's work background might make her look like a "job hopper" to a prospective employer. Instead it is the basis for bedrock experience that has formed her interest and successes in civic endeavors. A stint as a liaison between the Department of Motor Vehicles and car dealers, and subsequent insurance investigation for the DMV gave her an extensive background when, as a member of the Westside Action Coalition, she joined others in the fight to lower auto and other insurance rates with the eventual passage of Proposition 103.

Her work with auto dealers led to employment with Hertz Company and eventually to her ownership of a used car lot and garage. Her knowledge of automobiles is formidable but she hasn't yet figured out how to keep the local vandals from breaking into her car parked in front of her own home. Even a leader of the Crime Watch can be frustrated sometimes.

Another interesting facet of Mary's work experience was with the Department of the Treasury in the printing department. Learning the care with which money is printed in order to foil criminals

was perhaps her introduction to her interest in crime. Don't try to pass any hundred dollar bills off on Mary!

She has been tenacious in helping improve the lot of her neighborhood in other ways than prevention of crime. As any activist knows, tangling with the bureaucratic community is a lesson in patience at best. A recent case was getting a variance denied on Cumberland Avenue. This culminated in victory, but only after three and a half years of trying to get our elected officials to act on an illegal property use.

New street lights on the Hyperion side of Franklin Hill can be attributed directly to Mary's persistence in getting the



# LIBRARY FOOTBALL

by BRUCE CARROLL

Franklin Hills and Los Feliz residents appear to have won the Library Bowl, played in the tough PFL (Political Football League). The Save Our Library Coalition team has scored big, with the City's Library Commission staff now recommending the southeast corner of Franklin and Hillhurst for the new Los Feliz Branch Library.

All summer long, the site issue was passed back and forth between the Board of Library Commissioners and the Department of Recreation and Parks, owner of the alternate site, Barnsdall Park.

Cultural Affairs General Manager Al Nodal kicked off the game with his suggestion that Recreation and Parks give away land at Barnsdall Park for the new library. Bond funds for both land and building were approved by voters in 1989. Councilman Mike Woo tried to cheer the Barnsdall team to quick victory with the cry of FREE LAND!! in his June 22nd letter to the Library Commission: "The city will save an amount between \$1,900,000 and \$2,400,000 . . ."

But Save Our Library Coalition coach, Donna Matson, wrote up an impressive game plan. It gave the Parks Commissioners 18 reasons not to move the library into their Park. The report cited everything from City Charter prohibitions, to restrictions included in Aline Barnsdall's 1926 deed, to more recent safety and traffic concerns. Ms. Matson's 25-member team, representing FHRA and other community organizations, tried to block the plan on June 24th at the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting. Despite a spirited defense and a powerful recommendation against the Barnsdall

site from their own general manager, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted to: "explore the possibility."

The second quarter was played at the July 3rd Library Commission meeting. Ms. Matson enlisted City Council President John Ferraro, who represents much of the Los Feliz area, as Hillhurst's top cheerleader. His July 1st letter to the Library Commission proclaimed, "A Los Feliz location is the most practical and viable, both physically and financially." After tackling the pros and cons for a while, the Library Commissioners voted to huddle with Parks Commissioners to see if they'd really let them run unopposed through 1,167 square yards of park land.

In the third quarter, the Barnsdall team got thrown for a big loss. On August 12th, the Parks Commission told the Library Commission they could play in Barnsdall Park, but not for free, "The price would be predicated on the fair market value." The site at Hillhurst and Franklin was valued at \$1.5 million in May. The park land would surely be worth more and its hilly terrain would boost building costs.

In September, to forestall defeat, Councilman Woo requested a last-ditch 30-day timeout to conjure up a Two Library play. Perhaps the old "where's the library fake" could hoodwink MetroRail into building an Arts library in Barnsdall Park, in exchange for using the park to tunnel under Hollywood for five years. The library Commissioners voted 3-2 not to blow the whistle on Woo's delay of game — one last time. So, just inches from the goal, it appears the Hillhurst and Franklin site will finally win the contest next month.

## THE NEW HILLSIDE ORDINANCE

(In the works)

### FROM THE HILLSIDE FEDERATION:

Due to some misinformation disseminated by a small group of builders and developers who hope desperately to defeat this ordinance, many homeowners became worried and upset. For the record, here are some facts:

1. If you add on to your house, only the new portion has to be set back from the street by 5 feet. (No one would have to tear down part of their house to add on.)

2. The new ordinance does not require a 36-foot-wide street dedication — it only refers to 36 feet in the definition section of the ordinance. It actually states that improvements will be based on the standard Bureau of Engineering specifications (which are governed by the width of the existing dedication.)

3. Homeowners will not have to widen the street beyond their property line. If your street is 25 feet wide it does not

have to be widened to 36 feet.

4. There is nothing in the new ordinance about liability to future buyers for failure to disclose information. Existing real estate laws require full disclosure of faults, defects and bootleg work by the seller to the buyer. Knowledge of local laws, school districts and so forth are the responsibility of the buyer. Liens and CC&Rs are usually covered by the title report.

The new ordinance is designed to protect homeowners from the side effects of further uncontrolled development in the hills. It takes the sensible approach of requiring builders to provide incremental improvements to the street as well as ensuring that adequate parking is provided so as to prevent further congestion.

SEE HILLSIDE, p. 16

# community calendar

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For future listings in the OVERVIEW CALENDAR,  
contact Justine Jacoby Cook at 665-2114.

## SEPTEMBER:

15, SUNDAY: ART SHOW from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Third World Art Exchange, 2016 N. Hillhurst Avenue. Unity of Third World art: artists from different countries, folk art. INFO: Daira Basley, (213) 666-9357

## OCTOBER:

6, SUNDAY: HOLLYWOOD FARMERS' MARKET will be held between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Ivar Avenue between Hollywood and Selma. The Market is "certified" by the county agriculture commissioner. Sponsored by Councilman Michael Woo and the Hollywood Economic Revitalization Effort (HERE). INFO: Carole Joseph, 465-6471

12, SATURDAY: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP sponsored by the City of L.A. Bureau of Sanitation. Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Lot B

15, THURSDAY: MONTHLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING of Franklin Hills Residents Association, Marshall High School. INFO: 664-4124

## NOVEMBER:

(?) , LARGE RECYCLING CANS are coming to the rest of the Franklin Hills. We should receive written notification before the service starts.

## community phones

### IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

#### ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager, (213)557-5000  
Security: 557-5354.

#### CITY ANIMAL REGULATION: 222-7138

#### COUNCILMAN MICHAEL WOO:

District Office, 4640 Hollywood Blvd., (213) 485-6471;  
Room 218, City Hall, 200 Spring St., (213) 485-3353

#### ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: 1-800-CITYSAN  
Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation (\$100).  
(213) 481-5800; (800)-722-1122.  
Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater (\$200).  
(800)-852-9820

Household Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Emergency 911  
Non-emergency: (213) 485-6235

#### GRAFFITI:

On private property 253-2687  
On public property (818) 772-7753

#### POLICE: Emergency 911;

Northeast Division: Non-emergency (213) 485-2563

#### LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (213) 664-2903.

Hours: Mon & Tues 1-8; Wed & Thurs 1-5:30;  
Fri & Sat 10-5:30.

#### PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH: (818) 904-1418

#### RECYCLING INFO: (800) CITY SAN

#### DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION: 485-4906

#### STREET LIGHTING: 482-5483

#### STREET MAINTENANCE: 485-5661

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TV Cable service) 485-2751

#### WATER AND POWER: Customer Service: 481-4211

Hot Line (Water abuse, Conservation): (800) 722-1122

## community notices

### WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

TRADER JOE'S (in the old Hub Market)  
and on Hillhurst Avenue:

ART 'N BARBEE (BarBQ and art gallery)

PLATEAU (fine jewelry & fashions)

RESTAURANT MISTO (Italian) and

VILLA AMÉRICA (interesting antiques)

The FHRA appreciates the cooperation of Marshall High School Principal Dr. Debra Leidner and her staff.

The Board of Directors of FHRA sends its best wishes to the faculty and staff of Los Feliz Hills School. Thanks for your kindness, we will miss you.

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS REQUEST:

An effort is being made to coordinate all types of local emergency communication equipment in the event of a major earthquake or other disaster.

Owners of car phones, amateur ham radios, CB radios or walkie-talkie radios who would be willing to offer their support and expertise are asked to contact JAY GLASSMAN at 663-3446

LOT, from p. 1  
 underway for many years. As early as 1900 at the Paris Exposition, for example, Sarah Bernhardt's moving image on a screen had been synchronized with her voice so that she seemed to be reciting from "Hamlet." Lindberg's departure for his transatlantic flight had been recorded in image and simultaneous sound by Movietone in May, 1927. These were technical achievements which, while not unnoticed, were not exactly snapped up by an eager public. But that would change swiftly and forever when Warner Brothers presented "The Jazz Singer" on October 6, 1927 at its theater in New York. Other feature-length or shorter films had used the synchronized disc-to-film Vitaphone process, notably "Don Juan," with John Barrymore, and had been warmly received, but those films had synchronized only music and action. Dialog was still displayed visually as it had always been in silent films.

According to John Yingling, ABC's Assistant to the Vice President, West Coast, "The Jazz Singer," starring Al Jolson, was the first Vitaphone process feature-length film to use perfectly synchronized and (seemingly ad-libbed) spoken dialogue. This film, made on the Warner lot at Prospect and Talmadge, took audiences by storm. In two years, the number of theaters in the U.S. wired for sound went from 220 to 4,000. Warner Brothers made a handsome profit with this sensational success — \$3 million from a \$500,000 investment. In 1928, while they retained the Prospect-Talmadge studio, they were able to move to newer and larger quarters in Burbank.

The invention of television came at virtually the same time that sound hit the movies. In 1923, Vladimir Zworkin, the official "father of TV," developed a photocellular "eye" which was the necessary element for television to work. Further developments resulted in the 1928 demonstration by General Electric engineers of the first home TV set, with its three-inch by four-inch screen. And so the ground was prepared for what was to be the great revolution of the information and entertainment age — for the live dramas and comedies of TV's "Golden Age," the quiz shows and

See LOT, p. 10

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP DON'T LET L.A. GO TO WASTE

Throwing away household chemicals with the regular garbage or throwing them down the drain damages our environment and is against the law.

Household chemicals in your home can also pose a threat to you and your family. Let the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation dispose of these chemicals properly.

They will accept HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTS, PESTICIDES, PAINT, etc.

### The following regulations apply to this event:

- Please do not bring empty containers or dried-up paint.
- Please transport waste in a cardboard box
- Keep all materials away from passengers during transportation
- Keep products in original containers.
- Do not mix products.
- Make sure containers are leakproof; if they are not, place them in larger leakproof containers.
- No radioactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, infectious waste, explosives or ammunition. No business waste
- DRIVE-THROUGH ONLY; no walk-ins. L.A. residents only.

**OCTOBER 12, 1991**

9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

**LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE**

5800 Fulton Avenue, Lot B, Van Nuys

FURTHER INFORMATION: (213) 237-1634

NOTE: Heavy rain will postpone the event one week.

### BAYLESS CHEVRON SERVICE

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ECO, from p. 1

"Probably not," she answers with a smile when we ask if her family is related to the street's namesake. She tells us that she has lived in this house since 1977. Separated from her husband, with two small sons to care for, she taught preschool at Midtown School, then situated where Los Feliz Hills School now stands.

Artifacts and framed portraits of Native Americans give testimony to the source of her inspiration. Guided by the American Indian's deep respect for the earth, and seeking to integrate her own spiritual needs and ecological concerns at a time when few of her contemporaries gave much thought to their environment, Julia Russell set out to devise an environmentally responsible lifestyle for herself and her children, within the framework of her modest means and urban surroundings.

Little by little, alone at first, then gradually joined in her efforts by a few friends and a growing number of enthusiastic supporters, Julia Russell undertook the task of transforming an ordinary neighborhood property into an extraordinary example of what has now come to be called New City Living.

Throughout this process, a wide range of ecological issues were (and continue to be) examined, prioritized, researched, adapted and evaluated. Practical considerations such as time, space and money formed the parameters within which Julia Russell implemented models to produce food, conserve resources and economize energy. Over the years, a library of information was developed and catalogued. Books, periodicals, reports and directories of specialists and sources were collected and compiled.



Photo: JACK LIEBERMAN

Julia Russell

By 1985, Julia Russell's endeavors were attracting the attention of urban ecologists of every stripe, from rank newcomers seeking basic information to sophisticated professionals designing theoretical systems on which to base the planning of ecologically sound communities. A newsletter, *Ecolution*, was begun and Eco-Home was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

This past June, Eco-Home served as one of the coordinating organizations hosting the First Los Angeles Ecological Cities Conference, held at U.C.L.A. The weekend event attracted over 400

participants, including urban planners.

"The major thrust of the conference was to examine ways in which cities can incorporate ecological systems that will alleviate the negative impact of human habitation on natural eco-systems in an economically feasible manner," Julia explains.

If that sounds to you like a Big Order of Pie in the Sky, please understand that Julia Russell is unperturbed by skeptics.

"Economical changes are possible," she insists. "This is a very exciting time. People are beginning to recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy ecology. And to be sustainable, ecology and economy must go hand in hand. We can learn much from the past. And there will continue to be new technological developments that will enable us to conserve our resources."

Meanwhile, right here in our community, is Eco-Home. It serves as a demonstration of New City Living, to inspire and inform those of us who, like Julia Russell, would like to embrace a city lifestyle that is comfortable and attractive, contributing all the while to our continued survival on this planet.

Here are some of the systems you can

See ECO, p. 13



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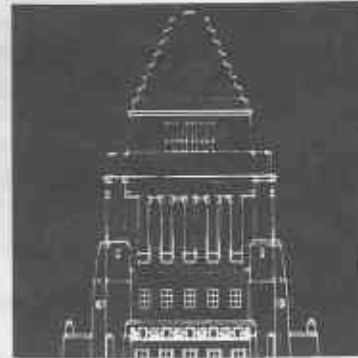
**bruce george**

1912 HILLHURST AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

## Councilman Michael Woo

City of Los Angeles  
13th District

August 1, 1991



Dear Neighbor:

This letter is to update you on the home being built at 2216 Ronda Vista. This structure is grossly out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood and I share your outrage that such an inappropriate over-in-height home could be given a permit by the City. This home will stand forever as an example of the need for all of us to be constantly vigilant about plans for building in our neighborhoods.

A builder who seeks to build beyond the limits of our city code can apply for a variance from the City. This builder did so and a zoning administrator granted the request in 1988. Some of you have read the written decision to grant the variance, citing factual errors in the owner's presentation about the scale of other homes in the area. However, the fact remains that no one attended the hearing to challenge those assertions and no one reviewed or appealed the written decision.

Several months ago, I asked both the City Attorney and the Chief Zoning Administrator in the Planning Department to tell me what could be done to lower the height on this project. Sadly, according to both of them, we are well beyond the legal time limit for challenging the size of this structure.

This is a painful lesson for everyone concerned. I am confident, though, that circumstances are such that today this kind of project would be much less likely to happen. Your area now has a neighborhood organization, The Franklin Hills Association, led by Don Waldrop. The association serves as a watchdog on variances being applied for in the area. The group works with my office whenever there are community problems to be addressed. I urge your support of this important organization.

In addition, there is legislation pending which lowers the height on new hillside homes. This "Hillside Ordinance" is based on legislation I authored and will be voted on by the Council soon. I urge your

Chair  
Governmental Efficiency Committee

Vice Chair  
Transportation Committee

Member  
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Mailing Address:  
City Hall, Room 218  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 485-3353

District Offices:  
4640 Hollywood Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
(213) 485-6471  
12229 Ventura Boulevard  
Studio City, CA 91604  
(818) 989-8099



(WOO LETTER, from p. 9)

support of this important measure. This, however, does not mean that once this legislation takes effect that a builder will not request a variance to create a structure above the new height limit. Therefore, we must remain vigilant throughout the entire hearing and appeals process on all projects of concern.

When variances are applied for, nearby property owners should be notified. Please let me know if any variance request presents a problem for you and your neighbors. My staff is here to help you get information about the request and, if necessary, advise you on how to challenge it.

Working together we can prevent this kind of out-of-scale development from ever happening again.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. WOO  
Councilman



## VIDEO JOURNEYS

Largest videotape and  
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LOT, from p. 6

westerns of the fifties, the countrified comedies and the detective dramas of the sixties and topical comedies, musical-variety show and police dramas of the early seventies. But the ABC Network was not a serious player until the middle of the game. After the great depression of the thirties, when Warner and other studios lost money for several years, the Army Signal Corps took over the Prospect-Talmadge lot during World War II. Finally, Warner sold the lot to ABC in 1949.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

ADDENDA: The previous article on ABC had a mistake which needs correcting: From the corner of Franklin and Mayview (not Mayfield) you can see Mount Lee.

SOURCES: Various books and recent articles from the Los Angeles Times were used in preparing this article. Bibliography furnished on request. Thanks to Bruce Carroll and John Yingling for information on the chronology of ABC and other material.

*"Still---in a way---nobody sees a flower---really---  
it is so small---we haven't time---and to see takes time,  
like to have a friend takes time."*

—Georgia O'Keeffe

TERREL MILLER YEAGER

213 660 8500

*bruce george*  
ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE



Never Stop Moving!



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LFHS, from p. 2

in benefits to us all. They have agreed in writing not to take any action which may jeopardize the site prior to the decisions of the Commission and ultimately the City Council on our application.

Once their legal action has been taken, we plan to meet with Councilman Michael Woo and the City Attorney's office to urge them to work out an agreement that is in the best interests of our neighborhood. Although

the school is gone, we believe that opportunities still exist to develop a long-term, neighborhood-friendly solution to this important 6.5 acre site.

In addition, if anyone knows of potential schools, child care groups or other uses for this site, please contact us at the number below. Now, more than ever, we need your support on this issue. Please give us a call if you would like to get active in this effort. **Tony Michaelis, Committee Chair, (213) 666-8166**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL (H) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TEL (W) \_\_\_\_\_

I AM INTERESTED IN:  Planning  Graffiti  Crime/Safety  Traffic  Recycling  ABC relations

Open space  Environmental  Newsletter  Membership development  Other \_\_\_\_\_

DUES are \$20.00 per couple or \$10.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED:  \$10  \$25  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!**

ECO, from p. 9

see already in place at Eco-Home. They function simply and economically, day in and day out. Consider which ones you might be interested in implementing at your house.

**ZERISCAPE:** A new word for a drought-tolerant landscape. Did you know that 50% of the water used in California goes to water lawns and gardens? Yet there are many beautiful flowering plants and shrubs that are easy to obtain and, once established, will thrive on our climate's natural rainfall.

**GARDENS AND ORCHARDS:** You can grow the best tomatoes west of New Jersey and, arguably, the best plums on earth, right here in Franklin Hills, using drip irrigation to provide maximum moisture with minimum waste of water.

And, instead of letting it go down the drain, learn how to utilize your family's "grey water" to make your garden grow.

**COMPOSTING:** An easy, economical way to augment your garden soil. Learn about this before your garbage disposal goes on the fritz. You may decide never to replace it.

**PHOTOVOLTAICS:** You, too, have the stuff of which myths are made. Harness the sun as they have at Eco-Home, where all the overhead lights are powered by Old Sol.

**SOLAR HOT WATER:** For your bathtub and then some. The sun can heat every drop of hot water you need. Or go one better. Have you ever considered washing your laundry with cold water?

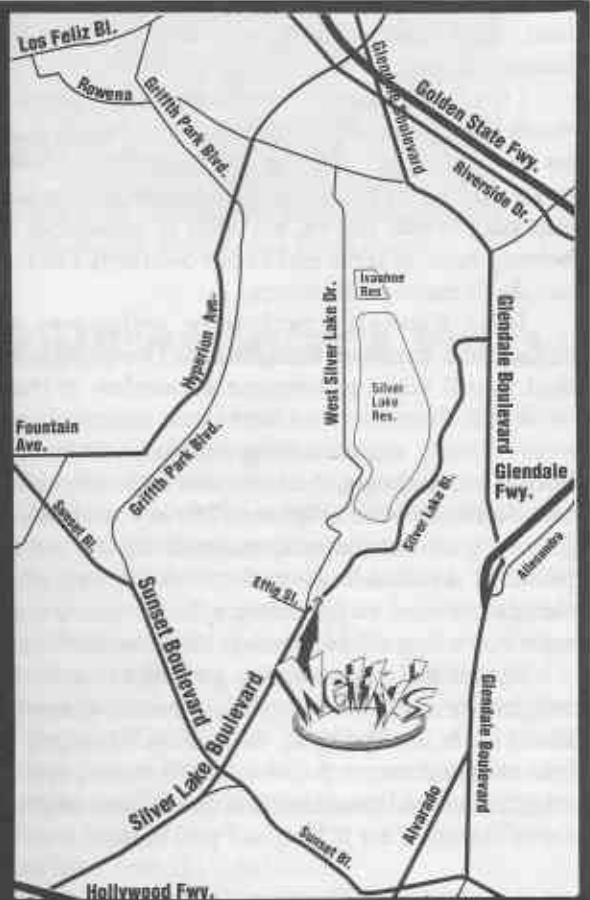
**SOLAR COOKING:** Are you ready to pull the plug on  
See ECO, p. 14



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ECO, from p. 13

the Hot Crock? Consider the contender, the Solar Oven. This could become the hottest thing in California Cuisine!

**RECYCLING:** There is probably someone in your house over the age of three with the basic skills needed to sort aluminum cans, glass bottles, paper and plastic. The rest is up to you.

**LOW FLUSH TOILET:** Folks, I'm not easily impressed, but if you've never seen one of these in action, this demonstration alone is worth a visit to Eco-Home. Air assists the flushing process to save up to 75% of the water used to flush.

**PASSIVE SOLAR RETROFIT:** The original garage at Eco-Home has been redesigned to demonstrate how architectural modification and good use of insulation can provide significant heat, shade and ventilation control to create a comfortable indoor climate.

I urge you to tour Eco-Home and see for yourself how much an ecologically motivated householder can accomplish on a shoestring. Until the time when our Machine of State gears up to deal seriously with the environmental problems that plague our planet, we need to remember that the best helping hand is at the end of our own arm. Find out what you can do to make a difference.

Julia Russell graciously welcomes visitors on scheduled tours of Eco-Home. The tour is so inspiring that you'll want to become a member of the Eco-Home network. Even our resident cynic-curmudgeon was won over. Yearly membership entitles you to discounts on books, workshops, lectures and field trips. Members are entitled to use the reference library with the privilege of checking out materials, some of which are no longer in print or available elsewhere. You will also have the satisfaction of supporting a home-grown endeavor of which we can all be proud.

Better yet, organize a group of your friends and neighbors and go as a group. One to three persons pay \$5.00 each for the tour. Members of larger groups pay less with advance payment. For tour reservations and additional information, call Eco-Home at (213) 662-5207. Do it today. You'll be glad you did.

## WE DON'T MEASURE UP . . . YET

by Bruce Carroll

Do you know where your house is? No, I mean precisely – down to the inch? If you answered “yes,” chances are you are wrong—even if you've had a recent survey. But fear not, the City is working to fix the problem.

A survey team lead by Robert Wright of the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, has been measuring the Franklin Hills over the past few months.

The last comprehensive survey was done in the 1920's when the streets and lots were laid out. Back then, monuments—discs of concrete—were buried a couple of feet deep at strategic locations. One is below the intersection of Franklin and Mayview. With the monuments as a reference, surveyors set out “lead and tack” points along the streets for commercial surveyors to use in their work.

Now go out and look at our streets. If you don't see plenty of cracks, put your glasses on. Those cracks mean the street is moving and along with it all those points. “A lot of the times in these hillside areas, with concrete streets particularly, a lot of the points, although they are a point, are not where they are purported to be by the tract maps,” according to Survey Party Chief Wright. “It makes it very difficult for somebody to come in and survey it. One of the upshots is the surveys get very expensive.” So this work could save you lots of money if you ever need to see if that old fence is yours or your neighbor's.

The work is slowly inching towards completion. One of the reasons is the way things were done in the old days. Complains Wright, “They weren't required to monument the center line (of the street). They monumented certain points on the tract boundary. There are some points that would be nice to have but they are sitting down under this guy's house and there's no way you'd access them.”

Don't rush down to City Hall for your updated map. The measuring process is less than half finished, and a lot of number crunching and marking must be done before we know where we really are.

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FHRA graffiti commandos at work, L. to R.: Isabel Dietz, Barry Jacobson, Patricia Jimenez and Helen Duran

## GRAFFITI COMMITTEE TOUTS LYONS' "ADOPT-A-WALL"

by ISABEL DIETZ

The Graffiti Committee had a successful paint-out on May 11. Barry Jacobson, Phil Lyons, Patricia Jimenez, Gina DeGirolamo, Helen and Frank Duran, and Isabel Dietz met at the ABC employee parking lot gate and fanned out along Talmadge Street and the King Junior High School area for a couple of hours of wall and curb painting.

Local residents who were home when their walls were being cleaned up were happy to see us, and in one case, gratefully plied us with lemonade and cookies. After the paint-out, several committee members took along extra paint and brushes, most of which was supplied by Councilman Woo's office and some by Baller's Hardware, and continued work on walls near their homes on an as-needed basis.

Isabel Dietz, Committee Chair, may be contacted for help or

technical assistance in cleaning up walls.

Phil Lyons reported recently he has been spending up to two hours daily on the whole neighborhood and that he is nearly "painted out." He has compiled a list of walls which get hit frequently and the colors they need, and this list will be mailed out to everyone who indicated an interest in graffiti eradication on their membership forms. Phil suggests that anyone who is interested in adopting a wall contact Isabel and let her know which wall they have chosen so that she can coordinate everyone's efforts. ABC-TV's John Yingling has agreed to be the "parent" of the walls of the erstwhile convenience store on the corner of Prospect and Talmadge. Which wall will you choose?

Councilman Mike Woo's local office: (213) 485-6471; Isabel Dietz, Committee Chair: (213) 661-4531.

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**MARY ORR**, from p. 3  
incandescent bulbs that were leaving the neighborhood in the dark changed to the efficient sodium type. Thanks to much bureaucratic badgering of unresponsive division heads, mapping the whole area and dozens of trips to city officials, well-lighted streets can be attributed to Mary's perseverance.

When a consortium of four of the biggest oil producers in the state wanted to push a 30-inch oil pipeline through Griffith Park, down Hyperion Avenue through the central city to join up in Wilmington, with all its attendant dangers, Mary was in the vanguard of the CAP THE PIPELINE coalition which was eventually able to successfully stop the proposed flow of oil.

Combative and fiercely independent, Mary dwells high in her aerie overlooking Hyperion Boulevard, with a police band radio and a sharp eye on the goings-on far below her. More than one unsuspecting

#### **HILLSIDE**, from p. 4

The needs of the hills have been ignored by our city for decades. Access for emergency vehicles is literally impossible in many hillside areas. Oversized homes sprout on undersize lots. If steps are not taken soon, homeowners will face the specter of massive assessments to pay for the cost of improvements that should be provided by builders and developers prior to construction being allowed to proceed.

If builders are allowed to continue building new houses without being forced to improve the streets, two things will happen: the damage and danger of construction on nar-

vandal has come a cropper because Mary could see him from her hidden home and called the police.

Franklin Hill has many activists, but none more concerned than Mary Orr. If she has her detractors, and what ef-

fective activist doesn't, every one of them would say no matter how many toes Mary might step on, she sure gets things done! Is there higher praise for an activist? I think not. •

row streets will continue to adversely impact us all, while increased traffic and congestion from new homes will make the conditions even worse than they are now. Our tax dollars entitle us to police, fire and public service. But don't think that public officials will correct problems without direction.

— Hillside Federation



**Patrick Lynn & Gary Bergevin**

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