



# OVERVIEW

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

ISSUE No. 3

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MAY 1991

## WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING LOT SPEAKS

(From Vitagraph to ABC)

by ISABEL DIETZ

The area where we live is one of the most unusual in all of Los Angeles, and we can say that without fear of boasting or exaggeration. Not only does it have a unique topography of hills and dales, housing and people of great ethnic and cultural variety, but it also houses one of the nation's more fascinating businesses, ABC Television. ABC-TV is located at the corner of Prospect and Talmadge on a lot which was at one time Vitagraph Studio. As we know, this general area of the city is filled with entertainment industry history and presence.

KCET, formerly Monogram studios and later Allied Artists, is nearby, and the old Disney buildings where Snow White was animated still exist on Hyperion. Mt. Lee, complete with tower, signalling the first experimental version of television Channel 2, is plainly visible from the hill at the intersection of Franklin and Mayfield, and the Triangle building, at the corner of Fountain and Bates, was the scene of interior shots for Tom Mix movies.

History tells us that the settlement by Europeans of Franklin Hills began with Corporal Vincente Feliz, who led the first settlers to Los Angeles in 1781. Feliz received a Spanish land grant of 6,647 acres, which stretched from the

See LOT, p. 6

**Important Meeting  
see page 3**



Franklin Hills acquired a new, "old" residence in Fox movie set at Los Feliz Hills School.

## FOX DISCOVERS FRANKLIN HILLS

by ROSALIND LIEBERMAN

If Shakespeare Bridge prompts notions of fairy tale adventures, it's no accident. The picturesque charm of Franklin Hills has long attracted movie makers to our neighborhood. Walt Disney left his touch on homes and cottages on Griffith Park Boulevard. Earlier still, D.W. Griffith filmed the epic "Intolerance" partly on the lot where ABC Studios now stand. And John Marshall continues to be one of the most popular high school locations of the past half century.

Now Hollywood has discovered the bosky glen and verdant fields of Los Feliz Hills school. Late last December, representatives of the school and Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation contacted Franklin Hills Residents Association to obtain neighborhood support for the use of the school as a location site for the upcoming feature film, "Jack the Bear," starring Danny DeVito.

FHRA board members Tony Michaelis, Don Waldrop and Jessica Tachibana have been monitoring the proceedings.

In an open letter to school neighbors, Ken Sogg, President of the Los Feliz Hills School Governing Council, explained that financial difficulties have led the school to explore various sources of private and public funding, and that the fees derived from this location use would permit the school to continue through the end of the school year.

Kristan Wagner, the location manager for "Jack the Bear," also sought community support in a letter describing production needs. Readers may have already seen the facade-style residential block of circa 1970 Victorian clapboards, a la Oakland. Construction will have taken about ten weeks to complete. Actual filming

See FOX, p. 8

## from the President

Can you imagine looking out from your house and seeing a four and one-half story building being built across the street? A house about as tall as your lot is wide? Some of our residents on Ronda Vista Drive have found out the hard way what "variance notices" from the city really mean. While City Planning can tell us that a building is being proposed that may affect us, it can't make us pay attention.

The result, as described by the architect, is: *"a combination of surprising volumes and playful gestures, a whimsical composition that belies the vigilant and disciplined effort expended on it. ...A 'pedestrian window'...is a highlight for people out on walks that would have been lost with the typical volume type (house) that creates an enclosed two-car garage at the street. . . an eccentric gesture that celebrates the neighborhood and watches over it. A prototypical reply to the typically insensitive downhill house, a call for a community of discreet towers..."* In reality, that translates to a house extending 49 feet skyward above the curb, 57 feet at the back (on a 35 foot wide lot), which the architect planned to cover with sheet metal painted barn red. Discreet?

Needless to say, once the neighbors realized what was being built they complained, loudly. Over fifty residents attended a meeting at Councilman Mike Woo's District office; over 80 people signed a petition to the City asking for a stop to the construction. The Association is supporting requests for a re-hearing by the Departments of Planning and Zoning, and Building and Safety in an attempt to limit the house to three stories above the street.

My reason for bringing this issue up? We are THREE YEARS LATE! The public hearing for the project above was in 1988. We *must* pay attention to the bureaucratic-looking City letters that say NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO PROPERTY OWNERS when we get them. If you get a notice and don't fully understand it, call us. The Association would want to know about the project. Ignore these notices and we may lose our right to protest even more objectionable projects than the one mentioned above.

—DON WALDROP

## LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL UPDATE

by TONY MICHAELIS

The long-standing situation regarding Los Feliz Hills School is finally coming to a key turning point. As many of you may know, the School, which is located at 4155 Russell Avenue, near the Franklin Avenue bridge, has had financial problems for some time. They are currently in bankruptcy proceedings and are attempting to find a way to avoid foreclosure and forced sale. The school has contracted with 20th century Fox to use the school's field as a production set for the upcoming movie, "Jack the Bear", starring Danny DeVito. The primary impetus for this project is to provide the school with much-needed financing to get to the end of the term. This is a temporary usage and the field will be restored to its original condition by the end of the summer.

The School's number one strategy is to sell the property to the City of Los Angeles, using funds which would become available if a City Park Bond measure passes on June 4th. The City would likely create a Park and Recreation Center. This is a goal the Association supports strongly. If the City Park Bond measure fails to get the required two-thirds vote, the School will be forced to put the property up for auction in July. Under this scenario, the property could be purchased by another school or a developer.

The School's Board continues to entertain offers from other schools for the property. An offer by Nansay Corporation, a Japanese concern, is pending. Nansay has expressed an interest in using the site for a school. However, there are no  
See LFHS, p. 8, col. 3

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President*

DONALD WALDROP

*Vice President*

BRYANT CROUSE

*Secretary*

JAMES CHURCHILL

*Treasurer*

JESSICA TACHIBANA

ARMIDA BOLTON

CHARLOTTE GREENE-FRIEDEN

TONY MICHAELIS

CHARLEY MIMS

HOWARD OBATA

BOBBIE STREETER

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

*Editor:* Don Waldrop  
*Asst. Editor:* Carol Mason  
*Contributing Writers:*  
Justine Cook  
Isabel Dietz  
Rosalind Lieberman  
Tony Michaelis  
Violet Weber  
*Advertising Sales:*  
Fred Pyrczak, Randy Bruce

# The Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held  
Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 pm at John Marshall High School  
in the Aural Arts Room.

There will be reports on the previous year's activities,  
election of new Board Members and refreshments.  
**Come on out, meet your neighbors and participate. It's fun !**

## Report of the Nominating Committee

Submitted by Jim Churchill, Chairman

Six Board positions are open this year. Terms expire for Jim Churchill, Bryant Crouse, Tony Michaelis, Jessica Tachibana, Don Waldrop, and Vi Weber. In addition, Howard Obata, who is in the middle of a two-year term, is resigning. Under FHRA by-laws, the nominating committee reports its nominations to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, any other member in good standing may be nominated from the floor.

This year's nominating committee consisted of four Board Members: Vi Weber, Jim Churchill, Bryant Crouse, and Charley Mims. (There's no reason for the Nominating Committee to consist of Board Members rather than general members; over time we expect to build up a number of active members who are sufficiently familiar with the organization to serve on the Committee.)

The procedure for arriving at the slate of nominees was this: we went through the membership list and pulled the name of every person who had indicated a desire to be active; we called them all, at least 25 individuals in all. Those who expressed a desire to serve on the Board were interviewed again. Factors we considered important included availability, previous commitment, energy level and interest.

In the slate of nominees listed below, we think we have found seven qualified, energetic, committed individuals who will do a good job representing the community. You will notice that the slate includes three current Board Members, Don Waldrop, Jim Churchill, and Bryant Crouse, two of whom were actually on the Nominating Committee and so are in the position of having nominated themselves. The explanation of this appears next to their names.

## Nominees

**Chris Boutelle:** Chris has lived in Franklin Hills for ten years. He seems to be inexhaustible and is active with the Disaster Prep. and Neighborhood Watch groups. Chris is interested in ridding the area of grafitti.

**Bruce Carroll:** Bruce has been keeping the membership records on computer and has indicated a desire to be more active in the organization. He has lived on Franklin for many years and is retired from ABC-TV.

**Jim Churchill:** Jim was instrumental in forming the FHRA and has served as Secretary since the FHRA was founded. He wants to serve one more year to strengthen membership development efforts.

**Bryant Crouse:** Bryant has been serving as Board vice-president. An executive recruiter and meeting facilitator, he has been very useful in getting the Board to focus its meetings to make the most of its time. The committee feels it would be useful to have him continue in that role.

**Isabel Dietz:** Isabel has volunteered to work with the Association on grafitti removal and the newsletter (her writing appears in this issue.) She lives on Talmadge, and has demonstrated competence and commitment.

**Waynette Day:** Waynette is active in the Disaster Preparedness Workshop and serves on the Medical Response Team. She has taken extra CPR courses to prepare herself for that role. She is interested in recycling and other projects, and has demonstrated energy and commitment.

**Don Waldrop:** Don has served as President of the FHRA since its inception. He also coordinated, typeset, and designed this newsletter. He has a nearly endless supply of energy, curiosity, good will and determination. He was nominated because the Committee isn't ready to have that particular torch passed on quite yet — FHRA is a new organization and we felt it important that Don continue as President for a while yet.

This slate will be presented at the May 22 Annual Meeting for election. At that time, nominations will also be welcome from the floor.

## PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

By-laws govern the procedures followed by FHRA. When they work right we don't notice them and, so far, they have served their function admirably. However, we are a new organization; we created our by-laws by cutting and pasting from the by-laws of other organizations already in existence. As time goes on, we figure out modifications to make the FHRA function more smoothly. Because the by-laws themselves require that the membership be notified in advance of any proposed by-laws changes, we herewith explain the two proposed by-laws changes recommended by the By-laws Committee and the Board for approval by the membership at the **May 22 Annual Meeting**.

**Amendment 1: Removal of Board Members for non-attendance at Board Meetings.** Add a new paragraph to the article on the Board of Directors, to state:

*A Board Member may be removed by majority vote of the Board of Directors if he/she has missed three or more Board meetings in a calendar year.*

**Reasons:** There is currently no provision providing for the removal of a Board Member. Regular non-attendance by a Board member can lead to lack of a quorum, which means the Board can't do business; and it's unfair to the other Board members. A mechanism is needed for removing Board members who don't attend meetings, so that they can be

replaced by people who will attend. This amendment was modified by the Board to change it from "3 consecutive meetings" to three meetings in a year; and the concept of an "unexcused" absence was removed by the Board from the Committee recommendation so the difficulty of defining an "excuse" would not become an issue.

**Amendment 2: Dues:** It is proposed that this language be struck: ~~The dues of this Association shall be \$5 a year, payable in January of the year;~~ and this language be substituted in its place: *The Board of Directors shall set the dues, subject to approval by majority vote of those members attending the Annual Meeting.*

**Reasons:** Having to do a by-laws amendment to change the dues structure is cumbersome. The Board would like to be able to make an in-person recommendation to the Membership at the Annual Meeting and have it voted up or down.

These amendments were prepared by the By-laws Committee, consisting of Marcel DeMiranda, Jeff Goodman, and Jim Churchill, at a meeting on March 6

Some copies of the complete by-laws will be available at the Annual Meeting; and any member can get a copy by calling Jim Churchill at 663-0850.

— JIM CHURCHILL, Chairman, By-law Committee

## SAVE WATER — It's The Law L.A.'s New Conservation Ordinance

The four year drought has left Los Angeles with a serious water shortage. To ensure that there will be enough water to serve the city's needs, the L. A. City Council has enacted the City's Emergency Water Conservation Plan. Franklin Hills residents, and all other residents of the City are subject to the following rules:

All residents are required to reduce their water usage by 10 percent from their 1986 levels. Your conservation goal amount will be printed on the Department of Water and Power (DWP) bills. If you fail to reduce consumption by the required 10 % you will be fined 15% of the total water bill plus \$3.00 per HCF unit (748 gallons) in excess of your limit.

In addition, the following uses of water are prohibited and subject to monetary fines:

- Hosing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas.
- Watering lawns, landscapes and other turf areas between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Does not apply to drip irrigation or professional gardeners.)

- Allowing water to run off onto a sidewalk, driveway, street or gutter.
- Failing to repair leaks in a timely manner
- Cleaning, filling or maintaining levels of fountains, ponds or lakes unless the water is part of a recycling system.

**PENALTIES:** First violation: a written warning; second, third and fourth violations: \$50, \$100 and \$150, respectively. After the fourth violation, in addition to monetary penalties, the DWP may install a flow-restricting device or terminate service (after a hearing.)

We, in the Franklin Hills, can do our part — the recent rains evidently did not ease the situation as much as we had hoped.

For additional information, including exceptions to the above rules, call (DWP) WATER CONSERVATION CONTROL GROUP: (800) 439-7728.

**LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL  
SPECIAL EVENT**

# **STUDIO SUNDAY**

**April 28, 1991**

**2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL  
4155 Russell Avenue**

**Silent Auction  
Tour of "Jack the Bear" movie set  
Refreshments**

**Suggested donations:  
\$4.00 in advance, \$5.00 at the door;  
Kids: \$2.00 advance, \$2.50 at the door**

**For Information: (213) 666-7454**

**FHRA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, contact any of the listed members  
or write FHRA, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027**

LOT, from p. 1

Los Angeles river on the north to Sunset and Fountain on the south, and from Echo Park Boulevard on the east to Normandie on the west. Through the years the land was sold and divided until the early days of this century, when a large portion of it was purchased by Col. Griffith J. Griffith, who gave half of what he owned to the City of Los Angeles for a park.

The parcel which eventually became ABC Television was originally bought by Albert Smith for Vitagraph Studio in 1912 for \$20,000. Vitagraph was an early contender in documentary film. They had followed Teddy Roosevelt up San Juan Hill with their cameras and performed other death-defying journalistic feats, braving fire and earthquake to bring home on-the-spot coverage of the news. In search of a more benign climate for the year-round filming which was needed to fill an insatiable demand for one- to three-reel comedies and features, they had moved from the east coast to a studio in Santa Monica. Now in their new location in a nearly rural suburb of Los Angeles, they built a large new studio on the twenty-nine acre lot at Prospect and Talmadge.

As is well-known, movie-making of the time was an unsophisticated and often slapdash enterprise. Historians of the era have chronicled the reactions of private citizens to the influx of movie-makers, and how the staid residents of Hollywood, most of them from the mid-west, were shocked by stampedes of "cowboys" chasing runaway cows across their lawns, as well as other strange goings-on. The movies suddenly brought new crowds of people into the sleepy enclaves of Los Angeles. In a sense, the conflict of the two Hollywoods was born then: "Hollywood... underwent a wondrous change. Great barn-like studio structures popped up overnight . . . causing consternation among the residents and resulting in the passage of zoning ordinances, which continue to be argued over by citizens and studios even today.... Scenes then, as now, were shot all over Hollywood.... Banks were used on holidays, Saturday afternoons, and Sundays for hold-up

See LOT, p. 12

## 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.

**DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1991**

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

**LOCATION: LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE PARKING LOT  
on Vermont Avenue between Monroe and Marathon**

**FURTHER INFORMATION: (213) 237-1634**

**NOTE: Heavy rain will postpone the event one week.**

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## community calendar

### april

27, Saturday **DISASTER PREP UPDATE.** For all who participated in training classes. (See p. 10 for details.)

28, Sunday **"STUDIO SUNDAY"** at Los Feliz Hills School from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the school. There will be a silent auction, tour of the Fox movie set and refreshments. INFO: 666-7454. (See p.5 for details)

28, Sunday Jewish Community Center presents its children's theater production of "PETER PAN." At Barnsdall Park Gallery Theatre. 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$5.00 at the door. INFO: 663-2255

### may

5, Sunday Our very own FARMERS' MARKET will have its first Sunday. It 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: Gale Trachtenberg, 463-3171.

11, Saturday **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP** sponsored by the City of L.A. Bureau of Sanitation and Councilman Mike Woo. (See separate article.) Los Angeles City College parking lot, corner of Vermont Avenue and Marathon Street. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. INFO: 237-1634.

22, Tuesday **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of Franklin Hills Residents Association, election of Board, discussion of goals, achievements, plans. Aural Arts Room, John Marshall High School. 7:30 p.m. INFO: 664-4124

### june

4, Tuesday **IMPORTANT ELECTION.** 46th Assembly district (Mike Roos's seat). Also City Parks Bond issue, if passed will allocate funds to buy 6.5 acre Los Feliz Hills School for a neighborhood park.

9, Sunday **"SAVORY SUNDAY"** presented by the Jewish Community Center from 12:00 n. to 9:00 p.m. This is a fine food tasting event with chefs from "Cha Cha Cha" and "Mambo Cafe" to name a few having booths. There will also be entertainment and childcare available. At 1110 Bates Avenue in the parking lot off Effie Street. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for senior citizens, children under 12 free. There will also be a charge for purchasing food at the various booths. INFO: 663-2255.

### july:

City RECYCLING is coming to the rest of us in the Franklin Hills. We should receive written notification before the service starts.

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

## community phones

### ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager 557-5000;  
ABC Security: 557-5354.

CENTURY CABLE - Customer Service: 258-8500

### COUNCILMAN MICHAEL WOO:

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

### ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: 1-(800) CITYSAN  
Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation  
(\$100,) 481-5800; 1-(800) 722-1122.  
Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater (\$200)  
1-(800)-852-9820  
Recycle used motor oil - For nearest facility:  
1-(800) 553-2962.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911; Non-emergency,  
tours, complaints, compliments 485-6235;

POLICE: Emergency 911;

Northeast Division: Non-emergency 485-2563;

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: 664-2903;

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

# GRAFFITI PAINT-OUT DAY

Saturday, May 11 - 9:00 a.m.

All Interested please contact  
ISABEL DIETZ AT 661-4531  
NOW!

Meet on Prospect Avenue  
at Sanborn Avenue, near  
the East Gate to ABC-TV  
Parking on the street.  
FHRA will supply paint.

FOX, from p. 1

is due to begin April 26 and will take about five weeks, with most filming slated to take place between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., plus some extended hours expected to shoot exteriors at night. Upon completion of filming, an additional period of time is needed to edit and determine that the set will no longer be needed. Upon that determination, an additional two weeks will be required to remove the set and return the field to its original condition.

Not all neighbors welcomed the undertaking without reservations. Jeff Goodman, a Sanborn Avenue resident, was not alone in voicing a number of concerns regarding additional noise, bright lights, traffic, parking problems, pollution resulting from the possible release of methane in the ground and use of diesel and other fuels.

A meeting to discuss the agreement between the school and Fox was held on January 16. At that time, community concerns were discussed. One such concern was the placement of generators, which the studio promised to situate as far as possible from residences.

In a subsequent letter to Fox, Don Waldrop, President of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, listed the points of understanding, describing community expectations of the film producers' responsibilities, including the following:

- The Sanborn Avenue gate will remain locked at all times to conform with the existing Los Feliz Hills School Conditional Use Permit.

- Fox may open Sanborn gate for camera shots up Melbourne Avenue, but only for those limited intervals. At such times a guard will be posted to keep pedestrian traffic affiliated with the production from using the gate.

- Sanborn and Melbourne Avenues will not be used for any production-related traffic.

- All personnel to receive maps directing them to enter location from Russell Avenue via Talmadge.

For many of us, April, May and June will pass with nary a thought about undue traffic, noise, bright lights or inconvenience. Others closer to



Actor Danny DeVito, star of "Jack the Bear."

Shakespeare Bridge may find ourselves alternately intrigued, irritated, fascinated and infuriated as "Jack the Bear" takes shape relentlessly by day and by night.

"Why did they have to pick this place, anyway?" some of us may be tempted to wail. The production designer mused upon the question the other day.

"What led you to Franklin Hills?" I asked.

"Silverlake is a very quirky area," she said.

"But this is Franklin Hills —"

"Yes. Very unique. Quirky." I mulled it over. Unique, yes, but quirky?

"And the school is a Lautner building, you know," she added. "It was built around the time the story takes place. It's a real period piece."

"A period piece?" I asked, puzzled. "What period was that?"

"The seventies," she said, "you know. A wonderful, quirky period."

O.K., Danny DeVito — quirky. O.K., Oakland — quirky, too. But Franklin Hills? My house? My neighbors?

LFHS, from p. 2

specific requirements in the sale which would preclude them from other uses (residential, under current zoning.)

The Franklin Hills Residents Association appreciates the concern shown by the School's directors for the interests of the neighborhood. The Association has consistently opposed the sale of this property to a developer. The City Park Bond Measure is a crucial issue, and a culmination of much work by the Association to protect a neighborhood treasure. However, if the bond issue fails, you can be assured that the neighborhood's interest will be represented in any attempt to change the usage of this property.

In the meantime, the FHRA requests your support for the City Park Bond Measure which will appear on the June 4th election ballot. For further information, contact Tony Michaelis at (213) 666-8166.

Me? Well, maybe a little quirky. But unique, yes. Certainly unique.

At this writing, Franklin Hills is bending over backward, in our unique and quirky way, to cooperate with Los Feliz Hills School and Twentieth Century Fox to the fullest degree possible. We trust that the studio will continue to exercise care, courtesy and diligence in dealing with our quirky community requirements.

So far, our dealings with production staff have been pleasant, charming and even a little bit, well, quirky. Neighbors who have quirky questions or other concerns regarding "Jack the Bear" can call Kristan Wagner, location manager, at 203-1470 or Don Waldrop at 664-4124.

## Irv Weiss

(213) 660-8500

Realtor Associate

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*Mary Jo Cook, secretary, Monterey Hills, CA*

**A. I'm so happy I found *Miriam*, she's exactly what I wanted.**

*Mrs. R. B. Mum, C.P.A., Sacramento, CA*

**A. After hiring *Miriam* I could never use anyone else**

*Kelly O'Rourke, secretary, Studio City, CA*



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## LIBRARY SITE PROPOSAL

by VIOLET WEBER

Negotiations are still proceeding among the various bureaucracies that seem to be necessary before a site can be determined for the Los Feliz Library now located on Hillhurst Avenue.

It is the consensus of the Franklin Hills Residents Association that the southeast corner of Franklin and Hillhurst would offer the most advantages in terms of space and parking. We encourage anyone who uses the library to make their preference known by writing to the library at 1939 1/2 Hillhurst Avenue, Los Angeles, 90027 or phoning (213) 664-2903.

The library is also in dire need of materials that could be put to use in the library or could be used by the Friends of the Library in their fund-raising sales. Books, videos and cassettes in good condition are needed. No magazines, please.

The library not only suffers from overcrowding, but is badly understaffed. Anyone who could devote a few hours a week would be most welcome.

**BAYLESS**  
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Franklin Hills

Preview for local residents  
4/26 - 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Open to public 4/27 & 4/28  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

A "hands-on" update of the seven-week training program given by the Los Angeles Fire Department in October will be on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Westchester Park, 7166 W. Manchester Avenue, Westchester.

All members who participated in the training program, regardless of whether they graduated or not, are urged to attend. It will review all the procedures taught and members will participate in "live" exercises to refresh and reinforce the training we learned in October.

This is vitally important to your safety and those of your loved ones in case of a major disaster. Plan to attend and bring a box lunch or coordinate a picnic with other members of our team.

Further information and plans for coordinating transportation can be obtained by calling Vi Weber at 663-6427.

JOIN FHRA

I have my finger on the throbbing pulse of the Franklin Hills real estate market. Call me.

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Grand Opening

## MARASH RESTAURANT

Grand Opening

Kebob Sandwich	2.99
Falafel Sandwich	2.25
Stuffed Grape Leaves	1.99
Chicken Plate	5.99
Combination Plate	6.99
Kebob Plate	5.99

Plate includes  
Rice, Hummus and Salad

3924 Fountain Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
(213) 666-7772

Chicken Sandwich	1.99
Steak Sandwich	2.99
Cheeseburger	1.99
Double Cheeseburger	3.25
Hamburger (1/4 Pounder)	1.75
French Fries	.99

EAT HERE OR TAKE OUT

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**HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOU?**

Very! If you are recently freed from your lifetime 9 to 5 routine, independently wealthy, in search of a sense of purpose for your spare time, or if you'd simply like to help, Franklin Hills Residents Association needs you. There are lots of things that need doing around the neighborhood.

For example, you could cash in on the patronage you've given local businesses and solicit ads for the newsletter. You could write articles for this newsletter, help paint out graffiti, or help organize meetings to deal with local issues, etc., etc.

Best of all, you'll get to know your neighbors — the people you've only had time to wave at. Come to the Annual Meeting on May 22nd and find out what we're all about. We're looking forward to knowing you and your concerns, and we need you and your involvement.

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**FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 29122, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NEW     RENEWAL

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

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

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

Open space     Los Feliz Hills School     Newsletter     Membership development     Other \_\_\_\_\_

DUES are \$10.00 per couple or \$5.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED:    \$5    \$10    \$25    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Lot, from p. 1

regularly before the cameras. . . (there was) perpetual vaudeville. . ." \* and tourists came. There was a sign in the lobby of the Hollywood Hotel which said "NO DOGS — NO ACTORS."

The first movie to be made by Vitagraph at the new location was a slapstick comedy called "Burglar on the Roof." Comedies of the time tended to be filled with Tom & Jerry pratfalls or vaudeville routines having the flavor of filmed formula stage routines. But Vitagraph was enormously successful and was able to boast the first movie comedian the public came to know by name, John Bunny, a Britisher whose specialty was playing "Toby Jug" fat man to actress Flora Finch's stereotypical skinny lady. Vitagraph also had Arthur Morrison, the first matinee idol and Jean "The Vitagraph Dog," precursor of movie dogs from Rin-Tin-Tin to Lassie. They had Lillian and Dorothy Gish. Mary Pickford was another of the great early screen personalities under contract with Vitagraph for \$4000 per week in 1916. Other famous stars with Vitagraph at the time were Norma Talmadge, Anita Stewart and Larry Semon.



Vitagraph/Warner Bros./ABC and Franklin Hills, October 1928, looking East

With a heady mix of comedies, vaudeville, song-and-dance, circus zanies and westerns, the studio grew and prospered. In February, 1925, the studio was sold to Harry Warner of Warner Brothers. This began one of the most innovative and exciting periods of Hollywood film history and our neighborhood studio, Warner Brothers —

Vitagraph—to become ABC) was in the forefront.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

\* From "Hollywood: The First Hundred Years" by Bruce Torrance, p. 78. Other sources: "The Silent Clowns," by Walter Kerr; conversations with Bruce Carroll, retired news producer at ABC-TV, and John Yingling, Assistant to Vice President - West Coast, ABC Television.



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**FRANKLIN HILLS OVERVIEW**  
**FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
 P.O. Box 29122  
 Los Angeles, CA 90027

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MAY 22**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**MARSHALL HIGH**  
**See p. 3**

