



OVERVIEW

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

ISSUE No. 5

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1991

THE VIEW FROM SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE

by ROSALIND LIEBERMAN

The other morning I talked with a lovely neighbor you may know, Mrs. Catherine Metcalf McGowan, about the Franklin Avenue Bridge which, I recently learned, was designated a Historical-Cultural Monument in 1974 and has been nominated to the National Register. Mrs. McGowan's father, Robert Metcalf, was the contractor who built the bridge, which was designed by J. C. Wright, a civil engineer with the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering.

Begun in 1924, the bridge was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$59,960. Mr. Metcalf was also the contractor who graded and paved the streets and laid the sewers in the Franklin Hills. As Mrs. McGowan remember it, the whole job took less than five years.

"What else can you tell me about Shakespeare Bridge?" I ask.

"Well, my father never did understand where that name came from," she said, "because that bridge was modeled on a bridge in France."

We tossed around a few possibilities. Did someone spot Juliet's ghost, leaning over the balustrade, mooning over some Romeo down

See BRIDGE, p. 6, Col 1

"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that can change the world."

- Anthropologist Margaret Mead



Happy

Holiday

Season From

The Franklin Hills

Residents Association

'Twas the season of Xmas, and all thru L.A.
varied cultures preparing a bright holiday.

The children are clutching their wish lists so tight,
with prayers Santa's reindeer can find them at night.

The stores all do beckon - with trees, lights and sales.
Some say our greed, this holiday's message derails.

Excesses abound - in this land called La La,
though the creatures do pray - to God, Buddha or Allah.

So from our little corner, around Franklin Hill,
let's sing out a message of peace and goodwill.

From the
Members of the Board
FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION