

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Spring/Summer 2005

FHRA's Marshall Plan

Annual Meeting begins at 7:15 pm on Thursday, June 16th

By Bruce Carroll

The FHRA's 17th annual meeting gets underway with a bit of R&R: registration and refreshments, at 6:45 pm on Thursday, June 16th, at a new to most but old familiar venue, John Marshall High School. The last FHRA Board of Director's election at the home of the Barristers was back in 1991.

The meeting will be in the Oral Arts room above the cafeteria. Enter the campus from St. George St. and drive forward to park on the basketball courts. Follow the signs forward, and on your left, past the cafeteria patio, take either the stairs or elevator up one floor.

This year's crop of candidates includes two FHRA veterans who were elected back in '91, Chris Boutelle, Vice President, and Bruce Carroll, Treasurer. Three other incumbents will also be on the ballot: Carol Skinner, long time Overview editor, along with George Grace and Elliot Zeelander more recent additions to the FHRA Board of Directors. There is also a newcomer on the ballot. Five year Franklin Hills resident, Anne-Marie Ripley, who's been active in graffiti paintouts will also be seeking your support.



For the FHRA meeting don't enter the pretty Tracy St. side of the campus, drive or walk through the St. George St. gate.

This year's program includes popular elements from past meetings: a chance to question our always informative LAPD Senior Lead Officers Al Polehonki and Sam Salazar about crime in our hills and dales. A likely appearance by Councilmember Tom LaBonge, plus reports on FHRA activities ranging from traffic calming efforts, to wildlife protection, FHRA sponsored area murals and the controversial Griffith Park Master Plan.

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But that's not all. One would have to travel through the hills with their eyes closed, never a good idea, to miss the growing numbers of young children strolled, backpacked and now toddling through our neighborhood. We have invited representatives from several area preschools to provide useful help for our growing parent population. And we are looking ahead: a representative of the LA School District will update us on plans to relieve crowding at King Middle School and Marshall. We'll also hear from Marshall Principal, Tom Abraham, who's



Center of the photo: Marshall High in 1932, the year after the school opened.

working to build a strong community relationship.

On top of all that talk we'll have door prizes, but perhaps best of all, you'll have a great chance to schmooze with old neighbors and make new friends.

President's Message:

by Charley Mims

It's hard to believe but it is time for our annual meeting of the Franklin Hills Residents Association! This year we will be meeting at our local high school, John Marshall High on Thursday June 16th at 7:15.

We have a busy schedule as usual. Half of the Board of Directors will be up for election; committee chairs will make their annual reports; we will hear from leaders of not only the high school, but also of pre-schools in our



area; our Senior Lead Officers from the LAPD will bring us up to date on crime suppression activities; Councilman Tom LaBonge will update us on issues; and I will once again have the pleasure of giving the annual "State of the Hill" speech.

Chris Boutelle's staff of volunteers will provide refreshments at 6:45. Board members and committee chairs will be available to answer your questions.

This past year we have continued our sponsorship of the Franklin Avenue median island landscaping maintenance. We also applied for and received a Neighborhood Matching Funds grant of \$10,000.00 to clean up the stairs at Hoover Street and Prospect and to put a mural on the retaining wall below Prospect! We are now prepared to go forward with this project to help beautify our neighborhood and surrounding areas.

Board member George Grace has continued to champion watering holes for the coyotes in Griffith Park to aid them and to hopefully keep them in the park. George has also been named by me to represent the FHRA on the Citizens Advisory Task Force on the Griffith Park Master Plan which was recently established by the Department of Recreation & Parks new general manager, Jon Mukri.

Bruce Carroll and I continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council where I serve as President and Bruce as web master and all around helpful supporter.

Please turn out for the Annual Meeting of the Franklin Hills Residents Association on Thursday June 16, 2005 at 6:45 pm at John Marshall High School where you can learn even more about how we are working together to make our great neighborhood even better!

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Treasurer's Report:

Nothing Gross about FHRA's 2004 Income

By Bruce Carroll

The FHRA's gross income for 2004 was \$24,683 up a whopping 58% from 2003. Your generosity towards a trio of special projects contributed to most of the increase.



The Myra Avenue Mural Project, where work is set to begin early this summer, received \$5,800 in donations. Animal lovers donated over \$1,900 to the Wildlife Drinker Project which is still awaiting approval from Griffith Park officials. And the sad loss of our Community Garden's founder Norman Harriton generated \$1,260 in memorial contributions to benefit his beloved project. Because most of the above funds were not spent in 2004 our net income also far exceeded previous years at \$12,530.

Our more traditional income sources also had a trio of highs: Memberships brought in \$4,475 up 11% over the previous record year of 2002. Overview ad revenue set a record, \$6,540 up about 24% from the previous year, and the 2004 issues produced a net income exceeding \$700 erasing just a bit of the barrels of red ink generated in previous years. General member contributions were up 3% from 2003 at \$1,805. They were augmented by \$1,250 from companies doing film production around the Shakespeare Bridge. Thus the media accounted for more income than the median at \$200, less than a fourth of the yearly maintenance costs.

On the down side, income from sales of FHRA T-shirts and Historic Photos plunged over 50% from 2003, totaling just \$335, and fees paid by Harriton Garden members dropped to \$655, off 24%.

As usual, our biggest expense item was preparing, printing and distributing the Overview to all Franklin Hills households at a cost of \$5,425. We paid artist Ricardo Mendoza just under \$2,400 to start work on the Hoover Stairs Mural. Insurance at \$1,286 was the third highest expense, followed by: the median, \$840; Harriton Garden, \$780; FHRA member communications including mailings, voicemail, website and miscellaneous office expenses, \$726; Meetings, \$468; donations to other community organizations, \$200; and \$41.68 for supplies used to dress the Shakespeare Bridge in holiday lights.

In 2004 the tiny FHRA stock portfolio declined about 11% in value to just under \$300. But our investment income was up sharply topping \$255, mostly from bank interest made possible by our higher account balances and switching to Cal National Bank which pays higher interest on small business checking. \$105 came from the sale of our 7 shares of AT&T Wireless stock when the company was bought out by Cingular. Donations of appreciated securities are always welcome and a great way to maximize your tax savings by eliminating the capital gains tax and getting a deduction because FHRA is an IRS 501(c)(3) charity meaning your contributions are tax deductible.

Myra **Avenue** Mural **Project Kick-Off** Clean-Up



by Peter Bedard

After two years of planning, permits, and procuring funds, the Myra Avenue Mural Project is ready to begin painting their first mural on the Myra Avenue Underpass just below Sunset Boulevard.

This location within our village has been going through a metamorphoses of sorts over the past several years. Trees were planted along Myra Avenue four years ago, the Sunset Pacific Motel (Bates Motel) was closed a few years back, the stairs within the underpass that housed drug dealers have been permanently sealed off, and two major empty lots are being filled in with two very different housing developments (one being artists lofts and the other low income senior housing).

On June 25, 2005 members of the community will be out to begin priming the wall that the mural will be painted on. Come celebrate and clean up the street with us. Eric Garcetti will be there along with representatives from the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, the Fran-

klin Hills Resident's Association (the mural's sponsoring body), and the Silver Lake Improvement Association.

Join all of us in the neighborhood along with kids from Thomas Starr King Middle School and Operation Clean Sweep as we pull weeds, pick up trash, sweep the gutters, and prime the wall with mural creator, artist Louie Metz. June 25th, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Water and snacks will be provided.

For further information, please contact mural coordinator Peter Bedard at (323) 384-8433.

UPDATE ON THE HOOVER WALK MURAL PROJECT

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

The Hoover Walk Mural Project, which has been written about in previous issues of the Overview, is still alive, and being propelled forward by a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant from the City of L.A.'s Board of Public Works, Operation Clean Sweep.



The stairwell area, at the north end of North Hoover Street, at its intersection with Prospect Avenue, has changed a lot in recent months. Adjacent properties have undergone massive remodels, and Mother Nature's winter wrath left erosion in its wake. Further change is imminent as community members, with help from Council District 4 and other City departments and the Hollywood Beautification Team, continue moving forward with plans to clean up and plant the slopes, and add a mural on the three retaining walls around the steps.

Since its construction in 1923, many have walked up and down this stairwell. Today it is still used by dozens of students and residents on their way to Thomas Starr King Middle School, John Marshall High School, and other area schools, as well as to shops, bus stops, and jobs.

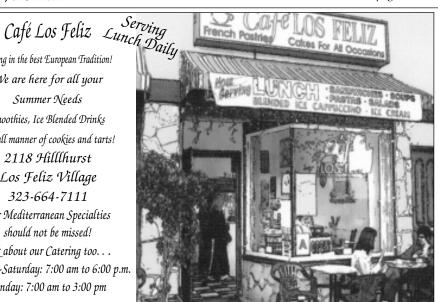
Los Angeles artist Ricardo Mendoza has designed the Hoover Walk mural, and will produce the images for it on

continiued on page 17

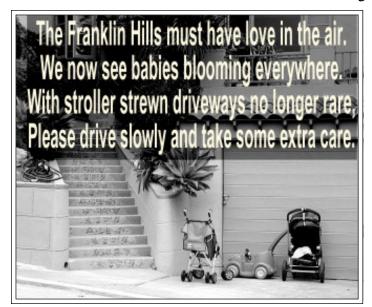


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fabric in his studio, then adhere them to the three walls at the stairwell site. This technique has many advantages from production, conservation and longevity standpoints.

In addition to the Neighborhood Matching Fund, the Hoover Walk Mural Project has received generous moral and financial support from the Franklin Hills Residents Association, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, and Council District 4.

Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming community work days to help with this beautification project.

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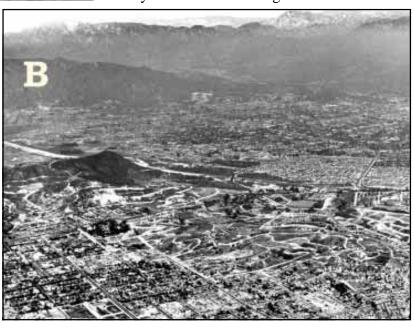
Vitagraph (ABC) Studios c.1923. Three years before the bridge.





View SE across Hyperion from Sunset Dr. behind Francis Young, 1925.

Franklin Hills & surrounding areas, September 17, 1927.



Continued on page 7

Silver Lake Independent JCC

Saved by Partnership With Episcopalians

by Anne Richardson



The Silver Lake Independent Jewish Community Center (SIJCC) on Bates Avenue has been given a new lease on life by Bishop Jon Bruno of the Episcopalian Church. The preschool and community center had been previously owned by the JCC of Greater Los Angeles, which threatened in 2001 to close the neighborhood center along with several others to pay off a multimillion dollar shortfall associated with financial mismanagement within its own organization.



After a massive outpouring of protest from parents, supporters, and community leaders, the preschool, under Board President Janie Schulman*s leadership, formed a new 501(c)(3) corporation and chose a new name to establish their independence: the Silver Lake Independent Jewish Community Center. Last year, Councilman Eric Garcetti introduced the SIJCC leaders to the Episcopalian Church, which came to their aid, becoming a 49% partner with the SIJCC to jointly purchase the property outright. On April 20 of this year, the \$2.1 million dollar deal closed and the SIJCC officially became the 51% owner of the property. Under the arrangement, the Episcopalians will share the facility at night and on Sundays.

The Silver Lake Independent Jewish Community Center was started in 1952 under the name Hollywood Los Feliz Jewish Community Center by local Jewish families who raised money for, designed, and built the building. At the beginning, there was a preschool, an after-school childcare program for children from Franklin, Ivanhoe, and Placentia Elementary Schools, a children's theatre program, a summer camp, afterschool enrichment classes, as well as Senior activities such as luncheons and trips. In the 1960's they joined the JCC of Greater Los Angeles (GLA), and deeded their building to the GLA. This relationship lasted until the split in 2001.

The Center is looking forward to renovating its building and bringing in more programs. Presently, the SIJCC has a "Parents and Me" program for children 14 - 30 months, preschool for children aged 2 to 6, kindergarten, summer camp for children who have graduated kindergarten and are about to enter First Grade, afterschool enrichment classes such as ballet, karate, drums, and soccer, and they provide space for rehearsals for a children's theatre program. The school celebrates Shabbat and Jewish holidays, customs and traditions.

The "Parents and Me" program consists of one class a week for an hour and a half, from September through July, and can be a wonderful jumping off point for children to begin at the preschool in the Fall, as their familiarity with the premises and

the teachers can ease the transition. Preschoolers can come from 9-12, 9-3, or 9-6, or may choose to start the day at 8 a.m. The JCC is open to children of all faiths.

A highlight at the JCC is its celebration of Shabbat every Friday at 9:15 a.m. with music and singing. Members of the community are invited to join.

For more information, see <u>www.silverlakejcc.org</u> or call (323) 663-2255.



View south from Franklin Hills, across Fountain down Sanborn, 1927.



Hyperion & Griffith Park Blvd., seen from Lyric Ave., 1925.



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FHRA'S Winter Good News Meeting: 1 Bank Robber Caught, 1000 Animals Saved

By Bruce Carroll



SLO Polehonki

A great turnout of more than 80 Franklin Hills neighbors filled the meeting room at King Middle School for the FHRA's winter meeting last February, but that wasn't the big news of the night.

LAPD senior lead officer Al Polehonki announced that just before coming to the meeting he and fellow SLO Sam Salazar had arrested the suspect in four recent area bank robberies. The sharp eyed SLO's were just leaving El Arco Iris restaurant when they saw a man who matched the picture and description on an internal LAPD flyer. One of the banks allegedly robbed by the suspect was the CalNational Bank at Vermont and Prospect where the FHRA has an account. Bank Manager Dennis Ead was pleased when informed by FHRA treasurer Bruce Carroll that the suspect in the January 24th robbery had been arrested. Polehonki and Salazar's commitment to our neighborhood is evidenced by the fact that they came to our meeting and then went downtown to handle the liaison with the FBI.

Another award winning performance featured Nicky Thole and Brenda Varvarigos of the Camarillo Wildlife Rehab. They were presented with a certificate of appreciation by Capt. Wendell Bowers of LA City Department of Ani-



Nicky, (left) Brenda and Capt Bowers





Nicky Thole with rescued screech owl.

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mal Services. In the year since the FHRA's winter 2004 meeting Camarillo Wildlife has helped save over a thousand animals picked up by LACity Animal Services officers.

Wildlife specialist, Offcer Gregory Randall, was also back with tips for keeping wild critters at bay. Coyotes can travel 25 miles in a day, love to tunnel under fences, but hate noise so, he advised, make plenty to scare them away, and if you see someone feeding a coyote please report it to the LA Dept. of Animal Services.

Thole showed off a screech owl rescued after being hit by a car. The owls can camouflage themselves to look like trees and maybe a bit too much like asphalt. Thole reported that the possum that starred at last year's meeting had been released back into the wild last fall. Also in the critter file FHRA Board Member George Grace reported that nearly \$2000 has been donated to set up wildlife drinkers in Griffith Park to help keep animals there and not in our yards..

FHRA President Charley Mims, Councilmember Tom LaBonge and the community greeted the new Principal at King Middle School, Charlene Hirotsu, She said King was the "most beautiful" school she's been at in her 30 year career, promised to work with the community on traffic problems and to eradicate on campus graffiti within an hour. She explained the kids are, "not as scary as they look. When you get to know them everyday they are beautiful kids."

There were also brief reports from Sharon Romano of the Hollywood Beautification Team about area cleanup and beautification projects and FHRA President Charley Mims about progress to make traffic on our streets safer.

In addition to a head full of useful info some meeting goers were rewardd with door prizes that ranged from books about LA, to Laemmle movie theatre passes and Starbucks gift cards. And everyone had a chance to meet new neighbors and renew old friendships.





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Yuca's Receives Culinary Honors



operated and renowned for their timeless appeal and quality food. Three other awards were given in this category to restaurants in New Orleans, Boston, and Paradise Valley, Arizona. When the awards were given this year, before a crowd of 1,700, the applause was long, and the appreciation was large for the Classics recipients.

When asked why Yuca's is such an important and beloved destination on L.A.'s food map, Dora responded that "attention to detail" combined with "attention to the people" seems to be the winning equation. "It goes beyond the food," she said. "Customers who couldn't even reach the counter are now adults." Dora said there were "a bunch of devoted customers in the

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

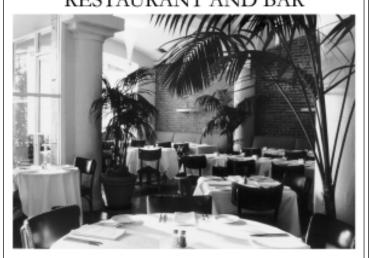
Culinary magic happens in an 8-by-10-foot space on upper Hillhurst. For 29 years, the Herrera family has been preparing and serving home-style Mexican food with a Yucatan twist from Yuca's, this humble venue, which formerly had the word "hut" in its name. This venerable taco stand, on May 2, was honored with an "American Classics" Award at the esteemed James Beard Foundation's 15th annual awards ceremony in New York City.

One week after the black-tie gala at the Marriott Marquis in Manhattan, Dora Herrera was back home at the restaurant, sipping a soda at closing time, and reminiscing as the sun cast long shadows over the patio in front of her family's eatery. Dora, who accepted the award with her mother, Socorro, said with her characteristic smile that she is "still elated, and very proud of my mother."

"She was the belle of the ball. Guys would come up and kiss her hand," Dora mused. "Mom wore her regional Yucatan-style dress."

The presentation of the America's Classics Awards has become a favorite part of the awards evening, which generally focuses on haute cuisine. The awards pay homage to restaurants that are locally owned and

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1714 NORTH VERMONT AVE. IN LOS FELIZ RESERVATIONS: (323) 661-6163 audience" at the May 2 event. "They were jazzed," she added.

In addition to the carne asada dishes, the cochinito pibil (pork baked in banana leaf with achiote spices) and their other specialty dishes, the Herrera family's unpretentious and beloved business continues to offer huge servings of commitment and devotion back to its customers. Yuca's is more than a job to Dora's mother, Socorro. "It is her hobby," said Dora. In this family business, the workers, like the customers, are extended family. Manuel Rodriguez has been at Yuca's for 23 years. Dora dabbed her eyes from behind her glasses as she reflected on the familial devotion of staff over the years.

Yuca's is in the community, too. Dora has been a hard-working volunteer for various organizations and at myriad events, including the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, the Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District, and for many more groups and gatherings.

Jaime Herrera, Dora's late father died in February 2003. But Dora says she knows he was with them in spirit on that memorable night in Manhattan, as he always is.



Above: Dora and friends at Yuca's booth at the Los Feliz Street Fair



Yuca's is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except Sundays and holidays. 2056 Hillhurst Avenue. (323) 662-1214.



The Rains Came -Griffith Park Blossoms -The Master Plan Arrives

by George Grace - email gmrnet1@gmrnet.com

When I'm walking my dogs in the morning, we always take the same route - down the street and over the hill on one of our many picturesque stairways. There is a spot on this stairway where Griffith Park suddenly comes into view. These days, it is particularly beautiful - lusher and greener than I ever remember it. Even though the record rains played havoc with some areas in the Park, closing roads and the like, their transformation of Park open-space and their benefits for Park wildlife are remarkable. New streams have appeared - and are still flowing! Lush vegetation assures plenty of food for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Life is bustling in the Park.

In the midst of the deluge, the "Draft" of the 2005 Griffith Park Master Plan (GPMP) to chart the Park's future for the next 25 years arrived. It is available for review at: http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithPK/gp_masterplan.htm. 350 people attended the March 30th unveiling of the GPMP at Friendship Auditorium. Pre-

senters included Councilman Tom LaBonge, representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and Melendrez Design Partners (the consultants who wrote the Draft). The most vocal groups during the public comments portion of the meeting were equestrian users of the Park, and a contingent of mountain bikers. Both turned out in force. Mountain bikers expressed outrage that the Plan did not advocate opening off-road trails for Park bikers. Equestrians argued that mountain bikes were too dangerous to be allowed on park trails. Presenters emphasized that this is a "Draft", and can be revised. Committees to study the GPMP are presently being organized.

FHRA's Wildlife Drinker/Monitoring Project seems a perfect fit for the GPMP recommendation to acquire land and develop a wildlife corridor near Mt. Lee (site of the Hollywood sign). This open space would have limited human use, and would be designed to increase wildlife diversity by connecting the Park with the Santa Monica Mountains. Quoting the Master Plan, "Bobcat and Mountain Lion movement may also increase and will need to be monitored." I plan to advocate placing our Drinker/Camera monitor in this Corridor, and will keep you posted. We presently have \$2,000 in the Fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Make checks to FHRA, and write "Wildlife Drinker Fund" in the check memo section.

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photo by Albert Torres, Department of Recreation and Parks.

A Mt. Lee wildlife corridor may increase the incidence of bobcats, and mountain lions, but the Park already hosts bobcats. This one was recently photographed by a hidden camera in a remote Park area that was once a dry stream bed. Since the rains, it now has a constant flow. The bobcat photo was

supplied by Albert Torres, Interim Chief Park Ranger, by a camera installed to document the presence of the mountain lion that created such a stir in the Park a few months back. No lion has been photographed yet, but lots of other critters have - including a number of very healthy looking coyotes.

I don't know if the idyllic conditions in Griffith Park encouraged any coyotes to stay out of our neighborhoods, but Wildlife Officer Greg Randall told me a few weeks ago that Griffith Park area coyote complaints were nil. The last sighting posted on our Coyote Survey was in January. Post your sighting at http://www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html.

Lastly, I want to share this other photo taken at Amir's Garden. It was supplied by Kristin Sabo, who is the site supervisor for Amir's Garden and a dedicated Griffith Park activist. Per Kristin: "There are hundreds if not thousands of California Painted Lady butterflies migrating through Griffith Park as I type

this. The majority were in the Skyline area today (March 29th), although a few were seen in the old Zoo and Amir's Garden vicinity. Apparently they migrate from somewhere in Mexico up to the Pacific



California Painted Lady Butterfly. photo by Kristin Sabo

Northwest! This is considered an unusually large migration this year." Thanks to the rains!

I hope to see you at our annual meeting where I'll have an update on Coyotes, Wildlife Drinkers, and the Griffith Park Master Plan.

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Frosty Reaction to High Walls

By Bruce Carroll

"Good fences make good neighbors" is perhaps poet Robert Frost's most repeated line. But the first line of that poem, "Mending Wall," is, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall." That something is the City of LA, if the wall, fence or hedge in front of your property is over 3 $^1/_2$ feet high. In some cases, with the tricky topography of hillside lots, the FHRA has supported zoning variances, but the FHRA has generally backed the city's rules and been successful in opposing over-in-height walls.

Most of those on the other side of the fence say they need a high wall, fence or hedge for security or privacy, but the city's police and fire departments warn that high barriers in front of your property actually diminishes your safety by making it easier for crooks to conceal their activities and harder for firefighters and paramedics to gain quick access in an emergency.

But it also comes down to the community question of, do high fences make good neighborhoods? Or do they send a fearful fortress image often seen in third world countries? Many, if not most, of the over-inheight walls, fences and hedges in our neighborhood are likely illegal, having been built without getting the proper permits and zoning variance to allow legal construction.

If poet Frost were still among us it's likely he'd object to Angelenos trend to more and higher barriers. A full reading of Frost's poem reveals that, in fact, he didn't have a high opinion of his neighbor's view that "good fences make good neighbors." Which side are you on? We want to know.

15



Looking east across Silver Lake, 1923



Corner of Hyperion & Lyric, 1922. Taken from beside Young family home at 3914 Sunset Dr. under construction.

For more historic pictures of Franklin Hills and the surrounding area, turn to page 18 & 19. And, see the photo display at the June 16th meeting where even more photos will be displayed and for sale.





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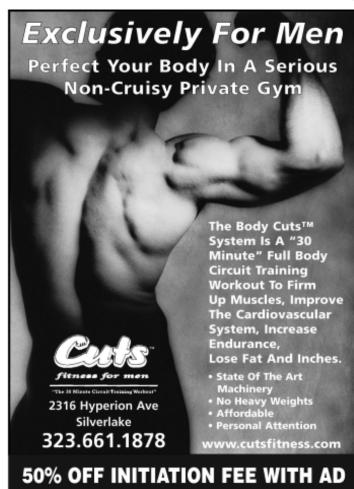


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LISTEN TO THE MOCKINGBIRD

By Carol Skinner

In spring and in summer, "Listen to the Mockingbird" is not a suggestion, it's an imperative. That's the way the bird wants it. A friendly biologist once remarked that those trills and roulades, those glissandos are actually translated as "I am the biggest and toughest mockingbird on this hill and this is MY tree. Gedoutahere." There is a very articulate mockingbird just outside my window right now, and I find myself inspired to pass along a few mockingbird experiences of my own life.

The earliest goes back, way back into my child-hood. Our family home, in West L.A., came supplied with a huge back yard complete with several well-grown trees all of which provided bountiful fruit and a secure, sturdy platform for nests. In the yard was an old 2-car garage with old wooden doors, which swung on very old iron springs, groaning and creaking to inform the world

whenever those doors were moved. Our family had added a middle-aged, beautiful but foolish female cat with wonderful, elegant soft fluffy grey fur and eyes the color of split pea soup. She was inordinately fond of my father, and when the garage doors told her that he had come home she would streak from her nap spot in the house, out the back door and hurl herself at him in a frenzy of welcome.

Inevitably, one spring the nest builder was truly the biggest and meanest mockingbird, and one of the smartest as well. As soon as work on the nest was well begun we realized that the bird had learned how to sing the song of the garage door well enough to fool anyone, except that the human occupants would take a look at the driveway to check. Not so Priscilla the pussycat. She never caught on. Any time she heard that familiar screech she would go into her act and the minute she was outside she was dive-bombed by the adult birds which were collecting beakfulls of wonderful soft lining material for their nest. She would scream and yowl and struggle and stagger back into the house, but she'd fall for it every time. It was nearly Halloween before her coat looked respectable again, and cat people will know how a cat feels about being laughed at.

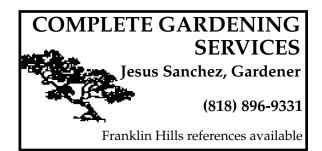
Next we fast forward 10 or 15 years to a warm summer evening in the Hollywood Bowl. The last item on the program was Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*. Wonderful, theatrical piece, the penultimate section features a nightingale singing by a catacomb and Respighi himself chose the recording which he wanted to have played. So it was played, perhaps a little louder than usual or than necessary. Dozens of mockingbirds woke up all over the hill, from Cahuenga to Hollywood to halfway to the valley to listen to that Roman bird. They appeared to all be thinking "I can do that." and they did, and the hills

were alive with the sound of birdsong. There was no way to turn them off when the tone poem progressed to the Via Appia but even they couldn't quite overpower the orchestral picture of a Roman legion swinging its way down the ancient road— and I don't think anyone minded anyway.

Next: to Franklin Hills and to the years when everyone in L.A. had a car alarm and every night someone's car alarm went off sometime after midnight. I had my own car alarm disarmed. I didn't like getting up at 2 am on a weeknight to turn it off and the neighbors were not really amused. Remember the sounds of those alarms? Six or eight different noise patterns, each one repeating exactly eight times before moving onto the next. Surely you have guessed by now; one bird learned to counterfeit that alarm sequence and sounded almost exactly right. He would repeat it for an hour or so; no remote could turn him off. This went on for a few years, coming always from the same tree until finally the bird went to his rest and Hollyvista residents were able to get back to ours. Only problem: nobody up here paid much attention to a car alarm forever after. I imagine you've noticed before now that the hill is somewhat like the Hollywood Bowl in that, without amplification, every sound travels everywhere. You live down by the Prospect Studios?

When you give a party I could dance to your music. Have a little family difference of opinion? Go inside. Shut the doors and windows. You don't want to be the neighborhood soap.

I'm betting that everyone out there has a bird story—or a raccoon story or a possum or a palm tree or some other neighborhood occurrence. Share it with the rest of us! Write it up, send it to our P.O. Box, or even better, e-mail to Overview@FranklinHills.org. Overview 30 will be coming out in November but don't wait until Halloween-set it down now and send it along. We are trilled and thrilled to have new contributors.



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Vitagraph Studios c.1918. Note Bridge in upper left of photo.

Griffith Park Blvd. looking north across Hyperion, 1920s.

Franklin Hills Overview: #29 Spring/Summer 2005



Franklin Hills and Marshall High, taken by the Army Signal Corps, 1932.

PICTURE SIZE	PRICE
20"	\$35
14"	\$30
10"	\$25

Historic Photos

Now that you've seen these mini-samples you'll want to have a full-size print for your own. See the price list below. You may use the order form and send your order and your check to FHRA, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles 90027 or make your order in person on June 16 at Marshall High. A larger selection of photos will be available before and after the meeting

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Northeast Division, L.A.P.D.

I hope that everyone is well and looking forward to a great summer. For the past several months, officers assigned to North-

east division have spent a significant amount of time conducting traffic and truancy enforcement in the area



A year to date comparison with last year's statistics show a reduction in Vehicle and Residential Burglaries. Last year at this time a total of 41 Vehicle Burglaries were reported. This year we have 10. Last years Residential Burglaries totaled 23. This year we had 7 reported.

As we seem to have a limitless number of criminals willing to come to the area and appropriate our personal property, I believe that the reduction in these two areas can be attributed to better police work and an alert community. Together, we can make a difference.

Crime Prevention Reminders:

Be aware of suspicious vehicles, persons and telephone calls.

★Take note of vehicle descriptions and license plates.

★Report any unusual contacts with solicitors, "lost persons", or trespassers.

★If you have an alarm, test it and insure that it is on when you leave your residence or while at home during the hours of darkness.

★If you employ an alarm company, be sure of their responsibilities and instructions in case of an alarm activation. This should be done prior to an emergency.

★Have someone check on your residence while you are on vacation.

★Do not let newspapers and mail accumulate.

★Leaving all the lights on may indicate that you are away. Use timers to turn lights on and off.

★Insure that you have adequate and operational lighting on your property.

★Secure tools such as ladders.

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★Take close up and clear photographs of your valuable or sentimental property.

★Record serial numbers of property.

Anyone observing a crime in progress should call 911. Emergency calls made via cellular phone in the Los Angeles area should be made to (213) 928-8206.

SIGNIFICANT ARREST

On March 23rd, 2003 at 4:13 PM, Officers Fujiwara serial number 36719 and Wong serial number 22354 responded to a radio call of a possible prowler. The suspect was described as a white male, seated in parked vehicle and possibly under the influence of narcotics.

Upon arrival, the officers observed the suspect seated in the parked vehicle and conducted a computer inquiry of the license plate. They learned that the vehicle had recently been reported stolen in the West Hollywood area. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

During the subsequent search of the suspect, narcotic paraphernalia was discovered in his pants pocket. A check into the wanted persons system revealed that the suspect was on parole and wanted for an outstanding parole warrant.

Several witnesses were contacted and reported that the male had been in the area for several hours, entering and exiting his vehicle and sweating profusely. They became suspicious and called the police.

The suspect was booked for 10851 (E) of the California Vehicle Code, Driving a Vehicle without the Owners Consent.

The officers are commended for their attention to duty and investigative skills. The community members are commended for being alert and reporting the unusual activity. This arrest took place near King Middle School.

Don't forget, call 311 to report bulky items, non operational street lighting, graffiti and pot holes to name a few. Please visit our web site at <u>WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG</u>.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Al Polehonki, Senior Lead Officer





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The Paul Lauritz home, my old listing on Clayton, is now a Legal Landmark

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WRITING ABOUT THE WRONG WRIGHT

By Bruce Carroll

One recent morning our FHRA phone message line (323-908-6078) heard from an area resident asking for help. She'd spent time on line trying to run down the story that Frank Lloyd Wright had designed our Shakespeare Bridge. After all, in the 1920s the famous architect had designed the recently renovated Hollyhock House in Barnsdall Park and the recent rain damaged Ennis Brown house high above Los Feliz.

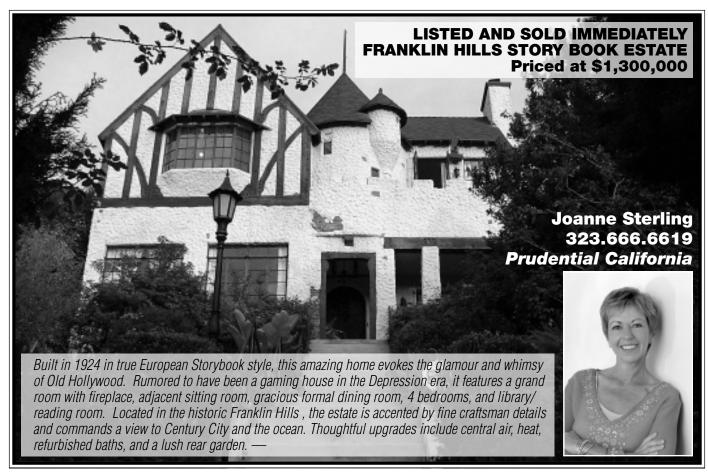
It turns out the caller was about 1/3 right or should that be Wright? The bridge was designed in 1924 by J.C. Wright, a civil engineer who worked for the City of LA. It's unknown if there is any relation other than they both left lasting monuments to good style.

If you want to read more about the Shakespeare Bridge's history it can be found in *Overview* issue #5 on the www.FranklinHills.org website, or at the Los Feliz Branch Library which also has a complete collection of *Overviews* dating back to the first, January 1990 issue.



Mr. Wright's bridge: on an early December morning last year; and on the evening of that same day.





THE NAGGER

Have you noticed that the City has repaved several miles of roads in our neighbourhood during the past three years? These include Franklin, St Georges, Hyperion, Virgil, and Commonwealth.

The new surfaces create smoother rides and less wear-and-tear on automobiles. The brighter painted lines may keep drivers in their lanes and highlight pedestrian crossings.

The smoother roads also have a cost. Speeding has increased. The 35-mile per hour speed limit on Hyperion/Fountain is seldom obeyed. Work crews in-

stalled safety bumps on Commonwealth soon after paving was completed. Thus, one irregular road surface was replaced with another. Or as one long time resident put it: "No wonder the city is broke, we pay big bucks to fix streets, then more tax money to wreck 'em"

Residents of Franklin Hills should oppose all efforts by politicians to blacktop our streets. We, visitors, and home repair crews already drive too fast, more than 15 mph, for our one-lane roads. Visibility is extremely limited. In addition, new families on the hill have produced dozens of young children who are already in danger of being hit. Faster speeds will increase their risk.

Send your comments on this issue to FHRA@franklinhills.org.

The Last 21 Houses Featured Here Sold Karen Weiss and Ross Carter Your Franklin Hills Real Estate Experts for over 25 years Specializing in the Franklin Hills

We need your membership, but if you can't bear the thought of tearing the coupon below out of this issue of Overview you can go to our website: WWW.FranklinHills.org and click on "Join FHRA" and you'll get an FHRA membership form that you can print and mail

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Everyone knows LA as the city where East meets West, but few Angelenos are aware that the exact meeting place seems to be atop the Franklin Hills... right at the corner where the 3800 block of West Franklin Ave. meets what the sign proclaims as the 3700 block of East Franklin Av.

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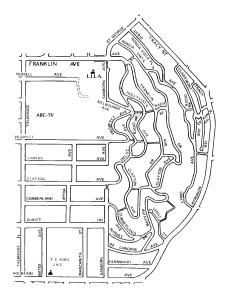
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