

"...to support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques..."

NEWSLETTER



Number 189

December 2001

Cedar Garland and Other Stuff

by Michael S. Smith

The holiday season is upon us. And the question is: *Are we really ready to decorate the house again? Yuck!*

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not a mean one, Mr. Grinch. I love the holidays: visiting family; dinner with friends; presents (especially presents); the warm holiday smells: a goose roasting, a big Noble or Douglas Fir Christmas tree, fresh-cut cedar garland, and of course eggnog and brandy, with just a touch of nutmeg. It's just... well... I hate holiday decorating!

Now, you'd think that two guys who have velvet and lace curtains covering almost every window (that we made ourselves no less) would find it a breeze arranging Christmas ornaments on a tree, placing baubles around the house, and trimming each room with cedar boughs, pine cones, and other stuff. But, the truth is, through whatever twist of fate, Greg and I definitely did not inherit the holiday decorating gene.

That's why when our neighborhood, West Adams Heights, was selected to host WAHA's 2000 Annual Holiday Tour, I was secretly horrified. Even though I was partially responsible for instigating it, and was looking forward to it, I knew what being on the tour would entail - decorating. I also knew that decorating for the holidays was something we did not do well, and until the tour, cared very little about.

Let the Good Times Roll!

WAHA's Holiday Party and Volunteer Thank-You

Sunday, December 16, 3 - 5 p.m.

At the always festive Cafe Club Fais Do Do
5257 West Adams Boulevard

Sumptuous Savories and Sweets Buffet
Hosted Bar 3 - 4 p.m.
(No Host thereafter)

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Oh, we had decorated before, but never like this. The last time we had set up a real Christmas tree was in 1995, the first holiday season we spent in the house. Greg's family came down from Sacramento that year, so we had to have something that was Christmas-ee. The tree we reluctantly picked out was a scrawny, six-foot, Charlie Brown affair; a tree-lot reject we bought from Builder's Discount on Christmas Eve for ten dollars.

We let Greg's 10-year-old, four-foot-two nephew, David, garnish the tree with ornaments and tinsel. With all the meticulousness of a child, he carefully placed each Sav-On bought bulb where he would most enjoy and see them - no higher than he could reach. The top and back of the tree was as natural as the day it was cut. We had no star to guide us or angel to bless us.

For the holiday tour, I knew we'd need to do better, and we'd need help; lots of help.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Fortunately for us, unfortunately for John Kurtz, he volunteered to be our house captain - John Kurtz: master of decorating, guru of good taste, wizard of wonderland, king of good housekeeping. I don't think he knew what he got himself into, because boy did we make him sweat!

About six months prior to the tour John was feeling out the territory. At the July Newsletter Committee meeting he casually asked, "So, what kind of decorations *DO* you have?" I just as casually answered, "None." He then asked what the theme would be. *Theme?* "Christmas, of course." Obviously, I had a lot to learn. Prior to that moment I had no idea that holiday decorations should have a theme.

You'd also think that after 14 years Greg and I would have an arsenal of holiday gear - but not us. All we had was a slightly bent and dusty artificial tree (which we could never quite bring ourselves to actually set up) and a few generic ornaments (none of which would be usable for this occasion). Ok, I lied, we had set up the artificial tree once - but only once.

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**WEST ADAMS
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, California 90018
323/ 735-WAHA
www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams

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The WAHA Board of Directors
would like to extend
its best wishes for
a safe, heathy, happy holiday season
to you and yours.

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**WAHA Committee Chairs and
Standing Meetings**

Community Outreach Contact Jacqueline Sharps if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323/766-8842

Historic Preservation/Zoning & Planning

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163 and Tom Florio 213/749-8469 - Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

Newsletter Chair: John Deaven 323/737-7761 Meets December 11th and then on third Tuesdays in 2002

Membership Chair: John Kurtz 323/732-2990 - Meets the Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting

Holiday Tour Call Jacqueline Sharps 323/766-8842.

Fundraising Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

Web Site Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

Neighborhood Council Liaisons Contact Colleen Davis 323/733-0446 and Jean Frost 213/748-1656

Programs and Events Greg Stegall 323/734-7725 and Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. All WAHA members are encouraged to join one of the committees!

WAHA NEWS

Do Your Share with Holiday Waste

If ever there is a time to think about giving back to the environment, it is the holiday season. During the holidays, the combined total of wrapping paper, shopping bags and boxes accounts for roughly 4 percent of the total solid waste generated in L.A. County each year (yikes!). Taking into account holiday cards alone, we are talking about adding an additional 4.4 million tons of trash.

In order to cut down on the amount of waste going to landfills, we should take the message of "reduce, reuse and recycle" and give something back to the environment for the holidays.

The L.A. County Department of Public Works has devised the following "Top 10 List" of easy ways to reduce waste during the holidays:

Top 10 Ways to Reduce Holiday Waste

1. Get creative with your wrapping – reuse newspapers, comics, sports pages, old maps, gift bags or even brown bags tied with reusable raffia, ribbons or bows.
2. Choose holiday cards made from recycled-content paper and envelopes. Even better, send your holiday cards via e-mail.
3. Recycle wrapping paper and cards with your mixed paper. Papers with metallic surfaces cannot be recycled.
4. Purchase a live Christmas tree and plant it after the holidays. Or buy a green Christmas tree and recycle it. Every Los Angeles County resident can recycle their Christmas Tree. For more information go to: <http://ladpw.org/epd/xmastrees/index.cfm>
5. Buy strands of lights that are wired in parallel, meaning each bulb has separate circuitry. If one bulb burns out, the rest of the strand will continue to shine brightly.
6. Wrap gifts in useful items, such as kitchen utensils in an oven mitt or a kitchen towel. Put gifts in hatboxes tied with ribbon. Or hang jewelry like bracelets, necklaces or earrings right on the tree.
7. Recycle foam packaging and "peanuts" at a local drop-off or buy-back recycling center. For a location near you, call 1 (800) CLEANUP, a service provided by Earth's 911.
8. Set tables with linens and china instead of disposable paper plates, plastic cups and utensils. If you use plastic cups and utensils, wash them and use them again.
9. Reuse ribbons and bows, as most cannot be recycled. If everyone reused only two feet of holiday ribbon, we'd save enough ribbon to tie a bow around the entire planet!
10. Don't throw away old toys or clothing. Now is the time to donate them to a charitable organization to ensure they are reused. Toys, clothing, and other goods can also be posted on LACoMAX (a free service designed to help residents, businesses, and organizations in Los Angeles County find markets for their industrial by-products, surplus materials, and other would-be discards), where you can find a home for almost any material you don't need. For more information go to: <http://ladpw.org/epd/lacomax/index.cfm>

Happy Holidays, everyone!

People Urged to Report Faulty Street Lights

As daylight saving time ends, the Los Angeles Public Works Department is making a push for residents to report malfunctioning street lights.

Improvements have been made to a 24-hours Bureau of Street Lighting hotline to increase efficiency, spokesman Robert O. Reed said.

Reports of bulbs staying on during the day, flickering or burnt-out lamps, damaged poles and exposed wiring may be made by calling (800) 303-LAMP. The bureau may also be accessed through the Web site WWW.lacity.org/BSL or via email at streetlighting@bsl.lacity.org.

The department aims to make repairs within 72 hours Reed said.

EDITOR'S NOTE, come on folks . . . let's test this commitment!

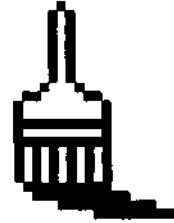
Calling All Film Stars

For a future story in the WAHA newsletter, we'd like to know if your home has had a starring role in a feature film, television series, or music video (please, no aging heavy metallists). This is a basic Who-What-When request: tell us the name of the film or other project, who starred in it, and, if you can remember, the year of release. Please send the information to Newsletter Editor Laura Meyers (lauramink@aol.com).



Bolts and Nutz

by Linda Joshua



Hello and welcome to "Bolts and Nutz" - a column dedicated to matters of home renovation and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. If you have a question, or you have an area of expertise and would be interested in sharing your knowledge by answering the questions, please contact me at Linda_Joshua@hotmail.com

Q. I recently bought a wonderful house which is in pretty good condition, but my-oh-my the antique bathtub is filthy! As of yet I haven't moved in, but when I do, that bathtub will be the first thing I work on. Any suggestions?

Jolene, Harvard Heights

A. Here's a nice easy solution that will bring that tub back to life!

Wet the bathtub with hydrogen peroxide, then sprinkle lots of cream of tartar (a baking product, sold in supermarkets) on the wet surface. Let it be for an hour or so, then use some elbow grease to scrub that scum into oblivion. After rinsing, the tub will be clean and bright beyond your wildest dreams. The shine won't be restored, but at least you'll be able to have a shower without fearing for your life.

Use the same mixture for tiles, but make a paste of the hydrogen peroxide and cream of tartar, so that it will stick to the surface. Again, after approximately one hour, scrub and rinse. I think you'll be pleased with the results.

Q. I am having a real problem with grass growing through the cracks in my brick patio. Is there an environmentally sound way to get rid of it?

James, 2nd Avenue

A. If you douse the cracks with vinegar that should do the trick. If you

do this early in the growing season, you will nip the weeds in the bud, and you should be able to keep grass and other weeds away pretty much until autumn. Don't be afraid to be persistent. If the vinegar treatment is confined to the patio it will do little or no environmental harm, but if you want to be conscientious, you can dilute it with water the next day.

Q. We discovered a beautiful hardwood floor in our dining room underneath the self-stick tiles installed by the previous owners. The tiles came off easily, but we have been left with a thin, sticky layer that needs to be removed before sanding and refinishing the hardwood. Is there an easy way to do this?

Mary, West Adams

A. I would start with a low-tech solution. Use a heat source, such as from a hair dryer, and scrape that sticky stuff away with a wide chisel, or a stiff putty knife. This may not work as the heat can sometimes make the adhesive even gummier, making it pretty tough to remove. If this is the case, go the opposite way, and try to freeze the gum, which will make it brittle and more easily scraped. You can do this by laying a cloth bag filled with ice cubes on the floor, and then going to town. The cold will make the adhesive brittle and therefore easier to scrape. If these methods do not work, you will have to resort to using chemical remover.

No matter what solution you choose, it's a chore, but it is necessary preparation before beginning the sanding process.

**Happy Holidays
and
A Joyous and Peaceful
2002**

**From
The Catbagan/
Neith Team**

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Thank you to our friends & clients for a fabulous year—and thanks for all the referrals!!!

Please call if we can help you or your friends!

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(310) 859-6014, 6013 direct
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**COLDWELL
BANKER**

Cedar Garlands

Continued from page 1

Both John and Laura Meyers kindly suggested that a trip to Stats in Pasadena would be a good idea – one, before the price of holiday decorations went sky high, and two, before we exhausted the tour budget we'd set for ourselves.

We had other priorities however, and decorating was low on the list. We figured we'd have plenty of time to worry about that stuff as the tour neared. Right then, we had only four months to strip the paint off the woodwork in the library, and re-stain it; strip wallpaper in two bedrooms; patch plaster and paint the walls of nearly every room; and design drapes for 23 windows and three portieres, for which we would need to purchase the fabric, sew the material, and hang them! Naturally I was beginning to feel overwhelmed.

When John again asked how the decorating was going, just three

weeks before the tour, I truly began to panic. "Decorations? What decorations?" I screamed. We still had two rooms to paint, and pictures to hang, and . . . And, to top things off we not only blew our tour budget, we'd obliterated it.

Thankfully, Laura came to our rescue with Christmas tree ornaments. She was having the ill-timed movie, *Collateral Damage*, filmed at her house then, and wasn't going to put out her decorations. She soon arrived with about 15 boxes that Greg and I would need to sort through.

Opening all those boxes was . . . well . . . like Christmas! We quickly discovered, however, that one person's taste is not necessarily your own (sorry Laura). The country-themed ornaments went right back in their boxes. We did find to our liking her 30's and 40's era bulbs that were shiny and bright, and coincidentally the most expensive and fragile.

The week before Thanksgiving John took pity on us and guided us through the Flower Mart and the Garment District. Actually, it was an act of self-preservation on his part. He wasn't about to be embarrassed by our holiday decorating disability.

We'd been to Flower Mart and the Garment District on our own many times. (Where do you think the material for all those drapes came from?) But, we'd never been there on a serious quest for holiday kitsch.

With Don Lynch in tow, we wove through the shops of various vendors trying to get theme ideas. Greg kept wandering to the tropical plant section, and before we knew it we were all over there pondering the merits of a Hawaiian Christmas. We finally settled on "natural" as the theme. Natural, as in the kind of decorations Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons, the first owners of our house, might have had in 1903.

We next went to Michael's, where we found an array of amazingly tacky decorations like: blue (blue!) plastic glitter-covered strands of holly; resin pine cones dipped in red sparkles; shimmering polyester ropes of red, white, green, blue and gold garland; and fiberglass Santas, which due to advances in animal-tronics not only wave, but dance and sing "Feliz Navidad!" Who buys this stuff anyway? I mean, besides certain relatives of ours who will remain nameless.

We joked about making our docents wear the costumes we found – reindeer costumes, elf costumes, santa hats, or best of all, black Spandex hip-huggers with giant red bow ties and gold glitter. None of these fantasies would work however, at least not for *this* holiday event.

At Michael's we did manage to find some great stuff. We bought wooden cranberry bunches, real pine cones, and cinnamon sticks to add to our cedar boughs; pipe cleaners to tie the garland to the bannister; and wonderful smelling, vanilla-scented candles.

Once we finally had all the stuff to transform our house into a veritable

Preservation Begins At Home



City Living Realty

19 years of service to West Adams

David Raposa Broker/Owner 323/734-2001

For Sale:

* **The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence**, 3726 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #479. Magnificent 14,500-sq-ft mansion on 3/4 acre. Stunning! \$1,300,000

* **Country Club Tudor** - 1215 Westchester Place. Elegant, 3-story mansion, restored and upgraded, exquisite woods and fixtures, 5 bedrms, 7 1/2 baths, estimated 7,000-sq-ft of quality living space, double lot. \$989,000

November Closings:

* **Craftsman Bungalow**, 3106 S. Brighton, 3 BR / 1BA \$166,000

* **Fourplex in The Bungalows**, 2181 W. 27th St. (Jane Harrington, listing agent) \$300,000.

In Escrow:

* **Restored Craftsman** Fine woods, 5 BR / 3.5 BA plus guest house 1229 3rd Avenue

* **Spanish Bungalow** 3 BR / 1.5 BA 1201 W. 37th Drive

Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village
2316 1/2 Union Avenue Suite 2 * 213/747-1337

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Cedar Garlands

Continued from page 5

winter wonderland, Greg and I looked at everything piled in the living room and wondered, *now what do we do with it?* We didn't have a clue.

Thank God for friends. Armed with eggnog and brandy we invited John, Don, and Audry Arlington over the night before the tour for a fun-filled evening of (you guessed it) decorating! With their guidance we learned how to line the banister with cedar, arrange pine cones, and how to properly decorate the tree. (Did you know that there is a proper way to decorate a tree? There is. You see, you start on the inside, and . . . oh, never mind.)

Much to our surprise, we even learned how to – gasp – enjoy doing it. For the first time in our adult lives, I think, Greg and I truly felt the Christmas spirit – or perhaps it was just the brandy.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE

So, would Greg and I ever open our house for a holiday tour again?

Absolutely! You bet!

The memories we have of last year's tour are priceless, and much to the chagrin of several people captured forever on celluloid. John arrived the morning of the tour with bunches of beautiful red roses. Audry and Don put the final flourishes on the tree. Just as the first tour came through the front door Greg hung the last picture on the wall, even as I was washing off blue paint from the room I'd painted around midnight. Occasionally I thumb through the pictures, and I'm still amazed how wonderful the house looked – not too shabby for two boys who didn't know a thing about holiday decorating.

So, will we be decorating this holiday season?

Hmm, *Maybe* next year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!

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Getting Practical About
Holiday Fantasies

If you're just getting started on your holiday decorating, or you're looking for bargains for day-after-Christmas shopping, go where the pros go. Here's some places to check out:

* **Michael's (Moskatel's)** 733 S. San Julian, In the Flower Mart, Downtown. 213/689-4830 - validated parking in structure. Look for ornaments, ribbons, dried natural goods and silk flowers.

* **Stats** 120 South Raymond, Pasadena. 626/795-9308. Fantasy Christmas galore. Plan to spend hours!

* **Mellano & Company** in the Flower Mart, Downtown. 766 Wall Street 213/622-0796 (8 a.m. - 1 p.m. weekdays; call for weekend hours). For cedar garlands and other greens.

* **Target** - 3535 South La Cienega (at Jefferson). 310/842-9353. Oodles of everything, and not as prosaic as you may think! Look for wrapping paper, bows, Christmas stockings, and holiday lights of all sorts -- faceted, mini Santa Clauses, holly lights with red bulbs -- you name it.


* **Oregon Christmas Tree Lots** -- No longer at the Railroad depot, you'll find them along Alameda near Chinatown.

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JUST 10 MINUTES FROM LARGHMONT VILLAGE

Resources Judie Schoening

I have not heard from any of you out there regarding catalogues but I do have some new resources collected over the last couple of months. Please thank the following people for sharing their experiences with us:

Marsha and Don McManus recommend A Step Above Pest Control. Dwayne got rid of their pigeons for them (!!). They felt they were "honest, reliable and hard-working and came back and checked for a month afterward. They also recommend Alex Body Repair at 5th and Washington. They felt he was exceptional, fast and inexpensive.

Jacqueline Sharps sent these resources to me: Stained Glass expert Mary Whitecloud, who custom designed for several neighbors in WAHA and does windows, lamps, gifts, and does restoration and repair. She shows up on time for appointments and is very friendly. She also said that Bob's Vacuum on West Pico is "fast, dependable, courteous, with reasonable repair rates."

Norma Latimer writes me that Mario Chavarria (323-581-4550) recommends Ted Ellison Designs for Art Glass work. You can check him out on his website.

A couple of people called and said they had tried out Hugo's and were very pleased with work and price.

From Judie and Alan: A wonderful new Asian market has opened in our neighborhood. The Galleria Market at Western and Olympic is quite different from the other Asian markets in our area. Everything is in both Korean and English so that you can easily find your way through the aisles and are not left wondering what some exotic item really is. The parking lot opens from the block south of Olympic, east of Western. There is a car wash in the lot. A flower mart greets you as you walk in. Just inside is a pharmacy across from a soon-to-open jewelry store. There is a just-opening bakery. (The Koreans make a great assortment of French pastries).

As is true in most Asian markets, the produce is most tantalizing and much cheaper than American supermarkets. There is a huge assortment of meats including a lot more pork than the other Korean markets in the area. If you are into stir frying, you will find a large variety of already sliced or julienned meats. Fish is in abundance including live abalone (\$20/lb) and live cherrystones (1.89/lb). A long counter offers all kinds of kim chees and another take-out sushi varieties. There are hot foods as well and they make their own tofu. Unlike the other Asian markets in the area, they carry a full complement of American products such as dog food and foil. All prices are very reasonable! Do try this place and let us know what you think.

I would appreciate it if when you send me a resources, you would include complete addresses, phones etc. The new advertising person will be contacting these people for either advertising or discounts or both. I do thank you

for sending these by fax or email as I can be much more accurate than from messages on the phone. FAX: 323/733-3541 and schoening@mediaone.net

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A Step Above Pest Control

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Ph: 323-733-3800 FAX: 323-733-5900

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Mary Whitecloud 323-661-7754

TE: Theodore Ellison Designs

1248 International Blvd. Oakland CA 94606

510-534-7632 FAX: 510532-3853

www.theodoreellison.com



Directory Updates

In the November issue of the newsletter all current members received a Directory for 2001 listing current WAHA Members. Extra copies of this directory are available from John Kurtz for a minimal charge to defray the cost of printing. If you have any changes which need to be incorporated into this current Directory, or if you have a new mailing address . . . please let us know! You can contact WAHA by mail, or call John Kurtz (Membership Chair) 323/732-2990, so your newsletter and other mailings get to you in a timely manner.

The following are changes to the WAHA Membership Directory for 2001-2. Please update your copy of the directory if you want to keep it current.

Update with New/Correct Information

Tom Florio, tmflorio@yahoo.com

Add

Jane Harrington, 3107 Brighton Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018, (323) 735-8216
Herve Rawls, 2221 Buckingham Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016, (323) 857-1288

Add (and welcome) new WAHA members

Beatrice Cordero, 1746 N. Mariposa Ave., #4, Los Angeles, CA 90027, (323) 664-3469
Anne Davis, 806 Stratford Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024-4549
Dolores, Griffin, 2215 W. 24th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018
Robin Griffith, 1245 West Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007 (949) 235-8585
srfenig@AOL.com

Lars Hansen, Executive Director – Office of Cultural Relations, USC - Kaprielian Hall suite 249,
3620 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90089-2538, 213/821-1101 lhansen@usc.edu
Katy Lain, 1038 Embury Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, (310) 459-0845

Jane Martin, 1259 Third Avenue, Los Angeles,
CA 90019, (323) 734-5830

Varick Pelton, 2331 5th Avenue, Los Angeles,
CA 90018, (323) 731-9056 varick@rocketmail.com

Noel Salisbury, 233 N. Irving Boulevard, Los
Angeles, CA 90004-3806 (323) 469-2966

Chris Taylor, 3010 11th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
90018, (818) 635-6766

Update the Useful Phone Numbers (in the back) with New/Correct Information:

Bureau of Street Lighting 24 hour Hotline to
report streetlamp malfunctions (800) 303-LAMP or
(800) 303-5267 streetlighting@bsl.lacity.org
www.lacity.org/bsl



Through My Eyes Only WAHA's Halloween Party

By John B. Deaven

In 1997, former WAHA Board member Art Curtis persuaded my wife, Nancy, and me to start hosting the October WAHA general meeting socials. Frankly, we were an easy target. As parents, we were already elaborately decorating our 4th Avenue house for the spooky season to create wonderful memories for our children as they grow up and reflect upon their lives in Historic West Adams. Thus, for the past five Halloweens now, we have enjoyed combining WAHA's social with our own family celebration.

I started the day hanging large, homemade cardboard fruit and vegetable goblins on a clothesline between trees in our front yard to greet WAHA members. As this was happening, Programs & Events Co-Chair Greg Stegall, along with our newsletter senior writer, Michael Smith, came by to drop off the necessary beverages for the evening. One hour before the party, the doorbell rang. I thought, "Who's coming this early?" To our surprise, a beautiful Halloween plant with festive black and orange helium balloons was being delivered from the members of the WAHA Board of Directors, spearheaded by Pro-

grams & Events Co-Chair Alma Carlisle. Thank you, Alma. It was a lovely centerpiece, indeed.

The first guest to arrive was a very helpful witch, new Board member Colleen Davis, who brought all the ice for the party. Soon others started arriving, and our costume party was in full swing. Seen enjoying the many varieties of pot luck dishes were a Boy Scout (Inez Mogul), a charming cat (Adam Janeiro), Zorro (Harold Toliver), Mimi's understudy from "The Drew Carey Show" (Judy Hawkins), a veiled witch (Audrey Arlington), a faceless gentleman (Ben Davis), an Asian beauty (Catherine Barrier), a Trojan (Clay deLeon), a cowgirl (Lidiya Bekker), Inspector Clouseau (Gal Cutlup), and a loving new mother (Sally Rafowicz).

Our costume contest had some good creative entries. For the 2nd year in a row, 1st Place in the Adult Division went to WAHA's Mitzi March Mogul! She was a geisha this year, both in costume and in character, as she acted the part all evening. Congratulations, Mitzi. 2nd Place went to WAHA member Charles Rafowicz. Charles was a sleepless new father with clothes that

were mismatched and inside out. 3rd Place went to WAHA's Wilbert Hawkins. Wilbert was Dr. Seuss McDuck! All three adult winners received a gift certificate from El Cholo's restaurant on Western Avenue.

In our Youth Division, Jessica Morris won 1st Place as a lady in a balloon bubble bath tub! Logan Morris took 2nd Place as a walking bag of E.B. video games. 3rd Place went to Sterling Toliver as a gentleman ghost from the Titanic! In our Youth Division we handed out nine Honorable Mention prizes to: Evan Pleger as Darth Vader, Ian Davis as a fencing master, Joe Deaven as a ghoulish baseball player, Emmy Burke as the American eagle, Peggy Sue Deaven as a pumpkin, David Hawkins as a fighter pilot, Judith Levine as a Sergeant, Alonna Trotter as the bride of Frankenstein, and four-month-old Abraham Solomon Rafowicz as a baby lion. All 12 winners in the Youth Division received a cash prize. Our terrific judges were WAHA President Jacqueline Sharps, along with WAHA's SeElcy Caldwell and Jennifer Charnofsky. Thank you, ladies.

Providing additional fellowship and support to the evening were WAHA members Georgia Toliver, Laura Meyers, Steve and Phoebe Heywood, Kirk and Mira Honeycutt, Eike Antekelian, Fran Carraway, along with USC student Azusa Yamanaka.

A good time was had by all, as the food and drinks slowly disappeared. As a bright moon in the sky shined through our trees, we said goodnight to our final guests. The fruit and vegetable goblins outside quietly hung in the evening bidding all farewell on a brisk Autumn night.



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BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Adams Normandie Neighborhood Assn. (ANNA)

October's meeting was all about planning our November events. The membership came through with flying colors when asked to volunteer for our annual projects.

We recently received notice that our NMF grant has been funded. We will implement a six-month schedule to restore our El Paseo to be rededicated April 14, 2002.

The events of September 11 prompted us to form a Disaster Preparedness Committee. Although we have spent a good deal of time and effort preparing our community for an

Earthquake we now acknowledge that more training is needed to be prepared for other disasters. We'll be looking into training programs in the coming months.

Our November meeting was well attended due in large part to a presentation by our Paseo Project muralist and landscaper. Once standing reports and the LAPD report were given, we dove into the details of restoring the Paseo.

The discussion of the pilaster design was sent to committee, to be decided at the December meeting. The muralist design was enthusiastically accepted. Once the city signs off on it, Willie de Jesus will begin execution.

Block Club and Neighborhood News is an important and integral part of the WAHA Newsletter -- a place for us to share ideas, information, and upcoming events. To publicize future events, you must provide the information to the newsletter well in advance, no later than the first of the prior month (eg: August 1 for the September issue). To submit "News from Around the Blocks," please contact Michael S. Smith at 323/734-7725. You may also e-mail information to mikegreg@pacbell.net, or fax to 213/894-5335 (please address to Mike Smith).



A Berry, Merry Christmas

The Volunteer Association of Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar invites you to its "Berry Merry Christmas" gift shop, open November 9 through December 24, 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily.

Gift selections will include handmade needlework and decorations for the tree and home. Holiday cards, gift wrap, tags and eclectic gifts for the home and garden will be available.

Order Red, Monet or Christmas Rose Paul Ecke poinsettias now for delivery in December.

The Sherman Library and Gardens is located at 2647 E. Coast Highway, Corona del Mar. For additional information, call 949/673-2261.



ANNA member and contractor Doug Whitney intends to do the rototilling of the 600-foot walkway at the end of November.

We did a quick vote to change the schedule of the monthly ANNA Eats. We will now enjoy an evening meal together on the second Thursday after the ANNA meeting.

Before closing the evaluations for the Garage Sale and Halloween Party were read. Both surpassed previous success. The garage sale netted over 100% of the previous highest net due to the huge donation of a current daytime soap opera costume department. Our customers went away with tears in their eyes, I kid you not.

The Halloween Party was attended by 150 kids and 25 adults. This is about 50 more than earlier years. We intend to expand the party activities next year in anticipation of an even larger crowd.

Assemblyman Rod Wright again assigned four turkeys to ANNA. We identified four needy families in the community who received them a week before Thanksgiving.

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A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

Leaving Milwaukee and taking the train to my Grandfather's farm "Up North" was always an adventure. During WWII the trains were packed with soldiers and sailors, exciting for a boy of 8 when they talked to me, and depressing for a boy of 9 who had to sit on his suitcase in the spaces between the cars with the wind howling and snow seeping in for four hours when there were no seats or standing room in the cars.

But then, the FARM, or to be precise, a series of farms, filled, where relatives (adults) and cousins (kids) were waiting. The fields were covered with two feet of snow, the kids were covered with red cheeks and runny noses from hours of tobogganing on near-by hills interspersed with trips to a barn where accommodating dairy cows shared their body heat with us. Let's see.... Norton and Delores had no hills at their farm, but they had four cousins and a great pine forest and a killer hay mow to romp in. Carl and Eileen had the hills and the toboggan, three cousins and a big sack of local hickory nuts from their trees. Blanche and Melvin, also with three cousins lived on a big unused farm. Melvin was the International Harvester dealer in Gillet. I always felt that his brain was unused too. Grandpa and Grandma had a small pond for ice skating if one was willing to shovel off the two feet of snow first. (Norman Rockwell would have loved my family.) There was always lots to do on the farms, and lots to eat.

While the "women-folk" spent the day in the kitchen dissing the other relatives and preparing the Xmas feast, the men sat around in white shirts and ties, looking very uncomfortable while discussing corn prices, crop yields and the threat of Anthrax to their cattle (even then.) With no television there were definitely no football games to watch.

The grown-ups ate on an assortment of card tables laid end to end down the living room. Children were fed in the kitchen where spills were easier to clean up.. Before we knew it, the food was gone, holiday was over and a worn-out boy was on a train back to Milwaukee.

While a feast is over in one meal, a huge pot of left-over turkey soup strings out the holiday remembrance for a few more days.

GRANDMA'S TURKEY SOUP (with additions)

For the stock: After removing all leftover meat from the carcass, put the bones, wing tips and neck into a large stock pot. (For extra flavor, add 2 lbs of fresh turkey necks.) Cover the bones with at least 4 quarts of water, add 2 bay leaves, a sliced onion and 2 stalks of celery. Let simmer for 3 hours and strain into a stock pot, adding the meat picked off of the fresh turkey necks.

For the soup: Bring 3 quarts of stock to a rapid simmer, add 1 diced onion, 2 cups diced celery, 2 cups diced carrots. 30 minutes later add 3 diced russet potatoes, 2 tsp curry powder, 1 tsp thyme, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp black pepper, 1 lb leftover turkey diced, and 2 cups of leftover turkey stuffing, i.e.; cornbread with apples and raisins, to the pot. Simmer for 30 minutes and serve with memories of tobogganing, snow fights, the warmth of the woodstove in the kitchen, and by now your nose should have stopped running.

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Discount of between 5-10%, on the purchase of 150 square yards or more of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, and/or vinyl floor covering.

A Call to Members

If you frequent a local business -- retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. -- ask them if they would like to offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they would benefit from the increased exposure to many local consumers, and would be listed monthly in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323/733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them. -- Steve Wallis

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WOMEN'S SHELTER at Adams & Hoover needs donations: sewing machine, fabric, microwave oven, plants for garden, table cloths, arts & craft materials, games, puzzles. **TAX DEDUCTIBLE.** Please call Carole or Michele at 323/731-1408.

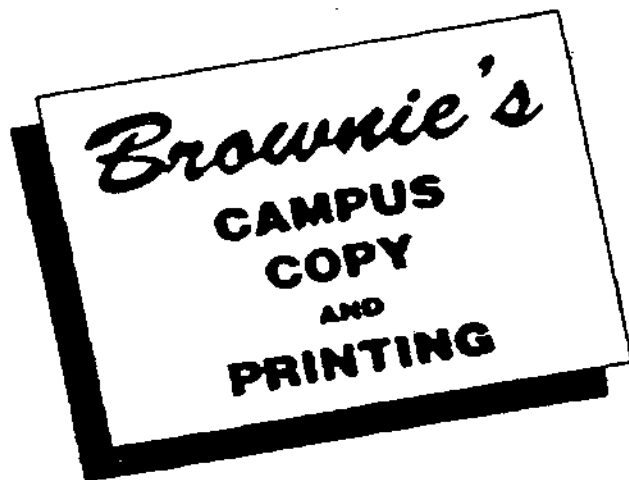
OPEN YOUR DOORS TO THE WORLD! Students attending a private English Language school on Wilshire near Mariposa are in need of room & board. These students are from Asia, Europe, & South America, mostly in their early to mid-twenties, & typically stay from two to six months. They pay \$750 per month for room, light breakfast, & supper. If you have an extra room in your house & would be interested in boarding one of these students, contact Peter Lownds at 213/386-1634.

FOR HIRE: Will stencil home interior or give instruction in stenciling. Call Mary at 323/731-9204.

FOR SALE - 500 antique doors, windows, & house fragments. Call Roland at 310/392-1056.

WOULDN'T YOU LOVE TO OWN MUGSY? He's a big (BIG -- 77 pounds), affectionate baby boy white bulldog/pit/mutt mix. Mugsy is now about 2 1/2 years old, neutered, has had shots. He really needs a great guy to hang with. Please call Laura 323/737-6146.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Lisa Schoening (tel 323/732-5108; wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.



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WAHA December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WAHA Holiday Tour
2 WAHA Holiday Tour	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Newsletter Committee	12	13	14	15
16 WAHA Holiday Party	17 Preservation Zoning/ Planning Committee	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

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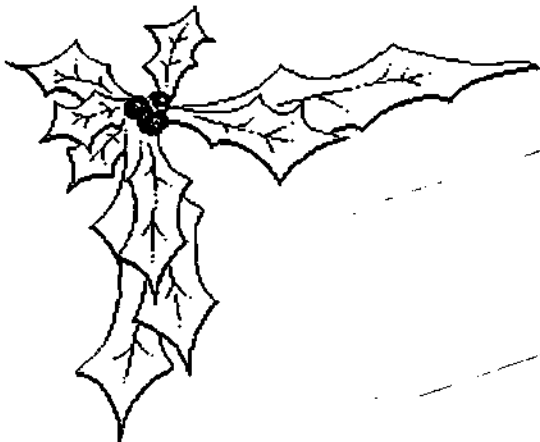
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