

"...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 178

November 2000

Monuments for the Millennium: WAHA's 14th Annual Holiday Tour/Progressive Dinner

by Michael S. Smith and Gregory A. Stegall

"Nowadays one scarcely notices the high stone gates which mark the entrances to Hobart, Harvard and Oxford Streets. At the base of the stone pillars appears the inscription 'West Adams Heights.' There was a time when these entrance ways were formidable and haughty, for they marked the way into one of the first elite residential areas of Los Angeles. In the unplanned early-day chaos of Los Angeles, West Adams Heights was obviously something very special -- approachable, but withdrawn and exclusive -- one

of the few surviving examples of planned urban elegance of the turn of the century," wrote Carry McWilliams, in "The Evolution of Sugar Hill," Script Magazine, May, 1949.

Today West Adams Heights is still something special. The past sixty years, however, have not been kind. In

This year's holiday tour will be on December 2nd and 3rd, and features seven historic residences in West Adams Heights. Tour prices are \$55 for WAHA members and \$60 for non-WAHA members. As always, the tour promises to sell out quickly (in fact, several time slots have already been pre-sold). Although Tour Volunteers may be able to preview the houses, they will not be able to drop in on the houses during tour hours. Volunteers who wish to actually partake in the sights, sounds and scents of the tour -- not to mention a delicious, seven-course meal -- are asked to purchase tickets for the day they are not working at the event.

1963 the Santa Monica Freeway cut through the heart of West Adams Heights, dividing the neighborhood, obscuring its continuity. In the 1970's the City paved over the redbrick streets and removed the ornate street lighting. After the neighborhood's zoning was changed, overzealous developers claimed several mansions for apartment buildings. Despite these challenges, however, "The Heights," as the area was once known, has managed to reclaim some of its former elegance.

Thanks to the dedication of many hard-working volunteers, the north portion of West Adams Heights is now protected, as part of the Harvard Heights Historic

Continued on page 6

Vintage Radios, Wedding Cake: What A Party!

WAHA members have a treat in store this month: they get to explore Allen and Zhenya King's three-story, 1909 home. In November of '98 Allen had an elaborate open house at this location to celebrate his first year there as its 13th house owner. Now, two years later, we will be helping Allen celebrate his third year in this huge West Adams home.

We will also be celebrating the fact that Allen got married to Zhenya this past September 24th, in the Boston, Massachusetts, area. Zhenya is from the country of Ukraine, from the City of Kiev. We need to give Zhenya a warm WAHA welcome to the United States, to California, to Los Angeles, and to Historic West Adams!

Continued on page 5

WAHA celebrates: A Belated Wedding Reception for Mr. & Mrs. Allen King

Zhenya and Allen King's
1261 S. Victoria Avenue
(north of Pico, west of Crenshaw)
Sunday, November 12
1:30 - 5 p.m.

Pot Luck Theme: Covered Dish

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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One WAHA Perspective by Judie Schoening

Supporting Gramercy Court

Some of you may be familiar with Gramercy Court Housing Group but for those of you who are not here is a brief description of what this facility is about. About four to five years this facility was opened in the building on the Northeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Washington Blvd. The building had been in disrepair and virtually abandoned save for the squatters and druggies who hung out there. Gramercy bought the building, earthquakeed it and created 16 apartments as well as office facilities and a Day Care Center. The apartments are rented to single parents with one child who are referred to the organization for help getting started. At this time these are all young women who have committed to a program which includes school and /or work, counseling, parenting classes etc.

Originally, the Day Care facility was run by another organization. But about two years ago, Gramercy decided to take over the running of this program themselves. It has taken a while to sort out all the problems involved in doing this additional licensed program but under the able direction of Susan Jaye and the team she has put together, things are now running very smoothly. There is a separate area and team for the infant group and the toddlers have both an indoor and well-landscaped outdoor area. The emphasis is on socialization skills, but the "academic" skills which are necessary for a transition to kindergarten are not neglected. Toddler team members are both male and female.

The Day Care facility now feels ready and is anxious to include neighborhood children. There are several available spaces in the Toddler (2-3-year-old) group. Care can be full or part time and a nutritious lunch is provided. They are set up to accept government subsidized day care funds. For more information, a visit and or cost of the program, contact Susan Jaye at 323/737-7351.

Any of you WAHonians out there who would like to learn more about this excellent in-our-neighborhood facility/program, please contact Aimee Neufeld, Executive Director, at the same number. An additional housing facility will be built in our neighborhood in the near future. WAHA members who are also on the Board of Gramercy Court Board are Ellen Farwell, Natalie Neith and myself, Judie Schoening. The Board is looking for new members and contributions of both time and money are most welcome!

Another Chance to Help

On November 15, the city licensing fee for unaltered dogs jumps up from \$30 to \$100, with other charges pending for unaltered outdoor cats. To help you and your neighbors in the 8th, 9th and 10th Council Districts spay and neuter your animals (and local strays), the Pet Assistance Foundation currently has a subsidy programs which substantially brings down the cost (to as low as \$10) for the operation PLUS a first round of shots at Animal Birth Control. Call 323/754-7880. If you have a low income neighbor who may benefit from this program, please pass this information to them -- or make the call for them, to help prevent more unwanted animals in West Adams and Los Angeles as a whole.

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**Fred Sands
ESTATES**


**AT THANKSGIVING AND
ALL YEAR ROUND WE ARE
THANKFUL FOR ALL OUR
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Rick Appling
Terry Bible
Doug Borghi
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Leo Chinovsky
Jean Crupper
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Dan Gaby & Carlos Zamora
Maggi Giascosie & Craig Fajnor
Randy Guzman
Jerri & Brendan Heffernan
Alice McHugh
Sue Milan & Polly Parsons
Teri Okita
Dominic Polifrone & T. Lavallo
Tom Reid
Lynda Reiss
Betty & Loren Smith
Carla & Orlando Sotelo
Bob Squires & Bill West
Susan & Tres Tanner
Mary Wright

**AND TO EVERYONE WHO
REFERRED CLIENTS TO US—
THANK YOU!!!!**

**THANKS also to everyone who
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Kudos to a Special WAHA Member:

Norma Latimer
2639 Van Buren Place
HISTORIC WEST ADAMS
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Dear Norma,

The West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) would like to extend an official thank you for your efforts in preserving and enhancing the West Adams neighborhood and present you with the WAHA Good Neighbor Award.

A hearty congratulations is in order for your determined, single-handed efforts in pulling the **Historic West Adams** neighborhood signage project to a successful conclusion. The signs proudly proclaim our presence and have been a topic of conversation among neighbors and friends since they started to appear on and around the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10). We recognize the amount of time involved in this accomplishment and thank you for your efforts in support of our neighborhood.

As a small token of our appreciation, we are implementing a WAHA Membership for you through the 2000-2001 membership year. Again, thank you for your support of the West Adams neighborhood and the cultural heritage of Los Angeles at large. Efforts such as yours really are making a daily improvement in our community.

Sincerely,

The WAHA Board of Directors

And, Kudos to All of Us:

To the Members of WAHA and Michele McDonough,

What great people you are to keep on working to save my grandfather's unique home! Thank you so much for your continuing support. My uncle Reg died about 11/2 years ago. His son lives in Los Ojos and we are both happy to see the progress. Incidentally, Grandpa Joe died of pernicious anemia for which there was no cure in those days. If I can help in any way, please let me know. If there is anything I can do, I'll be happy to.

Once again, thanks for your help and your faith in the preservation of South Seas House.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dupuy Hammer

***You're Invited....To the Annual Autumn Reception
at the Deaven Residence to salute
Joe Deaven's 11th birthday.***

***Saturday, November 18 6 - 10 p.m.
2410 4th Avenue RSVP 323/737-7761***

Through My Eyes Only

Reflections On Our Cemetery Tour

By John B. Deaven

As in '98 and '99, I spent the day at this year's Cemetery Tour at the sign-in booth, next to the cemetery's chapel, under the protection of a large Angelus-Rosedale tent. However, this year I had a new partner, fellow WAHA Board Member Alma Carlisle, who was fun to be with for the entire morning and afternoon. Alma gave out the tickets, and I gave out the attractive glossy programs. Alma checked off the names on the list, and she gave me all of the listless people who had a "sob story," as we called it.

Tom Gracyk and Rina Rubenstein were nearby at the chapel entrance, collecting the tickets. Steve Heywood started the morning tours with a lecture inside the chapel, and Julian Montalbano, who portrayed composer Andy Razaf (1895-1973) in '99, gave the same lecture in the afternoon.

This year there were nine tours, starting at 9 A.M. There were two tour guides per group, 18 guides total. Cat Slater and Rory Cunningham definitely were the best-dressed guides. Cat was, once again, the mourning widow, complete with a period dress, black hat, veil, and parasol. Rory was a Victorian vicar in period top hat and tails. They made a perfect pair on the 10 o'clock tour. Rounding out the AM guides were Judie and Alan Schoening, Lyn Gillson, David Saffer, John Kurtz, Mae Lumalang, Ron Jarman, Jennifer Cunningham, Greg Stegall, and Michael Smith. Then we had a delicious Subway lunch in the "pre-need" building behind the chapel. The PM guides were Paul and Paula Brynen, Anna Marie Brooks (also in a wonderful veil), Elaine Friedrich, Ken Catbagan, and myself. Yes, this year I asked our very efficient Organizing Committee, Audrey Arlington, Don Lynch, and Corinne Pleger, if I could conduct a tour, and Ken and I did the last group.

The last tour of the day is always good, I feel. The actors, after eight

performances, were well rehearsed, and gave a lovely and lengthy grand finale. This year the acting was award winning. Former WAHA Board Member Harold Toliver was charming as Boxing Hall of Famer Henry Armstrong (1912-1988). Real estate agent Natalie Neith did a lovely job bringing wealthy Nellie Durfee (1876-1976) to life. Yes, I knew that the third performer was Joe Bergin, a WAHA member who's also a professional soccer player. However, he sure seemed like Chicago Cubs' first baseman Frank Chance (1877-1924) with his stories about the early Cubs, Yankees, and Boston Red Sox. WAHA member Leslie Evans, who can be soft-spoken at our monthly functions, totally came to life as the colorful and amusing Pacific Northwest adventurer Daniel J. Harris (1826-1890). Ending the tour, Warren Brakensiek was the one-arm Henry C. Wyatt (1849-1910), once the premier manager of the theater circuit throughout Southern California. At his gravesite Sarah Henderson sang a beautiful operatic aria. After the tour, we all shared wonderful laughter with Fran Carraway at the WAHA T-shirt booth. She is definitely one of our group's most willing volunteers.

Recently historian Joe Ryan, who started these cemetery tours in 1989, won the Bob Bortfeld Award, WAHA's highest honor. Joe was in our last tour group this year, and I asked Joe to show me the exact location of the final resting-place of the late Bob Bortfeld, which he kindly did. Unfortunately, I never had the privilege to meet Mr. Bortfeld. He passed away on December 28, 1986, and his date of interment at Rosedale was January 3, 1987. My wife, Nancy, and I moved into West Adams in June '87. However, in the past when I individually interviewed Suzanne Henderson, Dave Raposa, Kathleen Salisbury, and Mitzi March Mogul for this column, each told me such warm and touching stories



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**F Fred Sands
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Celebrate the Kings' Wedding Continued from page 1

Also available for the WAHA guests to examine will be Allen's old radio collection. Allen owns 27 enormous, old-fashioned radios. All are dark brown wood and very ornate. All are wonderfully nostalgic. Nowhere else in West Adams will one see so many old floor model radios together in one place. The brand names are many, some familiar and some not. Allen owns six Zeniths, with their large circular dial. Allen also has four Philcos; three RCA Victors, three Silvertones; and two Stromberg Carlsons, one of the earlier names in radio history. Other brands include General Electric, Truetone, Grundig Majestic, Airline, Grunow, and Coronado. Allen confesses that he simply loves this particular time in 20th Century history. He admits that he is charmed by the technology of the vacuum tube mixed with the class and character of the old wood designs.

Allen also has a passion for old telephones. He has one in every room of the house, and one can call from one room to another!

However, now that Zhenya has entered Allen's life, will Mr. King have any extra time for old radios and telephones? Time will tell! Meanwhile, come join other WAHA members to celebrate Allen and Zhenya's new life together. Come have a piece of the WAHA wedding cake that Nancy Deaven is baking for the event, and come toast WAHA's newest couple.

PETS

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Through My Eyes Only Continued from page 4

about Bortfeld's drive to preserve the old houses of West Adams that I do regret not having met this gentleman who helped launch our very own West Adams Heritage Association.

On his flat-to-the-ground marker is an engraving of his West Adams residence, 2299 W. 20th Street. It is now the current home of WAHA's Peggy King, and during lunch at the cemetery Peggy told me an intriguing story which I would like to share. She, too, never got to meet Bob face-to-face. Yet, they were once "one floor apart" from each other. While she was looking at his house with Realtor Dave Raposa, she was asked not to go upstairs, for Bob was up there, and, at that point, very ill. I admit, I have always assumed, until now, that they knew each other since Peggy resides in the house he loved. Also engraved on his marker, besides his formal name of Robert Otto Bortfeld (1950-1986), are these words, "He was irrepressible, irresistible, outrageous. And we loved him. His spirit and memory live on in the hearts and homes of Historic West Adams."

I started the tour day with a white carnation in my lapel, and I left it behind on his flowerless grave. I made a point to remember how to get back to his gravesite, using double rows of palm trees as my starting marker. I took one last look at the white carnation on his marker from a distance, just when Lauren Schlau, a former WAHA President, came along offering me a ride back to my car in her Toyota pick-up. I ended up joining Lauren and the others at the volunteers' "thank you" party at the fabulous house of Robert Leary at 2171 W. 24th Street. It is truly stunning, inside and out. Yes, indeed, the education and preservation of West Adams cultural and architectural heritage still continues to this day, Bob.



Garden Calendar

Things to do in November

Frost is possible...start of rainy season. Fall color is at its peak.

PLANT

* Transplant deciduous trees, shrubs, and roses (after leaves fall). Select landscape trees now while in fall color.

CHORES AND MAINTENANCE

* Prune and cut back newly planted and transplanted plants to compensate for root loss

* Prune Perennials back to 2 to 3 inches, except for ornamental grasses, which add winter interest.

* Fertilize strawberry plants and winter vegetables

* Overseed warm-season grasses with annual rye for winter color; continue to seed cool-season lawns.

-- Courtesy The Garden Calendar
Fulcrum Publishing
www.fulcrum-gardening.com

Resources

by Judie Schoening

First of all, I would like to mention that the email address published in the new directory is more complicated than you need to use. Schoening@mediaone.net is all you need. I do want to hear from you!! Any comments about using some of the listed Resources, new discoveries, helpful hints from you is what this column is about. By the way, we are very happy with having our email/Internet on cable. Instant response, not 'dialing up' no being cut off in the middle of looking something up.

Pat Cross called me to let me know that Dror Flooring does not want to do small jobs so you should call them only for larger (whole house?) projects.

Lana Soroko and I had a long conversation regarding termite work. She had called a major company for an estimate on the rental they own on Cambridge. This company gave her a written estimate, listing all of the work that they said should be done and a price of over \$2,000. Since they must do quite a bit of other work on this house at this time, this fell into the WOW! category. She then called Chance

Exterminators whom she had used several years ago. Without showing Marty Chance the previous estimate, she asked him to evaluate what was needed. His estimate came to around \$1,000. Lana then gave him the first written estimate and asked him what was on it that he had not accounted for and asked him how much more it would cost to cover all items. Marty said that these items were exactly what he had already included in the work he planned to do on the house! There are lessons here. One: shop around. Two: sometimes the smaller outfit can do the job for less simply because they have less personnel and no franchise fees and Three: get it on paper so that you are not comparing apples to oranges.

Correction: Boulevard Vacuum and Sewing Co is at 5086 W. Pico Bl. L.A. 90019.

Don't forget — this is your column and I need your input. It is best to call on my business phone if you are asking for a referral as I have the computer in the room next to that phone.

PEST CONTROL

Chance Exterminators
2344 Lomita Blvd.
Lomita CA 90717
310-534-1677
Contact: Marty Chance

Monuments for the Millennium

Continued from page 1

Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). This historic designation became official on September 19, 2000, and signals a significant change in City policies, as well as public perception. The surviving homes of West Adams Heights will now be preserved, and serve as reminders of a bygone era and as monuments for the next millennium.

THE TOUR

For these reasons, and the willingness of residents to open their homes, the West Adams Heritage Association selected this neighborhood to host its fourteenth annual holiday tour and progressive dinner. The tour features seven historic residences built between 1902 and 1912. These houses are beautiful examples of upscale, turn-of-the-century architecture, designed by some of Los Angeles' most notable architects of the time, and representing the eclectic tastes of the early residents. Also included in the tour is a small, but highly-detailed, Spanish-Colonial Revival church, built in 1941.

WEST ADAMS HEIGHTS

The West Adams Heights tract was laid out in 1902, in what was then a wheat field, on the Western edge of town. Even though the freeway creates an artificial barrier, the neighborhood boundaries are Adams Boulevard, La Salle Avenue, Washington Boulevard, and Western Avenue. Improvements, such as 75-foot wide, contoured boulevards lined with palm trees, deep setbacks, ornate street lighting, and large granite monuments with red-brass electroliers, were integrated into the development, to ensure the tract would be an enclave for the elite.

One early real estate ad characterized the neighborhood by saying: "West Adams Heights needs no introduction to the public: it is already recognized as being far superior to any other tract. Its high and slightly location, its beautiful view of the city and mountains make it a property unequalled by any other in the city."

The Heights attracted many

Continued on next page

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Monuments for the Millennium Continued from page 6

prestigious Los Angelinos, such as: Frederick Hastings Ridge, owner of Rancho Malibu and once known as the richest man in Southern California; George Ira Cochran, President of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company; Thomas E. Gibbon, an oil tycoon, a promoter of the Port of Los Angeles, and editor of the Los Angeles Herald; Senator John P. Jones, founder of the cities of Santa Monica and Sawtelle; William E. Sawtelle, a banker, who donated the land for the Sawtelle Soldier's Home; Maurice Hellman, Founder of The Security Trust and Savings Bank (known later as the Security Pacific Bank); Stoddard Jess, who was hailed as the father of banking in Los Angeles; Henry E. Graves, a partner of the law firm Graves and O'Melvany; James Cuzner, of the Kerckhoff-Cuzner Mill and Lumber Company; Major Charles H. Howland, a retired Civil War officer and director of the Broadway Bank; Robert P. Sherman, the son of General Moses Sherman; and architect William A. G. Munsell, of the firm Hudson and Munsell.

The early residents of West Adams Heights were

Continued on page 8

Preservation Begins At Home



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For Sale:

* 1269 S. Victoria - Transitional Victorian, many upgrades, 4 BR, 1.5 BA, turret, den, sunroom. \$349,000

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Sold:

* 1919 S. Harvard Blvd. - 5 + 4 Craftsman designed by noted architects Heineman and Heineman. Welcome, Stan Huey and Lanita Jacobs Huey!

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

WAHA Directory Delivered, And Now the Updates Begin!

by John Kurtz, Membership Chair

One of the benefits of a current WAHA Membership is a listing of other WAHA members, which is helpful in keeping neighbors' phone numbers and addresses handy. Listing in the WAHA directory is done on a consent basis and the directory is published every year in September or October. The 2K compliant directory was delivered to members with the October newsletter.

Additional copies can be obtained for a nominal cost (to cover printing and mailing) by contacting me. So if you want a copy for the office or the upstairs den, here is your chance.

After we had gone to print, mistakes were discovered in the text (of course you only discover these after you go to print) and additional new members joined (yee!!!) so if you want your directory to reflect the latest information make these changes:

Correct the following addresses and phone numbers:

Lisa Berns, 1666 W. 25th Street Los Angeles, CA 90007, (323) 733-1908

Alan and Judie Schoening, change the email address to: schoening@mediaone.net
(Sorry about that, Lisa, Alan and Judie)

Add (and welcome) the following new members:

Evangela Anderson, 2511 3rd Avenue, LA 90018, (323) 733-5675

Herman Debose, 2143 W. 20th Street, LA 90018

Dr. Linda Fazio
USC-Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 133, LA 90033
(323) 442-2878 FAX (323) 442-1540
fazio@hsc.usc.edu

Mark & Tina Fuller, 2104 West Boulevard, LA 90016-1724, (323) 931-2340

Daniel Gaby & Carlos Zamora, 2159 W. 20th Street, LA 90018, (323) 737-7021

Monuments for the Millennium Continued from page 7

required to sign a detailed restrictive covenant. This document required property owners to build a "first-class residence," of at least two stories, costing no less than two-thousand dollars (at a time when a respectable home could be built for less than one thousand dollars), and built no less than thirty-five feet from the property's primary boundary. Another clause, which was common in the early 20th Century America, excluded residents from selling their properties to non-Caucasians.

This last restriction led to what is probably the single-most important civil rights-related event in Los Angeles history. West Adams Heights is where the issue of covenant restrictions gained national attention.

SUGAR HILL

In 1938, Norman Houston, President of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company and an African American, purchased a house located at 2211 South Hobart Boulevard. By some fluke this property was not bound by the covenant. Legal action from eight homeowners quickly ensued, although it wasn't until 1945 that the case actually went to trial.

During the seven-year period between, other prominent African-Americans began to make The Heights their home. According to Carey McWilliams, West Adams Heights became known "far and wide as the famous Sugar Hill section of Los Angeles," and enjoyed a clear preeminence over Washington's smart Le Droit Park, St. Louis's Enright Street, West Philadelphia, Chicago's Westchester, and Harlem's fabulous Sugar Hill.

Among the neighborhood's newest residents were such notables as: Norman Houston, who not only was the President of the Golden State Life Insurance Company, but was also a cofounder of the Los Angeles Chapter of the NAACP; Hattie McDaniels, the first African-American to win an Academy Award, which she earned for her role in "Gone With the Wind;" John and Vada Summerville; prominent dentists, hoteliers, and cofounders of the Los Angeles Chapter of the NAACP; Louise Beavers, who won an Academy Award for her portrayal in *Imitation of Life*; musician Johnny Otis; and singers Pearl Bailey and Ethel Waters.

On December 6, 1945, the "Sugar Hill Cases," as they were then known, were finally heard before Judge Thurmond

Clark, in Los Angeles Superior Court. More than fifty African-American residents in West Adams Heights were in jeopardy of being forced to move from their homes. Judge Clark made history that day by becoming the first judge in America to use the 14th Amendment to disallow the enforcement of covenant restrictions. The Los Angeles Sentinel quoted Judge Clark: "This court is of the opinion that it is time that [African-Americans] are accorded, without reservations and evasions, the full rights guaranteed them under the 14th Amendment."

It wasn't until January 15, 1948, however, that the matter came before the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of *Shelley vs. Kramer*. Los Angeles attorney Loren Miller and attorney Thurgood Marshall (who would later become a Supreme Court Justice himself) successfully argued against covenant restrictions. Loren Miller happened to be the same lawyer who had defended the residents of West Adams Heights in 1945. The published opinion of the Supreme Court confirmed Judge Clark's earlier ruling, officially ending the practice of racial covenant restrictions in America.

HISTORIC WEST ADAMS

Over the last century many different kinds of people have made West Adams Heights their home, as well as the entire Historic West Adams area. People of almost every culture, color, ethnicity, politics, race, religion, and socioeconomic background have found new opportunities here. Perhaps a quote that Frederick Rindge adapted for one of his fireplace mantles best symbolizes the optimism which exists in West Adams: "California Shall be Ours as Long as the Stars Remain."

The West Adams Heritage Association has obviously endeavored to preserve our architectural heritage and educate Los Angeles' citizens of our cultural history. In doing so, WAHA has accomplished much — Historic West Adams now has more than 100 Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments, the highest concentration of cultural monuments in the city; six local historic districts designated or in the process of being designated as Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, with several more in the beginning stages of the process; another six historic districts listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; and numerous national historic monuments.

This is WAHA's fourteenth annual holiday tour, showcasing West Adams' rich architectural and cultural history. These tours teach us about the past and demonstrate how important it is that these monuments are preserved for the next millennium. Quite possibly, future generations will say that Historic West Adams is theirs "as Long as the Stars Remain."

BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



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 Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

A FINE PICKLE WE'RE IN NOW!!!

Oh my gosh! It sounded so simple! I was not even thinking of spending the nickel on "chewin' gum." Nor was I humming "pickle in the middle and the mustard on top." I just really wanted to make some Kosher Dill pickles like my Mother used to make, and not getting pickled like most of the male relatives in my dis-functional family used to do. But I understand that it has happened to me on occasion.

Anyway, there I was back into my Better Homes New Cookbook dated 1968. It alluded to the fact that one needed: 25 4" cucumbers to be packed into 6 hot sterilized quart jars. To each jar was requested: 1 clove of garlic, 2 heads of fresh dill and 1 hot red pepper. Meanwhile one was obligated to combine 1 cup of coarse Kosher salt, 3 quarts of water and 1 quart of apple cider vinegar and bring to the boil. It is possible to get 4 or 5 cucumbers into a recycled Paul Newman pasta sauce jar, then, if it's not too much trouble, fill jars with the boiling brine mixture to within 1/2" of the top. Almost as an afterthought the recipe asks one to process jars in a boiling water bath for 20 minutes. OF COURSE, I had to triple the recipe and all of the ingredients.!!!

CINCHY - NO PROBLEM - PIECE OF CAKE!!!

Wrong, Rodney. Big piece of cake!

We do own an enameled preserving pot of about 30 quarts along with wire grids and tongs for handling the jars. We eat a lot of pasta and Boy, do we have a lot of Paul Newman jars.

We stopped for the garlic at a fruit and veggie stand in Hollister last week. No earthquakes, but we also picked up 50 pounds of canning tomatoes that Judie prepared. We also stopped at the San Benito County Fair. Cotton candy, bumper cars, corn dogs, side show and lots of great 4-H Club kids washing, grooming and leading beavies of calves, sheep and goats, all hoping for the Blue Ribbon to reward their summer's efforts. We viewed canned goods, baked goods, and some dynamite hand-made quilts, all of this without the hokus-pokus that some other fairs advertise. Instead of a Rock Concert on Saturday night, they promised a tractor-pulling contest at the Grandstand. AH!! A county fair of my wasted youth.

At last we arrived home from our Northern California sales trip with a van full of raw food and empty coffee cups. WHAT NEXT? He inquired. Having gotten off cheap with the wonderful tomatoes at 50 cents a pound, as opposed to our local super markets' at \$1.99 a pound, I went hunting for the cukes. Gelson's wanted \$2 a pound, Ralph's only a dollar. At Assi Korean Market they offered 50 pounds of 4 inch cucumbers for only \$18. 36 cents a pound, such a deal. However that's not what Judie said when I lugged a 50 pound massive crate into the kitchen. O.K.! So we'll use all of Paul's jars. Next problem, cider vinegar - \$2.79 a quart at Ralph's and after three other insane price quotes, I went to Smart &

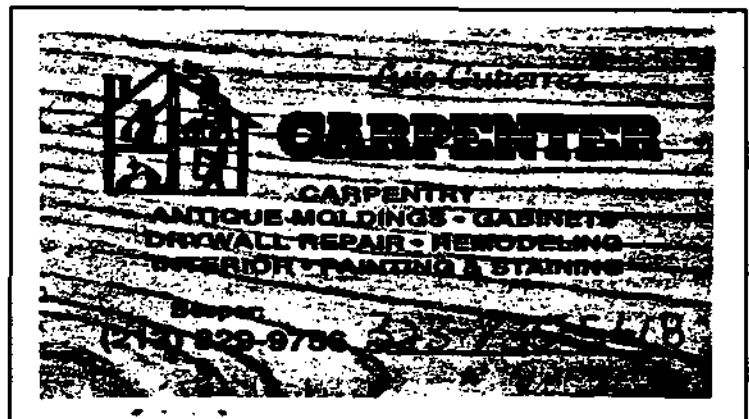
Final - \$2.99 a gallon. Heads of fresh dill posed a real problem. Do I go to Santa Monica Farmers Market and haggle like the other shoppers or do I go to Topanga Canyon and harvest wild fennel, or do I just buy several packs of fresh baby dill fronds and a jar of dill seeds. Hey, I want to get this done here!!!

Hot red peppers caused another frustration. Can you believe it? Here in L.A.?? Well, the long red skinny peppers were not in three stores I visited from Western to Mid-City to La Brea and Third. By this time the gas gauge was going down along with my energy level, and who the devil needs pickles anyway. But I knew that a 50-pound box was awaiting me along with my wife's folded arms and foot-tapping. I ended up using red jalapeno peppers sliced in half. It was more trips to several Ralph's and two Korean markets to locate great white onions, and by this time, I'm no longer counting pennies or dollars. Get this over with!!

I did end up preserving 21 quarts of gorgeous Kosher Dills. Oh, and on Sunday I made 24 pints of bread and butter pickles. The pickles, tomatoes and what is left of last year's corn relish now reside in our original California Cooler along with potatoes and onions and a little Stoly. Now, if I can make Jerky out of road-kill, we're all set for the winter.

Bon appetit!

The students, staff and faculty
of the USC Department of
Occupational Science and
Occupational Therapy
invite WAHA members to a
Holiday Celebration and Open House,
Sunday, December 10,
at the historic and newly restored
Cockins House,
2653 Hoover Blvd.,
from 2 to 6 p.m.



November - December Calendar

- 11/12 Celebrate Allen and Zhenya King's Wedding
1261 S. Victoria Avenue 1:30 - 5 p.m.
- 11/15 Zoning & Preservation Committee
at City Living Realty
23161/2 South Union, Suite 2
Contact Tom Florio 213/749-8469
- 11/30 WAHA Board Meeting
Eric Bronson hosts
323/737-1163

Save the Date!

- 12/2 - 12/3 WAHA Holiday Tour
- 12/9 WAHA's Annual Holiday and
Volunteer Thank-you Party
- 12/10 WAHA is invited - to USC's Cockins House

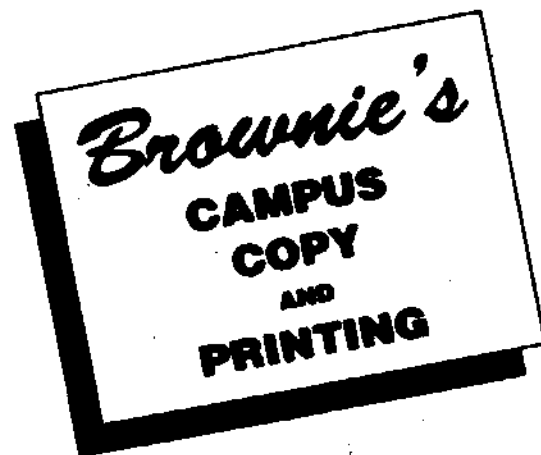
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