

"...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 176

September 2000

Who Will Be Chosen? A Rosedale Pop Quiz

The October 7, 2000 tour will be the eleventh WAHA sponsored historic personage tour of Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery. As WAHA members we expect you to have received your flyer (enclosed with your Restaurant Guide last month) and are either attending the tour or are volunteers for this always sold out tour.

We have had great fun in the past recreating the lives of historic characters. In fact those WAHA members who have been lucky enough to be asked to portray one of the residents say they have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have many tour goers remember them as specific char-

acters. So here is a quiz: Whom did these WAHA members portray?

John Kurtz
Alan Schoening
Dave Pleger
Norma Latimer
Kathleen Salisbury
Rory Cunningham
Dave & Corinne Pleger
Fran Carraway
Robert Leary
Noel Salisbury
Frank & Suzanne Cooper
Don Lynch
Nadya Mathison
Jennifer Cunningham
Peggy King
Martin Weil
Steve Heywood

Not all of our actors for the tour have been WAHA members but as you can see from the list above we have quite a crop of amateur thespians in our membership.

The only way you will know whom this year's characters are going to be is if you have volunteered or are attending. Call Audrey Arlington, Don Lynch or Corinne Pleger to volunteer. Send in your reservation form to attend. Who will be chosen next?

Answers on page 3.

A South Seas House Update

by Michele McDonough

The Board of Commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks, after listening to an enthusiastic presentation from departmental staff, formally authorized a personal services contract for architectural services to prepare drawings for the restoration of the South Seas House. There was a brief discussion following the staff presentation. One member felt it was a great deal of money while another

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WAHA's September Event "Picture Historic West Adams"

Local historian Marc Wanamaker of Bison Archives and Raleigh Studios will present a "pictorial history of West Adams" at the Dr. Harold Smith Residence, designed by architects Arthur and Alfred Heineman in 1911. Now owned by Board member Clayton de Leon, this beautiful Arts & Crafts residence is considered to be "Ultimate High Bungalow" style. The Heineman brothers were well-respected architects, with their work stretching from Pasadena to Palm Springs, to Ojai, where they built the first "Mo-tel" (the brothers held the copyright on the word for decades). Arts & Crafts homes designed by the Heinemans usually had innovative construction ideas and stylistic kick: in this house, the large back-to-back fireplaces in the living room and sun room, the entry stair, and especially the use of blond wood are unique.

Saturday, September 16

7 p.m.

At the home of Clayton de Leon

2523 4th Avenue

(near Adams)

Potluck: Appetizers

If you'd like to volunteer, call Greg Stegall (323/734-7725) or Alma Carlisle (323/737-2060)

**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

The National Trust Showcases Los Angeles

As you may know, WAHA is displaying its strengths at the upcoming National Preservation Conference 2000, "Saving America's Treasures in the 21st Century," scheduled for October 31 - November 5 right here in downtown Los Angeles at the Biltmore Hotel and other nearby hostels.

"Despite having its worldwide reputation as a 'city of the future,' Los Angeles also has a rich and fascinating past that is embodied in a collection of historic buildings, vibrant older neighborhoods, and multicultural diversity unmatched anywhere," says Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "And it has a dedicated, effective community of preservationists who are eager to showcase their city — and their preservation successes — for us."

WAHA is showcasing the "Homes of Historic West Adams" on Thursday, November 2. Tourgoers will learn about one of the largest stocks of turn-of-the-20th-century architecture west of the Mississippi, and will visit homes on Van Buren Place, 4th Avenue and Manhattan Place, as well as the Durfee Mansion. (You may have already volunteered to help, or perhaps will receive a phone call soon. We are still in need of house docents, among other tasks. Call Linda Scribner or Anna Marie Brooks for more information.)

But our own tour is only a small part of the conference. There are many other tours and field sessions, not to mention dozens of educational panels and discussions on specific topics under broad categories ranging from advocacy to commercial district revitalization, from design issues to growth management, from heritage tourism to neighborhood conservation.

Plus, there are social activities, including an Opening Reception at the Japanese American National Museum and a Preservation Action Auction and Reception at the Fred Harvey Restaurant in Los Angeles Union Station, designed to help preservationists meet and network with each other. West Adams Heritage Association and other organizations will also have booths in a reception hall to provide additional information about preservation issues and concerns to conference attendees.

"We expect this to be one of our biggest conferences ever, with nearly 2,500 preservationists in attendance," says Moe. "I hope you'll be among them."

WAHA encourages its members to attend the conference, and as Los Angeles residents it's possible for you to register either for the whole conference, or for daily events. You must register for the conference in order to purchase the separate event tickets.

Prices for the tours and field sessions range generally from \$15 to \$45, depending on the activity. The various luncheons, breakfasts and evening receptions/events cost between \$15 and \$60. Daily registration for local residents is \$95 (except Wednesday, November 1, when the price is \$130); the regular full conference registration rate is \$330, if you register now. **IMPORTANT: To utilize these rates, which are lower than the on-site price, you must register and pay no later than September 30.** After September 30, the conference rate is \$445, and the daily rate jumps to \$135 (\$165 on Wednesday).

To request a registration form, call 800/944-6847, or e-mail conference@nthp.org, or log onto the website www.nationaltrust.org

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Community Calendar

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m.

September

- 9/13 Community Outreach
Jacqueline Sharp's home
2229 S. Gramercy Place
323/766-8842
- 9/16 Organize WAHA's stuff
Greg Stegall's House
1915 S. Oxford
2 p.m.
WAHA barbeques, you shelve
- 9/16 WAHA General Meeting
Historic West Adams Photos
Clayton de Leon's House
2523 4th Avenue
7 p.m.
Potluck: Appetizers
- 9/19 Newsletter Committee
call John Deaven for location
323/737-7761
- 9/20 Zoning & Preservation Committee
at City Living Realty
23161/2 South Union, Suite 2
Contact Tom Florio 213/749-8469
- 9/28 WAHA Board Meeting
Anna Marie Brooks hosts
323/735-3960

A WAHA Special Event: An Evening at Olvera Street

Come join us for margaritas and a delicious Mexican dinner and a walking tour, and a shopping opportunity on L.A.'s most historic street! A special dinner (no-host) with a no-host bar is planned at La Golondrina (The Swallow) Mexican Cafe, 17 Olvera Street, in El Pueblo de Los Angeles (the birthplace of Los Angeles).

Saturday, October 14

5 p.m.

Where to meet: Park on 1700 S. block of Bronson

How: We'll meet you at Linda Scribner's, 1749 S. Bronson Ave., at 5 p.m., and go by special bus to Olvera Street (yes, you can safely drink the margaritas!), and later return to Linda's by bus. We will have plenty of time to stroll along this historic street, tour the Avila Adobe, and see other historic buildings. Then comes dinner with our neighbors at La Golondrina.

RSVP: Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

Plea to Members: Bring Us Our Dishes

WAHA is missing serving spoons, trays, t-shirts, paper goods, and well -- a whole bunch of stuff.

If you have any WAHA property, please, please bring them to Michael Smith and Greg Stegall's home, 1915 S. Oxford. They've agreed to "house" WAHA's items.

On Saturday, September 16, WAHA members will be going to Greg and Michael's to sort, organize and inventory the items, and to put up shelves in their garage. If you'd like to help, just show up at 2 p.m. (We plan to provide a barbeque lunch for our helpers.)

Dear WAHA,

I'm a new member. I would like to know if there are any stamp collectors in our neighborhood organization? If you collect stamps, would you please contact me at 323/735-8311. I'm new to stamp collecting, and was told to join a club for help. I hope there are stamp collectors in West Adams Heritage, or perhaps you know of someone. Thank you very much.

Corenne Dixon

Answers to Cemetery Tour Quiz:

John T. Bradbury, 2. Arthur C. Harper, Remi Nadeau, 3. Genil Roscrans, 4. Minnie Wilson, 5. Mary Andrews Clark, 6. Walter Clark, 7. George & Clara Shatto 8. Hattie McDaniels, Bessie Burke, 9. George Sturdivant, 10. Jean Louis Sainsevain, 11. Czar Nicolas II & Czarina Alezandra, 12. Horace Bell, 13. Maria Rasputin, 14. Madame Cora Phillips, 15. Eliza Donner, 16. Sumner Hunt, 17. Alfred Eric Campbell

Through My Eyes Only

I definitely remember the first time I met Jean Cade. For the 1997 Holiday Tour, my wife, Nancy, and I, along with our children, Peggy Sue and Joe, volunteered to work in the kitchen of Fran Carraway's "Salad House," a unique 1959 home on Gramercy Park. Jean was the Kitchen Captain for her first time, and she gave us a quick lesson on assembling 35 salads at one time! A year later, we returned to the 1998 Holiday "Salad House," a 1911 Tudor residence on Westchester Place. Jean Cade was the Kitchen Captain again. Nevertheless, three is the charm, and we all did it again under Jean's guidance for the 1999 Holiday "Salad House" at a graceful Spanish Colonial Revival residence on Wellington Road. That's when Nancy said to me, "Why don't you do an article on Jean Cade?" I said that I probably would, eventually! On July 4th of this year, I strongly felt that, yes, the WAHA membership needs to take note of this marvelous woman. "Eventually" is now!

Jean was born in Louisiana. When she was in the 8th Grade, her mother moved across the United States with Jean and her five sisters in 1957 to California. As Jean said to me, "It was part of the 1950's migration for a better life."

Jean married her husband, Paul, a native of Mississippi, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They lived at 1722 S. Victoria, in Lafayette Square, west of Crenshaw Blvd., here in L.A., for 25 years. In 1994 they moved to their current residence, just down the street, at 1821 S. Victoria. I asked Jean if she is friendly with the people in her old house. She had a good laugh over that question because her mother and two sisters now reside at her old property.

For the 1994 Holiday Tour, Jean's current home was featured. It was also around that time that Jean became active in WAHA.

Jean's current home is most unique. It is an attractive painted brick house originally designed in 1926 by Emmet G. Martin for Walter T. McGinley of the McGinley Oil Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who used it as a winter home. The mansion was remodeled in 1939 under the direction of architect Paul Williams for son Charles E. McGinley to create its present Regency Revival look.

My first look at Jean's house was during the 1998 WAHA 4th of July picnic. The beautiful floating circular stairs were added in 1939, along with about 3,000 more square feet, bringing it to a total of around 7,000 sq. ft. There are now five bedrooms upstairs. The house has a huge living room with its original fireplace and crown moldings. Stunning floor-to-ceiling windows are throughout the entire downstairs.

Walter T. McGinley was friends with Joseph Kennedy, who visited the house several times. Walter was the godfather to Joseph's son Robert. And it was in this very house where Robert Kennedy spent his last night and partook of his last meal before going to L.A.'s Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard in 1968, where he was assassinated.

A Lady with a Heart of Gold

By John B. Deaven

The bedroom Kennedy used is separated from the other four bedrooms upstairs with its own three-step entrance and separate bathroom. One can open a closet in the house and still see the involved wiring put there by the Secret Service. Also, it was said that another sizeable closet by the front door had a chair inside of it where a Secret Service person was assigned to sit during Robert's visits.

Walter T. McGinley's grandson, who currently lives here in Southern California, has visited the house three or four times in recent years, according to Kelly, Jean's son-in-law, offering stories about the house to Jean's family. Jean and Paul, by the way, have four daughters, and six grandchildren.

I would like to now offer two strong reasons why I have been recently impressed with Jean Cade. In May 2000, I joined the WAHA Board of Directors for my first time, along with newcomers Anna Marie Brooks, Clayton de Leon, & SeElcy Caldwell. Fourteen of us were seated around a gorgeous table in the lovely Imperial Suite, high on the 11th floor, at the fabulously historical Biltmore Hotel in downtown L.A. for the new Boards kick-off Retreat. We were laughing and enjoying the delicious coffee & pastries avail-

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In the Garden: Orchids

by Jerome Butler

When I got the assignment to interview Ken Catbagan about his extensive orchid collection I first realized that I had a very limited view of the flower and its place in the home and garden. I did know that orchids were the "pretty" flowers often used in corsages and were supposed to be really hard to grow. Okay — so I had to admit I knew nothing about Orchids.

A little research taught me that orchids have been around for centuries, symbolizing love, luxury, and beauty. References to orchids in Chinese manuscripts date back to the time of Confucius. The Greeks looked at them as a symbol of virility. In fact, "Orkhis" is the Greek word for testicles.

I met with Ken in his office at Fred Sands Realty a couple of days before he was to embark on an Alaskan cruise and we spoke about this often misunderstood and elegant flower.

"I was born in Chicago and raised in the Phoenix and San Francisco areas," Ken said, as we sat at his desk surrounded by potted orchids. "I never thought I had a green thumb until I bought this house I've got now on 20th Street. I don't know how I got involved with orchids but I just thought they were a very beautiful and interesting flower and I decided to try my hand at it. I destroyed a lot of them, and spent a lot of money." Ken went on to explain that even though orchid plants can be fairly expensive, comparing them to buying a fifty dollar bouquet that will last less than a week helps put things in perspective. "You can get an orchid that will bloom for a month or two and will stay in bloom," he stated. According to Ken you can even cut it back and force a new bloom out of it for another two or three months. Unless it's a rare species expect to pay about 40 or 50 dollars for your average orchid plant.

But as with many other areas in our lives technology has helped the ambitious gardener by creating hearty, inexpensive hybrids. "Some hybrids you can get as low as 15 dollars," Ken revealed. "They've taken the best parts of the different species and put them together and come up some very hearty and beautiful looking plants. The popular ones are getting more and more popular all the time, more people are growing them, and you're seeing them in nurseries all over."

Walking around the office Ken pointed out the structural elements that make up an orchid. "Because there are more than 25,000 species, over 700 different genera or families, and an infinite number of hybrids and mixtures it can be hard to see that all orchids are designed basically the same way." Ken went on to explain that orchids have three outer petals called sepals and three inner petals. One of these inner petals is transformed into a unique structure called the labellum or lip. This middle petal is always quite different

from the other two inner petals. This lip acts as a landing pad for birds and insects pollinating the plant.

Another unique attribute of orchids is that they come from all over the world including the Polar Regions. "The only place they don't do well," Ken related, "is in the desert. Most orchids are epiphytes, meaning that they grow above the ground, usually upon some other surface and they cling to it." Because many potted orchids are grown in loose media such as bark they are often thought to be parasites. Not so, says Ken. "They grow on trunks of trees, up in the branches, that sort of thing, but they do not take any energy or any food from the tree itself. They are totally self sufficient in that regard. They just cling there and use that as a support. There are about 100 or so genera that are terrestrial,

Continued on page 10





Garden Calendar

Things to do in September

In most of the country, September is the mellow beginning of autumn, but for Southern California gardeners it can be the hottest month. So water away, but also begin to plant perennials and spring bulbs as the temperature cools.

PLANT

- * True lilies (never allow them to dry out)
- * and transplant South African bulbs
- * Lift and separate gladiolas, dusting with fungicide before replanting
- * Other good bulbs to plant now include anemone, crocus, daffodil, Dutch iris, and leuconjum
- * Select hyacinths and tulips at nurseries or in catalogs now, but they need 12-16 weeks of cooling in your refrigerator before planting
- * And sow sweetpeas
- * As temperatures cool, plant perennials such as campanula, dianthus, foxglove, Mexican evening primrose, salvia and yarrow.

* The best time to plant strawberries is late summer or early fall, in a light, well-drained soil.

CHORES AND MAINTENANCE

- * Start preparing new beds for planting, amending with organic material — allowing time for the organic material to finish rotting down before planting
- * Shred and compost all dead herbaceous and woody material
- * Think about over-seeding your summer lawn with winter rye or other cool-season grass

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

Resources

by Judie Schoening

Since we published the new Guide, there have been a number of changes AND several of you have contacted me about using some of these resources as well as adding some new ones. We personally used Daily Heating when our furnace blew up and had to be replaced. (Thank you, State Farm). We were very pleased with the work and the adjuster did not require any additional quotes especially when I explained that this company had, over several years, done quite a bit of work on the older houses in this neighborhood. At the same time, we had Pacific Air Duct clean the upstairs duct

work. We look forward to using a new high efficiency system next winter (of course the new furnace went in just in time for our heat wave!) Another must do project was the roof which was done by Fernando Palacios. We can't say enough good things about this excellent contractor. By the way, he took away 8 tons of old roof and says that the house will be much more earthquake-stable without all that weight. We also installed insulation and that has made a big difference this summer. He recommended Ambrosio Luna to do the down spouts. Ambrosio installed ready to paint (that's the next job) gutters efficiently and reasonably and came when he said he would! He also does copper gutters. He works for a sheet metal person on Washington but does this on his own time. Fernando Palacios was also recommended by Diana Weihs who had

some patching done on her roof and referred him to a friend. She tells me everyone is really happy with his work. Diana also used Sunshine Glass for some stained glass work and was very happy with them.

Diana has also recommended Safe-Way Sandblasting Co. who did an excellent job for them on their brick. She told me that A-1 Glass has gone out of business and their phone calls have truly annoyed someone else so please don't call there. She was able to find a new resource for screens: Fred's Curb Hardware on Melrose near Normandie. She has recently had an antique chair reupholstered at Felix Custom Upholstery and was very pleased with the results. Paul Mohilef recommends Santa Fe Wrecking which is in the Guide already but do you know they have a website? See below.

Something very interesting occurred because of a returned envelope. Paul McGrath Contracting Company has bought out Richard White Foundations. I called because I feel we cannot just include resources unless they are recommended by a member. Apparently Paul had been working for the company for some time before the buy-out. At their suggestion, they sent me a packet about foundations. This is so informative!! It tells you what a foundations inspector should be looking for as well as supplying a checklist, what the codes are, what the disclosure requirements are. Any of you contemplating foundation work and/or buying or selling one of our old houses, should contact them. I am sure they would be happy to send you this packet. AND if any of you decide to have them inspect or do any work for you, please let me know the results.

Finally some of you might be interested in becoming a member of the League of California Homeowners at 99 C Street #209, Upland CA 91786 They put out a very interesting newsletter. I will discuss some of the information I have gotten through their newsletter in next month's issue. Please do send your suggestions for this column: FAX 323/733-3541 or

Continued on next page

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).

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Los Angeles, CA 90036

Resources

Continued from page 6

even better, my new e-mail: schoening@mediaone.net

NEW LISTINGS

SANDBLASTING (new category)
Safe-Way Sandblasting Co.
9450 W. Jefferson Blvd.
323/970-6188

SCREENS

Fred's Curb Hardware Inc.
4583 Melrose Avenue
LA 90029
323/663-7232 or 323/663-1373
Contact: Lane

UPHOLSTERY

Felix Custom Upholstery
7317 Santa Monica Bl.
W. Hollywood CA 90046
323/876-3580 FAX: 323/876-3058
Contact Rosemary or Tony

METALWORKING

Ambrosio Luna
5138 Ithaca Ave
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Pager: 323/242-2877

FOUNDATIONS

Paul McGrath Contracting Inc.
16350 Ventura Blvd. #330
Encino CA 914436
Ph: 800/600-1633 FAX: 818/981-1864

Resource Guide Update

Out of Business

Classic Frame
A-1 Glass & Mirror
Brothers Roofing

Address Changes

For most these the phone number is more important to you, but make these corrections:

Classic Stove (Appliance Repair)
9501 Baird Avenue (misprint)

Bird Barrier (Bird Control)
20925 Chico St.
Carson 90746-3602

Pacific Coast Marble and Granite
14529 Keswick Street
Van Nuys 91405

Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques
(Plumbing Supply)

The address in the Guide is Warehouse but you MUST have an appointment to go there.

Mailing: 9645 Sylvia Ave. Northridge 91324
Do add and check out the web-site:
www.vintageplumbing.com

Davidson Plumbing
1116 West 24 Street (another misprint)

Salinas Tree Preservation
2001 Bruss Road

Always read the newsletter column for newest additions to the Resource Guide.

My NEW e-mail: schoening@mediaone.net

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*1822 S. Bronson - 3 BR, 2 BA, breakfast, sunroom. Newly restored, all new systems. Classic Craftsman! \$325,000

*The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence, L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument #479. Asking \$1,250,000

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In Escrow:

* 2114 5th Avenue - 3+1.5 renovated Craftsman

* 2233 W. 21st - 4+3 transitional in Western Heights

* 1665 S. Oxford Ave. - 4+1.5 Craftsman - Harvard Heights

Sold:

* 705 W. 23rd - Gracious duplex to be restored

* 1661 S. Oxford - Welcome Catherine Barrier and James Dugan

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The Story Behind the Story: The South Seas House

by Don Lynch

In a large area full of distinctive homes some occasionally captivate us more than others. Of no exception is the "South Seas House," which rests at the Northwest corner of 24th Street and Arlington. It appears dilapidated, crumbling, and fragile. Yet despite its apparently tenuous existence this neighborhood of preservationists and, by default if not by choice, restoration specialists has the ability to see beyond the worn roof and paint-free exterior. We see a treasure. It isn't just the unusual architecture that draws us, but a charm that seems to permeate the structure.

The original owner of the South Seas House was, like the house, distinctive. Joseph Dupuy was born in France in 1865. His parents were apparently not poor for he attended private schools in that country. While still young his family emigrated to Chicago where he was educated at LaSalle College.

After some additional schooling in New York Joseph Dupuy headed west in 1887 for Los Angeles. One wonders what prompted this young man, already in possession of unusual musical talents, to abandon the large cities of the East and Midwest with all their cultural opportunities, for the sparsely populated Los Angeles. It's possible that while progressive investors eyed the barren desert for its real estate development possibilities, Dupuy saw Southern California as a cultural wasteland, also waiting to be developed. He soon established himself as a soloist and musical director for a large number of churches covering a variety of faiths.

After five years Dupuy went "on tour" for two years as a singer. He was offered, and accepted a position as head of the Musical Department at the University of Mexico, and it was while in Albuquerque that he met and married another immigrant, English-born Ruth Jenks.

Returning to Los Angeles in 1897 Dupuy's career in music continued to flourish. He sang, conducted, directed,

and taught at various colleges, schools and organizations. He was associated with numerous musical clubs, and the Orpheus Club, which he founded, won first prize at a musical competition at the 1915 World's Fair in San Francisco. He was on the board of directors of the Los Angeles branch of the American Opera Association, and was vice president of the National Federation of Musical Clubs. He was instrumental in organizing the Ninth Biennial Convention and Festival of the National Federation of Musical Clubs. Held from June 24 to July 3, 1915, this was the largest musical event

in America at the time. If, nearly thirty years earlier, he had found Los Angeles to be a musical wasteland, he had managed to turn it around and make it, for a few days, the center of America's musical culture.

Joseph and Ruth had two sons, Leon and Reginald. The former excelled as a singer, and Reginald as a pianist. It was after Dupuy's return to Los Angeles in 1897 that he chose to build a fine home for himself and his family. The exact date is unclear, for at the time of its construction the South Seas House was outside the city limits. The County Assessor's office gives the date of construction as 1903, while a family photograph is labeled as 1901. Other estimates range as early as 1897, the year the family returned from Arizona.

What makes the house difficult to date is its unusual architecture. One is hard-pressed to find any-

thing like it in the area. The most noticeable characteristic at first is the extremely steep roof, with dormers that flare out at the base. The attic vents are also steep triangles, to match the roof line. Yet the attic is so high that one expects windows in place of the vents. Another unusual feature, and which is not easily seen as it is hidden by the wrap-around porch, is the rectangular bay on the first floor, which faces the street corner. While much of the architecture of this period was being influenced by Japanese and even Chinese

South Seas Architectural Contract Continued from page 1

opined that if the house was to be saved prompt action was critical. After being assured by the staff that the project had the enthusiastic support of Councilman Nate Holden, the Board voted its approval.

I have received a preliminary copy of the contract. There is a lengthy approval process; the contract must be reviewed by various city departments and committees. It may take as long as six months. The final contract will come from the Recreation and Parks Board.

A complete set of drawings will be prepared. The current plan is to have the work done in two phases. The first phase will cover lead and asbestos abatement, foundation replacement and seismic strengthening, a new roof and restoration of the exterior. The second phase will complete the interior and add landscaping.

Stacy Anthony from the Councilman's office has and continues to be determined to do everything possible to make this happen. The restoration of the South Seas House would not have been possible without the direct efforts and support of Councilman Holden.

(Editor's Note: In the mid-1990s, concerned neighbors launched an initial fundraising effort to restore the South Seas House. The funds have been held on deposit with WAHA since then. It's likely the monies will now be used to help "furnish" the house after restoration, although that will include such items as historic lighting fixtures, according to the Council office, which will be outside the contract budget.)

Continued on next page

South Seas House History Continued from page 8

elements, the overall appearance of the South Seas House appears Polynesian, and thus its unofficial name.

The abundance of wood throughout the house reflects the Arts and Crafts style of the era. The original roof was made of redwood shingles. The upper sashes of the windows have diamond panes framed with wood, and the porch columns are wood rather than brick. Extensive use of leaded glass or brickwork might destroy the South Seas feel of the house, as it reflects a part of the world where such design elements would not likely be found. The porch steps are framed by Arroyo stone, another natural material. The interior woodwork included two kinds of wood in the flooring, a built-in bench in the entryway, and a chair rail.

The Dupuy family, in their new home, must have been a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Today, with radios, stereos and even walkmans, we take music for granted on a daily basis. At the turn of the century it was far more appreciated, for unless one wanted to constantly walk over to the victrola, crank it up and change the disc, houses were silent. The Dupuys, with their abundant talent and their love of music, must have constantly practiced, played and sang. Invitations to their home were surely coveted, and time spent there enjoyed. The downstairs rooms themselves seemed designed for such activities. A cove cornice between the walls and ceilings surely made for better acoustics.

Joseph Dupuy lived in the South Seas House for over two decades before his death in 1922. At the age of fifty-seven, he was by today's standards still a young man. Over

the years the house changed hands, and eventually fell into disrepair. By the 1980's it had become a city-owned property. Transients and squatters occupied it. A fire in the living room destroyed much of the floor, and garbage filled the rooms.

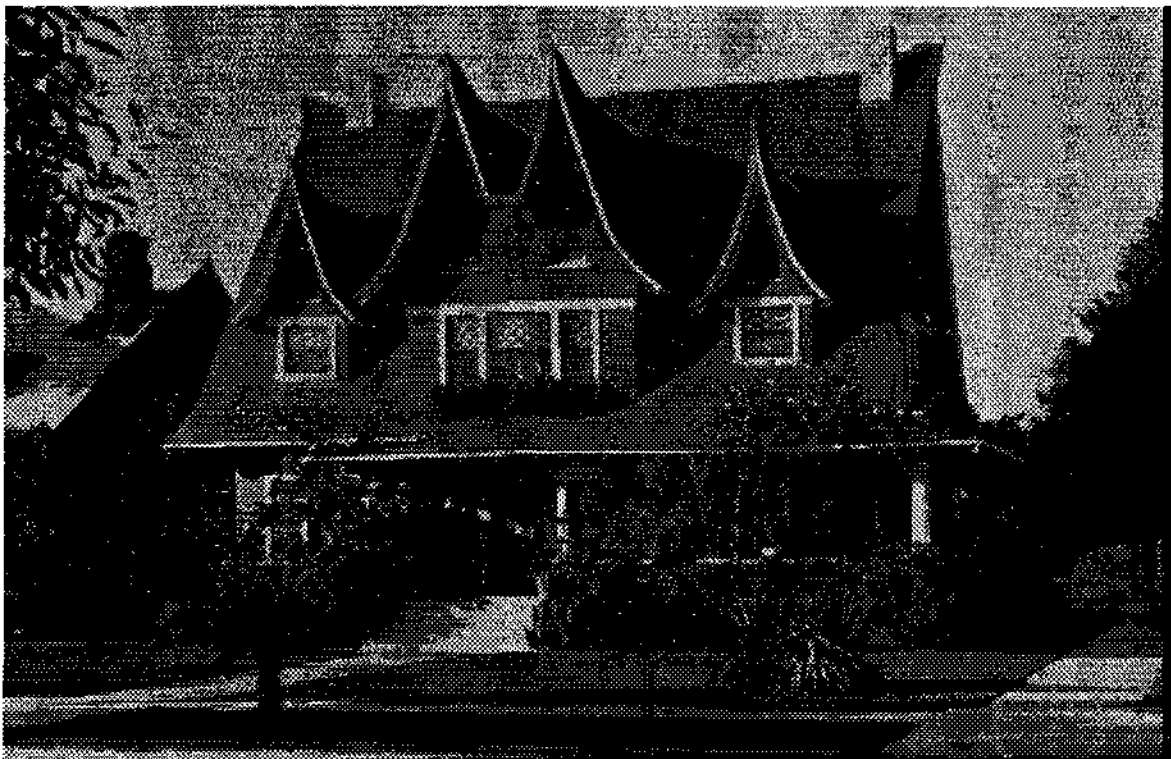
The city wanted the house demolished, and in an effort to prevent such a catastrophe, a group of neighbors and WAHA members in 1994 submitted an application to the city to grant the South Seas House Historic-Cultural Monument status. To date this has not been approved.

The character of the house remained, however, and its unique appearance always drew interest. In the Spring of 1995 the University of Southern California's School of Architecture chose the South Seas House as its first project for its "Historic Preservation Topic Studio" class. Fifteen students crawled over the structure, studying walls, floors, the foundation, plumbing, electrical and even the landscaping. Neighbors and WAHA members took advantage of the open doors to begin their own clean-up project, removing nearly ninety bags of trash, painting parts of the exterior and adding plants to the neglected yard.

The improvement in the appearance of the house, as well as the attention paid by the students, won a temporary reprieve from demolition. The battle is not over, of course, but the result of the USC study created a document which confirms what the neighbors already knew – the house could be salvaged. The structure of the house is in sound condition. Among the recommendations were the straightening or replacing of leaning support piers, reinforcement of ceiling joists, repairing or replacing the roof, removing damaged plaster and replacing it with drywall where possible, and the replacing of corroded or rusted screws and nails.

All of these, and other recommendations, are nothing new to many West Adams residents who have brought homes back from the edge.

The South Seas House is a jewel in need of polish. In another neighborhood it might already have been lost. With the efforts of local residents and WAHA members, it will hopefully one day be restored and once again an enhancement to the community.



In the Garden: Orchids Continued from page 5

that grow in the ground. But those are usually the colder area plants — so the root systems will go underground to stay warm.”

When speaking about his own collection of plants Ken reveals the true nature of his orchid impulse — that of nurturing caretaker.

“People give me orchids that have stopped blooming. So they get passed to me in hopes I can get them to bloom again. Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn’t. The plants that I have don’t have any kind of specific genera or species. I like them all, so I have a wide variety.”

Even though Ken believes orchids have gotten a bad rap for being temperamental and expensive, he does admit that each orchid requires different care. “The conditions have to be just right for the plant to bloom,” he says. “I’ve got about 50 plants indoors and I’ve got anywhere from 50 to 75 plants outdoors. When I’m giving them the proper care it takes me about 45 minutes just to water the plants inside the house.”

If you decide that you’re up to taking on the orchid challenge it would seem wise to follow a few of Ken’s simple guidelines:

- * Consult your nursery and start with a hearty, inexpensive hybrid.

- * Get clear on the basics of the plant’s water and sun requirements.

- * Make sure the plant is in bloom when you buy it. That way at least you’ll know the plant is capable of making a flower.


- * And finally, stay with a potted orchid the first time around. Terrestrial plants (those that go in the ground) are usually very hard to grow.

And, if all else fails and your orchid doesn’t seem happy with you, well — just give it to Ken.

Through My Eyes Only Continued from page 4

able. President Linda Scribner asked if anyone on the Board would volunteer to be Secretary. Suddenly the room was extremely quiet. Lips were sealed. Eyes were either up on the ceiling or down on the table. Much silence went by. It was an awkward moment since no one wanted to raise his or her hand. Reluctantly, Jean agreed to do it. Everyone could breathe again. Later Jean told me that she was once the WAHA Secretary before, when Corinne Pleger was the WAHA President in 1996/97. Still, I am impressed that Jean agreed to, once again, do this most difficult task.

Secondly, Alma Carlisle and Greg Stegall, Co-chairs for our Programs & Events, were having an extremely difficult time securing a location for our July 4th, 2000, picnic. When the June 2000 issue of our Newsletter went out to our



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membership, a location still was not secured. In that particular issue, the best our editor Laura Meyers could print was “Mark your calendars. Look for details in your mailbox.” When I heard that Jean again came through by allowing us to celebrate Independence Day in her sizable yard, I was deeply moved. Postcards were quickly sent out with the reassuring news of a definite place! For those attending, it was a glorious red, white, and blue picnic site.

Jean works as a financial controller for the Linear Industries in Monrovia, CA. When I asked her if she had a hobby, she simply replied, “My hobby seems to be volunteering my spare time to the Lafayette Square Homeowners Association and to the West Adams Heritage Association.” Like others in WAHA, I’m thankful I am currently crossing paths in life with Jean Cade, for she is a lady of true character with a heart of gold.

West Adams Historic Plaques

WAHA has established a grant program to help defray the cost of purchasing markers for homeowners whose residences are:

- * National Register Historic Monuments
- * Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments
- * Contributing Structures to a National Register Historic District

Please contact Tom Florio (213/749-8469) for further information.

WAHA HISTORIC PLAQUE PROGRAM *Application*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Is your house a:

(check all that apply)

- National Historic Landmark

(If yes, please list the Monument No. _____)

- Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument

(If yes, please list the Monument No. _____)

- Contributing Structure to a National Register Historic District

(If yes, please list the historic district _____)

Amount requested: _____

(Please submit receipt(s) and/or proof of cost)*

I agree to use all of the funds received from WAHA to help defray the cost of purchasing, or of having already purchased, an appropriate plaque to identify my house as an historic structure as listed above.

Signature of Applicant

**WAHA's goal is to encourage and assist the purchase of as many plaques as possible, while still providing meaningful assistance. The program will provide up to a maximum total of \$1,000 each year for all applicants. The actual amount received by any applicant will be determined by the number of applicants and the category in which the applicant's house falls. Depending on the number of applications received, some applications may be deferred for future consideration.*

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Fall Out to Party

by John Rentsch

Editor's Note: John is on vacation. Here is a list of WAHA birthdays in September that ran in last year's newsletter. If we've missed yours, please know we'll wish you a belated happy day next month -- and make sure we have the date in our calendar by calling John at 323/735-3500.

5th Nadya Mathison

9th Lynn Brown

12th Michael Smith

15th Odel Childress

18th Larry Leker

24th Demetrius Pohl

28th Linda Scribner (Happy Happy Madame Prez!)

30th Don Lynch

Anniversaries

14th Darby Bayliss and Eric Bronson

Party On, Everyone!

Belated (August) But Not Overlooked!

by John Rentsch

By the time you are reading this, most of the reasons for doing this piece of recording will have passed. But as they always say in the classics "Better late than never!" And when it comes to birthday celebrations, I believe a belated one is often better than one on the actual day. The guilt about having missed the real day usually propels me to more than make up for it -- partying at twice our normal intensity! So don't feel bad if as you read this you realise you missed one of your favorite fellow WAHA member's birthday. Just make up for it with twice your normal flare and enthusiasm.

The month started with Jodi Siegner, one of Van Buren Place's great hostess each holiday season, finding herself the centre of attention on the 2nd -- or at least she should have been Tom! Alison Slater was doing the candle thing on the 4th and then our very own newsletter editor Laura Meyer's kicked up her heels on the 6th. One of our younger set, EmmyLou Burke, took over party central on the 9th. I'm sure the 12th became an extremely tasteful affair (all puns intended) as one of our great neighborhood cooks, Kathleen Salisbury, celebrated. Was there a special cake flavor?

Van Buren Place's house with the most elaborate butler's pantry was again in party mode on the 16th as Jodi's husband, Tom McCurnin, took over birthday festivities. Wally Matsuura shares the same date as Tom for his birthday so there were celebrations the same day on 24th street.

On the 17th, Chuck Roche added another graceful/handsome year -- ably assisted by Joe, I'm sure. The following day, the 18th, was reserved for Ken Takemoto. The 22nd is another double celebration, with congratulations going out to Shelley Adler and Earle Mack (Thanks for slipping me a note at the holiday tour with your date, Mrs Mack).

Continued on next page

Present and Past: The Judson Studios & the Art of Stained Glass

The art of stained glass is over a thousand years old. Used in the Gothic period in Europe, the art flourished again during the Arts & Crafts era. Now the Judson Gallery of Contemporary and Traditional Art has launched a lecture/education series and art exhibit of stained glass produced at the famous Judson Studios, founded in 1897 and still operating, in conjunction with a related exhibit, "Painting on Light," continuing at the Getty Center in Brentwood through September 24.

* Sunday, September 10, "Stained Glass and the Arts & Crafts Philosophy in the 21st Century" David Judson, director, Judson Studios

* Sunday, September 17, "The State of Spirituality in the Work of Contemporary Artists" Ronald E. Steen, art historian and art educator

Both lectures from 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Judson Art Gallery, 200 South Avenue 66, Highland Park. Call 800/445-8376 to reserve. \$10 advance/\$15 at door.

August Belated Birthdays Continued from page 12

If your name has not appeared in one of our monthly birthday/anniversary/special dates columns over the past year then it is because I do not have a record of a date that is important in your life. To remedy that, please do as Mrs Mack did, and pass a note on to me, or leave a message on 323 /735-3500.

Continuing on for the remainder of the month, we had birthdays to enjoy for Julie Eidsvoog on the 24th, Chris McKinnon on the 28th, Sue Strickland on the 29th, and we close out the month with Peggy Sue Deaven and John Kurtz both on Thursday the 31st. I know John and Nancy spent a lot of time planning for Peggy Sue's special party on Saturday, August 26 — another colorful splash! Not sure about the esteemed Mr. Kurtz — will he have recovered by then from his summer cocktail extravaganza?

And finally, after complaining last August that I did not know of any summer romances that had continued on from their August starts, I am delighted to say I've found just such a couple right next door. Congratulations to Scott Garner and Herb Rowe who marked their anniversary on the 1st of August. Scott certainly knew how to set the mood when he had a huge floral arrangement delivered to Herb's office!

Attention, Fans of California Paintings

What is made in California? Not just the movies — or, for that matter, the cheese. As many WAHA collectors know, there's also a strong history of local art movements, spanning Victorian era watercolors, Plein Air Impressionist paintings, mid-century Modern works and photography.

Now, there's not one, not two, but three current opportunities to view regional art works.

"California Paintings, 1910 - 1940," is on view at the Laband Art Gallery on the Loyola Marymount University campus, 7900 Loyola Blvd. in the Westchester/Airport area, through September 30. Organized by independent curator Ann Harlow from the Mills College collection, this exhibit cast light on a period that saw simultaneous flowering of art in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, with the artists developing a style of landscape painting, known as Plein Air, which fused an academic "naturalistic" philosophy with the outdoor techniques of Impressionism. The Mills College gallery was founded in 1925, in Oakland, with a patron's donation of many of these landscape paintings. Included in this exhibit are some 41 works including paintings by Granville Redmond, William Wendt, Maynard Dixon and Maurice Braun. A lecture by Harlow is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, at 2 p.m. at the campus' Murphy Recital Hall. (For more information, call 310/338-2880).

Closer to home, the USC Fisher Gallery presents "Made in California, featuring work that was made in or inspired by the Golden State. On view until November 4, works include pieces by Claire Falkenstein, miniaturist Gertrude Little (who worked in Los Angeles in the 1920s), architectural photographer Julius Shulman and a set of unusual murals by Maynard Dixon which once decorated the famous "Anoakia Mansion" in Arcadia, (which, by the way, was built by the daughter of Lucky Baldwin and is now slated for demolition. (For more information, call 213/740-4561).

And, as part of its annual Craftsman Weekend, Pasadena Heritage will sponsor an exhibit and sale of antique and contemporary Plein Air art works in October. The opening reception of the exhibit will be held Friday, October 6 (cost: \$30) at the Women's City Club in Pasadena, with the show and sale continuing (tickets: \$10) on Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8 as part of the overall Craftsman weekend festivities (and, guys, don't plan to go Saturday, as that's our own Rosedale Cemetery Tour!). Included are period artists Theodore Lukits, and Hanson Duvall Puthuff and contemporary artists Tim Solliday and Peter Adams. (For more information, call 626/441-6333).



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Reminder: The following companies and organizations offer discounts to WAHA members. Show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

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The 24th Street Theater contact: Jon White-Spunner
1117 24th Street Los Angeles, CA 90007 213/667-0417
\$2.00 off ticket price

Cafe Club Fais Do Do
5257 West Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016
323/954-8080
No cover charge at door

Lucky Chimney Sweep
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888/62lucky -- 888/625-8259
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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

NOTICE: WAHA's combined Zoning & Planning/Preservation Committee has a new standing meeting night: the Third Wednesday of each month, at the offices of City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union Avenue, Suite 2 (intersection of Union, Hoover and 23rd Street). Mark your calendars to join and attend this committee -- it's one of our organization's most important activities. Contact Tom Florio or Eric Bronson for more information.

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Wanted: Nanny for two West Adams infants, starting late August, fulltime. Interested in leads and referrals. 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) baby boy white bulldog/pit/mutt mix who's looking for someone to receive his slurpy love. About two years old, neutered, has had shots. Laura 323/737-6146.

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Friday and Saturday, September 1 and 2

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WAHA September 2000 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	See Community Calendar On page 3 for details on these meetings!				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Membership Community Outreach Committee	14	15	16 WAHA General Meeting: Historic West Adams Photos
17	18	19 Newsletter Committee	20 Zoning & Planning/ Preservation Committee	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Board Meeting	29	30
Mark Your Calendar for WAHA's Rosedale Cemetery Tour Oct. 7						

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