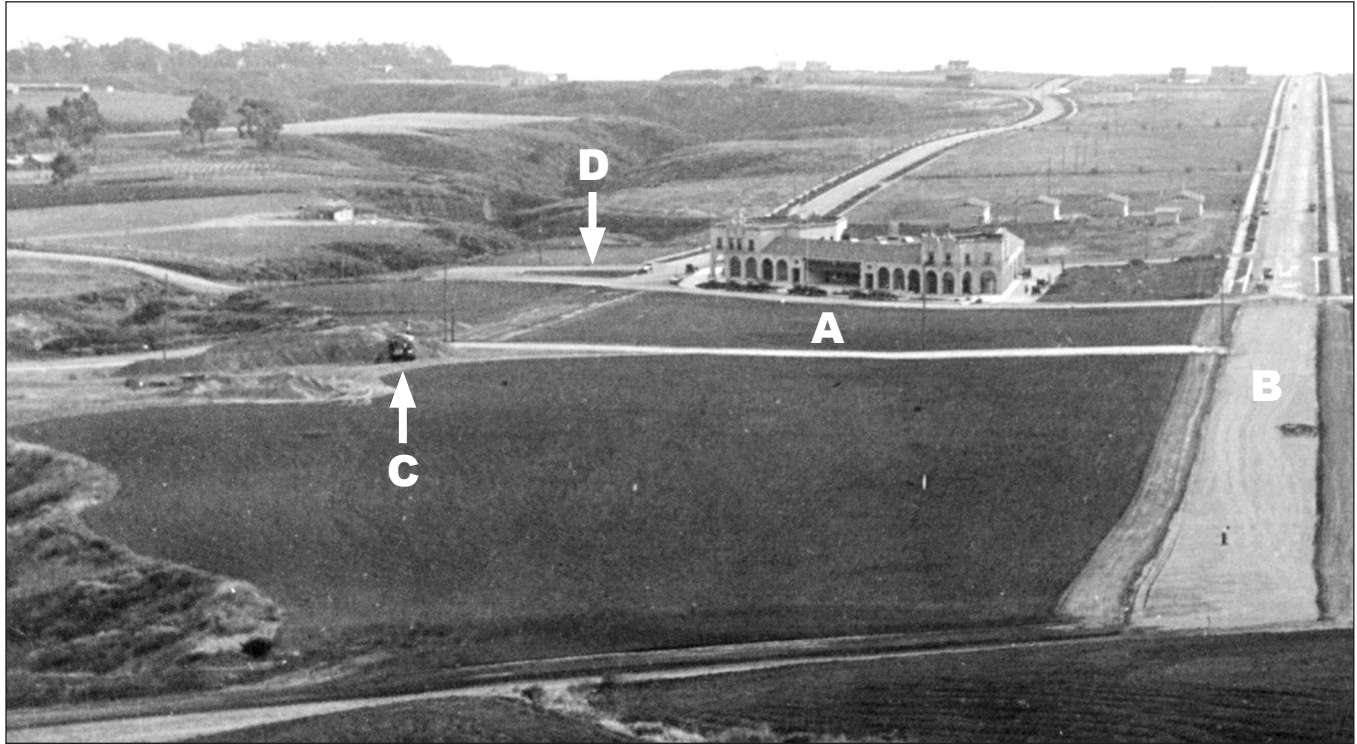


PACIFIC PALISADES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

THE STORY IN A PHOTOGRAPH



Historical photographs are important documents that help define the development of a community. In the above photo we see the genesis of development in Pacific Palisades in mid-1924. The Business Block (A) long before Starbucks, is nearing completion with Sunset Boulevard newly graded running in front of the building. Via de la Paz (B) has been fully defined by grading and the sidewalks are just being surveyed and edged. Upper Potrero Canyon is just being filled with the first dump truck loads (C) of dirt being dumped and spread where a cattle watering pond had been in the Rancho Boca de Santa Monica days. Later, there would be dry cleaners and gas stations on this block. The Village Green (D) is just a sliver of an idea with a roughly laid out Swarthmore going past. Current developer plans include moving millions of pounds of this dirt, on our busy streets, to dump in lower Potrero Canyon, without an Environmental Impact Report. Think of the small beginnings in 1924 that this photo tells.

METAMORPHOSIS

Beginning in the New Year, the Historical Society will reorganize its focus and vision of the future. The present scope and depth of PPHS is shown on the pages of this newsletter. Now we want to reach out and involve our community in new and different ways. Architectural or historical hikes are always fun and informative. PowerPoint presentations to schools with a short field trip are popular and educational. Increasing our com-

munication with quarterly newsletters by email is being considered. So, please include your email address on the remit envelope. Visiting historical sites in Pacific Palisades such as Thelma Todd's Sidewalk Café, Will Rogers State Historic Park and House, or unique neighborhoods are being considered. Telling the story of our community—its past and possible future—is our goal.

— ERIC DUGDALE



Bernheimer Gardens circa 1926 looking North from the hill that slid onto PCH in 1943. The grand pagoda entrance structure is on Sunset Boulevard (At that time Marquez Avenue) and in the background on the hills behind is the Thomas Ince Estate.

Randy Young Collection

SAVE THE DATE!!

Our membership Holiday Celebration will be on Wednesday, December 7, at Aldersgate Retreat Center, 925 Haverford, Pacific Palisades. SOCIAL begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by PROGRAM / DESSERTS at 7 p.m. A scrumptious buffet of desserts, beverages, and coffee service (meal not included) will be served for \$20 plus membership. Membership may be paid in advance or at the door. Guests are welcome to become members and join us for the evening. Reservations must be received by December 1; your check is your reservation.

WHERE WE ARE

Like Pacific Palisades history, our historical images are all around you—Facebook, Farmers' Market, and displays in businesses, television shows and various publications. Visit our web site (www.pacificpalisadeshistory.org) to get information on programs, join PPHS, contribute, or contact us via email using the forwarding option under JOIN US. If you make a left turn after entering the Palisades Branch Library, you will find our library case in the nook on your left. It is currently featuring postcards of the 1938 Rustic Canyon/Santa Monica Canyon flood, the original Bay Theatre, and Castle Rock among others. While you are in the library, check out the Local History Shelf housing books by Betty Lou and Randy Young, Martha Patterson, Ernest Marquez, etc..

www.pacificpalisadeshistory.org

THANK YOU, MITZI

PPHS gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions from long-time member and supporter, Mitzi Blahd. Thank you, Mitzi.

SUPPORT PPHS

Please support PPHS by renewing your membership for July 1, 2016, -June 30, 2017, or becoming a new member by using the enclosed remit envelope. Memberships and contributions support our continued success in researching, archiving, and teaching our local history through programs and community outreach. Because we are volunteers, we have not raised our membership dues in many years. Thank you for your support. You can contact us by email at board@pacificpalisadeshistory.org, which can be found on our web site, www.pacificpalisadeshistory.org under JOIN US (don't you just love that photo!).

ELECTED 2016 - 2017 OFFICERS

Officers elected at our May meeting to serve from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017, are:

President: Eric Dugdale
 Vice President: Randy Young
 Recording Secretary: Shirley Haggstrom
 Corresponding Secretary: (open)
 Treasurer: Richard Wulliger
 Curator: Randy Young
 Directors at Large: Bob Freidin and Chickie Jensen

RUSTIC CANYON PARK RESTORATION REPORT EXCERPT

WRITTEN BY TAYLOR LOUDEN
Historical Architect Consultant



Rustic Canyon Park in 1954 just a few months after the Los Angeles City Parks received the heart of the Uplifters Ranch from Maybell Machis. Note the original pool that was later demolished in 1955.

The dawn of the modern age in the new American West coincided with the growth in awareness of recognition of the past, and the desire to build in an appropriate manner with the natural environment. The Uplifter's Club House is a Spanish Colonial Revival -styled building, built in 1923-1924 as a modern interpretation of an enlarged rancho formed in reinforced concrete, finished with off-white plastered walls and a recessed front porch. Facing a State of California Forestry demonstration plantation, near to the newly constructed Beverly (later Sunset) Boulevard, the Uplifter's siting crowned a small hill with a commanding view to the north of the surrounding Rustic Creek and Canyon setting. The name "Uplifters" comes from legends as diverse as the club members. Lifting trees when new road constructions were threatening previous street tree landscapes, perhaps. Uplifting morality, perhaps likely, but most sources indicate that the lifting of spirit was via filled glasses of favorite beverages. This apparently continued despite the Prohibition amendment commencing in 1920. The Uplifters club was in fact an outpost of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, located far out of town. Parallels and inspiration exist to the Bohemian Club in Northern California.

Use of the Uplifter's name in a canyon secluded from the burgeoning metropolis of LA reflects a 1920's fascination with vacating to a foreign or distant exotica, a bohe-

mian- inspired alternate social venue, with an appropriate name for a communal house far from a civilized settlement, reached through a newly-forested glen.

The intent of this Preservation Master Plan document is to create a "road map" outlining a summary history, present conditions study, and recommendations for the optimal future of this City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Landmark (HCM) structure.

An overarching goal is to assist in research, analysis, and in development of a historically appropriate and compatible renewal plan. Our intent in this ongoing rehabilitation project is to refit this ninety-plus year old structure to an optimal condition in conformance with the dates defined as the period of significance. Work on an HCM is required to be in accord with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in order to not compromise its historical integrity. A City requirement for any work on an HCM-even rehabilitation and repairs- to be reviewed with the City's Office of Historic Resources and Cultural Heritage Commission. Our initial work on this Preservation Master Plan has focused on documentation by research at site, and by oral histories from those involved with subsequent development of the Clubhouse. A primary intent is to create a resource of research for a body of information to assist in planning appropriate work.

~ Remembrance ~

*During the past few months PPHS has lost two of its most valued Board members.
In remembrance, we offer these tributes.*

LORRAINE OSHINS

Lorraine Oshins was active in community organizations and participated in many events that interested her. She was passionate about causes of social justice, peace, women's issues, and educational excellence, environmental conservation and historical preservation. PPHS was fortunate to have Lorraine as a member, Board member, and as President from 2001-2003. As a teacher, Lorraine inspired students to learn and as a volunteer, she inspired others to join.

Even as a southern born woman, Lorraine pursued her education through college. Living through a time of world change, Lorraine enlisted in the Navy and worked in Washington, D.C., cracking and translating codes to defeat the enemy in WWII. Having been exposed to a variety of people and discriminatory attitudes, she took up the banner of equality by embracing and working for many social causes. She believed that, "If you want to see something changed, then you have to do it for yourself." Even while raising a family, Lorraine continued teaching and working as a volunteer.

PPHS has been fortunate to have Lorraine working for our organization for many years. When she volunteered for a job, we knew we could count on her to get it done. The PPHS Farmers' Market table was managed by



Mitzi Bland, left, Lorraine Oshins, second from left and two gentlemen from the Masonic Lodge.

Lorraine for many years. And she was in charge of caring for Founders Oak Island in the center of Haverford. PPHS is planning to place a plaque on Founders Oak Island in honor of Lorraine. Also, with a generous grant from her family, PPHS is planning to establish the Lorraine Oshins Pacific Palisades Historical Society Lecture Series to annually present speakers who are carrying on in her tradition.

ETHEL HAYDON

It is difficult to remember a time when Ethel wasn't with us. After all, she was brought here as a small baby, making her almost a native Palisadian. Who knew she would grow up and make so many significant contributions to Pacific Palisades!



Ethel Haydon

During the national Bicentennial celebration in 1972, the Palisades library received funds to "research, collect, and preserve local histories." Ethel was a member of the organizing group from which the Pacific Palisades Historical Society was born. She served as its second President from 1973-1974. During those years, Ethel was active in other groups and a founding member of the Temescal Canyon Association. She and her

husband shared their rustic back yard with visiting school groups showing them animals, the tree house, and the tree swing.

Her influence on PPHS was significant beginning with its incorporation as a nonprofit organization. Thus, PPHS was able to accept the gift of the narrow island in the center of Haverford where Pacific Palisades was founded under the oak trees. PPHS retains ownership of Founders Oak Island and maintains it as a symbol of our original community.

Ethel led PPHS in fulfilling the original grant to collect and preserve local history and to educate our community about its history. Ethel has often told the story of her recruiting Betty Lou Young and her then teenage son, Randy, when she met them hiking. They have since written and illustrated historical books on Pacific Palisades as well as giving very generous financial and intellectual support to the Society. Ethel has been an active Board member and an essential part of the success of PPHS. She had many stories to tell. We hope you will enjoy them as we show Ethel Haydon's oral history.

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Palisades Historical Society wishes to express its heartfelt condolences to the family of both of our friends. Though gone from our sight, Ethel and Lorraine will always be in our memories.

THE MYSTERY OF THE HIDDEN TRAIL

REPORTED BY RANDY YOUNG

History is a process of search and discovery, and when on the trail of an exciting story it takes on all the trappings of a detective novel. One illustration of local historical archeology is the search for historic trails as part of the Will Rogers General Plan.

One key trail in the Rustic Canyon area was the mysterious Hidden Trail or Anatol Trail. The first reference to its existence appeared in Betty Rogers' book, *Will Rogers, His Wife's Story*:

We took a long ride over the ranch the Sunday morning before he left. We talked of some new trails he wanted made and of a few small things that were to be attended to. Then we turned off the bridle path, ducked our heads and rode through the brush to a hidden trail that led down into the canyon, where Will had built a little log cabin, just completed a few days before.

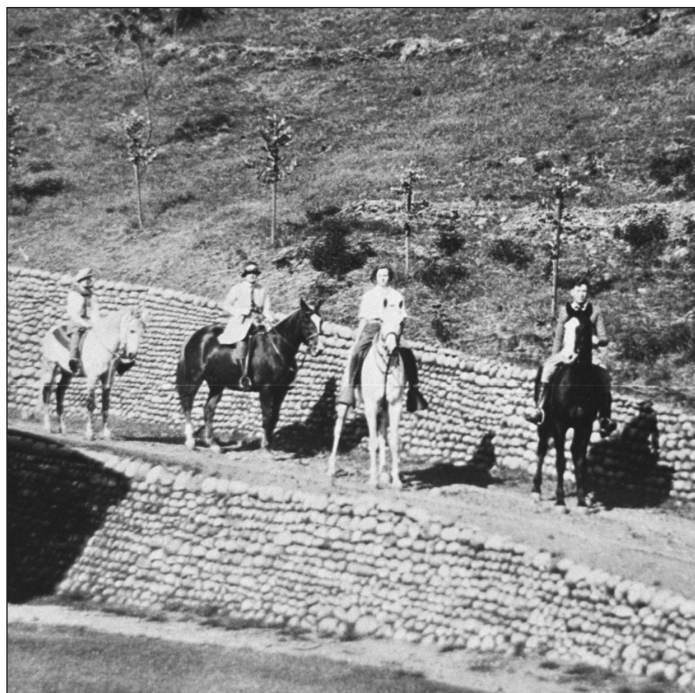
I have known about this mystery trail ever since we did research for our Rustic Canyon book. When Betty Lou interviewed Anatol Josepho about his ranch (adjacent to the Rogers property), he mentioned that the horse trails leading in and out of Rustic Canyon were so treacherous that in 1935, he had decided to build a new trail.

In the book, *Rustic Canyon and the Story of the Uplifters*, Betty Lou wrote:

Will and Wiley Post had tried to persuade Anatol to go along as translator for the Russian leg of the trip, but Anatol was delayed repeatedly on the east coast by business commitments. Prior to his departure for the east, Anatol had paced off and begun work on a new trail linking the two ranches, running along the flank of the ridge instead of over the perilous knife-edge saddle. During Anatol's absence, Will Rogers had the trail completed as a surprise, arriving unexpectedly one day with Wiley Post and Betty to inaugurate the new route and to tell Ganna that they were soon leaving for Alaska. The next word came from Betty that the plane was down and Will was dead.

Since then, I have looked casually for the trail, and over the last two years have been searching for it even more intensely. Pouring over old aerials, asking Emil Sandemeir, and writing to people who lived on Anatol's ranch yielded few clues.

My first break came when I mentioned my quest to Ethel Haydon, and she responded by saying she had taken the trail after the 1978 fire. The burn had stripped the foliage from the old trail, so that it was possible to see the faint outline of the original route. Brush soon reclaimed the trail and it was lost again, but at least I knew the approximate location and had verified that vestiges of the trail still existed. I looked closer at an aerial that was taken after the 1938 fire and noticed a small trail on one of the outlying ridges.



In 1928 the Rogers Family takes a ride on the trails. From left to right, The youngest Jimmy, next Mother Betty, daughter Mary and oldest son, Will Junior. Randy Young Collection

Three more forays into the wilderness yielding no trail. The undergrowth is 10 to 12 feet high in places, making it difficult to see anything in that mess. Then on May 6th 1991, I decided to make one more try before our General Plan position on trails was set in concrete.

The day's search was not going well. Many deer trails crisscross the hills and are easily mistaken for man-made routes. One feels like a human pincushion after several hours of charging through the underbrush, while keeping a lookout for rattlers.

I was about to give up when I decided to try one more transect down a ridge. I spotted what seemed to be a benched area on the side of a very steep ridge—too wide and straight for a deer path. We scrambled down, and lo and behold, there was the telltale sight of rockwork bolstering up the trail. We had found our trail. Will used very distinctive rockwork on all of his projects around the ranch and this trail bore his hallmark.

The view of downtown Los Angeles, from the trail, seeming to hover above Rustic Canyon was an unreal experience. What would Will's feelings have been when he beheld the same view. It was a spooky feeling—the kind that sends chills up your spine.

State Parks has made it its goal to search out and restore the trail. The Pacific Palisades Historical Society will be there in support of this exciting project.

CANYON SCHOOL 4TH GRADERS HAVE FUN!

Canyon School 4th graders, including Rancho descendant Ernest Marquez who was also a 4th grader at Canyon School 82 years ago, visit the landmarked cemetery on San Lorenzo with Historians Sharon Kilbride and Eric Dugdale.



VIEW THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO COLLECTION

Historical photos knit the community together by joining the past to the present and pointing towards the future. As our community undergoes massive change, it is interesting to look at how our community evolved. Our original 3,000+ images depicting the early history of the community are being cared for by the Santa Monica Public Library. As their web site states, "Donated to the Library from the Pacific Palisades Historical Society in 2006, this photographic collection consists of more than 3000 images in prints, negatives and other media. The collection provides a rich visual history of the Palisades community from its pre-development days in 1916 and founding in 1922 up to

and including the 1950's."

To visit the Collection online: Enter the Santa Monica Public Library web site www.smpl.org. Under QuickLinks in green at the bottom right, choose "Imagine Santa Monica/Local History." Under LOCAL HISTORY, click on "Imagine Santa Monica." Click the middle photo—"Pacific Palisades Historical Collection." In the window at the top type in "Palisades Historical Image Collection" and choose "Search" in blue at the right. See the railroad traveling to the Long Wharf, Canyon School, Will Rogers, the cross on Peace Hill, and Jack Sauer's nursery and his garage repair shop, etc.



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