



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall, 2019

L.A.'s Architecture: A Night of Learning & Discussion

We are thrilled to announce that our next public program will be the much anticipated discussion with Robert Inman, an Eagle Rock resident, about his latest work and collaboration with the late, great Dr. Robert W. Winter (1924 - 2019) entitled:

"An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles: Fully Revised 6th Edition" by David Gebhard and Robert Winter Revised and Updated by Robert Inman and Robert Winter. Foreword by Nathan Masters.

Please join us for a fantastic evening of learning, discussion, and refreshments on Tuesday, October 15th @ 7pm at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock at 2225 Colorado Blvd. Street parking is available. Admission is FREE and OPEN TO ALL.

Robert Inman is the author of "A Guide to the Stair-

ways of Los Angeles (2008)" and "Finding Los Angeles by Foot: Stairstreet, Bridge, Pathway and Land (2013)". A native son of Los Angeles, he is an award-winning urban walker and was a frequent collaborator with his mentor, Dr. Robert W. Winter, lauded as a "Guru," "Father," and "Godfather" of Los Angeles architecture.

Robert Inman cultivated his lifelong enthusiasm for the built environment of Los Angeles as a student at Occidental College under the tutelage of Dr. Robert W. Winter. He embraced stair- and urban walking as an avocation in 2004. In nine years of leading urban walks, he has lead more than five thousand participants on two hundred walking events of this nature. His groups have included grade school children, college urban study groups, and transportation specialists. In 2011, Inman

co-invented and designed the 220-mile, 300-stairway "Inman 300" in Los Angeles, known as "America's first urban thru-hike." In 2016, he was awarded the Ray Bradbury Community Walking Champion award from a pedestrian advocacy group, Los Angeles Walks.

He is a long-time member of the Los Angeles Conservancy, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Sierra Club. After retiring, Inman travelled to Northern Uganda as a tourist-volunteer for the organization, Aid Africa. He has since served on the board of Aid Africa.

Please come out and support this wonderful program, meet your knowledgeable neighbors, and learn about our great city. We hope to see you on October 15th!

AN ICON REVISED
GEBHARD AND WINTER 6th EDITION
with ROBERT INMAN

Center for the Arts,
Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado
Tuesday,
October 15, 7:00
Free and Open to All
**EAGLE ROCK VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

AN ARCHITECTURAL GUIDEBOOK TO
LOS ANGELES
FULLY REVISED 6TH EDITION
David Gebhard
and Robert Winter
Revised by Robert Winter and Robert Inman
Foreword by Nathan Masters

Hello, Eagle Rock!

Thanks for your continued support. You probably know this, but having an historical society isn't a given – in fact, for the first fifty years after the year that Eagle Rock City was incorporated, there wasn't even an historical society here. Maybe to them it didn't sound historical enough until it was fifty years old. It's human nature, I guess, as we sometimes neglect that the things that happen today will be historical at some point. Some of you also know that our historical society started as an offshoot of the Women's Twentieth Century Club – or at least was founded by many of its members. Our founders saw the value of keeping the memory of early Eagle Rock maintained. While some may think we should strive to return to those years, my opinion is that we have a duty to keep the memory, but also shape the future with that history in mind.

In May of 1929, a theater called "Yosemite Theater" opened at the corner of Yosemite Drive and Eagle Rock Blvd. The first show was a vaudeville show on Friday, May 10th. The second show, on Sunday, May 12th, was the official opening, and was the play called "The Younger Generation". The theater then turned to "screen entertainment" in the theater building that the Eagle Rock Sentinel May 17th, 1929 issue called "modern, comfortable and artistic, and the location ideal." The theater changed names to the Eagle Theater and decades later its screen finally went dark. The theater format apparently made it a good venue for a church for several years, but even then, the church had to take down its pulpit.

A few weeks ago, I heard that a nonprofit foundation had signed a lease to use the building as a theater. I didn't know much at all about Vidiots Foundations until I spoke with its leader, Maggie Mackay on the phone. What started as a local video rental store over thirty years ago in Santa Monica, specializing in independents, documentaries, and international titles, eventually became one of the most celebrated film hubs in Los Angeles, with a diverse collection of over 50,000 film, television and media titles. Vidiots had a very loyal following, but had to finally shutter their Santa Monica storefront in 2107 due to skyrocketing Westside rents, even after attempts to stay afloat by restructuring as a nonprofit organization.

As Maggie explained it to me, Vidiots plans use the expansive storefront attached to the Eagle as the

video store and a secondary screening and event space, and they will also bring back The Eagle as an independent movie theater with a full slate of programming. They contacted me because they wanted more information about the old theater. What I explained to Maggie is that while we may never get a theater exactly like it was, having the historical context of photos, newspaper accounts and stories, decisions that need to be made about renovation could be made into historically contextual decisions. Simply having photos when you renovate can mean that if you don't know where a window used to be, now you do and maybe you can reopen the same window. Who knows, there might be a false ceiling hiding an interesting feature that would have gone undiscovered (or damaged) had a photo not existed.

Suddenly, Eagle Rock is going to have a theater again, and with a little luck, it might have some of the old feel of the original. Time will tell, but I am looking forward to it!

David Dellinger, President

president@eaglerockhistory.org

The objectives of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society

- to preserve, clarify through research and to perpetuate the history of Eagle Rock Valley
- to make this history available to students, researchers, libraries and all interested persons
- to preserve and protect our local landmarks, especially the Eagle Rock

Membership is open to all who would further these objectives

Public Archive Hours 10 to 12 every Saturday
at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Blvd. Eagle Rock CA 90041
for information call 323-257-1357

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The Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society
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Bellamey

Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

Eagle Rock in the Guidebook

"Eagle Rock Boulevard is less hideous than we used to claim. The neighborhood jewel that must be explored is the two mile stretch of Hill Drive."



This house appeared in the first addition of the Guidebook. Rudolph M. Schindler built this house for the Lowes family at 5325 Ellenwood Drive in 1923, a remarkable contrast to the other houses on the street. The upper end of this street was destroyed in 1969 for the 134 Freeway. (Courtesy of University of California Santa Barbara Art Museum, Photograph by Viroque Baker)

"Hill Drive has some very good Spanish Revival houses, and this is one of the best."

The Duffys' purchased this Spanish/Mission style residence built in 1922 on Hill Drive after becoming one of the most influential couples in Eagle Rock. (Courtesy of Security Pacific Collection/ Los Angeles Public Library)



"The general impression is medieval (of some sort) until you see the drooping swags of stucco at the point of the front gable"

Albert Braasch was a successful heating manufacturer. He and his musician wife Constance were able to indulge their fascination with European culture by building this house designed by architect Jean-Louis Eglise in French Norman style. (Courtesy of Security Pacific Collection/ Los Angeles Public Library)

Our Town, Our History



“These neo-Craftsman houses cling to the hill for a view of the San Rafael Hills, Flint Peak, and the Eagle Rock Valley”

They were designed and built by Oakley Norton from 1962-1965. 2009 Escarpa Drive is shown. (Courtesy of Escott Norton)



“The Craftsman tradition revived”

Conrad Buff worked closely on the design of this modest home with Occidental Professor Omar Paxson and his wife Helen. (Photograph by Eric Warren)



“Here, Kevin and Hardy Wronske have utilized the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance efficiently to produce an engaging whole” Rock Row was built by the Heyday partnership on Yosemite Drive in 2010. (Photograph by Eric Warren)

#2 The Case of the Aviation Clowns



Eagle Rock is a town who knows how to keep her secrets. Some cases go cold and stay cold, like the cold cuts at Eagle Rock Italian Deli. Some are spicy, like the hot peppers I have them put on my hoagie. And some, just when they seem like they're about to really take off, get pulled back down to earth.

"Look kid, you're wasting your time on these clowns" the Chief told me, sorting through a stack of old menus from Eagle Rock delis' long forgotten. People usually listen to Eric Warren. He wrote the book on Eagle Rock. It's called "Eagle Rock: 1911-2011" and you can get it at the Tritch Hardware store when you're buying some spackle after a rough Friday night. But on this particular Saturday morning, when I opened up the book to page 52 and saw a photo of these clowns in a field with a plane on a stick, I just couldn't patch up the holes and smooth over the questions.

"Little is known about this strange, charming, photograph from an Edwards family album," read the caption. "It appears to have been taken from the hills south of La Loma Road."

There were a lot of Edwardses in the E cabinet, but turns out one was Howard Arden Edwards. Landscape painter, egg collector, and author of a play called "Flamingo Arrow." And he kept a place in Eagle Rock called "Happy Camp." That's when I found another mysterious photo of three unknown people from the 1920s:

These pals looked happy, heck, the kid even looked a little goofy. But they sure as seltzer weren't clowns. I started to worry that the Chief was right about this one. Maybe this is one of those mysteries that stay cold

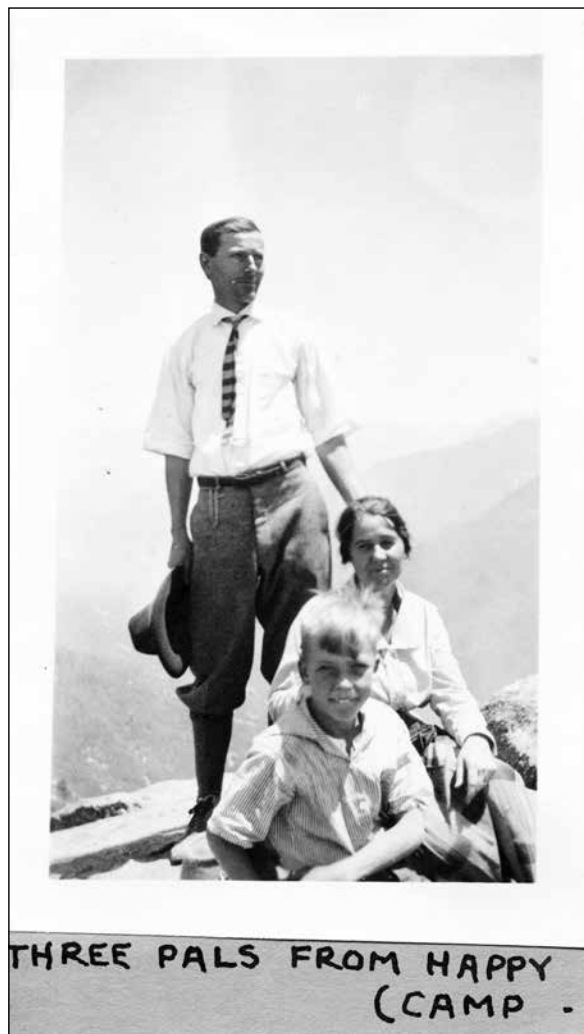
for a reason.

"But Mr. Bellaimey, did you try Googling him?" it was one of my seventh grade history students, and the bounce in his voice brought me back from the brink. "Google him?" I asked the kid. "I never even met the guy. Besides, he's dead."

"Well, there's a website with biographies of famous artists. And look what it says right here 'Early in life Edwards was a daredevil and clown in a circus.'" I felt dizzy. I needed a seltzer, but there didn't seem to be one anywhere nearby. "So, what you're saying is. Maybe the guy didn't hang up the big shoes when he moved to Eagle Rock?"

I'll leave it to you, my fellow detectives, to follow this strange and charming trail. Do you recognize any of these clowns? Do you know what kind of plane that is? Do you live on that hill? Send your clues to EagleRockMysteries@gmail.com... Or point us in the direction of the next big case.

—Will Bellaimey





**at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Blvd. Eagle Rock CA, 90041**

**A N I C O N R E V I S E D
GEBHARD AND WINTER 6th EDITION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 7:00**

**CALIFORNIA'S WINE CAPITAL:
LOS ANGELES in the EIGHTIES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 7:00**

**A N A T I V E G A R D E N ?
CALIFORNIA BEFORE EUROPE
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 7:00**

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2225 Colorado Blvd.

Eagle Rock, CA 90041

Date _____

The Member's Corner



Peyton Hall

From the very beginning, Peyton Hall knew he wanted to be an architect. Born in southern Virginia, Peyton ended up in Santa Monica by 1980 after finishing his architectural studies and a fellowship in Japan. Historic architecture was at the heart of his interest. The Pasadena area called to him and eventually in 1991, he bought his first little home in Eagle Rock, still one of his favorite structures. He stayed in Eagle Rock until 1999 when he moved east.

Peyton has served on numerous boards and has been proud to be an adjunct faculty member at USC where he has taught a Materials Conservation class for the last 20 years. This last year his class took on our own Neutra-designed Eagle Rock Recreation Center as a case study, providing our community with a comprehensive building assessment of one of our local architectural treasures! Collaboration with our archives on this project inspired him to become a member. He currently is the Principle Architect, although semi-retired, at the Historic Resources Group in Pasadena.

"I hope that not too many people discover Eagle Rock," he tells me. He remembers his time here very fondly and thinking to himself "Why wouldn't you want to live here?". Well, that is a GREAT question, Peyton, and I don't have an answer!

-Katie Taylor