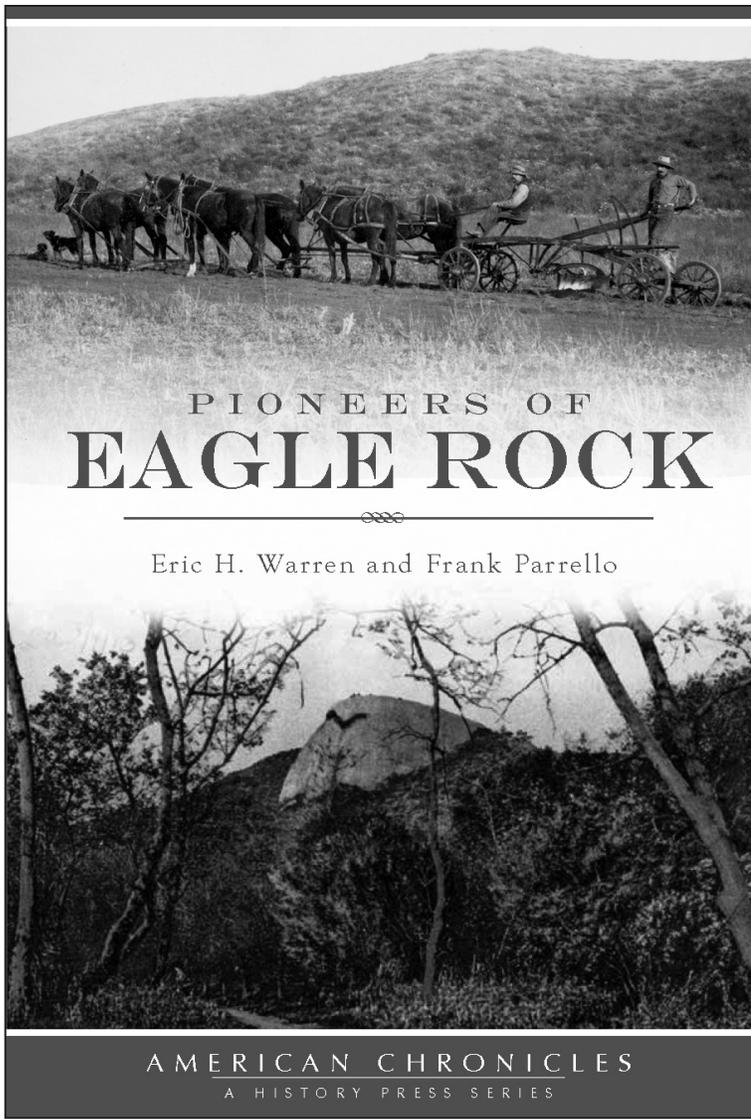




# EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring, 2014

## Meet the Men and Women Who Built LA's Unique Neighborhood of Eagle Rock



Join authors Eric H. Warren and Frank Parrello as they profile the bedrock personalities who built Eagle Rock at the book signing event, sponsored by the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, April 15, 7:00 at the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock, 2225 Colorado Boulevard. All are welcome to this free event. Light refreshments will be served.

After the Rancho San Rafael was divided, Benjamin Dreyfus was awarded the hilly area north of downtown Los Angeles known as the Eagle Rock Valley. By 1911 this farming community had rapidly grown into a city. The Los Angeles Railway made downtown LA a trolley ride away, and continued growth led to Eagle Rock's consolidation with the city in 1923. Today, Eagle Rock is one of LA's most distinctive neighborhoods and a pride instilled by early settlers remains here. These inspirational settlers include soldier and ranchero Jose Maria Verdugo, diarist and historian Elena Frackelton Murdock, farmer and amateur hydrologist Mayor Cromwell Galpin, and publicist Anne Hare Harrison.

The story is told in the words of these pioneers and local historians who witnessed the crucial events in our town's development. Bernice Eastman Johnston, author of the first book on the Gabrieleno Indians, now known as Kizh or Tongva, along with contemporary sources tells of the way of life of the native people. Glendale authors Perry and Parcher deliver accounts of the Verdugo family based on their acquaintance with family descendants. Farm life in Eagle Rock is re-

called by those who lived it. The selling of the suburb and the rapid population growth and the government that evolved to cope with it, is told in the words of the publicists and residents who were involved.

## Members and Friends

### Author! Author!

I am delighted that our new book "Pioneers of Eagle Rock" is now available. The long effort by Frank Parrello and myself has led to the discovery of many lively accounts of Eagle Rock's early days. We look forward to presenting photos and excerpts and signing books for the public at our meeting. As always, we are awed by the depth of the information left us by our predecessors in the Society.

### The "EMMA" Awards

Again this year, we will recognize people and projects that have contributed to the preservation of Eagle Rock's unique history. We need nominations from you of worthy efforts. The ERVHS board will select the best. The award commemorates Mrs. C.W. Young, profiled on page 3. Last year we honored the Women's Twentieth Century Club for listing their Clubhouse on the National Register; Trader Joe's interior murals of historic landmarks; Brian Cawley, who revealed long hidden Tudor details of his home; and Myanna and David Dellinger, who's Egasse-Brasch house was declared a Historic Cultural Monument.

### Women's Clubhouse Centennial

The celebration of the year leading up to the completion of the clubhouse began with a concert by renowned pianist, Carl Matthes, playing a varied program. The affair was well attended and all were surprised and pleased with a \$10,000 contribution from Councilmember Jose Huizar, boosting the ladies' effort to appropriately repair some of the damage the years have wrought, particularly to the rear pergola. We encourage all to contribute to this restoration.

### Dues are due!

We were delighted with the response to our January appeal. Thanks to all of our loyal members who sustained us with their dues. Those pesky enve-

lopes appear again in this newsletter for those who haven't yet paid for 2014. We include on the mailing label the last paid membership year in our records. If you disagree, we will adjust, as we value your membership.

### The Haynes Foundation Grant

The results and future ambitions for digitization of the newspaper collection were presented to the press and public at an event at Swan Hall on the Occidental Campus, March 1. The project has digitized 6,200 pages of local newspapers, a modest start on the estimated 341,000 pages published by Northeast Newspapers. These will be available soon online and at our archive. The grant has contributed to a computer upgrade to facilitate this. The planning, organizing, cataloging and scanning carried out represent a major step forward in this joint effort of the Occidental Library, ERVHS, and the Highland Park Heritage Trust. Planning and fundraising efforts are

### 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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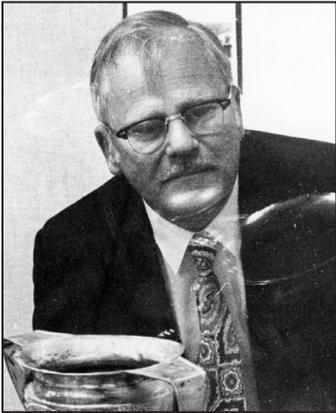
Contributors, Katie Taylor, Frank Parrello, Eric Warren

Visit our website at:  
[eaglerockhistory.org](http://eaglerockhistory.org)

**It's time to renew your membership. If you have already paid your 2014 dues, thank you. If not, please take a moment and mail your check now. If we have not heard from you, a dues form and envelope are included with this newsletter. Thanks, we depend on you.**

## Pioneer Historians of Eagle Rock

In "Pioneers of Eagle Rock" Frank and I have relied on the work of many historians and publicists for their recollections and research about the early days. Besides the people shown here, there are others of whom we have no photograph. Their contributions are detailed in the sources for our book and we encourage you to delve further into their work.



**H**enry Welcome originally lived in Watts, but in the late 1920s, his folks decided to move further north. "We tried everything from Arcadia to Beverly Hills. Finally we moved to Eagle Rock [in 1927, and I enrolled at Dahlia."

For nearly half a century, this quiet, droll, and utterly persistent man championed Eagle Rock history, much of that time with the equal participation of his wife, Betty.

Henry was the founding president of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society in 1961 and, until a few months before his death in 2003, he was a regular on the archival work crew at the ERVHS Center for the Arts headquarters. All who worked with him had vivid memories of both his dedication and his extraordinary humor. Our Society owes Henry immeasurably. He was not only our founding president; he was also author of our incorporation and bylaws, and for 18 years, our newsletter editor and program chair. Truly, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society would not exist but for him.



**E**lena Frackelton Murdock came to Eagle Rock at the age of six with her parents, John and Katherine Frackelton. She compiled a family album of photos, with notes highlighting her memories of growing up on the family farm. Murdock's words show the wonder of a schoolgirl on a new adventure:

"I caught my first sight of Eagle Rock in October, 1886. We had hired a horse and buggy in East Los Angeles and driven to Eagle Rock for dinner with the Brierty family. We had come from Rhode Island, due to mother's ill health, to the valley, which was surrounded by greasewood covered mountains. After dinner, father decided to buy seven acres and farm it. He had been an iron molder and knew nothing of farming, but friendly neighbors advised and helped. We had to remove the greasewood and we built a small house on the hill. We moved in (during a storm) before it was complete."



**M**rs. Young was a pioneer clubwoman, historian, lecturer and authority on California history and landmarks. For more than fifty years, she urged Californians to preserve their heritage. Her love of pageantry and reenactment caught the attention of many children and adults in Eagle Rock, teaching them, gently, the importance of the past.

Mrs. Young was born Emma Elinor Hine on May 27, 1869 in Geneseo, Illinois, and grew up on a farm there. She went to Northwest Normal School, taught, and became principal of Annawan School.

On November 23, 1899, Emma married Charles W. Young. They left Illinois, and in 1906, they located in Eagle Rock. There they purchased the Ellis home, a three-story Victorian farmhouse built in 1888. They called the house "Castle Crags". Before and after Mr. Young's death from diabetes, their home was a center of social life, frequented by authors, sculptors, actors and civic leaders.

## Good Times In Eagle Rock

Our knowledge of life in the early days is largely due to the efforts of Elena Frackelton Murdock to collect photographs of those times. We are grateful to her and her family for preserving these views and allowing us to reproduce them.

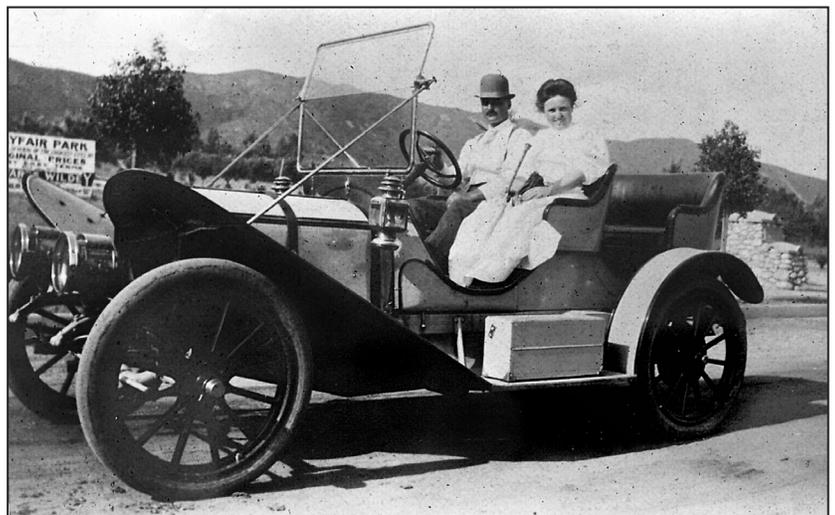


Eagle Rockers gathered at this barbeque at St. Hilda's, once the Glendale Hotel. It had become an Episcopal girls' school and then became the Union High School for the area. It later housed the Glendale Sanitarium. Less formal outdoor entertainments allowed men and women to socialize. Good food and good company. All were still properly turned out. The school was at least a three-mile walk from any of their homes, a fact that they took in stride.



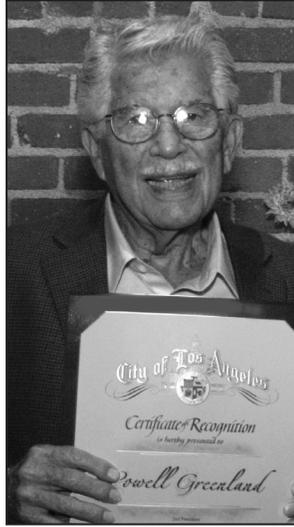
The Shakespeare Club met at the home of Mahlon Myers. Mrs. Broxholme, Frackelton, Myers, Knighttinger and Parker brought culture and style to their new homes. Women took their role as preservers of culture seriously. They also got together to enjoy a friendly time amusing themselves in an era before popular entertainment was available. The well decorated interior and formal dress was a symbol of status and an assertion that they were not to be defined only by the working world of farm life.

Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Bourne are seen here heading west on Colorado Boulevard near the clubhouse. Bourne was the local agent for the Edwards and Wildey Company, showing the prosperous life of a real estate agent. Its sign can be seen behind the car on the land between Mount Royal Drive and La Roda Avenue. The arroyo stone gateway to Mount Royal Drive is at the right. He also played a key role in the construction of the Women's Twentieth Century Clubhouse.



### Our third president passes

**P**owell Greenland, a long-time resident of Port Hueneme, CA and 1999 Citizen of the Year, passed away on February 21, 2014. He was 93. A fourth-generation native Californian, he was born to Ora and Walter Greenland in 1920 and raised in Eagle Rock, where he graduated from Eagle Rock High School (W'39).

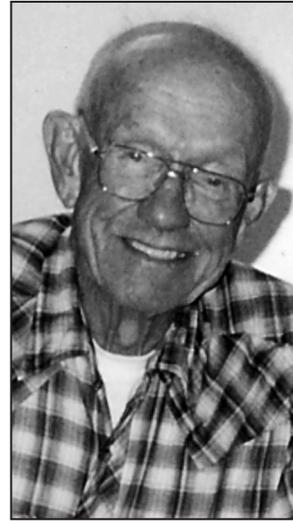


During WWII, Powell served in the Merchant Marine and Maritime Service earning the rank of Lieutenant (jg). After the war he graduated from UCLA, Phi Beta Kappa in History. Powell was co-owner and President of Superior Controls Co, Inc. He was an active member of many community and historical organizations, including: the Friends of the Bard; President of the Southern California Historical Society, where he received the Founder's Award; the Oregon-California Trails Association; the Ventura County Maritime Museum; the Museum of Ventura County; President of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society; and the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners, where he served as Sheriff in 1983. He is shown here receiving a commendation at our 50th anniversary celebration in 2011.

After his retirement, Powell turned to his passion for history full-time and authored numerous articles and books including: Richard Bard's "A Troubled Dream"; "Hydraulic Mining in California"; and "The History of Port Hueneme," for which he received the Donald H. Pflugar award.

Powell leaves behind Billie Greenland (W'39), his high school sweet heart and wife of 72 years. He is also survived by a loving family including four children: Anne Pelish (Roger); Richard Greenland (Judi); Cathy Lowthorp (Chris); Carol Price (Jim); seven grand-children, and five great grand-children; and his sister, Doris Thompson, and brother, Allen Greenland.

We are grateful for the legacy of remarkable materials and high professional standards he and the rest of our founders left us. They have inspired us and continue to provide rich resources for our research and publications.



### Inspirational Community Leader

**R**obert Xavier Cota died February 17, 2014 at the age of 94. A proud graduate of St. Dominic Catholic School and Eagle Rock High School (S'37), throughout his life he supported his country, schools, and community and provided a fine example of service to all of us who knew him.

A longtime member of the Historical Society, he shared tales of his family's life in the home that his parents Amelia (Simper) Cota and Paul Cota built on Peyton Avenue (now Loleta) in 1914. (Paul changed the spelling of their French-origin last name from Cotaé' to Cota.) Bob's recollections of trapping in the hills and walking through neighboring orchards to school gave us a glimpse of a more rural Eagle Rock.

Younger people recall his key role in the founding of the ERHS Boosters and its yearly fundraising carnival. Kiwanis and community members remember "Apple Bob" delivering boxes of delicious fruit throughout the region in the club's most successful fundraiser. Probably the most well-known member of the Chamber of Commerce, he was the host and bartender for their mixers and events. In all of these organizations, he served as president, providing exemplary leadership.

He followed his father in the trade of mason and builder, leaving his mark of quality and taste on many properties in our community. "If Bob built it, it's still standing." His work on his Loleta home showed his expertise at this ancient craft. He was most proud of the fireplace's giant boulders, hovering over a roaring winter fire.

Bob married Teresa Eileen (McLeod) Cota in Las Vegas in 1944 on leave from his service as an artilleryman in the Aleutian Islands. They raised two daughters, Carole Cota (W'64)-Gelfuso and Cindy Cota (S'69)-Pendelton. They were blessed with two grand-children and four great grandchildren. After Teresa's death in 1965, he married his neighbor Mary J. (Fricke) Cota. In his last years, Shirley "Kitty" Abbott was his loving companion.



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

**PIONEERS OF EAGLE ROCK  
BOOK KICKOFF AND SIGNING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014, 7:00**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2014, 1:00**

**CLANG ,CLANG, GONE !  
WENT THE TROLLEY  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014, 7:00**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category:

Individual \$20    Business \$35    **New**

Family \$25    Life \$300    **Renewal**

Will you help with the ongoing activities of the ERVHS ?

Yes    No

Archives    Newsletter    Oral history

Meetings    Fundraising    E-mail me

Publicity    Displays    to help

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to : **ERVHS**  
**c/o Center for the Arts**  
**2225 Colorado Blvd.**  
**Eagle Rock, CA 90041**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Member's Corner**



**Jim Fleming**

Although for the last 55 years Jim has been living in Hawaii, his mind is not far from Eagle Rock. He came out in 2010 for a Vikings car club reunion and reminisced about Bob's on Colorado (now Panang). His memories of growing up here are filled fondly with the neighborhood kids and the worldly, yet close-knit community at his disposal to explore.

In high school, Jim was a successful gymnast and the top student in wood shop, being offered the then only scholarship from that department. Jim graduated in W'57 and eventually landed at the University of Hawaii in '61 graduating in '65. He traveled the world in '65-'66 only to end up back in Hawaii where he met and married his wife, an Island girl named Nana, and has resided there ever since. Jim believes his biggest accomplishment in life has been his three sons. Incredibly accomplished doctors and engineers they too studied on the mainland and moved back again to Hawaii.

In retirement, Jim is an avid reader of history, creative writer, and napper! He loves being a grandparent. "A great quality of Eagle Rock, I think, both then and now, is its family nature. It is the family in which most of us learn to love; and it is our capacity for loving, more than any other personal aspect, that guides us to success in life." Mahalo Jim!

**Katie Taylor**