



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall, 2017

The Highland Theatre—A Legacy Uncovered

“**The Highland Theatre: A Legacy Uncovered**” is a documentary with never-before-seen footage created and produced exclusively by the Highland Park Independent Film Festival team. The film follows the story of the Gore Brothers and their development of movie theatres across California and throughout Northeast Los Angeles. Central to the theme of the film is how local activists can work together to save cultural-historical monuments. The film focuses on 90 years of cinema history, as we take you on a journey through the decades. On March 5th, 1925, Actress Norma Shearer cracked a bottle of champagne on the theatre’s wall for good luck.

Join us as Alessandro Gentile & Terry Butcher screen a film on the history of the Highland Theatre in Highland Park. Q&A to follow screening, and light refreshments will be served.

“Designed by noted theatre architect Louis Arthur Smith in 1924. The Highland Theatre was opened on March 5, 1925. This historic theatre has been triplexed in recent years.”

“The Highland Theatre was once the entertainment hot spot of the Highland Park district, but it, like the area, has seen difficult times over the years. The theatre has continued to hold on, despite its proximity to downtown, and the tumult of time that seems to affect Los Angeles more than any other metropolis.”

“After 75 years, the Highland Theatre is largely forgotten beyond its neighborhood, but it is still a classic Cinema Treasure and one of the few remaining L.A. Smith designed theatres. The Highland Theatre now benefits by being just around the corner from the recently opened Highland Park station on the Metro Gold Line.” (Contributed by Ross Melnick cinematreaasures.org)

Come see local history unfold and get a glimpse of a past that has been mostly invisible.

THE HIGHLAND THEATRE
A LEGACY UNCOVERED
FILM SCREENING & Q&A
CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
EAGLE ROCK
2225 COLORADO
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 7:00
FREE AND
OPEN TO ALL
EAGLE ROCK VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG



Courtesy Los Angeles
Historic Theatre
Foundation

President's Message

It is hard to believe that summer is over and fall is upon us. I grew up in Michigan where many summer days exceeded 100 degrees and many winter days would register below zero. It took me a while to recognize the rather subtle seasons in Southern California, so I've grown to mark the seasonal changes in other ways. For example, the Historical Society has a summer, fall, winter and spring newsletter that proceeds a community event in each season. We mark the height of summer by our Annual Ice Cream Social, which seems to come on the hottest day of the year, but that's a perfect time to gather with friends for cool ice cream and summer entertainment. This year's was one of the best ever and we will be following it with our fall event in October (more about that later), a winter scanning event in February and a spring event in April. Watch our newsletter and E-BLAST for news about these coming events.

I hope you were one of the many people who attended the Ice Cream Social. A special thank you to Katie Taylor who was most responsible for organizing the event for the past several years. The only down side was it was so well attended we didn't have any leftover ice cream and baked goods to take home. Katie found

a great group of contributors to our raffle from the local business community including Trader Joe's, Tritch Hardware, Sprouts, The Lab for Hands on Learning, Colombo's, Center for the Arts Eagle Rock, Women's 20th Century Club, Taylor Brothers, and Yogurtland. Please show your thanks by patronizing their stores and remembering them for your future needs.

Thank you to Don Krotser (Board member) who played/performed with the folk band, Fifth Friday, as well as the Eagle Rock High School Latin Jazz Band. Thanks to our host the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock and Matthew Hines for I.T. and sound. Also a special thank you to Karin Heyl for her delicious baked goods, Karen Warren for decorations and Board members Eric, Cory, Sarah, Severin, David, Donna, Fred and James for set-up and breakdown.

Our next community event will be on October 17th at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock. at which time a film will be presented on the historic Highland Theater. That night will also be our bi annual elections at which we will be electing a new Board and Officers that will serve for the next two years. Be sure to come and vote and enjoy a night of entertainment.

-Frank Parrello



Eagle Rock High Key Club leaders, from left, Gisselle Gutierrez, Ryan Sumadsad and Emily K. Chan serve ice cream at the Social, as the club has done for many years. Many thanks.

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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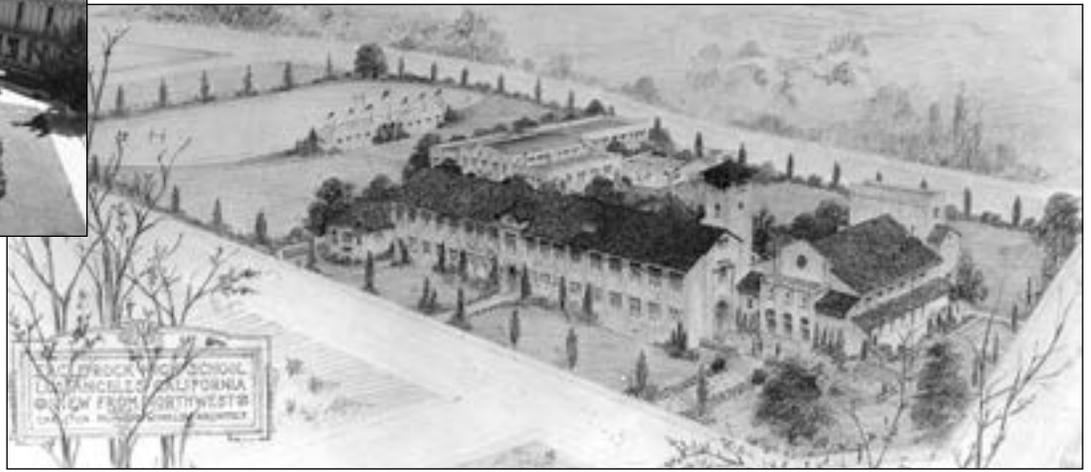
Layout, David Mc Nutt

Contributors, Katie Taylor, David Dellinger, Eric Warren

Visit our website at:

eaglerockhistory.org

Eagle Rock High School Celebrates 90 Years



The architect's rendering of the proposed school.



The school under construction in the "Happyland" district in 1927, the football field to the right, Yosemite Park to the left.



The main building along Yosemite Drive with the library in the foreground.

Our Town, Our History



The end of the building, iconic tower and auditorium frame what would come to be known as the senior lawn.



Miss Helen Babson, the first principal, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar in 1905. While there she held both the college and U.S. women's high jump record. She was also a published poet.



11 girls and 3 boys attended this B11 physics class in 1929.

Eagle Rock High School Archiving Project

Summer is often for vacationing and relaxing, but for one recent Occidental College grad, it meant pursuing her career path as a professional archivist and preserving local Eagle Rock History. Supported by equal \$1000 donations from both the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society and a generous donation from a member of the Eagle Rock High School Alumni Association, Katherine Torrey, Occidental College graduate class of 2017, performed an inventory and produced a finding guide of the Eagle Rock High School historical archives. Under the framework as a Post Baccalaureate internship, she was supervised by Anne Mar, Assistant College Archivist & Metadata Specialist at Occidental College. She was also greatly assisted by our own ERVHS Vice President, Eric Warren. The high school materials had been kept in a closet and were not well-organized. Working very independently and focused in rather tight quarters, Katherine assessed about 65 boxes of materials ranging from yearbooks, photographs including annual panorama photos, newspapers, scrapbooks, media, PTA materials, Alumni Association materials, and other publica-

tions and realia such as clothing including baseball uniforms and letterman jackets, trophies, and miscellaneous items. Some of the items dating back to 1930 ranged from photos of students at Prom, to old band uniforms, to handwritten PTA notes. After assessing each item, she wrote inventories of all of the materials, and then rehoused them in new archival boxes.

When asked if she found anything that she had not expected, Katherine replied "My favorite unexpected item in the collection is a collectible Hot Wheels car with "Eagle Rock" painted across the body from an alum named Gary Saffer, who was a Hot Wheels car designer." To which she added, "Not the most "historically significant" item... but I just thought it was an interesting highlight." Anne Mar pointed out that Katherine had been a worker in the Special Collections and College Archives while she was a student. She stressed, "Having Katherine on board helped us galvanize the project quickly".

Katherine added, "I really enjoyed archiving the collection and getting to know ERHS. I'm a recent Oxy alum, and felt that I had a responsibility to study Eagle Rock more intimately as it was my home for four years. The high school is an important part of the community, and I'm so grateful to have had the chance to meet several students, faculty, and staff members during my time archiving. It was a fascinating way to learn about the history of ERHS as well as the history of Eagle Rock overall."

-David Dellinger



Alumni representatives Mary Denardo and Gerry Kreger join Karen Warren and James Arredondo of the Historical Society selling memorabilia and recruiting members in the High School library where the newly inventoried school archives were displayed for the anniversary.



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

***THE HIGHLAND THEATRE
A LEGACY UNCOVERED
TUESDAY, OCT. 17, 2017. 7:00***

**DIGITIZE YOUR ER MEMORIES
WITH DAVID & FRIENDS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018 7:00**

**AN EXCITING PROGRAM
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018 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



Jacob Booher

Jacob appeared at our archives several weeks ago, already versed in Eagle Rock's history. He came hoping to delve deeper into our resources and left as our newest member! After a childhood of relocating with his military family, he settled in Utah for high school and attended the University of Utah. He graduated in Environmental Studies, the beginning of his career of environmental consulting and policy making. He went on to graduate law school at Lewis & Clark in Portland, Oregon.

He has lived in and traveled to many places in the U.S. but when he landed his current position as an Environmental Attorney for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he was filled with hesitation. Live in Los Angeles??? Life in Los Angeles, he told me, thus far "has exceeded all expectations, the city has been great to me, largely because I am in Eagle Rock." Although he and his wife Leeann have been residents of Eagle Rock for only two years, Jacob claims he will be staying "as long as [he] possibly can." He and Leeann often socialize with the neighbors on their street and they can be found daily walking the streets of Eagle Rock with their dog. Why join the Historical Society? He "wants to make roots here." We are so thankful to have Jacob join our organization and help explore our community roots!

-Katie Taylor