



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring, 2021

Transportation Through Eagle Rock

From the beginnings of its suburbanization, issues of connectivity to the cities around it drove the process. The early large landowners in the valley often purchased their land with a view to its rising value as the overall population of Southern California rose.

The initial connection of concern was the Eagle Rock Boulevard corridor, where swampy areas around York Boulevard blocked access. The construction of the 5-line trolley to downtown L.A. in 1906 enabled easy transit to the farmland of the Eagle Rock valley and transformed land use leading to the suburban plan that we see today.

Very soon after, the east-west connection between our valley and adjacent cities and thence the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys, became the focus of both local boosters and State and regional planners.

Initially, connection to Glendale and its rail facilities was achieved by the Glendale and Eagle Rock Railway. Simultaneously efforts by the state to overcome the geography of the Eagle Rock stream drainage led to the routing of Colorado Boulevard up Eagle Vista and crossing the stream on a new bridge at a point about where the 134 freeway bridge crosses the, now-buried, stream today. The completion of the Arroyo Seco Bridge in 1913 competed this connection. While this did benefit Eagle Rock, it began a shift, which would often be the source of conflict, between users concerned with local connections and regional authorities that viewed Eagle Rock mostly as a bottleneck to regional traffic solutions.

A slideshow presentation highlighting these and later developments in this continuing debate will pre-

cede a panel question and answer period about this history. This is not, however, a forum for discussion of current transportation issues. The panel includes: Alan Weeks, expert on the trolley system and longtime Metro employee; Michael Morgan, La Crescenta historian and expert on the Glendale and Montrose Railway; and Severin Martinez, a city planner who has studied the freeway and road connections between Eagle Rock and the region. Eric Warren, ER-VHS curator, will moderate the panel.

We welcome all who are interested to our public zoom meeting at 7 PM Tuesday, April 27. Links will be available via our email blast. As you can see from the calendar, we hope to resume in-person meetings in the fall. This will of course be dependent on further progress in containing the pandemic. We hope all of our members and friends are safe and well.

**HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION
THROUGH EAGLE ROCK
A ZOOM SLIDE SHOW AND
PANEL Q & A
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 7:00**



**EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

Hello, Eagle Rock!

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support.

As I mentioned last time in the President's Corner, 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of when some members of the Women's Twentieth Century Club of Eagle Rock decided to spin off a historical society. Many of these members had been in Eagle Rock for decades already and had lots of memorabilia and memories that they wanted to preserve, so they organized the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society.

On the subject of anniversaries, we recently had an inquiry about a house that was built in 1921 – and increased interest in its history as it turns one hundred years old. That made us think that since many Eagle Rock houses were built in the 1920s, there will be a lot of centennial celebrations in the coming few years! A centennial anniversary might trigger a little more research into yours or a neighbor's house, so it seemed like a good time to refresh the list of resources that you can use in your sleuthing. Here's a short list of resources you can use to be your own home researcher:

- zimas.lacity.org – The City of LA repository of property information.
- www.assessor.lacounty.gov – County property information.
- www.lapl.org – They have a vast photo collection and research databases. Also look for Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for structure footprints over the years. You'll need your library card to access these resources – look in Volumes 31 & 39 for Eagle Rock.
- cdnc.ucr.edu - The California Digital Newspaper Collection. Once you start getting names and addresses, you can look for articles or announcements regarding your house.
- Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society – For our members, we do our best with limited resources to look up properties in our data archives.

One final note - As Eagle Rock, along with the rest of the world, begins to awaken after a year of forced hibernation, remember to be kind to your neighbors,

help those in need, frequent the local restaurants as they open more and more, and generally be thankful. There is no denying that there has been a lot of loss and hardship, and it may sound strange from a historical society to bring this up, but what we really need now is to think of the future and how we can all get along.

QR CODE

Scan to access our website with your phone.



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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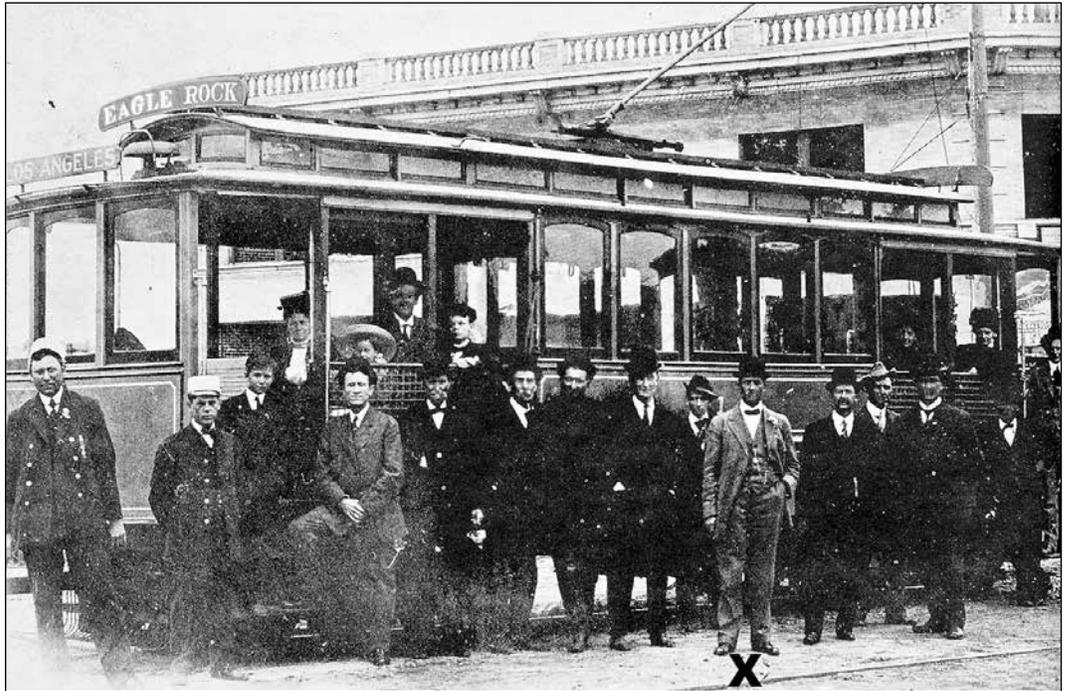
Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

It's time to renew your membership. If you have already paid your 2021 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.

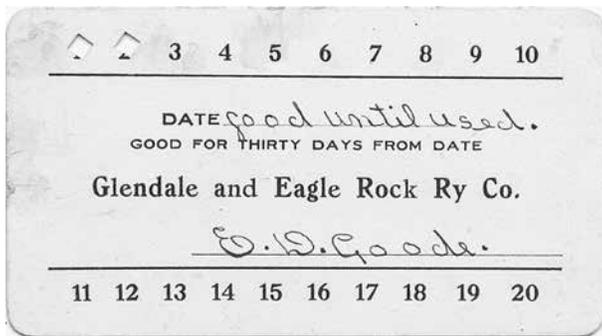
Thanks, we depend on you.

The Glendale and Eagle Rock Railway

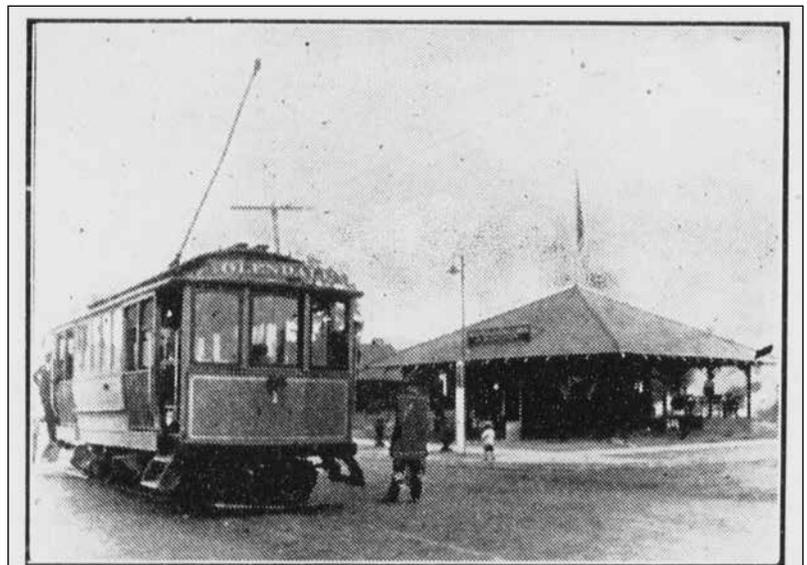
The opening day of the Glendale and Eagle Rock Railway was March 13, 1909, said to be a “wedding between Glendale and Eagle Rock.” This photo was taken looking southeast at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Broadway in Glendale. On the left is Motorman J. S. Alpine, then Conductor, John Marvel. Above the “X” is E. D. Goode, “the moving spirit behind the enterprise.” (LAPL Security Bank Collection)



E. D. Goode was a pioneer in both Eagle Rock and Glendale. It is unclear when he moved to Glendale. At the time of the railway’s founding, the Los Angeles Herald stated “E. D. Goode can always be depended on to take a leading and active part in whatever is proposed for the upbuilding of Glendale.” He organized the Glendale Union High School to which Eagle Rock sent its students until Eagle Rock High School was built, advocated for the incorporation of Glendale and the building of the Pacific Electric Railway along the foothills. (Los Angeles Herald)



Elena Frackelton Murdock’s railway pass, issued by E.D. Goode. Mrs. Murdock recalled that Goode’s son Ray was the first successful birth among the English-speaking residents of the valley. (Murdock Family Collection, ERVHS)



Glendale and Eagle Rock railroad station and trolley car.

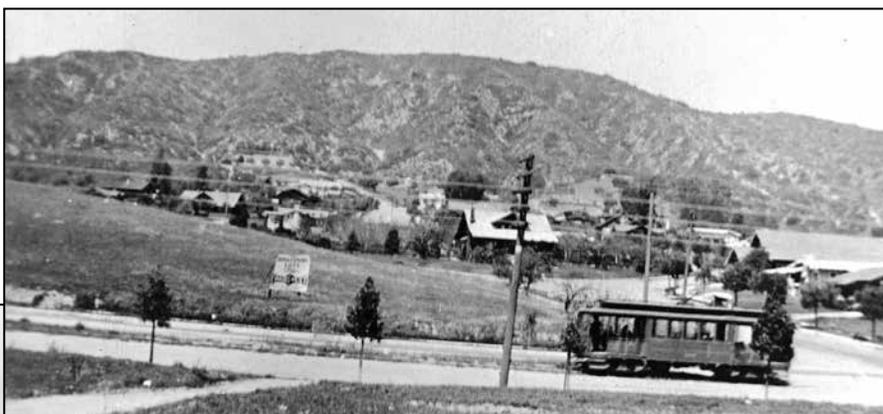
The streetcar, headed toward Eagle Rock, is shown in front of the station on Glendale Avenue. (Los Angeles Herald)

Our Town, Our History

Frank Hilliard posed in the door of the streetcar on Broadway in Glendale headed toward Eagle Rock. E. D Goode's son Ray stands by on the street. The building in the background was the Glendale Sanitarium, ancestor of today's Glendale Adventist Medical Center. It was built as the Glendale Hotel in the center of Glendale at the height of the boom of the 1880's. It also served as St. Hilda's Academy, an Episcopalian High School and the first Union High School, serving Glendale, Eagle Rock and several other small communities. (Glendale Public Library)



The streetcar heads west just past Ellenwood Drive. The sign advertises commercial lots on Colorado to be sold by Edwards and Winters. In later years, boys delighted in greasing the tracks, causing the car to slide backwards down the steep hill to the west. (ERVHS)

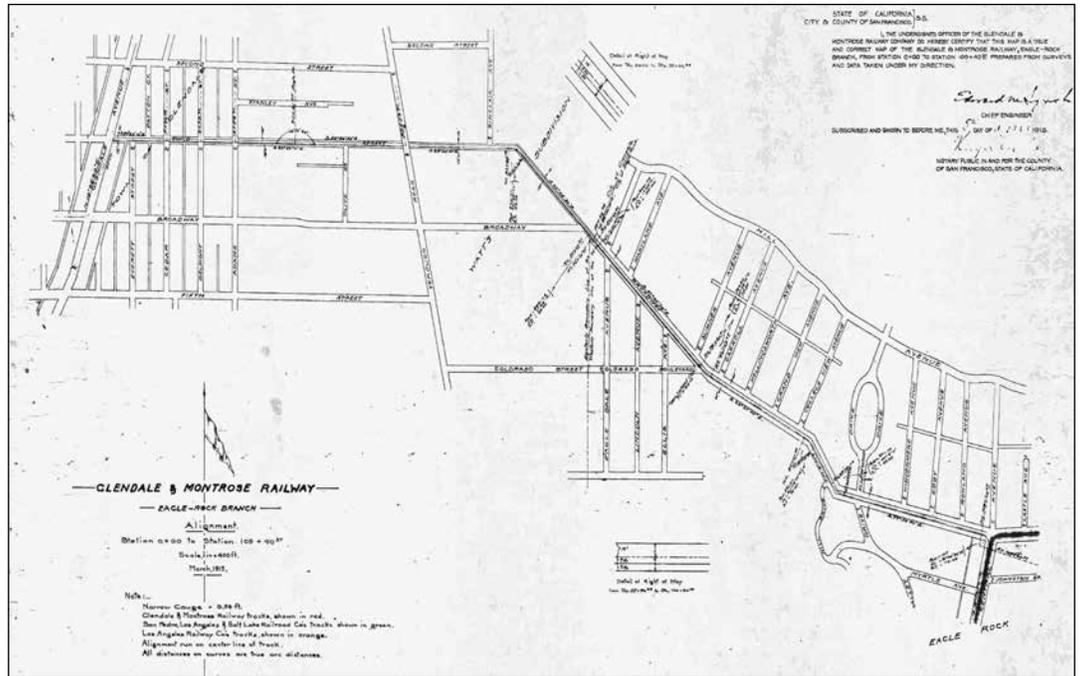


The streetcar heading toward Glendale in front of the Bessolo house at the top of the hill. The house, considerably remodeled, still exists. The four-story Colorado Terrace building now hides it. (ERVHS)

Our Town, Our History

A map of the Eagle Rock branch of the then-Glendale and Montrose Railway. The railway played a vital part in the building of our city, delivering freight to Eagle Rock from the railhead in Glendale. It ran west from Brand on Broadway jogged north on Glendale to Wilson, west to Broadway then Colorado to Eagle Rock Boulevard. In 1917 a rail spur was built running south, parallel to Eagle Rock Boulevard, probably along the alley, behind the stores on the Boulevard. A small station may have been built along this line but no record of its location has been found.

In 1913 a longer extension of the line was constructed to connect Glendale to the burgeoning community of Montrose to the north, shifting the focus of the railway. (Southern California Railway Museum)



The Eagle Rock car stands at the Glendale end of the line on Broadway at Brand Boulevard. This was the connection point to the Pacific Electric line into the foothills. (Glendale Public Library)



**Counted among
the pioneers
active in the growth
and progress
of Eagle Rock
is the
GLENDALE AND
MONTROSE RAILWAY**

This ad ran in the Eagle Rock Sentinel Twentieth Anniversary edition in March of 1930. Its text read in part "All through the years in fair weather and foul, the little car has operated, interchanging passengers between the two communities, counting up some 70,000 miles of operation annually." Ironically, in August of that year the line petitioned successfully to abandon all of its lines. (Eagle Rock Sentinel)



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

**SIC TRANSIT EAGLE ROCK
A PANEL DISCUSSION**

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 7:00

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1 TO 4
P.M. @ THE HOME**

**ERVHS ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
CELEBRATING 60 HISTORIC YEARS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021 6:00**

The Member's Corner



Joanna Linkchorst

Born and raised in La Crescenta and a resident throughout her life, she found her passion in local history, most notably as a founder and the current President of Friends of Rockhaven. You can find out about this unique and very cool place at www.friendsofrockhaven.org. Please give them your support and attention!

Joanna's first venture into Eagle Rock was when she was a little girl, meeting a family friend. In junior high she attended the movie theater inside the Eagle Rock Plaza and in high school she loved going to the Eagle Theater (and yes she is very excited for Vidiots to be moving in!). One day she found herself exploring the neighborhood across from the Eagle Rock Plaza and began making a habit of noting all the historic homes in that area. She purchased the ERVHS's various history books and took it upon herself to walk Eagle Rock with this information on hand. She discovered that she absolutely loved Eagle Rock, telling me some of her favorite spots are various estates on Hill Drive ("Ma Castle" is one!), Cindy's, and Casa Bianca. She told me "what gets my heart is history" so it is no surprise that she joined our Society and has been a loyal member for years. Thank you for loving Eagle Rock and for all the historic preservation you are doing for Rockhaven!

-Katie Taylor