



Mount Washington Association Asks for No-Horn Zone Rehearing

Larry Hoffman

On May 16, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) appeared to grant all of the Mount Washington Association's requests for safe and quiet Gold Line train crossings at Avenue 45 and Avenue 50. In particular, the PUC agreed to slow the trains to 20 mph and to install several other safety measures. However, unknown to anyone who was not physically present in San Francisco that day, the PUC decided not to establish the no-horn zone that had been recommended by Administrative Law Judge Rosenthal and Commissioner Duque.

Since receiving a transcript of the decision, MWA Gold Line leadership have met on several occasions with the MTA, the Construction Authority, L.A. City Council member Reyes' office, and County Supervisor Gloria Molina's office in an attempt to get the no-horn zone reinstated through unified action. That has proved not possible at this time.

The Mount Washington Association has therefore taken action on its own. On June 19, 2002, the Association's attorneys (Larry Hoffman and lawyers from White & Case) filed an application for rehearing, requesting the Commission to reconsider its decision to eliminate the no-horn zone encompassing Avenue 45 and Avenue 50. The basis for the application is that the decision is right on the law [concluding that the Commission has authority to establish a no-horn zone in appropriate circumstances] but wrong on the facts [finding that the circumstances at Avenue 45 and Avenue 50 are not appropriate]. The Association argues:

- 1) That the evidence – including the testimony of the Construction Authority's Chief Project Officer, who agreed that Avenue 45 and Avenue 50 are suitable for a no-horn zone – compels precisely the opposite finding.
- 2) That the Construction Authority's own evidence supported a no-horn zone at Avenue 45 and Avenue 50. The only reason the Authority did not endorse the Association's request for a no-horn zone was that it considered this not a construction matter but rather an operational matter within the domain of MTA, which opposed it. However, MTA withdrew its objection on the day before the Commission hearing at which the decision was announced. This fact appears not to have been taken into account by the Commission in reaching its decision.
- 3) Finally, that the Commission disregards a very recent amendment to the Public Utilities Code –

one that went into effect on January 1, 2002 – by which the legislature encourages the Commission to explore methods of dealing with train horn noise in residential communities. Specifically mentioned in the amendment are no-horn zones, the ultimate mitigation measure, at crossings (such as those at Avenue 45 and Avenue 50) that are protected by quad gates and other safety devices.

We expect a decision on the application within sixty days. If it is granted, we will expect the Commission to issue a new decision within 120 days thereafter.

A word of caution: an order granting a rehearing will not necessarily mean that the new decision will reinstate the quiet zone. The Commission might merely agree that its

decision is defective in its failure to explain why a no-horn zone at Avenue 45 and Avenue 50 would be inappropriate, and try to cure that defect by providing an explanation. We will notify you of developments as they occur.

Finally, important urban landscape, economic development, and planning issues regarding the Gold Line remain crucial at this point. In August, look for the first in a series of community input sessions on the Northeast Linkages plans for the area between French Avenue and Avenue 50, hosted by Council District One and facilitated by Fred Glick, noted urban planner. Date, time, and place will be announced.

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, July 14, 2002, 1 PM

Lummis Home

200 S. Avenue 43

Summer Fun Meeting

Details on page 3.



President's Message

Carol Jacques

We hope you will all join us for a relaxing afternoon at the Lummis House on July 14th, and give us all a chance to enjoy one another's company. This is a great opportunity to talk and relax, with great food and music and in the home of one of our community's early founders. And we promise we will keep any business meeting very short!

While we await the outcome of our latest application for a rehearing of the PUC Gold Line decision, it is important to realize that we, the little David battling Goliath, have already won a lot. The PUC and its engineers have slowed the trains to 20 mph, realizing that neither the Avenue 45 nor the Avenue 50 crossings should be high-speed crossings. The PUC also now requires several other safety measures to be installed, including quad gates, automatic vehicle detection systems, and less objectionable "quacker" horns on the trains.

We have one last fight ahead of us – to ensure that horns are blown only in emergencies. We will probably hear further about this around the middle of August, and we will keep you informed.

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Communications

Maria Gray (225-4256)

Children's Issues

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Economic Development

Susan Baldwin (227-5597)

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Membership Report

Aurora Nordhausen

Memberships as of June 24, 2002 are at 559. We have 50 new memberships and 66 supporting memberships thus far. A special thanks to those of you who have given extra financial support to the MWA; it is much appreciated!

The dues for 394 memberships have been paid thus far for 2002. Please note that, according to our Association's Bylaws, if your membership dues were not paid by April 1, you are no longer considered an active member with voting privileges until you pay your dues. We urge anyone who has not paid this year's membership dues to do so as soon as possible. We value your participation and ideas. If you are not sure whether or not you have paid your dues, please give me a call at 221-1730.

Land Use Report

Liz Herron

It is important that individuals purchasing raw land or adding to their existing homes understand the constraints of the

significant trees are removed they must be replaced one-for-one with 24-gallon native trees.

The planning process has begun for the Taylor Yard State Park. How can the proposed park use integrate with the surrounding uses for both the Taylor Yard and the Cornfield? The planners have requested input from the surrounding community. Please attend the next Land Use Committee Meeting to give your input for the master planning process.

The Land Use Committee will meet at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, July 24th, at 935 W. Ave 37.

Children's Issues Report

Scott Folsom

It has been a productive and exciting year at Mount Washington School, and with the close of the school year this is an excellent time to make a report.

The year began with the Pancake Breakfast and with the unveiling of the new playground equipment, purchased with a grant from Anne and Kirk Douglas and matched with school district construction funds – augmented by PTA funds. The year ended with a visit by the Douglasses to dedicate the equipment and with our annual spaghetti dinner and talent show.

In between there was plenty of excitement and education!

- Our test scores rose.
- We fully automated the library.
- We implemented the Accelerated Reader Program with a contest that was both fun and productive – increasing by thousands of hours the reading time at a school already filled with young readers!
- Our chorus performed at the State PTA Convention.
- The parents converted an underused patio area into a Parent Center.
- With the leadership of City Councilman Garcetti and some creative thinking from the Federal Government, the City of LA, and LAUSD, almost two million dollars of funding has been found to begin planning and construction of the long awaited Jack Smith Library and Community Center at Mount Washington School. This multipurpose room will serve as auditorium, cafeteria and expanded library and media center for the school – and as a Community Center after school hours. Preliminary planning meetings have already been held.
- At the suggestion of Board Member Tokofsky a number of parents have begun an investigation of reconfiguring the school to include seventh and eighth grades.
- The local school district is working to keep our student population who attend local LAUSD middle schools intact at a single school – Irving – rather than break them up at three different schools.
- We squeaked through the school district budget crunch, surviving the cutbacks somehow!

Mount Washington Glassell Park Specific Plan. The main issue is the removal of native trees from the lot. Individuals unfamiliar with the Specific Plan need to be notified by realtors or concerned neighbors before these hard-to-replace trees are removed, and existing trees should be photographed so that tree removal can be documented. The Specific Plan states that if native or

- Due to community pressure from last year this summer there will be an adult-supervised free summer program for kids on the school playground
- ...and the STAR program will also offer a paid five-days-a-week enrichment program over the summer at the school.
- This summer the sidewalk south of the school on the west side of San Rafael will be completed, thanks to federal Safe Schools funding obtained through Jackie Goldberg's office.
- In September we will start out the year with a new Principal. Mrs. Manzanera has been promoted to another assignment; we wish her and her new school well.
- And next year there will be new leadership in the School PTA, with Susan Nininger taking over from me. Susan and her fellow parent leaders are filled with energy and great ideas, so we can expect even better things from the school in the years ahead.

And the school grows: next year we anticipate three incoming kindergarten classes!

July General Membership Meeting

Natalie Seaman

Come join us for a lazy afternoon of food, fun, music and conversation on Sunday July 14 at 1pm on the patio of the Lummis Home. Take this opportunity to soak up some sun and local culture surrounded by friends and neighbors in the spirit of the early Mexican American days of California history.

We will provide tamales, rice and salad; you bring the spirit. Tours of the Lummis Home will be available. See you there.

Minutes of the May General Membership Meeting

Ann Walnum

President Carol Jacques called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, May 19, 2002.

Our soda pop tasting, from 7:30 to 7:45, was followed by a SODA POP HISTORY given by John Neese, owner of Galco's in Highland Park, which currently markets 425 brands of soda pop.

Marcus Renner of Occidental College outlined Arroyo Fest plans for October 6 on the to-be-shutdown Arroyo Seco Freeway.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that David Brunk be confirmed as association director.

Echo Park activist Sally Neubauer requested support in opposing the 90-foot-tall stadium-type lights sought for Little League night games at Bishop Canyon in Elysian Park.

Committee reports included the following:

Public Safety: Committee chair David Brunk announced a June painting party to finish the painting of the lower Mt. Washington Drive guardrail.

Economic Development: Committee chair Susan Baldwin spoke about neighborhood councils and the vision they promise.

Neighborhood Council: Pat Griffith announced that a community meeting was scheduled for May 22 and that the NC certification hearing was scheduled for May 28 at Franklin High School.

Child Care: Pat Griffith invited everyone to attend the Open House at La Casita Verde (Zeigler House), now ready for child care after many years of work.

Current reports from the **Membership, Action, Land Use, Children's Issues,** and **Gold Line** committees appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

ArroyoFest Meeting

Cheri Uno

The next meeting for the ArroyoFest project will be on July 17th at the South Pasadena Public Library Community Room, 1115 El Centro Street, South Pasadena. Entrance to the Community Room is on the opposite side of the building from the main library entrance. There will be an Information and Update session from 6:30 to 7:30, followed by Volunteer Training until 8:30.

Carlin G. Smith News

Ann Walnum

The summer camp program at Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center (511 West Avenue 46) will run from 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday, through August 30. There will be weekly outings, including trips to Soak City (at Knott's Berry Farm), Medieval Times, and Universal Studios. Free lunch will be provided daily at 12:30 PM through the Federal agricultural surplus distribution program. For details, call the Center's director Lola Moquin at (323) 225-4960.

Action Report

Cheri Uno

Stairway Mural

As reported in the last newsletter, the MWA has received an Operation Clean Sweep Matching Fund grant for the restoration of the mural on the Oneonta/Olancho Stairway. In a few weeks I will begin to put together work parties to install the mural and anti-graffiti coating. If you would like to be involved in this project, please give me a call at (323) 222-0420.

Arson Fires Around Mt. Washington

In the early morning of Friday, June 21, several fires were started in brush areas around Mt. Washington. If you saw anything, please report it to LAFD Station 44 or the Northeast Police Station as soon as possible. Luckily, all the lots had been cleared of grass and brush. If there are lots near your property which are not yet cleared, please notify LAFD Station 44 immediately.

Valley Secession

On May 22nd, by a vote of 8 to 1, LAFCO approved putting Valley "Cityhood" on the November 5, 2002 ballot. Valley residents will also vote on the new city's Mayor, Council Members, and the name of the new City.

To hear the supporting arguments for valley secession, you can contact:

Jeff Brain, President
Valley VOTE
Phone: (818) 501-5862
Fax: (818) 501-6959
valleyvote@aol.com
<http://www.valleyvote.org>

If you are interested in having an open forum discussing both sides of this issue at our September meeting, please contact me.

Telemarketing Information Resources

You have rights when it comes to telephone solicitation. See the Mount Washington Association web site for a list of publications explaining those rights.

Traffic Accidents & Crime Report

We have had a decrease in traffic accidents. The current year-to-date statistics show a 42% drop in accidents and a 66% decrease in injuries.

Generally crime is up about 6% from last year. Last year and previous year were historically very low years.

The Volunteer Surveillance Team is looking for volunteers. Another training class is being held at the end of July or first of August. Contact the Northeast Police Station Community Relations Office or VP Action.

The Community Police Academy is starting another class on July 23, from 6 to 8 PM. This ten week in-depth course covers policing and police policies for the City of Los Angeles. Contact Officer Rita Vallejo at the Northeast Police Station Community Relations Office.

Officer Cooper will be holding Neighborhood Watch Meetings at the Police Historical Museum on York Boulevard on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

For more details on all of these items, see the MWA web site.

USC Neighborhood Council Research Cites Role of Mount Washington Assoc.

Eliot Sekuler

A case study published by the School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California discusses the role played by the Mt. Washington Association's community activists in providing the impetus behind the Northeast Los Angeles neighborhood council formation process. The study cites the group as notable for their outreach and education activities, for their efforts to reach a regional consensus on border issues,

and for their use of professional facilitation to defuse conflicts within the community.

The case study, titled "Issues and Practices in Neighborhood Council Organizing: Community Case Studies", was published by four USC researchers and professors who have followed the Los Angeles neighborhood council formation process for the past three years.

According to the study, "the movement to form neighborhood councils in the Northeast was initially identified with the Mt. Washington Association, a long-standing homeowner and residential group that serves 956 members living in the hills of Mt. Washington. The association became involved in the neighborhood council formation process as a means to better connect Mt. Washington to neighboring communities....The organizers opted to conduct outreach on a regional scale out of a desire both to be as inclusive as possible and to avoid imposing de facto boundaries by outreaching too narrowly." The study notes that seven meetings were conducted over a 22-month period before the regional group made its first substantive decision regarding boundaries.

Regional neighborhood council organization has given way to community-based efforts although, according to the USC study, "the local mobilizations were undoubtedly sparked by momentum created by the regional organizing effort."

Authors of the USC study were research analyst Melissa Gaeke, ABD; associate professor Juliet Ann Musso, Ph.D.; research associate Alicia Kitsuse, MPL; and research associate Evan Lincove, MPP.

Pancake Breakfast at Mount Washington School

Ed Raspa

Mark your calendars: this year's PTA Pancake Breakfast at Mount Washington Elementary School will begin at 8:30 AM on September 7th. Everyone is invited.

Then and Now

Pat Samson

Continuing Notes from the 1990s

Three hillside homes on Pheasant Drive and a cottage on Milton Court suffered extensive damage as a result of the heavy rains in early 1993.

The sale of Elyria Canyon to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was approved unanimously and without discussion by the Los Angeles City Council on October 6, 1993, paving the way for the 35-acre park which was dedicated on Sunday, May 22, 1994.

The Friends of Mount Washington School, a non-profit group formed in 1993, held one of many successful fund-raisers for the Jack Smith Multi-Purpose Building on April 9, 1994.

"A Gallery of Our Own," an exhibit developed by 34 fifth and sixth grade students at Mount Washington

Elementary School, opened at the Gene Autry Museum on June 9, 1995. The work was an outgrowth of the school's liaison with the museum, started in 1990 as part of the LAUSD Adopt a School Program.

The timber stairway connecting the 1100 block of Oneonta Drive with the 1100 block of Olancha Drive, which had been burned out in the early 1990s, was replaced with a new concrete stairway in late 1995. Restoration of the public artwork installed at that time is now underway.

On May 24, 1997, about 340 firefighters battled the worst fire on Mount Washington in over 40 years. It started in the Elyria Canyon area and after about two hours exploded in an uncultivated mass of wild grass and brush, igniting it into a wall of fire 100 feet long and 50 feet high. One home on Rome Drive was badly damaged.

Construction on the San Rafael Avenue bulkhead project to widen the street between Moon and Mayo Avenues began on June 16, 1997.

Self Realization Fellowship presented its 30-year development plan to MWA members at the November 17, 1997 general meeting.

In December 1997, dog owners were warned about the possibility of intentional poisoning after the suspicious deaths of three dogs and the disappearance of others.

A project to reline pre-1939 water pipes was begun in the summer of 1998. Although the project resulted in some inconvenience from lack of parking, street closures and tar damage, the increased water capacity and pressure was badly needed for fire protection.

In late 1999 discussions began on the various issues regarding boundaries and formation of Neighborhood Councils as mandated by the Charter Reform Amendment approved by voters in June. The work is still ongoing.

Also in late 1999, a \$2000 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant was awarded for the MWA Community Bulletin Board Project conceived in February 1999. The bulletin board, located in front of Mt. Washington Elementary School, has three panels and has the California craftsman look with arroyo stone and a small pitched roof.

Throughout the 1990s, the neighborhood celebrated. Summer fun meetings included evenings at the Casa de Adobe (1990) and Lummi Home (1991, 1992, 1995 and 1996), a Western Line Dance Hoe-Down at American Legion Post 206 in Highland Park (1993), a relaxing Community Reunion at Southwest Museum (1994), Family Picnics in Upper Arroyo Seco Park (1997 and 1998), and a Back to School Sunday afternoon in the new Outdoor Classroom at Mt. Washington Elementary School (1999). Annual Mt. Washington Philharmonic concerts were begun in 1995. The first annual MWA Hillside Garden Tour was held on November 15, 1998. And the annual School Pancake Breakfasts were enjoyed throughout the 1990s.

But as the 1990s neared their end, Mount Washington and the world worried about Y2K Preparedness . . .

Watch the next Newsletter for the 1980s!

Walnuts: What's the Big Deal?

Lynnette Kampe

The current issue of Audubon reports that the present rate of species extinction is 1,000 to 10,000 times faster than at any other time in the last 500 million years.

The California Walnut, *Juglans californica*, is common in Mt. Washington but found almost nowhere else in the world. It occurs only in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties and is the central species of the threatened California Walnut Woodland plant community. Dr. Keeley of Occidental College described our Walnut as a remnant of a mixed deciduous woodland that dates back to the last ice age. How sad it would be if the plant community that grows in the shade of this tree and the web of wildlife it supports were to disappear under our stewardship, after surviving for so long.

It's not the tree itself that is considered threatened, but rather the community it supports. Wildlife loves the layered look. Just as there are bottom fish, middle fish and top fish in an aquarium, there are birds and other critters that live near the ground, others in the bushes, and others in the tops of trees. We tend to notice only the biggest and boldest species, but by enhancing the native understory and looking for ways to link isolated patches of habitat we can preserve all of the species. Basically, if you plant it, they will come.

Our challenge is to allow room for plants to support native critters, while conforming to fire regulations and building more houses. Our reward will be to know that the owls will be around a while longer and that future generations will see a diversity of native flowers, birds and butterflies that we thought was gone forever.

Mt. Washington Treasures – The Eisenmayer House

Grayson D. Cook

Prominent among the many architectural treasures of our neighborhood is this impressive Craftsman located at 2765 San Rafael. Walter G. Eisenmayer, an executive with the Los Angeles Ice and Cold Storage Co., decided to build a home overlooking the City, a home that spoke of success and position. In early 1908, he hired the Milwaukee Building Co. (who were also building the Mt. Washington Hotel) to construct – at the then princely sum of \$5,000 – a 2 story, 4 bedroom house. The design was characterized as a “Swiss Cottage type” Craftsman, with peaked roofs and green ship lap siding.

According to the Mt. Washington Eagle of Dec. 13, 1908, this was the first house built “in the mountains”. The article continues:

“From its imposing site the structure can be seen from Highland Park to Elysian Park and along San Fernando road to Glendale. When completed, [Mr. Eisenmayer’s] view of Los Angeles at night will compare with the view of San Francisco from Mt. Tamalpais.”

The Eisenmayer family moved into the completed home in early 1909. In the intervening years, through various owners, the house has undergone various episodes of remodeling. In the 1940s, it was stuccoed (the fate of many Craftsman homes) by its then owners, the Buckland family.

The present owner, Adran Marinovich, has restored the house into a Craftsman showplace with shining hardwood floors throughout. The home is now filled with antique and reproduction Craftsman period furniture, as well as Arts and Crafts objects d’art. This excellent house is the result of Adran’s vision and labors.

The Verdugo Valley Gastronome

Phil Gillette

Brunch close to home?

Many have been the Mt. Washington residents who have raved about a restaurant find in places like Los Felix, Pasadena, Glendale, South Pasadena, or Hollywood, even though there are several excellent restaurants in our own northeast area, a short drive from home.

Remember the sign, “If you lived here you’d be home by now”? Well, “If you ate here, you’d be home in time to walk it off down San Rafael.”

I want to discuss two such places. Neither has a buffet,

thank God, and each has its charm and imperfections.

The Beaujolais Boulangerie in Eagle Rock is a small (14 tables indoors and out), friendly spot operated by the Café Beaujolais down the street. I am not sure why it is called a boulangerie – a bakery – when its bread is imported from the excellent Normandie Country Bakery at Cochran and Jefferson. But the food is good enough: sandwiches, quiches, salads, and soups, as well as a variety of beverages. Warning: they only take cash! [Beaujolais Boulangerie, 1661 Colorado Boulevard, Eagle Rock. Open Tuesday through Friday from 7 AM to 4 PM, and Saturday from 8 AM to 4 PM. Telephone: (323) 255-5133.] \$\$

La Abeja, a local institution in Cypress Park, is the kind of dark, small, dingy place you don’t take a date to. But the food is so good that an article in the L.A. Weekly featured La Abeja’s *carne adobado* (meat with a sourish marinade of achiote, garlic, cinnamon, cloves, pepper, Mexican oregano, cumin and vinegar). Small, with just three booths and five tables, La Abeja is well known for its “hungry man” breakfasts. [La Abeja, 3700 N. Figueroa. Open Wednesday through Saturday from 8 AM to 5:30 PM, Sunday from 8 AM to 3 PM, and Monday from 8 AM to 2 PM. Telephone: (323) 221-0474.] \$

And then there is *Camilo’s*, which opened last year in a small building on York, soon became THE place for brunch, then suddenly disappeared a few months ago. Well, according to Amelia, Camilo’s was to be reopening near Eagle Rock and Colorado in the first week of June. Look for a review in an upcoming newsletter.

Coming up...

- July 2 Meet the *Brush Clearance Unit* at Councilmember Garcetti’s field office, 3525 Sunset Blvd, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, for answers to all your questions about brush clearance.
- July 7 Garden Series session on *designing with native plants*, at the Southwest Museum. (323) 221-2164.
- July 17 Parent forum “Positive Discipline: Eliminate the Struggle” at Friends Western School. 7 PM. Call (323) 257-2727 for details.
- July 20 *Gourd design* workshop at Southwest Museum, with Nadiya Littlewarrior. 10 AM to 4 PM. Members \$20, non-members \$30, materials included.
- July 23 *Community Police Academy Class*. 6 PM to 8 PM. Contact Officer Rita Vallejo at the Northeast Police Station Community Relations Office for details.
- August 3 Lecture on Hopi *katsina carving* by Gerry Quotskuyva, at Southwest Museum.
- August 3-4 *Hopi jewelry* demonstration, show, and sale, with Phil Poseyesva, at Southwest Museum.
- August 6 National Night Out, a *national police program*. Call Northeast Police Station Community Relations Office for time and place.
- August 8-9 *Beadwork workshop*, Southwest Museum, John Bradley, Jr. (Comanche/Cherokee). 6 to 9:30 PM.
- August 18 Playing the *American Indian Flute*, Southwest Museum, Bill Neal (Cherokee). 1 to 4 PM.
- August 21 Parent forum “Boys & Girls: Nurture, Nature or Just Plain Ornerly?” at Friends Western School. 7 PM.
- August 24 Steatite carving workshop at Southwest Museum, with Ted Garcia (Chumash). 9 AM to noon. Members \$20, non-members \$30, materials included.
- August 24 California *basketry demonstration* at Southwest Museum, with Dee Dominguez. 1 to 3:30 PM.
- August 24 *Legends and dances of the Chumash* at Southwest Museum, with Ted and Dennis Garcia. 1 PM.
- September 7 Mount Washington Elementary School Pancake Breakfast. 8:30 AM.
- October 12 *Northeast Police Station Annual Open House*. NE Station on San Fernando Road. 10 AM to 2 PM.