

Los Angeles Mural Ordinance

by ANTONIO CASTILLO

Having once been regarded as the mural capital of the world, Los Angeles may soon be able to have another opportunity to be revered as a place where creativity is expressed across the blank surfaces of our neighborhoods. Since 2002, the City has prohibited murals, due in part, because of concerns with the billboard companies. One of the effects that led to this ban was that billboard companies began circumventing the process to display their commercial advertising. Some companies applied for permits to install art murals, only to turn them into commercial advertising.

After an arduous process, a proposed mural ordinance is finally making its way to the City Council for consideration. The purpose of the new ordinance, according to the City Attorney is "to legalize existing 'Vintage Original Art Murals' and to regulate the installation of new Original Art

Murals." The ordinance does two major things: First, it grandfathers all existing Original Art Murals; and second, it provides criteria for new murals.

According to the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, there are well over 1,600 murals in the City and a share of these murals are located within the Northeast LA neighborhoods.

Although murals are used to convey a variety of messages and created for different reasons, the Highland Park Heritage Trust has a keen interest in our murals because of their ability to educate and tell a story in our local history. Our neighborhoods inherited an art form of artistic importance that emphasized the themes of community, cultural pride, and economic struggle from great muralist during the late 60s and into the early 80s. With an ordinance in place, our neighborhoods can reclaim the rich cultural tradition of murals and promote our heritage by keeping history alive.



HPHT Lummis Day Booth, June 2, 2013.

Photo by Al C. Strange

Please Don't Let This Be Your Last Newsletter

Last September a mailing was sent to those who had been lapse in renewing their membership.

This label on this newsletter will have an "s" next to your name if you have not renewed. We treasure our members and you are our lifeblood, but we need your support.

Please take a moment to renew your membership and continue to help us with educational activities in the schools, Historic Cultural Monument nomination efforts, Our Cornerstone, and the bi-annual awards.

Thank you for reaffirming our continuing efforts.

Soda Tasting 3

by ANNE MARIE WOZNIAK

It is said that the third time is the charm—but the upcoming "Soda Tasting 3" at Galco's Soda Pop Stop could not be more captivating of fascinating.

Save Sunday, July 28th for your introduction to "Heppo"—a short squat bottled soda from San Antonio, Texas. It is a new line that has been out for about six months. Among its flavors are peach, black cherry, huckleberry, root beer and cream.

The "Americana", a very fine independent line, will also be featuring an orange cream, a honey-lime ginger ale, a huckleberry, a creamy root beer and a honey vanilla.

The "Bunda Berg" line, from Australia, is brewed like a beer but is a soda. The line offers guava, peach, pink grapefruit, blood red orange, lemon-lime bitter and a ginger beer.

"Mountain Valley Spring Water", which has been the official spring water served at the White House since 1932, will also be available.

Highland Park's original "White Rose Spring" label, which was reintroduced by John Nese for the original soda tasting, will be featuring a new cherry flavor.

"Soda Tasting 3" will also be introducing a "soda creation studio", where you can create your own soda. While creating your own soda and while stocking up on your favorites, you will again be helping the Friends of the Southwest Museum. All proceeds that evening will directly support the saving of the Southwest Museum, L.A.'s first museum.

A special "Thank You" to John Nese and Galcos Soda Pop Stop for hosting the Friends of the Southwest Museum for "Soda Tasting 3".



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Email articles to: Info@hpht.org

Mail to:

HPHT

P.O. Box 50894

Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894

HPHT message line: (323) 908-4127

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PHOTOS FROM THE HPHT TOUR OF ABBEY SAN ENCINO

Top left: Jackson, Melinda, and Severin Brown were there to welcome the tourgoers.

Above: Tourgoers walking towards the dungeon, as others wait their turn.

Left: Louisa Van Leer docents the dungeon.

Photos by Al C. Strange

California Environmental Quality Act Reform – State Bill 731

by ANTONIO CASTILLO

Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg has proposed a measure to “modernize” the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) with the introduction of SB 731 - a bill meant to strengthen the Act’s protection of the state’s environment and residents while modernizing the 43-year old law to help the growth of California’s economy. “This measure sets the framework to encourage smart, environmentally sound growth by streamlining the environmental review process without compromising the quality of life Californians deserve and expect in our communities,” said Steinberg. The primary intent of SB 731 is to streamline the CEQA process for certain development projects and to increase awareness for all CEQA projects through revised notification and reporting processes.

Sounds simple and straightforward, right? In reality, though, it is clear from the language that SB 731 could create a change in the treatment of certain historic resources by precluding the Aesthetic impacts of a residential, mixed-use residential, or employment center project within a “transit priority area” from being considered as a

significant impact on the environment. A “transit priority area” means an area within one-half mile of a major transit stop that is existing or planned.

Aesthetics is among a list of environmental factors that must be analyzed in a CEQA study. The concern here is the potential for impacts on historic and cultural resources. The result is that within transit priority areas, Aesthetic impacts would not be analyzed and mitigation would not be required. Although historic resources are analyzed within the Cultural Resources section of the CEQA study, the Aesthetics section is often used to analyze neighborhood character of historic areas – those issues of style, size, materials and landscaping that make neighborhoods unique and complement the historic fabric of the area.

The bill is currently making its way through the State Legislature and now is a good time to let our legislators know that SB 731’s language must be amended to clarify that this exemption does not apply to projects that may adversely affect Historic Resources. The Highland Park Heritage Trust will continue to monitor this bill.

NELA Newspaper Pilot Project Update with Kate Dundon, Project Manager

Kate Dundon, archivist and librarian, was brought on in April as a project manager for the Preservation and Digitization of Northeast Los Angeles Community Newspapers project in April of this year. This project is generously funded by the Haynes Foundation, and is supported by the Highland Park Heritage Trust, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, and Occidental College. Kate is working with a leadership committee that includes HPHT president Anthony Castillo, board member Carmela Gomes, ERVHS president Eric Warren, and Occidental librarians and archivists Bob Kieft, Dale Stieber, and Anne Mar to develop a strategy for digitizing and preserving a collection of Northeast LA newspapers that is jointly maintained by all three partner organizations.

Kate has been evaluating the physical condition of the collection's newsprint and microfilm, and

identifying and preparing a representative sample to be digitized. She has also corresponded with Brian Geiger of the California Digital Newspaper Collection (UC Riverside), who is advising the project team on procedures for digitization and access. Finally, with the help of Oxy's Center for Digital Learning and Research, she has launched a blog for the project, which will be used to discuss and promote the team's work to preserve and digitize community newspapers of Northeast LA. Please visit the blog at: <http://cdlrsandbox.org/wordpress/nelanewspapers/>.

Kate presented on the project to the members of the HPHT and ERVHS at the HPHT meeting on July 8th, suggesting that those interested in the areas of copyright, fundraising, and historical research should participate in the project. Please contact her at dundon@oxy.edu.

Documenting the History of the Ebell Club of Highland Park

by ANNE MAR, Assistant College Archivist & Metadata Specialist, Occidental College

This summer, the Ebell Club of Highland Park and Occidental College's Department of Special Collections and College Archives will be organizing Ebell's historical records. The intern hired for the project, Marc LaRocque, is working on his Master's degree at San Jose State University in the Library Information Science program. He will

be arranging, describing and re-housing the records that have been stored in a room in the historic clubhouse on South Avenue 57 and Figueroa. Marc also holds a PhD in History from UC Irvine and has a special interest in the history of community groups. You can contact him at specialcollections@oxy.edu.



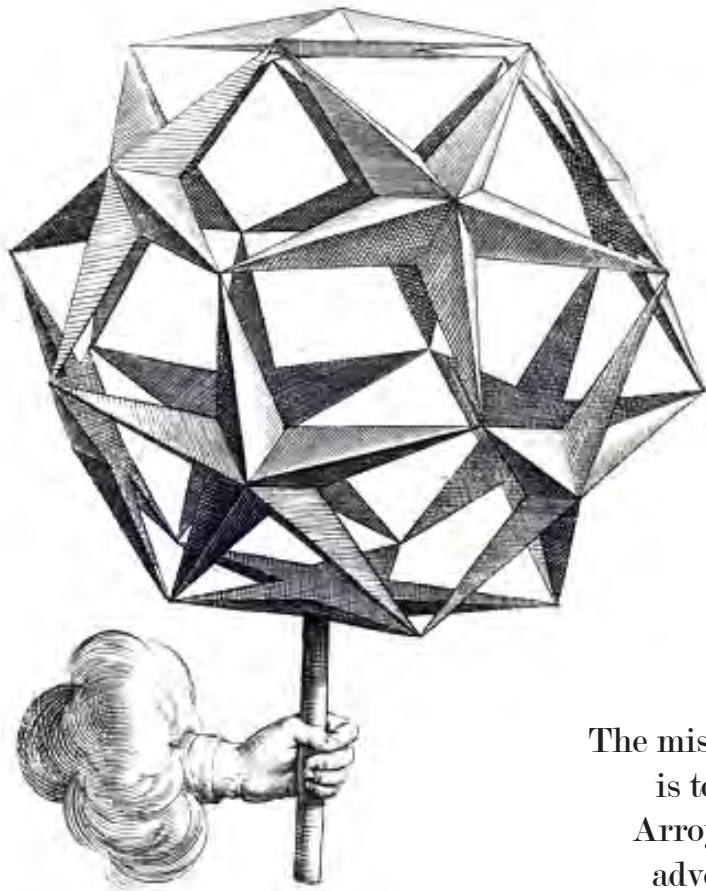
PHOTOS FROM LA HERITAGE DAY
A gathering of hundreds of LA history aficionados took place at El Pueblo on Sunday, April 14. Charles J. Fisher was among the members representing the Highland Park Heritage Trust.

Photos by Antonio Castillo

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The mission of the Highland Park Heritage Trust is to preserve the heritage of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities through education, advocacy and preservation projects for the benefit of present and future generations.

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For more info please contact: Louisa Van Leer PH 323-633-0497 lvvanleer@pacbell.net

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James E. De Long, Architect (1921-2013)

by CHARLES J. FISHER • photos by CHARLES J. FISHER

James E. De Long was already a Taliesin Fellow studying under Frank Lloyd Wright when he rented a small house on Avenue 43 (now Canyon Vista) on Mt. Washington. He would go on to design several homes, including his own, on the hill. When the Highland Park Heritage Trust had its first tour on the hill in 1993, Jim was there to conduct visitors through two of his earliest commissions, the Wolford and Scholfield Houses.

Through that tour, Jim introduced the HPHT to Modernism in a way that most of us had never understood. It was a true turning point for many members who had concentrated on saving Victorian and Craftsman jewels but had not yet embraced the Post World War II masterpieces that are found on Mount Washington.

Born in Eagle Rock on November 4, 1921 to Guy and Vada De Long, he lived close enough to Wright's "La Miniatura", in Pasadena, that he became aware of the Master at a young age, but did not learn of the possibility of studying with Wright through a Taliesin Fellowship until he read about it in his teens. In 1935 his family took the train to Wisconsin where he got a chance to see more of Wright's work. They picked up a new 1936 Nash Ambassador from the factory in Kenosha and drove it back on Route 66, discovering America on the way home.

Graduating from Eagle Rock High in 1938, at the age of 16, he was too young for Taliesin. He spent a year in Art School and then went to a university to study architecture, but, after recoiling at the stringent Beaux Arts curriculum that was still the norm at that time, he switched to civil engineering. He dropped out after a few months and spent a year



Scholfield House, Mt. Washington.

in Alaska working in heavy construction. Interrupted by World War II, he joined the Army Air Corps. Being that he already knew how to fly a plane, he was made an instructor and remained stateside in that capacity for his entire three-year stint, somewhat regretting at the time that he never served in combat.

After the War, he worked for a local architect who taught him the rudiments of the practice. His boss supported his desire to go to Taliesin but urged him to get a degree at Cranbrook, or Columbia, first.

In 1993, when he was editor of the *Journal of the Taliesin Fellows*, he wrote "Recollection of a Summer's Day — How Mr. Wright Saved Me From the Coils of College", about first meeting Frank Lloyd Wright in July of 1946 when he stopped to pay a visit to Taliesin West while passing through Arizona on his way to Columbia University. Wright said that college would corrupt him and offered him an apprenticeship on the spot. If the meeting with Wright had not intervened, his life and career may have gone in a very different direction.

De Long's career in architecture spanned almost seven decades and his houses still command the highest prices in today's market. Yet the two on Sea View Lane, which are both now Los Angeles City Historic Cultural Monuments, nominated by the Trust in 1994, are still considered some of his greatest work. True to character, Jim De Long personally conducted the Cultural Heritage Commission through the houses during the obligatory inspection.

Jim De Long passed away at 91 on April 10, 2013, leaving a built and written legacy that speaks for itself.



Wolford House, Mt. Washington.



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Several members have indicated their interest in being part of the planning and production of the *HPHT Awards Program in February 2014*. The Awards Committee will be meeting in September to plan. Members who have responded via their membership forms will be contacted. If you are someone who would like to be included please send a message via our info@hpht.org message center, drop a note to the post office box address, or call the info phone line.

At one time, HPHT had a float in the *Annual Holiday Parade*. This year, the parade on N. Figueroa Street will be on December 1. If you think you would like to help to create and be a part of an HPHT float, please use the information access to volunteer.

Our *Annual Christmas Party* is held in December. Last year, Antonio Castillo, HPHT Board President, was the host on the second Sunday. If you would like to host this year's event, please let us know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2nd Monday, Monthly HPHT Board and Program meetings, 7PM to 9PM, July 8, Aug 12, Sept. 9, NEW LOCATION: Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park
- 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, Highland Park/Garvanza HPOZ, 6:00 PM, Arroyo Seco Library Community Room, 6145 N. Figueroa St, Highland Park
- **Saturday, August 4**, Los Angeles Heritage Alliance Quarterly Meeting, 10 AM Location TBA
- **Saturday, August 24**, 10AM to 12:30 PM, Bi-Monthly, Docent led, Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, reservations by Thursday prior to tour, online www.hpht.org or (323) 908-4127

EVENTS