



OUR CORNERSTONE

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WINTER 2012

SCOTT WILSON, FOUNDER OF NORTHEAST TREES (1922-2011)

By Charles J. Fisher

Scott Wilson, the retired Eagle Rock High School teacher who founded Northeast Trees in 1989, passed away at Glendale Adventist Hospital on the morning of November 7, 2011 at the age of 89, after passing out and falling while cutting flowers from a firewheel tree in the rose garden of his Eagle Rock home for his church two days earlier.



Wilson and his wife, Clarli, have been members of the HPHT for many years. His devotion to the world of horticulture and especially to the planting of trees, had become legendary in the Northeast communities.

Francis Scott Wilson was born in Salem, Oregon, on May 3, 1922 to Francis Elijah and Ruth Agnes Bates Wilson, growing up with two sisters and a brother while his parents managed a pear orchard and a cemetery. After serving in World War II, Wilson earned a Bachelor's degree in horticulture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1950, later obtaining Masters degrees in both agricultural education and landscape architecture.

He taught horticulture and mathematics at Crenshaw and North Hollywood High Schools, as well as Eagle Rock, before retiring in 1982. However, Wilson was not one to really retire, and he became active in the community, especially in the advocacy of creating and maintaining green spaces. This passion led him to launch Northeast Trees as a non-profit volunteer organization which personally

he led out into the field with buckets and shovels to plant hundreds of saplings throughout the hills and parkways of the community seven years later.

The first project was the planting of 700 oak trees on the Occidental College campus. This continued with Wilson vowing to plant at least 5 trees a day for the rest of his life. He worked

with the Northeast area's youth, many of whom had been considered "at risk," to instill a can do spirit and positive work ethic while helping to create 35 mini parks along the Los Angeles River. The organization works hand in hand with city and county agencies to be sure that the correct trees are planted in the various places.

To date over 70,000 trees have been planted with the help of the organization's staff of foresters, designers and educators, including native oaks and Sycamores throughout the Los Angeles area. In a recent interview, Wilson stated "It's not about how many trees you plant. It's about the right tree in the right place and about how many of those trees live."

Wilson would attend countless community meetings passionately advocating the cause of trees and his enthusiasm was contagious. The organization he founded is well established and will continue his work for many years to come and his legacy will live for centuries through the mature trees that he saw planted all around us.

Ushering in 30 Years of Preservation Advocacy

Thanks to the vision of the founding board and members, Highland Park Heritage Trust's consistent involvement in the Arroyo Seco region of Los Angeles and partnering with heritage organizations throughout the Los Angeles basin, California and the nation, has provided all of us who have become part of the organization in later years a basis for continuing the work started in 1982.

The level of activity in 2011 is indicative of the broad application and understanding the Trust has been able to provide to the community. Experts, who are HPHT members, are involved in activities and events that continue to bring recognition of the historic, cultural and economic value of our Arroyo Seco region. The Richard Henry Dana Library, commonly known as the Pepper Street Library in Cypress Park, was officially named a Los Angeles City Historical Cultural Monument.

Partnering with the North Figueroa Association, the Trust is part of the Relighting Figueroa campaign. The Historical Society of Southern California turned to HPHT for involvement and support in the restoration of the doors on the Lummis Home. The National Scenic Byway grant is bringing recognition to the region as an area for tourist activity.

Attendees have rated the bi-monthly Sycamore Grove Walking Tour as one of the best. Severin and Melinda Browne opened up the Abbey San Encino that boasted rave reviews for a successful preservation advocacy fundraiser tour. The Stair Street Ghosts Hallowe'en Walk on Mt. Angelus attracted 300 people including veteran stair tour folks, families and out of the area curiosity seekers. For the 6th year in a row, HPHT helped to sponsor the Annual Lummis Day Festival.

HPHT, Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society and Occidental Libraries special collections are in the second year of archiving local newspapers as well as writing grants to support this work. HPHT was an exhibitor at the "LA as Subject" Sixth Annual Archives Bazaar. Members of HPHT are active on the Land Use Committee for the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council that is indicative of the sphere of influence has in the community.

Our interactive website, blog, and Facebook page continue to curry favor and "friends." Because of our web presence, HPHT gained an intern in preservation. Marta Soligo came to us from Italy for the express purpose of learning about our way of providing education and entertainment through cultural tourism. She is now writing her master thesis using the all-volunteer model of HPHT as a reference.

For those of you who have showed up at City Hall to support HPHT and other preservation organization issues, your participation is appreciated. The depth of influence and presence on the part of HPHT members translate to the level of commitment we can call upon for assistance in accomplishing our common goals. As you renew your membership this year, please take time to consider where your personal involvement is the most valuable to you and make a commitment to offer some of your time to make a difference.

CARMELA GOMES



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Distribution: Marcia Gurrola,
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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
www.hpht.org

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The Avenue 50 Studio
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RENEWAL FOR 2012

It's time to renew your membership in Highland Park Heritage Trust. Our efforts are dependent upon the ongoing commitment of members like you. Please take a moment while this is fresh in your mind to renew your membership for HPHT.

As an all-volunteer organization your support is particularly welcome during our 28th year of service to the preservation of the communities of the Arroyo Seco. Your tax-deductible dues make possible our programs, educational activities, cultural monument nomination efforts, and *Our Cornerstone* newsletter, among other important activities.

Please fill out the section below and mail to:
HPHT, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050

Renew online: Go to <http://www.hpht.org/join.html> and click on JOIN TODAY.

ANNE MARIE WOZNIAK
Membership Chair



HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST—MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION/RENEWAL

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 Cornerstone Articles School & Education Programs Membership Events Operation Save

RELIGHTING THE HISTORIC SIGNS OF FIGUEROA STREET: MANNING'S COFFEE STORE ROOF SIGN SHINES ANEW

By Amy Inouye

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at 4:30 pm, we threw the switch on the Manning's Coffee Store sign, which has been successfully renovated with its original opal glass and new neon. This unique sign dates back to 1933. The sign stood atop the Hollywood branch of Manning's and was relocated to Highland Park in 1936. Manning's Coffee Store, which served meals and sold packaged coffee (making it a precursor to Starbucks), was in business here until 1959. The location is now home to Las Cazuelas.

The sign had stood as a ghost sign for many years, until it was targeted by the Relighting the Historic Signs of Figueroa St. project. The project was started to help create an historic signage district along Highland Park's Historic Route 66 corridor, which is contained within the North Figueroa Association business improvement district. The two rooftop signs join Coldest Beer in Town, Little Cave, and Chicken Boy as unique

signage. Two blade signs on Figueroa have been identified as possible future candidates for restoration.

In the spring of 2011, the project oversaw the relighting of the Highland Theatre rooftop sign, and then its subsequent rewiring, completed in the fall. With consultation by the Museum of Neon Art, restorer Richard Ankrom has repaired, painted, installed new neon, and cleaned and re-placed the opal glass letters. The project received the generous support of many community groups and individuals, as well as grants from the National Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Los Angeles County Preservation Fund. Nicole Possert



Waitress at Manning's Highland Park, courtesy Nathan Marsak

and Frank Parrello provided extensive research, with help from Stuart Miller of Seattle, whose mother was a Manning's executive and in whose honor he has collected the history of Manning's. To learn more about the project search "Relighting Figueroa Street."



Richard Henry Dana Library is unanimously declared an LACity HCM

The Richard Henry Dana Library, affectionately known as the Pepper Street library in Cypress Park, was officially declared a Los Angeles City Historical Cultural Monument on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, by the LA City Council. For those of you who have been following this "Primer in Advocacy" since the article in *My Cornerstone* by Charles Fisher, you will recall it has taken the better part of a year to complete the designation.

Frank Parrello recognized for role in Lummis Home Door Restoration

Frank Parrello received much due recognition on Sunday afternoon, September 18, 2011, for his role in guiding the restoration work that has been completed on the doors of the Lummis Home. Bolstered by major donations by the Highland Park Heritage Trust, the Arroyo Arts Collective and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, the HSSC was able to obtain a grant from the National Trust for Preservation. **Nicole Possert** and **Martha Benedict** were also recognized for their part in keeping a historical record of the project in film and still photography, respectively.

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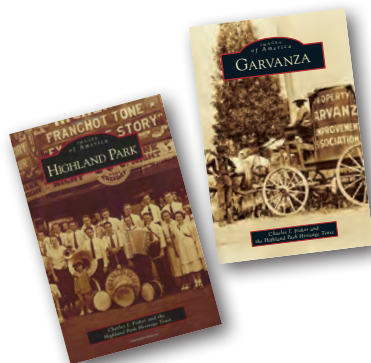
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Highland Park Heritage Trust • PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

Calendar of Upcoming HPHT & Community Events

Second Monday of each month, 7 to 9 PM • HPHT meetings at Hathaway-Sycamores Family Center, 840 N. Avenue 66, Los Angeles, 90042. February 13: Board Meeting • March 12: "Preserving Modernism in the Northeast," Chris Nichols, Journalist

Saturday, January 14, February 11, March 10, and April 14: Second Saturday Gallery Night • NELA art galleries open 7 to 10 PM, <http://www.nelaart.org> for map and information each month

Sunday, January 22, 4:30 to 7 PM • Historical Society of Southern California, Lummis Home, 200 E. Avenue 43, Los Angeles, 90031 • HSSC Members Afternoon at El Alisal with wine and cheese, conversation and good fellowship. <http://socalhistory.org/category/events/upcoming-events>

Saturday, February 4, 10:00AM to 12:00 Noon • "LA as Subject" joint meeting with the Los Angeles Heritage Alliance (LAHA), Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga. <http://www.laparks.org/dos/historic/bolton.htm>

Saturday, February 4, 12:00 to 4:00 PM • Urban Rancho II, Lummis Home, 200 E. Ave. 43, Highland Park, 90031, featuring local gardeners, artists, craftsmen, bee-keepers, cooks, and lovers of the home made. Welcomed donation of \$10 per person

Sunday, February 5 • Heritage Square Museum and Yale Cabaret Hollywood join forces to share the captivating "Tales of the Old West," admission to the play reading is \$10 for general audience and free for museum members. For reservations, call either the museum offices at 323-225-2700 or Yale Cabaret at 310-499-4104

Saturday, February 11 • HPHT Awards committee tour of nominations, contact hphtawards@gmail.com for information

Saturday, February 11, 1:00 PM • "History of Wine Making in Los Angeles," Bolton Hall Museum, 10110 Commerce Avenue, Tujunga, CA 91042, (818) 352-3420 or littlelanders@verizon.net

Saturday, February 25, 10 AM to 12:30 PM • Bi-Monthly Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, register online at www.hpht.org or call 323-908-4127

Sunday, March 18, 2:00 to 4:00PM • HPHT Preservation Awards, location to be announced

For information about affiliated heritage organizations see LA Heritage Alliance, <http://www.laheritage.blogspot.com/> and use the large member organization button to become informed



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