

# West Adams Matters

## Be A Tourist in Your Own (West Adams) Hometown

by Don Lynch

With the holidays upon us, and as we live in a major tourist destination of a city with desirable weather, we are often besieged with out-of-town guests. As hosts it falls to us to come up with interesting sites to share with them, and when we put our minds to it we discover that we don't even have to leave West Adams to show our loved ones an interesting and educational good time.

The long and the short of it is that West Adams has possibly the longest and shortest city streets in America. Bellefontaine, Ohio, claims that its McKinley Street, at twenty feet, is the shortest. Yet Powers Place, at Alvarado Terrace just off of Pico, is only thirteen feet long. Some sources say it's thirty feet, but this could be the width as Powers Place is wider than it is long.

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Your guests may want to see the location for this year's hit movie, "Neighbors," starring Seth Rogan and Zac Efron, which was filmed in part on 20th Street in Western Heights

## Taking Your House With You: One of L.A.'s Early House Movers

by Sharon Knickrehm Summer

In the West Adams district of Los Angeles many houses have been saved over the years by being moved from commercial streets into residential neighborhoods. One of the first successful house movers began moving buildings in Los Angeles in 1890. This house-moving company was started by my great grandfather, William Knickrehm.



William Knickrehm was born in Germany in 1863, and moved to Los Angeles with his family while he was still a youth, in 1882. He began his house-moving business about 125 years ago. Knickrehm moved houses, garages, hotels, school buildings, and all manner of structures. Recently I found out he even moved palm trees! But mostly it was buildings. As his business grew many people sought him out, as he was competent and respected. Eventually his son Allen I. Knickrehm, and Allen's wife Caroline, took over the business and continued to do well. Upon Allen's early death from heart disease, the company was sold to two employees. Today the site at 3316 S. Central at 34th Street is a parking lot for ice cream trucks.

Learning about house moving began for me when my father died in 2008. Dad, Allen F. Knickrehm, William's grandson, wanted to be buried in Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. Several Knickrehms rest there in our family plot not far from the entrance, headstones raised. One headstone is for William Knickrehm, who died in 1933. The middle one is William's wife Augusta who was buried in 1955. Several others Knickrehms are right there too, including his son Allen Ironside Knickrehm, and now his son, my father. After my brother and I saw our dad's ashes lowered into the ground, I soon began to wonder about William Knickrehm. Why did he start the house moving business? Why in 1890? And, in a day with no motorized trucks or other heavy equipment, how were those houses moved?

(continued on page 11)

## Update on Oil Drilling Activities in West Adams

A local oil producer, Freeport-McMoRan (FMOG), is pushing forward with plans to redrill and add wells at two Historic West Adams District sites, along with an expanded natural gas facility. At the same time, residents are pushing back strongly, arguing that these activities are nuisances, with deafening noise and acrid fumes, and should be more strongly regulated and also evaluated for their environmental impacts.

A public zoning administration hearing held on November 25th was an opportunity for the community to bring its concerns regarding fumes, noise, the groundwater supply, and toxic chemical usage forward to city administrators for the first time in a decade, and more than 150 residents and other concerned citizens turned out to present a united voice against further activities without thorough review and stronger regulations.

Even Tom Hayden (yes, that Tom Hayden: Jane Fonda's ex, and the former State Senator) showed up.



Jefferson-Budlong Controlled Drill Site

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## Oil Drilling *continued from page 1*

The hearing specifically was scheduled to address a proposed new round of drilling at one site on Jefferson Boulevard between Budlong Avenue and Van Buren Place, about a mile west of USC.

“What we are proposing ... is exactly the same thing that’s been going on since 1965,” testified Petroland Services consultant Rae Connet, who represented FMOG at the hearing. FMOG contends that this project at the Jefferson Controlled Drill Site “is minimal in scope and duration.”

Connet then argued that the chemicals used in the extraction and drill cleaning processes are no different from those in “common household products,” including baby shampoo and Herbal Essence shampoo – leading to hoots and hollers from some audience members. “I get it, I get it,” said Associate Zoning Administrator Maya Zaitzevsky, who was hearing the case.

Longtime WAHA member Richard Parks, representing Redeemer Community Partnership, responded, eloquently opposing any further drilling activities without an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

He noted that FMOG has constantly flaunted not only prior required conditions but, essentially, good neighborliness. The company painted curbs red to restrict public parking, and has failed to have landscaping, including tall trees, to screen the Jefferson-Budlong site from view. The site is surrounded by a wall, but nearby two-story residences easily peer into the location. Importantly, prior operators had failed to retain ownership of the structures immediately north of the drill site, which were required to serve as “buffer” properties protecting the residential neighborhood as long as oil production activities occurred, according to the original 1964 zoning grant. Instead, in the late 1990s a predecessor oil company had sold both buildings, which are now occupied by multiple families immediately next to the site.

“The oil companies at this drill site have consistently and flagrantly violated the rules and established procedures that govern their activity,” Parks said. “Through their deliberate disregard of the regulatory process, FMOG has repeatedly placed our children and community in harm’s way.”

Parks and others are concerned that even day-to-day activities at the Jefferson-Budlong site have significant environmental impacts that no official has ever evaluated. For example, when trucks hauling acid pulled up to the site in July, workers in head-to-toe protective gear worked a short distance from apartments, he said. But the adjacent residents had no such protections. “Closed windows cannot keep fumes out of their homes,” he added. The constant “throbbing drilling vibrates in their homes.” And after an incident last year when crews accidentally released oil fluids into the air and thereby onto neighbors’ cars and the side of the adjacent apartment building, “the company called it a ‘misting,’ as if it was a fine French perfume.”

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## COMPUTER DONATION REQUEST

The WAHA Matters Newsletter Committee is looking for a back-up to our current computer (an older but still very useful Macbook Pro) — and would welcome a donation if you are upgrading your own system. We still need to stick to a compatible operating system (we are running OS 10.4.11 and can only upgrade one notch to keep our current software running smoothly). If you may have a compatible Mac you would consider donating, please contact News@westadamsheritage.org. Thank you very much for considering the possibility! ●



*The oil production facility is just feet from residential structures to the north.*

## *A Season of Giving* by Jean Frost, Vice President, Preservation

By now your e-mail and postbox are full of many supplications for donations to worthy causes. As 2014 draws to a close, and we reflect on the joys and sorrows of the last year, many people celebrate the season with a gift to their favorite charity or cause. Please consider WAHA's Preservation Defense Fund for your generous holiday gift.

WAHA's preservation efforts have a strong base in volunteerism but financial resources are essential to enabling and supporting preservation efforts. WAHA does so much on a shoestring but an economic base is essential to carry on. Our preservation efforts underscore stewardship of our history and leaving a legacy for future generations. The WAHA Preservation Defense Fund was created to give donors the option of specifically underwriting core preservation activities regarding historic properties and neighborhoods: for example, to identify, research, nominate, designate and, when necessary, litigate.

WAHA's successes have been extensive: the South Seas House, the Olympic Swim Stadium, the Nolte Garage, and the Wells-Halliday Mansion. There have been losses: the Hodgeman House, the Veatch House, the John Leslie Phillips Mansion, the Pepperdine Mansion. There are continuing issues: for example, in spite of WAHA's legal victory overturning a categorical exemption, the Roger William Baptist Church/Bishop Residence complex remains a challenge. And there are many potential impacts from the proposed I-110 Transit Way Flyover to Figueroa Way, the pending HCM nomination of 2067 Hobart Boulevard, and the effort to demolish a historic building (3931 Flower Drive) in the Flower Drive Historic District, to name a few current issues. And WAHA will continue its proactive efforts to designate additional West Adams landmarks and expand current HPOZ boundaries to historic neighborhoods such as the southern portion of West Adams Heights, Wellington Square, Victoria Park and the six "orphan blocks" of University Park that are not yet protected.

Please help WAHA have the resources to continue to be effective in its preservation efforts and donate today to the WAHA Preservation Defense Fund, online at [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org). Thank you. ●

## **Proposed Demolition of Historic Flower Drive Residence: Notice of EIR Comments due December 22 at 4 p.m.**

The City Planning Department has distributed (but only to "interested parties") a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed demolition (to create a vacant lot) of the fourplex at 3931 S. Flower Drive, a Contributor to the Flower Drive California Register Historic District. As you may remember, WAHA nominated this state district and fought hard against major financial interests (including the owner of this structure) to ensure that these 17 intact Mediterranean Revival multi-family buildings were designated and protected.

The Flower Drive Historic District is composed of a grouping of 19 multi-family residences constructed primarily between 1920 and 1927 on the west side of Flower Drive. The district includes 17 contributing and two non-contributing properties. Properties are two-story, multi-family residences, rectangular in plan, and located on 50-foot by 140-foot parcels with uniform setbacks. Contributing properties are united by property type, common lot size, setbacks, height, spatial arrangement, form, and architectural style. The Flower Drive district is a highly representative and exceptionally intact example of multi-family residential development in the University District east of Exposition Park during the period 1920-1927.

Despite the District designation, the owner (a development and real estate holding company) claims that its desire is to demolish a quadplex and leave the land vacant. There is no replacement "project" indication or intended. A 2013 report the developer paid for stated, "The demolition of 3931 Flower Drive would not impact the eligibility of the Flower Drive Historic District. Currently, the number of contributing properties is 17 out of 19, or nearly 90%." While the district would remain eligible, the statement omits the understanding of how parcels within a zone support each other. When even one parcel is lost, there is an impact on the resource itself which is the historic district. As architectural historian Leslie Heumann expressed, "a district is like a necklace." Each parcel supports the others so that even one loss is significant. While loss of one property would not cause the state to delist the district, it would erode the sense of place and the character-defining unity of architectural style and the streetscape. The report went on to say: "The demolition of the single contributing building does not alter the California Register eligibility of the district. Further stages of the project, however, may have an impact on the district."

WAHA believes this attempt to approve a demolition for no stated purpose other than to leave the land fallow is a trial balloon to see how easy it would be for a developer to, essentially, gut the District.



3921 S. Flower Drive

Even though most of you did not receive the NOP in the mail, it is available to review online at [www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org), under the "Environmental" tab -- "Notice of Preparation & Public Scoping Meetings."

The City Planning Department will consider all written comments, so long as they are delivered timely, no later than Monday, December 22 at 4 p.m. (NOT close of business!) Please direct your comments to:

Karen Hoo  
Environmental Analysis Section  
Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 750  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

E-mail: [planning.envreview@lacity.org](mailto:planning.envreview@lacity.org) ●



# Community Matters



## Washington Irving Library Authors Series Event

The Washington Irving Library presents a "Meet the Writers" literary open house on Saturday, December 13 at 2:30 p.m., bringing together five authors and poets who presented readings during 2014 to West Adams residents/book lovers.

Playwright Stevie Stern, author Leslie Evans (both WAHA members), poet-actress-commentator S. Pearl Sharp, novelist Pam Ward and poet Hiram Sims return to meet and mingle with avid readers and aspiring writers alike in this special gathering at the library, located at 4117 W. Washington Blvd. in Arlington Heights. Dust off your own poems and stories -- you may have a chance to read an excerpt! Free, but RSVPs appreciated: e-mail Debra at [fifthavenuetimes@att.net](mailto:fifthavenuetimes@att.net). ●

*Hiram Sims (pictured left) and S. Pearl Sharp (above, right) are among the writers to be featured at the literary event.*



## Lili Singer Garden Talk



**Saturday, January 31 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Washington Irving Library, 4117 W. Washington Blvd.**

Some years ago, Lili Singer, director of special projects and adult education at the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, came to West Adams to talk about using drought-resistant plants in your historic home's garden. With great pleasure we can say she is coming again. Singer, a respected garden consultant, garden writer, editor and educator, will talk about native plants -- and bring a batch to sell, courtesy the Payne Foundation, thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth Fenner and Marius Stelly, who are both active in WAHA and the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council. ●



## CALLING ALL GOOD NEIGHBORS

Reminder: WAHA's Good Neighbor Award, which recognizes the ongoing effort of someone you live near who is an outstanding example of a "Good Neighbor," will be presented on January 11 at the "After-the-Holidays" Volunteer Recognition Party (see back cover page). This is someone who has helped you in a special way or has helped maintain or improve the quality of life in your neighborhood. Whether it be large or small, good neighbors come in all shapes and sizes.

Please take a minute, as a WAHA member, to nominate your neighbor to be considered for our WAHA Good Neighbor Award. Send your written nomination, in 100 words or less, to [membership@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:membership@westadamsheritage.org) or mail to WAHA Membership Committee, 2363 Harvard Blvd, Los Angeles, 90018.

The membership committee will review all nominations and decide on the final selection to be presented at the January Party. There will be another chance to nominate your neighbor in spring, with presentations taking place at the Summer Ice Cream Social.

Remember, just as the commercial says, "like a good neighbor, WAHA is there," so be there for your good neighbor and take this chance to say THANK YOU in a very special WAHA way! ●

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# Preservation Matters

## Survey L.A. Publishes LGBT Historic Context Statement

Like San Francisco and New York City, Los Angeles' past is rich in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) history. However, Los Angeles is one of only a few cities nationwide to recognize this history by completing a LGBT historic context statement.

A historic context statement is a technical document written in narrative form that provides guidelines on the identification and evaluation of historic resources within a geographic area. The recently published LGBT historic context statement for Los Angeles was prepared by Galvin Preservation Associates under the direction of Teresa Grimes, with contributions from Wes Joe and Carson Anderson. It is now an important chapter within SurveyLA's Citywide Context Statement that will be released after the survey process has been completed.

The LGBT context statement begins with a historical overview of Los Angeles' LGBT culture. Then, a chronology of events important to that history is listed. The sections that follow further elaborate on historical themes introduced in the overview, and relate those themes to extant places in Los Angeles. Those themes include the Gay Liberation Movement; homosexuality and religion; gays and lesbians in the Los Angeles literary scene, the LGBT community and the media; and the impact of LGBT persons on the entertainment industry. After introducing a theme, the author then lists the designated and known resources that represent that theme.

The context statement illustrates the overall impact and prominent role that Los Angeles played nationally in cultivating a politicized gay consciousness and building gay institutions.

The LGBT historic context statement was partially funded with a Certified Local Government grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation, the state-level authority on historic preservation. CLG grants have also been awarded to the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources for development of a citywide Chinese American context and Latino context. ●

### **One of West Adams' Own LGBT Historic Resources:**

*The Michael J. Connell House in West Adams, Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 779, is named for its first owner, but it later became a home and gathering spot to some of the earliest gay activists in the country. Fredric Frisbie was an early advocate for the Gay and Lesbian Rights movement and a leader of the Mattachine Society and co-developer of ONE Incorporated. An industrial designer and engineer by trade, he was active as both artist and writer for ONE Magazine using the nom de plume, George Mortenson. The Connell Carriage House served as both studio and home which he shared for a great many years with his wife, Louisa, a Puerto Rican transvestite. Their soirees with the gay rights movement's leaders included Don Legg, Eve Ellory, Dan Slater, Harry Hay, Tony Reyes, Martin Block, and Geraldine Jackson. ●*



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**Mid-Century Modern Condo on Kings Road, West Hollywood** — 1 BD, 2 BA, 1,014 sq ft. \$480,000. — Jane Harrington, 818-943-5650

### **SOLD**

**Mid-Century in Franklin Hills** — David Raposa, buyer's agent

**1913 Craftsman in Crenshaw Mesa** — Spacious Arts & Crafts home with great period details. — Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent

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# Stepping Out

## Be A West Adams Tourist

*continued from page 1*

Figueroa Street, at the eastern end of our community, has been described as the longest continuous city street in America. Some say Sepulveda Boulevard is, yet the latter tends to leave Los Angeles and meander through other communities, such as Santa Monica and Torrance. Figueroa apparently only leaves Los Angeles once, dipping briefly into Carson. Whether it does so before holding the record or not is up for debate.

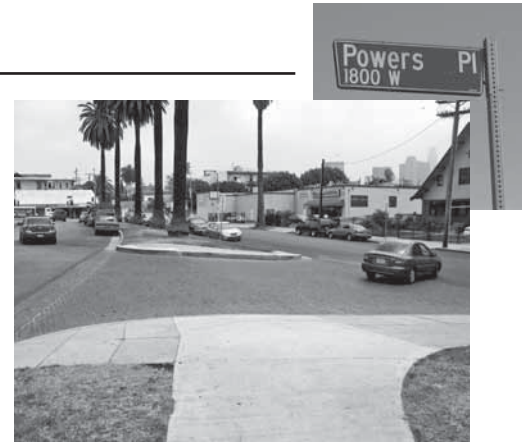
Visitors love to see anything having to do with movies and television, so why not drive them around to see houses from their favorite television shows and movies? We have the houses which appeared in the television programs "Numb3rs" and "Six Feet Under" while West Adams homes have been featured in such recent movies as "Transformers," "Neighbors" and the new Mark Wahlberg feature, "The Gambler."

Other homes have entertainment connections in that they were occupied by celebrities. The most famous West Adams celebrity residence is the Marvin Gaye house at 21st and Gramercy, but other residences held such well-known entertainment legends as Busby Berkeley, "Fatty" Arbuckle, Hattie McDaniel, Louise Beavers and Theda Bara.

Speaking of Hattie McDaniel, she hasn't actually left the neighborhood. She is one of the first graves to be spied as you enter Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. As WAHA has demonstrated over more than two decades at its annual Living History Tour, many famous, and infamous, people are interred at the cemetery. Just wandering through, it's easy to spot such locally famous names as Burbank, Banning, Rindge, Clark, Shatto and Bradbury.



*The former TV series "Numb3rs" was filmed at 2515 4th Avenue. Pictured here are actors Judd Hirsch, Rob Morrow and David Krumholtz in a scene at the house.*



*Is Powers Place the shortest street in the world?*

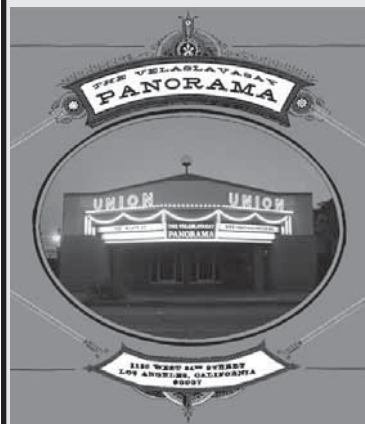
The name Clark makes us think of the William Andrews Clark Library on Adams at Gramercy. It's worth it just to wander the grounds on a weekday, but tours of the library can be arranged by calling ahead.

While the Clark, as it is known, is famous for its huge collection of English literature, the largest such collection outside of England, literally just across the street is another specialized library. The Britt Mansion houses the LA84 Foundation, which provides youth sports activities

**What's Old is New:** One of West Adams' most unusual venues is the **Velaslavasay Panorama**, located in the historic Union Theatre building at 1122 West 24th Street in University Park.

Drawing on the illustrious history of the great panorama paintings of the 18th and 19th centuries, the Velaslavasay Panorama is an exhibition hall, theatre and garden dedicated to the production and presentation of unusual visual experiences. The Velaslavasay Panorama panoramic exhibition encircles the spectator within a vast, 360-degree painting of a continuous surrounding landscape, accompanied by sound stimulation and three-dimensional elements, giving the viewer an opportunity to experience a complete sensory phenomenon.

An early ancestor of the motion picture, a panorama was an immersive 360-degree painted environment, often including a three-dimensional faux terrain in the foreground of the painting to enhance the illusion of depth and simulated reality. The captivated public would visit these paintings-in-the-round as an entertainment or novelty, much along the same lines as the cinema is seen today.



Today, the Velaslavasay Panorama presents to the community an art form that has been nearly lost due to the technological advancements of our time and the multitudinous variety of ways in which the public consumes mass entertainment.

In addition to serving as a showcase for panoramic works and living garden wonders, the Velaslavasay Panorama also hosts events. The Panorama's past events include illustrated lectures on a variety of artistic and scientific subjects, film screenings, and presentations that vary from Automata's toy theatre productions and silent film programs to crafting meetings and other experimentations.

The Velaslavasay Panorama is open and its exhibits and gardens on view on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12 noon until 6 p.m.

For more information: 213-746-2166, [www.panoramaonview.org](http://www.panoramaonview.org). ●

throughout Southern California, while adjacent to the home it operates America's largest sports library.

If you head east from these two libraries you'll find yet another. Founded in 1952, the One Archives at 909



"Fraternity brothers" hang out on 20th Street for the film "Neighbors"

West Adams is the largest repository of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) materials in the world. Since 2010 it has been part of the University of Southern California Library system.

While you're at that area of Adams Boulevard, wander through the USC campus and admire the great variety of architecture, both new and old. Mount Saint Mary's College campus on Chester Place is also well worth a stroll. It is predominantly made up of former mansions along that impressive street. Behind Chester Place, facing Figueroa, is the Stimson Mansion, which at the time of its construction in the 1890s was the most expensive home in Los Angeles.

Just down Adams Boulevard from Chester Place, visit St. Vincent's Catholic Church, which is really more of a



The August Marquis/Filipino Federation Mansion is now known as the "Six Feet Under House."

cathedral and is too good to miss. While the area is rich with impressive houses of worship, St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Normandie, between Pico and Venice, stands out for its elaborate gold leaf interior.

Finally, after you have driven or walked your guests through many West Adams neighborhoods to admire the houses of all sizes, shapes and architectural styles, consider ending their visit by taking them to the Food 4 Less on Western Avenue and showing them the dumpster out back where in 2010 fifty-two stolen Oscar statues were famously discovered. ●

## Exposition Park

*The jewel of West Adams tourist attractions is, of course, Exposition Park, home to an array of museums and visitor attractions.*

*Exposition Park enjoys a rich history. It was originally created in 1872 as an agricultural park, and 160 acres were set aside for the Southern District Agricultural Society. In 1913, it was renamed Exposition Park according to the "City Beautiful" movement with four original tenants: California Museum of Science and Industry (Exposition Building), National Armory, Domed National History Museum, and the Sunken Garden (which in 1928 was later renamed the Rose Garden).*

*The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Exposition Park is quite special. Not only has it been home to several local athletic organizations, including University of Southern California's Trojan football team, the Los Angeles Raiders, the Los Angeles Rams and the Los Angeles Dodgers, it has also been the focus of national and international attention. It is the only venue in the world to have hosted two Olympiads (X and XXIII), two Superbowls (I and VII) and the World Series (1959).*

*The Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, designed by the Welton Beckett architecture firm, has its place in history as well. It was the site of John F. Kennedy's acceptance speech at the 1960 Democratic National Convention.*

*In 1984, the Park expanded its cultural offering with the addition of the California African American Museum. Since that time, the Olympic Swim Stadium was renovated, the California Science Center and the Air and Space Museum were expanded, and the IMAX Theatre was added to the mix. The park itself has new play areas for children and pedestrian walkways.*

*You don't even need to drive! There's an Expo Line stop at Exposition Park.*

*Current attractions at the Park's museums include "Pompeii: The Exhibition" (closing January 11, 2015) and, of course, the Shuttle Endeavour is on permanent view at the California Science Center.*

*In the year 79 A.D., Pompeii vanished beneath thick layers of volcanic ash left by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. But what nature destroyed, it also preserved. Pompeii: The Exhibition features over 150 artifacts on loan from the Naples National Archaeological Museum in Italy, offering a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle and tragic end of this ancient Roman society forgotten for centuries until its rediscovery over 250 years ago.*

*The garden frescoes, marble statues, gladiator armor, coins, and religious shrines — set as if in their original surroundings — help visitors experience daily life in this once vibrant Roman city. Then, relive the volcano's catastrophic eruption through an immersive CGI experience, culminating in the reveal of full body casts of twisted human forms, asphyxiated by extreme heat and noxious gases and forever frozen in time.*

*Moving the space shuttle Endeavour — At 78 feet wide, 57 feet high and 122 feet long, it is longer than two school buses — across the United States was a massive undertaking. Mission 26: The Big Endeavour features photographs highlighting some of the spectacular scenes witnessed during space shuttle Endeavour's flight over California and its 12-mile, 68-hour journey through city streets to its final destination in the Samuel Oschin Pavilion at the California Science Center. ●*





# Stepping Out

## Holiday Events Around Town *by Elizabeth Fenner*

Excited about the upcoming holidays? The following events should begin to get you there. Los Angeles has become such a place of wonder and possibility—with great attention to art, architecture, music, dance, and a new overall appreciation of our historic underpinnings, not just here in West Adams but the city over (Manhattan Beach has a historic society—it's a wonderful world) that it's rewarding and in fact important to get out there and partake of the excellence going on. You will be inspired and motivated to get your own creative endeavor back on track, in time for the New Year!

Some of the upcoming holiday events are traditional: Outdoor ice skating at Pershing Square, the Christmas tree train in Moorpark; also some of it is cutting edge: The Dysfunctional Family Christmas at the Brickhouse Theater. But the list is by no means exhaustive, so take these as a starting point (Readers, get out your highlighters now), and then go get Googling to catch all the events I missed.

### MUSIC

#### Ukulele Christmas Orchestra

On Friday, December 12, the Music Center is having a Ukulele Christmas Orchestra (beginners and intermediate strummers welcome); if you have a ukulele and play or want to learn, register for \$10 soon (limited seating capacity); prepare to sing and strum.

[www.MusicCenter.org](http://www.MusicCenter.org)

#### Music Center Holiday Sing-along

Friday, December 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

Tickets are free to this cozy outdoor event, but they are given out one per person, first come, first served starting at 6:00 p.m. (better get in line early), with lyric sheets provided.

[www.MusicCenter.org/events/activearts/](http://www.MusicCenter.org/events/activearts/)

### THEATER

*A Christmas Carol* is playing in many places, from A Noise Within, to the South Coast Repertory, Long Beach Playhouse, and the Grove Theatre. In addition, a staged reading presenting a new adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is part of the Unbound Productions at the Pasadena Museum of History. There's even *A Tuna Christmas*, a movie at the Rubicon Theatre about a town putting on *A Christmas Carol*, and a play about *A Christmas Carol* gone awry in *Inspecting Carol* at the Westminster Community Theater. Finally, Center Theater Group is putting on *The Second City's Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens!* Another purely comedic presentation includes *Bob's Holiday Party* at the Pico Playhouse. Then, for some tonic, go to the Morgan-Wixson Theatre for their showing of *White Christmas*. [www.TheatreInLA.com](http://www.TheatreInLA.com) and click on "holiday plays."



### LIGHTS

The Griffith Park holiday light experience is back, this time at the Los Angeles Zoo. Areas of the zoo will be transformed into a "fantastical wonderland populated by glowing light animals." In addition there will be real reindeer, and a visit by Santa. Early bird admission is \$8; after December 11, tickets are \$13. [LAZooLights.org](http://LAZooLights.org)

Candy Cane Lanes will be in a couple of different places around Los Angeles. One is in Woodland Hills (no later than 10 p.m.); Torrance offers a Sleepy Hollow Christmas Lights Extravaganza.

[www.yelp.com/biz/candy-cane-lane-woodland-hills](http://www.yelp.com/biz/candy-cane-lane-woodland-hills)

[www.yelp.com/biz/sleepy-hollow-christmas-lights-torrance](http://www.yelp.com/biz/sleepy-hollow-christmas-lights-torrance)

## Deck the Halls with Guacamole

### The Latina Christmas Special at Theatre Asylum

You thought your holidays with the family are dramatic? Ay! Ay! Ay! Meet three Latina actresses, Sandra Valls, Diana Yanez and Maria Russell, who'll share their hilarious — and sometimes muy escandaloso (scandalous) — stories of Navidades with the family in the short-run play, *The Latina Christmas*, now bowing at Theatre Asylum, 6320 Santa Monica Blvd. (Hollywood).

Valls is a Mexican-American from Texas. Yanez is a Cuban-American from Miami. And Russell is a "Mexiuanian" — the daughter of an overly-dedicated Mexican mother and a Lithuanian father. They are all first-generation Americans who share, on stage, their quirky Christmas experiences and traditions growing up in Latino families.

For Russell, Christmas is about delicious tamales and the gifts she was always showered with. Salsa music and sunny weather is Yanez's holiday heritage, while Valls remembers yearning for "boy toys."

These comedic holiday tales are part of Theatre Asylum's 2014 Holiday Festival, which also includes the plays *Wonderful Life* (a reinterpretation of the classic Christmas story that takes place in Bedford Falls), and *The Santa Closet*, about a little boy who asks Santa for a doll but receives a truck instead. All three plays continue through December.

Visit [www.theatreasylum-la.com](http://www.theatreasylum-la.com) for more information, the schedule(s), and to purchase tickets. Or call 323-962-1632. ●



## DANCE

Tchaikovsky's classic ballet "The Nutcracker Suite" is playing at many venues, in many forms, this year, including the Los Angeles Ballet's classic take as well as "Nutcracker Swings" with the City Ballet of Los Angeles, and a notable "Hot Chocolate Nutcracker" at Royce Hall, featuring young dancers from Debbie Allen's Dance Academy. I'm also excited about Bob Baker's Marionette Theater's Nutcracker, which is touted as a truly eclectic "puppet extravaganza" for both children and adults.

[www.LosAngelesBallet.org/](http://www.LosAngelesBallet.org/)

[www.CityBalletofLA.org/](http://www.CityBalletofLA.org/)

[www.TheHotChocolateNutcracker.com/](http://www.TheHotChocolateNutcracker.com/)

[www.BobBakerMarionettes.com/](http://www.BobBakerMarionettes.com/)

## HISTORIC and CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

There is much to see if your interest tends towards the historic and cultural this holiday.

### Holiday Tours at the Homestead

At the Homestead Museum, Saturdays & Sundays, December 6, 7, 13 & 14, learn about how Christmas celebrations changed from the 1840s to the 1920s as you tour the museum's decorated historic houses. Along the way you'll meet a character or two who will give a feel for days gone by. Treats served in the Gallery following each tour. Space on each tour is limited; reservations strongly recommended. Tours depart every 30 minutes from 1 to 5 p.m. [www.HomesteadMuseum.org/special\\_tours](http://www.HomesteadMuseum.org/special_tours)

### Las Posadas at El Pueblo

December 16 through December 24 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The evening celebration and reenactment of Las Posadas—Mary and Joseph's search for lodgings on Christmas Eve—will occur at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument, including a candlelight procession through the shops of Olvera Street, ballet folklorico, and a children's piñata breaking each evening. [www.CalleOlvera.com/events/posadas/](http://www.CalleOlvera.com/events/posadas/)

## RANCHO CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

### Rancho Los Alamitos — Holiday Open House

Thursday-Friday, December 18-19, 4-7 p.m.

Enjoy the ranch house's Yuletide sparkle, the magnificently trimmed tree, mantles and hearths festooned with greens, holiday treats and strolling carolers. [www.rancholosalamitos.com/events.html](http://www.rancholosalamitos.com/events.html)

### Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum

#### Holiday Living History Afternoon

December 13, 3-5 p.m.

The Adobe is adorned with lights and holiday decorations. The event includes tours led by the Dominguez sisters and their friends, holiday craft making (perfect gifts for loved ones), music and dancing, and appetizers and desserts from Mexico and Spain—then of course, visit Santa! Ask him for whatever your heart desires! [www.DominguezRancho.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.DominguezRancho.org/upcoming-events/)

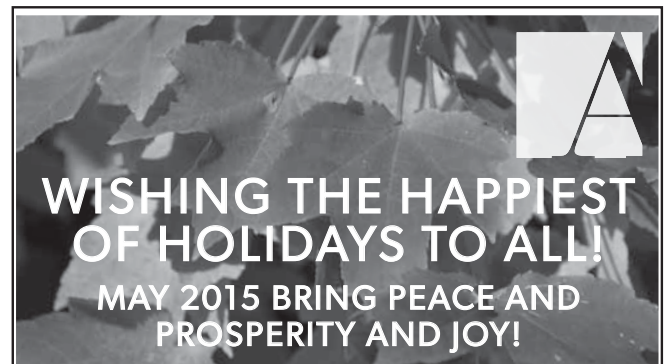
### Rancho Los Cerritos

#### A Rancho Christmas: Illuminating The Past

Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The adobe home will showcase extravagant decorations and the museum's collections, with exhibits on Christmas trees, Santa Claus, gift giving, holiday meals, entertainment, charity, and fashion. Enjoy festive holiday music and refreshments, and shop for unique presents at the Museum Shop. Tours embark every half hour, starting at 6:30. Advance registration required. [www.rancholoscerritos.org/calendar.html](http://www.rancholoscerritos.org/calendar.html)

*(continued on page 10)*



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# Stepping Out

## Holiday Events Around Town *continued from page 9*

### Breed Street Shul

#### Fiesta Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, December 14 – 2-4 p.m.

Celebrate the Festival of Lights in Boyle Heights with latkes from the Canter's food truck, music, DIY dreidels & games, Chanukah sweater fashion show by Gelt Fiend, live screen printing by Self Help Graphics, a holiday boutique with gifts of all kinds, a raffle and more! Also be part of the book drive: bring a book to be donated to the local school. [www.breedstreetshul.org](http://www.breedstreetshul.org)

### FOOD

#### Peking Turkey

Chinatown restaurants are offering Chinese-style roasted turkeys for sale! Prepared similarly to traditional Peking roasted duck, the turkeys have a crispy, seared skin and better-preserved juices than oven-roasted turkeys. Sides such as sticky rice stuffing, or with rice bun, spring onions and hoisin sauce are also available at most Chinatown restaurants. Definitely worth trying this season! [www.ChinatownLA.com](http://www.ChinatownLA.com)

#### Earn Your Tamales, Candy and Cookies

If you feel like some hands-on cooking, check out the cooking classes at the New School of Cooking. On Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., a Candy & Confections class that will have you making "candy and confections like a pro. Each student will produce and leave with a beautiful collection." On Saturday, December 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Holiday Cookies class, where they "will make a huge assortment of festive holiday cookies and finish class with an old fashioned cookie swap." Roll cookies, raspberry thumbprints, molasses chews and peppermint patty brownies are a few choices. I will also add, that if you cannot yourself attend one these classes, one might make an awesome holiday gift for a foodie or chef in your life. [www.newschoolofcooking.com/recreational-classes/](http://www.newschoolofcooking.com/recreational-classes/)

### OTHER SIGNS OF THE SEASON


#### Native Plant Sales

It's time to plant natives, now that the heat of the summer is mostly gone. Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants is at the Hollywood Farmer's Market on the first Sunday of every month from 8am-1pm with "a great selection of California native plants plus sage advice from plant expert Lili Singer"! If you'd like them to bring specific plants to the market for you, call them a week before at 818-768-1802. (But don't buy everything you need: Marius Stelly and I are organizing a West Adams sale and workshop, happening on Saturday, January 31—when you call them, mention how much we welcome this!) <http://www.theodorepayne.org/calendar/>

#### Starry Nights

Griffith Observatory marks the Winter Solstice with brief talks that occur at noon, 3:03 p.m. PST (which marks the actual time the solstice occurs) and sunset on Sunday, December 21. While there you can see one of the four exciting Planetarium programs at the observatory. [www.GriffithObs.org/events/events.html](http://www.GriffithObs.org/events/events.html)

AND A LAST NOTE: Metro once again is offering free rides on Christmas Eve: all metro rail and bus lines are free starting at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24 until 2 a.m. on December 25. ●



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## Knickrehm House Moving

continued from page 1

A good place to start looking for answers was with my relatives living in Los Angeles today. After all, William was their great-grandfather too. So I contacted Linda and her brother Bill Knickrehm, sending them a copy of my earlier article about the headstone so they could read about our ancestors who were buried in the same cemetery as William.

I am really glad I reached out. Linda and Bill soon emailed me, telling me about a cassette tape that was recorded by family members 41 years ago and that had been lying in the back of their closet ever since. On the tape several of the adult children of William Knickrehm talk about their father and his house-moving business. Hearing it might offer a gold mine of information to me, and if I wasn't excited before, I surely was now. Linda mailed me the tape by the next post!

Next came the not-so-simple process of locating a working cassette player. Mine worked for 15 minutes and died. Another wouldn't start at all. Two friends offered theirs. The first worked for 30 minutes before quitting. The other sounded fuzzy but did its job for the entire tape. Old technology, perhaps, with voices hard to decipher in spots, but I finally heard the stories of those relatives from the past!

Listening to my ancestors talking with each other in 1973 was a curious experience for me. These were my deceased relatives, people whom I knew as a girl. Eerily, they sounded quite as I remembered them.

So why did William start his business in 1890? Aunt Mary's voice said, "One time he [William, her father] told me that the reason that he had to go in business for himself was that there was a depression. Jobs were so hard to get and he had a family to take care of by that time, so he had no choice but to go in business for himself."

Never having heard about a depression back then, I poked around on the Internet to see what I could find. Indeed, there had been a deep depression in the 1890s. One website offered an article titled "The Depression of the Mid-1890s: The Gilded Age ended with the financial panic of 1893."

William began his business in Los Angeles in the midst of that depression. But how could his business do well in such hard times? Aunt Mary had the same question. On the tape she commented that "I said to Father, 'Wasn't it pretty tough going?' He said, 'Well, did you ever watch a chicken?' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'The harder the ground, the harder you scratch.'"



advertising led to a massive increase in the number of people coming to Los Angeles; as many as 120,000 by way of the Southern Pacific in 1887 alone. From 1890 to 1900 L.A.'s population grew from 50,000 to 100,000 and five years later it was nearing 200,000 people.

That's a lot of people wanting homes moved around town. Aunt Mary said of her father, William Knickrehm, "He was in the right place, at the right time, with the right service."



William worked hard, as did many German Americans. Further Internet probing gave me another reason William's house-moving business thrived, which was that Los Angeles was growing very rapidly with many people needing his services. I discovered that the growth of Los Angeles really took off in the 1880s due to the presence of a new railroad, and the activities of promoters in getting people to move to the area. In 1885, the Santa Fe Railroad entered Southern California. This set off a rate war with the dominant railway line of the area, the Southern Pacific Railroad. The cost of one-way fares dropped to as low as \$1 for a trip from Midwest cities such as St. Louis and Kansas City all the way to Los Angeles. Meanwhile, promoters published books, pamphlets, and articles about how great life was in Southern California. They talked about the healthy, Mediterranean-type climate that was said to cure sicknesses, and the fertile farm land, and tourist sites that were celebrated in Helen Hunt Jackson's best selling novel *Ramona* (1884). These low rates along with the

(continued on page 12)



# History Matters

## Knickrehm House Moving

*continued from page 11*

With so many more people in Los Angeles, streets were being widened so people needed to get their houses moved back a few feet to make way. Aunt Carrie talked about how, at one point, people would no longer wish to live in the burgeoning downtown of Los Angeles, so William would move their homes all the way down to 70th or 100th Street — only to move the same house back again when the tides of taste turned around again. Also, in those times custom-built homes were built for particular families who would want to keep their own home when they relocated. Further, materials were expensive, especially wood, because of the distance to forests. And since skilled homebuilders were scarce and expensive, moving the house was economically more feasible. So many people sought to move houses rather than build anew.

Now I began to wonder about how the houses were moved. My cousin Bill Knickrehm described the process. He added to what my father had told me when he was alive. Here is what they said.

### **How to move a house:**

The house movers would dig down around the foundation (assuming the house has a foundation) and cut openings there at intervals. They would insert wooden beams into these openings, making an interlocking support lattice for the home. These beams would bear the weight of the house during the move.

The supported house could then be moved by rolling it over large, greased wooden timbers (large round logs) as the building was pulled by horses. As the house rolled onto the front-most timber and off the timber in back, the men would bring the now-freed rear timber around to the front so the house could roll onto it. (A man employed by William told Bill that he used to wear out his shoes kicking the timber loose from the back so he could bring it around to the front.) In William's day the horses pulling the house were far up ahead pulling with lines attached to the house's supports. In later years they used jacks to raise the house.

Some of the houses and buildings were bigger than one might imagine. Some were three-story and bigger. An Internet site gave this description of how a house is moved:

"A capstan [which is a pulley-system; see photo this page] is used, seldom drawn by more than one horse (William used two black horses), around which a chain is wrapped and fastened to the rollers placed underneath the building after the foundation has been removed. The capstan is moved from place to place according to the length of the chain, and while the chain is rolled up on it the house is pulled forward; a few men are kept busy moving the planks and rollers under the runners, and the house is

pulled evenly and steadily to its new site. When they are to make a turn the capstan is moved to the side, the chains are fastened to the corner of the building, which is carefully turned and faced in a new direction....Often the entire width of the street is blocked by a house that is out for a walk and extends from one side of the street to the other." Houses were usually moved at night so as not to inconvenience people who used the streets during the daytime.

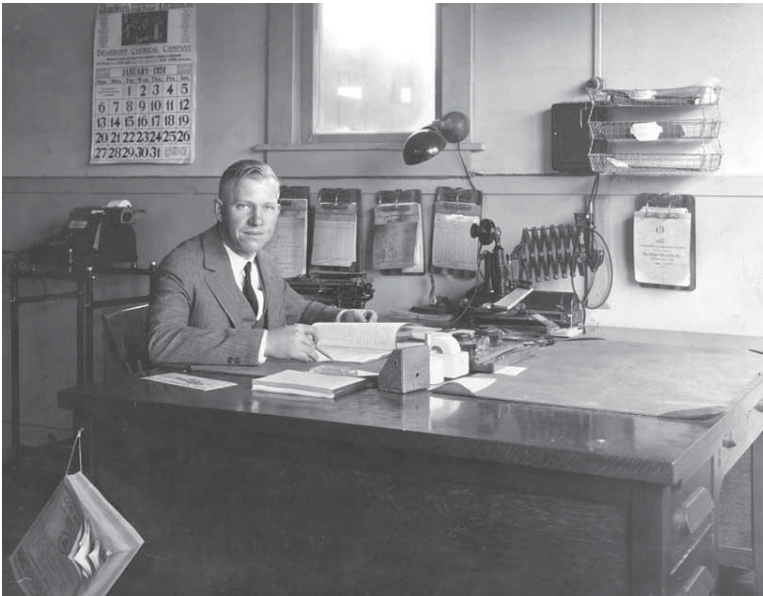
A sad part of William's story was that he was severely injured in a house-moving accident. His daughter, Carrie Knickrehm, said on the tape that it happened in 1893 on the 23rd of June. Three men and



*Horse on capstan uses strength and leverage to roll a house over timbers down the road*

William were supporting the weight of a corner of a house they were moving down a narrow street near downtown Los Angeles. A "misdirection" was given to the man holding a chimney support wire to let it go. As a result a corner of the house or the chimney (the tape was garbled here) fell onto William. His whole body was crushed and they didn't think he would live. They took him to his home and laid him on the dining room table and hurried to get a friend who had been a doctor in Germany. The friend amputated his leg just below the knee right there on the table. William then developed a high fever. They had feared he would die, but by next morning the fever broke and he recovered. He got a wooden leg and thereafter walked with a limp, and could still get around in his Model T Ford. Aunt Carrie said, "He had a smashed up body the rest of his life but it didn't seem to stop him any."

An earlier version of this article was first published May, 2014 in *Ancestors West*, the Journal of Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society



*Allen I. Knickrehm, 1924*

hotels being moved. By 1932, William's son Allen Ironside Knickrehm had taken over the business, The Knickrehm Company, House-Movers. Allen was my grandfather. He died of heart failure in 1941, a few years before I was born. I have a picture of Allen sitting at a double desk at The Knickrehm Co. The date on the calendar behind him shows January, 1924. My father and his brother remembered someone taking this photograph of Allen, and told me all about the items in the picture.

After hearing the cassette tape I decided to call my uncle, Bob Knickrehm, to see what he might know. I found that at age 92 he still has an impressive memory. His mind is filled with facts he remembers easily. During our conversation, Uncle Bob and I confirmed the year William started his business. It was 1890. Uncle Bob told me that his grandfather William never swore; that his favorite "swear" word was, "Oh pshaw!" (He never drank either, I heard.) When Uncle Bob's father Allen took over the business after William retired, he did so only for a while before becoming ill with heart problems. While Allen recuperated in a number of rest homes and sanitariums around Los Angeles, his wife ran the house-moving business. His wife Caroline was my grandmother (and don't call her Carrie; she didn't like that).

Uncle Bob told me about the 1932 Olympics, held in Los Angeles, and how William moved buildings then. Originally named 10th Street, the street was renamed Olympic Boulevard for the Games. The street had to be widened beforehand, and this required more than 3,000 buildings to be set back. The Knickrehm Company won bids to move many of those structures. The entire moving process had to be done, including getting the house up on rollers, even to move it only a few feet. Uncle Bob said the Olympic Village for housing the athletics was set atop the Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles, and after the Olympics, William's company was called upon to move those structures to various locations throughout the city. He also said that William, and later his son Allen, knew all the intersections in Los Angeles. They knew which ones to use and where the overhead streetcar and utility lines were situated so a house could pass without getting in a tangle of wires.

Caroline carried on the house-moving business until it was sold in 1942. By that time house-moving was less common. After WWII, William's grandson — my father, Allen F. Knickrehm — established an electrical contracting business in Los Angeles. Currently my son lives with his own family in the Los Angeles area. The Knickrehm lineage in Los Angeles thus extends from 1882 and continues into the present, a total of 132 years so far.

Though less frequently than in earlier days, people continue to move their houses. In fact there is a company that moves houses right here in Santa Barbara. The company proudly says, "Moving Hours: Dusk 'til Dawn – 7 days a week," so the tradition of hard work and long hours continues to this day. ●

*Sharon Summer, maiden name Knickrehm, was born in Los Angeles County, and continues the search for her family's stories.*

William's son, Fred Knickrehm, told the story of his father moving one of the buildings of Santa Monica High School. Fred was 17 at the time and was working for his dad. He said on the tape that a school building had to be turned 90 degrees so that it would face Main Street. The structure was loaded onto six bearings. Before the move William stepped off the distance with his altered gait of a short and long step, drove in a stack into a spot, telling his men exactly where to put the building. "And that's what we did. We just swung that bloomin' thing right around on its own axis. When we did, we looked to see [where William guessed it needed to be placed] and saw he missed the 90 degrees only about an inch."

From family pictures it appeared that William's moving company moved very large buildings as well as homes; some of his photographs show what looks like



*The Knickrehm Company*



## Eric Dolphy: West Adams Jazz Pioneer Remembered on the 50th Anniversary of His Death

By Seed Artists: Pheeroan akLaff and Luz Marina Bueno

In his short life, jazz virtuoso Eric Dolphy created some of the most vibrant music on record. Although his is not a household name, Dolphy helped to redefine jazz in the early 1960s and today stands as one of its most revered and influential avant-garde figures. From propulsive, darting improvisations to sublime and deeply sensitive ballads, his sound remains fresh and compelling fifty years after his untimely death at age 36 in 1964. Master of alto saxophone, flute and bass clarinet, a soloist and composer of seemingly boundless ideas, Dolphy is one of our own, born and raised in the West Adams District, and in death is among the permanent residents at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery.

### Early Years

Dolphy was born in Los Angeles on June 20, 1928, the only child of middle-class Panamanian-immigrant parents. By all accounts he was soft-spoken and unfailingly kind, by first grade musically precocious and inspired. A childhood friend recalled someone saying, “That Eric Dolphy is going to be great some day. All he does is practice and practice his clarinet.” Various reeds and woodwinds followed as he absorbed the influences of church music, his instructors, and his first encounters with jazz — Fats Waller, Coleman Hawkins, Duke Ellington.



By his early teens Dolphy had taken up alto sax and flute and was playing professional gigs, which pay he spent on lessons. In school bands he won awards and a scholarship. His parents thus built him a practice space in the backyard, where Dolphy thereafter spent long hours practicing and studying music. It later became a regular stop for the likes of Clifford Brown, Max Roach and Harold Land.

### The Maturing Artist

During the late Forties and early Fifties, Dolphy successively directed his college orchestra, played in big bands, served in the Army and attended the U.S. Naval School of Music, and spent an important stretch with trumpeter Gerald Wilson. He also led his own groups locally, to minor success, and in the late Fifties joined Chico Hamilton’s quintet, where he drew attention as a multi-instrumentalist and began to establish the bass clarinet as a solo instrument.

Like many young altoists at the time, Dolphy was a Charlie Parker disciple. But Dolphy was not content simply to imitate him. Parker was part

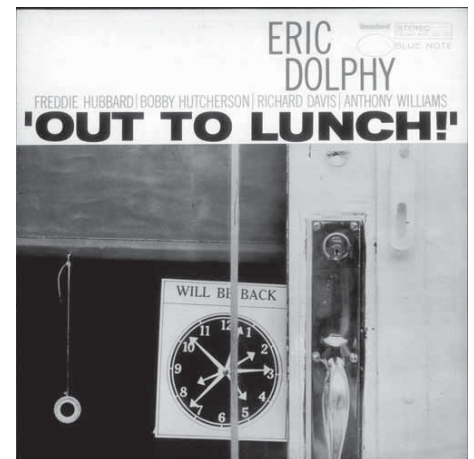
of an aural world that Dolphy in his omnivorous curiosity was reimagining into his own sound, on all of his instruments. That world comprised not merely forms of jazz but gospel and blues, Latin music, African aboriginal vocals, Indian ragas, birdsong, human speech, ambient street noise, classical composers from Bartok and Satie to Schoenberg and Varese. As Dolphy said, “I’ll never stop finding sounds I hadn’t thought existed.”

### In Full Bloom

His greatest advances began with his move to New York City, where he joined the band of the brilliant and irascible Charles Mingus, whom Dolphy knew from Los Angeles. In the Mingus hothouse, a challenge for any player, Dolphy flourished. His improvisations grew in passion and complexity, and that “Dolphy sound”—intervallic leaps, clustered runs, speechlike phrasings, —began to emerge in full. Side gigs followed in kind, from Sammy Davis Jr. to the most forward-thinking jazz artists of the era: Gunther Schuller, Ornette Coleman, George Russell, Booker Little, Oliver Nelson, Mal Waldron, Jaki Byard...a growing list over the next few years.

Dolphy’s own sessions, with standout lineups that included Little, Roy Haynes, Ron Carter and Freddie Hubbard, progressively demonstrated his advancing vision. He recorded the first solo alto-sax pieces in jazz history and in concert began to play his now-hallowed solo bass-clarinet version of God Bless the Child. The live recording of his date at New York’s Five Spot with Little, Waldron, Richard Davis and Ed Blackwell is widely considered a classic of modern jazz.

Dolphy began to sit in with his old friend John Coltrane, whose cascading improvisations were rankling traditionalists. Their musical affinities immediately meshed, producing some of the most exhilarating music of the period. But like many vanguardists, their boundary pushing drew harsh criticism. A now-legendary 1961 stand at the Village Vanguard, thankfully recorded, prompted a Down Beat critic to label the music “anti-jazz.” Miles Davis bristled at Dolphy’s new sound. To scrape by





in periods of scarce work, Dolphy sometimes lived on a diet of white beans and water.

## Promise Realized

Despite such criticism and meager living, Dolphy became a driving force in the advance of America's great musical art form. Mingus brought him back for a second major stint, and in early 1964, at age 35, Dolphy signed with Blue Note Records. That February, he went into the studio with Davis, Hubbard, Bobby Hutcherson and Tony Williams to record *Out to Lunch!* Five original compositions that Dolphy hoped would be the first of many releases for Blue Note.

While *Out to Lunch!* is not the first or most "outside" avant-garde jazz record, it sounds like nothing before it. In its tension between free playing and Dolphy's novel rhythmic architectures, it is sonic narrative. Dynamic storytelling of depth and suspense and beauty. It is rightly recognized as one of the seminal jazz documents of the last fifty years. The work of an artist at the height of his powers and a captivating testament to a visionary's quest.

He quickly followed this with his brilliant play on Andrew Hill's *Point of Departure*, another seminal jazz document of the last half century. Dolphy shortly left for a European tour with Mingus. Discouraged by criticism of his innovations and his struggle to make a living, Dolphy planned to settle there for a time with his fiancée, a ballet dancer. In his honor, Mingus renamed a tune they had been playing on tour "So Long Eric."

## An Early End

Following the Spring 1964 tour with Mingus, and despite physical exhaustion, Dolphy played a series of European dates with local and American musicians. Unaware that he had diabetes, he ate poorly and pressed himself to practice and perform. On June 27, Dolphy arrived in Berlin to play a concert. While the precise circumstances of his death remain controversial, it is generally accepted that he collapsed and fell into a diabetic coma. He died at a Berlin hospital on June 29, 1929, nine days after turning age 36.

The jazz world was shaken by Dolphy's sudden passing. Those who knew him as not only a groundbreaking musician but a man of uncommon kindness, grace and generosity, without significant vice or an unkind word for anyone, were devastated. Charles Mingus called him "a saint—in every way, not just in his playing," and observed, "Usually, when a man dies, you remember—or you say you remember—only the good things about him. With Eric, that's all you could remember. I don't remember any drags he did to anybody. The man was absolutely without a need to hurt."

## The Legacy

Dolphy's influence is apparent not only among successive generations of creative musicians—from Anthony Braxton, Oliver Lake and Don Byron to Mary Halvorson and a host of up-and-comers—but in tribute concerts and records worldwide, repertory bands, and the many online dedications, blogs and websites in his honor. However, his devotees go far beyond the jazz world. The platinum-selling Red Hot Chili Peppers broadcast his music to the audience before they take the stage; Frank Zappa wrote and recorded a song in his honor; Living Color guitarist Vernon Reid cites him as a primary influence; and musicians from indie rock to heavy metal, hip hop and soul claim him as a hero. ●

*Seed Artists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Montclair, New Jersey. Founded in Brooklyn by renowned drummer, composer and educator Pheeroan akLaff in 2005, Seed uses creative music to bridge gaps between generations and cultures, promote community involvement and expand musical education among schoolchildren. The 50th anniversary of the death of Eric Dolphy became a rallying point among like-minded community members, who reformed the Board. With a major Dolphy celebration and the launch of the Freedom of Sound series as its coming-out party, Seed is planting new roots.*



# Community Matters

## Oil Drilling *continued from page 2*

Parks joined other community leaders, including WAHA members Marco Flores, Richard Hume and Leslie Evans, in submitting a 63-page letter and appendices detailing these and many other problems/violations of conditions associated with the Jefferson-Budlong site.

### Expanded drilling and production in densely-populated neighborhoods

What exactly constitutes a “project” is very much a core issue for these two West Adams District oil production sites – along with Jefferson-Budlong, there is also the Murphy Controlled Drill Site, located at Gramercy and Adams, between Kinney Heights and Jefferson Park. Both sites are operated by Freeport-McMoRan, a global mineral resources company that acquired PXP last year. PXP was one of a succession of oil companies who have controlled these sites, and other Los Angeles drilling operations, since the 1960s.

Community residents argue that any new drilling, and certainly a proposed expansion of a natural gas facility at the Murphy site into an adjacent landscaped park-like area, should trigger a full environmental review – a position supported by both local neighborhood councils, North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC) and the United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Heights, West Adams and Jefferson Park Communities Neighborhood Council (UNNC).

However, FMOG contends that all their work was authorized decades ago, in the early 1960s, when the Zoning Administrator of that era approved the establishment of the specific active drilling operations and sites, along with procedures for future well drilling approvals. FMOG says that none of their proposed new drilling – or any new activity – should be subject to environmental analysis or review, because these sites were authorized long before the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was voted into law.



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## Should there be a full CEQA review?

For the uninitiated, CEQA was enacted 45 years ago, and was intended to protect the health, safety, and environment of Californians by mandating that state and local agencies identify and mitigate the significant environmental impacts of all projects that may have an impact on the environment.

FMOG's attorney Amy Forbes argued that Zaitzevsky should take a narrow view when considering a CEQA environmental review, since the current application represents "a minor change to an existing facility." The company contends that this is NOT a new project, but rather a previously-approved urbanized drilling location with authorization – a project and facility that precedes CEQA's jurisdiction; and that in any case their activities have no new impacts on the neighboring community, despite sitting just steps away from homes and schools.

Conversely, community members argued that the legal standard is not whether the oil wells were previously authorized, but rather whether or not there *are* new or continuing environmental impacts.

Zaitzevsky responded, "We understand that this [the narrow view] is how the Department has responded in the past, but we are not sure this is how the Department should respond in the future." She noted that these arguments – both sides – have been handed over to the Los Angeles City Attorney for review. She also warned community members that the matter before her was very "limited" in scope.

With drilling operations intensifying throughout Los Angeles, neighbors contend, local regulations are failing to keep pace with changes in oil production. "This community, just like other communities in Los Angeles, knows that the patchwork of regulations in place is inadequate to ensure that their neighborhood is safe," said Angela Johnson Meszaros, General Counsel at Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA. "While the City is protecting the oil industry from scrutiny of its drilling plans, who is protecting the neighborhood's residents?"

The November 25th hearing ended without a final decision on either the drilling proposal or the request the community made for an EIR to be prepared. Associate Zoning Administrator Zaitzevsky will keep the file open for further comments until January 5. Send your comments to JoJo Pewsawang, [jojo.pewsawang@lacity.org](mailto:jojo.pewsawang@lacity.org).

**Meanwhile**, FMOG has, as of press time, still not submitted enough materials to move forward with a public hearing on the company's Murphy Oil site at Adams and Gramercy.

In June, the community won its fight to demand that the Planning Department conduct a "full and proper" hearing review of FMOG's proposal to expand its gas plant at the Murphy site by installing (in the lower portion of the parcel, within Jefferson Park) a Clean Enclosed Burner (CEB-800) to, in theory, produce cleaner emissions when burning off waste gas.

That portion of the parcel was re-landscaped in circa 2006-2007 as a result of a prior case, where the Zoning Administrator ruled that it had been set aside as a landscape buffer in the early 1960s, and was to be maintained that way as a condition of the overall project. Also in the early 1960s, the perimeter of the active drill site was established and approved; community members contend that that is the only authorized area for surface oil and gas production activities. FMOG disagrees.

In any case, FMOG was to submit a new application for a "Plan Review" case, which they did. But the company also tried to submit a new categorical exemption, which was initially rejected by Planning Department staff, who told FMOG officials to prepare an "EAF" (environmental assessment form) instead. That EAF has not yet been turned in, thus putting the entire case on hold.

UNNC with many community stakeholders' input prepared a list of recommendations for new and continuing conditions and mitigations that it is requesting City leaders impose on operations at the Murphy site. It was submitted to the City's Zoning Administrator in early September. ●

— **By Laura Meyers**

*With reports from the Los Angeles Times, la.streetsblog.com and Stand-Up L.A., a coalition of residents in multiple Southern California communities who are opposed to urbanized oil drilling*



*Murphy Controlled Drill Site*



*We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.*



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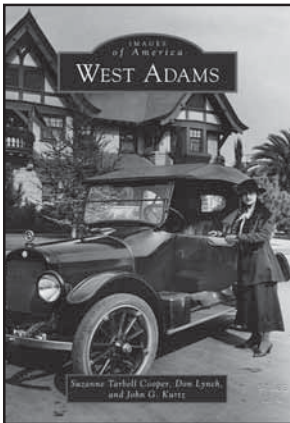
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## Kinney Heights — All Decked Out for the Holidays!



*WAHA's Annual Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner in Kinney Heights on December 6 & 7 was a smashing success! Look for more photos on WAHA's Facebook page, [facebook.com/WestAdamsHeritageAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/WestAdamsHeritageAssociation)*



**There was Merrymaking....**



**....Hundreds of Helping Hands...**



**....And Much Joy Throughout the (West Adams) Land...Thank You, One and All!**



# Calendar ✓

## Upcoming Events

### DECEMBER

#### Meet the Writers

Saturday, December 13

2:30 p.m.

Washington Irving Library

(see page 4)

#### Preservation Alert —

Last Call for Comments:

Proposed Flower Drive Demolition

Monday, December 22 @ 4 p.m.

(see page 3)

### JANUARY

#### “Pompeii: the Exhibit”

Closes January 11

The Natural History Museum

(see page 7)

#### Native Plant Workshop

Saturday, January 31

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Washington Irving Library

(see page 4)

## WAHA's After-the-Holidays Party

**Celebrate Our Volunteers on Sunday, January 11, 3-7 p.m.  
3641 Homeway Drive (View Park, 90008)**

For WAHA's annual After-the-Holidays celebration, we have a special treat: the party will be held at the wonderful Spanish Revival home of WAHA member Martha Bringas. This is the event at which WAHA says *Thank You* to



all of its members and friends who have supported our efforts with theirs. The views from this magnificent 5,300-square-foot 1932 Spanish Colonial Revival home designed by C.E. Noerenberg, and the opportunity to see its incredible interiors firsthand, is an experience not to be missed.

We are extremely grateful to Martha for generously opening her doors to her WAHA friends. Please drop a line to WAHA at [events@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:events@westadamsheritage.org) to let us know if you are attending. We hope to see you in January. ●

**Wishing You a Warm and Wonderful Holiday Season —  
and a Bright and Inspired New Year!**

*The WAHA Matters Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2014. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.*



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