

NEWSLETTER



Number 183

May 2001

Putting West Adams on the Right Track

by Laura Meyers

Just when it had begun to look very promising for the future of light rail along Exposition Boulevard, linking Downtown and West Adams to Culver City and Santa Monica, wrenches are being thrown into its path.

A new report and environmental examination explores several options that, if adopted, will help transport Angelenos from Downtown to the Westside, with busses along Wilshire Boulevard and light rail trains along an Exposition/Venice Boulevard/Sepulveda route to Santa Monica. Anyone who has ever been held hostage on that parking lot known as the Santa Monica Freeway in rush hour understands the need for a mass transit alternative.

But skirmishes on several fronts are developing. A key problem is the opposition to light rail by several influential local politicians, even though the new report concludes that the greatest environmental and traffic benefits come from Exposition light rail (versus an Exposition busway). In addition, members of the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce are concerned that a new transit system on Wilshire will disrupt the recently-created landscaped center medians. And in the West Adams area, the University of Southern California,

though a supporter of light rail, wants the portion between Figueroa and Vermont (adjacent to the campus) to be sunk underground as a tunnel design, potentially adding \$120 - \$150 million to an already under-funded project.

These issues are being explored at public hearings in mid-May, and again in June, and in written public commentary being gathered until June 15.

What’s New With Expo Light Rail

In April, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) released its Mid-City/Westside Transit Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DEIS/DEIR). This DEIR explores several options, all linked to a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line on Wilshire Boulevard,

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West Adams Hosts Tour of Historic Churches

by Anna Marie Brooks

Reserve Saturday, June 23, to enjoy WAHA’s second Tour of Religious Architecture. This is your opportunity to experience the interiors and recesses of several of our neighborhood’s religious meeting places, learn about the architects who designed them, and discover how West Adams’ changing demographics and the institutions’ changing congregations have contributed to the religious and cultural heritage of West Adams.

The tour will begin at the Dawa Center of Masjid Umar Mosque at 1024 Exposition Boulevard where tour parking will also be available. Buses will move tour goers from site to site and return you to your car at the mosque at the conclusion of the tour.

Old Catholic Church on Jefferson Boulevard will be celebrating its 95th anniversary on May 1st. Built in 1906, the church is now home to a congregation of the Korean United Presbyterian Church.

Continued on page 4

WAHA General Meeting:

**A Candid Talk About
Historic Preservation: How
L.A. Compares to Other U.S. Cities**

*Featuring New Board Member and
Preservation Pro Catherine Barrier*

Sunday, May 27 3 p.m.

at the home of
Jennifer Charnovsky & Leslie Evans
2657 Van Buren

*Inside this issue, honoring National
Historic Preservation Week, are special articles
on West Adams’ role in Los Angeles history.*

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WAHA NEWS

2000 Bortfeld Award Nominations Sought

WAHA's highest award, the Bortfeld Award, is presented to a member who has given special service to the community in the prior year. Nominations now are being sought for this annual award. The nominee must be a member in good standing who demonstrates the following qualities: 1) consistent and visible leadership in WAHA and the preservation community, 2) an obvious commitment to preservation, 3) leadership in deed, not just title, 4) notable accomplishments/contributions over a range of activities, not just in one particular activity, and 5) an ability to bring people together to address issues and resolve problems.

The award has been presented in the past to Kathleen Salisbury (1988), Harry Anderson & David Raposa (1989), Harold Greenberg (1990), Lindsay Wiggins (1991), Jodi Seigner (1992), Jon Rake (1993), Lana Soroko (1994), Norma Latimer (1995), John Kurtz (1996), Audrey Arlington (1997), Jim Meister (1998), and Joe Ryan (1999). As you can see by this listing, all former Honorees have had leadership roles in WAHA and have undertaken a diverse range of activities in the organization and in the community at large.

Nominations should be submitted to Linda Scribner (out-going WAHA President), 1749 Bronson Avenue, Historic West Adams, Los Angeles, CA 90019. Please submit nominations with names of candidates and a brief written explanation about why the candidate should be chosen. The winner will be selected by WAHA's current President, the Membership Chair and last year's winner, Joe Ryan.

Gramercy Housing Group Update by Judie Schoening

Late last Fall WAHA published a short article of mine about the Gramercy Housing Group. For those of you new to our Newsletter, this organization is housed in a building at the northeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Washington Boulevard in a restored Beaux Arts building originally home to a children's furniture store (a prime example of adaptive reuse). Several active WAHA members -- Ellen Farwell, Natalie Neith, Lindsey Wiggins and myself -- are privileged to be members of Gramercy Housing Group's Board of Directors.

This non-profit organization houses fifteen young single parents, each of whom has one child. The program for these young women (so far we've had no male applicants) includes not only an excellent on-site childcare facility, but provides case management by a full time Social Worker and parenting classes. All of the tenants are working, going to school or both. This is a "first step into the real world" program and quite a number have gone on to living more independently, furthering their education or full-time jobs. Our first graduates of the child-care are entering Head Start or Kindergarten.

We are planning to build a second facility in the neighborhood and are presently working on that funding as well as the funding for the current program. Although our Executive Director is expert in applying for the grants that are necessary to run a program such as this, we always need to fill the gaps with smaller donations. So we are appealing to YOU, our neighbors, to help. Any size gift is appreciated. Additionally, large grantors always look more favorably on organizations that can raise money from a large number of individual gifts. Does your company do a matching gift program? We'll fill out the necessary forms.

This is a truly unique program right in our own neighborhood. AND it needs your help. If you have any questions or would like to tour the facility, please contact any of us or the Executive Director, Aimee Neufeld, at 323/737-7351 Please see our insert in this issue, on page 17.

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Community Calendar for May 2001

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m.

- 5/9 Community Relations Committee meets at Jacqueline Sharp's, 2229 S. Gramercy Pl. 323/766-8842
- 5/12 Board Retreat
- 5/16 Zoning & Planning Committee meets at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2 Contact Tom Florio 212/749-8469
- 5/22 Newsletter Committee
Call Laura Meyers for info: 323/737-6146
- 5/23 Membership Committee meets at John Kurtz', 2102 W. 24th St., 323/732-2990
- 5/27 WAHA General Meeting 3 p.m.
A Preservation Pro Compares Los Angeles to Other U.S. Cities
at Jennifer Charnofsky & Leslie Evans' 2657 Van Buren

West Adams**Targeted Neighborhood Initiative**

2nd Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 16 7 p.m.

Vermont Avenue Elementary School
1435 W. 27th St. (near Vermont)

Hear how the priorities we discussed in March have been included (or not included) in the City's task list for our neighborhood.
Be present - let your voice be heard!

**News From Mid-City PAC
by Corinne Pleger**

The Mid-City PAC is monitoring the status of the following projects:

PICO PLAZA - At the triangle of Pico, San Vicente and Venice a HOME DEPOT AND COSCO will be the anchor tenants of a new development. Demolition of the old Sears/Builders Discount store is scheduled this summer. The developer has funding in place with plans and variance requests approved by the City's planning department. The neighbors' input provided adjustments to the project plan which include: multiple entrances/access and a truck only exit to control traffic and a set back along Pico for landscaping with a pedestrian entrance. The Bus Depot will be incorporated into retail space at the point of the triangle with a personal storage facility on top. They are negotiating with McDonalds and also looking for a sit down restaurant! Projected opening March 2003.

ADAMS/LA BREA - Federal Express is moving its Los Angeles headquarters to this project site. Kmart has also signed a lease and will provide 382 jobs for the area. They will do a housing replacement plan and a relocation plan.

WASHINGTON BLVD TIN - Washington Boulevard between La Brea and West Blvd is in a Targeted Neighborhood Initiative and ongoing projects are progressing. The Streetscape Program designs are in Plan Check. The Commercial Façade Program has awarded grants for 21 storefronts on 12 buildings with construction to begin in April. They are marketing a Business Incentive Grants program but have only six applications. The Mural Program is complete and the murals have been installed in the School. The Banner Program is using the mural designs and creating banners on the light poles.

WASHINGTON BLVD PERFORMING ART CENTER - The design plans for the Washington Blvd Performing Art Center are being finalized and City Plan Check and permits application clearance is being processed. Expected construction start date is June 2001.

ELECTIONS - Business or property owners or residents who live directly on the major commercial corridors in WAHA and surrounding areas are needed to fill PAC positions for June 27 election. I'll run for WAHA's position again unless someone else wants to get involved. Do you know any business owners/neighbors who might be interested? Let me know (323/733-3515). The PAC meets the 4th Tuesday of the month, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

We're all invited to Ron Jarman's Night at the Movies -- please see details on page 19!

WAHA Church Tour Continued from page 1

St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument #120) was built by Charles Skouras in 1952 as a thank you to God for Charles' success in the motion picture industry. Skouras, a Greek immigrant, had become head of National Pictures. This magnificent cathedral of gold, bronze, and marble accessorized with crystal, stained glass and gold leafed icons graces the 1300 block of South Normandie.

First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Cathedral and Community Center (Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #341) was designed by H.M. Patterson and George W. Kelham in Romanesque Revival style in 1930 to house the West Adams Presbyterian Church.

The Gothic-Chateausque Roger Williams Baptist Church and its historic Bekins Hall was erected between 1930 and 1934, but includes a turn-of-the-century mansion in the complex. For the past 35 years, this Adams Boulevard institution has housed a congregation that is very active in the community, participating in such activities as the USC Task Force and CP5. Today, the church runs a community computer learning center at its educational building, a senior housing complex in three renovated historic residences adjacent to the church, and, starting soon, an educational program for non-violent offenders.

The stunning Neo-Classical copper-sheathed domed Second Church of Christ the Scientist (Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #57) was designed by Alfred F. Rosenheim and was constructed between 1905 and 1910. The design was influenced by that of the Mother Church in Boston.

St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church (Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #90) was financed by the Doheny family. Its Spanish Colonial Revival splendor was created by architect Albert C. Martin with strong influences of Mexican Spanish Churrigueresque. Its construction spanned 1923 -25.

St. John's Episcopal Church (Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument # 516) was designed in a Italian Romanesque Revival style by F. Pierpoint and Walter Davis, and was erected 1922-23. St. John's is representative of the demographic changes which have come to most West Adams religious institutions over the decades. Founded as a conservative Caucasian congregation, it has embraced its multi-ethnic neighborhood and is now one of the most socially active parishes in the West Adams community. Among its several congregations, it is now spiritual home to one of Los Angeles' largest groups of Belizean peoples.

This Tour of Religious Architecture will offer docent-guided bus transportation from one group of structures to the next. Tours will leave every 30 minutes from 1025 Exposition Blvd. (Dawa Center of Masjid Umar Mosque)

beginning at 10:30 a.m. The last tour will depart at 1:30 p.m. Set aside four hours for your dynamic tour of this outstanding and diverse group of West Adams' religious/cultural monuments. As always, tour-goers are reminded to wear shoes with soles which will not negatively impact floors.

Your volunteer services are needed to make this educational fundraising event a success. To become a part of the volunteer staff call Tour Chair Linda Scribner ASAP at 323/735-1385.

One of your WAHA membership perks is this membership advance notice of our June 23rd event. Make your reservation now by calling 323/732-2774. Advance tickets for current WAHA members are \$25 each; non-WAHA members \$28 each. If available, tickets on tour day/at the door are \$30 each. Light refreshments will be served.

Preservation Begins At Home



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For Sale:

*The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #479. 14,500-SQ-FT mansion on 3/4 acre \$1,250,000

* Restored Craftsman. Natural wood throughout; copper plumbing; quake retrofit 4 BR, 3 BA 1812 S. Bronson \$385,000

* Colonial Revival c. 1914. Restored & upgraded in Serrano National Register District. 4.160 sq ft plus finished third floor. 4 Br 4 Ba - Move-in condition. \$520,000.

Sold (Welcome new homeowners!):

* 1657 W. 25th St. - Victor & Roberta Quiroz

* 2331 5th Avenue - Varick Pelton

* 1788 W. 25th Street - John Mann

* 1248 W. 29th St. - Craig Mosely

* 1221 W. 47th St. - Kathleen Salisbury & Bill Washington

* 1968 Buckingham (rep. seller)

Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village
2316 W Union Avenue Suite 2 * 213/747-1337



In the Garden: Check Out These Contestants

Every June, West Adams Heritage hosts a special gardens general meeting where we learn more about our own garden plots and take a look at our neighbors' efforts to beautify their homes and gardens. This year is no different.

Below are the nominees for this year's Garden and Painting Contests. Please try to view each entry before the June voting. The official photography weekend is May 19-20, so gardeners, clean things up if your name appears on the list! WAHA will photograph the nominated gardens on those days.

GARDEN CONTEST

Jacquelyn Sage
2272 W. 31st Street

Linda Marais
2534 9th Avenue

Terri Sullivan
2123 S. Bronson Avenue

Emily Green
2158 W. 24th Street (Front & Back Garden)

Dan Gaby & Carlos Zamora
2159 W. 20th Street

Donald Pemrick (Back Garden)
2057 S. Harvard Boulevard

Steve & Nina Rochelle
1933 S. Oxford

Salvador and Diane Lopez
1688 W. 23rd Street

Philip Lance and Francisco George
1522 S. Hobart Avenue
(Note: this is an organic garden)

Micki Dickoff and Christie Webb
2405 4th Avenue

Cat Slater and Woody Woodward
2524 4th Avenue

Clayton de Leon
2523 4th Avenue

Michelle McDonough
2424 5th Avenue

Joe Begin and Mae Lumalang
2420 5th Avenue

Ed Trosper and David Raposa
2515 4th Avenue

Steve Rowe and Robert Hausenbauer
1626 5th Avenue

PAINT CONTEST

Terri Sullivan
2123 S. Bronson Avenue

Michelle McDonough
2424 5th Avenue

Emily Green
2158 W. 24th Street

2159 W. 20th Street

1738 S. Oxford

Art Curtis and Shelly Adler
2647 S. Magnolia Avenue

Donald Pemrick
2057 S. Harvard Blvd.

Orlando and Carla Sotelo
1724 S. Harvard Blvd.

Suzie and Don Henderson
1660 W. 25th Street

Gregory Daniel
1822 S. Bronson Avenue

Steve Rowe and Robert Hausenbauer
1626 5th Avenue

Through My Eyes Only

A Historic Preservation Professional

By John B. Deaven

If you took the recent 2000 WAHA Holiday Tour, chances are you might have heard a speech from docent Michele McDonough, explaining the downstairs features of the 1912 Heineman "Salad House" on Harvard Blvd. Michele keeps herself busy with WAHA activities, and I thought that this month we might take a closer look at this particular member.

Michele McDonough was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she grew up in the suburbs with 4 brothers and one sister. She attended Webster College in St. Louis, Missouri, earning her B.A. in Theatre Arts. She tried life in Princeton, New Jersey, but in 1975 she moved to Los Angeles! She started out in Brentwood, followed by 3 other locations. By 1988 she was shopping for a home in West Adams, and that's when I met her.

My wife, Nancy, and I remember well the day we met Michele. Realtor Dave Raposa brought Michele and her visiting parents over to our house on 4th Avenue for introductions to show Michele her potential future neighbors if she was to buy a Japanese-style airplane bungalow at 2424 5th Avenue! It worked. Michele did, indeed, purchase the 1914 Frank Tylor two-story house. Once Michele moved in, she put in new electrical and plumbing, put back a wall that was once removed, re-did the kitchen, and made a closet into a shower. Her house is roughly 2300 square feet, with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Michele joined WAHA shortly after her purchase.

Meanwhile, Michele attended the Gemological Institute of America, here in Southern California, and eventually she got a job in the wholesale diamond business. However, she felt a need to get a master's degree, and she attended U.C.L.A. to obtain a M. Arch. I (Master of Architecture - 1st Professional Degree). In 1994 she received her license as an architect.

In between fixing up her new

house and working hard to further her career, Michele managed to attend most of our theme parties on 4th Avenue. Once she brought her brother Garry, who is a teacher living in the Mount Washington area of L.A., and now my family is good friends with him, too.

Also, Michele has a passion for dogs. It is not unusual to see Michele's 3 dogs eagerly pulling Michele behind them, headed for near-by 2nd Avenue Park. Michele's 4-footed family included Zerelda, Jasper, and Homer. However, when Homer passed away in 2000, a new dog was adopted, named Stella-Bella Cinderella!

In 1994 Dave Raposa called Michele, telling her that a group from WAHA were getting together to save the South Seas House, and Dave thought they could use Michele to make up floor plans, which she agreed to. The "South Seas House," at 24th Street and Arlington Avenue, was originally owned by French musician Joseph Depuy. The exact date of when it was built is unclear, but it was erected between 1897 and 1903. Councilman Nate Holden had a big meeting at the Amateur Athletic Association regarding the fate of the South Seas House. Representatives from the Department of Recreation and Parks, who wanted the house torn down, were on one side of the room, and WAHA folks, who wanted it saved, were on the other side

of the room. About 30 people attended. Mr. Holden called for a vote, and the majority of the room raised their hands to save the house. At that same meeting Michele volunteered to do the working drawing if that would expedite the process more quickly. After that, according to Michele, years passed by. Then Michele read in the WAHA Newsletter that Nate Holden said he had a \$600,000 grant to save the house. Nevertheless, Recreation & Parks put together their own budget saying that \$1.2 million were needed to fix the South Seas House.

Michele wrote Holden, thanking him for the \$600,000. She also suggested that she get a Structural Engineer and a General Constructor to make a bid to see what they thought, hoping for a more precise figure. Eventually Holden called Michele and told her to go ahead with her idea. He said to Michele that he was eager to save the house. Thus, Michele did that. The final amount suggested was \$625,000.

In January '99 Michele had a meeting downtown with Recreation & Parks staffers, followed by several more meetings in '99. By July 2000 the department's Board of Commissioners hired Michele to do the South Seas House drawings. In November of 2000, Michele signed a contract to that effect.

Eventually, as time rolled by, Michele had a meeting with Jay Oren of the Cultural Affairs Department regarding the South Seas House. Also, as stated in the March 2001 WAHA Newsletter, a new project manager, Fred

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Luis Gutierrez
CARPENTER



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State Supreme Court Supports Preservation

The California State Supreme Court delivered a victory for preservationists on Thursday, March 29, 2001, when they decided unanimously to bar cities from removing a building's historic status without first conducting an environmental review.

This decision stemmed from a lawsuit brought against the City of Sierra Madre. That city sponsored a ballot measure in 1998 that removed the historic designation of 29 properties. Sierra Madre assumed that by placing a measure on the ballot the city would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. According to this act an environmental review must be conducted prior to the removal of a building's historic status.

Sierra Madre and more than 80 other California cities were urging the court to allow local governments to change land use through ballot measures, without the benefit of an environmental review. Justice Marvin R. Baxter's written opinion for the court said that only citizen-placed initiatives are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

In 1987 Sierra Madre passed an historic preservation ordinance. Some property owners complained that compliance with the ordinance was too costly, or that they were not informed that their property had been listed. One homeowner who takes no pride in owning an historic home

saw it as an invasion of his privacy, because strangers regularly drive to look at his house. These owners sought to have their properties removed from the list.

Some of the protected structures include homes designed by Architects Charles and Henry Greene and Irving Gill. The attorney for Sierra Madre said that these buildings "are now back on the historic registry."

THE BOTTOM LINE

What this means to us in Historic West Adams is quite simple – our city may not arbitrarily remove a structure's historic status without first completing the required environmental review. Likewise, property owners may not just "opt out" because they were unaware of their building's historic status, or because they wish to remodel or demolish their property.

This decision should help to further protect the hundreds of historic structures in Historic West Adams.

– Michael S. Smith

Source: Los Angeles Times, Metro Section, March 30, 2001, by Maura Dolan, Pages B1 and B10.

Through My Eyes Only Continued from page 6

David, was assigned to this project, and Mr. David and Michele have also been meeting. (In the same newsletter, a questionnaire was put out by the Dept. of Recreation and Parks to the West Adams community regarding "the final design of the improvements and the recreation program that will be established." Did you fill yours out and mail it back? We sincerely hope so!)

In March 2001 the over-grown vegetation around the South Seas House was dramatically cut back. Now one can see the house more clearly from the street. It truly is a "jewel in need of polish," as writer Don Lynch once put it.

On Saturday, March 31st, I was walking by the South Seas House, and I saw a posted notice on the fence. It was from the City of L.A. – Board of Building and Safety Commissioners, a Notice to Abate Vacant Structure and To File Statement of Intent. It was dated March 28, 2001, Council District 10, signed by Vincent Cotton, Code Enforcement Bureau Inspector. I told Michele about it, along with Mr. Cotton's posted phone number (213/738-5694). It's just another chapter in the South Seas House story for Michele to investigate!

Meanwhile, speaking of local landmarks, in 1999 WAHA had a meeting at The Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas, L.A.'s oldest continually operating shelter for women.

At this meeting, WAHA member Jean Frost announced that Sunshine Mission needed more board members. Michele was there, and she volunteered. A few months later she was appointed the board's secretary. By November 2000 Michele McDonough was the board's chairman at Sunshine Mission.

Sunshine Mission, located at Hoover and Adams Blvd. and designed by Sumner P. Hunt (Automobile Club Architect), is in the Queen Anne style. In 1915 it became the Girls' Collegiate Boarding School. In 1942 it was turned into a haven for destitute women and girls. It is L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument #241. The place currently has a 19-bed homeless shelter and a 54-unit hotel, which is transitional housing. The Sunshine Mission board is currently fixing up the building, hoping to make it a vibrant part of our community, hosting such presentations to the public as the recent performance of the DaCamera Society, for example. Michele truly feels it is a marvelous site with much potential.

And a final note: Michele's housemate, Carole Autori, has turned Michele's front yard on 5th Avenue into a very colorful, full array of several various flowers and bushes. In 2000, Michele also had her house repainted with 3 different shades of gray, a pale blue, and a dark red trim. Both Michele's garden and paint job are nominated for WAHA's Annual Garden and Painting Contests.

Los Angeles and the Civil War: Some Surprising Connections

by Laura Meyers

As you sit in the elegance and charm of your restored century-old West Adams manse, or as you work diligently to restore its turn-of-the-century splendors, you might think that much of Los Angeles' Anglo history started in this community, or even in your own house.

But in actuality, you need to turn back the clock another half century. Los Angeles had been a city for nearly 40 years before the first West Adams mansion was constructed, and 50 years before the real estate development explosion created the West Adams District, the City's first streetcar suburb.

Indeed, one of the City's oldest landmarks, the Drum Barracks in Wilmington, actually dates back to the Civil War.

Because the battles of the War Between the States largely took place east of the Mississippi River, California's and L.A.'s role in the war is often overlooked in history books, and thus may seem surprising to you. But some 17,000 Californians enlisted in the Union forces, including the California 100. California units fought in many battles, and suffered heavy casualties. And troops from Camp Drum kept California in the Union, while also securing the territory which is now Arizona and New Mexico for the Union.

The Civil War found the fledgling City of Los Angeles, incorporated in 1850, deeply divided in its loyalties. Although California was a pro-Union free state, Unionists were in the minority in Southern California. Many Southern lawyers, Southern Democrats and other Confederate sympathizers lived in Los Angeles, and as a result the majority of Angelenos favored the pro-slavery "Chivalry" wing of the Democratic Party. The *Los Angeles Star*, the community's only newspaper, staunchly opposed the state's anti-slavery senator, William Broderick, and in the 1860 presidential election Republican Abraham Lincoln received but 350 votes in Los Angeles, compared to 686 votes for Democrat John C. Breckinridge, 494 votes for fellow Democrat Stephen Douglas, and 201 votes for John Bell, the Constitutional Union candidate.

By the time the Civil War broke out, in 1861, many Angelenos had gone off to fight for the Confederacy, while here at home Southern sympathizers and Northern partisans in Los Angeles had formed competing voluntary military units. U.S. soldiers from Fort Tejon were called to quiet their near-skirmishes, and in 1862 the Union Army took a further step, establishing Camp Drum (Drum Barracks) as army headquarters for Southern California and the Arizona Territory. The U.S. government purchased the land from Phineas Banning (whose own 1864 Greek Revival mansion still stands nearby) and spent \$1 million constructing the military post. The hospital at Camp Drum came to be recognized as the best-equipped and staffed medical facility west of the Mississippi.

From 1862 until 1866, some 13,000 Union soldiers were processed through the Drum Barracks. But even with

the military presence, Confederate sympathizers continued to conspire and skirmish in Southern California – even taking charge of Santa Catalina Island for a period. Several high-profile Secessionists were arrested, and in 1863 lawyers, judges and litigants in Los Angeles were required to sign a Union loyalty oath or be prevented from appearing in court-houses.

After the war, the facility continued to operate as a military post. After the surrender at Appomattox, Californians from Camp Drum continued to soldier in the Southwest during the Indian Wars. Camp Drum was decommissioned in the 1880s, and became a college campus. In the early 1960s, community groups saved the last remaining wooden buildings of the military base. Today, of the original 20 structures, only two white clapboard buildings – the Drum Barracks and the Junior Officers Quarters – remain standing.

Owned by the City since 1968, the Drum Barracks (L.A. City Historic-Cultural Monument No. 21) is now a Civil War Museum open Tuesday through Thursday and weekends throughout the year. On display in the buildings are armaments (including carbines, Colt Navy revolvers, sabers, muskets and bayonets); a model room with a small scale reconstruction of the 60 acre site as it looked in 1862; battle flags; photographs; soldiers' clothing, sewing kits, shoes, rations and sleeping tents; two officers' rooms furnished in period décor; and numerous maps and other paper ephemera. In the parlor, you'll see the setting in which officers would have gathered to relax with the music of an 1838 Nimms and Clarke piano, play cards, and view stereoscopes. And occasionally, if you're lucky, you'll visit during a Living History Reenactment (see accompanying story), where period accurate Union soldiers and support personnel recreate the Civil War era.

The Drum Barracks Civil War Museum is located at 1052 Banning Blvd. in Wilmington, south of West Adams down the 110 Freeway. Call 310/548-7509 for more information, to volunteer (if you have an interest in Civil War history) or to schedule an appointment to do research in the museum's library of Civil War materials.

Although the Drum Barracks (named after assistant adjutant general Richard Drum) is Los Angeles' primary significant Civil War historic resource, West Adams has its own piece of Civil War history. Some 450 Union soldier veterans are buried in a plot at Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic.

History Lives

If by chance you were watching "Murder She Wrote: The Last Free Man" on CBS earlier this month, you may have spotted a couple of West Adams' own in authentic Civil War era period attire.

Corinne Pleger and Cat Slater "attended" a wedding as the character Jessica Fletcher (Angela Lansbury playing Fletcher's Aunt Sarah) investigated a murder that took place during the Civil War. Pleger was in four scenes as an extra, wearing a cranberry and white plaid dress, while Slater, wearing a brown and white plaid frock, was seen in a carriage and walking across one of the party rooms.

No, Corinne and Cat haven't changed careers to follow an acting muse. Actually, both are costumers and Civil War re-enactors who have recreated day wear and ball gowns that bring the 1860s to life.

Corinne, her husband, Dave Pleger, and their son, Evan, are avid Civil War re-enactors. On many spring and summer weekends you'll find them on Civil War "battlefields" and "encampments" in Southern California, Dave wearing the authentic blue wool Union uniform and brogans of his company, the 2nd Vermont, and carrying an 1860s-style musket. Corinne dons the garb of an officer's wife, and while Dave is fighting (and perhaps "dying") on the battle ground, she may be back at camp participating as an Army wife of the 1860s would. "It's living history," she explains. "So oftentimes, in between battles, we'll sit there and someone will have lost a button off his coat and he'll bring it to me and say, 'Mrs. Pleger, can you please sew my button on.' I'll sew the button on or I'll mend something, or prepare bandages, and do the things that a sergeant's wife would do if she was in fact associated with a small company."

The Plegers caught the reenactment bug on a family vacation, an old-fashioned wagon train trip where participants eschew both modern garments and conveniences as they travel across a prairie. "Like the pioneers who came across, we really, literally, walked and camped and did it in period garb," Corinne recalls. Soon thereafter, a friend told the Plegers about a Civil War event at Fort Tejon, where scores of participants acting as Union and Confederate military units reenact actual historic battles and skirmishes, and the couple was hooked. Corinne has long enjoyed "dressing up" in historic costumes, starting with her participation in Renaissance Fairs in the 1960s. Dave, who is now a space scientist, was a history major in college, and so for both the recreating of a period of American history was a natural.

These days, says Corinne, "David is very interested in history, and he's read over 200 books on the civil war era. So when spectators come and it's not battle time, a lot of the times these people will come up and say, 'Well, how did the Civil War start?' And Dave, with all of his research, has developed a whole presentation — which he can give in 10, 20, 45 minutes or over an hour depending on how detailed you want — including maps of the geographic migration of the American people who were moving in the 1800s, and the

politics that were going on."

In fact, "dressing up" isn't the only pleasure for Corinne and other costumers, she says. "Sometimes it's just fun just to be in camp, especially, when the spectators aren't around, and you're not having to answer questions. I can just be Corinne, and I can just be Corinne in a camp in a skirt and everybody around me is also in kind of this 1860s kind of environment.

"The camp fire is crackling and all you smell is the outdoors and you're a little grungy and you haven't had a bath," Corinne continues. "And all of the sudden something will happen or somebody will say something or you'll listen to the crickets and you'll say, 'Ooh, you know, I could just be back there. This isn't 2001. This is some other period of time and that's okay.' And it's kind of interesting. Not to be reliant upon whether or not you can turn on the radio or watch the TV or hear the cars go by. Where it's actually peaceful and quiet and another time. And every once in a while I think your soul needs to pull away and not be so tied to this modern, fast-paced world and to have some time to just take a deep breath and to just exist in yourself. And re-enactment kind of gives us that opportunity — to be someplace else... to not be in this modern push-push whirl-whirl world."

— Laura Meyers and Sabrina Almeida

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Made in West Adams (With Apologies to the Good Staff at LACMA)

by Michael S. Smith

In January of this year the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) concluded an unusual exhibition titled "Made in California: Art, Image and Identity, 1900 - 2000." This was the largest and most ambitious exhibit ever attempted by LACMA.

According to Andrea L. Rich, President and Director of LACMA, the exhibit focused "attention on the art created about California in the Twentieth Century." The exhibit addressed the image of California through a thematic show of paintings, sculptures, graphic and decorative arts, costumes, photography, and examples of newspapers, pamphlets, posters, and advertisements.

Greg and I attended the exhibit on the last day - and we're glad we did. We were struck most by the numerous connections the exhibit had to our own Historic West Adams. Many people who have lived or worked in West Adams have influenced the image of California through the arts. Most of the names we recognized were once residents of our neighborhood - people who lived on Adams Boulevard, in Chester Place, Harvard Heights, Kinney Heights, Lafayette Square, North University Park, and more than a few lived in West Adams Heights.

The exhibit was arranged chronologically and upon entering the first hall, we were presented with a time line. This time line focused on transportation and commerce. Among the milestones listed were: the creation of the Automobile Association of Southern California, the Pacific Electric, the Pacific Mutual, the Port of Los Angeles, and the Santa Monica Freeway.

In 1901 the Automobile Association of Southern California was formed. For more than 80 years their headquarters was located at the Southwest corner of Figueroa and Adams Boulevards.

In the 1920's Henry Huntington combined the narrow-gaged Los Angeles Railway with his own Pacific Electric line. The Los Angeles Railway, also known as the Yellow Car, was an enterprise originally founded by businessmen Eli P. Clark, General Moses Sherman, and his son Robert P. Sherman. Mr. Clark's house is located on the Northwest corner of 24th and Scarff Streets. The Shermans lived on Oxford Avenue.

The Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company was first formed in the 1880's by the "Big Four," founders of the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1906 George Ira Cochran purchased the Pacific Mutual from Judge E.B. Crocker. He combined the company with Frederick Rindge's Conservative Life and moved the offices to Los Angeles after the great San Francisco earthquake. He lived in West Adams Heights.

The largest man-made port in the United States, and the second largest in the world, the Port of Los Angeles was created in part through the vision of Thomas E. Gibbon. Mr.

Gibbon's estate was on Harvard Boulevard, and his property is now the site of the First AME Church. James Cuzner, who lived up the street at Harvard Boulevard and 21st Street, was a board member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and voted for the port's location in San Pedro.

Advertising "Fifteen minutes to Santa Monica," the Santa Monica Freeway cut a river through the heart of West Adams. Planned in the 1940's, and built in the 1960's, this freeway was once the busiest in the world, and set the precedent for freeway construction across the Southland and the United States.

Among the many pastoral paintings of California were several promotional pamphlets sponsored by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Many West Adams residents, like James Cuzner, have either served on the board of this organization, or were general members.

Examples of graphic and decorative arts by several notable Southern California architects were displayed throughout the exhibit. Among them were architectural plans by Richard Neutra, paintings of buildings designed by Paul Williams, and a light fixture designed by Charles and Henry Greene. All of these architects designed buildings in West Adams.

Richard Neutra designed a case-study house on Adams Boulevard. Paul Williams not only designed several houses in West Adams, but also chose to live in Lafayette Square. Paul Williams also designed two buildings in West Adams Heights - the First AME Church on Harvard Boulevard and the Golden State Mutual building on the Northeast corner of Adams and Western. Charles and Henry Greene designed the Porter House on Hobart Boulevard, and the Wheeler house on the Northwest corner of Hobart Boulevard and Cambridge Avenue.

One room of the exhibit was entirely devoted to the artistic contributions of African-Americans. Among the displays were photographs from the Somerville Hotel and meeting notices for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In addition there were pictures and programs from several Central Avenue jazz clubs. These too have a connection to West Adams.

John and Vada Somerville, who were the proprietors of the Somerville Hotel and cofounders of the NAACP in Los Angeles, lived on the Southeast corner of Harvard Boulevard and 21st Street. Jazz singer Ethel Waters, featured in a Club Alabama program, lived on Western Avenue across from Berkeley Square. One photograph showed Johnny Otis, who lived on Harvard Boulevard, performing for an enthusiastic crowd.

Without a doubt, no other industry has contributed more to the image of California than the Hollywood. West
Continued on the next page

The following are changes to the WAHA Membership Directory for 2000-01. Please update your copy of the directory if you want to keep it current.

If you have a new mailing address, please contact WAHA by mail, or call John Kurtz (Membership Chair) 323-732-2990, so your newsletter and other mailings can get to you in a timely manner.

We will be updating the Directory in August after the current membership renewal drive is complete. So until then

Update with New Information

Robert Johnson & Scott Montgomery, 9040 Harland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90069-5508 (310) 276-8187
 Llonald & Virginia King, 1459 South Norton Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (323) 734-4569
 Kathleen Salisbury & Bill Washington, 1221 W. 47th St., Los Angeles, CA 90037 (323) 296-6288

Add (and welcome) new WAHA members

Catherine Barrier & James Dugan, 1651 S. Oxford Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90006 (323) 732-7233
 John Berger, 1212 S. Highland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019
 Carolyn & Steve Cohen, 1340 W. 30th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007 (323) 731-1301
 Liz Cooper & Stephen Schuster, 2886 W. 15th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90006 (323) 735-3337
 Debra & Ian Dye, 1841 S. Wilton Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (323) 735-5797
 Hope Egan, 4033 W. 23rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 732-6303
 David Hamlin & Sydney Weisman, 2114 5th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018
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 Laurette Lavin, 2340 W. 30th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018
 Jane McNamara, 112 S. Sycamore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90036 (323) 934-0301
 Mado Most & Rob Sullivan, 1635 S. Wilton Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (323) 737-3818
 Lester Ann Orange, 2524 12th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 734-5161
 Lorange@lausd.k12.CA.US
 Orlando & Carla Sotelo, 1724 S. Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90006 (323) 737-4686
 Susan & Tres Tanner, 1644 W. 23rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007 (323) 732-8595
 Weisman Hamlin Public Relations, 2114 5th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 735-3337
 Bill Vestal, 2245 Cambridge Street, Los Angeles, CA 90006 (323) 733-6503

Made in West Adams Continued from Prior Page

Adams has been, and continues to be, home to many people in "The Industry." Exhibited were photographs of Hattie McDaniels, Ramon Navarro and Anna Mae Wong. Among the costumes was a dress worn by Theda Berra, and playing in a continuous loop was a rare short clip from a Busby Berkeley musical.

Theda Berra lived in Chester Place, which is rumored to have caused Mrs. Doheny some consternation that "that element" would dare to move into her neighborhood. Ramon Navarro lived on 24th Street near Arlington, and Anna Mae Wong is buried at Rosedale Cemetery. Hattie McDaniel, winner of an Academy Award for her role in "Gone With the Wind," purchased the Hamilton Cotton mansion on Harvard Boulevard in 1938. Busby Berkeley hosted many Hollywood

parties at the Adams Boulevard mansion he purchased from the Guasti Family.

"Made in California" was indeed a monumental exhibit. Greg and I learned just how influential some people in West Adams have been to the art community, and to the development of California. Undoubtedly there were many more contributors who lived or worked in West Adams, whose names we didn't recognize.

The goal of the West Adams Heritage Association has always been to preserve our architectural heritage. But, in doing so we are also preserving our cultural heritage. Nearly every newsletter highlights some contribution from our community, which has helped to shape the Californian image. Maybe we should consider an exhibit of our own, titled (what else?) "Made in West Adams."

BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



ADAMS-NORMANDIE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (ANNA)

On April 1 twenty-four neighbors hopped on the school bus provided by Councilman Ridley-Thomas in order to see the 22,000 tulips on display at Descanso Gardens. Many of those attending had never been to the gardens and found the tram tour so enjoyable and informative.

A large crowd attended our April 3rd meeting including four new neighbors who became members after we adjourned.

Once through our standing reports we concentrated on fleshing out our Earth Day Event. New member Tres Tanner is leading the charge to get ANNA spic and span. One April 28, seventy-five volunteers will devote 5 hours to curbside street addressing, large trash pick-up, cleaning and sweeping our five blocks and planting several trees on the median. It's ambitious but we are determined. McDonald's is sponsoring our lunch and we are in the process of finding a sponsor for breakfast.

VP Jim Jansen gave an exciting and detailed report

Block Club and Neighborhood News is an important and integral part of the WAHA Newsletter -- a place for us to share ideas, information, and upcoming events. To publicize future events, you must provide the information to the newsletter well in advance, no later than the first of the prior month (eg: August 1 for the September issue). To submit "News from Around the Blocks," please contact Michael S. Smith at 323/734-7725. You may also e-mail information to mikegreg@pacbell.net, or fax to 213/894-5335 (please address to Mike Smith).

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on the Targeted Neighborhood Initiative meeting.

Initial contacts have been made in seeking donations and labor for our match" to qualify for a second Neighborhood Block Grant. Details to follow in late

summer.

A farewell letter from our exemplary Lead Officer Ray Marquez was read to the membership. As much as we are saddened to lose him we are very proud of his making Sergeant.

We are making plans to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and to provide another outing for neighborhood families. We hope to tour St. John's Episcopal Church and the new Mercado la Paloma.

President Marianne Muellerleile has been named USC's Good Neighbor Resident Volunteer. She will receive her award and a \$250 donation to ANNA at a dinner ceremony on April 11.

ANNA continues to seek ways to benefit our neighborhood children. We are currently working to put three reconditioned computers in homes that may not normally have access to the Internet.

Our yearly officer elections were held and those currently serving were unanimously reelected: President Muellerleile, VP Jim Jansen, Secretary Marco Flores and Treasurer Don Henderson.

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Resources by Judie Schoening

Just a couple of new resources for you this month. I guess people have been so-o-o busy doing things to their houses, they have not had time to call and tell me about the wonderful new person they have found.

We have personally found a great auto mechanic. Since we drive an oldish van that is beginning to feel its age after lots of miles covering the territory, it has frequent needs. Gary at B&G Auto Electric on La Brea has done some great work for us on the van and also on our old VW (we tend to cling to our cars). His hourly rate is less than half that of a dealership. When appropriate, he will suggest rebuilding a part rather than insisting on only putting in a new one. Although he specializes in electric and that is how we found him, he and his father do all kinds of repairs.

We now have a website! It was designed by our own Timothy Mark (Wetter) Reilly. This incredibly talented WAHA member has taught himself to do all kinds of things on the computer out of necessity while pursuing his new career in film. One evening when Mark was here for dinner, Alan said innocently "I think we should have a website." Mark offered to do it for us and 10 days later it was up and running. By the way, if you would like to see what we do other than cook fabulous meals and have Thoughts about Food, check us out at schoeningent.com! And add Mark to the Computer Consultant list. He has also shown me how to do a lot of things on the computer.

Please let know if you have used some of our Guide Entries with good or bad results. Questions: 323-734-8123 (the computer is in that room) FAX 323-733-3541 Email: schoening@mediaone.net or through the website. AND don't forget to use the Resources who have extended discounts to us. Check that list in every Newsletter!

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Contact Mark

Take a Spring Fling and go to one of these fun events:

Pomona Heritage holds its spring fundraiser on Sunday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the landmark Hoops/Williams estate, a 117-year-old Arts and Crafts manse that's never been open to the public before. A tour of the home and a garden buffet, croquet and badminton, along with a vintage car show, are included in the ticket price of \$25 (in advance) or \$28 at the gate. The Hoops/Williams estate is located at 650 East Phillips Boulevard in Pomona. Call 909/622-5032 for tickets.

Monrovia's annual Old House Tour, "2001: A Preservation Odyssey," will take place on Sunday, May 13, in the Wildrose section of town. Featuring seven Craftsman, Victorian and Spanish-style homes, plus two museums, most never before opened to the public, runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour at The Dollmakers, 505 South Myrtle Ave or at the Anderson House, 215 East Lime Avenue, for \$20. Ticket sales end promptly at 2 p.m.

The Los Angeles Conservancy presents its 15th annual "Last Remaining Seats," May 30 – June 27. This always-popular event features classic films and live entertainment in historic theaters on Broadway. This year's films include "Pal Joey," "The Third Man" and "The Adventures of Robin Hood." For more information check out the Conservancy's website, www.laconservancy.org or call the hotline number 213/430-4219.

If you're really, really serious about preservation, attend the 26th annual California Preservation Foundation Conference, slated for May 17 – 20 in San Diego. Educational/discussion tracks include "Nuts & Bolts – Preservation Programs for Planners and Activists," "Architectural History – California's Recent Past," "Fundraising – Cash for All Occasions," and "Preservation Toolkit – Advanced Preservation techniques." The scheduled keynote speaker is Huell Howser, producer and host of "California Gold," which airs on PBS affiliates throughout the state.

Pasadena Heritage hosts "Pasadena in the Movies" on Saturday, June 16 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. This three-hour bus tour will feature properties used in such films as "Gone With the Wind," "Chinatown" and "Back to the Future." Tickets are \$40; call 626/441-6333 for more details. The organization also offers "A Mid-Summer's Eve on the Colorado Street Bridge," "the best party in town," on Saturday, July 21, from 6 to 11 p.m. Expect continuous live music on three stages, festive food and dancing. Advance tickets are \$12.50

Celebrate Juneteenth on Saturday, June 16, at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage's free Juneteenth Family Festival. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the date when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay to read and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, which liberated slaves in Texas – more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the document on January 1, 1863. Today, Juneteenth is a state holiday celebrated in Texas and other parts of the West. The day's events at the Autry Museum begin with a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, followed cowboy soul music. There will be displays about African American cavalry units who were stationed in the West after the Civil War.

A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

FLIED LICE!!! Oh, leally???

The other evening, looking for a variation on our varied diet, I found a package of Maifun rice sticks. Struck with the concept of an easy stir-fry dinner, I slowly turned the package over in order to read the directions, AND I QUOTE: (this is for real)

"FRYING RICE NOODLES

1. Cleanse the rice noodles with water, then, put them into a bamboo basket,
2. To cook rice noodles 150 g (for two persons), you have fry to cabbage, carrot, shrimps, scallp, seasonal vegetable, salt, monosodium glutamate and soy with two spoons lard or salad oil, then, put one bowl of water on it to cook after it being fried.
3. Put the cleansed rice noodles into the cooking pot to fry to a properly dry condition is available.

"COOKING RICE NOODLES

1. The same method as that of frying rice noodles, but you have to add more water to cook.
2. When the soup is boiling, put the cleansed rice noodles into the pot to cook for one or one and half minutes is available." UNQUOTE!

Now, I have heard the song "Fry me to the Moon," but never to the cabbage. I've frown to Cleveland, which is similar to cabbage, but larger. And as for Scallp, SCALLP?? Is that the secret ingredient in Angel Hair pasta? How did they ever get the Angel hair down from Heaven? Or, did it come from a golden-haired settler woman on the Oregon Trail. Excuse me, but I don't think I want to fry to Portland either, not even for the extra L of it.

Think about it - "frying to a properly dry condition is available." This sounds much more like a trip to Scottsdale, Arizona., to sit in a resort Jacuzzi and watch the cactus grow. None of this has anything to do with dinner. Actually, the instructions should have read like this:

SEAFOOD STIR -FRY WITH RICE NOODLES

- 6 oz. Maifun rice sticks
- 1 Bok choy - green part in 1 " slices and white part in 1" slices, separated
- 2 carrots - sliced thin on an angle
- 1 red Bell pepper - cored, seeded and cut into 1" squares
- 2 Tbs. Canola oil
- 1 clove of garlic minced

- 1 1" piece of ginger root, minced
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 lb raw peeled shrimp, halved
- 1/2 lb sea scallops, quartered
- 1 Tbs corn starch
- 1 Tbs sherry or rice wine

1 Tbs soy

1. Put the rice sticks in a colander and clean under running water - let drain.
2. In a wok, add oil, and when hot, add ginger and garlic. Fry (there's that word again) until golden. Add carrots, red pepper and stir fry for 10 minutes. Add white parts of Bok choy and cook for 5 minutes. Add Bok choy tops.
3. Mix the shrimp and sea scallops with the rice wine, corn-starch and soy. Toss with veggie mixture and stir fry for a few minutes. Add 1 cup of water, bring to re-boil. Add the cleansed and softened rice sticks, stir fry for 2 minutes and serve.

Bon Appetit!!!

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Expo Light Rail Continued from Page 1

commencing at Western and Wilshire where the Red Line Subway currently terminates.

Along with the alternative of only completing the Wilshire BRT, the DEIR evaluates various alternatives for creating either a light rail line or a second BRT line along a newly-configured Expo Corridor. This second route parallels the highly-congested Santa Monica Freeway (I-10), following in part an abandoned railroad right-of-way along Exposition Boulevard, and would utilize either Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or Light-Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles. The route has been reconfigured from the controversial course proposed a decade ago, and now at Robertson it begins to travel along Venice Boulevard, turning north on Sepulveda until it reconnects to the Exposition Right-of-Way in West Los Angeles (thereby avoiding the sensitive residential areas of Cheviot Hills and Rancho Park).

The environmental analysis concluded that riders on an Exposition light rail line could expect to reach Downtown from Santa Monica in 45 minutes. The DEIR also projects excellent ridership on the Expo line.

There are important reasons to build a transit system, according to the DEIR. It states, "The Westside of Los Angeles has the highest population and employment density in the Southern California region, as well as the highest proportion of transit ridership. The Los Angeles Westside has a current population of 1.5 million persons, expected to grow by 300,000 over 20 years. The number of jobs is also projected to increase by over 200,000. No significant expansion of existing freeway and street networks is planned to accommodate this growth. The enhancement of public transit provides an opportunity to move more people in a way that is more energy-efficient, and does not require the building of more freeways or widening of streets."

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that environmental documents identify the environmentally superior alternatives. In

this instance, the DEIR finds that the Wilshire BRT/Exposition light rail alternative "would result in the highest percentage of transit benefits to the traveling public" with comparable environmental impacts of a bus route on Exposition. Specifically, a light rail line would result in 27,200 new daily transit trips while significantly reducing vehicular traffic, while an Expo bus line would yield just 19,500 new mass transit trips and a significantly lesser reduction of vehicular trips.

Although momentum to support the light rail is growing, with key endorsements from the Los Angeles Times and some elected officials — including State Senators Sheila Kuehl and Kevin Murray, and Congressional candidate Diane Watson — three MTA Board members are pushing the Bus Rapid Transit alternative on the Exposition route. The three MTA Board members are Mayor Richard Riordan, County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (who represents West Adams) and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. The threesome sent out a letter (which appeared to be on MTA letterhead but which in actuality was financed by a foundation that has been linked to a lobbying firm) urging residents to oppose light rail and, instead, support only rapid busses.

Brathwaite Burke's position seems to run counter to that of many of her constituents, who at meetings and presentations by Friends 4 Expo Transit (a coalition of light rail supporters) and at Community Redevelopment Agency PAC meetings earlier this Spring seemed to endorse light rail, in part because of the access to jobs in Culver City, West L.A. and Santa Monica it would offer.

To be fair, there have also been strong complaints from homeowners along Exposition Boulevard in the Crenshaw District, Brathwaite Burke's home district, that they were never even informed by MTA of this new proposal, and that there are serious concerns about safety, noise from either a train system or a new bus system.

Indeed, Patrick McCullough, president of Expo Neighbors, ended up
Continued on page 16

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Expo Light Rail

Continued from page 15

spending \$200 of his own money printing flyers to inform his neighbors west of Crenshaw about the Exposition light rail/bus rapid transit proposals.

Still, according to Joyce Perkins, chair of a Crenshaw area advisory committee and a longtime community activist, there's also support for a properly-designed transit system.

The West Adams District, of course, would reap all the benefits and few of the problems of an Expo light rail line -- the train would not literally be running in our back yards. Conversely, however, if the Expo light rail line is not constructed, there will be additional transit pressures on the Santa Monica Freeway -- including pressure from some quarters to widen it, thereby removing historic housing stock and dividing our neighborhoods further.

The *Los Angeles Times*, in an April 28 editorial, commented that "Burke...has long resisted this line, although in running through her district it would ease the commuting nightmares of many of her constituents." And further, said the *Times*, "The line, which was frozen in planning limbo for years, has started to attract the grassroots support it has long deserved....Come July, after Burke rotates off as [MTA] board chair, the MTA could take action, at long last green-lighting this worthy project."

History /Background

The MTA's environmental assessment includes a great deal of history of the numerous transportation planning studies it and its predecessors have conducted since the 1970s to evaluate projects improving east-west transit services. Some excerpts:

"In January 1998, MTA suspended work on the Metro Red Line subway extension to the Mid-City area due to funding shortfalls. The Federal Government had committed to fund \$245 million, or approximately 50% of the cost of the project. However, state and local funds that were needed to match this grant were not available.

"This project would have provided two stations further west along the Metro Red Line from its current terminus at Wilshire/Western to the Mid-City Shopping Center near the intersection of Pico & San Vicente boulevards. The Metro Red Line Subway was envisioned to ultimately extend as far west as Century City, Westwood and the I-405 Freeway.

"Also, in November 1998, Los Angeles County voters passed an initiative prohibiting further use of local sales tax dollars to build subways, although these funds can be used for above/ground bus and rail transit improvements. Significant portions of the funds necessary to build the subway extension to Pico-San Vicente were anticipated to have come from local sales tax revenues.

"On June 24, 2000, an innovative transit improvement was started on Wilshire Boulevard. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) initiated the Metro Rapid demonstration program; a new, fast, high-quality bus service for the Westside. The project uses newly-designed buses and station stops, signal priority, frequent/limited stop service, a simple route layout, and an enhanced passenger information system. The Wilshire service extending to Whittier Boulevard all the way to Montebello, is one of two initial routes being tested around the County."

In the Spring of 2000, the MTA Board formally adopted a position that a new transit corridor study must include an Exposition route in conjunction with a Wilshire route. "The Board was explicit in their direction that the Exposition route be considered as a supporting corridor only, such that Exposition would not supplant Wilshire Boulevard as the primary Westside transit route."

What You Can Do

1. WRITE TO THE MTA BOARD

Personal paper letters by mail

or fax have the most impact. Write to the 13 MTA Board members, especially MTA Chair Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (both at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

2. COME TO THE MTA HEARINGS

The MTA has scheduled hearings on the DEIS/EIR, to present the proposed Wilshire and Exposition alternatives and receive public testimony. The next one is Tuesday, May 15, 5 - 8 p.m., at the VA Hospital of West LA, 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Room 1281.

3. COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR

This is the time to both state your support for light rail on Exposition and raise any specific concerns that you feel the MTA should address. You can read the DEIR online at www.mta.net (look under "transit studies") if you have an Acrobat reader on your computer. Or review a copy at area public libraries, including Jefferson Library (2211 W. Jefferson Blvd.), Washington Irving Library (4114 W. Washington) and Exposition Park Regional Library (3665 S. Vermont). One area Friends 4 Expo has suggested commentary on is landscaping; another is bike paths. Legally the MTA must respond to all comments in its Final EIS/EIR. You may submit written comments to the MTA by June 15 to:

David Mieger, Project Manager
Los Angeles County MTA
One Gateway Plaza,
Mail Stop 99-22-5
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213/922-3040
MidCityWestside@mta.net

4. COME TO MTA BOARD MEETINGS

After the public comment period ends on June 15, the MTA Board will decide whether to build light rail, a busway, or nothing on Expo.

The meetings are slated for June 21 (Anticipated MTA Planning & Programming Committee meeting on Exposition) and June 28, 9:30 a.m. (Anticipated MTA Board vote on Exposition and Wilshire transit projects).

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Reminder: The following companies and organizations offer discounts to WAHA members. Show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

Best Lock and Safe Service contact David Kim
2203 W. Venice Blvd. Los Angeles 323/733-7716
10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials

Washington Dog & Cat Hospital
1692 W. Washington Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90007 323/735-0291
50% off office exams

Meyers Roofing
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323/733-0188
10% discount

The 24th Street Theater
1117 24th Street Los Angeles, CA 90007 213/667-0417
\$2.00 off ticket price

Cafe Club Fais Do Do
5257 West Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016
323/954-8080
No cover charge at door

Lucky Chimney Sweep
4000 College Crest Drive Los Angeles, CA 90065
888/62lucky -- 888/625-8259
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20% discount off regular product price (you must have a special discount card)

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2771 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90006 323/737-2970
10% discount on catered food orders

Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques
9939 Canoga Avenue Chatsworth, CA 818/772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)
10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company, 5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019, (323) 938-2661
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

Wholesale Carpet Liquidators, 1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021, (213) 747-7474, mailto:Wholesalecarpetla@yahoo.com Contact = Linda Or Parisa
Discount of between 5-10%, on the purchase of 150 square yards or more of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, and/or vinyl floor covering.

A Call to Members

If you frequent a local business -- retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. -- ask them if they would like to offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they would benefit from the increased exposure to many local consumers, and would be listed monthly in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323/733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them.

-- Steve Wallis

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WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

AUGUST IN ITALY - Former WAHA residents, Barbara Dorio and Luke Wynne now living in Italy would like to rent their apartment from Saturday August 11 through August 31. Two Bedroom, two terraces in the center of Palladio's hometown - Vicenza, Italy. Come visit the Villa's of Palladio, the Canals of Venice, sample the fantastic food and wine of the Veneto - half-hour from Verona and Padua, _ hour from Venice. Use our apartment as your base camp and tour the area. Apartment is fully furnished, kitchen is fully stocked. \$550 a week

You can email us at lukewynne@goldnet.it, or call us in Italy 011 - 39 - 0444- 235 - 935.

FOR SALE: Never used, recently purchased, tan color, 1.5 gallon toilet. Still in original boxes. Call Lionel at 323/735-5056.

PRUNING, TRANSPLANTING, REVITALIZING - roses, fruit trees, grapevines, & other plants that need special care. European gentleman with a lifetime of garden & orchard experience. Very reasonable fees. Recommended by Jim Barth (323/731-5222). Call George at 323/731-5222 or 310/838-3587.

WOMEN'S SHELTER at Adams & Hoover needs donations: sewing machine, fabric, microwave oven, plants for garden, table cloths, arts & craft materials, games, puzzles. TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Will arrange pickup. Please call Carole or Michele at 323/731-1408.

OPEN YOUR DOORS TO THE WORLD! Students attending a private English Language school on Wilshire near Mariposa are in need of room & board. These students are from Asia, Europe, & South America, mostly in their early to mid-twenties, & typically stay from two to six months. They pay \$750 per month for room, light breakfast, & supper. If you have an extra room in your house & would be interested in boarding one of these students, please contact Peter Lownds at 213/386-1634.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Janice Lipeles (323/737-2370) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

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Please call Ron to RSVP - seating is limited
 323/731-7514

WAHA May 2001 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Community Outreach Committee	10	11	12 Board Retreat
13	14	15	16 Zoning & Planning / Preservation Committee	17	18	19
20	21	22 Newsletter Committee	23 Membership Committee	24	25	26
27 WAHA General Meeting	28	29	30	31	See Community Calendar On page 3 for details on these meetings!	

The *WAHA 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 2001. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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