

# WEST ADAMS MATTERS

September 2016 | ISSUE NUMBER 324



## GROWING UP IN WEST ADAMS



Jefferson Park



Volunteer Spotlight:  
Jean Cade



Living History Tour:  
The Bumpy Road toward Civil Rights,  
Social Justice and Equality

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**John Patterson,**  
Communications Chair

**Hilary Lentini,**  
Art Director

**Allie Cormier,**  
Layout Design

**Reggie Jones,**  
Publisher & Editor

**Suzanne Cooper,**  
Layout

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# GROWING UP IN WEST ADAMS

West Adams is a wonderful neighborhood. I can heartily vouch for its positive influence from first hand experience. I had the great fortune to grow up there during my formative years. My great-grandmother, Eulalie Goudron, and her husband, Albert, followed their son, Calixte Goudron, from Montreal to Los Angeles since he held the position of manager at Hamburger's Department Store which later became May Company. Eulalie and Albert were manufacturers in Montreal, Canada. In 1908 their youngest son, Albert, married my grandmother, Nellie Baker, who just had graduated from USC. The newlyweds set up housekeeping at 1189 W. Adams lured by tales of the charm of the West Adams area. They had married in Seal Beach and took the Pacific Electric car up to their new home.

My great-grandparents, Albert and Eulalie, bought a house at Adams and Arlington. She also invested in over a dozen properties in the same general area. One was 3201 Montclair, built in 1909, a typical California Bungalow with mahogany paneling and extensive stained glass, where she finally settled after her husband died in 1927. She determined that she didn't need such a large home as before. Eulalie reduced her staff to only having a chauffeur, Mr. Millicent, to drive her '38 Packard and help as a handyman around the house. This was the home that I was to live in after my parents divorced in 1950 when I was four years old. Uncle Calixte's name was on the title of this home; he

and my grandfather had died one day apart in 1946, the year of my birth. By the time my mother and I moved into the house, my widowed grandmother, Nellie, resided there, also. The following year my cousin, Sharon Goudron, and I enrolled in the Leona Smith School for Talented Kiddies which was located on West Adams. Subsequently, after it was determined my talents should be "hidden under a bushel basket," I was enrolled in the Levenson School, a private day school in the Wilshire district, where grade placement was determined by ability, and I was placed with older kids. Mother soon decided I should have a more structured environment and enrolled me at Page Military Academy. That was so strictly regulated that years later when I enlisted in the US Army and expected similar discipline, I was amazed to find out how truly lax it was.

My Junior High School days were spent at Mt. Vernon Junior High, now renamed Johnnie Cochran. The school's structure closely resembled the home of George Washington, down to the enormous crystal chandeliers in the auditorium. It was there that I had my first taste of freedom. I had always been gregarious and made friends easily, so I would walk home different ways each day and meet new interesting people along the way. In those days one only needed to be home by dinner. The alleys were the most interesting with the antiques I could find and the people who often lived in the back houses behind the grand homes in front. There were always people to talk to along my way home. My mother had remarried and had two toddlers to worry about, so my ramblings increased. Jefferson Boulevard became new territory for me from a large feed store way



*The home on Montclair where Stan grew up. The tower in the background is the Childs mansion.*



*Great grandfather Albert Goudron.*

to the east of Arlington where you could buy live poultry, to Crenshaw and all the fascinating stores between, including the library. There was a “dime store” to the west of Arlington that sold items that dated back to 1908. Across the street was my Japanese dentist’s office on the 2nd floor. His drill was antique even then.

The most memorable event was when I had gone to the market and was bitten by a large dog in the doorway. Eddie Anderson, well known as “Rochester” on the Jack Benny Show, witnessed it and hustled me back to his palatial home two blocks south of Jefferson, threw me into his car and canvassed the neighborhood trying to find the dog. We never found him, so I had to undergo the Pasteur treatment, a painful succession of shots daily for several weeks. The Health Department was near Slauson and Western, and I would walk there each morning. I wasn’t expected at school until after lunch, so I’d stop off at Abell’s Auction House on Adams. I was tall for my age, six feet at 14, and I was hired to help bring out items. Subsequently I learned a huge amount of information that started me on my career as an appraiser and still stays with me today. Eventually “the jig was up,” but it was a great experience.

West Adams was perfectly located. On weekends and summer I would ride my bike to the beach accompanied by my neighbor's Pekinese. The neighbor was totally unaware and often wondered how the dog got wet and sandy. A favorite haunt was the Polar Palace ice skating

arena built for the '32 Olympics. It was there that I met kids from other neighborhoods and expanded my territory. Bus services were great in those days, and I took full advantage of them. I had gone to my local pet store and purchased three chickens, one of them being a young rooster, which I took home to my closet. I had seen an advertisement for a pet show up in Hollywood and determined to show off my pets there as I boarded the bus with them undercover. At the show we took 1st place when I placed the two chickens on my arms and one on my head, waved two small American flags while singing “It’s a Grand Old Flag.” The two chickens paraded up my arms and the rooster crowed as I finished the song. It was truly a blue ribbon experience. As I tried to board the bus for the homeward trip, the driver refused to take me with “those chickens” until the passengers all became irate that he wouldn’t take a little boy back home. My mother noticed how loud the birds in the trees had become and when I developed a skin rash, she was alerted to my closet visitors as the doctor asked if I had been recently to a foreign country.

The most memorable corner in my West Adams life was Adams and Arlington where the spectacular Child’s mansion anchored one corner. It was on a multiple lot site that was terraced to the south. As a result Arlington had a large dip providing the ride of a kid’s dream. If my grandma’s 1938 Packard hit it just right, the car would be launched airborne. It definitely earned its’ nickname,



First home of the corner of West Adams and Arlington.



Bungalow court on 7th Avenue built by the family.

# GROWING UP IN WEST ADAMS (CONTINUED)

“The Tickle Tummy.” The ride was leveled out somewhat in later years.

The mansion was an enormous turn-of-the-century home in the center of a urban forest, surrounded by an ornate iron fence. It was occupied by the Children’s Home Society by the time I lived there. The interior featured gorgeous oak woodwork, a double staircase and a huge ballroom with reflective gold wallpaper on the entire 3rd floor. Unfortunately it was acquired by the LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District) and demolished. Closer to home was a Victorian house on the corner of Montclair and Arlington. A family named Pink owned it, and I played with the grandson in what happened to be the oldest house in the area, one recently restored by David Raposa. Due to my exposure to the wonderful and varied architecture in the community, I ended up with a degree in Architectural History which has been my lifelong passion. After college and the Army I was able to establish myself in another historic area where I restored a large 1895 Queen Anne style home. I was also a Special Education teacher for LAUSD for 37 years, as well as serving 25 years as Cultural Heritage Commissioner in Long Beach, establishing the first Historic District in Long Beach and participating in the formation of 16 more. I eventually married and bought a 1927 Spanish Revival home on Naples Island where I remain today.

As a long time member of WAHA, I have been very pleased at the progress made by the group in preserving such a significant part of my life for generations to



*Stan's mother, Yvonne Goudron, standing by the family's 1938 Packard*

come. I really treasure WAHA for its reuniting me with my roots. The activities are great, and I always run into acquaintances from the past. The new people that I have met have been wonderful, as well. I look forward to every event.



*Stan Poe is a well-known architectural historian based in Long Beach. He and his wife, Maureen, attend most WAHA events.*



*The family built all these cottages.*

## AN UPDATE ON

## TRANSITION OF THE NEWSLETTER

You may have noticed an appearance change in last month's WAHA Matters newsletter. In pursuit of the goal to transition into a digital format that is readable on line, the process for producing the newsletter has been streamlined and updated to take advantage of the latest computer publishing technology. The newsletter issues are being printed directly from the digital on line version in an abbreviated form. The look is bolder with more photos and graphic information and is the same as the digital version. If you have compared the printed version and the digital on line version you probably noticed the digital version contains all of the content PLUS it includes FULL-COLOR photographs and many bonus features, such as:

- Links directly to other online content such as photographs, articles and websites, including the WAHA website.
- Click to enlarge photographs for easy viewing or to see additional photographic content.
- Downloading of the newsletter to any device to take it with you wherever you go.
- Printing of multiple copies of specific articles or the whole newsletter in color.
- An interactive document that will allow members to participate and share information, events and resources.
- All the old newsletters are now and will continue to be maintained on the WAHA website, so there will be no need for anyone to save all the old versions.

As we've stated in the past, the new digital format is much less expensive to produce and deliver to WAHA members. Every print copy of the newsletter costs roughly \$1.70 to produce and about \$1.50 to mail. Sending the newsletter in digital format saves approximately \$14,000 annually. In terms of the total budget for the organization, printing the newsletter consumes approximately 70% or more of most members' annual dues. In addition to the financial cost, a considerable amount of volunteer labor and time are required to prepare, label, seal, stamp and mail each newsletter to members. The Communications Committee is consistently producing and sending the newsletter electronically to every member with an email address. If for some reason you're not receiving the electronic format (do we have your current correct email address?) and you'd like to only receive the digital edition and opt out of receiving the paper edition, please contact me at [news@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:news@westadamsheritage.org).

Thanks

Reggie Jones



Stan in military school.

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# JEFFERSON PARK

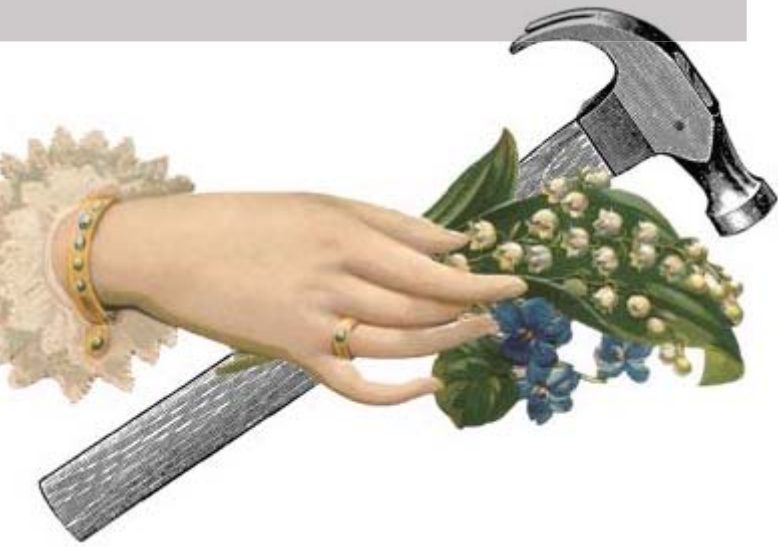
## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Jefferson Park was farm and dairy land into the late 1800s. By 1903 street cars were running down Jefferson and Adams Boulevards, providing convenient transportation to downtown Los Angeles. People bought parcels in the area and built houses, generally between 1903 and the 1920s. While houses were typically built by individual owners, the style and character in the neighborhood are remarkably consistent. Most were built in the Arts & Crafts style which was popular at the time and feature a wealth of beautifully detailed windows, doors, leaded glass and wood ornament. American Bungalow Magazine has said of Jefferson Park that it “offers some of the oldest and best-constructed [Arts & Crafts] housing stock, with a level of architectural detail and variation that is the hallmark of the finest bungalow neighborhoods across the country.” Jefferson Park has always been a place of great cultural and ethnic diversity. Starting in the 1930s and for many decades thereafter, Jefferson Park was home to a large Japanese-American population, with Jefferson Blvd. an important area of commerce for the Japanese-American community. African-Americans have lived in Jefferson Park since the 1930s and in the following decades it became an important African-American community. Western Avenue became a major corridor for African-American owned businesses such as Golden State Mutual Life. Famous past residents include actress Hattie McDaniel, jazz musician Melba Liston and the Mills Brothers. Today the community reflects the influx of Latino households, businesses and shops.

*Photos: Audrey Arlington,  
Frank and Suzanne Cooper*



# RESOURCES



Gentle Readers,

I am pleased this month to have some great recommendations from my neighbor, Marianne. I know she has high standards, so these are sure to be great.

She gives her highest recommendation to Robinson Environmental Design. Ralph Robinson, 310-387-3548 or [rr4redesign@aol.com](mailto:rr4redesign@aol.com). They redid her backyard and it is fabulous. She also recommends Closets by Design 800-407-4704, who did her office and master closet.

Reback's Plumbing supply in Gardena is worth the trip:



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323-321-1142, 14617 S. Western Avenue, Gardena, CA 90249. She suggests you look at their reviews on yelp. Marianne recommends Rent-a-Bin 888-768-2246 for your disposal needs. I have also used them successfully for many years. If you have any money left after working on your house and need a car, she suggests you talk to Martin at 818-752-7777 for buying cars at auction. She originally got this recommendation through Jim Matson, a great mechanic on Pico (4320 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 323-939-2171.

Laura Meyers and Marianne recommend Mexico Lock and Key for your locksmith needs. They also get great reviews on yelp. Their service is quick, reliable and affordable and they are local. 3327 W Pico Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90019 323-737-8448.

I have two suggestions for piano tuners. Simon Brovarny 310-382-4489, who has serviced Marianne's piano for many years.

Geoff Sykes, 323-478-9276, [gs@ivories52.com](mailto:gs@ivories52.com), is my personal favorite and is well regarded by other Wahonians.

John Kurtz also has a couple of recommendations. He likes Davidson Plumbing, 800-974-5325, 213-749-1046. Jose works magic with old sinks and bathtubs, he understands and respects old houses and the quirky sort of plumbing that comes with these historic homes.

Robert's Upholstery, 4732 W. Washington Blvd, 323-735-4018, are experienced, fast and well-priced for upholstery of all kinds of cushions and chairs. They have done custom cushions for his built-in benches.

I have had a request for floor refinishers. All of my long time floor guys have retired. Please email me at [westadamsgoddess@aol.com](mailto:westadamsgoddess@aol.com) with your recommendations or stern warnings for this or other household needs.

Thank you,  
Suzie

*Suzie Henderson was a founding member of WAHA and is the current Events Chair.*



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# SAVE THE FLOWER DRIVE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Why bother to successfully designate a California Register Historic District if the City and a developer can ignore the designation and propose to demolish literally half of it?

The Spectrum Group, an Irvine-based real estate developer, wants to build a 21-story hotel, plus a 9-story above-ground parking structure, a 7-story student housing complex, a second 7-story apartment complex, and 20,000 square feet of office space on a 4.4 acre mostly-vacant parcel that also intrudes upon the historic district. But the developer could actually achieve most of what they desire by simply rethinking the site plan and the use of Flower Drive itself, which is only two blocks long.

A decade ago West Adams Heritage Association nominated the Flower Drive District (which had been surveyed by the Community Redevelopment Agency as part of its ongoing work in the Hoover/University/Exposition Park Redevelopment Area) to the statewide California Register, and the State's Historic Commission agreed, designating the District.

The demolition of these historic resources must be stopped. Otherwise, if the City thinks it's okay to demolish a major part of one historic district, what would stop it from next proposing the demolition of the district you live in or near?

This project is not by right; the developer is asking



for many entitlements to build on land that would generally permit six stories. Many WAHA members attended the August 10 Public Scoping meeting to raise the many issues connected to this project. We questioned why the published project description did not even mention that the project involves demolition of eight historic buildings.

Next step: request a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) so you can comment on this proposal. The Community Plan recognizes the need to preserve and rehabilitate historic resources, but the developer has turned a blind eye to this Community Plan objective. Their answer: "Well, you still have ten buildings left in the District; why should eight matter?"

For more information:

Go to [www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org)

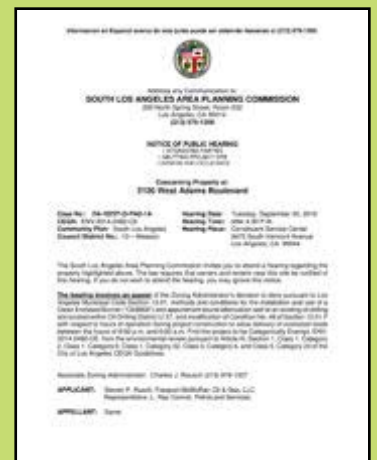
Click on Environmental Review, then go to Notice of Preparation & Public Scoping Meetings

*Jean Frost is the current Preservation Committee Chair.*

*Laura Meyers is a member of the Board and Preservation Committee.*

## MURPHY OIL UPDATE

The hearing date for the Murphy case has been announced for September 20, 2016, 4:30 PM, at 8475 South Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90044. [Click here](#) or on the image below for the hearing notice. Please note the instructions for submitting "Correspondence and Exhibits" (i.e., letters). The Commission requires that an original plus 12 copies must be received at least 10 days before the hearing. That means before September 10. The mailing address is on the notice.



# PRESERVATION MATTERS

Decades ago preservationists realized that saving one landmark building was not enough to provide a sense of place and community. The danger remained of leaving the rescued landmark in a neighborhood without context. That is why “vernacular” buildings - commonly recognized architectural types that may or may not have an association with a noted architect - are so important. In West Adams there are scores of “vernacular” houses that create a sense of place and give a neighborhood its character. Without context, one building can become the “last remaining Victorian on the block,” which would truly be a forlorn image. We have fought hard to avoid this outcome by designating not only individual monuments and buildings, but also districts and zones.

Often these neighborhoods of mostly vernacular houses go undesignated. The University District (south of Jefferson Boulevard, west of the university) is such a neighborhood. Saving not yet designated buildings is a challenge, even when designated buildings are constantly threatened (see associated article in this issue on the Flower Drive Historic District). The importance of protecting vernacular buildings can be difficult to communicate to decision makers. The Small Lot Ordinance (SLO) threatens historic homes by allowing for division of what was a single lot into multiple small lots with individual buildings on each. This ordinance undermines the historic pattern of development depicted in our neighborhoods. It has created a financial incentive to demolish historic houses that previously might be

affordable to first time homebuyers. Thanks to the industrious research by our own Mitzi March Mogul and Laura Meyers, the University District neighborhood is emerging as a significant resource in need of recognition. At the core of preserving the neighborhood context is the effort to save the Tolchard Cottage and also the adjacent Gartrell Residence. The Tolchard Cottage is a vernacular building with a rich cultural history. It is severely threatened by a proposal to demolish and build four townhouses (each with five habitable rooms) on the site in line with the SLO.

Laura Meyers in her Preservation Committee documented research on this Cottage notes: “The roots of today’s University Park and Expo Park West neighborhoods in the Historic West Adams District date back to the post-Civil War period and the population boom that followed the completion of the transcontinental railroad. With the last spike laid for the Union-Pacific Railroad in 1869, with the connecting Southern Pacific tracks approved in 1876, the great Western migration reached Los Angeles....”

“The Victorian (Tolchard) cottage that still stands at 1157 West 36th Place (originally laid out as University Avenue) exemplifies this early period of development, and its history reflects the history of the community as it transitioned from agriculture to urban residential lots.



*Tolchard Cottage*  
*Photos: Jean Frost*



*Gartrell residence: WAHA Archives*

Built circa 1887-88, it is associated initially with farming in the University District. ...The cottage is also associated with the 1903 “urban lots” residential tract that was laid out by T.W. Tolchard on his former farm parcels, just after the streetcar tracks finally reached this community in late 1902. The importance of the Tolchard Cottage as one of the few still-extant 1880s residences from the University District should not be understated; buildings “tell” history interpretively in a way mere words on paper cannot.”

“It is clear that Tolchard developed his farmlands into residential tracts... Tolchard was one of the movers and shakers associated first with agricultural activities in the University District, and then, as he laid out his residential tracts, with the broad patterns of development in University Park and the neighborhood now known as Expo Park West. The fact that the tracts (The Tolchard Place Tract, and its resubdivision, and the Irene Tolchard Tract) are named after him and his family demonstrate his importance as a figure in the early development of the University community.”

The University District itself requires further research and recognition. The Tolchard Cottage, along with the Gartrell Residence at 1165 West 36th Place, is significant to events of the University District and worthy of historic recognition and preservation. The Gartrell Residence is culturally important as Darlene Gartrell, daughter of the owner of 1165 W. 36 Place, explained, “Both of these homes hold the stories and history of African American families.” These buildings offer insight in the development of a neighborhood over time, from its earliest subdivisions to its later ownerships. To allow demolition of the Tolchard Cottage to make way for four townhouses would destroy an important part of the neighborhood history. Buildings are “windows into human life and culture” to quote Vernacular Architecture Forum magazine. A drive-by windshield survey (such as Survey LA) cannot yield the necessary data to evaluate the historic resources of the University District. For example, the Adlai Stevenson House (2639 Monmouth Avenue, HCM#35) would not garner recognition by simply driving by. With the Tolchard Cottage, the developers hired a historic consultant who based

her opinion on exterior architectural changes. Indeed, the changes exist but are clearly reversible. The important cultural history of this house was not researched; without this information the consultant’s analysis was incomplete. The Tolchard and Gartrell Residences offer insights into Los Angeles’ life and culture that cannot be replicated. They must be preserved.

*Jean Frost is the current Preservation Committee Chair. Contact her at [preservation@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:preservation@westadamsheritage.org).*



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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## JEAN CADE

*This month's Volunteer Spotlight is from an original WAHA Matters September 2000 article written by John B. Deaven. I found I could not improve what John originally wrote to describe Jean.*

I definitely remember the first time I met Jean Cade. The 1997 Holiday Tour, my wife Nancy and I, along with our children Peggy Sue and Joe, volunteered to work in the kitchen of Fran Carraway's "Salad House," a unique 1959 home in Gramercy Park. Jean was a Kitchen Captain for the first time and she gave us a quick lesson on assembling 35 salads at one time! One year later, we returned to the 1998 Holiday "Salad House," a 1911 Tudor residence on Westchester Place. Jean was the Kitchen Captain again for that house. The third time being the charm, we all did it again under Jean's guidance for the 1999 Holiday "Salad House" at a graceful Spanish Colonial Revival residence on Wellington Road. That's when Nancy said to me, "Why don't you do an article on Jean Cade?" I said that I probably would... eventually. So on July 4th of this year (2000), I strongly felt that, yes, the WAHA membership needs to take note of this marvelous woman. "Eventually" is now!

Jean was born in Louisiana. When she was in the 8th Grade, her mother moved across the United States with Jean and her five sisters in 1957 to California. As Jean said to me, "It was part of the 1950's migration for a better life."

Jean married her husband, Paul, a native of Mississippi, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They lived at 1722 S. Victoria, in Lafayette Square, west of Crenshaw Blvd., for 25 years. In 1994 they moved to their current residence, just down the street at 1821 S. Victoria. I asked Jean if she is friendly with the people in her old house. She had a good laugh over that question because her mother and two sisters now reside at her old property.

For the 1994 Holiday Tour, Jean's current home was featured. It was also around that time that Jean became active in WAHA. Jean's current home is most unique. It is an attractive painted brick house originally designed in 1926 by Emmet G. Martin for Walter T. McGinley of the McGinley Oil Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. McGinley used it as a winter home. The mansion was remodeled in 1939 under the direction of architect Paul Williams for McGinley's son Charles E. McGinley to create its present Regency Revival look.

My first look at Jean's house was during the 1998 WAHA 4th of July picnic. The beautiful floating circular stairs

were added in 1939, along with about 3,000 more square feet, bringing it to a total of around 7,000 sq. ft. There are now five bedrooms upstairs. The house has a huge living room with its original fireplace and crown moldings. Stunning floor-to-ceiling windows are throughout the entire downstairs.

In May 2000, I joined the WAHA Board of Directors for the first time, along with newcomers Anna Marie Brooks, Clayton de Leon, & SeElcy Caldwell. Fourteen of us were seated around a gorgeous table in the lovely Imperial Suite, high on the 11th floor at the fabulously historical Biltmore Hotel in downtown L.A. for the new WAHA Board kick-off Retreat. We were laughing and enjoying the delicious coffee & pastries available. President Linda Scribner asked if anyone on the Board would volunteer to be Secretary. Suddenly the room was extremely quiet. Lips were sealed. Eyes were either up on the ceiling or down on the table and much silence went by. It was an awkward moment since no one wanted to raise his or her hand. Reluctantly, Jean agreed to do it and everyone could breathe again. Later Jean told me that she was once the WAHA Secretary before, when Corinne Pleger was the WAHA President in 1997. [Jean became



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treasurer when Jim Meister left the WAHA Board in 2005 and she's remained in that role since then.]

Jean works as a financial controller for the Linear Industries in Monrovia, CA. When I asked her if she had a hobby, she simply replied, "My hobby seems to be volunteering my spare time to the Lafayette Square Homeowners Association and to the West Adams Heritage Association." Like others in WAHA, I'm thankful I am currently crossing paths in life with Jean Cade, for she is a lady of true character with a heart of gold.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE




In advance of a family vacation in Italy I have been reading *SPQR: a History of Ancient Rome* by Mary Beard. I can't help thinking how Italy's past illustrates many of the most pressing, local preservation issues.

universities, and other public buildings. Because of the Roman practice of building on top of older buildings, most of the structures of ancient Rome that were much more famous than the Pantheon—such as the Forum or those palaces on the Palatine Hill—are lost. We only know about them from written accounts from back in their day, and some excavated ruins. With this in mind, I can't help but think about what's currently going on in Los Angeles. Historic buildings are certainly being repurposed. But there seems to be much more a prevalent attitude of “tear it down and rebuild something new/better/bigger/cleaner/different.” What legacy we are leaving future generations? What will be remembered (if anything) about how we lived and built in the 20th and 21st Century? Will we be leaving models for the future, or will there be nothing left? As a preservationist, I think this is something to keep in mind, even if some parts of the community choose to ignore it. As President of the WAHA Board of Directors, I would like to hear where you stand. If any of you want to touch base with me about WAHA, the best way to do this is through email at the address below. I check that email address on a regular basis and use it exclusively for WAHA business.

*John Kurtz can be reached at [president@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:president@westadamsheritage.org).*

The Pantheon was a temple to all the Roman gods in the form of an unreinforced concrete dome. It stands today in modern Rome as it has for roughly 2,000 years. It was “repurposed” as the Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs in the 7th Century AD. Between the Renaissance and current times it has been “redecorated” multiple times in the styles of the times. But the Pantheon survives, with the building itself more or less intact. It is admired as an engineering marvel—one of the largest unreinforced concrete domes in the world. As the best preserved ancient Roman building, its influence can be seen in European and American city halls, banks, libraries,

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# LIVING HISTORY TOUR

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

### *The Bumpy Road toward Civil Rights, Social Justice and Equality*

The 26th Annual Living History Tour

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

Saturday, September 24

Tours begin from 9 a.m. until Noon

History Comes Alive at the landmark Angelus Rosedale Cemetery as we explore an especially timely theme: The tumultuous journey in this nation toward equal rights for all, regardless of race, gender, or religion. At this year's Living History Tour we will honor a group of men and women who, over the past 170 years, fought for a variety of civil rights, including the right to own property, to live wherever one wishes, to vote, and to equal treatment under law.

Each of the ten personages featured on this year's tour leave us with a legacy of hope that this nation will fulfill its promise of equal rights. Actors at graveside, in costume and with set vignettes, will tell visitors their first person stories as champions of social justice, advocating for suffragism, anti-discrimination laws, and fair treatment for all. One of the gentlemen visitors will "meet" is John Ballard (1830-1905), a former Kentucky slave who became a leader in Los Angeles's African American community in the 1860s and 1870s. Ballard was a businessman, a land owner and a pillar in the Black community – until the railroad boom of the late 1870s brought an atmosphere of discrimination to the City of Angels.

Ballard, like so many others who ventured to Los Angeles before and after him, sought opportunity and freedom. In the 1850s, Los Angeles was transitioning from Mexican to American rule, at a time when the country was grappling with a national debate over slavery. Would slavery be extended into the new territories? Officially, the answer for California was "no." But as slaveholders moved here, it was a not-so-quiet secret that some brought their slaves with them (most famously, Bidley Mason, who won her freedom in a California courtroom). In 1850 the California legislature passed a law that denied people of color the right to testify in court against

# RALLY!

FOR THE  
WOMAN  
SUFFRAGE  
AMENDMENT



Caucasians, and in the first state Constitution only "white male citizens" were granted the right to vote.

Still, Ballard, who lived in Los Angeles by 1859, initially thrived here. In 1860, according to the Census of that year, only 64 (out of about 7,000) Los Angeles residents were Black, including Ballard and his wife, Amanda. John Ballard worked as a teamster, and began investing in property. By 1863, he owned horses that he kept on William Workman's Puente Ranch; a year later he owned 50 acres in El Monte plus horses, six oxen, farm equipment, furniture, a wagon, and a corral. He continued to add to his holdings throughout the 1860s.

Ballard's financial success helped him contribute to an important milestone in Los Angeles's African American community. He became one of the organizers of the city's first Black churches.

Established by Bidley Mason in her living room, First African Methodist Episcopal (FAME) Church remains a central force in the Black community in Los Angeles. John Ballard was one of FAME's first Trustees, who paid \$700 for a parcel at what is now Grand and 1st Street to erect the church's first building. (FAME later erected another beautiful church at 8th and Towne before moving to its current location in West Adams Heights nearly seven decades ago.)

His life took a turn in the later 1870s, and in 1880 Ballard moved his family to a 320-acre spread on a mountain above Malibu. We invite you to learn why, and to hear how Ballard's legacy lives on today, at the annual Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery on September 24.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sunday, September 11**

## **September Potluck**

4:00-7:00 p.m.

2103 West 28th Street in Jefferson Park.

Please join us for a potluck at Julien and Willie's home. They have done a fabulous update of a previously neglected and remuddled Frank M. Tyler house. Many of the recommendations for workers in the resources column this month are from this house, so you will have a chance to see the work and talk to the owners about their experiences.

Bring a dish to share.

WAHA provides the drinks and a warm welcome

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**

## **Living History Tour**

Tours depart approximately every 25 minutes, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Early Bird prices (through September 12).

\$24 for WAHA members, \$30 for the general public.

All tickets after September 12 are \$35.

The tour usually sells out.

<http://www.westadamsheritage.org/read/1334>



**Monday, October 17, 2016**

## **Pizza Rev Fundraiser**

Delectable pizza, made to order!

20% of your purchase will help support WAHA

## **Classified Ads**

To have your classified Ad placed in this newsletter, please send your proposed Ad to [news@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:news@westadamsheritage.org) no later than the first of the month prior to the month of publication of the Ad.

# BUSTER AND EARL EAT OUT



While cruising through North University Park Buster and Earl found another gem, the 23rd Street Café at the corner of 23rd and Portland. It's right on the corner in a delightfully historic brick building in the midst of a predominantly residential neighborhood. The menu is extensive, wonderfully eclectic, and runs to nearly 100 items. It's broken up into sections which include breakfast (served all day), burgers, sandwiches, salads, Mexican food and Indian food, with some items being a mixture of several of these. The menu refers to this as Indian/Mexican fusion. Predominantly we say it's a selection of American, Mexican and Indian foods.

We've tried a sample in each category. The meat filled Quesadillas are ample and excellent. The Chicken Tikka Masala was recommended by the man we think is the owner, and it was indeed a delight, being served as a meal with several other Indian delicacies. The Chicken Pesto Sandwich is one of our favorites. They are well known for their Breakfast Burrito in different variations. All the food is made fresh on the premises. And they have a full Espresso Bar menu. The restaurant itself is clean and well-ventilated. The atmosphere inside is minimal, but for lovely days there is a shady outside dining area which is enjoyable except on the hottest of days. There is a parking lot out back if you are inclined to drive, although most of the clientele seeming to be foot traffic from the area.

Credit cards are accepted and there is an ATM in the front of the restaurant in case a patron feels the need for cash. There is a good take-out business, and they even offer delivery service through a third party. As we ate there in the summer we found no line at the counter to order, but we suspect that once school is in session this becomes a popular place with USC students.

Our readers are definitely urged to give this one a try. It's yet another example to prove that one does not have to leave West Adams to find good food.

23rd Street Café  
936 W. 23rd Street  
Los Angeles, 90007  
Open daily from  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. 2



*Buster and Earl are award winning food critics for WAHA. Look for future reviews of West Adams' fine dining establishments in upcoming newsletters.*

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# WHERE'S AJ'S HAT?



So if you think you know where AJ's hat is in the picture above AND you are a WAHA member and want a chance to get your hand on the prize, email your answer to me at [news@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:news@westadamsheritage.org) before September 15th. Only one entry per member allowed. And sorry WAHA Board members - you're not eligible to win the prize.

## WAHA Dudes Do Dinner

*Where's AJ's Hat? This month's answer: Highland Park Bowl, with stops at My Taco, and Scoops.*

Well, whattaya know, another edition of "WAHA Dudes Do Dinner": A monthly chronicle of West Adams guys gathering to eat, talk and howl at the moon. If you missed the last one, lucky you. It was overwritten, overwrought and underwhelming. Hey, let's do it again!

Our dudes in attendance are Adam, Joe, Hunter, Reggie, and me, AJ. Adam was our tour guide because he knows things, most of which are legal. He picked Highland Park and the North Figueroa corridor. You'll know you're there by the massive Highland Theatre sign that features 502 exposed incandescent light bulbs spelling out "Highland" in green and "Theatre" in white. Pretty sure King Kong and Godzilla went three rounds on it. The actual Highland Theater was designed by architect Lewis A. Smith in 1924, and was declared an L.A. Historic Cultural Monument in 1991.

Our first official stop [AJ's hat location] is the recently restored Highland Park Bowl, which dates to 1927. It's a gem and I give the new owners a huge pat on the back. Unless they don't like being touched, then I'll do my "interpretive dance of gratitude." Their game plan was to "preserve, preserve, persevere," and that they did. The façade was restored, the ceiling was lifted to reveal "original bow truss architecture and original wooden arches." Paint was stripped away to reveal a large forest

mural on the back wall. Vintage bowling pin machines were installed and repaired . . . and on and on. It's the coolest little eight-lane bowling alley ever, but don't just show up expecting to roll. There was a four hour wait, so, #NextTime.

Next up was the brightly colored family restaurant "My Taco" where you MUST order the Barbacoa de Borrego or I'll never speak to you again. It's served with onions, cilantro, corn tortillas, Yahuallica Salsa AND a cup of hot consommé. Yes, consommé. Have I ever lied to you? Of course I have. I'm not in this for the money. But this Barbacoa is the truth: Lip-smacking, taste-bud dancing, deliciously delicious truth.

Dinner is when stories fly and when Adam blurts out stuff like, "I once had my beard threaded in Egypt." You picturing that? In my version, a man holding a "sewing needle" whispers to his friend, "Bet I can convince the man in the Indiana Jones hat that beard threading is a thing." Adam, meet Gillette.

Reggie's our astronomy buff, which makes sense because he's so tall he could leap over Ursa Major in a single bound. (Do you think Ursa Minor has constellation envy? Me, too.) Ask Reggie about his telescopes and he'll go from quiet and reserved, to quiet and reserved with a glint of Neil deGrasse Tyson. Here's Reggie listing his telescope collection: "I have the 90mm Refractor, the 120mm Refractor, the 8-inch Dobsonian Reflector, the 12-inch Dobsonian Reflector, and the 13-foot Johnny Depp

# WAHA DUDES (CONTINUED)

Dipop." (Guess which one I made up and WIN A NEW CAR!)

Reggie mentioned a visit to Mt. Pinos during the New Moon when the night sky is so dark you can see constellations with nicknames like The Hunting Dogs, Cygnus The Swan, The Scorpion, and Berenice's Hair. Wondering which one I made up? Ha, none of them. Joke's on you. But I'd love to know why Berenice's Hair is so spectacular it got its own constellation.

All this astronomy talked piqued Hunter's interest, who, as a boy growing up in Germany, studied the stars for fun. Yes, German people have fun, although I'm told it's methodical fun that's folded neatly, precisely, and only allowed to occur after the dishes are put away.

I kid Hunter because he's a friend, a drinking buddy, and a skilled musician whose grand piano in his dining room is SO polished Homer Formby would tingle. Hunter mentioned his latest musical hobby is playing accordion . . . and we bonded deeply because yours truly wasted five young years with a squeezebox on my lap and a bad taste in my heart. Dad had a Lawrence Welk fixation and I was . . . there. This won't surprise you: Joe and Lara are doing a three-month trip through Europe. I'm now convinced he's James Bond. He's always planning secret motorcycle treks through black forests to meet mysterious Brits in shiny helmets with nuclear codes stenciled inside. Plus, he's casually handsome, can handle a martini, and knows how to spell Aston Martin. And, the aforementioned Lara is clearly a Scandinavian supermodel posing as the girl next door. Translation: Operative. Also, and this one's huge: No one's sure what Joe does for a living. Even his business card says "Mind Your Own Business." I'm just saying, if you're ever together, keep your eyes peeled for Odd Job's bowler. You might lose your head. Or threaded eyebrows. Dessert was at Scoops Ice Cream where the Flavors of the Day were Brown Bread, Olive Oil Mascarpone, Rosemary Pinenut (I went to school with her), Maple Banana Choco Chip, and Yummy Yellow Snow. (Yes, kidding on the last one.) You CAN ask for vanilla or chocolate, but that would be so Baskin-Robbins of you.

Uh-oh, just realized I blew WAY past my 700-word limit. Thanks for tuning in, and remember: WAHA friends don't let WAHA friends skip the Barbacoa.

1

## We Have a WINNER!

Brian Ellenberger correctly guessed that AJ's Hat was in the Highland Park Bowl. Brian will be receiving a copy of the world renowned book by Don Lynch, John Kurtz and Suzanne Cooper, as well as a coffee house gift card. Congrats Brian!



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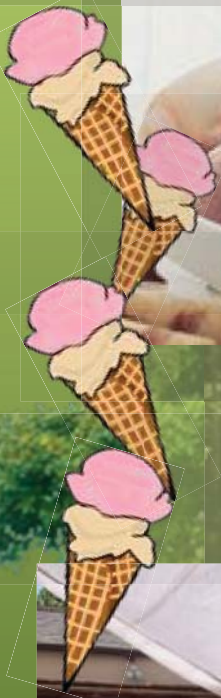
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# VINTAGE FLEA MARKET



Photos: Reggie Jones

# ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Photos: Linda Barker, Lore Hilburg

# Entertaining in the 1890s

Published in 1894, *How We Cook in Los Angeles* is one of California's earliest cookbooks. It has a strong connection to West Adams as its contributors included some of the wealthiest society hostesses holding court in the neighborhood mansions. Matriarchs of the Fremont, Kerckhoff, Klokke and Stimson families wrote contributions for *How We Cook in Los Angeles*, recording their decorating schemes, dinner menus, recipes, and tips on household management. Nowadays, the social customs of the late Victorian era may seem outlandish, the flavors and cooking methods peculiar, but it's a book that gives a fascinating glimpse into life in West Adams 120 years ago.

## Decorating Schemes

*How We Cook in Los Angeles* was not just a collection of recipes, it documents how people socialized in West Adams at the turn of the century. The wealthiest residents threw lavish "themed" receptions for their friends – see for example, Mrs. Ezra Stimson's instructions for a "Rose Breakfast" at her residence at 839 Adams Blvd:

*Cloth, white; careless arrangement of pink roses at either end of the table. At each cover, a name card, a single rose petal. The strawberry ice to be served in real roses, centers removed and filled. With the aid of florist's wire, cover a screen with roses and unfold across the corner of the room.*

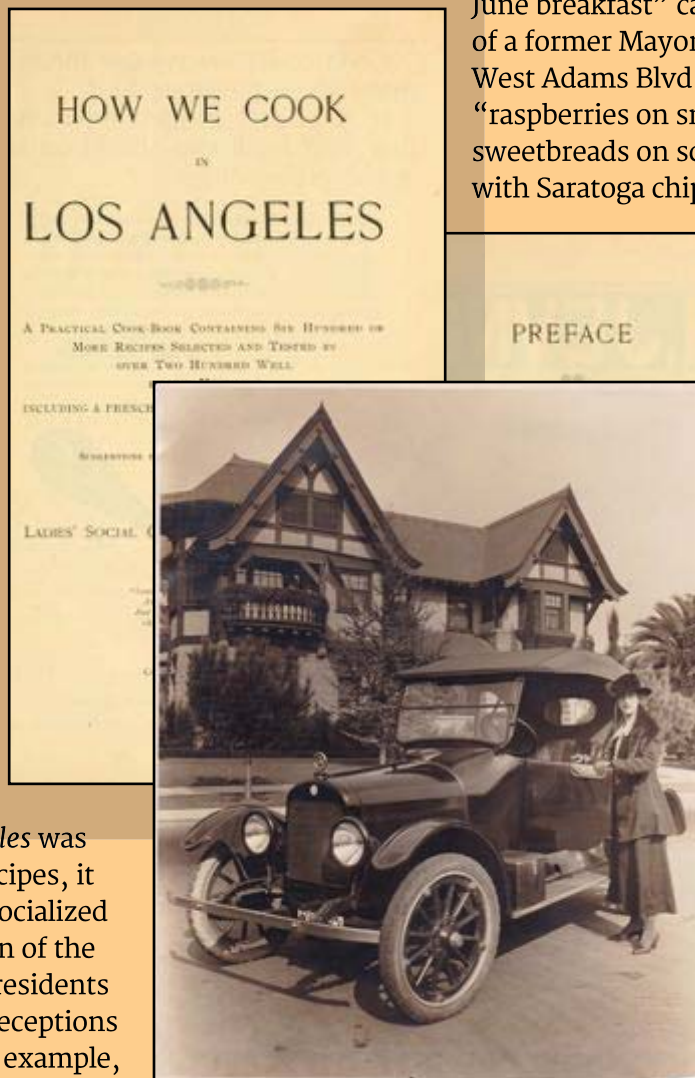
The menu continued the rose theme with a "timbale of shrimps, stuffed tomatoes and strawberry ice." This

close coordination of color and taste reflects the principles of the aesthetic movement and there was clearly an element of competition among the households as to which family could host the most extravagant event. A rival suggestion for a "simple June breakfast" came from Mrs. Cameron Thom, wife of a former Mayor of Los Angeles, who lived at 2070 West Adams Blvd. She impressed her guests with "raspberries on small branches, lobster à la Newberg, sweetbreads on scallop shells, broiled spring chicken with Saratoga chips, cucumbers, and orange sherbert in orange baskets." Not so "simple" at all!

*How We Cook in Los Angeles* suggests that the arbiter of good taste was another resident of West Adams, Mrs. Annie Bancroft, who is listed in the 1894 Blue Book as residing at the corner of Figueroa and Jefferson. Since she had just returned from the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, the book begins with Mrs. Bancroft's views on the latest trends in entertaining, and warnings about being too flashy:

*Mrs. S. was a beautiful brunette who went in for style with a capital 'S' and effects that startle rather than soothe. Her decorations were in yellow and black ... in the center of the table, a lamp with an immense shade of yellow silk. Perched all over the top were stuffed blackbirds in every conceivable position looking as if a flock had settled there for the afternoon. A few birds with outstretched wings hovered over the table and about the room, suspended from the ceiling by invisible wires.*

Fortunately, none of the ladies of West Adams suggested anything this outré.



Mrs. Ezra Stimson's house  
(Courtesy of Don Lynch)



## Recipes

Once they sat down to table, what did the wealthy hostesses of West Adams serve? *How We Cook in Los Angeles* is primarily a collection of recipes and it suggests that many ingredients from 1894 would still be at home on the modern dining table. Olive oil, curries, salads, ice creams, coffee and chocolate are represented. Many are quite practical, such as the "Orange Pie" suggested by Mrs. Louise Kerckhoff, at 734 West Adams Boulevard:

*Batter* 2 tablespoons butter; 1/2 cup sugar; 2 eggs; 1/2 cup milk; 1 cup flour; 1 teaspoon Cleveland's baking powder; rich cream. *Filling* -- juice and grated peel from two oranges; 1/2 cup sugar; 1 tablespoon flour; 1/2 cup water. Beat the butter and sugar together, then add the yolks of the eggs, the milk, the beaten whites, and flour in which has been mixed the baking powder. Bake in a deep jelly pan, and when done, split in half with a sharp, broad-bladed knife and spread filling in between. To make the filling, mix flour and sugar. Add juice and rind of oranges, then water. Boil five minutes. Serve with rich cream.

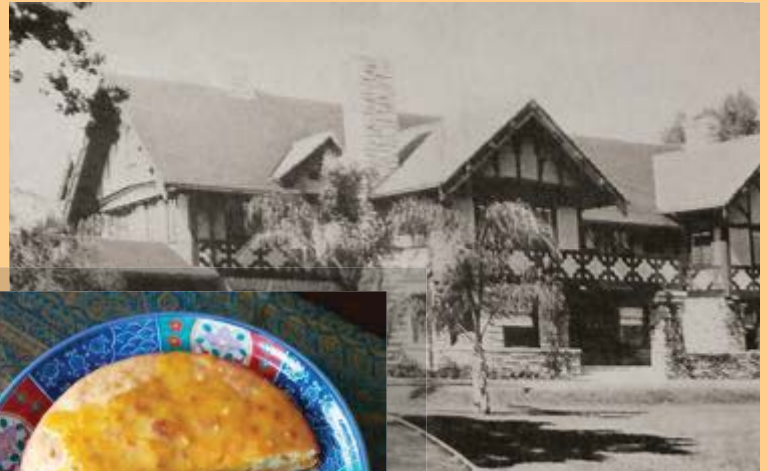
More of a cake than a pie, this recipe is quite low fat and remarkably fool-proof. However, the last word should go to Mrs. Jessie Benton Frémont, of 1101 W. 28th Street, who contributed probably the oddest recipe of the collection, a jumble of airy nonchalance and persnickety italics, for something she called "The Funeral of a Ham":

*When ham bones are too good to be thrown away, but too ugly to send to the table, the bone goes into a soup kettle and from the broth it flavors, take enough liquid to stew gently the shavings of ham that had remained on the bone. Add a chili pepper, garlic, soup-herbs and a bay leaf, and let them assimilate by slow heat. Make mashed potatoes into a lining for a pudding dish and lay in the stewed ham and bake. There may be some baking powder to make the top crust and sides, or cream; I really don't know how it is done, but it should be brown and raised and sent to the table in the dish in which it was baked. It is simple enough, most excellent and flavorful -- or, only fit for a railway eating station -- according to the intelligent patience of the cook.*

She must have been an infuriating woman to work for but she could easily afford to be so high-handed. Mrs. Frémont was the widow of John C. Frémont, the commanding officer of the Bear Flag Revolt, and a national celebrity for her role in Manifest Destiny. Local women had banded together to buy her a retirement "cottage" in West Adams where she

entertained her neighbors with memories of President Van Buren, Senator Charles Sumner, weddings at the Russian Embassy and her husband's time as Governor of Arizona.

The residents of West Adams contributed many more recipes to *How We Cook in Los Angeles* – fruit cake, mock turtle soup, ambushed asparagus – they are available [online](#).



Mrs. Kerckhoff's house



Mrs. Kerckhoff's Orange Pie  
photos: Andrew Taylor



Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont

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University of Southern California. Libraries  
and California Historical Society



Andrew is a high school history teacher and lives in a converted 1911 bank building in downtown LA. He is a fan of the Wild West and anything Victorian.

# PERIOD BATHROOMS

America's obsession with bathrooms is not a modern phenomenon. Throughout the 20th Century the American bathroom has had a schizophrenic existence. A great deal of effort has been spent to ignore its presence, yet significant energy has been expended to make it work properly. Much of the terminology that is technically appropriate for a bathroom is avoided and replaced by euphemisms considered more polite. The bathroom is the smallest room in the house, but it is the most complex in terms of design and organization. During the last 50 years residential bathrooms have become more numerous, increasingly more spacious, and are provided with a growing number of amenities. The problems for owners of most early 20th Century homes is finding the space for all these amenities now considered necessities. This is also compounded by the desire to include large dressing rooms, more closet space, and exercise facilities as part of the owner's private quarters. An understanding of the diversity of residential bathrooms at the turn-of-the-century and the types of issues that must be considered in creating a new bathroom sympathetic to the existing residence, can help owners integrate the complex issue associated with a new bathroom.

The materials employed for the floor and walls of a bathroom must do more than make an aesthetic statement. Materials are foremost required to be water

resistant. Second, they must be easily cleaned. During this century's first two decades, bathrooms in modest homes had wood floors which were varnished or painted. In larger residences the most common floor covering was two inch square or hexagonal tiles that had a matte or glazed finish. The tiles were always white. The only adornment added to tile floors was a simple black, dark green or blue tile border. When glazed, 3 x 6 inch tiles were used for more luxurious floors; they often featured a border with a Greek key design. An innovative waterproof material introduced in this period was magnesium oxychloride, known today as magnesite. Like concrete, it was mixed with water to create a slurry which was poured over the subfloor and troweled to create a smooth surface. Magnesite was more porous than cement so it had to be coated with an oil paint to make the surface impervious to moisture. Bathroom walls and ceilings in the early 20th Century were finished with hard, smooth plaster in contrast to the sand-finished plaster used throughout most of the house. The plaster was painted with a glossy oil-based paint that could be washed. The appearance of a tile-covered wall was created by scoring the wet plaster to simulate oblong tile. The walls were painted with an



enamel with a high gloss finish similar to the appearance of ceramic tile.

Marble has always been the ultimate material for creating a luxurious bathroom. Traditionally, slab marble was used for the floors, walls and other architectural details. The 12 x 12 inch and 18 x 18 inch marble tiles popular today were not used in the early years of this century. Prior to 1920s the popular color for marble in the bath was white or white with gray veins. The accessories required for a well-appointed bathroom at the turn-of-the-century were much more elaborate than they are today. Descriptions of accessories no longer used gives a sense of another time. Nickel-plated holder with china vase and cut glass tumblers; sponge holder and soap dish for the rim of the tub; holder for nail brush and crystal towel bars. Today, turn-of-the-century bathroom accessories are being reproduced in a wide variety of forms using cast brass. They have become so popular and accessible it is generally assumed that authentic accessories should be brass. The fact of the matter is, all bathroom fixtures and accessories were nickel plated. The plating created a permanent finish that was more stable than brass. Original turn-of-the-century bathroom accessories are readily available. The nickel plating is often very worn; while some find this patina desirable, many prefer a perfect finish. Period accessories can be nickel plated for a moderate price. The development of bathroom plumbing fixtures in the early 20th Century indicates clearly that in spite of the lowly status of the bathroom it was, in fact, a venue for playing out private fantasies, and a barometer of the owner's status. The Modern

Plumbing Catalog published in 1914 by the J. L. Mott Iron Works provided plans and perspective drawings that showed how their different lines of plumbing fixtures would look installed. The vignettes featuring the most expensive fixtures had lofty titles such as "Baronial," "Pierpont,"



"Renaissance," "Art Nouveau" and "Granada." More modest bathrooms were given more prosaic names such as "Everett," "Altoona" and "Pontiac."

In addition to the obvious fixtures, the Mott company sold needle showers, bidets, dental bowls, and electric light cabinets. By 1914 most styles of bathtubs were designed to be partially or completely built in. Free standing and bathtubs on legs were the least expensive. What the fixtures had in common was that they were available only in white and all of the fittings were nickel plated.

There are several choices for obtaining plumbing fixtures that could give a period feel to a new or rehabilitated bathroom. If no original plumbing fixtures survive in the house, they can be found in better salvage yards. There are also several dealers around the country who specialize in desirable period plumbing fixtures. An excellent local source is Vintage Plumbing (818/505-9315).

Reproductions of turn-of-the-century fixtures are readily available. These have the distinct advantage of being fitted with contemporary plumbing fittings and can be installed by any plumber. One disadvantage of reproduction toilets is that they must meet the low water standards mandated by building codes for new fixtures.

Bathroom lighting was basic and did not change significantly in the first half of this century except for the design of the fixtures. Bathroom lighting consisted of a single electric ceiling light that was augmented by wall sconces over the lavatory. Additional sconces were used in more expensive homes.

Prior to the 1920s, bathroom wall sconces were interchangeable with the lighting fixtures in the rest of the house. Sconces were usually made of brass and utilized a glass shade. In more sophisticated residences, the brass light fixtures were nickel plated to match the other elements in the bath.

Halophane glass shades had a faceted surface that was designed to increase the brilliance of the electrical light. Frosted glass shades evened out the light and obscured the view of the light bulb. The level of light was much lower at the time. In contrast to the intense light levels we use today, period bathrooms would strike us as being dim.



*Martin Weil was a highly regarded preservation architect who lived in West Adams. This article was originally published in 1996, so all references to "turn-of-the-century" refer to circa 1900.*

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# WAHA (and Friends) Calendar

**Friday, September 2 through Sunday, September 4, 2016**

## **The West Adams Avenues Jazz & Music Festival**

Begins at 7 p.m. each evening  
7th Avenue between Adams and 25th

**Saturday, September 10**

## **Los Angeles International Neon Jubilee**

Noon-6:00 p.m.  
Velaslavksy Panorama  
1122 West 24th Street  
Free with RSVP: [neon2016.bpt.me](mailto:neon2016.bpt.me)  
[www.panoramaonview.org](http://www.panoramaonview.org)

**Sunday, September 11**

## ***September Potluck***

4:00-7:00 p.m.  
2103 West 28 th Street in Jefferson Park.

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**

## ***Living History Tour***

Tours depart approximately every 25 minutes, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Early Bird prices (through September 12).

\$24 for WAHA members, \$30 for the general public.

All tickets after September 12 are \$35. The tour usually sells out.

<http://www.westadamsheritage.org/read/1334>