

West Adams Matters

L.A.'s Civil War Heritage, On View at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery *by Laura Meyers*



The Grand Army of the Republic monument at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

As you sit in the elegance and charm of your restored century-old West Adams manse, or as you work diligently to bring back 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 was established in 1781, long before the first West Adams mansion was constructed, and 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, one of the most pivotal events in this nation's history. And here in West Adams, our own Angelus Rosedale Cemetery is also in many ways a monument to the War Between the States. In fact, as you will discover during this year's Living History Tour, to be held on Saturday, September 29, the cemetery is the final resting place for Union and Confederate soldiers alike, as well as Eliza Griffin Johnston – one of this year's portrayals – who was the widow of one of the most famed Confederate Generals, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, who died at the battle of Shiloh.

(continued on page 6)

17th Annual Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

Saturday, September 29

Early Bird Deadline for Tickets, September 15

The Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, one of the city's oldest, most historically significant cemeteries, was founded in 1884, and is now home to many generations of Los Angeles's early citizens, representing every race, faith, and creed. Every year, WAHA focuses on some of their life stories by presenting a Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, featuring actor portrayals, graveside, of some of the individuals buried at the cemetery. This year, you'll meet:

- **John Marcellus Stewart**, an early California gold miner and Los Angeles pioneer nurseryman whose 1871 cottage still stands in West Adams. Stewart made his way from Wisconsin across the Rockies and the desert to pan for gold in Placerville and Calaveras County in the 1850s, before settling in Los Angeles.
- **Francis Murphy**, the "American Apostle of Temperance," a reformer, orator and evangelist who campaigned against alcohol. Murphy led a "Blue Ribbon Army" and eventually convinced 12,000 people to sign "the pledge."
- **Ernest R. (Bubbles) Whitman**, a radio personality, comic, emcee, and film actor ("Stormy Weather," "Cabin in the Sky") who also starred in the TV series "Beulah." Whitman perfected a word-spinning, tongue-tangling banter as the master of

(continued on page 5)

Evening Stroll in the Avenues

Wednesday, September 19, 5 to 7 p.m.

Espresso cart will be placed at 2424 5th Avenue (on the cul de sac)

Please join WAHA on an Evening Stroll through the West Adams Avenues, one of our community's designated HPOZ historic preservation districts.

As you walk through these tree-lined streets, you'll discover a residence said to have been built by silent film star Ramon Navarro for his brother. You'll learn about a mansion utilized for the past half a century as a noted social club for African American women, and you'll see two elegant homes erected by members of the Wilshire (Boulevard) family.

(continued on page 2)



Designed in 1914 by architect Charles Shattuck, this home starred in the film "You, Me & Dupree"

Table of Contents



AROUND THE HOUSE

Resources 4

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Western Heights Tour 13

WAHA MATTERS

Our new web address 13

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

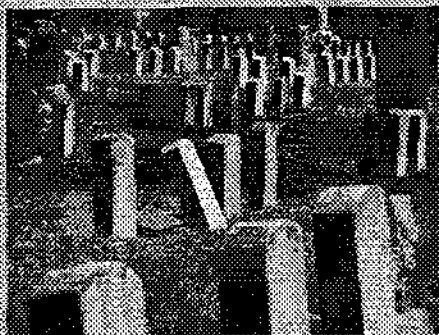
Don't forget to use your card! 15

WAHA BOARD MEMBERS 14

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS 15

CALENDAR 16

The Angelus Rosedale Living History Tour is slated for Saturday, September 29. Please contact Judy Tedrick if you're willing to help out!



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Felix's Nine Lives - Update

by Jim Childs

Our WAHA webmaster, Leslie Evans, has been very animated this summer catching up on posting all the ink and media chatter on the Felix the Cat landmark designation progress. Visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.org for up-to-the-minute news. If you've been on vacation or catnapping in your backyard hammock check out the video clip from the 2001 Huell Howser Road Trip episode (#103 / Figueroa Corridor) when Huell interviews the then son-in-law manager, Darryl Holter, about the "landmark" Felix sign (Holter's words).



Since our last issue when you learned that the Cultural Heritage Commission voted their recommendation for

(continued on page 12)

Evening Stroll in the Avenues

continued from page 1

Hollywood has come calling numerous times in this neighborhood. Stroll past the residences used in the movie "You, Me and Dupree," and HBO's famed series "Six Feet Under," as well as the Craftsman landmark seen every week in the CBS TV series "Numb3rs."

The Avenues is also home to a number of other City Historic-Cultural Monuments, including the Dryden Residence, built for a pioneer Southern California family; the former home of U.S. Congressman Gordon McDonough; and the Alice Lynch Residence, a unique Spanish Colonial Revival adobe. The restored Joseph Dupuy/South Seas House, on the corner of 24th and Arlington, is the unofficial gateway to the neighborhood. It was saved and landmarked through the advocacy efforts of the entire community.

The Espresso cart will be placed on the 5th Avenue cul de sac, just north of 25th Street in front of 2424 5th Avenue (west of Arlington, north of Adams.)

The Stroll is from 5-7 p.m. Coffee drinks are free to the first 50 "customers." We will have a walking tour brochure and map available for you at the Espresso cart, starting about 4:45 p.m. Homes can only be viewed from the outside - no open houses. Say hello to neighbors, meet new friends, bring out your (leashed) dogs for a walk, and get a close-up look at this wonderful neighborhood. ●

President's Message

by Lore Hilburg

How does WAHA best serve its community? This is the fundamental question the board must ask itself every time there is a request to support a preservation project. Which structures deserve our limited time and resources?

A case in point is the Bank of Tokyo (a.k.a. Union Bank) building at Crenshaw and Jefferson. Experts disagree about whether or not the building should be deemed historic, and the WAHA Board is divided on the subject as well. I think it is significant, culturally and historically, although admittedly it doesn't have the emotional appeal of a Victorian house or Art Deco commercial building.

But, this early 1960's structure is one of a newly appreciated genre called mid-century modern. The current issue of Preservation Magazine (Sept/Oct '07), published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has an article about the "rediscovered" mid-20th century buildings. The article hits the nail on the head when it opines that these buildings were hated for years, probably because they may have "unseated" older structures that people loved.

Moreover, the Bank of Tokyo may arguably not be the best example of an early 1960s bank building — again, the experts disagree — but if we only preserved the "best" structures, we would be left with a few isolated examples rather than communities of historic buildings.

Alas, this building may be demolished to build a much need shopping center, but it is too bad that it cannot be saved to be part of the center. Even if its historic and cultural roots are insufficient reason, what about the waste of resources in destroying a building?

*Lore Hilburg can be reached via e-mail,
hilburg@ca.rr.com*

No Longer A-Listers by Laura Meyers

The curtain is falling on many of L.A.'s mid-century office buildings. Although Modern houses remain all the rage among the City's fashionistas, their 1950s and 1960s commercial siblings — bank buildings, mid-rise offices, and even iconic highrise corporate headquarters — are being declared obsolete and defunct. In commercial terms, "B" and "C" level buildings.

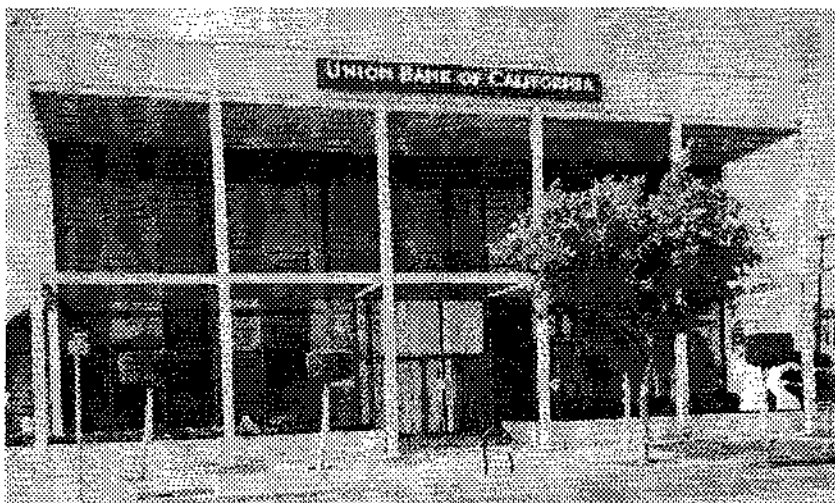
There are exceptions. The former Getty Oil headquarters at Wilshire and Western, erected in 1963 and now dubbed The Mercury, has found a new life as a 23-story, 238-unit luxury condominium tower with terrazzo floors and expansive views. Near MacArthur Park, the American Cement Building, famed for its interwoven concrete exterior X's, was designed in 1964 by DMJM. It is now home to 48 expansive rental live-work lofts with numerous photographers, architects and entertainment industry types as tenants. And in Downtown, the former General Petroleum Building designed in 1949 by architect Welton Becket was restored and reintroduced as the Pegasus Apartments.

But for others, only a wrecking ball plays a role in their proposed futures. Here in the West Adams area, the Bank of Tokyo/Union Bank at Crenshaw and Jefferson, designed by O'Leary and Terasawa in 1964 in the International Style as a financial institution serving the adjacent Japanese-American residential community of Jefferson Park, will make way for a surface parking lot if a current proposal is approved. In the Wilshire-Hancock Park area, some community activists are decrying plans to demolish the former Columbia Savings and Loan Building, designed in 1965 by Irving Shapiro, and replacing it with a massive mixed-use retail condominium project on the corner of La Brea and Wilshire.

Even renown Felix Chevrolet, with its postwar curving showroom glass and neon namesake cartoon character sign visible for miles near Downtown, is threatened: General Motors has announced nationwide plans to make its dealerships all look alike. As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, the owner and elected officials have expressed concern that future development plans, which may or may not include the showroom as part of a mixed-use project, might be hampered if current efforts to landmark the building and sign succeed.

Currently, the City of Los Angeles is trying to decide whether or not the Bank of Tokyo building even merits further historic review and environmental mitigations, in a first-time-ever situation where one decision-making section of the Planning Department has referred the case to the Historic Resources section. Making the situation

(continued on page 8)



Around the House

Resources by Suzie Henderson

This summer must have been a productive one in West Adams, because I have been getting some great recommendations. A big thank you to those who took time to send them to me.

Audrey Arlington has the answer to the pigeons that plague some of us. "Wanting something a bit more professional than a guy with a roll of chicken wire, a staple gun, and a big ladder," she contacted Randy's Environmental Services, "Away Birds.com" Division.° They discussed the pros and cons of various treatments and then sent a very professional proposal. She also received a written warranty on materials and labor upon completion of the job.°In addition to the net, wire screen°and spike installations, they removed every trace of pigeon poop from the roof, and cleaned out her gutters.° Audrey is now happily pigeon-free.° The firm mostly does large-scale commercial work. However, they are happy to do residential projects.

Jennifer Charnofsky tells us that they have just finished the third and final stage of their restoration, and have some good recommendations to share with us.

She has found that elusive resource, an excellent general contractor. She says that Martin Weil recommended Tim Kelley and he couldn't have been better. He was totally professional and experienced, full of ideas, willing to accommodate to their ideas, personable, and organized. His subcontractors were uniformly excellent, as was coordination between them. He assigned a supervisor to the job who as very knowledgeable and was always there for them.

Jennifer said "What I liked most about working with Tim is that the workers cleaned up enough every afternoon such that we were able to use our house at night and be comfortable, and that was amazing considering the extensive nature of the work being done. Plus the house now looks the way we always wanted it to look. And the wiring is finally safe! Tim came in slightly over his time estimate but quite a bit under his financial estimate."

She also recommends Jolt Electric. They did extensive rewiring of the house and rewired all of the 1910 chandeliers and sconces and reinstalled them.

Jennifer also has a great painting company to recommend, Abel Berra Quality Painting.

She used them to repaint most of the interior including refinishing the woodwork. She was very pleased that they carefully covered the furniture and cleaned up each night. Abel was also willing to go along with the demand that they use strict protective measures, even though it meant more discomfort and time.

She also has a hot tip for those of us who have floors that are too old and thin to withstand any sanding. At Tim Kelley's suggestion, Abel and crew stripped the floors and stairs by hand using a nontoxic stripper and then refinished them. She says the results are gorgeous.

Adam Janeiro has another good idea for us. He had concrete counters fabricated and installed by Seth Ernsdorf of Ernsdorf Design. Seth made a detailed template and then poured the counters off site. Adam was pleased with his work and says that he was impressed by the range of custom colors available, as well.

Again, thanks for all of these great resources. I can hardly wait to hear about what the rest of you have been doing. As always, you can reach me at WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com with your great recommendations and stern warnings. ●

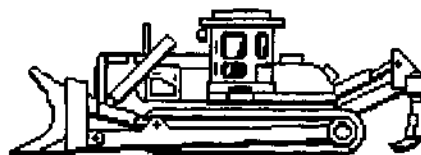
Abel Berra Quality Painting
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Seth Ernsdorf
323-377-6965
www.ensdorfdesign.com

Randy's Environmental Services
Away Birds.com Division
Joseph (Randy) Freeman (owner)
6245 Bristol Parkway, #172 Culver City, CA 90230
323-778-2181
jrandy@awaybirds.com

Kelley Construction
General Contractors and Restorers
661-295-1992
P.O. Box 305, Castaic, CA 91310

Jolt Electric Company
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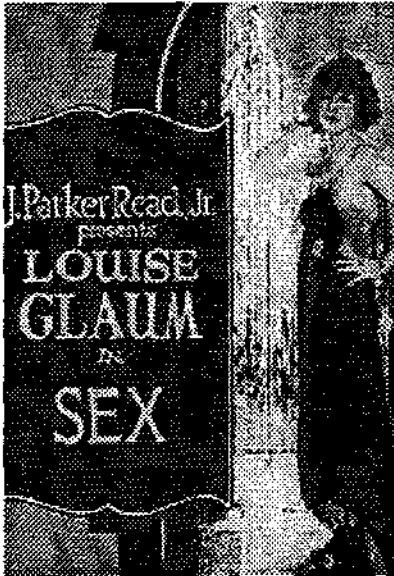


Living History Tour

continued from page 1

ceremonies for a series of shows recorded by the Army to entertain troupes abroad during WWII.

• **Louise Glaum**, one of the most effective silent film era femme fatales. Glaum was a melodramatic actress of the stage



before becoming a sexy rival to fellow screen vamp Theda Bara.

• **Marshall Neilan**, charming and madcap film director of several classic Mary Pickford blockbusters, including "Daddy Long Legs." A famously charming womanizer, he was married to the actress Blanche Sweet until he cheated on her one time too many.

• **Eliza Griffin Johnston**, an artist, diarist, and wife of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, who was killed in the

battle of Shiloh. Johnston was the first woman artist in the American West. "Texas Wild Flowers," a book of 101 of her paintings from the 1840s and 1850s, was published in 1972.

We hope you'll join us for this event. This is an outdoor 3-hour walking tour over uneven terrain. Please do wear appropriate clothing, and walking shoes.

Tickets are by advance reservation only — no walk-ins. Cost: \$25 general admission, \$20 WAHA members, PAID BY SEPTEMBER 15. Space available, after September 15, all tickets are \$30. (Children under 10 attend for free.)

For additional information, phone 323-732-4223, write tours@westadamsheritage.org, or visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.org to download an order form.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteer help, as always. For those of you new to WAHA, or new to West Adams, volunteering at events is a terrific way to meet your neighbors! There are many tasks that need helping hands - both in advance and on the day of the tour. We need help at check-in, of course, and we also need assistants for our actors. Since this is a guided ("shepherded") tour, we need tour guides (you'll need to attend a training session the weekend before). And we also have a variety of behind the scenes positions, including schlepping, and helping with set up and clean up for a volunteer thank you party. If you wish to be of service, please contact Sally Turner at salturmer@sbcglobal.net. ●

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Civil War Heritage

continued from page 1

Because the battles of the Civil War 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.

However, 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.



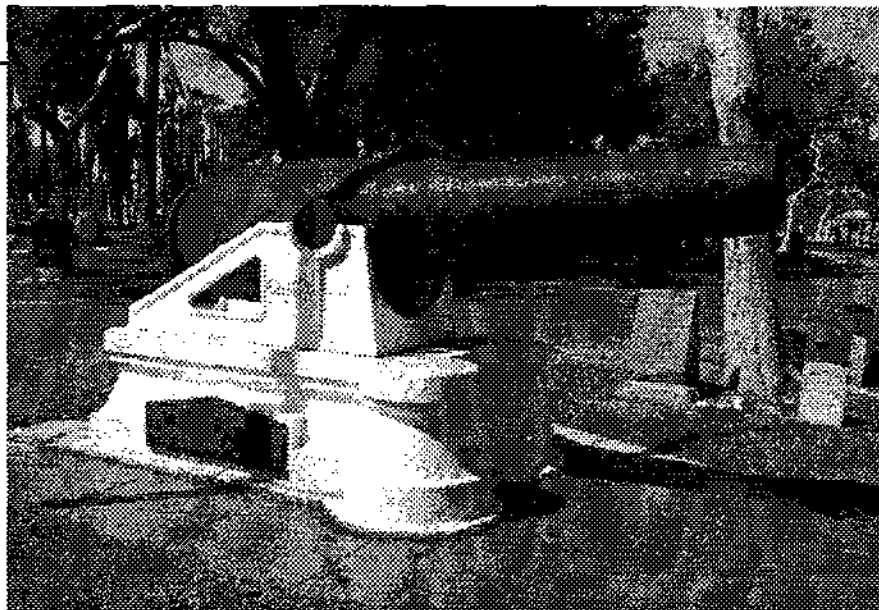
Col. Allen Allensworth

Camp Drum was home to the California Column, formed and commanded by Colonel James Henry Carleton, first commander of the camp. In 1862, Texas Volunteers had taken control of the territory which is now Arizona and New Mexico for the Confederacy. Colonel Carleton was ordered by the War Department to gather his troops and retake control of the territory. Some 2,350 men began a march to Santa Fe during the driest summer of the century. On the way to Santa Fe, the California Column fought the Battle of Picacho Pass, the westernmost battle of the Civil War. Colonel Carleton successfully marched his large body of troops through much of the most inhospitable territory in the United States without the loss of a single soldier, a feat regarded as a masterpiece of military planning and execution.

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 courthouses.

After the war, the facility continued to operate as a military post until it was decommissioned in the 1880s, becoming a college campus. 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. On display in the buildings are armaments (including carbines, Colt Navy revolvers, sabers, muskets and bayonets);



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.

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.

One of Angelus Rosedale's notable Civil War veterans is Col. Allen Allensworth. Born into slavery in 1842 in Louisville, Ky., Col. Allensworth escaped from slavery during the Civil War and joined the Union Army. In 1886 he returned to the military as chaplain of the all-black 24th Army Infantry, and when he retired in 1906, he held the rank of lieutenant colonel, making him the highest-ranking African-American officer at that time. In 1908 Allensworth founded the self-governing town of Allensworth, which today is a state historic park in California. When he died in 1914, he was buried at Rosedale Cemetery with military honors.

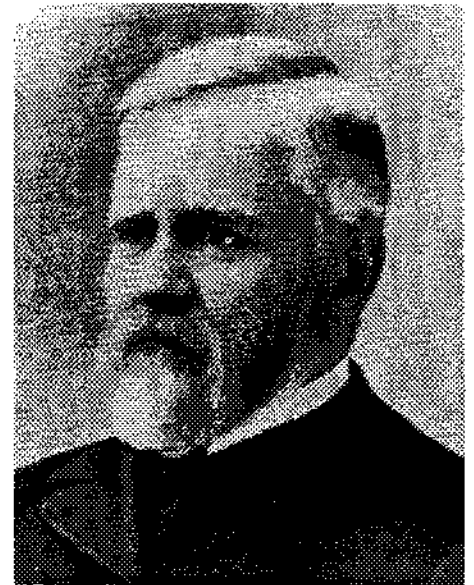
Another Union "resident" is Gideon Curtis Moody (1832-1904), who served as a Colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War. "In 1864, his term of enlistment expired and the war nearing its end, he returned to Indiana with his eyes on the expanding west. Joining a group of pioneers from New York, including his in-laws, Moody took his wife Helen and three children and headed for Dakota Territory. With no shortage of disputes in this new frontier, Moody returned to his career in law in Yankton, the territorial capital." Writes Paula Walsh in *Deadwood Magazine*.

Moody was elected as a Delegate from the Dakota Territory to the United States House of Representatives, serving first from 1867 to 1869, then from 1874 to 1875, and then became a judge in notoriously-lawless Deadwood. In 1889, he was elected as a Senator from South Dakota to the U.S. Senate, serving until 1891, before retiring to Los Angeles. Moody was joined in burial at Rosedale by George Alexander (1839-1923), who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and later immigrated to the United States. Alexander served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and many years later was elected Mayor of Los Angeles (1909-1913.)

Angelus Rosedale is home to Confederate veterans as well, among them William Thornton Glassell (1831-1879), a forebear of General George S. Patton. Glassell was born on a Virginia plantation to parents with deep southern roots. When the Civil War began he was a Union soldier, but he resigned his commission and joined the Confederacy, eventually volunteering to captain a recently-constructed underwater torpedo boat intended to fight the Union's ironclad ships. His command of the first Confederate submarine was short lived – he was captured by Union troops when the submarine's blast knocked the crew overboard. After the war, Glassell moved to Southern California, where his brother Andrew was a successful businessman. William Glassell founded and laid out the city of Orange, California.

Another Confederate officer interred at Angelus Rosedale is Judge Olin Wellborn (1843-1921.) Wellborn enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and served throughout the Civil War, attaining the rank of captain in Company B, Fourth Georgia Cavalry. After the war, he removed to Texas, where he was elected to represent Texas's 3rd and 6th Districts in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1879 to 1887. But he was unsuccessful as a candidate for renomination in 1886 to the Fiftieth Congress, and so picked up stakes and moved to San Diego in 1887. President Grover Cleveland appointed Wellborn as a U.S. Judge for the southern district of California in 1895, an office he held until January 20, 1915, when he retired, living out his final years in Los Angeles.

We hope you join us on Saturday, September 29, as either a volunteer or a tour visitor, as we explore this and other aspects of Los Angeles history at WAHA's Annual Living History Tour (see accompanying story for tour details.) ●



Gideon Moody



William Glassell

Preservation Matters

Bank of Tokyo

continued from page 3

more complex, the Community Planning Bureau (yet another City Planning section) has weighed in in favor of historic status, while architectural historians, preservation advocates and other experts are in fact divided over whether or not the bank building merits historic status.

Yikes.

What set this case in motion is a proposal by West Angeles Church's economic development arm, in partnership with CIM Group, to erect a two-story retail and office building on the corner of Crenshaw and Jefferson. The bank building, which currently sits on Jefferson at Bronson (on the east end of this large commercial parcel), would be demolished to provide 14 additional parking spaces. There are issues aside from historic preservation. One key controversy is that, although the Crenshaw Boulevard frontage becomes pedestrian friendly, the removal of the bank building to create surface parking renders the Jefferson Boulevard side in violation of these new pedestrian standards, according to the Community Planning Bureau. The West Angeles Church owns a 500-space parking structure 75 feet from this proposed project that will be utilized for some of the mandated parking; some members of the community have questioned why these additional 14 spaces cannot simply be accommodated in the structure as well. Moreover, the nature and scope of future landscaping has not been included in the proposal, even though it is adjacent to a residential street filled primarily with character one-story homes and duplexes.

Not incidentally, because the developer thought a north-south alley must remain open to both vehicular traffic and for utility access, the design calls for what is in essence an 87-foot windowless "tunnel" covered by the building's second story. At press time it was unclear whether or not this design element would remain, since the City's Bureau of Engineering stated at an August public hearing that the developers would be required to relocate all utilities to Bronson Avenue, rendering the tunnel moot.

Background:

Now majority-owned by The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. in Japan, "Union Bank" is the current U.S. name that has resulted from a series of mergers and acquisitions of institutions that were founded more than a century ago. In 1880, Yokohama Specie Bank was created in Japan. In 1947, Yokohama Specie Bank became The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd., and in 1953 it established a San Francisco subsidiary called The Bank of Tokyo California (BOTC). In 1996, Mitsubishi and Bank of Tokyo merged in Japan, and in this country, California First, The Bank of California and Union Bank merged operations, bringing together all of the U.S. business under the mantle of Union Bank.

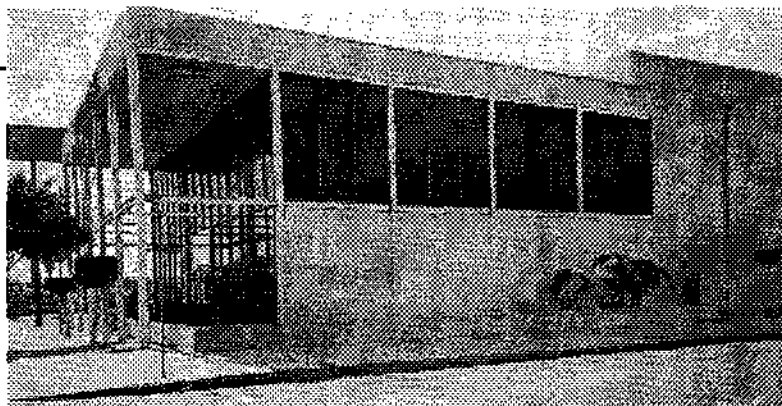
The Bank of Tokyo opened its first Los Angeles branch in Little Tokyo, at 120 So. San Pedro, in the early 1950s. Erecting the Jefferson Boulevard branch a decade later represented the Bank of Tokyo's effort to serve the growing Japanese-American residential community in the neighborhood we now call Jefferson Park. Although considered risky at the time, according to an interview conducted with Kazuo K. Inouye, founder of Kashu Realty, this Bank of Tokyo branch almost immediately turned a profit after opening in the mid-1960s, due primarily to the large number of real estate loans it was able to make to Japanese-American families purchasing homes in the area.

Both before and after World War II, many Japanese-American families settled in Jefferson Park (and more broadly to about Normandie on the east, and to La Brea on the west.) It is perhaps more appropriate to say, after the war, many "resettled" in this community - having lost their homes during internment at such relocation camps as Manzanar.

One of those resettlers was a young man named Toshikazu ("Tosh") Terasawa. Terasawa moved to Jefferson Park just after World War II, attended USC, and became a licensed architect in 1949. About 15 years later, while enjoying the fruits of a well-established architecture career, Terasawa and his partner, Arthur O'Leary (a professor of architecture at USC, and author of architecture text books used to teach students elements of their profession) were hired to design the Bank of Tokyo's branch building that would serve this community.

The neighborhood commercial/retail needs of these Japanese-American families were served by businesses that sprung up on both Jefferson and on Crenshaw Boulevards. The intersection of Jefferson and Crenshaw became known as Crenshaw Square. According to various oral histories, Japanese-Americans were still experiencing financial services racism (even 20 years after the war's end), and the main reason this bank branch building was even contemplated was to help solve that problem. Once it was constructed, its upstairs tenant was Kashu Realty, the company that continued to help Japanese-American families secure their piece of the American dream, namely home ownership.

In a memoir written by Emy Murakawa, she described the commercial sector of this neighborhood. "Crenshaw Square was originally conceived and planned to become the Little Tokyo of Mid-Town. Lots of Japanese shops and restaurants were there. Food Giant Market was there. It had its own Obon Festival and carnival. All the apartment houses with owners' units



on Bronson immediately behind Crenshaw Square were owned and rented by Japanese, and there was always a wait-list at Cren-Star Realty (Yo Takagaki). Jefferson Boulevard was busy with Japanese establishments, too. Who remembers Tamura Furniture, Koby's Drug Store, Dr. Mizunoue's office, Dr. Munekata's office, Paul's Kitchen and Enbun Market across the street, and George Izumi's original Grace's Pastry? Crenshaw Square boasted a Sumitomo Bank, and Bank of Tokyo was on Jefferson. There were two Japanese theaters, too – Toho La Brea and the Kokusai Gekijyo."

One of the more famous buildings erected in the area was the Holiday Bowl. Built in 1958 by five Japanese-Americans, the Holiday Bowl exemplified part of the process of rebuilding the community after internment. In order to finance it, its owners sold shares throughout Crenshaw. Given the Bowl's location on Crenshaw Boulevard, it became important in the desegregation of Los Angeles as it served a multi-racial clientele. According to a website devoted to its history, "despite a lengthy and impassioned outcry to save it, the Holiday Bowl was demolished in October of 2003. When it finally was torn down, those who frequented the Holiday Bowl and many in the surrounding neighborhood experienced a profound loss."

Indeed, adds Chris Aihara, executive director of the Japanese American Cultural Center, "We've seen so much loss in that community – you get to be fatalistic about preserving its history." She also told the National Trust that "I think what we have come to understand in terms of preservation is that there are buildings, but they are significant because of the activities [that took place there] — what people recognize is the association they have with the area."

According to a March 2007 article in the National Trust's Preservation Online Magazine, "Preserving America's Japantowns has been a growing concern throughout the Japanese American community in the past few years, especially as the generation that experienced the World War II internment ages....Most Japantowns [have] disappeared altogether, and today there are only a few remaining structures marking their existence....It may be too late to use historic designations to save [some] Japantowns harder hit by redevelopment. In 2001, California passed legislation to help its Japanese Americans draw up plans for preserving the remaining Japantowns."

California State Senate Bill 307 provided some funding for the development of plans for the historic and cultural preservation of the remaining Japantowns in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose. However, Jefferson Park thus far has not been the recipient of any of these funds.

The historic assessment that was presented to the City for review fails to address the history of this Japantown in

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Preservation Matters

Bank of Tokyo

continued from page 9

Jefferson Park. Rather, its author, architectural historian Teresa Grimes, evaluated the building as to whether or not it represented the history of branch banking generally. Moreover, she evaluated the careers of Terasawa and O'Leary as to whether or not they would be considered "master" architects under federal guidelines - and not as to the role Terasawa in particular played in Jefferson Park.

Terasawa was clearly well-regarded at City Hall, where he served for 17 years on the Building & Safety Commission as its only architect member, and four terms as its president. Terasawa and O'Leary were also jointly honored as "Distinguished Alumni" by their alma mater, USC. This annual award is not meted out lightly.

Arthur O'Leary, FAIA, MRAI, co-founder in 1949 of O'Leary Terasawa Partners, is now retired from active practice and living and writing in Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland. He is still generally associated with the firm he founded with Terasawa, which over time grew and merged into a Santa Monica practice now called Widom Wein Cohen O'Leary Terasawa (WWCOT).

O'Leary is a much-published author of journal articles on topics ranging from professional architectural practice and design liability to construction law. His *Architectonics* textbooks (Vol. 1 to 4) were used at the USC School of Architecture, where O'Leary was also a faculty member from 1953 to 1963. In addition, he was a lecturer at SciArc, and the UCLA School of Architecture and Urban Planning. He additionally helped develop curriculum at Trade Tech for two decades, from 1965 to 1986. Through these activities O'Leary helped educate and influence several generations of young architects.

He also served as a director for both the Los Angeles chapter and the California Council of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). O'Leary was a Commissioner for the California Board of Architectural Examiners, conducting oral interviews and design examinations for professionals hoping to earn designation as licensed architects. O'Leary is also widely recognized as an authority in forensic architecture.

Along with the USC Distinguished Alumnus Award (1992), O'Leary received accolades from AIA's Los Angeles chapter (Distinguished Achievement Award, 1985), and the California Council of AIA (President's Certificate of Appreciation and the Special Award for Excellence, both in 1985.) In 1974, O'Leary was elevated to "Fellowship" in the national AIA. This distinction is bestowed by the Institute on AIA members "who have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession of architecture" by "truly outstanding achievements." According to the AIA, "Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of the architect as an individual but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society."

When O'Leary and Terasawa were recognized in 1992 by USC, Dean Robert Harris of the School of Architecture noted that "This is a particularly important time for the Architecture Guild, and the architectural profession, to recognize architects whose energies have shaped our understanding of ethics and culture. By making important contributions to society as citizen-architects, Art O'Leary and Tosh Terasawa have provided a model for all professionals."

Other recipients over the years of USC's award include Frank Gehry, Jon Jerde, Albert C. Martin, and Pierre Koenig, among other illustrious company.

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also recognized with awards by architect-peers for its designs of such projects as the Toyota Technical Center in Los Angeles, the Marymount High School Library, and the St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church renovation.

Terasawa was also an AIA Fellow. His career arc was, of course, different than O'Leary's, although they were partners for more than 40 years.

Terasawa was an American-born Nisei. But when he was a youth, he was taken from his home and interned at a relocation camp throughout the war years. One of the reasons he settled in the Jefferson Park area afterwards was his membership in the Centenary United Methodist Church, then located at 35th Street and Normandie. With the evacuation of the Japanese to the war relocation camps, the church had closed its doors. But at the end of the war, the church became a community hostel for camp returnees, including Terasawa.

Terasawa, as noted, matriculated at the University of Southern California, becoming a licensed architect in 1949 and forming his longstanding partnership with O'Leary the same year. Always civic-minded, Terasawa is now considered a seminal force in the master planning of Little Tokyo, where he also served as a longtime member of the Community Development Advisory Council. He helped found the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, and served on its board beginning in 1971 for several decades. He was also its president. In addition, Terasawa served on the Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum beginning in 1985. His efforts with these organizations have clearly helped preserve the history and culture of Los Angeles's Japanese-American community.

He was also the architect of the new Little Tokyo home for Union Bank in the early 1990s. Along with designing the structure, Terasawa worked with the artist Seiji Kunishima to conceive and install at that location the acclaimed public sculpture, "Stonerise," an artwork meant to evoke Japanese gardens.

Historian Grimes also stated that the building is an "ordinary" example of International Style. Conversely, the Community Planning Bureau argued that in fact the building exemplifies the "Miesian" modern style that utilized the visual vocabulary of Ludwig Mies von der Rohe, a German-born educator and architect who helped define modernist architecture with a rational approach and the famed slogan, "Less is More." Importantly, the Bank of Tokyo is one of the buildings erected along Crenshaw in the mid-century era that introduced modern lines and style to the community. The building is supported by structural columns that form a regular grid along the rest of the building, and include a glass curtain wall — certainly a Miesian touch. It also has a distinctive garden area on the Jefferson Boulevard elevation that visually merges indoors and outdoors, a common theme in modern design.

This building represents a still-standing piece of community fabric in a neighborhood where much has been demolished. It is reflective of a time both past and present of a neighborhood filled with diverse culture.

Advocates in favor of preserving the Bank of Tokyo building at 3501 West Jefferson Blvd. have argued in letters to the City that it is a site that has significance to the City of Los Angeles because it reflects and exemplifies the broad cultural, economic and social history of the Japanese-American community in Jefferson Park. Both the buildings associated with this community and the people themselves are in danger of being lost to future generations. ●

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Preservation Matters

Felix the Cat's Nine Lives

continued from page 2

designation of the FELIX Sign and Showroom as a Historic-Cultural Monument local officialdom has been as silent as a mouse what with the City Council's 3-week plus summer vacation.

However, the issues are becoming as hot as a tin roof in the sun with the forthcoming City Council Planning and Land Use Management Committee hearing scheduled for September 18th (City Hall, room 340, 10 a.m.) The three-member PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee, chaired by Ed Reyes of CD-1 along with Jose Huizar of CD-14 and Jack Weiss of CD-5, will conduct the public hearing and issue their own recommendation to City Council on the proposed designation. If you are a concerned Friend of Felix activist, your supporting e-mails could prove to be the catalyst in their findings in support.

The rumors are also swirling that the behind-the-scene efforts between the opponents and the highest level of preservation advocacy have not yet found a compromise. Attempts to clarify for them that irrespective of an LA-HCMV designation the subject property's eventual disposition will require an Environmental Impact Report have been received with skepticism. This CEQA action is mandated by a recent certified CRA Historic Assessment Survey, which concluded that Felix meets the criteria for certification on local, state and federal levels.

Felix is also back on TV. Our local PBS station KCET's "Life & Times" sent reporter Sam Louie to interview proponent Jim Childs of A.D.H.O.C.; Ken Bernstein, the City's Manager of Historic Resources; and Darryl Holter, CEO of the Shammass Group, about the designation. The episode was scheduled to air while we this publication was going to press. View it online at <http://kcet.org/lifeandtimes/blog/>.

Additionally, the first USC Daily Trojan issue of the fall semester informed the incoming students of the Felix caterwaul in an alliteration-headlined article "Cultural Cat Causes Controversy," by Jean Guerrero. The September-October publication of the L.A. Conservancy's ???Newsletter also features an article on the plight of the back cat. If readers have other link-lines to add to our website catalogue contact Leslie Evans at lbevans@earthlink.net. ●

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Six Blocks of History: Western Heights Tour

Sunday, September 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You're invited to attend **Six Blocks of History**, the Western Heights Neighborhood Association (WHNA) Homes Tour. Visit a "streetcar suburb" where up-and-coming young professional families built their homes in the early part of this century. Eight historically significant homes will be open for tour.

Located just north of the Santa Monica Freeway between Western and Arlington, Western Heights is an architecturally diverse enclave filled with custom-built homes from the turn of the century. Originally developed outside the city limits, this six-block area was a forerunner to the modern suburb, far from the dusty and noisy center of town. The residential streets are characterized by two- and three-story single family residences in many architectural styles including Craftsman, Tudor Revival, Queen Anne, Spanish Colonial Revival, Monterey Revival, and American Four-Square. Many were designed by some of the most prominent architects of Los Angeles, including John C. Austin, Myron Hunt, Sumner Hunt, Frank M. Tyler, Elmer Grey, Arthur R. Kelley, and Paul Williams.

Much of the community's architectural legacy remains intact in spite of the construction of the Santa Monica Freeway in 1960. To maintain the neighborhood's integrity, the Western Heights HPOZ was created by the City in 2001. It contains 120 Contributing and Contributing "Altered" structures dating from the late 19th century to the 1930s.

Tickets are \$35, and will be sold on the day of the tour, with the last ticket sold at 3:30 p.m. Reservations for the self-guided tour are available by e-mailing westernheightstour@mac.com. Proceeds from this event will benefit construction of traffic easements in the neighborhood.

For more information about Western Heights, visit the historic neighborhood at www.WesternHeightsonline.com. ●

WAHA is now www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

This spring WAHA expanded our website, working to convert it into a full content management system, making it easier to post new materials and update old ones. When we realized that we were going to have to redo the website to fit the software available from a local hosting company, we also reconsidered our suffix. Back in 2001 when our website was created we thought the best choice was to use the most common suffix, .com, so we named our website www.WestAdamsHeritage.com. Just in case we might change our minds later we also reserved the nonprofit version, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. In recent years the use of the .org designation has blossomed, becoming the gold standard for nonprofit and public service organizations of all kinds. So we decided to activate the .org name we had been sitting on all these years. Our webmaster, Leslie Evans, reconstructed the WAHA website and launched it at the end of July as www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. Take a look and visit us there regularly for news updates from WAHA. ●

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Calendar ✓

WAHA September/October Calendar

Western Heights Home Tour, Sunday, September 9: A walking tour of one of our historic neighborhoods. (See story, page 13)

Evening Stroll in the Avenues, Wednesday, September 19, 5 to 7 p.m.: Explore West Adams Avenues, with an espresso in hand. (See story, page 1)

Angelus Rosedale Living History Tour, Saturday, September 29: WAHA brings six of L.A.'s most colorful historic personages to life at this annual event. (See story, page 1)

WAHA's Frightful Halloween Kid Fest, Sunday, October 28: Mark your calendar for all your little ghosts and goblins to have an afternoon of fun.



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