

Benedict Canyon

Fall 2010

Benedict Canyon Association Newsletter

Volume V Issue 14

The Sheila Agnes Nature Preserve The Story At The Hairpin Curve

by Kathryn Leigh Scott

The story of the Sheila Agnes Nature Preserve in Benedict Canyon begins with a sad ending on the morning of July 31, 1973.

Fourteen-year-old Sheila Agnes Frawley had arranged to leave early from the summer camp she'd been attending in Burlington, Vermont. She was to join family members from Los Angeles on a rafting trip in Boise, Idaho. On her way to the airport for her connecting flight to Boston that morning, Sheila Agnes realized she'd left behind her airline ticket. The counselor driving the girl to the airport, swung back to camp to pick up the ticket and still managed to make it to Burlington in time for Sheila Agnes to catch the Delta Airlines flight. Relieved that she would make her connection in Boston, Sheila Agnes stopped to smile and wave goodbye to her camp counselor before hurrying to board the aircraft.

Shortly after 11 a.m. that morning, the pilot of Flight 723 attempted an instrument landing in heavy fog

and the DC-9, with Sheila Agnes aboard, crashed into a sea wall on its approach to Boston's Logan International Airport. Young Sheila Agnes was among the eighty-nine passengers who perished.



Sheila Agnes

News of her death devastated her parents and her eight brothers and sisters. Sheila Agnes, with sandy blond hair and blue eyes, was

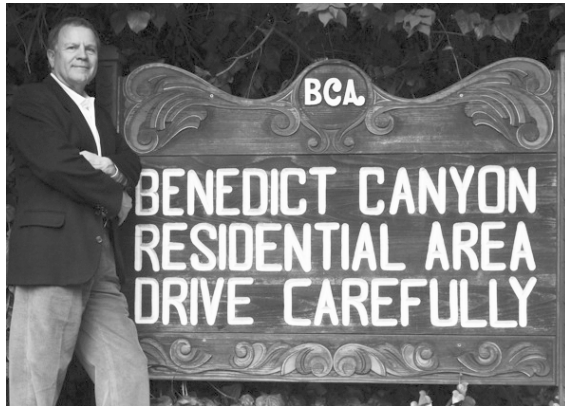
the youngest of nine children, and the family favorite. "We all loved her. It was the only time I saw my father weep," said her sister, Mary Louise Frawley. "Her camp counselor wrote a letter to my parents that was so lovely, but terribly painful." Mary Louise remembers her sister as outgoing, funny, sweet-natured and very smart. "She was kind-hearted and caring, never wanting to hurt anyone's feelings. She would beat me playing chess and then pass it off as just luck!"

"She was good at everything," another sister, Eileen Callahan, recalls. "And it was all so effortless. She was a good student, athletic, spoke French, and was wonderful with animals. Mostly I remember her unique empathy with people. She was so light-hearted and entertaining." Eileen named her daughter after Sheila Agnes, who had brought so much sunshine and laughter to the family.

Cont. pg. 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE The Sheila Agnes Nature Preserve, **pg. 1** . . . A Letter from the President, **pg. 2** . . . Mission Statement, **pg. 3** . . . Top Ten Reasons To Become A BCA Board Member, **pg. 4** . . . New BCA Board Member: Brittney Post, **pg. 5** . . . Stop Gas...Automatically, **pg. 5** . . . "Easy Street": ...Not Paved With Gold, **pg. 6** . . . "This Land Was Made For You And Me", **pg. 7** . . . Septic Or Sewer...You Really Need To Know, **pg. 7** . . . "Treasured" Memories", **pg. 8** . . . 2010 BCA Membership Application, **pg. 9** . . . 2010 "Trees of Support" Donor Program Roster, **pg. 10** . . . Bird, Bath & Beyond, **pg. 11** . . . This Is Your Captain Speaking, **pg. 12** . . . "Enchanted Hill", **pg. 13** . . . Ravens May Be "Unkind" But Crows Are "Murder", **pg. 14** . . . In My Canyon View, **pg. 15** . . . Don Fenmore 1939-2010, **pg. 16** . . . Paramedics—An Expensive Ride, **pg. 16** . . . Fire Station 99 Turns "Green", **pg. 17** . . . Who Is For The Animals?, **pg. 19**

Letter from the President



"Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires...courage."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Are you looking up through the canyon or looking down through the canyon? Recently, in the very early morning hours, I was summoned from a restful sleep by the screeching of red-tail hawks, perching in the lofty branches, somewhere "up there". Making my way to the backyard, I found myself "face to face" with the steep, lush, western canyon wall – ascending up through small windows of blue sky, framed by the canopy of a variety of trees. I search for them, the hawks. I make my way to Benedict Canyon Drive in front of my house to get a broader view, but to no avail. Up and down the street I wander, my eyes and ears attentive to their cries.

What are they saying? From their vantage point, looking down on their perfect domain, I can't help but believe they are saying to us all – get up! Don't waste away the day. Come on outside. Admire and rejoice at the beauty before you, the beauty of Benedict Canyon.

Today, I challenge you. Whether you are looking up or down The Canyon from where you reside, I ask you to help us protect our unique community. As Emerson is quoted "...map out a course of action and follow it to an end". Map out of course of action to support your homeowners' association, The Benedict Canyon Association, the oldest, continuous active homeowners' association in Los Angeles. That might mean simply joining by writing a check today. Complete the membership application included in this newsletter by selecting a level of support. You might expand on a course of action by attending our monthly meetings at the Beverly Hills Women's Club, located at 1700 Chevy Chase Drive. "Your" meetings take place on the second Monday of each month and begin at 7:00 p.m. Come and get the facts on your increasing DWP rates. Want to know how to interpret those confusing brush clearance notices? What about the construction next door, and, by the way, how do you contact your councilmember about potholes or other annoyances and concerns? Want to expand your course of action further? Ask about becoming a board member on this all volunteer organization and participate on a variety of committees, from land use to traffic and safety, just to name a few. Visit the BCA website at www.benedictcanyon.org for a complete list.

The next time you find yourself driving into The Canyon from the top of Mulholland Drive, or from the flats of Beverly Hills, maybe even upon awaking in the early morning to the sounds of red tail hawks, look up, look down, through Benedict Canyon - your domain.

Enjoy it. Respect it. Protect it.

Join us.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Chasteen

President, Benedict Canyon Association



Benedict Canyon Association

OUR MISSION:

To promote, advance, further and protect the community interests and general welfare of the homeowners and residents residing in the general area of Benedict Canyon Drive.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a 100% volunteer organization made up of area residents.
All of our work is funded by donations. We are not sanctioned by any entity.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Monitor ongoing projects, programs and policies by private entities and city agencies outside our area which may impact or set precedent for land use and development within the canyon.

Monitor crime, safety, traffic, development and quality of life in the canyon.

We have four seats on the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council,
an officially recognized component of our city government.

We have one executive seat on The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations.

Preservation and beautification of our Canyon.

WHAT DO WE PROVIDE FOR OUR MEMBERS?

Annual meeting for members at the Beverly Hills Hotel

Monthly meetings open to the public at the Beverly Hills Women's Club

Representation at greater Los Angeles civic meetings

Representation at the West Los Angeles division of LAPD

Emergency preparedness information

Regularly published newsletter

Hotline: (310) 553-4BCA

Website: www.benedictcanyon.org

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE MEET?

The Second Monday of every month

Beverly Hills Women's Club

(Benedict Canyon Drive @ Chevy Chase Drive)

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Open to the public

Free parking

Refreshments

SHEILA AGNES . . .

Cont. from pg. 1

On Monday, August 6, 1973, a funeral mass was held for Sheila Agnes at the Church of The Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills.

"We miss her terribly," Eileen says.

"She had such great potential. I don't know what she would have done with her life, but she could have been anything."

Sheila Agnes' father, Patrick Joseph Frawley, a wealthy Nicaraguan industrialist (Paper Mate and Schick) had given his daughters a 30.7 acre parcel of land in Upper Benedict Canyon as an investment property. In August 1992, when the tract of lush woodland they had tried to develop with builders Don and Ken Bourguignon was denied planning permission, the sisters entered into a sale agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The acquisition of this parkland helped to preserve a continuous band of open space for wildlife movement between Griffith Park and Topanga State Park. The combined sale and donation of the Frawley/Bourguignon property was agreed upon for the below-market price of \$1.3 million. In appreciation of the Frawley sisters: Joan Desmond, Barbara Ross, Mary Louise Frawley and Eileen Callahan, and in memory of their youngest sister, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority resolved to name the property the Sheila Agnes Nature Preserve.

Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, members of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other dignitaries joined family and friends Wednesday afternoon, April 14, 1993, to celebrate the dedication of the Sheila Agnes Nature Preserve. More than seventy-five guests attended the outdoor celebration at the home of singer-songwriter, Don Henley, whose property on Mulholland Drive was adjacent to the nature preserve. Earlier that day, close family members and friends had attended a private dedication at the sign on the property. Both Mary Louise and Eileen remember the commemoration as a "very moving tribute" to their sister.

"It was a beautiful day and most of our family was able to attend," Mary Louise says. "The dedication was such a joyous occasion. There was so much sadness when Sheila Agnes died; just so much feeling of loss. Twenty years later, we could look back and remember how wonderful she was, and how much she meant to our family. Everyone loved her."

Next time you drive up the canyon, just at the hairpin curve, think about Sheila Agnes, a life that ended too soon.



Top Ten Reasons To Become A BCA Board Member

by Joanne Savage

10. **ATTEND** BCA meetings at the historic Beverly Hills Women's Club Building.
(complimentary parking)
9. **MEET** people who may turn out to be lifelong friends.
(the original social networking)
8. **BECOME** a journalist or a photographer for the BCA Newsletter.
(no pay but great bylines)
7. **EAT** homemade baked goods and sip fresh coffee at BCA monthly meetings.
(doggie bags available)
6. **VOICE** your concerns each month to Joan Pelico, Chief Deputy for Councilman Paul Koretz.
(Let Freedom Ring!)
5. **SOCIALIZE** at BCA special events.
(and still be home before midnight)
4. **LEARN** the solutions to Canyon problems.
(everyone will want to be your friend)
3. **SEE** LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale report each month on area crime.
(while wearing a tight shirt and toting a gun)
2. **RECEIVE** community recognition during the BCA Annual Meeting at the world famous Beverly Hills Hotel Ballroom.
(get a personalized name tag)
1. **BE** the coolest person in your neighborhood.



New BCA Board Member: Brittney Post

Brittney Post and her husband, Matthew Post, are new to The Canyon. "We love the fact that we live in such a wild and natural environment, while being so close to the exciting city life." They moved to The Canyon in late 2009 when they fell in love with their 1926 Tudor Revival Home which they plan to restore. The desire to become part of the canyon community and donate time and energy to The Canyon, prompted Brittney to become a BCA Board Member in 2010. In addition to working with The Board and loving her new "old" home with her

husband and two Jack Russell Terriers, she is an executive with an action sports brand in Los Angeles. As director of research and development, she also stays current with innovative ways to problem solve. She has spent years traveling to Asia for work, but has since been able to slow down the travel and carve out some time to spend at home in The Canyon.

She dedicates her efforts to issues that are close to her heart, such as helping the elderly and injured soldiers returning from war. She hopes to be an asset to The Board, and encourages other canyon residents to get involved. "You don't have to be a long time resident....It truly takes a village, and as a group, we can keep our community safe and clean while moving forward with innovative goals." Please come meet Brittney and other current board members at the next monthly BCA meeting. ■

Stop Gas...Automatically

by Barbara Nichols

It's the middle of the night, and yes, we are having an earthquake! You scramble out of bed, not to get to a safe place, but to get a flashlight, robe and slippers. You rush to the garage to try to find a wrench. You run outside to the gas meter stuck behind the bushes to turn off the gas, but the wrench won't turn. You smell gas. Too late...disaster!

This is the scenario that may occur if you have put off getting an Automatic Gas Shut-Off Valve. When this apparatus is attached to your gas meter, it will automatically turn off your gas if an earthquake is of sufficient magnitude to possibly rupture a gas line (five or greater on the Richter Scale). Do you know that about half of the gas related fires after the 1994 Northridge earthquake could have been prevented with Automatic Gas Shut-Off Valves?

A Los Angeles City Ordinance calls for these valves to be installed in all new construction with gas piping and all existing structures sold within one year of the close of escrow. Any existing building which has \$10,000 or more in renovations must also have one installed. If a gas pipe breaks or leaks gas in an earthquake, the gas can cause an explosion, fire or suffocation at the very time when

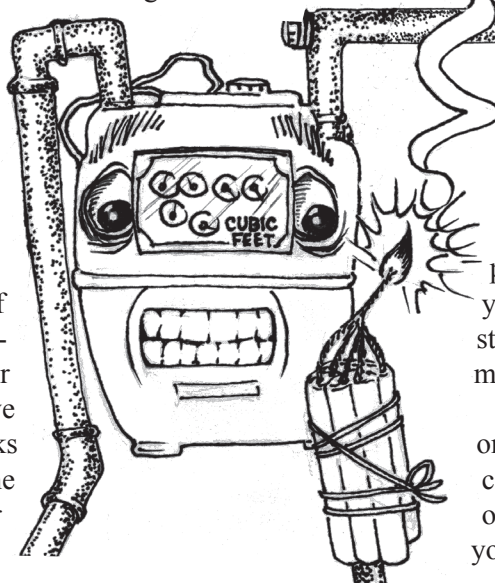
emergency response resources may not be available.

Most plumbing contractors are authorized to install the Automatic Gas Shut-Off Valve. They may need to check your gas meter and piping first to determine the size of the existing gas pipe manifold and the condition of your existing piping.

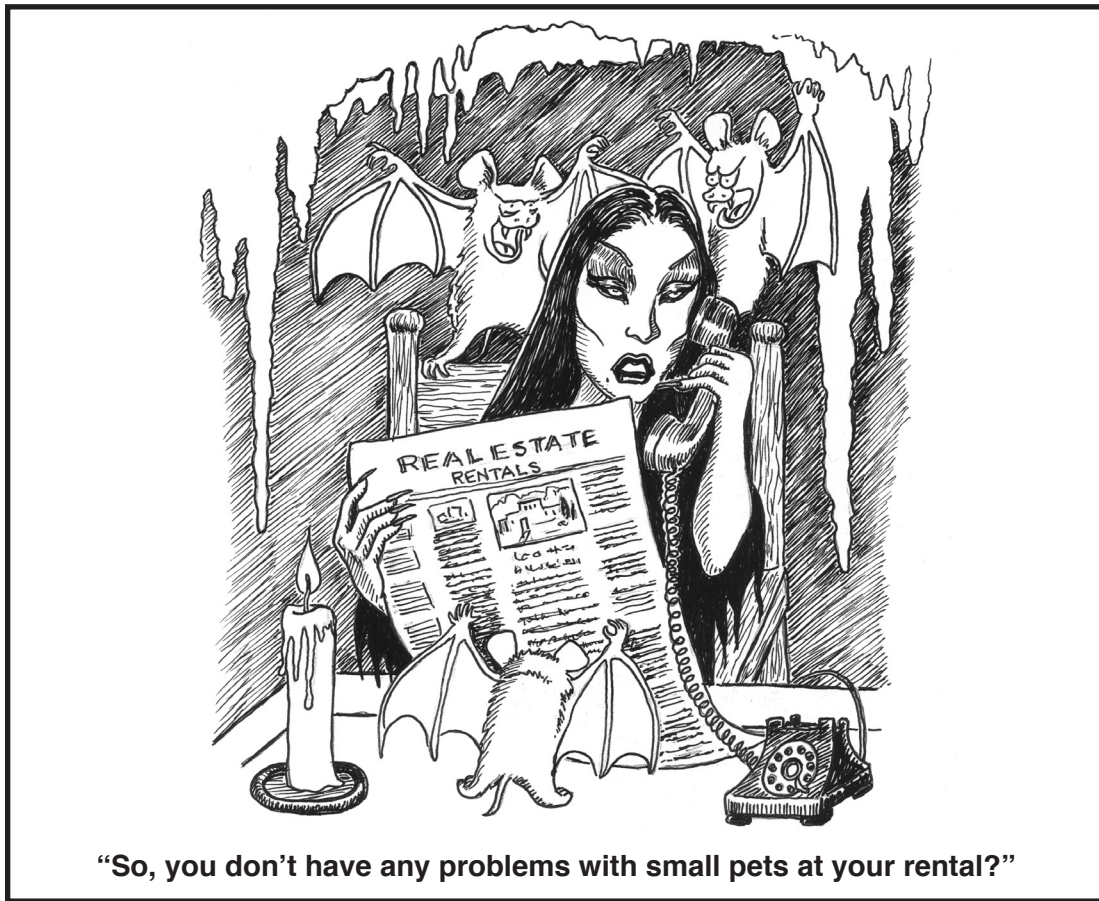
Some people have avoided installing the gas shut-off valve for fear that a minor earthquake would shut down their gas and they would need to wait for the Gas Company to come out and reset the valve and re-light pilot lights. The Gas Company recommends that they, or a qualified professional, reset the valve and verify that no leaks exist to ensure that all of your gas appliances are safe before placing them back in operation. Properly installed, the Gas Shut-Off valve will only activate in a severe earthquake.

The cost to install the Automatic Gas Shut-Off Valve is between \$300-475 for valve sizes from 3/4" to 1 1/2". As an added benefit, many homeowners' insurance policies offer a yearly discount on premiums if you have an Automatic Gas Shut Off Valve installed. After the initial payback, you will save money with the valve. What a great investment.

The Automatic Gas Shut-Off Valve is a one time expense that is well worth the cost to avoid the possible destruction of your home, and perhaps even the loss of your life. ■



REAL ESTATE IN BENEDICT CANYON - by Aron Kincaid



"Easy Street"...Not Paved With Gold

by Brittney Post

During the heavy rains, The Canyon takes a bit of a beating. The traffic gets bad as the roads get worse. Recently, I began to notice the debris coming down from the 1400 block of Benedict Canyon, otherwise known locally as "Easy Street". I accepted the reality that the road would probably continue to shoot debris onto Benedict Canyon with each rain. After all, this is a private street and the neighbors would have to be responsible for repaving the road. Each time a heavy rain came, the city would have to come out to clean up the rather large amount of debris, which slowed traffic on Benedict Canyon.

I was driving home a few months ago and I noticed that a crew had the street blocked off. It looked like the street was getting a face lift. I pulled over to speak with the project manager and, to my surprise, I was told it was a complete street overhaul.

The project took approximately two weeks to complete with several days needed just for "dry time" on the

concrete flow-line and entrance way. While the work was conducted, all residents continued to have access to the roadway while traffic was controlled by the crew. "We always try and work together with the cooperation of the residents to make the job go as smoothly as possible, and this job did just that", said Mr. Owen, project manager on the job. "Getting neighbors involved can sometimes be a tough job in itself. No one really wants to dish out money these days and especially for a shared roadway. Fortunately, a resident on the street, decided to grab the 'broken bull by the horns' and get everyone together. Once the funds were in place and the weather was right we broke ground."

I was pleasantly surprised that neighbors in Benedict Canyon came together to repave their private drive. It makes the Canyon not only beautiful for all to enjoy, but also safer to travel on.

"Thanks" to the residents of "Easy Street." ■

“...This Land Was Made For You And Me”

BCA’S Land Use Committee

by David Elson, Esq.

BCA’s Land Use Committee is responsible for monitoring and, when necessary, investigating new development and other land use issues in The Canyon. The Land Use Committee includes architects, attorneys, real estate brokers, builders, historians and others with experience and/or expertise in dealing with development issues in The Canyon. Through the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, the Land Use Committee now receives regular updates that reference each new land use application in the City, separately listed by council districts. Using these updates, the Land Use Committee focuses on land use applications within The Canyon. If an application appears to have potential significant consequences for neighbors or other residents of The Canyon, the Land Use Committee investigates the application and obtains further information. In the last year, the Land Use Committee has been able to employ an outside individual with experience working with the City’s Planning Department who can expeditiously locate the needed information. The Land Use Committee often offers to meet with applicants and/or their representatives in an effort to resolve any issues of concern to the BCA.

If necessary, the Land Use Committee will take steps to notify neighbors and other residents who may be affected by a land use application. For example, those residents who live on a haul route for a large residential development, and who otherwise would not receive notice from the City, will get a notice from the BCA.

After obtaining the needed information, the Land Use Committee determines whether it is appropriate for the BCA to take a public position on a particular application. If it is necessary, the Land Use Committee will prepare a written position which will be communicated to City planning officials with the signature of BCA’s President. When it is appropriate, a member of the Land Use Committee may also appear at a public hearing on an application. The Land Use Committee also seeks support for its positions from the Neighborhood Council through BCA Board members who serve as BCA representatives to the Neighborhood Council.

The Land Use Committee took the lead in several of BCA’s best known efforts. One was BCA’s successful opposition to the late Mark Hughes’ attempt to develop what has become known as the “Merv Griffin property” on 152 acres at the end of Tower Grove Drive. The Land Use Committee wrote the legislation that led to the enactment of the City’s retaining wall ordinance, which limits the height, spacing, and number of retaining walls which may, as a matter of right, be built on a hillside lot. This was a “landmark decision” for the BCA.

The Land Use Committee is also responsible for BCA’s dealings with the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy, including BCA’s ongoing efforts to insure that SMMC lives up to its brush clearance obligations.

It may sound dry, but this is one of BCA’s most important committees. Their work actually helps to preserve and protect the beauty of The Canyon for all of us. ■

Septic Or Sewer...You Really Need To Know

by Barbara Nichols

Do you know for sure if your property is connected to the city sewer or a septic system? Surprisingly, many homeowners just assume that all homes in Benedict Canyon are connected to the city sewer. Some properties in our area were never connected to the city sewer and homeowners are on septic systems.

Currently, when a home is bought or sold the purchaser receives a report from the Building Department called the “9A Report”. This document will indicate whether the property is connected to the city sewer. Unfortunately this report is often overlooked by both buyers and sellers.

Connection to the city sewer requires a sewer connect permit which should be on file with the building department. If the sewer was connected without a permit and a permit is obtained later it can be costly. Homeowners can also check the “sewer” charges on their Water and Power bills to see if they are being charged for a sewer connection. Sometimes homeowners are on septic systems and may be erroneously charged for a sewer connection.

Why is this issue so important? The system of either type must be properly maintained. Septic systems should be

Cont. pg. 8



“Treasured” Memories

by Alan Fine, BCA Treasurer



In the spring of 1967, I moved into Benedict Canyon with my young wife, Barbara, and baby son. We had looked at a house near Century City, which I wanted to buy. My wife fell in love with the house in the secluded Canyon, but I was darned if I was going to pay the exorbitant price of \$39,000. No way could I, just starting my accounting practice, afford monthly mortgage payments of close to \$250. We argued and guess who won?

Not long after I moved in, someone told me about the BCA and I attended the next meeting, which, at that time, was held at a member's home.

Sure enough, a few months later the little old Dutch lady who kept the books resigned, and the BCA Board, finding a live CPA on their doorstep, duly anointed me Treasurer. Every couple of months, the president would sit down at his typewriter (remember those?) and churn out a two-page newsletter, updating members on current issues in The Canyon. I would run down to a print shop in Beverly Hills, where it would be mimeographed (remember that?) one page, two sides. Then the \$10 dues checks would come flying in!

Barbara started attending the monthly meetings, and it was the BCA that set her on the road to becoming one of the best known and respected activists in the city. She became vice-president of the Hillside Federation, and was a key figure in the creation of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway, the Hillside Slope Density Ordinance and the preservation of much of the critical open space in our hills. She was also involved in the setting up of the system of Neighborhood Councils and the City's recycling program. After she passed away she was memorialized by the Barbara A. Fine Overlook on Mulholland, east of Coldwater.

In the late seventies, we had one of the wettest winters in memory. Benedict Canyon was turned into a muddy torrent. I was driving up The Canyon with my family when the car in front of us stalled. I was unable to turn around or move; we were stuck. I took my two young children by the hand and we sloshed through the knee-deep waters until we were safely home. When I looked around, my wife was nowhere to be seen. After what seemed like an eternity and much anxiety, the phone rang. She had taken refuge in a house close to the car and decided to wait for the waters to subside. We all breathed a sigh of relief.

I remember when lower Benedict was resurfaced. The street was closed to through traffic for weeks. Suddenly The Canyon was transported back to The Thirties – a dirt road and hardly any traffic. Ah, what bliss!

I shiver whenever I think of the Tate-LaBianca murders in 1969, knowing that Charles Manson's gang drove right past my house after it happened.

One day, I heard a noise in my backyard. I looked out and there was a young grey fox rummaging in the bushes. I called animal control, and very shortly an officer was there with a net ready to snare it and transport it back to the wilds, or so I thought. Suddenly I heard a gunshot and saw the poor animal's carcass being dragged back to the truck. I was horrified. Later, I called animal control and they assured me that it was not their policy to kill wildlife and that the young man would be reprimanded. They apologized, but a lot of good that did the poor fox.

I have many other memories, many good, some not so good, but there is no question; living in this beautiful canyon over forty years has been great. ■

SEPTIC OR SEWER . . .

Cont. from pg. 7

serviced every two years by a qualified plumbing company knowledgeable in these systems and not just an unlicensed pumping company. If the system is not properly maintained, repair costs later can be substantial. All home purchasers should have the septic system inspected on any home purchase as part of the inspection process.

If you think the city sewer just takes care of itself think again. All 4" lines from homes connect into the 6" city line. Many of these street sewer lines were installed over 40 years ago and may not be well maintained. Many of your neighbors have suffered backups from the city sewer line. A sewage backup into your home can be a messy and expensive repair. Neighbors need to call the city periodically to "snake" and clear the city line on their streets. Homeowners may still have problems with the 4" line from their home to the street. Since the 1994 earthquake we have had just enough shaking to slightly loosen the connection between the city line and the homeowners' line, or suffered cracked lines we don't even know about. Tree roots get into the line and cause a sewer back up. It is recommended to have your sewer line snaked once or twice a year to remove potentially clogging roots. The cost for this maintenance varies.

Please contact City of Los Angeles information at 311 for further information. ■

Benedict Canyon

BENEDICT CANYON ASSOCIATION 2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to help protect and preserve our canyon and the environment in which we live and express my support by joining the Benedict Canyon Association at the following membership level:

_____	\$1000+	Oak Tree
_____	\$500	Sycamore Tree
_____	\$250	Eucalyptus Tree
_____	\$100	Pine Tree
_____	\$75	Basic Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Benedict Canyon Association mailing lists are strictly confidential and are never sold or shared.

_____ I do not wish my name to appear in the BCA Newsletter, but please accept my enclosed contribution.

You can become a member of BCA through Basic Membership or as part of our "Trees of Support" Donor Program. Many members are choosing to designate their membership "In Honor of..." or "Memory of..." for someone who used to live in Benedict Canyon, a beloved family pet or anyone whom you would like to honor in this special way. Basic Membership names will not be published. Also, you may contribute at the donor level and elect not to have your name published. Benedict Canyon is protected only through your individual contributions. Thank you for supporting your community.

For membership information, please call our Hotline - (310) 553-4BCA(4222)
Benedict Canyon Association is a non-profit organization.

My payment of \$ _____ is made by:

_____ Check payable to Benedict Canyon Association

_____ Please charge my _____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____ AMEX

Card# _____ Exp. date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

Please return this application along with your payment to:
Benedict Canyon Association, P.O. Box 1265, Beverly Hills, CA 90213

2010

Cut On Dotted Line

Benedict Canyon

2010 BCA "Trees of Support" Donor Program Roster

OAK TREE

Bradley O'Leary
Diane Sherman Smith
(1) Anonymous

SYCAMORE TREE

Alex & Yuki Bouzari
In Memory of Gero & Bella
Sam & Ziva Jenkala
Rodney Kemerer & Lindsay Doran
(2) Anonymous

EUCALYPTUS TREE

Steven Bradley Beer
Benedict Hills Estates Association
Jacqueline Bisset
Michael Chasteen
Hal & Marta Cooper
Ken & Randee Devlin
David & Barbara Elson
Burton & Nanette Forester
Evans Frankenheimer
Robert & Cynthia Hart
Urban S. Hirsch, III
Richard Holesapple
Lee Ann Jacobs
Barbara Jaynes
Ian La Frenais
Gene Lucero & Marcia Williams
Stephen Maitland-Lewis & Joni Berry
Robert & Mindy Mann
Armand Marciano
Margaret Maw
Larry & Nickie Miner
Claudia Mirkin
Eustace Moore
Diane Naegele
Fred & Joan Nicholas
Rick Nicita & Paula Wagner
Hugh & Virginia O'Brian
Kevin & Elizabeth Parry
Anthony Peju
In Memory of Denise Polk
Matthew & Brittney Post
Steven Rosenwasser & Kelli Sager
Jim & Rachelle Rosten
Albert Ruddy & Wanda McDaniel
David & Jacqueline Sacks
Lew & Joanne Savage
William Scheetz
Bobby Schwartz & Karen Breslow

Sheldon & Andrea Shapiro
Art & Renee Spence
Lev L. Spiro & Melissa Rosenberg
Larry Steinman & Lucy Suzar
Don & Cynthia Wyse
(1) Anonymous

PINE TREE

Michael & Elaine Agran
Jim Anderson & Lynn Fireside
Suzy Aspinall
Bill & Phyllis Axelrod
Tom & Lisa Barry
George & Carolyn Bender
Evan Berk
Gary & Valerie Bird
Paul & Marie-France Bloch
Ronald Boldt & Judith Shelton
Ellen Brown
Ron & Jan Cannan
Jeffrey & Judy Caren
Larry Chrysler & Matthew Michael
Jeffrey & Rachel Cohen
Rafe & Susan Cohen
Ted & Karen Coyne
Mr. & Mrs. Alessio Coppola
Mark & Maggie Damon
Billy & Marilyn Davis
Eddie DeOchoa & Denise Anthony
Morris & Marlene Dennis
Joe DiStefano & Beth Rubin
Laurence & Judith Dornstein
John & Julie Eidsvoog
Joseph Eisenberg
Michael & Lori Eisenberg
Ferdinand & Lennie Fam
Judy Feder
Don & Sandy Fenmore
Alan Fine
Cathie Forstmann
Philip Forte
Evelyn Furtak Dorfman
James & Donna Gallagher
Marvin & Inger Gross
Jack Grossbart & Marc Schwartz
Paul & Rene Haas
Carla Hacken & Lorraine Gallacher
Roger Halfhide & Patricia McVerry
Stan & Mimi Handman
Bill & Chris Harper
James & Jean Harris

David Hayes
David & Bridget Hedison
Robert & Mary Ridings Herman
Edward & Sherry Heyman
Bruce & Lynn Heymont
David & Susan Horn
Terry Jackson
Len & Nancy Jacoby
Joel Jaffe
Stuart & Shirley Stamen Jaffe
Elizabeth James
Ricky Jay & Chrisann Verges
Preston Johnson & Vickie Martin
Don Johnston & Simon Sutton
Archie Kapp
Bernard Kester
Michael J. Kopcha
Rosa Koppens
Robert & Carole Kopple
David & Terese Kramer
Herbert & Arlene Kramer
Don & Hope Kurz
Morrie & Patti Lachman
Brian LeSage
Howard & Carol Levy
Justine I. Linforth
Mark Liszt & Karyl Sisson
Elaine Lotwin
Ron & Connie Mandell
Barbara Marcus
Dorothy Marlowe
Sally Mason
Thomas & Linda Markovitz
Sally Mason
Byron Mayo & Michelle Clarke
Avery McCallister
Michael D. McLachlan
Greg & Nancy Meidel
Geoff & Kathryn Miller
Robert & Matlin Mirman
Mark & Irene Montgomery
Ira & Bethany Moretski
Mark & Sylvia Morton
Dagmar & Alex Moskowicz
Richard & Sandy Mosk
Jimmy & Anne Murphy
Mary Ann Musico
Maud Nadler
C. Richard Neu
Art & Daniele Ochoa

William & Nieva O'Toole
Charles B. Ortner
Colleen O'Rourke
Leon Owens
Dick Perlman
Gary & Nita Polinsky
John B. Power
Phil Proctor & Melinda Peterson
Walter & Colleen Ralphs
Max Ramberg
Stephen & Carol Randall
John Rieber & Alex Duda
Andrew & Kelly Robinson
Paul Rohrer
Gil & Val Romoff
Saul L. Rosenzweig
Larry & Sunny Russ
Joanne Sackheim
Christopher Saigal & Hollis Leech
John & Gayle Samore
Beverly Sassoon
Alan I. Schimmel
Robert & Marilyn Schnair
Arthur & Arlene Schwimmer
Martin & Sheila Seaton
Norm & Libby Shapiro
Betty Shelhamer
Lilli Shoen
Barbara Shuler
Jay J. Silverman & Janet Wood
Mark Sklansky & Lauren Ina
Brent Smith & Lisa Engel
Cortez Smith
Stanley W. Sokoloff
In Memory of Joseph Stefano
Jeff & Annie Stein
Phil & Milly Torf
Robert J. Wagner
Des Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Walsh
Brandt & Tobi Wax
Murray & Barbara Weiler
Barry & Eleanor Weinstock
Jacques & Lynne Wertheimer
Glen Williams & Liz Levitt Hirsch
John & Joyce Winters
Lawrence & Nancy Wolf
E. Victor & Judith Wolfenstein
Phil Yaney & Jackie Keller
(6) Anonymous

Contributions received after September 15, 2010 will appear in our next publication

Bird, Bath & Beyond

by Barbara Blinderman

Spotting a bird is fun and relaxing. You can do it anywhere. I've seen quetzals in Costa Rica, bearded bellbirds in Trinidad, oropendulas in Guatemala, green magpies in Borneo, pileated woodpeckers in Florida, green kingfishers in Texas and mountain bluebirds in their breeding finery in Wyoming. The good thing about all of these birds is that you don't have to be a good birdwatcher to know what they are. They are so distinctive they're almost self-identifying.

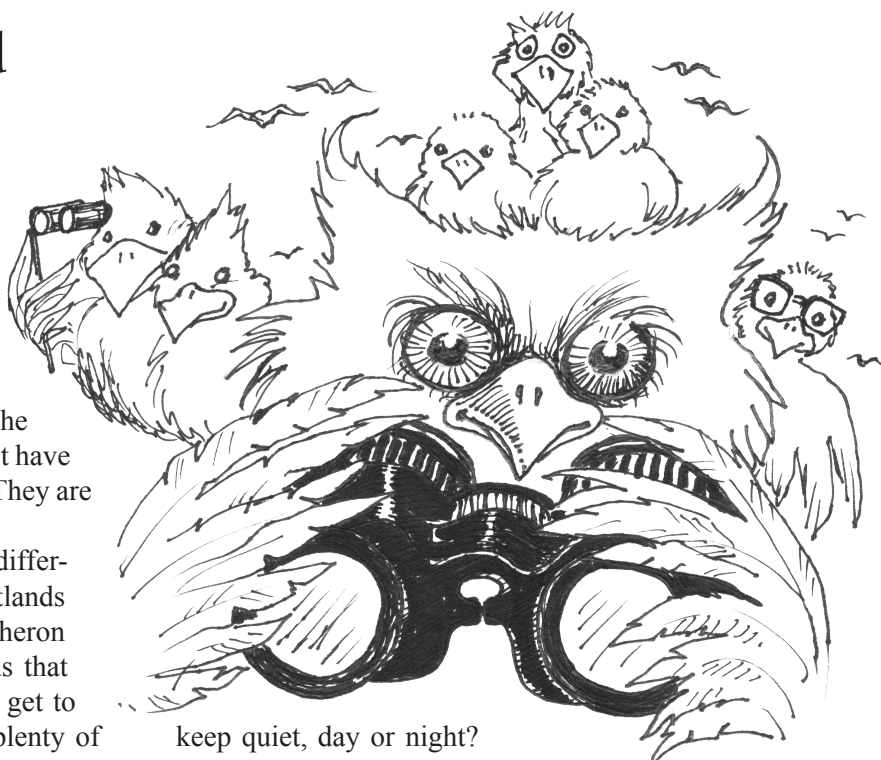
You don't even have to travel very far to see different kinds of birds. You can go to the Ballona Wetlands in Playa Vista to see a moorhen, a great blue heron or any of the other two hundred species of birds that live there. Or, travel the ten minutes it takes to get to WODOC in Franklin Canyon, where there are plenty of wood ducks, ringed necked and ruddy ducks and American coots swimming and diving.

Don't feel like getting in your car? Then just look out your window, look up, or walk the nearest hill and listen to the sounds. I read somewhere that there are over 350 species of birds in the LA area. Once you start, you'll be amazed at how many of these flying objects are neighborhood residents.

Over the years, some birds that used to be common don't seem to be around as much anymore. There may be plenty of robins, brewer's blackbirds and mourning doves at Roxbury Park, but I haven't seen too many of them on my street recently. I haven't seen the great-horned owl that used to drink out of my neighbor's pool since someone cut down the big tree that he liked to use as a hooting platform. I haven't seen as many swooping scrub jays, or heard the persistent pecking of a northern flicker looking for a mate. It's been a couple of years since I saw that wonderful crested blackbird with the rounded wings and white patterns on its wingtips. He came every spring for years. I think I liked him because of his name. It's pretty cool to be able to tell someone that the phainopepla just returned.

Birds You're Likely to See

Walk into your yard, look up and chances are good that you'll see the sun reflecting the tail of a red-tailed hawk. Hike the hills and you are likely to find a black phoebe, a lesser goldfinch, or a yellow-rumped warbler perched on a bush or flitting around the trees. Look out your window and you'll wonder whether that American crow convention has voted to enter into an alliance with the coyote tribe to take over the territory. Why do those mockingbirds never



keep quiet, day or night?

Is it a covey of California quail that sounds like an airplane taking off? Is it an Anna's or an Allen's hummingbird sipping some nectar? Is that a spotted towhee or a colorful blackbird with the red eye, the orange bottom and the white spots all over its wings? The point is, we live in a natural aviary. Enjoy it.

Need To Know?

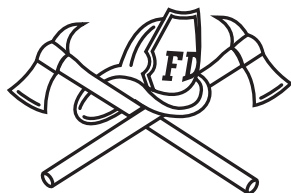
Birdwatchers Anonymous may insist that if you want to spot birds, you must create a life bird list as a condition of acceptance into their cult. To the contrary, you don't have to name names. There are people who think that you're spoiling the fun of just looking if you have to figure out what the experts call it. But if you're one of those latent taxonomists who thrives on name dropping, you'll learn pretty quickly that the color of a bird isn't enough to tell you what it is. You'll start to notice the size, shape, flight patterns, sound and behavior patterns. You'll figure out which birds belong where. The first time I saw a killdeer was in the parking lot of the LA Zoo and my first thought was he must have escaped from the aviary.

If you start to get serious and really want to know what you're looking at, there are lots of sources out there to help you identify and classify your backyard visitors. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Books

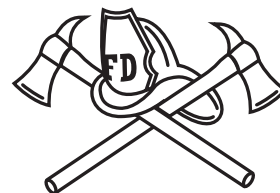
Birds of the Los Angeles Region by Kimball L. Garrett, Jon L. Dunn and Bob Morse. It's small enough to carry with you and is very easy to use. The photographs are really helpful. If you're going to buy anything, this one comes first.

Cont. pg. 15



This Is Your Captain Speaking

by Vera Dunn



From the moment I walked into Fire Station #99 it was easy to see why Captain Steven Resnick was so proud of his place of business, which doubles as his home on the days of the month when he is at work. The station is immaculate, beautifully furnished and the firemen I saw appeared to be happy to be there. My first impression was confirmed as Captain Resnick gave me a tour of the station saying that the "amenities are nice, but you have to see what I am proudest of." He took me to the garage that housed the gleaming fire truck and paramedics' truck.

The thing he was most enthusiastic to show me was a chain saw and a unique piece of equipment called the "Jaws of Life". Both were tucked out of sight in the fire truck. While explaining that this might not look like much to me, however, Fire Station #99 was the only station in the vicinity to have this indispensable, life saving equipment. He also said that it was the generosity of the organization, "Adopt a Fire Station," sponsored by the BCA, that made fire station #99 not only uniquely decorated but well equipped.

Following this brief, but impressive and informative tour, Captain Resnick and I sat in the office and discussed the business at hand. During our discussion, it was more than apparent that, to Captain Resnick, being one of the three fire chiefs at Station #99 was much more than a

job. It was a goal and life fulfillment that began when he was still in high school and has continued throughout his career. When asked what his favorite part of the job was, he quickly responded, "helping people."

He followed this up with a touching story of a young Valley couple who were rushing to Cedars Sinai Hospital to have a baby when they realized that it was too late and stopped at Station #99. Captain Resnick and the other firemen on duty promptly delivered a healthy baby girl. Who knew that part of a fireman's job was delivering babies? Apparently it is, because all of the firemen have been trained in birth techniques and most have participated in more than one home birth. This, however, was the first actual fire station delivery. This experience deeply touched many of the men, including Captain Resnick.

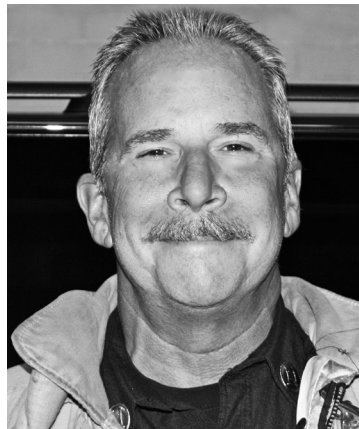
Not all stories that firemen see have happy endings. Captain Resnick related an incident where he arrived on the scene of a freeway accident to see a young girl lying dead on the

highway in her prom dress with the drunk driver who caused the accident standing over her. Captain Resnick said it was difficult not to react to this man, and when he closes his eyes he

can still see that scene in vivid detail. Although most of us think of firemen as mainly fighting fires, 95% of all of their calls are EMS, or Emergency Medical Service. On all of these calls, the fully equipped paramedics' truck, along with trained paramedics, are dispatched to the scene with the fire truck.

Captain Resnick also shared his thoughts on fire danger in Benedict Canyon. First, he said that we are very lucky not to have had a major fire in

Benedict Canyon in many decades; however, he was quick to point out how our beautiful hillside living also creates perfect fire opportunities. He said that he couldn't stress enough the importance of brush clearance and that "Fire Season", which used to run from October through January, is now year round. This means that brush clearance is now an ongoing job along with all other fire preparedness, such as keeping all of your important documents and photos together in case of evacuation. He also stressed the importance of leaving promptly if the fire department tells you to go, rather than waiting and trying to "save your house". Not only does this allow firemen access to your property, but would also prevent a traffic jam with everyone evacuating at once. Another main concern was properties with long driveways that were blocked by overgrown trees. He said often on a call, a fire truck would have to park on a main street and hoses would



Captain Steven Resnick



Captain Donna Lee

have to be dragged manually to the fire scene, a potentially disastrous time delay.

He is constantly monitoring the humidity, wind conditions and flame length which determines how fast an active fire will spread. He said Santa Ana winds could make these conditions considerably worse should a fire start.

It is as if those of us who live in The Canyon perpetually have the conditions for the "perfect storm", but in this case, it is the "perfect fire". Obviously, it is important to all of us to help our firemen do their job by doing ours to help keep the canyon as fire proof as possible.

Part of helping the firemen is not visiting the fire station or interrupting the firemen while they work. Once a year the station is open to the public. During this Fire Service Day,

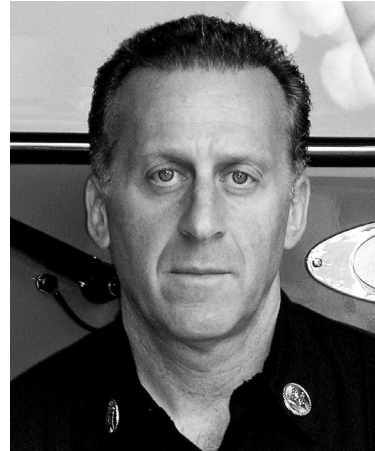
500 to 800 residents of The Canyon visit the fire station for food, a tour and fun. It is a day that is enjoyed by firemen and residents alike, but that is the only day the station is open to the public.

To assist our firemen in doing their demanding jobs, Captain Resnick stressed that if you do have an emergency you should call 911 rather than dial the fire station directly. This only slows down the process as the fire station then has to contact 911 before they can respond to your call. Also, he urges everyone to pay close attention and follow

the traffic cones and directions of the firemen whenever you see them in action in The Canyon. This will enable them to perform their services without being put in compromising positions by speeding, inattentive motorists.

Captain Resnick, along with the two other captains, Jack Reiss and Donna Lee, together with the firemen of Station #99, willingly put their lives at risk at the sound of a bell to protect us

on a daily basis. If we do our part, we allow them to perform their job with the grace, skill and courage it demands. ■



Captain Jack Reiss

"Enchanted Hill" A Cowboy's Benedict Canyon Homestead

by Michael Chasteen

In the early 1920's, after a long search throughout Beverly Hills and parts of Bel-Air, MGM screenwriter Francis Marion and her silent film cowboy star husband, Fred Thomson, settled on a 13 acre piece of land high on the western ridge of Benedict Canyon. Marion's close friend, Mary Pickford, lived down below with a number of other Hollywood star neighbors of the silent film era. Their life was to be no ordinary existence, but, one rivaling their friends, Rudolph Valentino, Charlie Chaplin and others.

Frederick Clifton Thomson was born in Pasadena, California in 1890. He set national records as a student athlete at Princeton Theological Seminary where he attended from 1910 to 1913 and played football at Occidental College. He served as a Presbyterian pastor in Los Angeles, following in the footsteps of his father.

Marion Benson Owens was born to a San Francisco advertising executive and socialite mother in 1888. A close family friend, the writer Jack London, encouraged her to expand her bohemian pretensions and precociousness by writing. After two failed marriages she met Mary

Pickford in Los Angeles and began acting in bit part roles under the stage name "Francis Marion" (a name she chose from a distant relative who was a legend of the Revolutionary War). She kept the name and would be known as Francis Marion for the remainder of her life. Acting was not to be her future. She became Mary Pickford's personal screenwriter and went on to become one of the most prolific and highest paid screenwriters in Hollywood history.

Fred and Francis were introduced by Mary Pickford while Fred was working as a technical advisor on a Pickford war movie entitled "Johanna Enlists" (1918). World War I interrupted the romance when Fred was shipped overseas where he served as an Army Chaplain in the 143rd Field Artillery Regiment (known as the Mary Pickford Regiment). Since he was a correspondent for the government in Europe, the two were able to stay in contact. They married in 1919 with Mary Pickford serving as maid of honor. Fred made a decision to become a director of western films in order to provide a model for clean living for boys around the world. He purchased the horse, Silver

Cont. pg. 18

Ravens May Be “Unkind” But Crows Are “Murder”

by Michael Chasteen

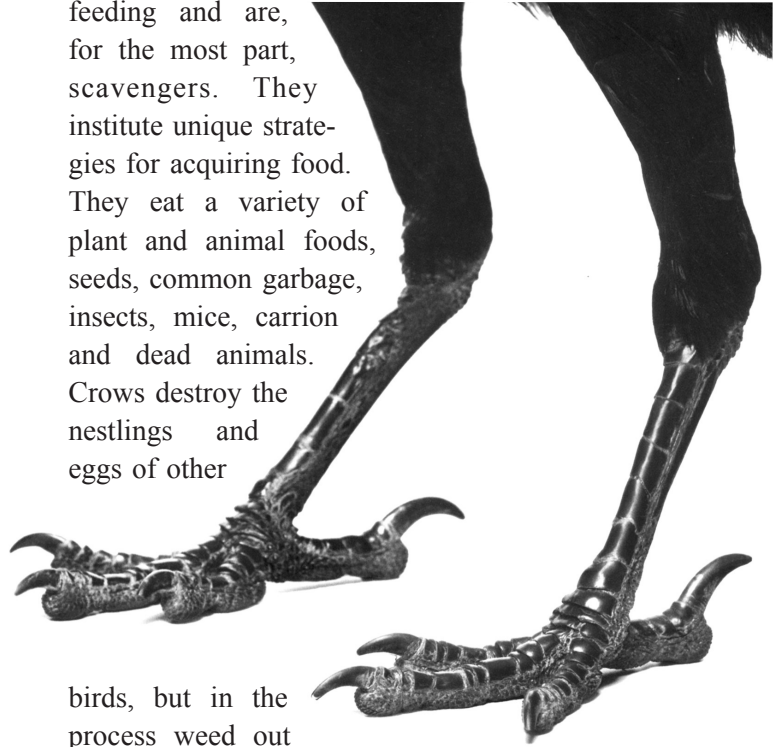
Have you ever wondered about those mysterious black birds that inhabit our canyon? It seems to me that they appear as sentries in the trees above for days and then they are curiously gone. Few birds seem as ominous or misunderstood as crows and ravens. Common Ravens (*Corvus Corax*) and American Crows (*Corvus Brachyrhychos*) both belong to the Corvidae family or corvids, which include magpies, blue jays and nutcrackers. Ravens are bigger, with a wing-span of 21 to 27 inches, a heavier, wedge shaped bill and a rounded or web-shaped tail. Their wings are more pointed. The raven’s plumage is a lustrous, funereal black, with lance-like throat feathers. The beak, mouth, tongue, legs and feet are also black. Crows are smaller, with a wingspan of 17 to 21 inches, a sharper bill and squared off tail. Crows gather in large groups to roost, while ravens are usually in smaller groups.

Ravens emit a deep croaking sound and a metallic knocking sound called a “tok or “kloo-klok” in contrast with crow’s “caw-caw”. Unlike crows, ravens often soar in the air like hawks. Crows are said to be able to express themselves in at least 24 different calls. Ravens use 64 different sounds. Both are said to be masters of mimicry, mimicking barking dogs, flowing creeks, groaning tree trunks and even human speech. Ravens are traditionally associated with death, from their practice of gathering in large numbers around a carcass. They are naturally a solitary species. Both birds nest in cliffs or the fork of a tall tree. The nest is a bulky structure which contains four to five pale-green eggs, spotted with brown. Incubation lasts about twenty-one days.

While ravens usually gather in smaller flocks, crows will gather in large flocks to roost. Such roosts may hold hundreds or thousands of birds. A collective of ravens is called an “unkindness”, while the same gathering for crows is known as a “murder.”

Crows and ravens are opportunists when it comes to

feeding and are, for the most part, scavengers. They institute unique strategies for acquiring food. They eat a variety of plant and animal foods, seeds, common garbage, insects, mice, carrion and dead animals. Crows destroy the nestlings and eggs of other



birds, but in the process weed out the weak and feeble. In addition they destroy many insects that are harmful to fruit trees.

They alert the animals in the neighborhood when danger approaches. Crows and ravens are among the most intelligent species of birds. The crow’s intelligence is the reason attempts to ward them off by use of a “scarecrow” in the garden rarely works for very long. Some studies suggest their intelligence to be on the level of the great apes.

Ravens and crows are very territorial, which is indicative of their survival. They are complex, sophisticated and engaging creatures these ominous birds of yore. ■

“And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting”

-Edgar Allen Poe

www.benedictcanyon.org

BIRD BATH & . . .

Cont. from pg. 11

Just when you were thinking that there's no need for more bird books, they came up with two new comprehensive books that are game changers. The National Audubon Society is the publisher of The Sibley Guide to Birds by David Allen Sibley. Houghton Mifflin publishes Kenn Kaufman's Birds of North America. They are requirements for any one who wants to start a bird book library.

2. Web sites

Of course there are thousands of them, so you'll have to do some surfing to find what you like best. Three I've found useful are: audubon.org - I especially like its Seattle Audubon chapter site birdweb.org/birdweb because it's easy to click on the sound link. Birdsource.org/gbbc/ tells you where and how many birds have been seen anywhere in the country and has a kids' link. The site called whatbird.com lets you click different icons for size, shape, location, sound and more.

3. iPhone apps

An April 22, 2010 article by Bob Tedeschi, "A Touch-Screen Field Guide to the Birds for Instant ID" lists a number of new apps for iPhones and other mobile devices, so you can take your bird identifier with you wherever you can get service. Serious birders, he says, should take a look at *iBird Explorer Plus*, *Audubon Birds* or *National Geographic Hand-Held Birds*.

It doesn't take much time to look out your window or walk out on your patio. You may decide to join the 46 million other Americans who call themselves casual birdwatchers. Then again, you may get serious. Either way, you'll like what you see. ■

In My Canyon View

by Rodney Kemerer

"Falling Into Autumn"

My brain is hardwired to the smells from my childhood. At this time of the year it is the smell of burning leaves. As early as I can remember, growing up in the Midwest and later in Pennsylvania, the smell of burning leaves told my brain that winter was coming. As the first pile of leaves was raked together and then slowly smoldered into flame, the smell permeated the neighborhood. It was the signal to break out the corduroy pants and sweater vests. Fall was always my favorite season, the closing in, the shutting down, the preparing for winter, never cold enough to be uncomfortable but it was the warning sign that freezing weather lay ahead.

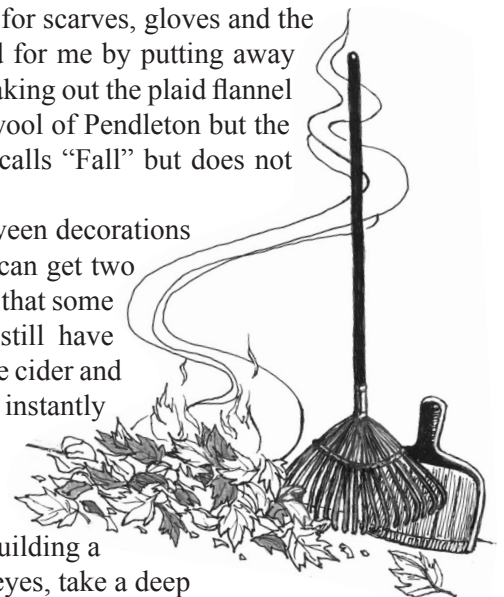
I have had to re-program my brain for living in California and specifically in a mountain canyon. Now the smell of burning anything results in a sudden panic, a threat and danger. "Fall" has been replaced by "Fire Season." What was once a smell that made me excited for Halloween and winter holidays now causes me to run outside and sniff the air like an overachieving bloodhound.

It is remarkable to me that a smell as simple as burning leaves can transform from a feeling of joy to one of terror. East coast vs. West coast. There is nothing else that I can think of that I miss to the same degree. Other smells of Fall still remain unaffected by geography. I love the smell of the furnace the first time it is turned on when the weather is cold enough. The smell of the summer dust burning off the furnace is reassuring. It only happens once a year, like the first frost. You can only smell it the first time you turn on the furnace, then you have to wait another year. It is like the furnace waking up from a long sleep to then begin its winter job. I also love that cold crisp thick air you first notice early in the morning when you go outside. The difference is that in the East, it lasted all day. Football weather some call it. In California, it is only in the morning, the sun burns it off well before noon.

There is no breaking out of the snow tires with their deep rubbery aroma or rustling through the hall closet looking for scarves, gloves and the clothes of winter. It has been replaced for me by putting away the Hawaiian Shirts of summer and breaking out the plaid flannel shirts. Not the heavy east coast plaid wool of Pendleton but the cottony lightweight stuff that J. Crew calls "Fall" but does not really feel "Fall."

I've been known to put up Halloween decorations on the first day of September just so I can get two full months of Autumn visuals. I swear that some of my childhood decorations (yes, I still have them) still smell of burning leaves, apple cider and carved pumpkins. A heady mixture that instantly sends me back in time.

Today, when I get nostalgic for the Full Fall Experience, I'll put a handful of dried leaves in the fireplace before building a log fire. I'll light the leaves, close my eyes, take a deep inhale and for a brief minute, fall back to the Autumn of my childhood. ■





Don Fenmore 1939-2010

Don graduated from the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania in 1961 with honors and was elected to Beta Gamma Sigma, the honorary business scholastic society. He won the Mirkil Award for the outstanding senior thesis in the field of real estate and later also became a CPA.

After graduating USC Law School in 1965, he joined the Tax Division of the US Department of Justice in the Los Angeles office of the US Attorney. While a Justice Department attorney, he tried and won a celebrated tax case involving the deductibility of the famous 256 foot racing schooner the "Good Will", which was the largest racing schooner on the West Coast.

While a partner at the law firm of Loeb and Loeb in Los Angeles in the 1980's, Don was lead counsel to the construction lender (Wells Fargo) of the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, as well as for the construction of the 1250 room Hilton Waikoloa Village Hotel (then known as the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa Hotel) at Kona, Hawaii.

Active with the Beverly Hills Bar Association, in 2001 Don authored a proposed state bill, patterned after a federal statute, permitting interim appeals of certain contested legal issues in order to expedite the litigation process. It was introduced to the California Assembly as AB2865 and was signed into law by then Governor Gray Davis on September 19, 2002 and is now California Code of Civil Procedure Section 166.1.

In 2004, Don chaired the first ever golf tournament for the Beverly Hills Bar Association. In 2008, the Association awarded Don with its Distinguished Service Award for outstanding leadership as Founder of its Annual Golf Tournament 2004-2006.

Don also served on the Board of Directors of the Benedict Canyon Association and authored various articles in its Newsletter. He was well respected on the Board and his service to the community was appreciated.

Don and his wife, Sandy, shared a warm and loving marriage of 41 years. Don was a fun-loving, kind and compassionate person. He was greatly admired and loved and will never be forgotten. Don is also survived by his loving daughter, Tanya, and brother, Barton Fenmore.

Most of all, Don will be remembered for the love, laughter and precious moments he shared with his wonderful friends throughout his 71 years. The BCA Board of Directors mourns his passing. ■

Paramedics – An Expensive Ride

by Mary Ann Musico

When a resident calls 911 for a paramedic, both the fire engine and the paramedic units will respond. An assessment will be made as to the specific condition or complaint of the patient and either aid will be given on site, or the patient will be transported to the closest facility, depending upon availability of care and space.

The paramedic visit for assessment, without transport, is currently part of a city service and no fee is charged to the person receiving care. With the present budget crisis in Los Angeles, this non-fee situation may soon change. However, there is a charge if the paramedics must transport the patient to a facility. This cost is charged to the patient's insurance company. If there is no insurance, then

the bill goes to the patient directly. If the patient doesn't pay, the bill goes to collection and ultimately, if not paid, the patient's credit is affected. Low income patients must submit documentation to get a reduced rate. The charge for Advanced Life Support (ALS-two paramedics supplying intensive care) is \$1,004.00 plus \$15.75 per mile. A Basic Life Support (BLS, an EMT with limited care) is \$712.00 plus mileage. The 911 operator will determine which service is dispatched at the time of the initial call, depending on the nature of the emergency.

Residents are cautioned to use a paramedic only for an emergency medical issue. Unfortunately, some residents call for minor situations, reducing the availability of units for more urgent calls. ■

Fire Station 99 Turns “Green”

by Mr. Greenjeans

If you have driven by Fire Station 99 recently, you may have noticed a new look. The look is a water sensitive, drought tolerant, fabulous garden. Its diversity ranges from artificial grass and butterfly bushes to lantanas, roses and red hot poker. The crape myrtles are now in bloom with their great reds and pinks. These trees bloom both in the Spring and late Summer and love the heat. There are also California sycamores and Canary Island pines. The large tree that hangs over the picnic table is a California pepper, most likely more than 75 years old.

Next time you drive by, stop and, without disturbing



the firemen, take a walk around.

The artificial grass is really a wonder that most people can't believe. Take your shoes off and walk on it. This turned out to be the best thing for the men and women at the station...no more mowing! Now they can have picnics under the pepper tree and enjoy the wildlife that has come to

take up residence in their new landscaped home.

Did you know that lawns require more water and maintenance than anything else in your garden? We should all spend more time in our gardens, hopefully with a little less work and more enjoyment. ■

2010 BCA Membership Premium Gift

For the 2010 Benedict Canyon Association Membership Drive, The BCA Membership Committee is offering a free BCA logo imprinted collapsible umbrella. This large green umbrella will be sent to you upon receipt of your paid BCA 2010 Membership at the Eucalyptus Level (\$250.00) and above. The umbrella features an all-metal shaft with one touch button opening feature and an oversized wooden handle with a wrist strap. A large 60" arch covers you and a loved one in any Canyon downpour and folds neatly away into its own nylon carrying case with shoulder strap. You will be "Singin' In The Rain" while helping to protect Benedict Canyon. Supply is limited, so sign up today and become a BCA Member and never worry about the weather again.

BCA Hotline: 310.553.4222 (4BCA) Website: www.BenedictCanyon.org

ENCHANTED HILL . . .

Cont. from pg. 13

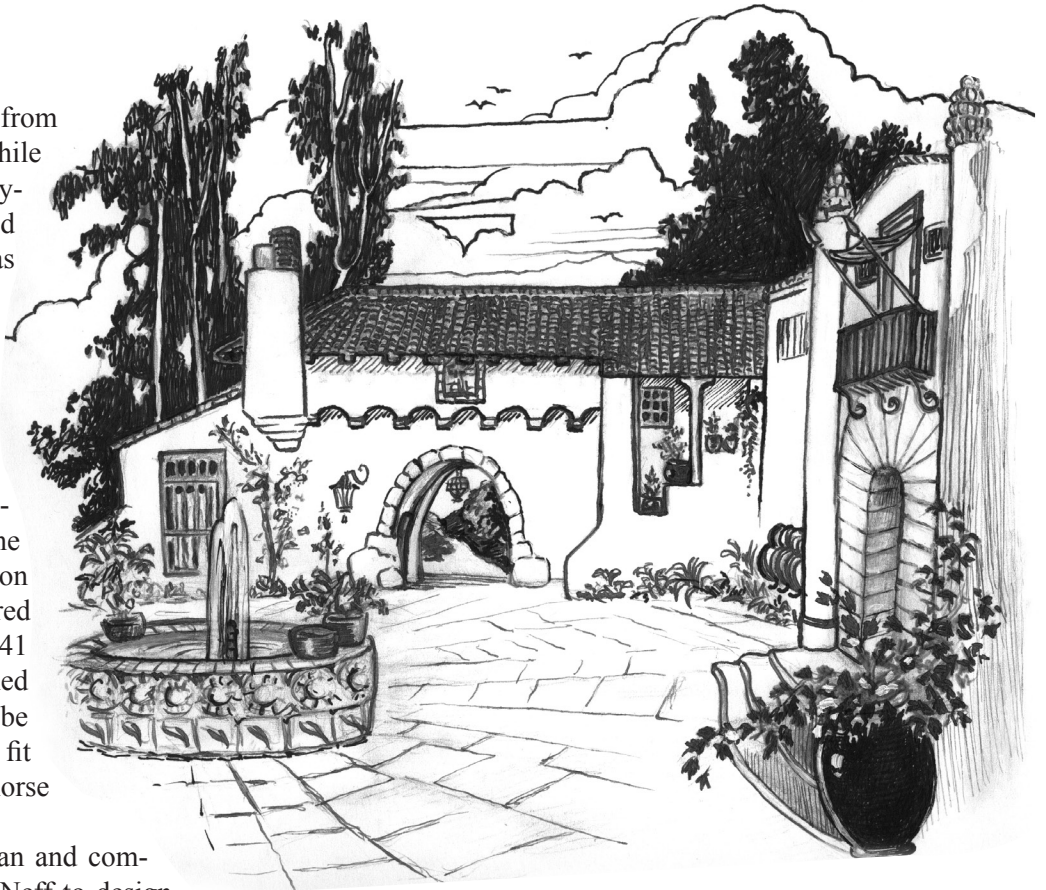
King, who measured 17 hands high, from a riding stable in New York City. While studying the film business in Hollywood and training Silver King, Fred replaced a bit player in a film and was an immediate success as an actor.

It was 1923 and Benedict Canyon was for the most part virgin to land development. One could say it was the Wild West, complete with coyotes, deer, mountain lion, bobcats and the frequently encountered western diamondback rattlesnake. One day while riding up primitive roads on horseback, Fred and Francis discovered the property which was to become 1441 Angelo Drive. Here, they envisioned their new homestead, which would be centered on an equestrian lifestyle, fit for Silver King, the dapple gray horse featured in Fred's films.

They added 11 acres to their plan and commissioned upstart architect Wallace Neff to design an estate consisting of a gatehouse, guesthouse, living quarters for the ranch hands and a 10,000 square foot main house for them and their two children. A key component to the master plan was a riding arena and stables with floors made of mahogany to accommodate over 20 horses. Entertaining was paramount to Fred and Francis and they enjoyed riding the many trails above and around Benedict Canyon with their fellow Hollywood cowboys and visitors from around the world. The estate was known as "Enchanted Hill".

The project was completed in 1925 and proved to be one of Neff's most significant architectural contributions. Wallace Neff, an MIT graduate and grandson of Andrew McNally of the Rand McNally Co., was known for his signature Spanish Revival Homes. This style symbolized true Southern California gracious living. Neff grew up in Altadena on the 24 acre olive and citrus ranch owned by his grandfather, which shaped his vision and architectural palette at an early age.

At the time of the building of Enchanted Hill, Fred Thomson rivaled Tom Mix and was the No. 2 box office star in 1926 and 1927. Many of Fred's western films were written by Frances who also wrote under the name of "Frank M. Clifton".



One day, while working in the stables, Fred apparently stepped on a rusty nail. This led to a misdiagnosed case of tetanus and his premature death at the age of 38 on Christmas day in 1928.

Frances went on to become the first woman to win an Academy Award for a non-actress category. She won two Oscars for writing "The Big House" in 1930 and "The Champ" in 1931. Her marriage in 1930 to George W. Hill, the director of "The Big House," ended in divorce. He soon committed suicide. Her career slowed after the death of her mentor, Irving Thalberg. She continued to write for MGM until 1946. Francis Marion died in Los Angeles in May of 1973.

Paul Kollsman, a German immigrant, inventor of aviation instruments and founder of Snow Valley Ski area in Vermont, purchased Enchanted Hill in 1945. He and his wife, Baroness Julie Dorothea Baronin von Bodenhausen, added land adjacent to the estate which grew the property from 24 to a total of 120 acres.

What at one time was called a "poetic hilltop paradise, a timeless homage to the natural beauty that was once Los Angeles", the landmark estate was demolished in 2000 by Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, just three years after he purchased it. ■

Who Is For The Animals?

by Nickie Miner

One evening, Paul Darrigo pulled over to the side of the 101 Freeway to ask if he might help two Highway Patrol Officers who had stopped to assist a dog with a broken leg lying on the road. The officers told Paul they were waiting for Animal Control to come, but that it would be a long wait. Paul wrapped the dog in his coat and took the suffering animal to a veterinarian himself. This story, fortunately, had a good outcome, as the owner was found and the dog eventually recovered.

In another incident, Paul encountered a scared, confused dog darting about on the highway. The dog turned out to be a pet let loose by the owner to wander the streets. When Paul rescued the animal, he found a note rolled up in her collar, which read: "Hi My name is Daisy. I am 5 years old. I'm spayed. I like children. Please take care of me". Daisy is now in foster care waiting to be placed in a proper loving home. These heartbreaking situations underscore the need for us to take



responsibility for these creatures that cannot help themselves.

Who is for the animals? Paul Darrigo is for the animals. A young man with a kind heart and a great deal of energy and determination, he was a Reserve Police Officer in his hometown of Totowa, New Jersey. Paul always enjoyed public service. He moved to Los Angeles in the mid 1990's to be an actor but his schooling in electronics led to his expertise as a MAC Technician.

In the City of Los Angeles, Animal Control serves a vital purpose, yet the Department's budget has been cut along with other City Services. There are only two Animal Control Officers on duty at any given time during the night to cover the entire Los Angeles area from San Pedro to Sylmar. Officers are needed for rescue, to handle complaints, issue summons for abuse or violations of code and the list goes on. We in the hillsides particularly require Animal Control for situations involving our wildlife.

Paul is for all animals, from dogs and cats to wild life and even snakes. Realizing the desperate need for more people to help, Paul set out to do something about it. He made a commitment to add ten new volunteers to the Reserve Animal Control Officers (RACO) program. At that time, the RACO Program, which originally began in Los Angeles in 1982, was nearly extinct. Brenda Barnette, the new General Manager of Animal Services, likes the idea so much that she plans to continue the program on an ongoing basis. Paul is using his skills to revitalize RACO. He talks to all the neighborhood councils sharing information about the program and how our participation will serve the community. Paul spoke at The Beverly

Crest Neighborhood Council and our own Benedict Canyon Association Board Meeting.

Our Councilperson, Paul Koretz, hopes for "Zero Kill" in Los Angeles animal shelters. So many of us sincerely want to help but don't know how. This is our chance to step forward and contribute where it counts. For information on how to be trained to be a Reserve Animal Control Officer volunteer, to foster an animal or donate funds necessary to building the RACO program, you may contact Paul Darrigo directly at fedguy2@pacbell.net. You can make a difference. You can save a life. ■

Benedict Canyon Association

Benedict Canyon Association Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Chasteen	President
David Berger	Vice-President
Rodney Kemerer	Vice-President
Nickie Miner	Vice-President
Vera Dunn	Secretary
Alan Fine	Treasurer

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Claire Carafello

ADVISORS

Michael Vignieri – Land Use

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

David Berger	Mary Ann Musico
Marcy Braiker	Barbara Nichols
David Elson	Brittney Post
Don Loze	Paul Rhorer
Mark Montgomery	Joanne Savage

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Rodney Kemerer – Editor
Vera Dunn
Joanne Savage
Aron Kincaid – Artwork

Copyright © 2010 by
The Benedict Canyon Association
All Rights Reserved



Benedict Canyon Association
P.O. Box 1265
Beverly Hills, CA 90213-1265

PRSRT FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BEVERLY HILLS, CA
PERMIT NO. 1719

Deliver to Addressee
or to Current Resident

HELP PROTECT BENEDICT CANYON



BECOME A BCA MEMBER

- DETAILS INSIDE THIS ISSUE -



This Man Knows Where You Live . . .

See inside for what
he has to say about
Your Canyon
Your House
and You . . .