

Benedict Canyon

Fall 2013

Benedict Canyon Association Newsletter

Volume VI Issue 2

The First “Edson A. Benedict Award”

by Michael L. Chasteen

In 1868 a homesteader from Booneville, Mo. settled into a ravine in the Santa Monica Mountains that was part of what was known as Rancho de las Aguas, or “Ranch of the Waters.” Full of Oaks and chaparral, abundant with wildlife along with golden eagles, several species of hawks, owls and falcons; this peaceful place would later be named by this pioneer; Edson A. Benedict, as Benedict Canyon. One hundred forty-five years later; at this year’s annual meeting, The Benedict Canyon Association had the privilege of honoring one of our members, Hugh O’Brian with the first **Edson A. Benedict Award**. The Edson A. Benedict Award acknowledges excellence in character and service to the community, over and above expectations.

Born in Rochester, N.Y. Hugh attended high school in Winnetka, Illinois and later Kemper Military school in none other than Booneville, Mo. After a short time at the University of Cincinnati, during WWII, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps., becoming the youngest drill instructor in Marine Corps. history.

After the war and an honorable discharge from the Marines he moved



Hugh O’Brian

to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the theatre. He studied at Los Angeles City College and UCLA. Hugh then began a successful film career with Universal Pictures. Following 20 films with Universal he signed with 20th Century Fox and starred in three films as well as numerous television shows.

Most of us would come to know him as the legendary lawman, Wyatt Earp, from the top-rated CBS western television series “The Legend of Wyatt

Earp” that debuted in 1955 and ran for seven years. Hugh appeared regularly on other television programs and had an illustrious career on the Broadway stage.

His contributions to television earned him a star on the Hollywood walk of fame and he was inducted into the - Western Performers Hall of Fame, in the National Cowboy & Western heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

With all of his success in show business and stardom he never lost sight of civic and philanthropic opportunities. He reinvested his good fortune by helping others around the world, dedicating most of his life to youth development and leadership, empowering them with opportunities and encouragement. Since it’s inception in 1958 over 365,000 young people have been inspired by his non-profit youth development program, which he founded after spending nine inspirational days with the Nobel Laureate and great humanitarian, Dr. Albert Schweitzer at his clinic in Lambarene, Africa.

He was also one of the founders and first president of the Thaliens, a group of young Hollywood stars who formed the organization to help children with mental

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health problems. He founded an acting awards competition at UCLA in his name, designed to bring recognition to outstanding young actors and actresses at the university.

Hugh has 8 Honorary Doctorate Degrees from various Universities and too many service and philanthropic awards to mention here. Since he purchased his home atop Benedict Canyon in 1958, he has been a steadfast citizen and pillar of our community, always supportive and encouraging the Benedict Canyon Association in all that we strive to do. He has made Benedict Canyon a better place for each of us today and into the future. He inspires us all to choose to be givers, not takers; not to settle for merely existing, but to seek a meaningful life.

The Edson A. Benedict Award embraces the characteristics we come to expect in service, selflessness and commitment to community, its intent might be best summed up in the following quote as penned by this year's honoree.

"I believe every person is created as the steward of his or her own destiny with great power for a specific purpose, to share with others, through service, a reverence for life in a spirit of love."

Congratulations Hugh in receiving this award. The Board of directors and stakeholders in "the canyon" thank you and Virginia again, for your lifelong support of this beautiful place that we all call home.

BCA Contact info:

Mail: P.O. Box #1265,
Beverly Hills, CA 90213-1265
Email: info@benedictcanyonassociation.org
Hotline: 310.553-4BCA (4222)
Website: BenedictCanyonAssociation.org

President's Letter

The Benedict Canyon Association (BCA) represents the interests of our residents in a wide variety of ways that are essential to protecting our Canyon's special aesthetic. For more than 65 years, the Benedict Canyon Association, comprised of resident volunteers, has worked to preserve and protect our Canyon.

Change in flight paths of fixed wing commercial aircraft from Burbank (Bob Hope) Airport now have planes circling low over upper Benedict Canyon with ever increasing frequency, causing invasion of noise, environmental pollution, concern for public safety and harm to the wildlife corridors. We recently had a hard won meeting with FAA officials and the representative of our U.S. Congressman, Henry Waxman.. This will be an ongoing issue until flight patterns revert back to flying over the flat San Fernando Valley. If your residence is impacted by flight noise, contact BCA through our email or the hotline.

The BCA is involved in efforts to control "party houses" and to minimize the impact of state licensed rehabilitation facilities in rented canyon homes. The client traffic from some of these homes burdens our narrow winding roads and raises our concerns about the hazards of smoking in our hills. We are also addressing the damage to canyon streets from oversized trucks and are working with LAPD and the City Attorney's office in efforts to control both speeding and congestion on Benedict Canyon Drive.

In an effort to monitor development projects, the BCA works with our Councilman's office, the City's Planning and Building Departments, and interfaces with property owners seeking City discretionary approvals. We were a driving force that led to limits on the height of retaining walls that have scarred canyon slopes, the Hillside Mansionization Ordinance and are now working toward a Ridgeline Ordinance to save the beauty of our remaining hilltops.

Please take note of our recently cleaner roadway, due to the efforts of two of our board members who now regularly pick up garbage that is disgracefully thrown from passing vehicles. The beautiful potted trees in lower Benedict Canyon, which camouflage "the wash," are not to be taken for granted, as they are maintained with the BCA's support and the tireless dedication of a canyon resident. They were originally installed as a BCA project.

It is only with everyone's commitment and support through active membership, yearly, that the Benedict Canyon Association can continue to provide Canyon residents with the vigilance and dedication to our hills that all of us, at one time or another, have needed or will need.



Nickie Miner
President, Benedict Canyon Association



BY MAIL: P.O. Box #1265, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-1265
BY EMAIL: info@benedictcanyonassociation.org

Emergency Information *(This information will not be shared with anyone)*

Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
Work Phone	
Email Address	

Special Considerations

Please check below if appropriate:

I, or someone in my household, is a physician

I, or someone in my household, has limited mobility or other impairment (vision or hearing impairment)

I, or someone in my household, is an EMT

I, or someone in my household, has a ham radio and knows how to use it.

I, or someone in my household, is a nurse

I, or someone in my household, knows CPR.

Benedict Canyon List-Serve

Please add me to the BCA list-serve so I will receive occasional emails about issues in the Canyon.

Benedict Canyon Association LAPD Contact List

Emergency:	911	Crimestoppers Tip Line:	800-222-TIPS
Non-emergency Police Dispatch:	877-275-5273	LADOT/Par king Enforcement:	213-485-4184
LAPD-WLA Station Desk:	310-444-0701	All Other City Departments:	311
LADP-WLA Detective Desk:	310-444-1580	Graffiti Removal:	311
Senior Lead Officer: Chris Ragsdale:		Official Police Garage Tow:	10-478-1201
Office:	310-444-0741	Benedict Canyon Association:	
Cell:	213-305-5895	Phone	310-553-4222
email:	26690@lapd.lacity.org	Website:	Benedictcanyonassociation.org
website:	www.lapdonline.org		

Trash or Treasure

by Michael Chasteen

It has been said that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, what he doesn’t appreciate the next man will.” Such is not the case regarding the litter that peppers Benedict Canyon; it is simply trash, no treasure here. In addition, I am quite sure that none of us appreciate it. This galaxy of trash appears in many forms; from the familiar beverage containers created out of glass, aluminum, plastic and Styrofoam to entire car bumpers.

Additional items include hubcaps, concrete blocks, cans of paint, five gallon buckets of drywall mud, rags, knives, screws, screw drivers, nails, paper bags, plastic bags, broken glass, looong sheets of plastic, batteries, tires and an assorted number of unidentifiable pieces or parts of something. Did I mention cigarette butts? There are hundreds.

How do I know, you ask? Approximately eight years ago I had seen enough. Waiting and watching to see if “the city” would do its job in keeping our canyon clean; I gazed with curiosity at the “street sweeper” that would rumble by periodically at a snails pace, its yellow light blinking with a disingenuous authority. Creeping at it’s petty pace, a rolling shadow, a poor player, strutting and fretting its hour upon the street and then is heard no more, a tale full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Like some misguided invention from an eastern block country it rolled; a dichotomy in itself, stirring up dust while leaving the muck in its wake. The volumes of garbage continued to grow.

I started on a Sunday afternoon. Loading up my Grand Cherokee with a scoop shovel, sharp bladed shovel, industrial broom, rake, and hoe. Along with a box of industrial grade garbage bags, I took it upon myself to start by ridding the lower entrance into the Sheila



Agnes Nature preserve of the ugliness that was choking out its beauty. It seemed a travesty that such a place, dedicated to the memory of a robust young life lost too soon, had been disrespected and turned into a dumping ground. It occurred to me that if it was to be cleaned up it was up to me. I hauled out bag after bag of the items mentioned earlier along with a book of wedding photographs, tossed aside and ruined by the rain. It seemed that the more I picked up, more would appear while scouring the abutting curbs.

That started a manhunt and obsession to rid the canyon of this blight from top to bottom. The following day like a pinball, I made my way down from Mulholland Drive, working both sides of Benedict canyon to the Sheila Agnes Preserve. The next day I plundered south down to Clear View Drive. The final day I started from the Beverly Hills City Limit and worked back to Clear View Drive. I used my broom and scoop shovel to buff out the gutters and clear the storm drains, plugged with debris. What a relief as I got in my car, driving along while admiring the fruit of my labor; but wait what’s that up ahead? A soft drink can just south of Yoakum Drive. Continuing on, my eyes fix on a six pack of empty beer bottles and a fast food bag. At Sheila Agnes there was a fresh assortment of broken car body parts from an apparent accident. I had an epiphany; the business

of environmental order is never complete as long as automobiles traverse our canyon. No sooner does one pick up a can or bottle another seems to appear in its place, so I continue my efforts on a regular schedule. The work goes on - Man against refuse.

On April 7th, I was joined by a new board member; Matt Post in my mission. Together we tackled upper Benedict Canyon and into Sheila Agnes hauling out the usual suspects along with abandoned city owned cautionary work signs and orange cones.

Keeping the lower portal to the Sheila Agnes Nature Preserve neat and orderly has become a personal commitment of mine. I consider it a privilege as I toil and labor. As for the rest of the canyon, we all have ownership in that too. I urge you to join me and the Benedict Canyon Board of Directors in helping us to maintain a clean environment. I always carry a heavy duty trash bag in my car for that impromptu moment that would allow for a convenient place to stop and pick up something discarded, returning another time if conditions are unsafe. Please pick up any trash left behind by waste management around your personal containers. Take a short walk on your side of the street and dispose of anything that has been cast aside. Help us to keep our community one of the most admired in the city of Los Angeles.

Please join us for the Benedict Canyon Association Annual Meeting, January 27, 2014 at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Sunset Room, 7-9pm.

Hike, Shoot, Learn The Ropes – It’s Not What You Think (Photo Hikes in Franklin Canyon)

by Barbara Blinderman

If you’re looking for a chance to learn more about your digital camera... or want to take your family on a nature hike and take some pictures with your iPhone ... Franklin Canyon’s docents have done it again. **Joanne Chase Mattillo offers “Capture a Nature Moment.” Renata Sdao’s program is “Nature in Focus.”**

They are both experienced docents and photographers who happen to love the Franklin Canyon scene. http://www.lamountains.com/programs_calendars.asp is the site to find the right time and place for your excursion, which are given monthly. There is no charge for the programs and well-behaved children, accompanied by adults, are permitted.

Joanne, whose first docent led walk was a morning bird watching trek in 1990, became entranced with the canyon’s photo opportunities and has been leading monthly public photo walks in Franklin Canyon since 1991. She earned her Master of Fine Arts from California State University in 2000. She says: “When leading the photo walks I discuss photographic techniques that can enhance and capture the stunning compositions provided by the natural setting of the 605 acres of Franklin Canyon. I encourage photographic tips from fellow walkers that they, as well as I, can use for their best images.”

Joanne was so enraptured by the beauty she found in Franklin Canyon that, to share her photo experiences, she published “LA NATURAL: FRANKLIN CANYON 3D – THE OTHER 90210,” in 3D. The book is available for free digital download and purchase at www.magcloud.com (Outdoors and Nature.)

Renata is a volunteer naturalist with the division of interpretation of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MCRA). She acquired her first digital camera in 2003. She loves the park and notes that “it lends itself well to photography offering a wide range of subjects like wildflowers and intimate landscapes as well as wildlife.” Her favorite subjects? “I really like the upper section of the park with the lake at its center and Heavenly Pond. I like to take one of the trails like Blinderman, the Ranch Trail, or the DWP Road and end up at Heavenly Pond, where there are plenty of opportunities for wildlife shots of ducks and other waterfowl, turtles, and a variety of birds and even some colorful fish.”

As to what kinds of cameras to bring? Renata’s reply: “People have brought everything from top of the line SDLRs to cell phones and either extreme is okay. I recommend that anyone who needs help with their camera bring the manual with them.”

You’ll never know if you can capture the landscape and wildlife like Joanne and Renata have on these photos until you try it. Check out the MCRA website (again, it’s: http://www.lamountains.com/programs_calendars.asp and sign up or show up. Franklin Canyon is ten minutes from here. If you’ve never been there, these programs are your reason for seeing what’s there.



ILLEGAL PARKING COULD BE LIFE THREATENING

Many of our canyon streets, and some areas of Benedict Canyon Drive, are narrow. Where safe passage is threatened, "NO PARKING" signs are posted. Unfortunately, some signs have been illegally removed.

IF FIRE ENGINES AND PARAMEDICS CANNOT PASS DUE TO ILLEGALLY PARKED CARS, A LIFE CAN BE LOST OR A FIRE COULD DESTROY A HOME SIMPLY BECAUSE THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE COULD NOT PASS!

If paramedics can't drive to a victim, they will leave the fire truck and walk to the victim carrying all of their equipment—and the additional time that walking this distance takes could result in a fatality.

Please park legally and use your garages when possible. If someone else's car is parked illegally you can call 213.485.4184 to report it and a citation will be issued. You need to tell them the car is parked illegally and is creating dangerous conditions.

If you are aware of a removal of a NO PARKING SIGN or feel that you need one in your neighborhood, call 310.575.8138.

On "Red Flag" days, parking restrictions are placed on narrow canyon streets in brush areas. No cars can be parked on a red flag alert street that could block fire trucks from driving the full length of the street. Improperly parked cars are subject to towing during red flag alerts.

BLOCKING THE STREET IN "NO PARKING" ZONES COULD RESULT IN CRIMINAL OR CIVIL LIABILITY IF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE CAN NOT PASS. PLEASE INFORM YOUR GUESTS, SERVICE PEOPLE OR CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL OF EXISTING PARKING REGULATIONS.

Dudley Trudgett, a Landscape Architect and Benedict Canyon Treasure

by Garrett Carlson, Landscape architect, Benedict Resident

It took 25 years to finally publish my book, The Design Legacy of R. Dudley Trudgett. Although he was known as a colorful, verbal, activist member of the Benedict Canyon community (and a Director of the Benedict Canyon Association), few knew of his local, national, and international reputation as a Landscape Architect. His concern for our canyon environment and his keen awareness of the great value of our trees had a great influence on our community which exists to this day.

Dudley was born in Berkley, Calif. in 1908 and died in Los Angeles in 1985, at the age of 80. He graduated from Berkley with a degree in Landscape Architecture in 1934. From here he went to Harvard graduate school of design. In 1936 he joined the Navy and fought in WW 2. After the war he went to India with a special group of designers to design small cities around New Delhi. He came back to the states in the early 50s and went to work for a Landscape Architect in LA, Phil Shipley.

While working for Shipley, Dudley designed a great number of projects all over the world. Some of the local ones: Trousdale Estates, Las Vegas Tropicana, Palm Springs El Dorado Country Club, Howard Hughes Research Center in Malibu, Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, plus residences for the likes of Clark Gable, Walt Disney, Steven Spielberg, Ronald Regan, Lew Wasserman, Frank Sinatra, Kirk Douglas, Aaron Spelling and the list goes on and on.

Dudley bought his house on Reevesbury in the early 50s and that's where he died. During his years in the canyon he was involved in the BCA till the end. When Dudley died in 1985 I bought his house and use it as my office. I met Dudley in 1973 when I graduated with a degree in Landscape Architecture and started working for him. Dudley was one of the very best Landscape Architects on the West coast and one of the least recognized. If you knew Dudley, you will have to agree with me that he was quite a character and one of the most brilliant designers that I have ever met. He was also a great friend to many of us.

In Addition...Dudley "The Original Tree Hugger"

by Mary Ann Musico

Dudley had an inordinate respect and genuine love of trees. He especially loved the main thoroughfare of Benedict Canyon Drive, lined with numerous eucalyptus trees. For some reason the city decided to take down some of these trees which had grown to amazing heights. There was no way Dudley was going to stand by and let these beautiful trees be destroyed. As an active member of BCA, he came up with a rather unorthodox solution to stop the tree removal. He proposed tying children to the trees to draw attention to the neighborhood protest! My son, then quite young, was one of the children volunteers. The civil protest was successful and the trees were saved. My son, now an adult, with children of his own, remembers this incident vividly.

Just last year, the city once again decided to cut back the beautiful tree canopy that is a highlight of Benedict Canyon. The community responded again with a demonstration, the media and numerous meetings with officials, and again saved our trees. The eucalyptus trees that were saved all those years ago by Dudley Trudgett are still on Benedict Canyon today. I cannot help but believe that Dudley's spirit is with us and knows we are still following his lead in protecting the trees. This is a legacy for which we are truly thankful.

(310) 553-4BCA

Benedict Canyon

BENEDICT CANYON ASSOCIATION 2013 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

2013

2013 BCA "Trees of Support" Donor Program Roster

OAK TREE

Bruce & Martha Karsh
Linell Shapiro
(1) Anonymous

SYCAMORE TREE

Benedict Hills Estates Association
Alex Bouzari
Urban S. Hirsch, III
Barbara Jaynes
In Memory of Jessie and Fiona
Greg & Nancy Meidel
Joseph & Shani Moran
Hugh & Virginia O'Brian
Jackie Patterson
Ken Ramberg
Art Spence
(1) Anonymous

EUCALYPTUS TREE

Barbara Berkowitz
Jacqueline Bisset
David & Barbara Elson
Burton & Nanette Forester
Evans Frankenheimer
Robert Gerner
Paul & Renee Haas
Nicholas Hertneck & Lawrence Lazzaro
Ian & Doris Vartan La Frenais
Michael Libow
Gene Lucero & Marcia Williams
Stephen Maitland-Lewis & Joni Berry
Sally Mason
Helen Miller
Larry & Nickie Miner
Eustace Moore
Mark & Irene Montgomery
Carl R. Neu
Rick Nicita & Paula Wagner
Anthony E. Nicholas
Fred & Joan Nicholas
Kevin & Elizabeth Parry
Jackie Patterson
Steven Rosenwasser & Kelli Sager
Jim & Rachelle Rosten
Albert & Wanda Ruddy
Carol Saikhon
Beverly Sassoon
William Scheetz
Sheldon & Andrea Shapiro
Hillary Slevin
Lev L. Spiro & Melissa Rosenberg
David Topper
Joe & Marjorie Walsh
(4) Anonymous

PINE TREE
MaryBeth & Ashley Abdo
Robert & Maria Abeloff
Michael & Elaine Agran
Jim Anderson & Lynn Fireside
Suzy Aspinall
Steven S. Badeau & Jim McConville

Rajive and Anju Bagrodia
Elizabeth L. Barbatelli
Steven Bradley Beer
George & Carolyn Bender
Robert & Irma Bercutt
Florence Blaustein
Ronald Boldt & Judith Shelton
Ellen Brown
Ron & Jan Cannan
Jeffrey & Judy Caren
Gary & Rochelle Carmona
Betty Chaplin
Eric Cleveland & Annette Stanton
Jeffrey & Rachel Cohen
Rafe Cohen
Hal Cooper
Alessio & Josephine Coppola
Francis & Eleanor Coppola
Mark & Maggie Damon
William & Marilyn Davis
Morris & Marlene Dennis
Joe DiStefano & Beth Rubin
Laurence & Judith Dornstein
John & Julie Eidsvoog
Sandy Fenmore
Alan Fine
Henry & Julie Fisher
Philip Forte
Mark Freeman & Andrew Webb
Samuel & Ardyth Freshman
Evelyn C. Furtak-Dorfman
Mark & Laurel Gallucci
Judith Gasson
Bruce & Julie Goldsmith
Marvin & Inger Gross
Jack Grossbart & Marc Schwartz
Roger Halfhide & Patricia McVerry
Kyle & Kimberly Harimoto
Bill & Chris Harper
James & Jean Harris
Mary Ridings Herman
Bruce & Lynn Heymont
Elizabeth Levitt Hirsch
David & Susan Horn
Terry Jackson
Nancy Jacoby
Joel Jaffe
Julie Jaffe
Stuart & Shirley Stamen Jaffe
Elizabeth James
In Memory of Gloria Kahn
Archie Kapp
Matthew Kesler
Michael J. Kopcha
Rosa Koppens
Robert Kopple
Jodi Korn
H. Kramer
Don & Hope Kurz
Marvin & Patti Lachman
Alan Landsburg
Howard & Carol Levy
Mark Liszt & Karyl Sisson

Elaine Lotwin
Mr. & Mrs. Mahdavi
Robert & Mindy Mann
Tom & Linda Markovitz
In Memory of Miles
Bob & Matlin Mirman
Mary Ann Mobley
Ira & Bethany Moretski
Dagmar Moscowicz
Richard & Sandra Mosk
Mr. & Mrs. James Murphy
Maryann Musico
Maud Nadler
Barbara Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. William L. O'Toole
Dick Perlman
Gary & Nita Polinsky
Lawrence A. Post
Matthew & Brittney Post
Phil Proctor & Melinda Peterson
Colleen Miller Ralphs
Max Ramberg
Jamie & Jennifer Rhonheimer
Andrew & Kelly Robinson
Paul Rohrer
Gil & Val Romoff
Arlene Rosen
P & D Ross
Jim & Rachelle Rosten
Larry & Sunny Russ
Joanne Sackheim
Christopher Saigal & Hollis Leech
John & Gayle Samore
Robert & Margaret Sanford
Robert & Marilyn Schnair
Gene & Myrna Schwam
Ken Schwartz
Samuel Schwartz
Arthur & Arlene Schwimmer
Martin & Sheila Seaton
Ron Shalowitz & David Bailey
Evelyn Shapero
Norm & Libby Shapiro
Betty Shelhamer
Barbara Shuler
Linda Silver
Jay J. Silverman & Janet Wood
Jordan Slavin & Melissa Bernstein
Brent Smith & Lisa Engel
Cortez Smith
Andrew Solt & Claudia Falkenburg
Jeff & Annie Stein
Beth Talbert
Phillip & Millicent Torf
In Memory of Dudley Trudgett
Robert J. Wagner
Brandt & Tobi Wax
John Winters
Judy Wolfenstein
Cynthia Wornham & Ann Philbin
Phillip Yaney & Jackie Keller
Gregory W. & Virginia S. Young
(9) Anonymous

Annual Fire Station Open House Fundraisers Really Make a Difference

by Barbara Nichols, Harold Tennen and Capt. David Valadez (#71), and Capt. Scott Gribbons (#99)

Fire station #99 on Mulholland Drive serves Benedict Canyon from Mulholland to Clear View Drive. Fire Station #71, at Sunset and Beverly Glen serves Benedict Canyon from Sunset to Clear View Drive. When danger strikes in Benedict Canyon both fire stations will often respond and work together.

When you or a loved one is ill, or there is a fire or other emergency you call 911 and our dedicated firefighters and paramedics come to your aid. We need to think about our wonderful fire stations before there is an emergency and come to their aid. Many residents may not realize that the city provides only the bare minimum for each station. The firefighters pay daily "house

dues" to cover many items they use daily. They pay for their own food, cooking utensils, cable and internet. If they need other items they have to take out a loan from the LA Fire Credit Union and each firefighter is charged a daily assessment to cover the monthly fee. Our Fire Stations are grateful to the many residents who have "adopted a fire station" and contributed to their needs with the volunteers and hard work needed to put on the Open House days once a year. Contributions are always appreciated.

Some of the things your donations have helped to pay for at Fire Station #71 are:

- washer and dryer in 2011
- refrigerator for their kitchen in 2011
- carpet for the dorm and training room in 2012
- A generator junction electrical box for a generator that DWP charged the station \$8,000 for and they still need the generator!
- Tree trimming along the side and back of the station, not provided for by the city
- Gym equipment donated by the community
- Mattress pads for the crew beds in 2011
- A resident recently donated a new dishwasher that the fire crew installed
- Residents also helped directly with a major project several



Station 99 open house volunteers from BCA are Mary Ann Musico and Diane Smith

years ago to redo the air system in the station which was sending toxic fumes into the crew sleeping area and update the kitchen.

Some of the things your donations have helped to pay for at Fire Station #99 are:

- Community concern helped secure an updated fire engine and retain a paramedic unit
- the jaws of life was a purchase from funds donated and has helped to save lives
- a new compressor
- upgrades for the tool room
- upgrades for uniform storage
- attractive landscaping at the entry
- kitchen remodel
- numerous tools for the fire trucks
- comfortable chairs for the crew on break and TV's
- training room chairs

Both Fire stations have "wish lists" for things they still badly need not provided by the city.

Fire Station #71 would appreciate the following, or donations to purchase these:

- A TV in the training room as the 12 year old projection

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Contributions received after July 31, 2013 will appear in our next publication

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TV has finally died after 6 repairs. A flat screen 60" or 65" would be great and is used for power point training presentations and training videos. This is a top priority item.

- new shower doors
- Jaws of life
- a generator
- Cabinets, tools and upgrades to the work/tool room
- six new recliners for the rec/training room
- cordless phones
- Canopies for car parking
- Some landscaping and a small stone sign with "LAFD, Engine Company 71" for the front yard at the corner so east and west bound traffic can see it



Nickie Miner at Station 71 Open House

Fire Station #99 would appreciate the following, or donations to purchase these:

- Exercise equipment
- TV monitor

This year 850 residents attended the Fire Station #99 open house with a barbecue lunch. Food supplies were donated by local merchants, as were other items in a silent raffle. Fire Station #71 had their annual pancake breakfast, attended by about 400 residents. They also had merchandise donated for the event. These are wonderful family events to bring children to and help them learn what firefighters and paramedics do for our community. Please drop by next spring and attend one of these events. If you can supply, or contribute funds toward any of the needed items the city won't pay for and the stations need, please do so and thank them for all they do for us.



Firefighters with fire truck station 71

GOODBYE, Mr. METER READER!

by Alan Fine

Southern California Gas Company is now initiating an upgrade of its system known as the ADVANCED meter project. This entails installing advanced meter communication devices at all existing residential and business natural gas meters. What does this mean? Once installed, gas consumption will be read electronically and transmitted wirelessly to the Gas Company. No longer will that nice fellow come to your house regularly to read your meter. (Not that you have ever seen him!)

The benefits? People with locked gates will no longer have to make special arrangements. Residents with vicious puppies will not need to be concerned about the safety of the meter reader. Most importantly, you will have access to your hourly

usage online with tools to manage it. Also it will take 1,000 Gas Company vehicles off the road, eliminating approximately 140,000 tons of greenhouse gases a year.

Does this mean that the old clunky gas meters with the little dials will be replaced with a sleek new electronic box? No. You will still keep that faithful old meter. All that happens is that they attach a small battery operated device to it that covers the dials, reads the information, converts it to electronic signals and transmits it to a nearby antenna. It turns on for only a fraction of a second a day, for a total of less than two minutes a year. The operational savings, once this project is complete, will be passed on to customers. It is estimated that this new program, which has just started and will be installed

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(310) 553-4BCA

(continued from page 10)

on about 6 million meters, should be completed by 2017.

An option is available for anyone who does not want to participate in this program and still have the meter read manually. (Although I don't know why anyone would do so!)

Current information indicates that the installations in our area will begin in December 2015. The process takes about 15 minutes, unless a routine replacement of the whole meter is due.

The other question that may be asked is where the Gas Company will install the antennas, known as Data Collection Units (DCUs). Most of them will be attached to existing light poles and will not be conspicuous. Proposed locations in the BCA area so far are: 3226 Hutton Dr., 1320 Davies Dr., 1520 & 2240/2260 San Ysidro Dr., 2680 Deep Canyon Dr., 10132 Hillgrove Dr., 1460 Donhill Dr. and 3216 Summitridge Dr.

For more information visit socalgas.com/advanced or call (800) 427-2200

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COYOTES, THE CALL OF THE WILD

By Marcy Braiker

It is a privilege to live in a rural environment, yet be on the edge of a large city. While it is delightful to see deer at play on occasions, the canyons and surrounding mountains are also home to potentially dangerous animals such as Coyotes, Mountain Lions, Bob Cats, Snakes, Bats, Spiders and more. In their defense, they were here first. Here are a few facts about Coyotes: They are primarily nocturnal, but can often be seen during the day. Coyotes have been known to live a maximum of 10 years in the wild, and seem to be better than dogs in observational learning. Female Coyotes come into heat between late January and late March. Litter size ranges from 1-19 pups, the average being 6. Around 21 to 28 days after birth the pups begin to come out of their den, and by 35 days are fully weaned. They attain full growth between 9 and 12 months. The calls you hear a coyote make are often heard at night, but may sometimes be made during the day. Often times these calls are made throughout the year but are most common during the spring mating season, and in the fall when the pups leave their families.

Coyotes are carnivores. They primarily eat small mammals such as ground squirrels, rabbits and mice. They actively hunt cats, and leap even tall fences to take small dogs, which are easier to catch than squirrels. Coyotes will commonly work in teams when hunting larger animals such as deer or larger dogs. The average distance covered in a night's hunting is about 2 ½ miles. Coyotes are not inherently bad; they play an important role in the canyon by helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are, by nature, fearful of humans. However, if coyotes are given access to human food, pet food or garbage, their behavior changes. They lose their caution and fear, and could threaten human safety.

What can you do? The Department of Animal Services

suggests the following guidelines: Do not leave small children or pets outdoors unattended. Do not approach or try to feed wildlife such as coyotes. It is a violation of the law (L.A.M.C. 53.06.5). Deliberately feeding wild predators puts you, your pets and your neighbor's pets at risk. You should also remove your pet's food dish when your pet has finished eating and do not leave any food outdoors. Keep your trash in secured containers and spray ammonia occasionally in the trash to cut down food odors. If the squirrels have already eaten all the fruit off your trees, pick up any fallen fruit and berries on the ground. Keep your property well lighted at night and use motion activated lights when possible to alert you to activity outdoors.

What should you do when you see a Coyote? Many residents in Benedict Canyon have had encounters with wild animals. Christmas night, several years ago, we lost a small Maltese dog to a coyote, and it was a heartbreaking experience. Coyotes have become bold and less fearful of human contact. The Department of Animal Services encourages you to never let a Coyote go by without trying to scare it. If you do encounter a coyote, do not turn and run; it might chase you. You can make yourself appear larger by waving your arms and yelling loudly at the coyote. Carry a walking stick or umbrella when out on walks so you can use it to frighten the animal. Opening the umbrella will make you look larger than the animal, and that may scare it away. Use anything to make loud noises such as air horns or whistles, or have rocks or golf balls to throw at them. Keep your pet on a leash and close to you and be aware of your surroundings when taking a walk. Cats should be kept inside at all times, and dogs must be kept under direct supervision.

(1) "Coyote Attacks: An Increasing Suburban Problem"

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or to Current Resident

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