

NEWSLETTER

24 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO RESIDENTS

MAY, 1972

BARBARA FINE, EDITOR 278-2651

Living with continuous crises has become a pattern of life rather than an exception for hillside residents of Los Angeles. In such an atmosphere, we are often apt to forget there is still much we can control about the quality of life in our Canyon. Listed below you will find just a few areas in which the personal help of you and your family is urgently needed to make our lives and those of others in our Canyon safer and more pleasant.

#### SELF-HELP: BCA MEMBERSHIP

The first thing you can do is to join your homeowner's group. Our membership chairman, Mrs. Lewis Topkis (Barbara) will be happy to answer any questions you have concerning the BCA. Call her at 276-8195. And if you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 1972 by mailing us your check for \$10 as soon as possible, using either the enclosed envelope or the usual form on the back of this Newsletter. Do you have new neighbors? Won't you tell them about us and urge them to join?

#### SELF-HELP: BRUSH CLEARANCE

In this year of drought, we already face an extremely high danger from brush fires. From now on, especially when those dry Santa Ana winds blow in from the deserts, we could be facing disaster. Because of this unusually high fire danger we ask you this year not to wait until your fire insurance policy is cancelled or you are cited by the Fire Department, but to **CLEAR YOUR BRUSH NOW.**

Is there brush on adjoining property within 100 feet of your house which should be cleared? If so, do not wait for it to be caught and cited on a routine Fire Department inspection, but call a local engine company and tell them about it. Phone 478-0731, West Los Angeles City Hall, Ext. 699, (Fire Station 99), if you live on Upper Benedict; if you live on Lower Benedict, ask for Ext. 571 (Fire Station 71).

Unfortunately, even after the Fire Department issues a brush clearance notice, it is a lengthy procedure to force compliance if an owner is uncooperative. We are urging faster action from the Fire Department, but in the meantime the brush becomes drier and more explosive. A long delay in removal can mean the difference between a small fire and widespread destruction. Please, do your part; don't wait to be told. Although the service in no way constitutes an endorsement, the above Fire Stations upon request will also supply a list of brush clearance firms registered with them.

Watch for more information on brush clearance and fire danger due to appear soon in the *West* magazine section of the *Los Angeles Times*. The article will be authored by Benedict's Harriet Weaver, our brush clearance - fire insurance expert, and a force behind the City's present brush clearance ordinance.

#### SELF-HELP: SPEEDING

You may have noticed the wooden sign cautioning drivers that they are in Benedict Canyon, a residential area and should watch their speed has been replaced at the top of Benedict near Mulholland Drive. The same Mexican feeling as in the original and also as that of a similar sign on lower Benedict near the storm drain area has been retained. Our thanks to Chuck Crail for his help with this job.

It will benefit us all to remember that the message on these discreetly-placed signs is intended for *all* drivers in the vicinity of Benedict Canyon, not merely through-traffic. This means area housewives late for various daytime appointments as well as impatient rush-hour drivers — and not only on Benedict Canyon but on all side streets as well.

#### COURTESY STOPPING

Our former President (two terms) and "hillside expert," Lil Melograno, suggests that besides watching our speed, we give a break to all drivers attempting to enter or leave traffic on Benedict Canyon by stopping to allow them a moment to get in or out of their driveways, or to enter the main traffic flow from a side street. This courtesy takes only a few moments; we may not appreciate it fully until we ourselves are aided by it, and realize how much it can help.

#### SELF-HELP: SIGN CONTROL

Excess signs on Benedict have been creeping up on us. Now the problem is such that passersby no longer notice individual signs but rather how cluttered all of Benedict Canyon Drive looks. Here are several ways in which you can help control this clutter:

No sign, for any purpose, should be more than 12 square feet in size. Also illegal are signs advertising merchandise or services for sale within on a regular basis. Please call the Department of Building and Safety, at 478-0731, if you see any such signs and firmly request that Department to have these illegal signs removed.

#### POLITICAL SIGNS

In this highly political year, a note to all political candidates and their supporters: "sniping" that is, the practice of posting signs on utility poles and other public property, is illegal and will not be tolerated in Benedict Canyon! According to a recent article in the *Canyon Crier*, this practice violates two sections of the Municipal Code. Both police officers and Department of Public Works employees are empowered to remove all such signs and charge those persons responsible for posting them for all costs incurred in their removal. Please do not have your campaign become counterproductive in our Canyon; use other, more effective means of advertising.



## GARAGE SALE SIGNS

Upon considerable inquiry, it has been found that occasional "garage sales," held in private residences and consisting of personally-used merchandise, are not illegal. A new state law, however, requires persons in charge of events such as art or flea marts to compile a complete list of items being offered for sale, a copy of which must be filed with the local police department prior to the start of the sale. So...other than to state that "sniping" is illegal, whether it applies to campaign posters, real estate offerings, community events or garage sales, we have little to guide us except our own consideration for our neighbors.

Because more area residents live on streets which run off the Canyon than on Benedict itself, there are bound to be more garage sales held in homes on these streets, yet the signs will still be appearing on Benedict Canyon. PLEASE, those of you who are thinking of holding garage sales this year, won't you consider the appearance of your neighborhood and not ask permission to post five or six signs on private property on Benedict Canyon when one sign will do? That will make it all the easier to remove the sign when the sale is over.

## ALLIED CANON SIGNS

We should take note that the Allied Canon people have erected a small sales office for their project on upper Benedict, near Mr. Bone's house, and are now beginning an extensive advertising campaign, complete with bus tours of the now-devastated area. Thus far, many small signs have been illegally posted on Mulholland and Benedict.

One final note on signs to those of you living on Benedict Canyon Drive: if you see signs which are illegally posted, not pertaining to our Canyon, or are excessive in number, REMOVE them yourself, do not wait for your neighbor to take them down.

## SELF-HELP: OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

You can now help to safeguard your possessions against burglary. We'd like to remind you that the etching kit you read about in the *Canyon Crier* is available, for a \$2 rental fee, from Mrs. Richard Mosk (Sandy), 1531 San Ysidro Drive, 278-5498. Its effectiveness has been proven, according to results compiled by Chief Everett F. Holladay of the Monterey Park Police Department. The kit has been proven to be most effective when all portable items such as bicycles, appliances, television and hi-fi equipment, etc., are etched with your California driver's license number, since this number can be traced easily by law enforcement agencies.

Included in the kit is a window decal with a BCA insignia stating your possessions have been marked, thus discouraging potential burglary. The Operation Identification kit also contains complete operating instructions. Please, when etching, do not forget to indicate it is a *California* driver's license number you are engraving.

Our thanks to Benedict resident Allan Gardner for his letter urging the Association to adopt this worthwhile program.

## SCHOOL BUS CRISIS IN BENEDICT

Will public school students living in Benedict Canyon have bus transportation next September? When the Superintendent of Schools recently released his "austerity" budget for fiscal 1972, no funds for bus transportation were provided. Since then, the Board of Education has voted to provide busing only for those students voluntarily transferring from earthquake-damaged schools. The question of all other school busing remains undecided, pending receipt of state funds, the amount of which will not be known until the summer.

In the meantime, the Board of Education is holding public hearings on the matter of its 1972 budget. Speaking for the Benedict Canyon Association at a recent budget hearing was Mrs. Lewis Topkis (Barbara), who serves as BCA public school liaison. Mrs. Topkis was joined by Mrs. Harry Keaton (Minto) of Angelo Drive, President of Westland Council PTA (13 Westside elementary schools), and Mrs. Jerry Epstein (Louise) of San Ysidro Drive, who spoke for the Concerned Canyon Voters for Better Education.

Even after this hearing, Mrs. Topkis tells us, we still face an uphill fight to have school busing restored in our Canyon. Out of seven Board of Education members, only three, Dr. Donald Newman, Dr. J.C. Chambers and Richard Ferraro, favor our urgent request. Opposed are Mrs. Georgiana Hardy, Dr. Julian Nava, and Dr. Robert Docter. Phillip Bardos is uncommitted.

Your Association is doing all it possibly can to have our public school buses restored. But more help is needed. Mrs. Topkis asks that those of you who will be directly affected please write or phone:

Board of Education,  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
450 North Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90054

Correspondence should be addressed to the attention of:

1. Dr. J.C. Chambers, Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee, thanking him for supporting us.
2. Mr. Phillip Bardos, also a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, urging him to support our needs.

Below are some of the factors to be stressed in your letters:

- **HAZARDOUS TRAFFIC CONDITIONS** existing on Benedict which has no sidewalks, and Sunset, Wilshire and Santa Monica Blvds., all of which might have to be traversed by alternate means, e.g., bicycles.  
Lack of buses would also create traffic jams and generally unsafe conditions around school buildings, due to increased automobile traffic generated by parents letting students off and picking them up.
- **DISTANCE.** We are about 3 to 5 miles from Warner Avenue Elementary School, four to six miles from Emerson Junior High, and seven to nine miles from University High.
- **UNAVAILABILITY OF SECOND CAR.**
- **MOTHER UNABLE TO DRIVE.**
- **TIME and ATTENDANCE.** Many families have two or more children attending different schools, or within the same school classes may begin or end at different times.
- **14-YEAR OLDS CAN DRIVE.** If no other reasonable means of transportation is available, the Motor Vehicle Code states that persons as young as 14 years of age may be issued a special license only for driving to and from school. In our opinion, on busy city streets, these persons are too young to exercise careful judgment when operating a car or motorcycle.

Please, parents, do your part and write! Write also to State Assemblyman Charles Conrad and State Senator Lou Cusanovich in Sacramento, urging them to fight hard for state funds for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Please note that the Board of Education telephone number has been changed to 687-4000, and the "Hot Line" number to 687-4500.

If funds for school busing are not restored, we do not know if we would be allowed to charter buses ourselves, since present School District requirements state that if the District is engaged



## WHAT CAN ONE NEW COUNCILMAN DO?

Can one Councilman in one year make any major changes at City Hall?

Councilman Joel Wachs has now been in office ten months. His answer: no, but with the help of activist citizens' groups like the Benedict Canyon Association, he can make a start.

His Second Councilmanic District extends from Toluca Lake to Encino, from Laurel Canyon Blvd. to parts of Beverly Glen Blvd., and from Sunset Blvd. north to Ventura Blvd. During a recent two-hour discussion, we focused on the Benedict Canyon area. Here are some specifics:

### TRAFFIC

"Traffic is one of the most frustrating problems of all," Wachs said, and he does not believe he has been able to change the philosophy of the Los Angeles Department of Traffic. Although Benedict Canyon is both a traffic route to the Valley and a residential community, Wachs pointed out that Traffic Department head S.S. "Sam" Taylor "is concerned only with the free flow of traffic." Wachs feels that, as a Councilman, he has been effective in promoting the use of radar and better police coverage for traffic law enforcement, but that until the City accepts the concept that it is sometimes desirable for traffic to move a little slower in order to have a safer community, there will be no basic improvement. He has given considerable thought to the problems, however, and made the following suggestions:

### PROPOSALS FOR TRAFFIC PROBLEM WITHIN BENEDICT CANYON

- Use of radar for police enforcement is a definite possibility.
- Additional traffic control devices, such as traffic lights, are needed and will be pushed by his office.
- Use of speed inhibitors and regulators, such as bumps in the road and additional stop signs to slow down traffic on side streets such as Hutton and San Ysidro Drives, are considerations for the future.

### THROUGH-TRAFFIC

- Is opposed to the widening of all hillside streets such as Benedict Canyon Drive, or doing anything else which would in any way worsen present traffic conditions for residents.
- Actual reduction in amount of traffic on such streets as Benedict Canyon depends on implementing mass transit plans.
- **MINI-BUSES.** He is introducing a resolution into the City Council requesting a feasibility study of mini-bus use in hillside areas. Specifically, he would request the Rapid

Transit District to investigate the use of mini-buses from Ventura Blvd. via Laurel Canyon Blvd., and Coldwater and Benedict Canyon Drives to convenient southerly termini on Sunset, Santa Monica and/or Wilshire Blvds.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

"I want a park in every community in my district," Wachs states. To this end he has already found funds to turn city-owned land into two Valley parks: the North Hollywood Park is expected to be ready in July, while part of the Sherman Oaks Children's Park should be ready by June.

The City owns no land in Benedict Canyon that he is aware of, and money to acquire land is not now available. Because of this lack of land, Councilman Wachs would greatly welcome all reasonable proposals for obtaining land for park use in this area, such as through easements or tax deductible land donations to the City.

### LAND DEVELOPMENT

As a result of his experience with the Allied Canon development and other such tracts, Wachs feels that, at least within his district, the various City departments are beginning to insist that developers obey all legal restrictions placed upon them by City ordinances. These departments know he does not expect standards or conditions of existing codes and laws be eased for the benefit or convenience of the developer at public expense. Wachs feels this is a major accomplishment, for a change in the City's attitude of favoring special interests to one of protecting the public is essential.

### DYNAMITING IN DEEP CANYON

Wachs is appalled by the use of dynamiting in the Allied Canon tract. He has urged the Fire Department to use its discretionary powers to restrict the size of explosives being used in order to protect the surrounding community. He will also introduce legislation prohibiting all future dynamiting of this kind in residential areas.

He feels Los Angeles has been controlled too long by economic interests whose activities conflict with and are damaging to the public interest. "To make an institutional kind of change is not very easy," Wachs has found. "The only meaningful counterforce to the kind of interests that have been running this city is active citizen involvement."

Councilman Wachs' message, in other words, is that he is trying, but the fight has just begun. To us he says: "Be interested, be informed, and be involved."

We feel we now have an added advantage in our own fight. Our Councilman is not only aware of our problems, but he also listens to us.

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in busing, parents of public school children cannot themselves hire buses. If private charters would be allowed, then the Harvey Bus Company is the only bus company franchised for our area.

Monthly rates per child would start at approximately \$30, depending upon the distance travelled.

For further information, please call Mrs. Topkis at 276-8195.



## LAPD HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE

We now have more information about the proposed Los Angeles Police Department's helicopter surveillance program, called ASTRO (Air Support for Regular Operation).

The helicopter would serve primarily as a means of support for ground patrols. Thus, it would not usually land at the scene of a crime but would keep track of a suspect and guide ground patrols to him. It would be equipped with a powerful searchlight, loudspeaker and siren which would awaken and warn residents in case of crime or other emergency.

Because of noise, a conventional helicopter would be grounded after 2:00 a.m. It would land for refueling after every three hours of flight and occasionally for emergencies; these landings and take-offs would be noisy. The LAPD believes that a new muffler system which will shortly be ready for use, will cut this noise factor by half. At present, the LAPD has two jet helicopters in service which have few noise problems. These are used only for flights after 2:00 a.m.

The LAPD would not quote us exact cost figures, but has stated that one conventional helicopter initially costs as much as 6.2 radio cars. Ideally, the LAPD would like to see the two police heliports it presently operates increased so that there would be one of top of each police station.

We again remind you that the LAPD is requesting one helicopter for the West Side. In Benedict Canyon, it would join those already in use by fire departments, the L.A. County Sheriff, local radio stations reporting on rush-hour traffic conditions, and realtors and other private businessmen.

Hearings on the helicopter program in our area will not be scheduled for some time, so there is still time for the BCA to learn the views of its members towards the proposed flights. The Association intends to take a position based on the views of its members. For your convenience we have reprinted the helicopter questionnaire which appeared in the last BCA newsletter, and again request you take a few minutes of your time to fill it out and mail it to us as soon as possible. If you wish, you may use the enclosed envelope for both your dues (if you have not paid them) and the helicopter questionnaire. Call Sandy Mosk (278-5498) if you have any questions.

## LAPD HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE: QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE BY THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE BENEDICT CANYON AREA AND MAIL PROMPTLY TO:

Sandy Mosk  
1531 San Ysidro Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210

YES NO

1. Do you favor the use of LAPD helicopters for crime detection and deterrence in residential areas? ☐ YES ☐ NO
2. Do you feel helicopters would be effective for:
  - a.) crime deterrence? ☐ YES ☐ NO
  - b.) crime detection? ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Do you favor locating a police heliport on Mulholland Drive? ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Do you favor locating a heliport or helistop within 1,000 feet of a residence? ☐ YES ☐ NO
5. Do you feel the LAPD should have landing rights in hillside areas:
  - a.) with unlimited access? ☐ YES ☐ NO
  - b.) for emergency purposes? ☐ YES ☐ NO
6. Is noise a principal factor for your objection to the use of police helicopters? ☐ YES ☐ NO
7. Do you object to:
  - a.) helicopters in flight? ☐ YES ☐ NO
  - b.) landings and take-offs? ☐ YES ☐ NO
8. Do you favor allocating city funds to provide the West Los Angeles police division with its own helicopter? ☐ YES ☐ NO
9. Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_



## ALLIED CANON DEVELOPMENT DEED RESTRICTION SUIT

The new date for a request for a summary judgment in the suit in which Allied Canon is trying to break the deed restrictions in Upper Benedict is May 19. The case will be heard in Department 63 of the Superior Court at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to attend if possible.

We have had many reports of violations of working hours at the Allied Canon site. A Los Angeles ordinance states that no grading operations should take place between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or on Sundays. For violations of this ordinance or any other general improprieties please call the West Los Angeles Police Department. They have indicated they will do their best to help us.

### BCA BRIEFS

#### BCA PRESIDENT TO SPEAK

"The Road to Environmental Disaster: A Trip to City Hall," the case study of the environment and City Hall politics in the instance of the Allied Canon development, will be the subject of a presentation by BCA President Mrs. Elliott Blinderman (Barbara) at an environmental conference to be held on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Riviera Country Club, 1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades.

The conference will be concerned with *The Environment and the Economics of Open Space*. It will be sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains, and will include prominent political figures like Rep. Alphonso Bell and State Assemblyman Paul Priolo. Speakers will include representatives from government, labor, industry and the public, who will discuss and analyze the need for open space and its economic and social costs.

Admission is \$6.50 per person. Students with ID cards may attend free if they bring their own lunch; otherwise their admission charge is \$2.50.

For reservations, call Ruth Mortenson at 472-4401.

#### BENEDICT CANYON CALENDAR

Board member Chuck Crail is collecting scenic photographs of Benedict Canyon for possible use in a BCA Calendar for 1973. If you have any such photos, preferably in color, in reasonably good condition, please call Chuck at 274-2174.

#### THE LOS ANGELES HANDBOOK

If you've ever felt like pounding the telephone because you needed something done and you've made fourteen different calls and been kept waiting by "just a moment, please, I'll find out where to transfer this call" responses and you still haven't gotten the right department -- you'll love canyonite John Weaver for his new book "The Los Angeles Handbook". It's an expansion and improvement on his extraordinary article in West magazine "Help! A Hand Guide to Various and Sundry Public Assistance Agencies You Can Never Find Except When You Really Don't Need Them." More than a compilation, it tells you who to call when and why. A Price/Stern/Sloan Paperback Service Guide, \$2.95. It should be at your bookstore any day.

### BULLETIN

Writ of Mandate Suit against the City will be heard by California Court of Appeals, Division 5, on Thursday, May 18, at 1:30 P.M. You will be notified of further details.

## ALEXANDERS LEAVING

The BCA will lose two of its most dedicated workers this month when Mr. and Mrs. Richard Alexander (Charlotte) move to Santa Ana. Charlotte has been an active Board member these past years, especially in the areas of Canyon beautification, planning, and the flea marts. Richard has served as head of the special Planning Committee for the Deep Canyon tract.

We wish the Alexander family the best of health and good fortune in their new home.

In an action typical of their involvement with the BCA, we were informed that the Alexanders are not saying goodbye to us -- they will be receiving the Newsletter at their new address, and intend to see us all at the next Annual Meeting!

## NEW BCA BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Nathan Prusan will be replacing Charlotte Alexander on the Board of Directors.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS OF CANDIDATES

It is now possible to obtain the environmental records of the major Presidential candidates, and also the voting records of all Members of Congress. If you are interested, send \$2 for Presidential profiles, and \$1 for Congressional environmental records to:

Joanne Leonard  
California League of Conservation Voters  
Post Office Box 500  
Los Angeles, California 90046  
Telephone: 656-0120

### WESTSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Many of our members have asked where they can take their rubbish for recycling. You may have a little drive, but all glass jars, aluminum and steel cans, newspapers and magazines can now be taken to the Westside Environmental Center, located in the parking lot behind the Co-op Market, 2021 South Barrington Avenue (near Olympic Blvd.) in West Los Angeles. The recycling Center is open every day and night.

A major concern in the past in the operation of other recycling centers has been that the public has not bothered to wash out jars and cans adequately, or to remove metal rings from "no return" bottles, or to flatten cans. As a result, sanitation problems have developed and the volunteer help has not been able to keep up with the amount of trash deposited. The BCA urges you to prepare all rubbish for recycling properly before transporting it to any recycling center.

The Westside Environmental Center needs volunteers to work at its recycling center and on its other activities, which include environmental education displays and fund-raising sales. For more information on how to prepare rubbish for recycling and to volunteer your time to the Westside Environmental Center, contact Ralph Kunin, President, at 478-3429.

### FREE BUSES FOR LOS ANGELES?

Councilman Ernani Bernardi is considering the idea of providing free bus service for the Southern California Rapid Transit District. Bernardi feels this idea is not as far-fetched as it sounds, for this plan is presently in use in other U.S. cities. According to him, expanding the bus system and making it free will work. There will be some federal funds available for such a project.

Inevitably, many questions will arise which will have to be answered before a free bus plan can be implemented. Some of the more obvious are: Who is going to pay for the service? Will it prevent a fixed rail system from being built? Would people in Los Angeles use buses even if they were free?

If you have any opinions on this matter, or would like to be involved further with the mass transit problem, please call Mrs. Monroe Mendelsohn (Sally) at 271-6340.



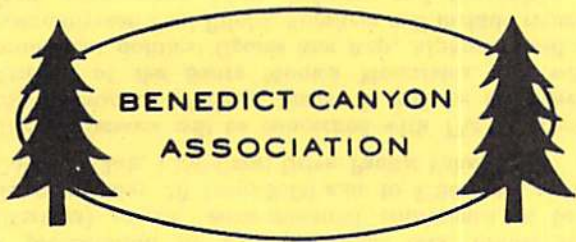
☐ DONATION  
☐ Enclosure includes  
dues plus donation

DUES: 197  
☐ New  
☐ Renewal

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES: \$10  
(INCLUDES CANYON CRIER SUBSCRIPTION)  
BENEDICT CANYON ASSOCIATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 1265  
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90213  
Mail to:

NOTE: If your number is unlisted, please indicate. Your privacy  
will be respected.



P.O. Box 1265  
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90213

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