

Camino's _____ Newsletter of the Arcadia Historical Society _____ Spring 2016



**OPENING DAY
at the
METRO GOLD LINE**



Arcadia Historical Society
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 Arcadia, CA 91066
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arcadiahistoricalsociety.org

Prince Erik Hall Office
 2607 S. Santa Anita Ave.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 25 Monday AHS Day-Out Dining Fundraiser at Matt Denny's from 11am to 9pm
- May 15 Sunday FRIENDS' Garden Party at 438 W. Norman Ave, 2 pm – 4pm
- May 24 Tuesday Thoroughbred Racing Walk of Champions Fundraiser: A Salute in Red & Black at the Arboretum from 5:30pm to 9:30pm
- June 26 Sunday General Membership Meeting at Prince Erik Hall, Program: "Growing Up in the Arcadia Area," Speaker - Jerry Selmer, 5pm

Arcadia Historical Society Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Karen Hou, President | Carol Libby, 1 st Vice President |
| Beverly Street, 2 nd Vice President | Gil Stromsoe, Treasurer |
| Char Wong, Recording Secretary | Gene Glasco, Past President |
| Directors: Jolene Cadenbach, Beth Costanza & Gail Marshall | |

Celebrating 64 Years of Service

Coming up, AHS will be celebrating its 64th year of service and is holding a fundraising event at Matt Denny's on April 25 from 11am until 9pm. You will find an insert in this newsletter about the details. Come when you can and be a presence in this celebration.

"Let's make some noise for AHS."

THE CHRONOLOGY OF ARCADIA'S RAILWAYS

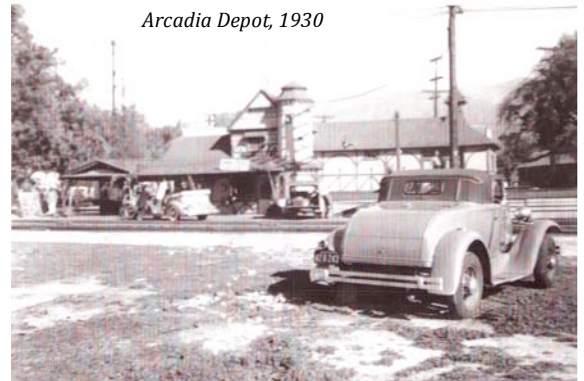
- 1883 The Los Angeles & San Gabriel Railroad Company is organized.
- 1885 Baldwin grants a right-of-way through his ranch property to this company. Two depots are planned.
- 1886 The Los Angeles & San Gabriel Railroad reaches Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia.
- 1887 Arcadia Depot is built on First Ave & Santa Clara Street; Oakwood Hotel is across the tracks, late 1887.
- 1887 The Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad incorporates the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Railroad Co.
- 1887 The San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad Company is formed to operate from Los Angeles to Monrovia.



John McCoy Family, Arcadia Depot, 1900

- 1890 Santa Anita Depot on Baldwin's ranch is completed north of Colorado Blvd and Old Ranch Road.
- 1903 On March 1st, the Pacific Electric "Red Car" connects through Arcadia.
- 1911 In November, the Oakwood Hotel is destroyed by fire.
- 1932 The Arcadia Depot closes.
- 1933 The road to Chantry Flats is completed.
- 1940 The Santa Anita Depot closes.
- 1941 The Huntington Drive overpass of the Santa Fe Railroad is completed.

- 1951 The "Red Car" service is discontinued to Arcadia.
- 1968 Dismantling of the Santa Anita Depot begins. The Arcadia Historical Society spearheaded this restoration project.
- 1970 A reconstructed Santa Anita Depot is dedicated on the Arboretum grounds.
- 1971 Santa Fe Railroad discontinues passenger service.
- 1971 The 210 Foothill Freeway is dedicated.



Arcadia Depot, 1930



Arcadia Depot, 1930

- 2009 The site of the Metro Gold Depot will be at First Ave & Santa Clara Street.
- 2010 The Gold Line Depot plans are unveiled.
- 2011 Construction of the Gold Line overpass on 210 Freeway begins.
- 2016 Metro Gold Line, Arcadia Depot Dedication is held on March 5th.

IT'S BACK March 5, 2016

The Arcadia Depot and Rail Travel has once again returned to the same location as it was in 1887, but with a different look.



The Reawakening of Hotel Constance



The Arcadia Historical Society was honored to have Architect Bob Ritner present his experience of restoring the Hotel Constance of Pasadena to society members and guests on January 28 at Prince Erik Hall.

Mr. Ritner related that this project has been the greatest challenge in his career from its structural, architectural and historical aspects. He believes his childhood created his interest in restoration. In the summers when his friends were traveling to distance places with their families, his father took him to riverbeds and ravines to retrieve items for restoration, particularly junk cars.

Constance V. Lewis Perry, a prominent local businesswoman, built the Hotel Constance showcasing Mediterranean Revival-style architecture in 1926. The seven-story hotel was known as the most modern of hotels in the LA area in the 1930s, sitting in the suburbs of Pasadena on Colorado Boulevard. Over the years, the hotel did not experience any major renovations. Only the paint and wallpaper changed, and carpet and linoleum flooring covered the original structure. Remarkably, the original floors, ceilings, columns and windows were intact. Plus, the outside structure of the hotel remained virtually untouched, and so, for this reason, Bob Ritner along with Kin Hui, Arcadia resident and CEO of Singpoli Group, partnered to restore the Hotel Constance.



The six retail stores attached to the hotel had prior “face-lifts” and were scheduled for demolition. However, when the surfaces were removed, statuettes on columns were uncovered on the original facade. These statuettes were extensively damaged when someone literally took a hammer and knocked off pieces so that they could be boarded up, with a new storefront. These statuettes are currently undergoing restoration; the one in the photo has been completed.

Mr. Ritner shared that Hotel Constance is a boutique hotel; a new term used in the last 20 years, identifying a hotel with generally 100 to 150 rooms having its own unique style, a one-of-a-kind hotel. The hotel is now in its second phase with construction of more rooms, parking garage, swimming pool and other amenities, which are designed to compliment the original structure. In addition, Bob Ritner related that the intent of the restoration is for an individual to see clearly the old from the new: the structure is historic, but all the furnishings and amenities are modern, contemporary and technologically forward. In its ninety years, the Hotel Constance has once again returned to being the most modern of hotels in the LA area, reawakening as the dusitD2 Hotel Constance.

- Karen Hou

Uncovering some facts about Hotel Constance:

- * Hotel Constance was named for businesswoman Constance Perry in 1926. Today's dining area is named Perry's.
- * The metalwork over the outside doors and windows were replicated as closely as possible to the original by referring to historic photos. Photos were available from the Pasadena Museum of History & the Pasadena Public
- * Prior to restoration, the original blueprints of the structural plans were found behind the old boiler in the basement.
- * The past can be found in the present by viewing a gallery of historic photos and news articles of the Hotel Constance in a hallway off the main lobby.



BUSINESS ICONS HONORED

*by the Arcadia Chamber of
Commerce & the Arcadia
Historical Society*



January

Claro's Italian Market

Left to right: Beverly Street, Bob Lippman,
owner, Carol Libby & Scott Hettrick



February

Gil Stromsoe, Mark Schaefer Associates

Left to right: Karen Hou, Beverly Street,
Gil Stromsoe, Carol Libby & Scott Hettrick



March

Cabrera's Mexican Food Restaurant

Left to right: Karen Hou, Carol Libby, Jeanette
Cabrera, Efrain Cabrera, Guillermo Torres &
Karen MacNair, new CEO of the Arcadia
Chamber

The Arcadia Historical Society is always pleased to honor a business that has thrived and succeeded in the city of Arcadia. We were especially pleased to honor our very own member and Treasurer of the Society, Gil Stromsoe of Mark Schaefer Associates in February.

Gil Stromsoe related that his mentor, Mark Schaefer, instilled in him his sense of giving back to the community. Gil has not only been a member of the Society since the early 1990s, but has been president as well. He has also been a chamber member through Mark Schaefer Associates and a member of the Arcadia Rotary Club for a number of years.

CONGRATULATIONS GIL



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