

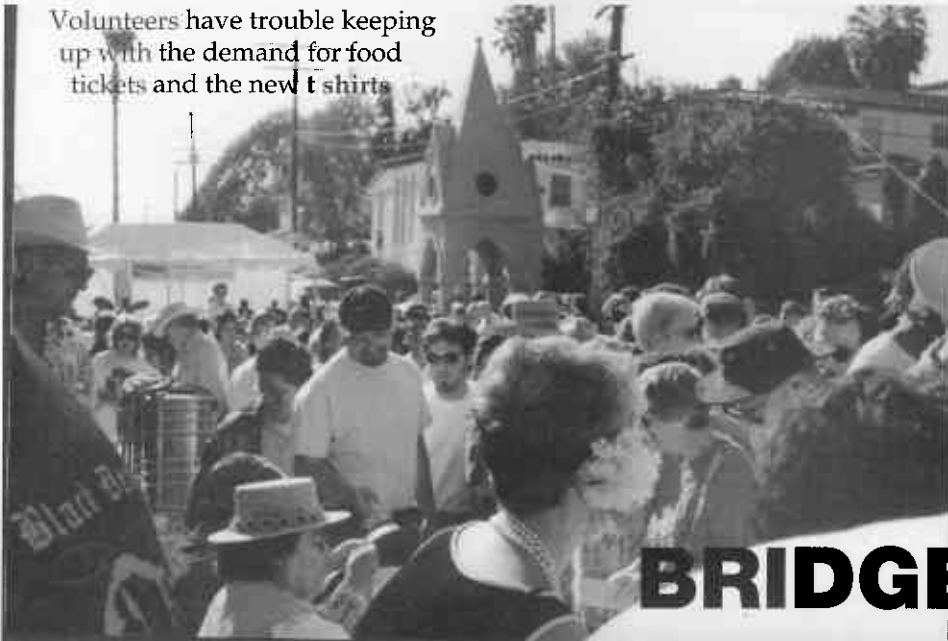
OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 15

SUMMER 1998

Volunteers have trouble keeping up with the demand for food tickets and the new t shirts



Catherine Metcalf McGowan cuts the ribbon officially opening the Shakespeare Bridge

BRIDGE PARTY IS SMASHING SUCCESS!!

“MOVE OVER, CECIL B. DE MILLE”

FHRA Produces Gala Gift to the Community Attended by a Cast of Thousands

by Sheri Mobley

Franklin Hills, April 19, 1998 - Take one neighborhood landmark, add a handful of hardworking committee members and one beautiful Sunday afternoon and what do you get? One of the most successful events in Franklin Hills history!

Celebrating 72 years of service and the completion of a year long retrofit, Shakespeare Bridge was reopened in style on Sunday, April 19th. Over 2500 people attended the gala in honor of the gothic-style bridge that leads into the Franklin Hills. Highlights of the music and dance party included: The Pat Longo Super Big Band, a 17 piece orchestra, along with singer Mark Copeland (and featuring re-Continued to page 7

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Adam Weisman

The Bridge is Finished! The Bridge is Finished! Run for your cars! Grab the children! Savor the moment! April 19th marked the reopening of the Shakespeare Bridge. For those of you who happened to have been out of town that day, our creative bridge committee cooked up a small get together to celebrate the occasion. What an event! Thousands of people from far, wide, and Franklin Hills, celebrated by dancing on the Bridge. I even saw William Shakespeare learning how to swing dance. The event was a gift to the community from FHRA, and also another example of the talent and skill which comes from our community. In the months prior to the event, residents called the hot line asking to join the committee and become involved in the celebration. The time and commitment from members outside of the board was exceptional. It is my hope that this event will lead to similar events and projects developed by our residents. In closing, if you know any of the committee members involved in the party, let them know how much you enjoyed the day.

As a way to continue our celebration of the bridge, the symbol of our association, two new projects are in development. The first will involve the design and installation of holiday lights along the bridge. Thanks to the city officials, electrical outlets have been placed on the upper part of each of the inside bridge turrets. We will have free use of the power during the holiday season, with automatic activation at dusk. The next step will be developing a committee to work on the design and installation. Another project is the establishment of permanent benches along the southern ends of the bridge which would permit citizens to sit at the bridge during their walks in the community. The hope is to purchase benches which will complement the bridge. Of course, this project is in need of a committee. Anyone interested can call the hot line.

Apart from the bridge reconstruction, association members have raised new projects and concerns which will again fill the tables at our Board meetings. By this time this column has hit the streets, our Annual Meeting will have introduced our community to the Metropolitan Transit Association Red Line and Dash shuttle system. (See story on p 18) Through your input, FHRA hopes that the MTA will provide a shuttle system for the community to the Red Line. Your voices are needed to let MTA know its importance—give Marcelle Zonta a call.

During the interim following the last newsletter, we invited Shirley Newland, our "lady of the bridge," to join our board of directors. Congratulations to Shirley, and to Sue Appleton and Ric Gomez, all of whom were elected to board positions at the May General Meeting.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have been assigned a new Senior Lead Officer, Al Polehonki. Officer Polehonki and Senior Lead Officer Sam Salazar are actively involved in the care and safety of Franklin Hills. Carol



President Adam Weisman, one of the few people wearing a tie to the party, accepts an Outstanding Service Award given to FHRA by the City of Los Angeles

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEMBERSHIP:

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PLANNING & ZONING:

Charley Mims 666-2520

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The Franklin Hills OVERVIEW is published as often as possible. We invite your comments on matters relating to articles and the community and, space permitting, we will publish letters mailed to *Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029*

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KEEPING THE BRIDGE OPEN

by Shirley Newland

It is truly amazing what can be accomplished by a group of people dedicated to a common goal. For me it all started when Clark Robins, Principal Civil Engineer with the City of Los Angeles, gave a presentation for the Shakespeare Bridge retrofit project at the annual meeting last year. He promised to maintain the original design and historic charm of the bridge and to work with the residents as changes arose. Clark Robins was the first city official I listened to, heard, and believed. And his promise was never let down. Throughout the project and to its end he and others in the city kept their word. Clark and Senior Structural Engineer, Terry Wong, are responsible for getting the turrets finished in time for the bridge reopening party, a task that was not in the original contract.

Community involvement is key to the success of this whole project. Talking with Dave Spangler, the city's on-site construction inspector, he expressed the sentiment that of all the projects he has worked on, our community has impressed him as being the most actively involved and cooperative. Also important was the cooperation of the contractors of TM Engineering. Matt Moetazedi, Project

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The Last Lonely Night for the Shakespeare Bridge
April 18, 1998



FHRA Secretary Charley Mims (wearing one of the hot-selling new FHRA t-shirts) emceed the official ceremonies.

The Shakespeare Bridge:

the old look with new earthquake resistant strength

By Clark Robins and Charley M. Mims

The Shakespeare Bridge on Franklin Avenue was built over a deep ravine in 1926. This gothic-style bridge, known to Angelenos as the Shakespeare Bridge, is a reinforced concrete structure 30 feet wide and 260 feet long with 3 arch spans. The fanciful bridge is architecturally set off with turrets and towers, arches and spandrel columns. The bridge was declared Historic Cultural Monument No. 126 in 1974 by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles.

After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, structural engineers from the City of Los Angeles took another look at the design of the bridge and decided that it needed to be strengthened to resist seismic forces. The seismic retrofit design strategy was to guard against the bridge collapsing in a major earthquake. To accomplish this goal the design elements of the bridge were reviewed and the structural elements found to be deficient in resistance to seismic forces were analyzed. Engineers were confronted with the need to retrofit those structural elements found to be deficient when subjected to seismic loading while preserving the historic appearance of the bridge. To do this they designed a retrofit program that minimized aesthetic impacts and minimized the removal of historic reinforced concrete fabric.

Retrofit work included complete removal and reconstruction of the bridge's deck, sidewalk, and the railing on both sides of the bridge. The abutment walls at each end of the bridge were removed and replaced with stronger rein-

Continued to page 6

Annual Meeting Chews on Community Issues ... and cookies

by Bruce Carroll

If you've attended any of the FHRA's past annual meetings you know the highlight was Vivien Shea's delicious cookies. It was the same this year when two score and seven Franklinites found their way to the King Middle School auditorium on May 28th.

After some pre-meeting munching and schmoozing in the foyer, FHRA President Adam Weisman called the meeting to order and recounted a year of accomplishments. Chief among them was FHRA's much praised role as liaison between area residents and the rebuilders of the Shakespeare Bridge. That spirit of cooperation got a firm foundation at FHRA's 1997 annual meeting, spanned 10 months of construction and was cemented with song, dance and civic awards at the biggest bridge party LA has ever seen.

For those who didn't see it live...or wanted to relive it...a video of party highlights was presented larger than life. Where Shakespeare (aka actor Gregory Bell) joined the dance lesson and smiled as he learned the rock step...presumably to symbolize how rock-solid his bridge has become after seismic strengthening.

As Vince Rossini, area deputy for Councilman John Ferraro, spoke, he seemed to join the FHRA fan club praising our spirit of community involvement and pledging to continue the cooperation.

That desire for cooperation and citizen input was demonstrated again when MTA transit experts Max Gephart, (MTA Project Manager) and Russ Chisholm, (Transportation Management and Design) came to hear what the FHRA's "transit experts" had to say about bus routes to link us to the Red Line subway. Our station at Sunset and Vermont should open next year. The proposals, discussed in detail in Marcelle Zonta's article, envision a small DASH bus traversing the Shakespeare Bridge.

Passengers on such a bus would be able to feast their eyes on the luxuriant greenery of the FHRA landscaped median. But according to treasurer Bruce Carroll the

median needs more green. The kind that's rumored to grow on the elusive money tree. While red is a lovely color for flowers, it's an ugly color on the balance sheet, and over the last year median expenses have outrun donations nearly three-to-one. In fact, Carroll noted, "there has not been a single median donation in 1998." Bridge Party expenses, combined with the median deficit, have lowered the FHRA's treasury by nearly \$1,600 in our fiscal year from May to May.

And there was other less than rosy news at the meeting. Despite FHRA support for community efforts to shut down sexual encounter clubs along Hyperion Avenue, President Weisman reported, "to date both clubs remain open." But he vowed, "this issue has not ended."

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, the battle of good against evil seems to be going more in our favor...assuming you're on the side of good. LAPD senior lead officers Sam Salazar and Al Polehonki reported a downward trend in crime and success in uprooting drug dealing elements from our midst. Several at the meeting expressed concerns about the continued effectiveness of community policing. It was noted that Chief Parks consistently has turned a deaf ear to public requests that he not diminish the role of senior lead officers in providing the key link between you and the police.

And what would an annual meeting be without an election? Ours, accomplished with no negative ads nor multi-million dollar budgets, resulted in an unanimous vote for three returning members of the FHRA board of directors: Charley Mims, Adam Weisman, and Marcelle Zonta. An equally unanimous welcoming vote went to our two new board members Sue Appleton and Ricardo Gomez.

And when all the voting and talking was done...it was time for more cookies.

Would you like to own your own copy of the bridge party video? Want to hear the band, see Shakespeare swing, relive the whole day? Call the Hotline (664-7247) and order a copy for \$15.

• community phones •

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

ABANDONED VEHICLES: (800) 222-6366

ABC-TELEVISION:

Security: (310) 557-5354.

ALARM PERMITS (323)485-2931

ANIMAL REGULATION (323) 485-5771

BATTERED WOMEN (800) 978-3600

BRIGHT LIGHTS Streetlight repair (800) 303-5267

COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District-
(323) 485-3337

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., L.A. 90012

DEPT. OF ANIMAL REGULATION: (213)485-5771

(Pet Info/Complaints)

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation.
(323) 481-5800; (800) 722-1122

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater.
(800) 852-9820

Hazardous Waste Hotline (323) 237-1634

Operation Clean Sweep (213) 237-1797

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

Non-emergency: 485-6185.

GRAFFITI : (323) 237-0887

HOMELESS, Food and Shelter (323) 974-1234

INFO LINE (L.A. County Referral Service) (213) 686-0950

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (323) 913-4710

NOISE ENFORCEMENT (323) 893-8120

PARKING ENFORCEMENT: (213)485-4184

POLICE: EMERGENCY 911;

Spanish: (323) 485-4333; **Asian:** (323) 893-8100

Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:

Main Desk (213) 485-2563

Community Relations (323) 485-2548

Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki (213) 485-4079

Sr. Lead Officer Sam Salazar: (213) 847-3135

Los Feliz Outpost: 21347 Hillhurst Ave. (323) 913-4682

POISON CONTROL (800) 777-6476

RAPE HOTLINE (213) 392-8381

RESTRAINING ORDER (213) 974-5587

RECYCLING INFO: (800) 773-2489

ROAD CONDITIONS (800) 427-7623

SANITATION: (213) 485-4906

STREET MAINTENANCE: (213) 485-5661

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE: (213) 381-5111

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: (TV Cable) (213) 485-2751

TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

BULK ITEM REMOVAL (213) 485-4911

TREE TRIMMING (Hazards)(213) 485-5661

WATER & POWER: (800) 342-5397

WE TIP (Anonymous crime tips) (800) 873-7283

FRANKLIN FOTOS

As you have no doubt noticed, the editor of the Overview has an affinity for photographs taken in the early years of the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake areas. We are trying to assemble a pictorial history of our district and would like to hear from anyone with such photos. If you grew up here, or if your parents built a house here, or if you inherited some photographs, please give us a call on the Hotline or send them to our mailbox.

We guarantee they will be handled very carefully while we have a copy negative made. The originals will be returned to you in their original condition. Look for your old photographs and give us a call!

Please Patronize "Our" Advertisers

Traveling to other areas to shop is troublesome now that the population and traffic have increased so much.

The businesses that are advertising in this newsletter are charged the absolute minimum possible advertising fees. Their ads pay for the paper and any surplus supports FHRA on-going projects.

Please support our advertisers and
**Tell them you saw their
ads in the "Overview."**

DOES GRAFFITI BUG YOU?

FHRA NEEDS YOUR HELP in fighting graffiti in our area. We need someone to organize paint outs and people to work.

We provide all materials.
Call the Hotline to volunteer. 664-7247

OLD LOOK

Continued from page 3

forced concrete to transfer seismic forces from the bridge deck to the ground. The arched ribs, spandrel columns and spandrel walls under the bridge deck were also removed and reconstructed with reinforced concrete to strengthen the historic arches and to allow forces to be safely transferred through them to the ground. The key element of the new seismic design was the removal and reconstruction of the bridge deck. The deck had been constructed in several separate sections with expansion joints separating each section. The new design created a single section so that the entire bridge deck is now a one-piece structural diaphragm. This new design allows the seismic forces that would be generated from a major earthquake to be transferred through the bridge deck and into the strengthened abutment walls at the ends of the bridge. This design helps to protect the arches of the bridge from becoming overloaded by the greater seismic forces that will occur in an earthquake.

The bridge's railing was also carefully rebuilt to its original appearance while being reconstructed out of steel reinforced concrete to resist cracking and seismic forces. The turrets at either end of the bridge were also strengthened and refinished. At the request of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, electrical outlets were installed at the top of turrets on each end and each side of the bridge. These outlets will provide the opportunity for holiday lighting and for lighting at events such as the April 19, 1998 Bridge Rededication Ceremonies hosted by FHRA with the support of Councilman John Ferraro. Ornamental street lights on both the bridge railings and on the turrets were rebuilt and architecturally restored to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood landmark.

The Board of Public Works received the construction bids on February 5, 1997. The Board awarded a contract to T M Engineering in the amount of \$1,525,802.36 on May 9, 1997. Senior Construction Inspector David Spangler inspected the project and Saba Engineer and Clark Robins approved design changes during construction. The contractor finished its work in time for our bridge rededication on April 19, 1998. If you were one of the three to four thousand Angelenos who came to the party, you know that the new bridge can withstand our whole neighborhood load at one time! Congratulations to the City for saving our historic landmark and to our neighbors for supporting a well designed and well constructed project!

Fast Facts About the Shakespeare Bridge Party

- over 700 pizza slices sold
- at least 1 Shakespeare impersonator in attendance
- 8 vintage cars, 1 antique fire truck and 12 cool motorcycles displayed
- 2100 Trader Joe's soft drinks given away (in the first 90 minutes!)
- over \$1200 worth of Thai food consumed
- 13 members of the brass section in the Pat Longo Super Big Band played (expertly!)
- over 101 *new* beautiful four-color FHRA t shirts sold
- 10 vintage photos sold
- 11 members signed up

Shakespeare Bridge Reopening Party Committee Poses for "class photo"



Rear L-R: Don Waldrop, Charley Mims, Shirley Newland, Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll,
Front row: Lesle Kyle, Sue Appleton, Marcelle Zonta, Sheri Mobley. Hiding: Gene Cheltenham, Stephanie and Gabriel Baltierra.

PARTY

Continued from page 1

owned from trombone player and FHRA chairman, Don Waldrop.)

A vintage car competition with first place won by a 1937 Rolls-Royce, second place by a 1956 Chevy Nomad and third place scooped up by a 1956 Cadillac Eldorado.

Official ribbon cutting by Catherine McGowan, the 83-year-old daughter of the original builder of the bridge, with City Councilman John Ferraro, and our own FHRA President Adam Weisman.

Food tastings presented by three favorite area restaurants — Palermo's, Caffe Capriccio, and TubTim Thai. Special thanks to Trader Joe's and Joe-to-Go for the beverage service.

Swing dance lessons hosted by The Derby, and additional musical entertainment provided by the Kirk Smart Trio.

Built in 1926 at a cost of \$59,690, the Shakespeare Bridge was closed in June of last year for repairs and a seismic retrofit at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million dollars. Local residents and FHRA board members decided to put together a party to pay tribute to the bridge and the lovely neighborhood that surrounds it. Kudos to all the committee members listed below, and others (you know who you are!) who helped make this party such a roaring success.

Shakespeare Bridge Reopening Party Committee

- Don Waldrop, Chair
- Gene Cheltenham, Event Designer
- Bruce Carroll, Treasurer/Historian
- Charley Mims, City Government Liaison
- Shirley Newland, Neighborhood Liaison/Fundraising
- Sheri Mobley, Publicity
- Lesley Kyle, Event Coordinator
- Sue Appleton, Food Coordinator
- Chris Boutelle, Labor Coordinator
- Marcelle Zonta, Loyal Committee Member
- Stephanie and Gabriel Baltierra, Vintage Cars
- Marie-Doree and Patrice Lambert, Website
- Adam Weisman, Morale Support

THE CLASSIC BRIDGE T-SHIRT IS NOW IN FULL COLOR



▼ FULL COLOR



QUANTITIES LIMITED ON THE ORIGINAL DESIGNS

Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge. Printed teal and purple on a white shirt.

2 COLORS



Franklin Hills End of Summer Festival T-shirts

Printed white on peacock blue or purple shirt

1 COLOR



Now get the classic Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge design in full color, printed in crisp detail on a 100% cotton shirt. Also, limited quantities of the original T's are available while they last. Shirts are designed and illustrated by Eugene Cheltenham of Franklin Hills. All profits go to fund Franklin Hills Residents Association projects to enhance the Franklin Hills area.

ORDER NOW, DON'T MISS OUT

HOW TO ORDER:

MAIL TO: Franklin Hills T-Shirt, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Franklin Hills Residents Association (Do not send cash.) Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. T-Shirts subject to availability

PRICES:

FULL COLOR DESIGN:
1 for \$15, 2 for \$28, 3 for \$35

ORIGINAL DESIGNS:
1 for \$12, 2 for \$22, 3 for \$30

STYLE	NO. OF SHIRTS				COST
FULL COLOR DESIGN: Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge	MED.	LG.	X. LG.	XX LG.	
TWO COLOR: Franklin Hills/Bridge	MED.	LG.	X. LG.	XX LG.	
(PURPLE) End Of Summer Festival	MED.	LG.	X. LG.		
(BLUE) End Of Summer Festival	MED.	LG.	X. LG.		
Add postage and handling (\$2.00 for 1st shirt, add \$1.00 for each additional shirt.)					
Total (Do not send cash)					

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBER?:

YES
NO

BRIDGE OPEN

continued from page 3

Manager, and Moe Deyanat, Superintendent, were both interactive and friendly with the residents. Their presence is forever cemented in the craftsmanship of the newly finished bridge.

Prior to the bridge's reopening I became involved with another extraordinary group of people who formed the committee for the reopening party. The committee met regularly and put in countless hours planning and coordinating. Interestingly, the committee attracted the people it needed, all from our neighborhood. It was truly a team effort of these talented individuals who came together and presented the celebration to the community.

During the planning, the committee met with the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) on the bridge to check the electricity the night before the event. At around 6:50 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, the LAFD, in their engines, drove the first vehicles (project workers aside) across the bridge.

It was a sign that the event might be bigger than we anticipated when a group drove up a day early looking for the party. By 4 o'clock at the start of the party the bridge was already full. By 4:30 people could only wade through the current of slow moving crowds from one end of the bridge to the other. When more than five times as many people came to the event than was expected, many undaunted volunteers pulled together to accommodate the large crowd handing out pizza and sodas, serving cookies, and selling

tickets. I spent an incredibly fast hour at the coffee and cookie table. Somebody paid with a silver certificate and I shall cherish it as a memento from this historic event.

Cleaning up after the party we started to arrange the barricades. "Why?" someone asked. The bridge was ready to go. The City had already painted lines down the lane. There was nothing left to do. In uniform agreement we stacked the barricades to the side of the bridge. We had a little after-party that night and cheered the cars, trucks, pedestrians and bicyclists as they began to trickle across the bridge. Yeah!!! First Mercedes across the bridge! Yahoo! First blue Honda to cross the bridge! Look at that - First dog to pee on the bridge! With delight, we, the committee members, opened the bridge.

It was only by the combined efforts of everyone involved that this event was possible. City workers, residents, local businesses and every devoted person were committed to making this a tremendous celebration. And it doesn't stop here. The bridge is open now. As the gateway to Franklin Hills, the bridge stands as the entryway to a wonderful neighborhood where community spirit abounds. Future committees will be involved in designing and placing benches on either side of the bridge, replanting under the bridge, and maintaining the median. If you would like to take part in such a rewarding experience as I have had meeting these people and working in the community I invite you to join us and have fun with these and many other projects we are working on.

PLAY THE LOST AND FOUND GAME

by Bruce Carroll

Many popular publications use puzzles, contests and prizes to encourage readership. The promotional value of such gimmicks has not escaped the notice of your *Franklin Hills Overview*.

Below we inaugurate the Lost & Found game.

Correctly answer all questions, follow contest instructions and you could win.

- 1) Did you attend the Bridge Opening Party?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) There were so many people there I can't remember.
- 2) Did you lose something?
 - a) My shoes
 - b) My wife/husband
 - c) My money clip
- 3) Can you describe the item?
 - a) She/He is bigger than a bread box.
 - b) It is smaller than a bread box.
 - c) The bread would be stale by now, so who cares?

The first person with a complete description of the item and the correct answers to these questions might recover their loss. Call FHRA at 323-664-7247.



Fireman on bridge

by Chuck Thompson

Palermo Restaurant

1858 North Vermont (Across from the Post Office)

One of the most popular and busiest restaurants in Los Feliz is Palermo, particularly on weekends. The green, red and white awnings and stained glass windows present an attractive entrance to the restaurant. Once inside, the cozy dining area with burgundy leather booths and candlelit tables makes for a warm dining experience. Its owner/manager Tony Fanara welcomes you as you enter, just as he has been doing for over 20 years.

Tony was born in Montenegro, Sicily and came to the United States with his parents when he was 17 years old, settling in Los Angeles. He joined the army and served in Viet Nam. After being discharged, he returned to the United States to complete his education. While studying for a degree in engineering, he worked full time as a barber and later for San Antonio Winery. Having always been interested in the restaurant business, he decided to give up his \$1,500 a month job at the winery and open his own business. He took over Palermo Restaurant in May 1976, which was located at that time on Hillhurst Avenue. He worked seven days a week and many long hours in the business but, after a year and half, the restaurant finally started to pay for itself. In 1978, he expanded seating capacity from 24 to 48.

Tony acquired his present location on Vermont Avenue in 1981. It took about a year and a half to complete the remodeling and, in November 1982, he opened for business. The first two nights of the grand opening over 1,300 people were served and the food was free. The Vermont location now has a seating capacity for 150 people, in addition to a banquet room that seats 90.



Owner/manager Tony Fanara welcomes you as you enter



When Tony first started, he did all the cooking using recipes from different family members—all from Italy, of course. Over the years he has expanded the menu considerably, with entree choices of seafood, chicken, vegetarian, pasta, veal, and the best pizza this side of heaven. Most entrees include garlic bread, and a choice of soup or salad. Desserts include cannoli, truffles, ice cream, Tony's tiramisu, spumoni ice cream and cheesecake. Espresso and cappuccino are also served. Tony's favorite entrees are the Lasagna Alla Bolognese, Linguini with red clam sauce, and the Chicken Diane with white cream sauce. Takeout orders and a delivery service are also available.

The restaurant has a gourmet section featuring fine wines, food from Italy and beautiful gift baskets. They have a full cocktail bar as well as "Tony's Lounge," which features jazz every Friday and Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

In addition to the Vermont location, Palermo also has a restaurant in Duarte called Fanara. They opened another Palermo restaurant in La Canada in April of 1997. The restaurant is closed on Tuesdays, as well for two weeks vacation in July, and employees are also given a paid vacation at this time.

Tony eagerly supports community fundraisers, Marshall High School, Los Feliz Improvement Association, Franklin Hills Residents Association, and the Los Feliz Village Business Association. He attributes much of his success to the restaurant's friendly atmosphere and giving back to the community whenever possible. His motto: always be fair and honest with people and you will always be rewarded.

(Note: This article first appeared in the Spring 1997 edition of the Los Feliz Observer, which is published by the Los Feliz Improvement Association. Very minor editing was done to update it for accuracy. FHRA extends its deepest thanks to Tony and all the employees of Palermo for the help with the Bridge party. We all savored that delicious Palermo pizza that Tony donated in a steady stream throughout the evening.)