

OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 7

SUMMER 1992

MetroRail

A TRULY BORING STORY

by Bruce Carroll

When Billy Shea, John Kiewit and J.W. Kenny were kids, their moms probably yelled at them for getting filthy while digging in the park. Now that they're contractors, Messrs Shea, Kiewit and Kenny will be getting \$172 million for digging in the park. That's the price tag on the contract approved by the LA County Transportation Commission last month for the Wilshire/Vermont to Hollywood/Highland Red Line subway tunnels that will be bored from beneath Barnsdall Park.

In September, prep work at Barnsdall should be visible, according to Roberta Tinajero of the LACTC. "That's where they start grading the site, paving it, building the shaft, and setting up a lot of large equipment." The six-month process begins by surrounding the site with a chain link fence. Metro Red Line plans to encourage the use of "see through" fencing, even envisioning construction as a tourist attraction allowing the public to see that their money may be going into a hole in the ground it's a worthwhile hole.

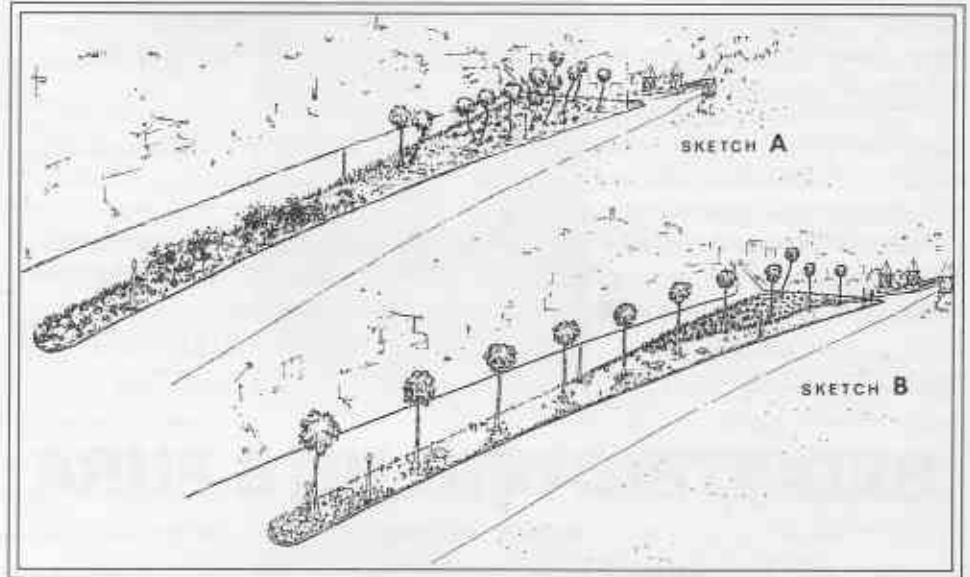
The tunneling equipment won't be lowered into the shaft until March.

See METRO, p. 8

INSIDE:

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Two concepts for landscaping of the Franklin Avenue median near the Shakespeare Bridge.

FRANKLIN AVENUE MEDIAN:

A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

by Riccardo Accorsi

Who's idea was it, anyway? Probably everyone who passes the Franklin Avenue median near Shakespeare Bridge has noticed, consciously or subconsciously, its homely state. The idea of beautifying it may have been on the tip of a few tongues, but not brought to language until lately. Now that the suggestion has actually been made, many of us may feel like we do when we find something long misplaced — a sort of community-wide "of course!"

The Franklin Avenue median was constructed together with the bridge in 1926 and served as a turn-around for those who wished not to cross the bridge. The median has been streamlined several

times since in response to increased vehicular speeds. Its presence has been reduced to a mere strip of (almost) maintenance-free asphalt paving. Having long lost its original beauty, it actually degrades the surrounding context, including the landmark Shakespeare Bridge.

A properly landscaped median will certainly enhance the bridge as well as complete this historic setting in our otherwise charming neighborhood. The Franklin Hills Residents Association proposes to beautify the Franklin Avenue median by landscaping it with drought tolerant plants and trees. The

Please see **MEDIAN**, p. 22

From the President

Since our Spring issue on crime and what we can do about it, our community has been affected by the May riots. Several of "our" stores were looted and there were fires nearby. We had a graphic representation of how our public services (fire, police) can be quickly overloaded by such events and how important it is for each of us to be self-reliant. Now, in past weeks, we have experienced several earthquakes of major intensity. Have these events given you a "wake up call?" Were they enough to convince you: 1) that you are self-reliant and prepared for anything, 2) to leave town, or 3) that you should get yourself and your family prepared for a disaster that could come at any time?

If your answer is 3), then you owe it to yourself to be at our next meeting — August 12 at Marshall High School. On hand will be special Disaster Preparedness experts from the Fire and Police Departments to give you the information you need.

This will be our first general meeting of the 1992-93 year and we hope to have four. Others being contemplated are another meeting with representatives from L.A.P.D. on the crime and gangs issue and a possible candidates forum prior to the November elections.

If you have ideas for other meeting topics or projects you think we should be involved in, please call our new FHRA HOTLINE 664-7247. Your call will be returned by the appropriate board member or committee head.

— DON WALDROP

REDISTRICTING HITS FHRA

by Don Waldrop

Political connections for a grass roots organization such as the Franklin Hills Residents Association are an extremely important asset. Our connections have grown in increments since the early skirmishes with proposed development of the private school property in the area below the Shakespeare Bridge and with our concern about ABC-TV's projected growth plan (which came to our attention after a huge building was erected on the lot in 1987.)

The support given FHRA by Council Michael Woo and his staff has been immense. Deputies Dianne Breuggemann, Carole Joseph, Jan Perry and Kathy Godfrey have been very responsive and involved in nearly aspect of this group's interests. When information was needed, they supplied it. When we needed support on issues, they were there — able to call the right people or do the right thing for us, and always with Mike Woo's knowledge and guidance.

On the other hand, we had just gotten to know Assemblywoman Barbara Friedman. Her campaign in our area was intensive, with many one-on-one discussions of community concerns. She was elected out of an incredibly strong group of candidates, any one of whom would have been an effective representative, and we were happy to have her on our side, knowledgeable, dedicated and interested in our issues.

So what happens? They are both no longer our representatives due to the political process called *redistricting*. And, while the redistricting process may be an appropriate way of ensuring proper minority representation, this process effectively destroys the political connections and friendships carefully built up over the years, leaving us to forge new alliances and develop mutual respect.

Our new Councilman, City Council President John Ferraro, has long been a major figure in City politics and we look forward to working with him and his staff.

See **REDISTRICTING**, p. 9

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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1992 FHRA Directors Elected in May

Who Are Your Board Members?

by Isabel Dietz



Riccardo Accorsi, beginning his first term on the Board of FHRA., is an independent architect and specializes in residential design. He and his family have lived in Franklin Hills since 1987. His wife, Lise McKenna, is a social worker and they have two children, Sancho, age four, and Luisa, age two. Riccardo loves to cook. "I enjoy making great food, although our kitchen is tiny. I also like

gardening about twice a year with my favorite tool—the rake." In addition, he is a musician and has a small home studio where he performs and records multi-instrumental tracks of guitar, piano and bass. Riccardo is currently involved in planning the landscaping of the median on Franklin Avenue just west of the Shakespeare Bridge.



Chris Boutelle, a returning Board member, has lived here for eleven years and works in the entertainment industry as a key grip. He loves the neighborhood for its views, atmosphere and diversity, and has participated in neighborhood activities for years, beginning with the Neighborhood Watch when it was first formed. He has painted out his share of

graffiti and was the sole graffiti eradicator on the Franklin Avenue Bridge before Phil Lyon took on the job. Chris is Search and Rescue Team Leader in the Disaster Preparedness program and has taken the training twice. Chris enjoys

improving his hillside landscaping and is a bountiful source of information on retaining walls and planting.



Bruce Carroll (Secretary/Treasurer) was born just five blocks from the Franklin Hills, but didn't have the good sense to move here until 1970. In 1976, he bought property across the street from his home and cut down a tree to improve his spectacular view. Having planted a dozen fruit trees on the lot, he says, "It's my farm." When not weeding or harvesting, Bruce's other

interests since retiring as a producer for ABC News include tinkering with busted old electronic things. Bruce became active with FHRA by volunteering to keep the membership list. An admittedly frugal fellow, he became FHRA Treasurer in 1991, and added Secretary this year. Additionally, as may have been noted on these pages, he is Overview's resident curmudgeon.



Gene Cornell is a new Board member this year. He has background in industrial engineering and experience as an efficiency expert. He started a school called the Cornell Institute, where he holds classes in various subjects related to communication skills, principles of scientific observation, development of personal values and the use

of logic in problem solving. He is interested in the stock market and has developed some new investment concepts.

JOIN FHRA — See page 23 for Details and Membership Form

Board, from p. 3

Gene's hobbies are golf, tennis, reading, and entertaining (he is a singer) at various charity events and at parks and recreation centers.



Bryant Crouse (Vice President) returns to the Board this year for his third term. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Princeton and has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from UCLA. He has been a practicing psychotherapist, an organizational development consultant, and now he is an executive recruiter for the entertainment industry. Bryant has

lived in the Franklin Hills since 1984. Very active in the community, he works on the Nominating, Planning and Development, and Membership Committees of FHRA. Bryant's leisure interests are tennis, jogging, movies and theater. He urges anyone with ideas for new projects for FHRA to get in touch with him at (213) 666-0307

Charley Mims, who is a Los Angeles native and has lived in this general area for twenty two years, is beginning his second two-year term on the Board. He is a Division Head in the Department of Public Works, Los Angeles. With a twenty-five year career as a city employee, he knows a great many people in city government and has been an

invaluable source of information to Board members seeking resolution of various neighborhood problems coming under the jurisdiction of city or county government. Charley and his wife, Ardelle, are famous in the neighborhood for having won the annual FHRA croquet match and receiving a trophy at the same time for the most appropriate dress for the occasion.



Arnie Netka, a seventeen-year resident of Franklin Hills, was born, raised and received all his schooling in the Bronx. Before coming to Los Angeles in 1971, he taught elementary and junior

high school in New York for four years. He has been Director of Purchasing for the Port of Los Angeles since 1983. His wife, Suzanne, is a first grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School and they have two daughters, Danielle, age fifteen, and Brooke, age twelve. He says, "I like to camp, fix things around the house (often breaking them first so that I can fix them later), and shop (since I do it as a profession)."



New Board member, **Carol Mason**, has been active with the Association in many ways since its inception. She has worked with Vi Weber on the Disaster Response Program and is Fire Captain of the FHRA Disaster Response Team. She also serves

as the ruthless copy editor of the *Overview*. A native of Los Angeles, Carol has lived in the Franklin Hills area for five years. Recently, she parlayed a ten-year career in computer sales and marketing into her own business as a free-lance writer. An amateur astronomer and Egyptologist, her friends also say she is a great dancer and a good shot.

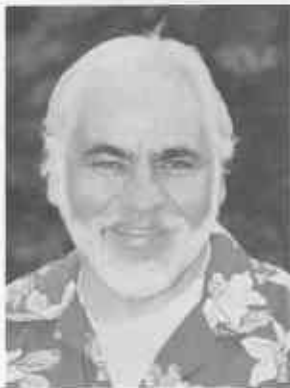


Violet Weber, who is beginning her third year as a Board member, has lived in the Hills since 1965. She has a home-based business – a fashion export service, advising out-of-country clients who need help in selecting American fashions. Previously, she was the Fashion Editor and Home Furnishings Editor of Home Magazine for the Los Angeles Times for fifteen years. She would like to see a greater participation of residents in the activities of FHRA. Says the ebullient Vi, "I wish people would be more cognizant of the fact that they don't just live in a house, they live in a neighborhood. Vi has been Director of the Disaster Preparedness Program for Franklin Hills, which means she is responsible



Board, continued

for the training and mobilization of literally hundreds of people for emergency response in our area.



Don Waldrop (President) is a founder and the chief instigator of the FHRA which was formed about four years ago when there was concern about ABC Studio's proposed expansion. Shortly after these issues arose, the administration of the Los Feliz Hills School solicited the neighborhood for help with some of their problems. Don led the Association through the thorny but successful resolution of both sets of issues.

His untiring diplomacy and persistence in the face of obstacles as well as his mastery of detail paid off. Don is a professional studio musician, performing background scores for films and TV. He performs in and manages a chamber music group, Los Angeles Brass, which tours nationally. His wife, Marcelle Zonta, is a former opera singer with credits from Los Angeles Music Center Opera, Opera A La Carte and Metropolitan Opera National Company. They have lived on Hollyvista in the same house for twenty-two years with a gaggle of Siamese cats.



Frank Yogus joins the Board this year as a new member after living on Ronda Vista for nine years. He has a financial consulting business and a wholesale travel company specializing in destinations in the South Pacific. One of his long-term interests has been child welfare and services for abused and neglected children. He is on the Board of Directors of Children's Hospital, Long Beach;

the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital, Los Angeles; and holds a national office with Save the Children Foundation. He is very concerned with issues of homelessness, and serves on the Board of LAMP, the mayor's task force for the homeless. He loves to travel. "I've been everywhere—especially to remote corners of the world".

Isabelle Anderson Dietz is a former FHRA Board member. She is a visual artist and freelance art reviewer who has lived in the "dales" of the Franklin Hills area since 1978. Isabel shares her home with her husband Bill, a product designer, and Yoti, an animal companion who is a full-time dog.

ROWENA RESERVOIR

by Lynne Hill

Follow St. George Street from the charming and historic Shakespeare Bridge, past the magnificent and historic John Marshall High School, and you'll find the beautiful and historic Rowena Reservoir.

NOT!

Rowena, which is visible to many Franklin Hills residents and has long been a local landmark, is the oldest remaining open reservoir in the city's water system, having been built in the late 1800's and last modified in 1942. But last January, the reservoir was drained because of ongoing seismic problems. Since then, residents of the surrounding neighborhood have been looking at a dusty ten-acre hole in the ground.

For the past three years, the community has been actively trying to preserve the reservoir. But the DWP — citing water quality problems and new state laws mandating covers on reservoirs — has resisted all efforts to restore the site.

Instead of rebuilding the reservoir, however, the DWP has entered into negotiations with community representatives to find a solution for the site that will meet the department's needs while preserving the aesthetic value of the area. Specifically, the department has plans for a ten-million gallon water tank. But DWP officials have tentatively agreed to bury the tank, and enhance the site with landscaping and shallow water features.

It will be several years before the project is underway. In the interim, the DWP has agreed to mitigate the eyesore by filling the empty reservoir bed with potted trees (supplied free of charge by the LA Conservation Corps) and hydro-seeding the sides. They have also agreed to begin planting some of the permanent landscaping as soon as possible.

This is part of a larger mediation effort that involves communities with other open reservoirs, like Silverlake and Lake Hollywood, which are also threatened by DWP projects. Only ten open water reservoirs remain in Los Angeles, and those fighting to save Rowena have joined a larger advocacy group, the Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs, which represents more than 350,000 people citywide. The Coalition is mediating with the DWP to develop strategies that would satisfy the department's water storage needs, while preserving the beauty of LA's open reservoirs.

It is the first time that the DWP has been responsive to community concerns on this issue. Public meetings will be held to present the design plans. We will need to show neighborhood support for these plans in order to make them a reality. In these tight fiscal times, we are still faced with the threat of unadorned concrete tanks and or filtration plants. A strong community turnout at all public meetings is the only way to convince the DWP and the City Council that the sites are worth saving.

Anyone interested in the issue may contact Molly or Michael Collins at 662-7159 or Lynne Hill at 664-2332.

Disaster Preparedness:

NOW MORE THAN EVER

By Vi Weber, Chair
Disaster Preparedness Committee

EARTHQUAKES and RIOTS! One strong lesson to be learned from recent events is that our neighborhood could be without emergency services for several days after a disaster. **WE MUST PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.** The French American School (formerly Los Feliz Hills School) has made their grounds available as an emergency staging area. The Franklin Hills Disaster Response Team now has a place to store equipment, medical supplies, food and water to help you and your family in the aftermath of a disaster.

This is a call to all Franklin Hills residents to bring any of the following items or make a cash donation at the Disaster Preparedness Meeting on August 12, 1992 at the French American School. You may also mail a cash donation right now, made out to: **Franklin Hills Residents Association, Disaster Response Fund, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027.**

Blankets	Large trash cans w/covers
Tarps / Plastic Sheets	Buckets (covered if possible)
Flashlights & batteries	Small plastic bags with ties
Radios & batteries	Large plastic bags with ties
Fire extinguishers	Powdered chlorinated lime
Garden hoses	Chlorine bleach
Axes / pickaxes	Bar soap
Crowbars	Paper towels
Bolt cutters	Can openers
Wire cutters	Toilet paper
Electrical tape	Camp stoves
Saws (hand & power)	Cans of sterno
Crescent wrenches	Pots and pans
Jacks	Canned food
Rope	Pet food
Shovels & spades	Granola or candy bars
Portable generators	Paper plates and utensils
Candles & matches	Powdered milk
Heavy duty gloves	Dried meats & fruits

For Additional Information: Violet Weber, (213) 663-6427

needs & wants

LOS FELIZ LIBRARY

Volunteers are needed for a tutorial program, estimated time per week: 2-3 hours.

Donations needed: Books and videos to sell, patio furniture, indoor plants and watering can, outdoor planters and plants.

Contact: Thea March, Los Feliz Library, 1939 1/2 Hillhurst Avenue, (213) 664-2903

TRASH CANS

Unneeded trash cans - plastic, metal, large, small - for recycling program on the Marshall High School campus. So far we have had over 30 donated and can still use more. If you are on the Los Angeles City Recycling Program and have old cans sitting around, please send them our way. We'll put them to good use. Call 413-4221 or 664-7247 for pick-up or more information.

TUTORS

Volunteers to tutor little kids or big kids, in reading, math or writing skills. Community tutoring corps are forming now. If you want to help a youngster succeed in life, call 413-4221 or 664-7247 NOW!

JOBS / APPRENTICESHIPS

If you need help in your business or home and are willing to employ, train or apprentice local teenagers, call 413-4221

• community phones •

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager, (213)557-5000
Security: 557-5354.

CITY ANIMAL REGULATION: 222-7138

COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO:

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., (213) 485-3337
District Office, 625 S. New Hampshire (213) 485-4377

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: 1-800-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation (\$100).

(213) 481-5800; (800)-722-1122. (Back in effect now)

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater (\$200).

(800) 852-9820

Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

Non-emergency: 485-6235;

GRAFFITI:

On private property: (213) 253-2687

On public property: (818) 772-7753

FHRA Graffiti ActionCoordinator: 661-4351

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (213) 664-2903.

Hours: Mon & Tues 12:30-8; Wed & Thurs 12:30-5:30; Fri & Sat 10-5:30.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH: (818) 904-1418

POLICE: Emergency 911;

Northeast Division: Non-emergency (213) 485-2563

RECYCLING INFO: (800) CITY SAN

SANITATION: 485-4906

STREET LIGHTING: 482-5483

STREET MAINTENANCE: 485-5661

TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TV Cable service) 485-2751

TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

WATER & POWER: Hot Line (800) 722-1122

WE'VE GOT (Y)OUR NUMBER

The Franklin Hills Residents Association is proud to announce that we now have our own telephone number. By calling (213) 664-7247, you can leave messages for board and committee members, make suggestions, or ask questions.

It's not exactly a "hotline," and getting an "800" number didn't seem to make much sense, so we hope you find our plain old neighborhood number useful.

The only problem with 664-7247 is that, so far, we haven't figured out anything clever and meaningful that it might spell. We missed by one digit getting the initials FHRA. To remedy this problem, we will offer anyone who decodes the right hidden message in 664-7247 a first edition Franklin Hills T-shirt.

FHRA HOTLINE (213) 664-7247

EQ - CALL HOME

The Disaster Preparedness Response Team is attempting to coordinate all types of emergency communication equipment in the event of a major earthquake or other disaster.

Owners of car phones, amateur ham radios, CB radios or walkie-talkie radios who would be willing to offer their support and expertise are asked to contact Jay Glassman at 663-3446

GRAFFITI ALERT

Plans are being made for another FHRA community paint-out, to be held in August. If you would like to be involved or if you know of a trouble area, call Isabel Dietz: 661-4351.

They Are "Our" Businesses

Traveling to other areas to shop has become troublesome now that the population and traffic have increased so much. The businesses that have shown interest in reaching you and your neighbors by advertising in this locally produced, hand distributed newsletter are charged the absolute minimum possible advertising fees. Their ads pay for the paper and any surplus goes to FHRA. Please support our advertisers by utilizing their services regularly and, by all means, tell them you saw their ads in the "Overview."

METRO, from p. 1

Maybe engineers are counting on heavy rains, like we've had the last two Marches, to sort of ease or ooze the huge machines down about 70 feet below the surface.

At that time, the entrance to Barnsdall Park will be moved to what is now the Hollywood Hand Car Wash. But owner Murray Braun complains, "we have not received any offer yet, we haven't received any written documentation, nothing." As to when the car wash will close, "I have no idea." He did stop giving out coupons two months ago, however.

By consolidating the excavation at

Barnsdall the LACTC estimates they'll save about \$7 million, and countless inconveniences to the public and local businesses that would have been caused by earlier plans for three tunneling sites. Despite all the digging, there won't be a station at Barnsdall.

The closest place for Franklin Hills residents to catch Red Line trains will be the northeast corner of Sunset and Vermont. "It's going to be a plaza that will serve the whole hospital district." According to Ms. Tinajero, "They've come up with a very nice plan that improves the area for pedestrians. It makes it a friendly place to walk through."

A friendly place to walk, but what about parking for area residents who might not want to walk a mile for a Camel or a subway? "There aren't park and ride lots for the Red Line. It's really designed to motivate people to try new means of transportation."

AN ODE TO PROGRESS

When MetroRail builders say *new*,
What they really mean is your shoe.
To cut the pollution,
That is one solution,
But will it attract me and you?

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**HOTLINE:
(213)
664-7247**

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(213) 665-4149

ROOS ON EDUCATION

The Silver Lake Improvement Association will hold a forum on "Educational Reform in the Los Angeles Unified School District" on Thursday, July 30, at the Russian Church Meeting Hall, 650 Micheltorena.

Mike Roos, former 45th District Assemblyman and current President and CEO of LEARN (The Los Angeles Educational Alliance for Restructuring Now) will present the recommendations of LEARN's seven task forces, composed of more than 200 representatives of virtually every group concerned with education and the welfare of Los Angeles youth, on how to provide a more effective system of governance, hold students accountable for performance and to accurately assess the performance of students. After Mr. Roos's presentation, a question and answer period will commence. Call 413-4221 for more information.

REDISTRICTING, from p. 2

His area deputy, Tom La Bonge, has been an important and effective link between his office and the Los Feliz Improvement Association to our north. They have worked together in a positive way on numerous issues, many of which have affected our area as well. Ferraro's planning deputy, René Weitzman, is a knowledgeable force in zoning and development and we look forward to working with her on local issues.

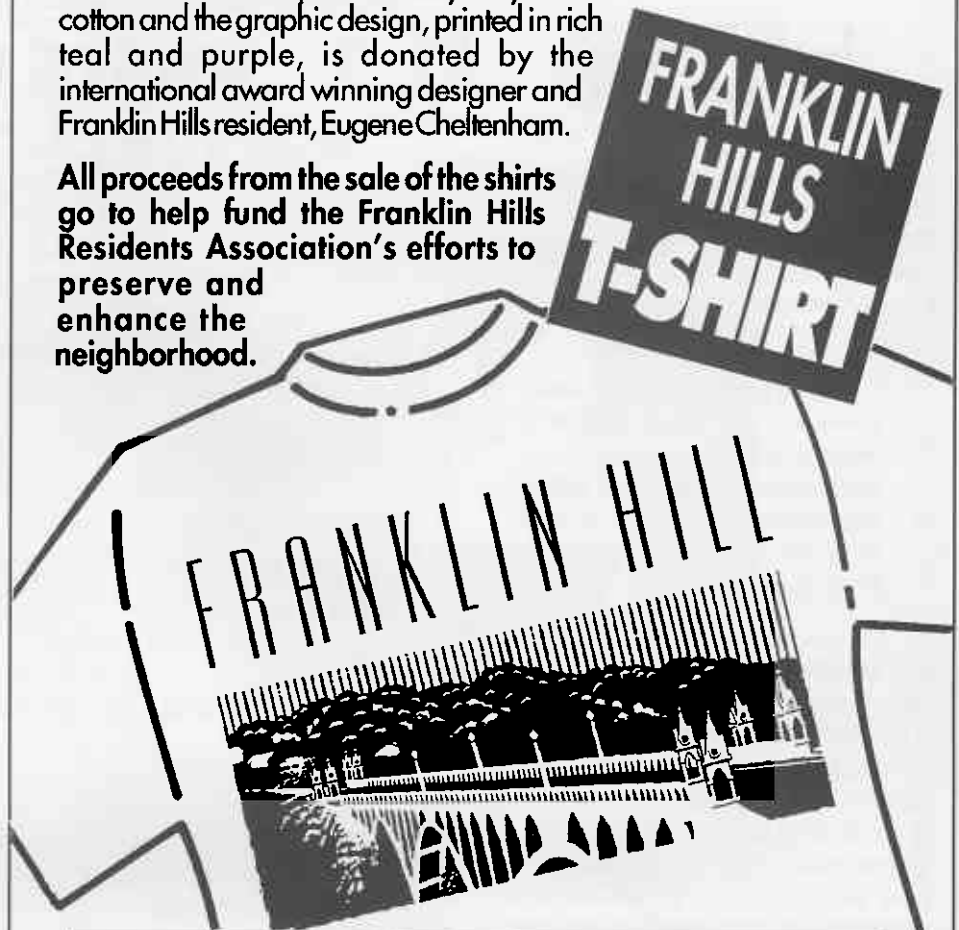
Our new State Assemblyman, Pat Nolan, has until now represented a largely Republican district which includes Atwater, Glendale, Burbank and Toluca Lake. He has acquired our heavily Democratic area west of the Golden State Freeway in this recent Assembly redistricting and it will be interesting to observe how he will respond to our interests and support our causes.

And finally, State Senator David Roberti, a long-time resident of Los Feliz, lost his entire district to Senate redistricting. With his term limited by a new law to only two more years, Senator Roberti, chose to run for a San Fernando Valley seat vacated by former Senator Alan Robbins.

You'll be proud to wear this t-shirt with its classically designed graphics that show the Shakespeare Bridge and a silhouette of our historic Franklin Hills.

The t-shirts are a crisp white heavy-duty 100% cotton and the graphic design, printed in rich teal and purple, is donated by the international award winning designer and Franklin Hills resident, Eugene Cheltenham.

All proceeds from the sale of the shirts go to help fund the Franklin Hills Residents Association's efforts to preserve and enhance the neighborhood.



ORDER FORM

1 T-SHIRT
\$12.00 (Plus sales tax \$.99)

2 T-SHIRTS
\$22.00 (Plus sales tax \$1.82)

3 T-SHIRTS
\$30.00 (Plus sales tax \$2.48)

MAIL TO: Franklin Hills T-Shirt, P.O.
Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Franklin Hills Residents Association.
(Do not send cash.)

T-shirts subject to availability.
Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.

NUMBER OF SHIRTS			
M	L	XL	PRICE
			SALES TAX
			POSTAGE & HANDLING \$2.00
			TOTAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION MEMBER?:

YES
NO

T-shirts printed by Hollywood Graphitee - (818) 776-8044