



the Preservationist

THE SIXTIES TURN FIFTY—Let's **GOOGIE**

Preserving the past includes things we may not have thought of as historic. Just because George Washington didn't sleep there doesn't mean it doesn't have historic significance or value!

Today, the post-war architecture of the 1950s and 1960s is coming of age---the age at which some of the best examples are now eligible for historic designation. While so many of these wonderful futuristic icons have already been lost (remember Bob's Big Boy Drive-in on Whittier Blvd.?), many remain.

The type of architecture known as "Googie" actually began in Southern California and later made its way across the country. Sometimes referred to as "Coffee Shop Modern," it is typical of the futuristic designs associated with the utopian dreams that accompanied the Space Age. It came at a time when big-fin cars and cruising the boulevard were synonymous with moving toward your dreams. Features like upswept roofs, large domes, sheet glass windows, boomerang shapes, amoebae replicas, atomic models, starbursts, exposed steel beams, geometric holes, and flying saucer appendages reflected the open-air lifestyle of the Southland---also home to the aircraft industry. The most recognizable example is the newly renovated flagship restaurant that is the centerpiece of Los Angeles International Airport. [see "GOOGIE" pg. 6]

CONSERVANCY SECURES GRANT FOR ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC EARLHAM HALL

The Whittier Conservancy has secured a \$25,000 grant from Edison International to be used to assess the cost of refurbishing Historic Earlham Hall for adaptive reuse. [see "GRANT" pg. 6]



Members of the Stody family, circa 1928

Preservation Party

The 2010, 23rd annual, Whittier Conservancy Annual Party will be held Saturday, September 25th, at five o'clock in the evening, at the historic College Hills estate of Austin (Mick) and Conny McCormack. Located along Worsham Canyon above Whittier College with exceptional views of Downtown Los Angeles and the entire basin, the old Stody home has been completely renovated and the exceptional original terraced gardens, waterfalls, and fountains have been restored, perfect for entertaining. We are excited to have our Annual Party here for the first time to also highlight Uptown's third historic district, College Hills.

The Whittier Conservancy celebrates our 23rd Anniversary, as

we find ourselves in the middle of completing construction of the new "Palm Station" along the Whittier Greenway Trail, made possible by a \$50,000 grant from Edison International. Earlier this year, the Whittier Conservancy received \$25,000 for a historic assessment of Earlham Hall, home of the first President of Whittier College.

A total of \$100,000 has been [see "PARTY" pg. 6]

REGINA PHELAN

OCTOBER 19, 1919 - APRIL 3, 2010

Regina Phelan will be remembered in Whittier as a historian who loved her country and loved her city. She wrote a series of books for young people on the history of the United States and she wrote a remarkable biography of her family – early pioneers in California. “The Gold Chain” tells of her grandfather who owned a circus in San Francisco during the Gold Rush and who accumulated bags of gold pieces thrown at his feet when performing for the miners. The gold chain he had made for his wife is still in the family.

Regina was a popular public speaker. She could give a detailed history of Whittier and easily narrated the fascinating story of her family history, leaving listeners wondering if that ship that sank off the coast of California with her grandfather’s second wife, tiny son and much of his wealth would ever be discovered!



It is interesting to note that Regina’s family moved into the area before the Quakers, purchasing land from Don Pio Pico. We have that family to thank for planting our hybrid walnut tree on what was once El Camino Real adjacent to the state school, Nelles.

For many years, Regina welcomed visitors to the Whittier Museum each Sunday with her ready smile and answers to all questions.

The Conservancy was her keen interest from its inception following the 1987 earthquake until this very year. Regina was an early member of the board, always offering suggestions and knowledge. We consider Regina Phelan one of Whittier’s true treasures, to be remembered with respect and affection.

~ Dorteia Boyd

Photo of Regina kindly lent by the Whittier Historical Society

JACARANDA REMOVAL CHALLENGED



Corner of La Cuarta and Catalina

The 75 year old jacaranda surrounded by bougainvillea at the corner of La Cuarta and Catalina is a familiar feature of central East Whittier. It is cherished by those who live there, those who used to live there, and by neighbors galore.

Recently, the city posted the tree for removal, citing bugs, decay, and limb loss as reasons for its demise. The Conservancy, along with the homeowners, have appealed the jacaranda’s death sentence. While the tree is not perfect, there are many mitigation measures that could be taken before removal.

For example, proper pruning, treatment of a compro-

mised limb, and sealing off of exposed areas are techniques that could be tried first, and would all be less expensive.

The city’s Tree Manual is vague with regard to proper treatment practices, it’s all or nothing. With no city pathology report to back up the request for removal of this tree, we are taking our case to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review in the hopes that a compromise can be reached that gives this beloved jacaranda a second chance. Initially the city report said that the tree was leafless and dangerous. We challenge that assumption based on the fact that in due course, ALL of the branches flowered profusely and are now fully leafed. That is not the mark of a dying tree.

The appeal hearing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 15th at 6:30pm at City Hall. Be there if you care! 🌸



Mission Statement

The Whittier Conservancy is committed to the preservation and enhancement of Whittier's unique character and quality of life. The Conservancy promotes awareness and appreciation of Whittier's historic, aesthetic, and natural resources. The Conservancy works for the preservation and sensitive use of Whittier's significant residential structures, landmark commercial buildings, and notable landscapes, including its valuable cultivated trees, public parks, and the natural beauty of the Whittier Hills.



HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY VALUES ↑

Historic neighborhoods appear to be good for the local economy. The median price of homes in Whittier zip code 90601, including the City's three historic districts, has risen 30% in the past year, according to real estate market data supplied by MDA Data-Quick and reported by the Los Angeles Times in July.

The trend, based on city-wide residential sales data, offers support for the Conservancy's long-held position regarding the value to property owners of acquiring real estate in protected neighborhoods.

The findings also help debunk the myth that property values are diminished when city ordinances set limits to encourage the responsible stewardship of the community's historic properties.

In the past year, increases in Whittier's Uptown zip code have outpaced those of every other zip code in the city, which averaged increases of only 7%. Statewide, the median price for homes declined 3% in the past year.

Zip Code	Median Price	Rate of Change
90601	\$438,000	30.5%
90602	\$323,000	15.2%
90603	\$378,000	-17.3%
90604	\$338,000	-0.3%
90605	\$345,000	25.5%
90606	\$291,000	9.4%

SOURCE: MDA DataQuick

WHITTIER CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

PRESIDENT ~ MARY GORMAN-SULLENS

VICE PRESIDENT ~ CHARLES CLAVER

TREASURER ~ MICHAEL TACCONI

DORTHEA BOYD

GEORGE PRATHER

LILYAN NEAL

JOHANNES RITTERSHAUSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ~ HELEN RAHDER

P. O. Box 9114
Whittier, CA 90608
www.whittierconservancy.org

**Monday, September 20, 2010
7:30 p. m.
Villalobos Hall, Whittier College**

Co-sponsored by Sociology Club, History Department, Hartley House, The Dean of Students Office, and Ortiz Programs.

Parking is available at the Whittier College Campus Center lot on the corner of Earlham Dr. and Painter Ave.

Free and Open to the Public
Any questions, please contact
Julie Collins-Dogrul, Assistant Professor, Sociology (jcollins@whittier.edu)

WHITTIER COLLEGE

States of Delinquency
Youth, Race, and Science at Whittier State School, 1890s to 1940s

IN SUMMER, TREES ARE ESPECIALLY OUR FRIENDS

CONSERVANCY EDITORIAL

IT'S SUMMER; DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR TREES ARE?

One of the most obvious things we as consumers can do to balance our energy demands is to calculate the cost of heating/cooling vs. natural alternatives. For example, a mature tree that shades a home can reduce inside temperatures by about twenty degrees. That can mean the difference between using air conditioning or not. Parking in the shade vs. a barren open lot can alter the inside temperature of a car by over forty degrees!

As the heat of the summer sun beats down on Southern California, Whittier is fortunate to have many tree lined streets to help cool down and shade its lovely neighborhoods. But what about those hot, crowded, dusty parking lots serving our businesses? Who noticed, this spring, the tree-topping and inappropriate pruning that left some commercial lots looking like the remnants of nuclear winter?

In a letter to the Daily News, Mary pondered the annual tree massacre in the Home Depot parking lot. ☞

Whittier Daily News
Letter to the Editor
June 1, 2010

RE: HOME DEPOT TREE MASSACRE

I would like to echo Julian Sandoval's observations about the horrific maintenance of the trees in the Home Depot parking lot. He asks, "Why do the owners of the property continue to keep the trees looking like stumps?" The answer is: because there is no city oversight on a project that is REQUIRED to keep the trees in accordance with their city-issued conditional use permit.

The Whittier Conservancy inquired about this problem last year when the Radisson Hotel illegally destroyed two mature kapaok trees at the corner of Greenleaf and Penn. When the permits for HD were granted almost fifteen years ago, tree planting and maintenance were a part of the ongoing requirements for the issuance of the permit. Since this was a subsidized redevelopment project, the trees belong not only to the property owner, but to all the residents of Whittier! The trees were supposed to have been shade trees for customers, not butchered stalks for easy maintenance. The responsibility lies with both the property owner to follow the mandates of their permits, and with the city to enforce compliance.

This problem exists at many other redevelopment sites and is contributing to an accumulation of unsightly projects that were supposed to have replaced previous blight.

Maintenance and respect for commercial property, especially that which is underwritten by the resident taxpayers, should be a priority for the City of Whittier. We urge everyone to ask the city why there is no enforcement of the landscape conditions required of Home Depot, Carl's Jr., the Marketplace, and several other developments. What's the point of having conditions and specifications if no one has to adhere to them? Quality of life in Whittier requires vigilance from all of us.

Mary Gorman-Sullens

Mary Gorman-Sullens
President, Whittier Conservancy



Conservancy/Edison Greenway Trail Palm Park Station Construction Underway



The Classic Tuscan Columns at Nelles



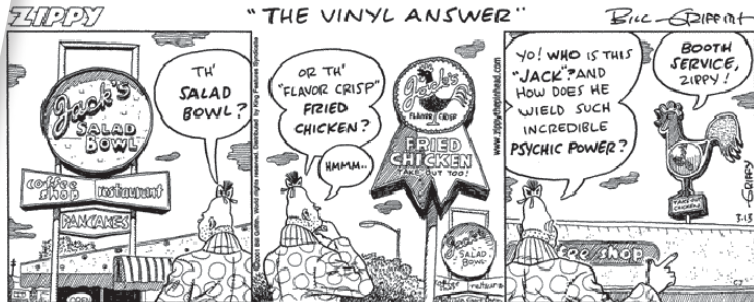
Beautifully crafted replacement pieces for the Palm Station Project

The Conservancy, in collaboration with Southern California Edison and the City of Whittier, will break ground soon for the Greenway Trail Palm Park Station. The station celebrates Whittier's prominent architectural styles and features columns from a historical building that once stood on the Fred C. Nelles site. Upon completion, the Conservancy will host a reception, so stay tuned for more information soon! 🎉

GOLD LINE UPDATE

You can keep updated on the progress of the project at:
metro.net/eastsidephase2 and facebook.com/metroeastsidephase2
A useful guide to answer Gold Line questions:
http://www.metro.net/projects/eastside_phase2/faq/

HISTORIC RESOURCES IN JEOPARDY



"I'll just say a version of what I said when the Doggie Diner Doggie was threatened with destruction in San Francisco a few years ago (it was ultimately saved and made a landmark): America doesn't have medieval cathedrals or Renaissance murals to protect as our cultural heritage. We have Bob's Big Boy and Jack's Salad Bowl. We don't have Gothic buildings to save and protect. We have Googie buildings to save and protect. Pop culture IS our culture. We need to recognize and preserve it, not demolish it." -Bill Griffith

In the early 1990s, the City of Whittier adopted a Historic Resources Ordinance that became part of the Whittier Municipal Code. This law is what protects historic structures and defines how preservation rules are followed in Whittier. The original ordinance was written to reflect the national and state standards that determine what is historic and what procedures need to be followed in order to ensure compliance.

Whittier's law reads:

- The purpose of the Historic Resources Ordinance is to:**
- A) Safeguard the heritage of the city by protecting resources that reflect its cultural, historical and architectural legacy;
 - B) Promote public understanding, appreciation and involvement in the unique heritage of the city;
 - C) Foster civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past;
 - D) Protect and enhance the city's attractions to residents and visitors and to support and stimulate business and industry;
 - E) Enhance the visual and aesthetic character of the city;
 - F) Promote the use of historic resources; and
 - G) Protect and safeguard the property rights of the owners whose property is declared to be a historic resource (Section 18.84.020)

In accordance with accepted preservation practice, all buildings over fifty years old must be checked for historic significance before they can be demolished or drastically altered. The "fifty-year rule" is the gold standard in cities with protective ordinances. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERYTHING FIFTY YEARS OLD IS HISTORIC; MOST ARE NOT.** What it does mean is that all buildings over fifty must be checked against an inventory or list of historic resources to make sure that nothing significant is lost.



The demolition of Jack's Salad Bowl, 11533 Whittier Blvd., was done with no CEQA/Historic Resources Commission review.

The age of a building is not the only criteria. Historic distinction can be relevant to a historic event, a specific type of architecture or known architect, a person, or a local landmark. But the "fifty-year rule" is universally accepted as the gold standard in determining what is reviewed. As the post-war architecture of the 50s and 60s become eligible for review, this scrutiny is crucial.

The City of Whittier, however, has arbitrarily decided that no buildings built prior to 1941 will ever be eligible for anything, effectively freezing historic possibilities to a year-certain. This decision flies in the face of our own ordinance and jeopardizes many historic resources already defined. While many other cities are tightening their ordinances to include the review of anything over forty years old, Whittier is going backwards.

By not honoring the current law, as well as the grass-roots efforts of the 1980s and 1990s that created it, the City of Whittier is eliminating a whole class of potentially viable assets (those built between 1941 and 1960). The Conservancy has asked them NOT to amend the code to reflect this arbitrary notion. A change of this type would effectively gut the historic resources ordinance and jeopardize the Conservancy's and the city's pursuit of grants and honorable distinctions that are only available when accepted preservation standards are followed. We'll keep you posted. ✿

Bill Griffith's Zippy comic strip started in the Berkeley Barb in 1976, went daily in The Examiner in 1985 and has gone out nationally from King Features since 1986.

Jack's Salad Bowl Menu photo, courtesy of Frank Kelsey "ussuiwojima"/flickr **5**

GOOGIE

["GOOGIE" from pg. 1]



Photos, masthead & here, courtesy Melissa Cruz - www.googier.blogspot.com/

While the "Googie Look" may be hard to define, it is obvious when you see it. Here in Whittier there are at least four wonderful examples: the Friendly Hills Bowl, the Five Points Car Wash, and the two Jack's restaurants—all on the Whittier Blvd. strip. Currently, the Los Angeles Conservancy and its Moderne Committee has identified these structures as worthy of historic designation at the county level. The Whittier Conservancy is pursuing local designation and has approached the city with a request for the identification and listing of significant post-war structures.

While the Googie movement was all about the future, it's message is now in the rear-view mirror. It is up to us to make sure that these timely landmarks of post-war development are protected to remind us of the new futures yet to come. 🌿

PEACE-OUT WHITTIER



A Healthy Cafe

6754 Greenleaf Ave
562-693-9780

FENIX 5-4

["PARTY" from pg. 1]

generously awarded to the Whittier Conservancy from Edison over the last three years to enhance the Whittier Greenway Trail and advocate sustainability in our local neighborhoods. The Annual Party calls attention to recent examples of historic preservation and community enhancement projects of note throughout the Whittier community.

Admission is \$40.00 per person and will include hearty appetizers, wine, beer, and dessert provided by local Whittier restaurants such as Phlight, Fenix 5-4, Baciare, Crepes & Grapes, Bella Café, and Rocky Cola Café.

Invitations have been sent to Conservancy members, but non-member supporters are also invited to attend.

To RSVP, please mail your check payable to: Whittier Conservancy, (reply form opposite)

For additional event information, call Maria Claver at: (562) 693-5853. ✨



["GRANT" from pg. 1]

Earlham Hall, home of the first president of Whittier College, will eventually undergo a complete renovation. However, before it can be brought up to current building code standards and retrofitted with energy-efficient materials, its entire façade and internal condition must be evaluated by a professional team. Since this building is listed as a locally significant historic resource within the City of Whittier, its restoration will fall within the guidelines specified by the city's Historic Resources Ordinance that oversees the permit process of such properties. This will ensure that its infrastructure is upgraded while its architectural integrity is preserved and respected.

The Edison International Corporate Contribution Grant, presented to the Conservancy by Sylvia Southerland, will lay the groundwork for this endeavor, with future funding coming from the Whittier Conservancy, local philanthropists, and other organizations and individuals. With the Conservancy's theme of Sustainability at the heart of this effort, Edison has positioned itself as a leader in a cooperative venture that invests in the local community. As the initial sponsor of the assessment of Earlham Hall, Edison's involvement is paramount and emphasizes the company's commitment to education, energy-efficiency, and the environment.

Sylvia Southerland, spokeswoman for Edison, said the grant was given in part because of the partnership between Whittier College and Whittier Conservancy.

"We really look closely at grant requests that exemplify community partnerships," Southerland said. "This is a very good example of one." 🌿

SATURDAY
 SEPTEMBER 25TH
 FIVE O'CLOCK PM
 6799 WORSHAM DRIVE
 WHITTIER, CA 90602
 HEARTY APPETIZERS
 WINE & BEER
 DESSERTS
 \$40.00 PER PERSON

2010
 WHITTIER
 CONSERVANCY
 23RD ANNUAL
 PRESERVATION
 PARTY



THE STODDY ESTATE, COLLEGE HILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT, BUILT IN 1926

WWW.WHITTIERCONSERVANCY.ORG

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE



The Whittier Conservancy Membership Application

To become a member or renew your membership, please complete and send the following form with your tax-deductible donation to:

The Whittier Conservancy
 P.O.Box 9114
 Whittier, CA 90608-9114

Quantity: \$40.00 per ticket for the
 23rd Annual Whittier Conservancy Party! ~ 09/25/10

- \$25.00 Friend
- \$40.00 Household
- \$100.00 Patron
- \$250.00 Preservationist
- \$500.00 Heritage Circle
- \$1000.00 Environmental Steward
- _____ Other
- New Member
- Renewal Member
- Contact me to volunteer

Yes, I want to be a part of the Whittier Conservancy!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

COMMUNITY CALENDAR / EVENTS / NOTES

California Native
Plant Society
www.cnps.org



Fiestas Patrias - An Annual Celebration

Pio Pico State Historic Park, Saturday,
September 18th
6003 Pioneer Blvd, Whittier, California
(562) 695-1217 ext. 102 for more info



"States of Delinquency, Youth, Race, and Science in California's Early Juvenile Justice System, 1850 to 1890"

- Lecture (see ad inside), Miroslava Chavez-Garcia Ph.D., Associate Professor, UC Davis. - Whittier College, September 20, 9:30PM, Villalobos Hall

"Paws For A Cause" - Whittier Community Foundation

Canine 3k Walk Run and Fashion Show- \$15 admission
Saturday morning, September 25th 9AM-12PM, Palm Park
Stop by the Whittier Conservancy booth!

Whittier Conservancy 23rd Annual Preservation Party - Sat, September 25

The Stoodly Estate, 5PM - details inside, or call Maria Claver, (562) 693-5853

Whittier Conservancy Annual General Meeting

October 20, 7PM, Whittier Art Association Gallery - 6035 Painter
Featured guest speaker will be Chris Nichols from the Los Angeles
Conservancy Modern Committee on California Google architecture and the
"60s turning 50." Call (562) 693-5853 for more info.

Hike the Hills - Every 3rd Sat, 9AM - 11AM

9/18 - Hellman Park Trailhead
10/16 - Powder Canyon Trailhead (Family)
11/20 - Hacienda Hills Trailhead
12/18 - Sycamore Canyon Trailhead (Family)

Restoration Days -11/13 Turnbull Canyon

Help bring back native plants and beautify the hills! Open to all ages.
Certificates for service hours available on completion of work day to students.
9-12AM--Be there 15 minutes early to sign in. RSVP needed.

Volunteers Needed - Become a naturalist!

Learn about the natural history of the Preserve, and how to share the wonders
of nature with others at the Sept 25th Volunteer Orientation Breakfast!

Programs offered by the Habitat Authority.

To RSVP or for more information contact Helen Cohen at: 562-945-9003
or email hcohen@habitatauthority.org - www.habitatauthority.org

Whittier - CA Grown - Farmers Market - Philadelphia & Bright

Vegetables, fruits, flowers, breads, fresh fish, and more.
8AM - 1PM, every Friday

Friends of the Whittier Public Library

Support your library, donate and shop at the "Friends" bookstore,
corner of Comstock & Bailey. Hours: Tues 10-2, Fri 9-12, Sat 10-12,
Thurs 10AM - 2PM (for donations only) 562-696-4498



DETAILS INSIDE



Return Service
Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WHITTIER, CA
PERMIT NO. 177

The Whittier Conservancy
P.O. Box 9114
Whittier, CA 90608-9114

