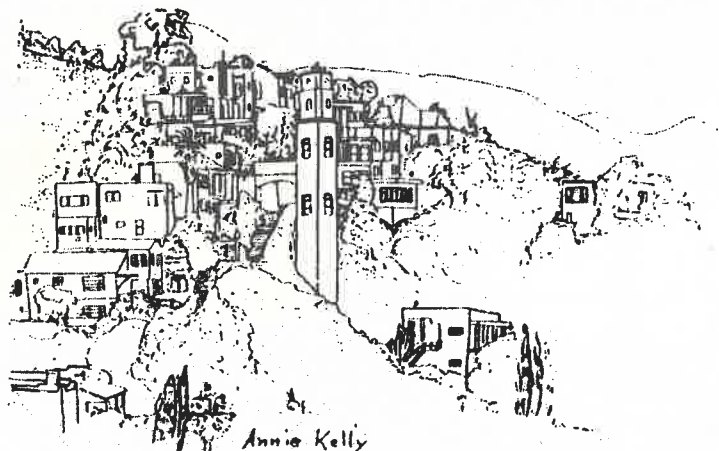


HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS VIEW

Volume X Issue No. 2 Established 1982 Winter 1991



1992 Board Selected at General Meeting

Twenty Hollywood Heights residents, who declared their dedication to improving and preserving our unique neighborhood, were elected to serve on the HHA Board of Directors during the November general membership meeting at Yamashiro.

The new board includes 14 incumbents. Several of them were elected to the board for the first time last year. Three of them, Theo Wilson, Don Wakefield and Linda Deutsch, were founding members of the HHA board in 1982 and begin their 10th year of service to the neighborhood.

Six new members added to the board were Mariella Cole, Stephanie Faulkner-Peschke, Edward Imparato, Carrie Katona, June Maltcheff and Bill Fuqua. In addition to the names placed on the ballot by the nominating committee, Maltcheff and Fuqua were nominated by members from the floor.

Candidates gave brief speeches expressing their individual hopes for preserving the tranquility and beauty of Hollywood Heights. Grayce Baldwin, the first President of HHA, presided over the spirited election process.

The incumbents elected are Joyce Breiman, Jeffrey Chusid, Fredrica Cooper, Linda Deutsch, Joyce Dyrektor, Marilyn Glasband, Theo Wilson, Allan Goldpenny, Herb Kornfeld, Ron Max, Meg Moynihan, Carol Pfannkuche, Don Wakefield and Carol Ward.

This board is responsible for electing the 1992 officers and will do so at the next board meeting. Jeff Chusid has served as President for three consecutive terms, a first in HHA history.

—by Linda Deutsch

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Please watch
your water
use. There's a
drought,
y'know!



President's Message: *Neighborhood Trust*

by Jeffrey Chusid

This has been a tumultuous year for the neighborhood and the HHA. Numerous issues have raised tempers to the point that neighbors have been fighting each other, instead of focusing on the real problems. And that, of course, is how bureaucracies and developers ultimately won their fights. As this is written, our community is engaged in battles with the County of Los Angeles over the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village and the Hollywood Bowl's rock concerts, struggles against the intrusion of several new large homes and duplexes, crowding on community paths and streets, a rash of thefts and muggings, steadily increasing traffic and noise, a hotel conversion to a youth hostel with all-night parties, neighborhood tiffs over parking, pumpkin patches in attempted parking lots, and the arson burning of an historic home in the Pinehurst Park, to list just a few current issues.

The HHA Board exists to address all this. It attempts to respond to both new crises and chronic problems, and to help make our neighborhood better. Who is this Board? Excuse the cliché, but they are your friends and neighbors, putting in time and energy (and frequently money) to take a stand for something in which they believe strongly: Hollywood Heights. They are a diverse group economically, ethnically, in age, and professionally. About half the board are homeowners, half renters. Some have been in the neighborhood for decades, others just a few years. Some are employed full-time outside the community, some work in their homes, some are retired. All are nice people to work with. All care. And we are among the most powerful neighborhood associations in Los Angeles because of them.

I mention this because the HHA Board depends on the neighborhood's active membership, involvement and support for its success in its negotiations on your behalf, and to staff the responses to the many crises that seem to spring up endlessly in our city. But the Board also needs, and deserves, your trust. Let us work together, and face issues with a united front, and we will obviously prevail. Let outside pressures split us apart and we are powerless.

These comments are occasioned by a surprisingly bitter Board election, in turn caused by the depth of concern many in the neighborhood feel regarding our current battles, especially those associated with the Hollywood Bowl. That concern is both justified and essential if Hollywood Heights is to improve anything. A lack of trust and a gnawing bitterness is neither useful nor ultimately effective. One of the pluses mentioned most often regarding living in Hollywood Heights is its sense of community, of being an extended family in the best sense of urban civility. Let us hold on to that.

Last week, a long-time resident of Hillcrest Road made an impassioned statement to me as to why she was leaving the community. She feels Hollywood Heights is going downhill, that she can no longer take the noise, crime, lack of parking, Bowl, movie shoots....I could only sympathize with her. Many of us can, and do, voice her complaint. The truth is that we used to have neighborhood block parties and holiday events to bring us together, and those seem to have been replaced with nothing but crisis strategy sessions. Is the fun gone, only to be replaced by the by-products of uncontrolled urban growth and recession-induced tensions?

Yes, probably it is, for a while. But a positive response is still possible before we give up entirely, and necessary if things are to change. More of us can come to Board meetings and get involved in the kind of political activity that pays off in better services and government responsiveness. We can look out for each other in the neighborhood, and trust each other. And we can bring a sense of humor and grace to these battles, and charm the opposition into dealing with us seriously—and then not let go until we get what we need and deserve for our community.

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One Spark to Disaster

by Abe Perlstien, View Photo Editor

The recent devastation in the Oakland Hills was an event of catastrophic proportions. Many hundreds of homes and precious contents were reduced to ash, and 25-50 people and countless animals perished in the monstrous firestorm.

Frighteningly, Hollywood Heights is virtually a carbon copy of pre-fire Oakland Hills, if not worse. The time for fire prevention is now.

Ten years ago, soon after I settled in Hollywood Heights, I was awakened by a series of bone chilling screams. At first I thought it was a bad dream. When I was fully awake, I realized this was indeed reality. I was hearing the sounds of two next-door neighbors burning to death in their home. Lit candles had been left unattended and were knocked over by a curious cat. This tragic scenario easily could have been prevented.

As we enter the rainy season, there is a sense of false security that all danger of runaway fires is gone. This couldn't be further from the truth. Let's face the facts: our beautiful, lush and unique neighborhood lies smack dab in the midst of the L.A. City Mountain Fire District.

Lightning, a 'natural' cause of brush fires in this area until the building boom of the 1930s and 1940s, served to clear dead and dry matter every ten years or so. Now, 50 years later, we have pockets of hillsides overgrown thick with flash fuel material.

I talked recently with Captain Wayne Boswell, commander of the L.A. City Fire Department's brush clearance unit. He provided the following comprehensive guide for fire prevention in hillside areas:

1. Within 100 feet from all structures, dead grasses, undergrowth and other flash-fuel-type vegetation should be cut down to a height of three inches. Be careful not to pull out the roots which provide primary erosion control during wet and dry seasons.

2. Within 100 feet from all structures, trim bottom parts of native chaparral-like shrubs and small tree-like plants. For specimens 10 feet or taller, leave a ground clearance of at least five feet to the leafy umbrella. For specimens 10 feet or shorter, trim at least one-third from the ground up. Also, trim the umbrella to a maximum of 216 cubic feet or approximately 6x6x6 feet. Provide at least 18 feet, center to center, between each shrub. This allows fire fighters room to work effectively and lessens the chances for flames to jump from shrub to shrub.

3. Within 10 feet of driveways or private roadways, trim flash-fuel vegetation down to three inches. This does not apply to succulents and water-rich ground covers.

4. Trees: Trim at least five feet from the vertical roof line and 10 feet in all directions from chimneys. If new landscaping is being planned, stay away from highly flammable eucalyptus and needle-and-cone type conifers such as cypress, pine and cedar.

5. Chimneys: Install spark arresters to prevent burning embers from landing somewhere they shouldn't, such as on a shake roof.

6. Shake roofs: Remove and replace wood shake roofs as soon as possible. The aesthetic benefits of these roofs are clearly outweighed by the extreme hazard they pose to your home as well as surrounding homes. Shake roofs bring disaster. Replace with non-combustible materials such as terra cotta tile. Fire retardant treatments are largely ineffective and not recommended.

7. Climbing vines on structures: Trim dry and dead materials, leaving the green, water rich leaves and branches. Dry, unkept vine, such as a bouganvillea can act like a fuse in a fire, the structure being the "explosive."

8. Highly combustible items inside your home: Place all items such as wicker furniture far away from windows and door openings. In a fire, they will be like kindling for the rest of the structure.

9. Highly combustible items outside your home: Leave at least 10 feet separation between wood piles, compost piles and structures.

10. Completely extinguish cigarettes and barbeque coals.

11. Sprinklers: Some home owners are outfitting their grounds, roofs and home interiors with water sprinklers. A self-contained water system powered by a gasoline, propane, or solar powered generator or a floating pump drawing from either a swimming pool or alternative water supply will provide water to the system in case of a domestic water supply failure during earthquake, fire or other acts of nature.

12. Gas meter and pipes: Leave an aluminum non-rusting type adjustable wrench next to the cutoff valve. Instruct all people in your building — and possibly a neighbor as an alternative — how to shut off the flow of natural gas in case of emergency.

One spark is all it takes. An Oakland Hills type fire can happen in Hollywood Heights. Please do your part to prevent such a tragedy. We can act now. The life and property you save may be your own.

Developers Back Out of \$300 Million Project

The developers who planned to build a \$300 million complex of apartments, stores and offices in Hollywood, have backed out of the project.

Hollywood/Highland Partners, who had announced plans for the Hollywood Plaza "urban village" in 1988, cited the lagging real estate market, dwindling sources of financing and high construction costs for their decision to abandon the project.

The Hollywood Plaza had been one of the centerpieces of the \$922 million Hollywood redevelopment project. It would have been built on the north side of Hollywood Boulevard at Highland Avenue next to a planned Metro Rail subway stop. In addition to financial problems, the developers clashed with the CRA over such things as traffic and density and what to do with the Hollywood Wax Museum and other historically significant buildings at the site, according to CRA Chairman Jim Wood.

The second major project approved by the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Hollywood Promenade, remains in development. This project is located at Mann's Chinese Theater.

Meanwhile, the good news is that a third development, the Hollywood Galaxy, is scheduled to open at Christmas. Its addition of movie theaters, restaurants and shops to Hollywood Boulevard will offer a test of the traffic and parking situation when more residents are drawn to Hollywood.

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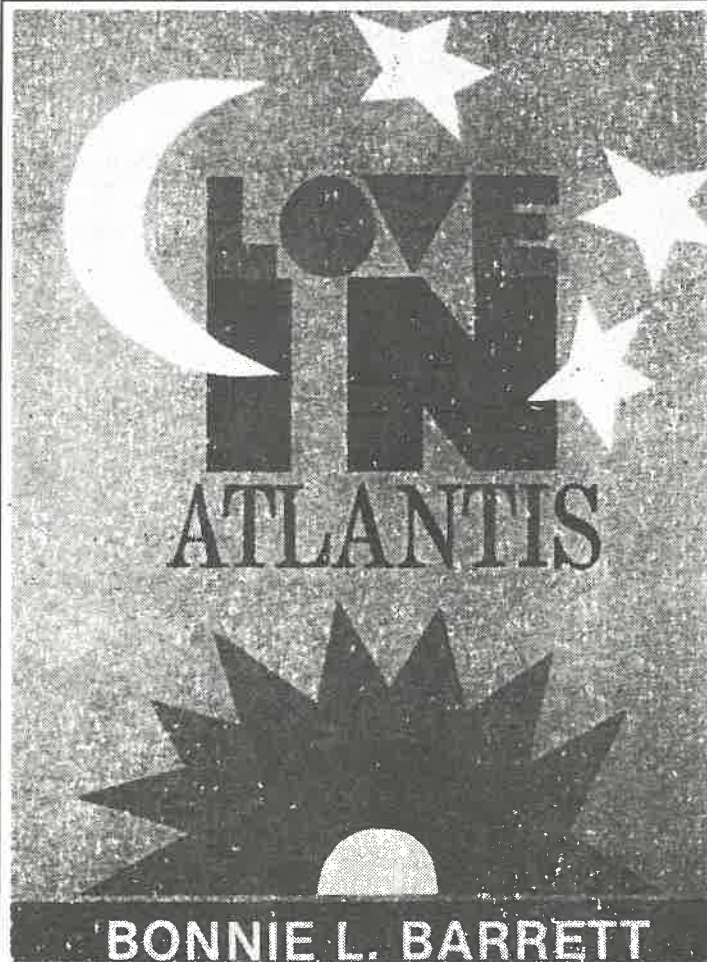
Kathy Godfrey, former field deputy to Councilman Mike Woo and a longtime friend of the Hollywood Heights Association, has been promoted to head the councilman's district office. Kathy acted as Woo's liaison for the hillside communities.

"Kathy has proved her ability to be an effective advocate for the residents of my district," Woo said in announcing her move. "She is uniquely qualified to ensure that residents get their full share of city services."

Among Kathy's achievements during her two years as a field deputy was the Hillside Congestion Ordinance to keep narrow roadways clear during construction. She also handled building and safety issues and spearheaded the Community Safety Task Force which fights slums and slumlords.

Woo also named as his new chief deputy Diana Brueggeman, former head of the district office. She replaces Eric Roth who is leaving to pursue opportunities in the private sector, Woo said.

Happy Thanksgiving



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Fran Offenhauser Honored

Former HHA board member Fran Offenhauser, an architect who was one of the founding members of Hollywood Heritage, Inc., 11 years ago, has been honored for her contributions to design excellence and her advocacy on behalf of historic resources in Hollywood. Her Individual Achievement Award came on the heels of her most recent success as principal architect on the new Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences Library in Beverly Hills. The building was formerly the Beverly Hills Waterworks Plant and is an example of Fran's work in turning historic resources into updated aesthetic assets to our community.

Crime and Parking on Our Minds

Residents who packed the general meeting of the Hollywood Heights Association at Yamashiro had two subjects on their minds— crime and parking.

Representatives of the Los Angeles Police Department and Westec Security were on hand to hear HHA Crime Committee chair Meg Moynihan report on an increase in car thefts and break-ins that have plagued Hollywood Heights.

Meg should be called at 874-0939 if you have any information about a crime. She provides the Hollywood Division of the Police Department with statistics on crime in our neighborhood. If you don't report a crime, it can't be solved.

Police officer Bill Sollie of the Hollywood Division told the group that decisions on patrolling are based on statistics. Many Hollywood Heights residents have neglected to call the police about car break-ins and other crimes. Thus, the LAPD believes ours is a relatively crime-free area and doesn't send patrol cars here.

Officer Sollie has been assigned to our area and told the members that he is the one to call for non-emergency problems. His number is 485-4302. He also said that to report a crime, call 485-4328. He intends to come to all HHA meetings.

Randy Davis of Westec spoke about the advantages of private patrol service. He said that for \$35 a month

Westec Security provides surveillance, will pick up newspapers and mail when a resident is on vacation, and provides escort service for those coming home late at night.

The more people who subscribe to Westec, the greater the service's commitment will be to patrolling Hollywood Heights, Davis said. To join, call Randy at 460-6869.

There were also discussions on the importance of forming Neighborhood Watch groups which are considered the most effective way to keep a neighborhood crime free. (Talk to your block captain about forming a group).

Points that were made included:

— Know your neighbors. That is the heart of Neighborhood Watch.

— Don't worry about looking foolish. Call if you see or hear anything suspicious.

— Put an HHA decal on your car and make sure your neighbors have them.

— Don't turn off outside lights at night. A brightly lit street deters crime.

— Keep shrubs trimmed and don't leave doors and windows open.

Also discussed at the meeting was permit parking as a possible solution to our congested streets — particularly in Hollywood Bowl season. The process is complicated and petitions will have to be distributed. Let your block captain know if you are interested in this project.

—*Theo Wilson*

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View of Hightower circa 1935. Rare photo provided by Dick Ryan, whose home appears to the left of the elevator. His neighbor, Stephen Paley, acquired the photo of a less crowded Hollywood Heights (Abe Perlstien). Editor's note: For related article on the Hightower elevator, please see page 13.

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Edward Lazarus' First Book Tells Sioux Story

Edward Lazarus, a recent transplant to Hollywood Heights from Washington, D.C., dreamed of telling the story of the longest legal battle in American history while he was still in law school. His father, attorney Arthur Lazarus Jr., had represented the Sioux nation for 20 years in its battle with the U.S. government over the seizure of the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Lazarus' just published book, "Black Hills/White Justice," tells the story of that battle.

"For me, the Black Hills claim was the favorite topic of conversation at the family dinner table," Lazarus remembers. Sioux leaders came to dinner at our home. So very early on, I had an interest in Indians."

As a young man, Lazarus said he would go to court and listen to his father argue the case which was traceable back to Custer's Last Stand and Sitting Bull.

After graduating from Yale Law School and clerking for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, Lazarus decided to take time off and write his book. It took nine years to complete.

"Black Hills/White Justice" explores the relations between the Sioux and their white conquerors for a period

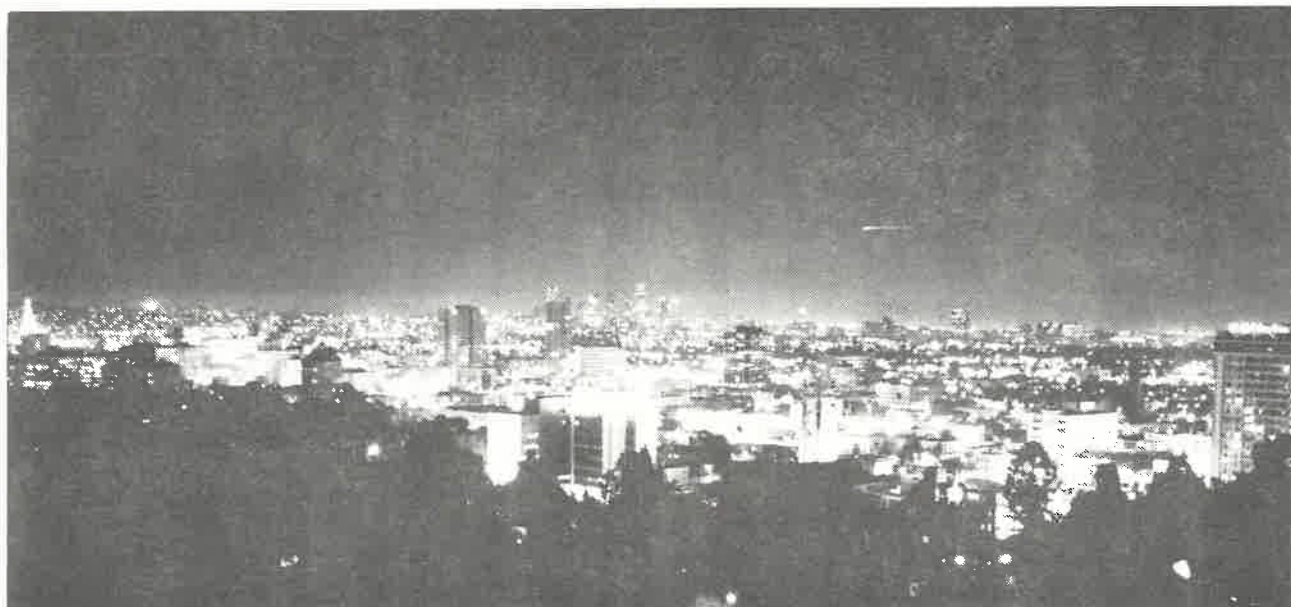
of over 200 years and details the 57-year legal case which resulted in the largest Indian claims judgment ever.

Lazarus says he tries to keep his hand in on legal matters. But he's going to keep writing. Next on his agenda is a screenplay for David Geffen.

—Linda Deutsch



Hollywood Heights resident Edward Lazarus, author of "Black Hills/White Justice."



A view of Hollywood at night, taken by Carol Ward from Sycamore Avenue.

Farmers Market is a Hit!

The Hollywood Farmers Market is changing the way many of us shop and eat. The wonder of freshly picked fruits and vegetables, fresh baked bread and rhubarb pie and pungent herbs is irresistible. And it's all so healthy!

Only six months old, the market is a phenomenal success, according to a consultant to 17 farmers markets throughout Southern California.

While most markets take a while to catch on, Marion Kalb said that the Hollywood market had opening day sales of \$10,000, beating any other market opening in the past 10 years. And sales have been up consistently since opening day.

The Hollywood Farmers Market, on Ivar Street between Hollywood Boulevard and Selma Avenue, started with 28 merchants and has grown to 40, according to Pompea Smith, project director for the Hollywood Economic Revitalization Effort which organized the market.

Every Sunday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., farmers sell items including fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, assorted breads, flowers, plants, honey, dates and that very special rhubarb pie.

"It's the greatest thing that could have happened to Hollywood," said Smith. "We are improving the lives of the people in Hollywood, of all the families that have been coming."

During market hours, there's free parking in the Doolittle Theater parking lot at 1623 N. Vine Street.

--Linda Deutsch



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Friends of Animals Need Friends

by Vera Richards

I am doing volunteer work for the Friends of Animals Foundation in West Los Angeles, and this organization has a "wish list" of needed items. Perhaps you can help.

The organization is entirely volunteer and works at rescuing dogs and cats whose owners are too sick to take care of them or who have died, as well as animals on the street without a home. The Friends of Animals will not put any animal to sleep but works to find good homes for all of them.

Here is a sample of items on the wish list. I can provide a more complete list. If you can help, please call me at 213-851-6706.

Among items needed: Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, canned and dry dog and cat food, heavy stainless steel feeding dishes, blankets and towels for dogs and cats to sleep on, office supplies including computer, computer printer, fax machine, telephone answering machines and general office supplies. Services also are needed including secretarial, mailing and telephone answering. Foster homes are being sought for pets as well as drivers to take them to prospective homes.

Park Plan Would Benefit Hollywood Heights

A plan to spruce up Barnsdall Park would give Hollywood Heights an unexpected reprieve from Metro Rail excavation at Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue.

The boon for Barnsdall Park comes in an offer from the people building the Metro Rail subway system. The builders need a site for excavation of a tunnel under Hollywood, and Barnsdall Park, at Hollywood Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, seems to be a good starting point.

The entrance to the park, a Hollywood cultural treasure, is now obscured by a car wash and a shopping center. The Rail Construction Corp. has offered to buy the car wash, use it as a construction site for three years and then give the land to the city along with enough money to build an art library in the park.

Use of the car wash and the lower part of Barnsdall's parking lot would allow workers to tunnel south under Vermont Avenue and west under Hollywood Boulevard but would eliminate the need for excavation sites at the intersections of Hollywood and Highland, Vermont and Santa Monica and Hollywood and Western Avenue.

Councilman Mike Woo, who helped formulate the plan, said the library would draw more visitors to the park which has many other facilities including an art gallery, two art schools, a theater and the Frank Lloyd Wright's celebrated Hollyhock House.

The landmark house was designed by Wright for wealthy widow Aline Barnsdall who donated the park to the city in 1926.

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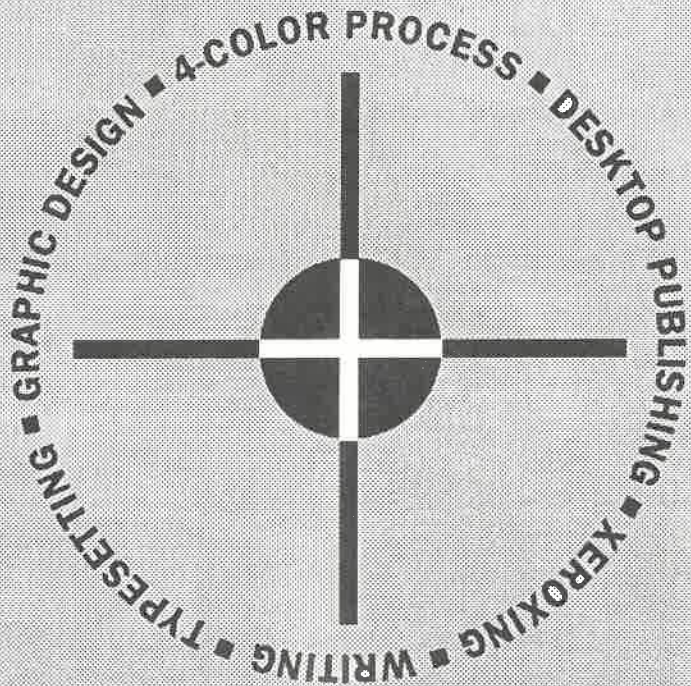
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Movies on Location

HHA member Dick Ryan notes that the historic Hightower has been a favorite movie location lately. In addition to being used in the Disney film, "Rocketeer," the Hightower elevator was featured in the suspense film, "Dead Again."



*Have a
Safe and Happy
Holiday Season!*

Articles and photos wanted

We welcome your articles, letters and photos for the *View*. Submit your materials to any *View* staff member, or mail them to:

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All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity and become the property of the *Hollywood Heights View*. If you would like a proof copy of your article prior to publication, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. *No payment is made for publication.*

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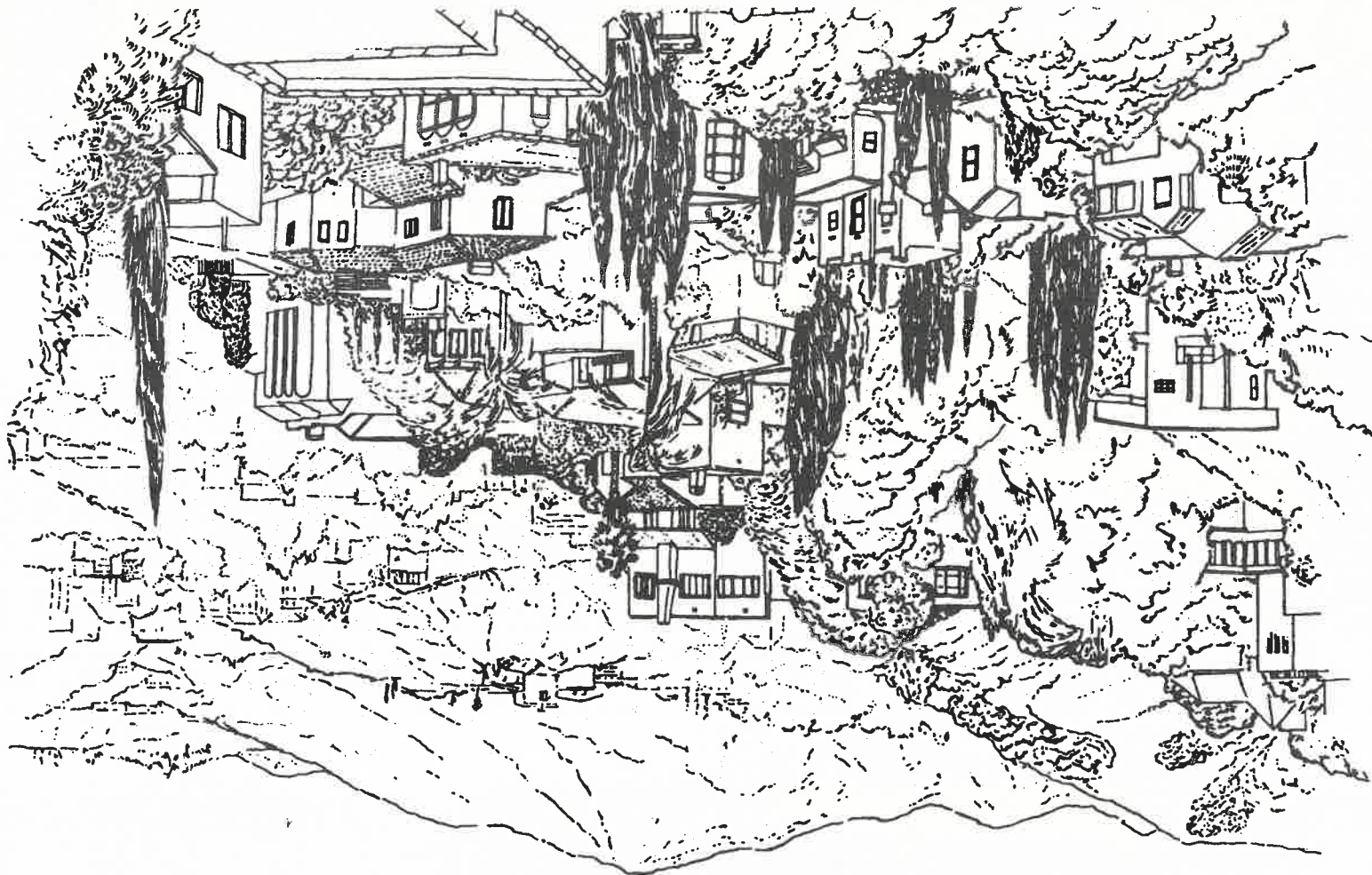
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