

MAR VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Minutes –October 20, 2005

ATTENDANCE: Glen and Nancy Howell, Hal and Cicely Golden,, Nadine Gallegos, Liz Gottlieb, Linda Guagliano

HOST: Hal and Cicely Golden

PRESIDING: Glen Howell

- **Courtyard Apartments**, Westdale Trousdale Cultural-Historical Monument application
 - Nadine Gallegos reported that she had accompanied Dorothy Nichols, Ken Marsh and Kristina Carlsson as they visited the offices of each council person at City Hall last week. Dorothy presented a brochure with an explanation of Paul Trousdale's Westdale development, and the courtyard apartments' unique historical relevance to the city of Los Angeles.
 - The matter will be considered by the Planning and Land Use Management (**PLUM**) Committee on Tuesday November 15, 2005. at 1 PM at City Hall.
 - Nadine made a motion, that MVHS contact all individuals on the MVHS roster to urge them to carpool to the PLUM meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Linda Guigliano volunteered to make phone calls and serve as a focal point for communicating.
 - Nadine Gallegos volunteered to e-mail.
 - Dorothy Nichols is to provide the blurb for the contacting. This will provide a summary of the project and directions to City Hall.
 - Drivers are to contact Ken Marsh, 966-9054 or e-mail at ken.marsh@verizon.net .
 - Ken Marsh will reserve parking for all cars. (CC11 Bill Rosendahl's staff)..
- **MVHS website**-Glen asked for status. Nadine reported that Linda Wallace continues to promptly update the site as she is provided with information. Linda Wallace posts minutes, meeting notices, Courtyard Apartment project items, and any other items as directed,
- **Mar Vista History Stories:** Our meeting always includes some history stories. Glen talked about the Mar Vista oval and Liz reminded of Mar Vista's Santa Claus. The oval, which is bounded by Venice and Washington Blvds., is exactly a one mile track. Glen had measured it. The east half of the oval is East Blvd. and the west half is Marcasele. Maps as early as 1905, show the distinctive oval. It is pretty clear that it was initially laid out to be a race track. Today some realtors refer to the area as the Beverly Hills of Mar Vista. A UCLA ariel photo taken in the mid 1920's shows a circus in the middle of the oval. This would have been the Al Barnes Circus which wintered in what was then Barnes City. The oval became a housing development with the main streets named East and West. West was a problem for the post office because there was already a West St. in Los Angeles. The inspiration for renaming West St. was a housing facility at the corner of Venice Blvd. and Inglewood Ave. named Casa Del Mar. There was a Casa Del Mar Red Car stop. The name was rearranged to Marcasele. The developer utilized the curves to make a housing development without straight lines, providing a very pleasing , unusual effect. Liz Gottlieb reminded us of the Mar Vista Hill Santa Claus who was a Christmas

tradition for many years. He was Howard "Lefty" James. He was a member of the Optimists Club, an organization that was an important part of Mar Vista history.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2005, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Host: Hal and Cicely Golden, 12311 Marine St. Mar Vista. 391-8646

Glen Howell has put together a "History of Clover Field" for the November 17th meeting. Quite fitting given that the Golden's home overlooks the airport. Glen's story begins with Donald Douglas graduating from MIT in 1914.

Nadine Gallegos
Recording Secretary, Pro Tem