

The Whitley Heights NEWS

Serving The Community Since 1923 November 2002

From The President's Desk

This past Halloween was one of the best I can remember in a long time. Not October 31st, but Halloween on "the hill". The Sunday before. An overachiever since birth, and one who usually takes on much more that I rightfully should, I normally just let occasions like Halloween pass by. It's so much easier to ignore personal pleasures because they don't have "deadlines".

I admit it, I was roped in to the festivities at first because I promised to help the others set up the Halloween block party. I felt as President, I should. I always make time for what I consider my obligations, even though dead tired from a hectic work week, my inclination was to disappear to my home in the desert to try and recover. I wondered if anyone would really notice if I wasn't there. But I had promised to help, so I stayed in town. I knew it was always great to see everyone in the neighborhood, so I did look forward to that. But I must say, even setting up was fun. (And the chili Susan Harmon commissioned was fantastic!). As many of the neighbors rolled into the party and we were all chatting, eating and having fun, you could sense the excitement everyone had about the upcoming Pumpkin Carving Contest that night, which AJ had so ingeniously master-minded.

I was a little embarrassed when several people had asked if I had carved my pumpkin. I felt a little guilty. I had completely missed the contest last year. I didn't even see the pumpkins other people had put out. But I just hadn't had time, once again. As I looked around at the enthusiasm everyone had for all the great costumes the kids had devised (and some that the adults were wearing too!), I was suddenly inspired to run out and get a pumpkin.

With less than 2 hrs until countdown, I ran to Ralph's and got the very last pumpkin! I hurried home and somehow quickly came up with a theme for a "Hollywood Cool Guy" pumpkin. Complete with a "Hollywood Reporter" hat and red sunglasses!! Now I was really beat. So I decided to retire into the house and go to bed early.

Then I saw AJ's incredible "Pumpkin Passport" sitting on the counter. I hadn't really even had time to see what it was before, so I started leafing through it. I realized that as tired as I was, I at least had to get out and get my "passport stamps" from Iris Circle. So venture out I did. The passport stations were so cute they really got me smiling. So I decided to see if anyone on Iris had put out a pumpkin. Much to my surprise, several people had. And there were some pretty fantastic ones at that!!

Before you knew it, I had met some people on my street that had been living there for over two years. I was a little taken back that I hadn't even met them before. Then I bumped into some of the judges. They were having such a good time that I decided I would at least venture over to the other side of the hill and just "take a peek" at what people had done. After all, it was only about 6pm at this point. So I promised myself that I would just drive around, get my stamps and come right home to go to sleep. So drive I did. But of course I had to get out of the car a few times to get my stamps. I ran into some folks I had never met before.

Before I knew it, we were chatting and I asked them what they knew about the "Pumpkin Head" that was alluded to in the Passport. I figured it couldn't be a real person. They told me, "oh, yeah, we just saw him wandering around. He's a real guy with a giant pumpkin on his head". I was so amused, I had to see it. So I parked the car and started walking.

→

Then I ran into Matthew and Shelly. They invited me in for a drink. I decided, "hey, why not". I never have the time to actually hang out. And it was still early enough I could get plenty of sleep. We were having such a great time that we decided to venture out to see a few pumpkins.

We heard there were some fantastic ones down at the condos, so we went to check them out. I met some more neighbors I had never met before. Then we bumped into Caroline and Michael Pinky. They decided to walk around with us. Before you knew it I had embarked on a tour of the whole hill and completely lost track of time. The group kept getting larger. We passed so many neighbors along the way. Many of the houses had put out bottles of wine for other neighbors' enjoyment. Everyone we saw was having the time of their lives, trying to collect their stamps and see all the pumpkins. There was so much creativity put into each pumpkin. People had really put time, effort and thought into it.

Everywhere we went we saw Debbie Roper looking around for the judges to try and get her "judges stamp" and laughing like crazy. I think we saw her at least six times over the course of the night. It became the thing we all started joking about because she just couldn't find them!!! When we collected all our stamps, we went by AJ's, where he had enlisted his mother and sister and put them all to work giving out prizes. Every one of us were having such a good time that before I knew it, it was midnight. I couldn't believe as tired as I was that I had stayed out so late and not even realized it!!!

When I got home, it hit me that I had had such a great time that I had forgotten all about work and the upcoming weeks responsibilities. I was so glad that I hadn't gone to sleep early that it made me realize why I love it here so much. I realized there couldn't be any better place to live than in a neighborhood where I not only had such a beautiful home, but one where there was a sense of history and community and the best group of friends and neighbors anyone could ask for. I knew just why we're here.

Steven Wolfe

The Halloween Block Party

As promised, the Neighborhood Block Party on October 27th offered music, food, fun and a dazzling variety of Halloween costumes.



The music was provided by three cabelleros who delighted the adults and mesmerized the tiny tots. Super-dooper chili and homemade cornbread were the staples of the food offerings, but there was also a mountain of candy and treats plus a tub full of apples for "bobbing."

There were young folks dressed as Spiderman, Dracula, a surfer and a bouquet of flowers and an equal number of adults travelling incognito. (See the photo spread)

This was a fairly elaborate affair and thanks are to be spread around to Susan Harmon and all the wonderful neighbors who helped make this event possible and so successful.



Here Comes The Freeway, - Again!

Expansion of the 101 Freeway is under serious discussion. According to the Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association, Caltrans has plans to widen the Freeway through Cahuenga Pass without any public hearings.

There are five "strategies" proposed by the Freeway Corridor Improvement Study and you are encouraged to vote on the form enclosed in your newsletter. Also a petition is currently being circulated requesting your support for Strategy A, which is basically a "no build" proposal. In three of the five proposals, Whitley Heights would lose houses on both sides of the freeway because of widening.

Whitley Heights has formed a committee to help defend our neighborhood against encroachment of the freeway. Committee members include **Lisa Morgan, A.J. Lekowski, Tony Zalewski, Terry Moloy, Mathew Ferguson** and **Dick Lovell**. Please call Dick Lovell (876-2555) or Lisa Morgan (851-7311) if you have any questions, WHCA has also joined the Coalition of Freeway Residents, which is the parent steering committee representing many homeowner groups that would be affected by any expansion of the 101.

There will be a meeting to mount support for a public hearing on **November 21st** at the Junior Achievement Center, **6250 Forest Lawn Drive**, at **7:30 PM.**

STREET WALK

Members of the Board met with Councilman Tom LaBonge on November 7th to walk the streets on the Hill. The purpose was to encourage the Councilman to take some action to repair our streets and restore them to a safe condition.

The Councilman said that he will request the Department of Transportation to prepare an estimate on the paving of each street. The Board made the identical request to DOT over two years ago and received no response. We have every hope that a request from our Councilman will meet with better results.

Birthday Girl



It would be hard to find a more enthusiastic supporter of the Hill activites than Gini Colvig who celebrated her 80th birthday by attending the Haloween Block Party.

...Behind the Scenes...

Just to give you an idea of the amount of work being done behind the scenes of the Pumpkin festivities, let's check out the numbers.

The committee this year produced and distributed 300 Pumpkin Passports on the hill complete with pens & raincoats. They assembled and delivered 300 reminder goodie-bags filled with candy, toys and candles, and distributed another 300 announcement fliers. They also filled and decorated 100 prize tins for winners, created 120 hand-stamped award certificates and built over 100 trophies with plaques for participants. But that's not all!

Committee members then set-up the official Pumpkin Hotline and fielded calls, fabricated over a dozen Passport Stamping Stations, and decorated Whitley Heights with 30 colorful banners and over a dozen oversized pumpkins hung high in the trees. WOW!! On Judging Night, after enjoying the wonderful WHCA Halloween Party, the committee members put on their judge's hats to hunt down pumpkins, distribute awards and take pictures of entries for over four hours. Then, they uploaded all the pictures to a secret website for voting and finished tabulation by computer (no hanging chads here!). Finally, after the winners were decided, final photos were uploaded to www.pumpkincontest.com for viewing by everyone late Halloween! Whew!!

The Block Party




PEACE
Groovy













PUMPKIN CONTEST SETS RECORD!

by A.J. Lekowski

The Whitley Heights Pumpkin Contest for 2002 set a new all-time record for carved pumpkins -- more than 120 pumpkins were carved or decorated this year, topping last year's total by a whopping 20 percent! Special thanks to all those who joined in! We hope you had a wonderful time designing and fabricating your own special creation for Halloween and had a chance to walk around the hill and see what your neighbors' creativity brought to life.

Of course special congratulations to this year's winners, **Douglas Burton** and **Tom Kunze** from Whitley Terrace North for their fabulous 'Enchanted Gourd Graveyard' complete with projected ghosts, lightning and other eerie effects! The second place entry was the 'Candycorn Pumpkin Chandelier', a true beauty displayed at 6758 Edgewood Place. Second place received a $20 gift certificate for Amoeba Music. Tied for third was 'Surrender Dorothy: The Wizard of Oz' at 6740 Whitley Terrace and "17 Stairclimbing Pumpkins" at 6643 Bon Air. Those two will each receive $10 gift certificates for Amoeba Music for their hard work and creativity! Congratulations!

Special thanks to my friends on the Pumpkin Contest Committee who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this happen: **Andy Shuttleworth**, **Schelley Kiah** and **Cass Coty**! It was a tremendous amount of work but they did it all without complaint and under a very tight schedule. Great job!

An extra special thanks to **Dan Gore** for his hilarious antics encircling the hill the entire night as "Jack O' Lantern", and to **Sean Presant** for helping prepare and install the Pumpkin Stamping Stations before the contest. An additional special thanks goes out to **Doris** and **Carol Lekowski** for their extra effort preparing prizes for this year's Pumpkin Passports, operating the Prize Station and helping with distribution and judging duties and tons of follow-up. And to **Steven Wolfe** for use of his copier and thanks to the entire WHCA board for their continuous support and encouragement!

Happy Halloween and thanks to those of you who displayed your own special pumpkin and joined your fellow neighbors in this fun and festive Whitley Heights tradition!

Pumpkins, Oh Pumpkins!

by A.J. Lekowski

At half past the hour, with a map and with luck
The cluster of judges clung tight to their truck,
Loaded with prizes, a camera and lights,
Those judges descended upon Whitley Heights.

Their purpose was simple, they had a short time
To hunt down the pumpkins -- cut loose from the vine.
And Jack the O-Lantern was visiting too
To please you, or tease you, if you shouted 'Boo!'

And pumpkins, OH PUMPKINS, they gathered that night
In visions of mystery, magic and fright.
The grins and the smiles were countless it seemed,
As the pumpkins emerged and their candlelights beamed.

A lion, a cat and a web with a spider
One narrow-faced grin and a few a quite wider,
Faces with wigs and a Hollywood fella
joined Yoda, and 'William' and sweet Cinderella.

A bowling ball strike and some cactus in pots
Did battle with handprints and nameprints and dots,
A patchful of pumpkins ascending the stairs
A video pumpkin you viewed from two chairs.

A candycorn chandelier hung from the sky
and a figure named Eve towered three pumpkins high
Fiberlights, fireworks, fountains and flame
Peter (pumpkin-eater) living up to his name.

Surrender oh Dorothy, and mind the ol' witch
Or end up like one pumpkin - lost in a ditch.
And what about Hollywood, stars and the Hill?
There's Crawford and Rudolph who stay with us still.

A haunted gourd-graveyard enchanted the eyes
with flying-by ghosts, and lightning-filled skies.
Dinosaurs, skeletons, magical powers
Joined monsters, and bats and a vase full of flowers.

A trip to Hawaii - vacation too short,
A pumpkin with fuses, but no loud report,
One melting, one running, a creature or two
Met up with a pumpkin that scared with a 'Boo!'

The numbers of pumpkins became quite debateable,
Do you count only real ones - and not the man-madeable?
So what's there to do when so many are fun,
The judges felt ALL of them actually won!

The passports, the prizes, the red flashing stations
The friendships and wandering and wine celebrations,
And Jack, pumpkin head, with his off-beaten humor
Snuck all 'round the hill, with his name but a rumor.

If only we could have this fun every night
Then we'd be the happiest people, all right.
But the clock soon struck midnight and all things so splendid
Turned back into 'pumpkins' - our evening had ended.

Even the circus comes, but - once a year
And the pumpkins and playtime and food and the cheer
Are things to be cherished because they are rare
Like friendships that Whitley Heights neighbors can share.

Hold tight to your child, that one inside you
That comes out to play as it once used to do
Then bring that excitement to most every day
And see if the world seems more carefree that way

And realize that life is a wonderful time
If only we could just make, ALL our words rhyme...
Thank you for playing these pumpkin-filled nights
And for making life special - in our Whitley Heights.

Pumpkin Prize Winners



FIRST PLACE WINNERS:
Tom Kunze & Douglas Burton with Delilah
(Shown with their prize, a brand new 200 Watt AM/FM 5-CD Changer AM/FM Dual Cassette Music System)

Lost Or Found

by Dick Lovell

When we come across a stray dog or cat that does not have an ID collar or a tag of any kind, our tendency is to take it in and call the SPCA or the L.A. Animal Care Center. We have reason to believe those might not be the best choices.

At those agencies, we have been told, some animals are housed for only ten days and some are put away immediately, if no room is available. The following organizations will keep cats and/or dogs until a home is found for them. Even if they are filled when you call, they can always recommend an alternative agency. Actors & Others 818-755-6323. ARCK 818-786-9990. Holiday Humane Co. (cats only) 818-765-8196.

My favorite is Paw'd Squad Animal Rescue. They have two shelters for cats and one for dogs. All the animals are offered for adoption or they remain there for the rest of their lives.

Carole Pearson for dogs: 310-674-0477
Carla Lawson for cats: day 310-865-5768
night 818-425-5786

Donations are welcomed at:
Paw's Squad Animal Rescue
812 Fair Oaks Ave - #179
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Farewell Dear Muriel of Emmet

by Schelley Kiah

Whitley Heights recently lost it's longest term resident, Muriel Gauvin. I had the opportunity to meet her about 2 years ago when I wrote an article for the newsletter about Emmet Terrace. Desperate for information, I put letters in all the mailboxes on the street asking for any information – historical, celebrity-based or architectural – about their properties. The only person to reply was Muriel. Cass Coty and I went along with a trusty tape recorder to interview her.

She was immediately, quite a character – talkative, feisty, bitter and reminiscent. She had moved to Whitley Heights with her family when the only paved road in the area was Hollywood Boulevard. From her bedroom window, she could see the ocean. She had outlived her husband and siblings and never had children of her own. One could say Muriel was isolated and reclusive (for the most part, KCET was her constant companion). Save for her nephew, she had very little contact with the outside world. She once remarked, "nobody knows I'm here." It was far too much trouble to put on street clothes and go out. But who are we to judge her lifestyle. She lived her life her way and was left to her own devices.

Muriel passed away in August, a week after her 85th birthday. She had spent 75 of those years in Whitley Heights.

Do You Have
A Garage For Rent ?

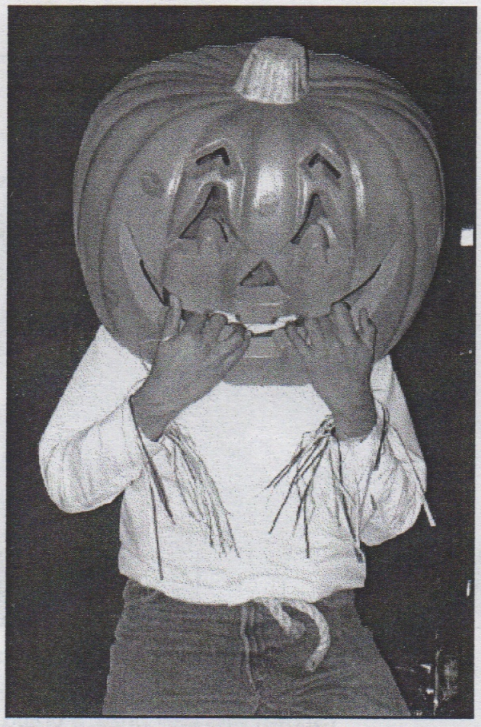
Belle Bridges of
MacGregor Realty

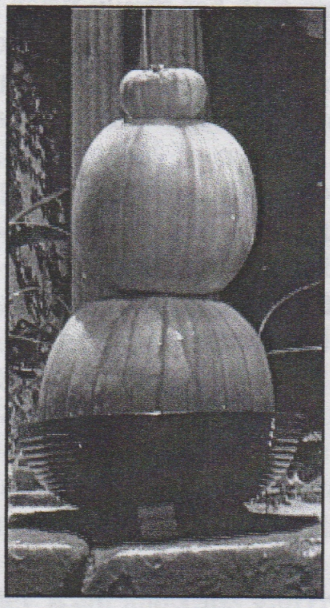
Is Anxious to find a garage in Whitley Heights for a resident on N. Las Palmas.
One Year Rental

Extra Holiday Cash
Call: 310-993-5024
818-244-4499

A Jovous Holiday Season To All


RIP
RIP
RIP
RIP









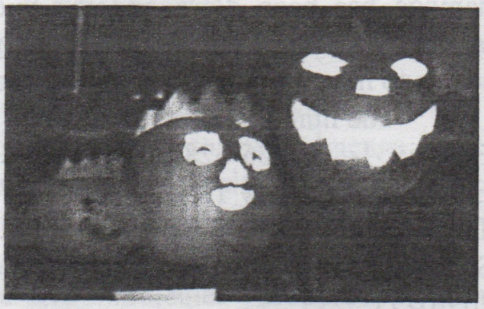
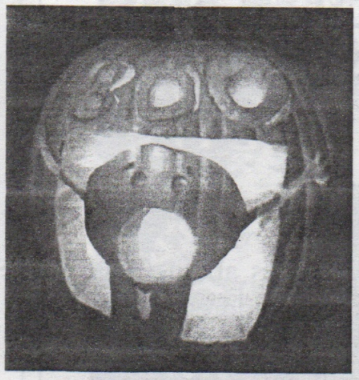






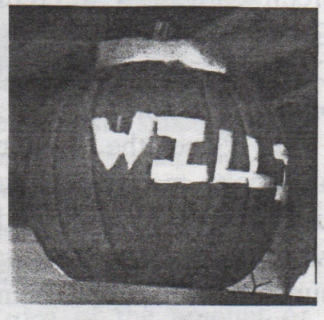


Winning Entries:
1st: Gourd Graveyard & Effects
2nd: Candycorn Pumpkin Chandelier
3rd: (tie) 17 Stair Climbing Pumpkins on Bon Air
3rd: (tie) Surrender Dorothy / Wizard of Oz

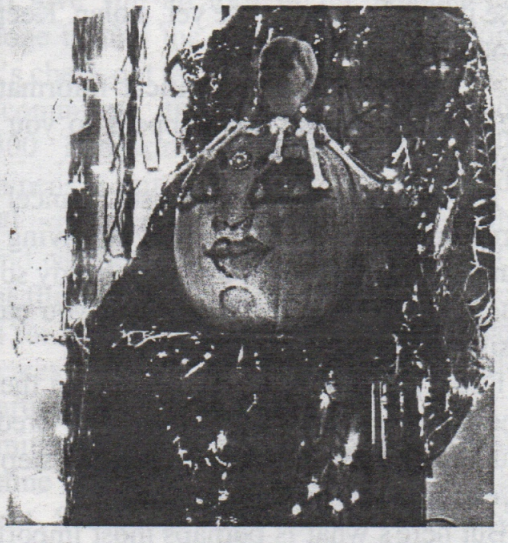
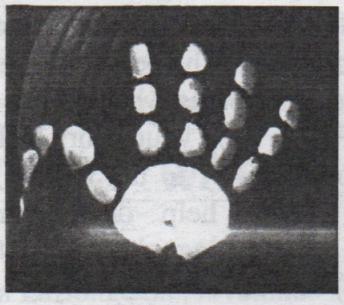
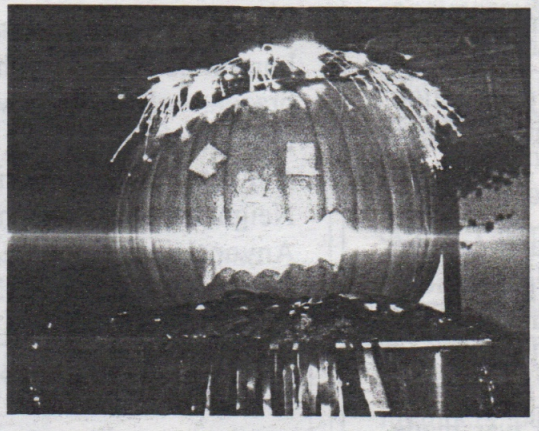







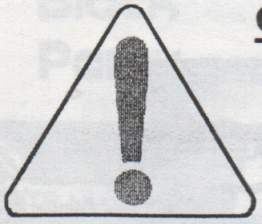







Pumpkin Contest 2002!



GUARDING AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

by Cass Coty

We have all heard horror stories about fraud that is committed using your name, address, SS#, credit, etc. Unfortunately I (the author of this piece who happens to be an attorney) have first hand knowledge, because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week the thieve(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine or your scanner and copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel in case it gets lost, or worse yet, stolen. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
3. But here's what is perhaps most important: call the three national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS# (And call the Social Security fraud line). I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost 2 weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:
Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

Department of Building & Safety



All of Whitley Heights is zoned as R-1, which means that this area is intended for single family homes, only. HPOZ and the Department of Building & Safety are always on the alert for homeowners who build or alter a section of a home to create a separate area that could be deemed an "apartment."

If you are contemplating any remodeling, it is always wise to consult the building codes and your HPOZ representative, Lisa Cooke, (213) 978-1213.

Neighborhood Watch

Please be aware that there have been several burglaries in our neighborhood. The perpetrator is brazen, - choosing to walk in homes where doors are left unlocked or ajar. Please keep your doors locked and report any suspicious activity to the police. A Neighborhood Watch would help deter crime. Anyone interested in participating should contact Caroline Pinkey at (323) 851-6270.

Paula Houston Guibord

highly esteemed Broadway actress and active participant in all WHCA functions passed away in October. Her charm, humor and elegance is fondly remembered.

Home Movies

(A new feature, wherein we invite a distinguished member of the profession to recommend films that might be a welcome addition to your home library.)

by Dick Lovell

Here are five films from my library that I believe can be viewed repeatedly without losing their impact. They should satisfy the "marooned on a desert island," criterion.

STORMY WEATHER – TCE – 1943

This film moves like a hurricane, reflecting the life and career of the incomparable Bill Robinson from Harlem to Broadway. This high-speed, slick, all-black cast features Dooley Wilson (who played Sam, in *Casablanca*), Eddie Anderson and the great Nicholas Brothers. The wonderful Ada Brown sings a couple of songs; Lena Horne is at her very best; the fabulous Fats Waller and Cab Calloway round out this perfect cast. No sad songs in this film and you will never see the likes of it again. (VHS)

THE LEGEND OF 1900 – NEW LINE CINEMA - 1989.

This is a story of a baby boy who is born on a steamer, crossing the Atlantic. He is left on the boat without knowing who his mother is and, taken down to the guts of the ship, is raised by the crew members. Fantasy at its best. An extraordinary tale of a man who never leaves the ship. Tim Roth plays the grown boy and Pruitt Taylor Vance tells us the tale. This film has won nine international awards and bears watching time and time again. (VHS & DVD)

MOUNTAINS ON THE MOON – 1989

Explorers Burton and Hanning search for the source of the Nile. An exciting exploration of two 19th Century men, with excellent performances by Patrick Bergin and Ian Glen. Like a good book or a real film, you will never regret having this experience. (VHS)

SAN FRANCISCO – MGM – 1936

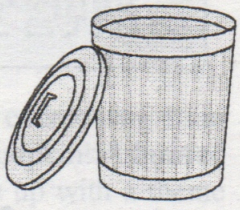
The story of two guys who grew up in the Barbery Coast, - one is a priest and the other a saloon owner. A woman arrives in San Francisco and gets a job as a singer in the saloon. The great script by Anita Loos leaves no stone unturned and the film earns three Oscar nomination. Jeanette MacDonald's best film but, sadly, overlooked by the Academy. Great special effects with nominations for best picture, best director (W.S. Van Dyke) and Spencer Tracy. But make no mistake about it, Clark Gable holds this film together. (VHS)

CONFLICT – W.B. – 1943, Rel. 1945

A smooth murder mystery that reveals in the beginning who did it and how they got a confession. A brilliant performance by Humphrey Bogart, in one of his forgotten films, with Rose Hobart and Sydney Greenstreet. Good films never fade away. (VHS)

(Dick Lovell is a film historian and theatrical agent).)

Put A Lid On It !



We have been informed that our green, blue and black trash can lids are **not to be open** even a few inches, or they will not be picked up and emptied. The **lids must be fully closed**, - or else !

The G-Men have spoken.

WHCA Board of Directors

Officers

President..... Steven Wolfe
Vice-President..... ..Dick Lovell
Secretaries .....Susan Harmon
A. J. Lekowski
Treasurer .....Debbie Roper

Directors

Bryan Clark, Cass Coty, Amanda Embrescia, Matthew Ferguson, Rick Greenwood, Larry Harper, Schelley Kiah, Glen Lajeski, Peggy Little, Florence Marshall, Lisa Morgan, Frank Newcomer

Alternates

Pia Gronning, Ryan Hamilton

This Newsletter is a publication of the Whitley Heights Civic Assoc. Any opinion expressed or implied in any article is the sole responsibility of its author. No portion of this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced without written consent of the author or artist and/or the WHCA.

Questions? Comments? Letters ?

Call 213-228-9388
Write P.O. Box 1008
Hollywood, CA 90078
Email.....bc7c@pacbell.net

BARRY SLOANE

THE WHITLEY HEIGHTS SPECIALIST

RECENTLY SOLD

- **6642 Emmet Terrace** **Asking $639,000**

Barry represented the Seller.

- **6636 Emmet Terrace** **Asking $599,000**

Not officially on the market. Barry represented the Seller.

- **6756 Milner Road** **Asking $799,000**

Not officially on the market. Barry represented both Seller and Buyer.

- **2000 Grace Avenue** **Asking $655,000**

The Lingenbrink Residence, 1930. Not officially on the market. Barry represented both Seller and Buyer.

TRUST THE #1 SELLING REALTOR IN WHITLEY HEIGHTS. NO AGENT HAS SOLD MORE PROPERTIES IN THE AREA!

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

BARRY SLOANE

Historic and Architecturally Significant Properties

Office (310) 786-1844, Residence (323) 669-3330

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Not intended as a solicitation if your property is listed with another broker.