

The Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley Ledger

Montrose

La Crescenta

Verdugo City

Highway Highlands

La Canada

Flintridge

February 2010

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley

Issue 67

CURRENT HSCV INFORMATION

The History of JPL



JPL had its beginnings in the '30s with a group of Caltech students experimenting with rockets in the dry wash of the Arroyo Seco on the edge of La Canada.



JPL was a major player in the Apollo program, and the exploration of the moon.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, still managed by Caltech, is located in part on the eastern edge of La Canada-Flintridge, and with over 4000 employees, the valley's largest employer.

JPL's roots go back to the '30s when a group of Caltech students, dubbed the Suicide Squad, were using the vacant land of the Arroyo Seco next to La Canada to experiment with rockets.

That group of brilliant, daring students (prodigies of Theodore von Karmen) would change history. Their experiments with solid-fuel rockets became instrumental in our winning World War II.

America officially entered the Space Age in 1958 with the launch of JPL's Explorer I. Since then, JPL has led the world in exploring our solar system--with such satellites as: Mariner, Viking, Magellan, Voyager, Galileo, Mars Pathfinder, Mars Odyssey, and more recently the Spirit and Opportunity rovers.

Our speaker, **Erik Conway**, is the historian at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His duties include research and writing, conducting oral histories, and contributing to the lab's historical collections. Before JPL, he worked as a contract historian at Langley Research Center. Conway enjoys studying the historical interaction between national politics, scientific research, and technological change.

Come and hear the history of one of the world's preeminent centers for space exploration that is literally right in our backyard!

Join us on
Monday,
February 18th,
7:00 p.m.
At the
Center For
Spiritual Living
(formerly known as the
La Crescenta Church
of Religious Science)

Located on the corner of
Dunsmore and Santa Carlotta



By the '70s and '80s, JPL began to focus on exploration of the solar system and beyond.

No tours or events this month!

It's unusual that we don't feature some "extra" monthly event, outside of our monthly meeting. Just by chance, everything has jammed up in March, so our next newsletter will be crammed with events!

Here's a tentative rundown of what's planned next month:

- Premiere of John Newcombe's new movie "Winnetka" on March 13th
- Bus tour of locations from Newcombe's DVD "Rancho La Canada" probably on March 27th
- Tour of St. Lukes Church (date still to be scheduled)
- Supervisor Mike Antonovich will be our speaker on March 15th (rescheduled from a rained out January date)



Crescenta Valley Heritage

By Sharon Weisman

Some big rains came but our hillsides held firm. More rain is predicted but we cannot predict when a chunk of the **San Gabriels** no longer held back by chaparral roots might give way and come sliding down to test our k-rails and sandbag diversions. Please don't become complacent. Our city, county and state officials are not "crying wolf". The danger is real. Please don't ignore evacuation orders and do continue to be vigilant throughout the rainy season. As we know from our studies of past flood events, these mountains are anything but stable. Please share this knowledge with neighbors who haven't had the benefit of our historical perspective.

Although the threat of mud and debris flow is higher after the **Station Fire** we shouldn't forget our omnipresent earthquake danger. It's always a good idea to be prepared for an emergency. Those of us in the foothills can use rain event preparation as an excuse to get to know all our neighbors. That way we know who we might need to check on in case of any disaster. We'll also know who we can rely on to help out.

Inappropriate development disasters are almost as difficult to predict as natural ones, but prevention measures are different, albeit equally tedious. The **North Glendale Community Plan Advisory Committee** met on January 25 and discussed how to proceed with the effort. Many comments on the draft plan came in just prior to the meeting and need to be consolidated with the earlier material. During the **Redevelopment Agency** meeting of January 26, council member **John Drayman** asked whether **Foothill Blvd.** qualified for a redevelopment area and the agency asked staff to look into it.

The **Advisory Committee** decided to reorganize the recommendations into four segments: **Foothill Boulevard, Montrose/Sparr Heights/Verdugo City, Residential, and Regional.**

The **Glendale Planning Staff** will not be able to make all these changes in time for the tentatively scheduled February 17, 2010 and/or February 22, 2010 community meetings so they will be rescheduled. Meanwhile staff is pursuing several grants to help implement some of the proposals in the emerging plan.

The city of **Los Angeles** is beginning a series of public workshops on proposed new regulations for single-family homes in hillside neighborhoods. The one in our area is **Tuesday, February 23 - North Valley Meeting** (5 PM to 8 PM), Council District Two Field Office, 7747 Foothill Blvd. Tujunga.

If you wish more information please contact **Erick Lopez at (213) 978-1243 or email erick.lopez@lacity.org** and ask to be added to the interest list. To be added, just type "Add Me To Hillside Notification List" in the subject line and provide your group/organization/company affiliations and contact information including your ZIP Code.

Along with the cities of **Glendale** and **Los Angeles**, residents in unincorporated **Crescenta Valley** are concerned that when the economy picks up, large lots with older housing stock may become ripe for speculative development and the source of neighborhood strife.

The **Crescenta Valley Community Association** met on January 27 and discussed mansionization in the unincorporated portions of **La Crescenta**. There are **Community Standards Districts** for multi-family and commercial but nothing in place for single-family residential areas. The discussion will continue at the **February 24** meeting, starting at 6 pm at **Dunsmore Park Community Room**, 4700 Dunsmore Ave. Members will look at draft standards developed around 10 years ago and **Altadena's** standards to jump-start the process.

There will be an election **April 13** in the **43rd Assembly District**, which includes much of **Glendale**, to replace **Paul Krekorian** who was recently elected to the **Los Angeles City Council**. He now represents **Council District 2** including **Sunland-Tujunga**. The **Glendale/Burbank League of Women Voters** will be hosting a candidate forum

sometime in early **March**, tentatively in **Burbank**. Those of you in **AD 43** please watch local newspapers for details. This may be a very confusing election year for **AD 43**. If no one receives more than 50% of the vote on **April 13** there will be a run-off on the **June** ballot. The primary for the **November** election will also be in **June**. That means a voter may have to vote twice for **AD 43** representative on the **June** ballot, once to finish out the current term and once to select the **November** candidate for your party.

Bicycle lanes have appeared in the unincorporated portion of Foothill Blvd. With all the planning going on these days, it's good to see some old plans come to fruition!

In the Present Tense...

by Mike Lawler, HSCV President

We have another Rockhaven clean-up date coming up on February 27th from 2 to 4 PM.

If you'd like to participate, shoot an email to Jay Holladay at jholladay@ca.rr.com, or if you don't do email, call me at 818-441-4223.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the plaque dedication ceremony at the La Crescenta Library opening. It came off beautifully! Special thanks to Sue Kilpatrick for coordinating the food and the Tongva Dancers, Danette Erickson and Ellie Pipes for setup and tear down, the La Crescenta Woman's Club for manning the food tables, and Marta Wiggins, our new librarian, for hosting the event.

I got an earful from the community for my column in the CV Weekly supporting the removal of the Indian Springs Shopping Center well. If I erred, I apologize. All I can say is, I think you'll be thrilled with the huge monument the shopping center has provided for us to mount photos on. Look for that in about a month.

Members Remember...

by Bob Crowe, HSCV member

A friend of mine in La Crescenta sent me a clipping from the Crescenta Valley Weekly--the one showing my brothers and me after the flood on Prospect Ave--Then and Now. I assume it was in the January 7th issue. I wasn't aware at all that it was in the paper, so it was quite a surprise. I assume that you supplied the photos. Did you also write the captions to them? Good job.

I feel like someone from a foreign land, being only 100 miles from the "homeland" but not really involved. I wonder whether any of my other friends saw the photos, particularly students that I had while teaching at Crescenta Valley High.

I thought of one piece of information that might aid anyone writing about the current storm problems--and here it is: This week's problems appear to be the danger of mud slides, particularly near homes at the top of the valley. In the 1933-1934 flood the damage occurred in a totally different way. The hills to the north of course became saturated after several days of rain. But before the time of the actual final downpour, water accumulated behind rows and rows of twigs, ashes, and debris. Then more or less all at once the upper rows began to tumble downward (much the same way that the falling of the twin-towers----once the upper levels gave way, the stuff gathered momentum on the way down, particularly down through the canyons.)

In that flood, my parents were awakened by a roar before the water actually hit the house. So it was a wall of water three or four feet deep when it rushed down through the valley. When it hit the house, the decision was to open the front and rear doors, and let the water run straight through so it wouldn't take the whole house with it.

I just felt I had to get that off my mind to someone--it might give a slight twist to anyone writing about the current storm.

I am receiving the Historical Society's monthly newsletter, and am enjoying it very much. Wish I could get up to some of your meetings and outings, but I seem to have quite a bit to keep me busy down here in Fallbrook.

Hope all is well with you and your wife. I still think about the tour the two of you gave Joan Hawks and myself that day. I've told my brother, Vic, about all the changes you showed us---and he and his wife made a detour on their way down from Agua Dulce one day, to see some of the things you pointed out. They particularly had to see the plaque at the Charter School (Clark Magnet High School) with my brother, Kirk's, name on it. I have to thank you again, Mike, for a great time that day. See you later.

-Bob Crowe

THEN



Members Remember...

by Dorothy Abercrombie, HSCV member

In reading the interesting article in the Glendale News Press 1-26-2010, "Barn Getting Retrofit," I was very interested in the part that said it was once used as a barn for horses.

I remember long ago my niece, Pam Puggione (now Gehrts), when she was about 10 years old, had her first horse "Cocoa" there in the "stable." She could ride her horse around in the area. My husband John and I took our 4 kids up there and they took turns riding poor old "Cocoa." I'm sure they were short rides!

We are happy to hear the old Le Mesnager stone barn will be retrofitted at Deukmejian Wilderness Park. We will be looking forward to a time when it can be used for an interpretative center which can have classes and meetings. -Dorothy Abercrombie

Here's Deukmejian Park looking toward the stone barn in the '80s, when it was used as a horse stable.



The Blue Shadows was a mounted drill team that was home-based at the park.

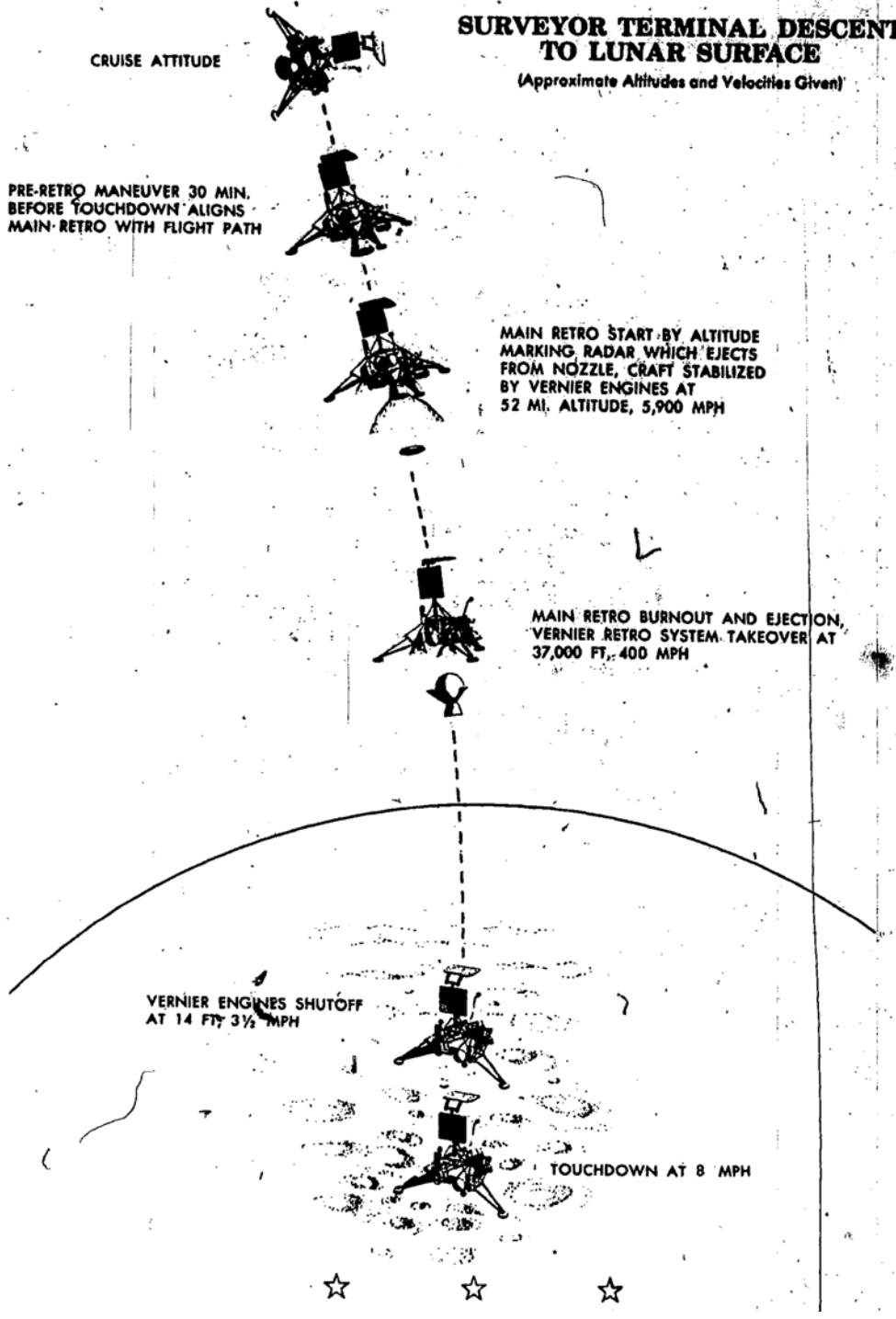
NOW



Surveyor's Planned Landing

SURVEYOR TERMINAL DESCENT TO LUNAR SURFACE

(Approximate Altitudes and Velocities Given)



Scientists Anticipating Successful Moon Landing

By BOB DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

If Surveyor landed softly on the moon late last night and its high-gain antenna is pointing in our direction, we should be able to determine objects on the lunar surface no larger than a millimeter.

With Ranger, we could accurately determine nothing smaller than 10 inches in diameter. But Ranger's camera was put out of commission when it hit the moon.

While Ranger cameras were operative only upon approach to the moon's surface, Surveyor's camera was

not designed to start until its landing. And the landing had to be soft.

If the 620-lb. package did land intact — and we did not know at deadline—late television viewers should have seen pictures of the space-craft's leg shortly before midnight.

DUST

If the moon's surface is hard, they should even have seen Surveyor's round landing pad. If the landing gear was buried, the amount of dust accumulation will be returned via gauges on gear's leg.

The sharpness of these pictures will be improved if and when the high-gain antenna follows directions from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory which is controlling the mission.

"It is conceivable," said a JPL spokesman, "that our resolution could get down to one. This means that the smallest object that can be determined is one millimeter. It was 10 inches with Ranger."

PICTORIAL

If the high-gain antenna obeys orders, clear 600-line pictures will be transmitted instead of the ordinary 200. This also means that many more pictures can be taken during the two-week long lunar day.

Surveyor was to land a little north of crater Flamsteed where there are between 240 and 284 hours of continuous daylight remaining.

"Our camera should be able to run for 12 days," the JPL spokesman explained, "but we'll probably shut down when the sun gets too close. The heat could cause damage."

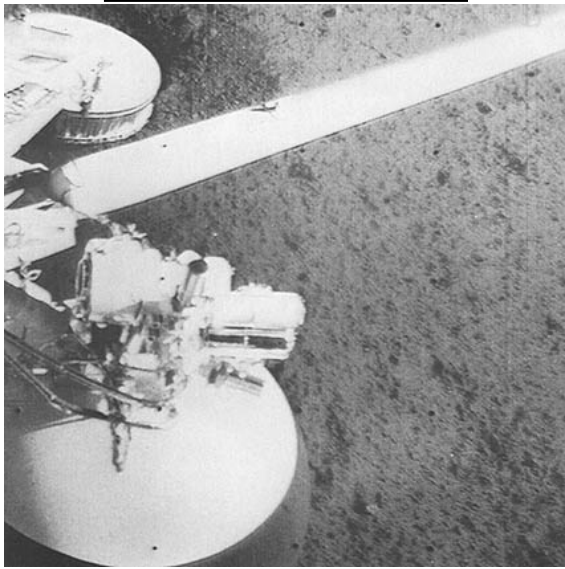
TEST FLIGHT

The first Surveyor, which was launched from Cape Kennedy Monday, is strictly an engineering test flight to see that a soft landing can be made.

The pictures are just frosting on the cake. With them, scientists will try to prove that their theories on the composition of the lunar surface are right. But it will probably not be until the scientific version of Surveyor is undertaken (early in 1968) that this can be determined accurately.

In the meantime, there will be another engineering test flight this year (probably in the fall) and five more in 1967 at two-month intervals.

All of these tests, and the scientific version that is to come later, are aimed at just one thing — landing two Americans on the moon before the Russians do.



IMPACT POINT—JPL's fabulous Surveyor spacecraft last night continued to send photographic evidence of the lunar surface characteristics. The Goldstone Deep Space Net tracking station received another 395 pictures, with more anticipated tonight. This view, containing 600 scan lines, shows one of the landing pads, and the lunar surface marred by impact. White boom extending across the photo supports one of two, omni directional antenna. One of the gas jets visible near the right side of the landing pad was activated seven times last night and photographed in an attempt to discover the extent of dust on the moon. None was visible.

Surveyor Exceeds All Hopes

By MIKE POTTAGE
Staff Writer

Surveyor continues to amaze the scientists who created it, by performing beyond expectations. The spacecraft followed up its spectacular soft landing Friday by taking 836 more lunar photographs during its second "pass" over Goldstone, Calif., and last night added another 395 pictures

Surveyor has taken a total of 1,402 photographs, each one an unexpected bonus from a text-book flight.

Last night, JPL scientists activated three small gas jets located near the landing pads, and used the camera to record the effect upon the lunar surface. If dust were present, scientists said, hopefully it could be photographed. Seven attempts last night failed to show any evidence of dust.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Surveyor Project Manager Robert J. Parks used adjectives such as "fantastic", "excellent",

and "magnificent" to describe both spacecraft and JPL personnel performance.

Surveyor now is photographing everything within view of its camera system, and according to Parks, hopefully will continue operation until lunar night freezes its battery and photographic equipment.

LONG DAY

The JPL spacecraft landed at 11:17:37 p.m. PDT, two and one half days after sunrise in an area near the crater Flamsteed in the Ocean of Storms. This meant JPL scientists had 12.3 days of sunlight, or 12 photographic opportunities as the moon passed into view of the Deep Space Network tracking station at Goldstone.

The launch, the midcourse maneuver, the terminal maneuver, all went as scheduled, Parks told newsmen at a 5 a.m. press conference Friday.

As anticipated, touchdown revealed volumes of new facts about Earth's sole satellite.

The landing area, JPL scientists announced, would support the Apollo landing capsule. It would support a man.

Surveyor's strain gauges indicated a very "soft" landing, similar to impact of a parachutist on Earth. The craft's three landing pads marred the lunar surface, and scientists expect to be able to analyze supporting strength of the area by extensive examination of that indentation.

Project Scientist Dr. Leonard Jaffe said several craters, objects appearing to be rocks, and fragments of those "rocks" are strewn about the lunar surface from immediate vicinity of Surveyor to the horizon.

Even the approach to the moon by Surveyor will be used to expand man's knowledge, Dr. Jaffe told newsmen. He said radar used to command retro rocket performance during descent will indicate electrical surface properties of the moon.

Temperatures of Surveyor, measured as high as 150 degrees F. during the first hours of operation (well within tolerances) will, Dr. Jaffe said, be related to changes on the lunar surface.

The Ocean of Storms area viewed is "flat," he continued.

MORE PHOTOS

Parks said photographic activities during the next few days will cover the

entire lunar surface within camera range, and when particularly fascinating objects or features are commanded to zoom out and take close-ups.

Parks, however, declined to predict what scientific experiments reserved for later flights will be placed upon Surveyor 2 or 3. This possibility will be evaluated later.

The flight did accomplish everything scientists hoped to achieve during all seven soft landing attempts. It did, in the words of Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Science and Applications Robert F. Garbarini, "advance Surveyor approximately one year ahead of schedule."

Garbarini said, "Implications in the Apollo program are that we have more spacecraft available to carry out more site surveys. It also means we will get a lot more information than we otherwise would, and it also will provide greater confidence that the landing system being used on the Apollo LEM will work, as it is patterned in many respects to that used on Surveyor.

CAUTIOUS

Scientists were cautious when asked to compare Surveyor photographs with those purported to have been obtained by Russia's Luna 9. They are, Dr. Jaffe said, "at least comparable." Also, there are many more shots.

Surveyor Program Manager Benjamin Milwitzke emphasized the Russian landing was not "soft" and man could not have survived its impact.

He compared the USSR project with those attempted by Ranger 3 several years ago. Surveyor, he added, "is much more sophisticated."

Congratulatory messages from President Lyndon Johnson have been received at JPL. NASA Deputy Administrator Dr. Robert Seamans, on hand for terminal maneuvers and first picture taking, said it was "extremely remarkable" that Surveyor achieved all its objectives, both primary and secondary.

Congressman George P. Miller, chairman of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, and fellow committeeman Joseph E. Karth praised the success, and Karth one of JPL's most outspoken critics, said Surveyor's achievements will have a profound effect upon the entire US space exploration program for it further demonstrated the capabilities of unmanned, scientific investigations.

Population Continues To Increase

Glendale and Burbank ranked fourth and sixth respectively in population gains since the April 1, 1960, census for Los Angeles County, according to figures made public yesterday by the County Regional Planning Commission.

Glendale was up to 136,249 on April 1, 1966, from a population of 119,442 in 1960. Burbank was up to 97,646 from 90,155.

The population of this county increased an estimated 933,000 or 15.4 per cent since the last census.

La Crescenta, Regional Planners report, shows a population of 21,865, up from 17,082 established by the census.

Neighboring La Canada kept pace with a population growth to 20,413 from 18,338.

In the Sunland-Tujunga area 52,649 residents were reported up from 45,133 six years ago.

PCC to Offer Summer Classes In Orchestra

Pasadena City College again is offering instrumentalists of the area an opportunity to participate in the Summer Symphony, which will be offered by Educational Services Division.

The orchestra is open to all adults, high school graduates and high school seniors with performance competency on an orchestral instrument. A balanced symphonic instrumentation is the only limiting factor as far as class size is concerned. At present there are openings in nearly all sections. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday evening of the first Summer Session from 7 to 10 p.m.

A 12 year old boy from Omaha, Nebraska, recently put his name and address in a bottle, and tossed it into a neighboring stream. Some 7,500 miles later it landed on a beach in Germany, and was found by a housewife, who recognized the boy as the son of her girlhood chum, with whom she used to play on the same beach, and who had migrated to the States several years earlier.

The Philippines have about 20 active volcanoes.

Freeway Fight Now In Washington DC

Leslie C. Tupper, Rodney Rood and Ed Davis have left for Washington D.C., to meet with Federal Highway Administrator Rex M. Whitton.

The session between La Canada Valley Freeway Action Committee representatives and the Federal highway engineers will take place tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The Glendale Freeway Action Committee, meanwhile, wired Whitton to express its opposition to any change in the Foothill Freeway.

"Routing was adopted by due process and present intermeddling is designed for benefit of a selfish minority advocating 'not in my backyardism'," attorney Robert Garcin told Whitton.

Garcin said members of the Glendale committee in homes valued between \$40,000 and \$60,000, and within 600 feet of the proposed route, do not object to the Foothill Freeway route.

These people, he said, want to "get on with the job as planned."

Shopping Park Cost Up

Montrose Shopping Park preliminary cost estimate is \$254,458, of which the City of Glendale will pay \$76,239 and property owners will pay \$48 per front foot.

Tuesday, City Council authorized the preliminary architectural plans and indicated it will go along with the project until a public hearing when property owners have an opportunity to express their desires.

Bob Cooke, chairman of the Montrose-Verdugo City's Chamber of Commerce's Shopping Park Committee appeared before Council and said property owners "sold" on the park were told the cost would be about \$40 per front foot.

"It is," Councilman Allan Daily commented, "in the ball-park."

CITY MONEY

The City is apparently willing to finance cost of resurfacing Honolulu avenue, installing traffic signals at Honolulu and Ocean View boulevard, installing storm drains and engineering and inspection.

Public Works Director William L. O. Martini reported in 1964 "when the project was first seriously considered" rough cost estimate reached \$142,801.

Architectural plans, he added, will be drawn and presented to City Council, and if approved, will be set for a public hearing under provisions of 1911 Improvement Act proceedings.

Martini also said his department would send notices to all property owners and present the plans and explain details prior to the public hearing.

Montrose Rescue Team Kept Busy Over Weekend

Members of the Montrose Mountain Search and Rescue Team didn't have much of a holiday over Memorial Day weekend.

They assisted in one 30-hour search for a seven-year-old Los Angeles boy which involved two sheriff's helicopters and some 100 men from Sierra Madre, San Dimas, Altadena, and Newhall. (The Sierra Madre mountaineers found the boy, Charles Anderson, in good condition Monday afternoon.)

Shortly after returning from this massive rescue effort, seven members of the Montrose team were called by a U.S. Forestry dispatcher to rescue a North Hollywood couple and their two-year-old daughter who were stranded on a ledge off Angeles Forest Highway a quarter-mile east of the tunnels.

The three hikers, Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Bell, and little Lisa, were "in good condition" after being hoisted from the ledge by means of a rope line. They were stranded some 100 feet below a bridge at the location.

The local search and rescue team successfully evacuated the trio about 45 minutes after arriving on the scene.

Earlier, the Anderson boy's search took them to the Crystal Lake area of Angeles National Forest. They reportedly scoured this rugged terrain Sunday, Sunday night, and Monday morning.

The boy became separated from his companions at about 7 a.m. Sunday and three hours later the search began, which was to intensify until his rescue at 1 p.m. Monday.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FORCED MEDICATION

To the Editor – I was pleased to hear William H Waite of the Christian Science Committee on Publication for Southern California replying on Radio Station KABC, Los Angeles, on May 3, 4, and 5 to a recent editorial by this station favoring fluoridation of our water supply.

Mr. Waite denounced this latest attempt to increase the fluoride in our water supply. He stated that this forced medication was contrary to a free society, where the general public has a choice as to the medication they wish to accept or reject.

I feel Mr. Waite performed a great public service by coming out publicly against forced medication.

It is my hope that Los Angeles will follow the lead of some of the other cities around the country that, after first fluoridating their water, later decided to change back to pure water free of harmful chemicals.

Ray William Gardner
Pasadena

KIDS IN THE STREET

To the Editor – I agree with the La Canada subscriber about children playing in the streets. Something should be done. We have from 10 to 12, ages about three to 16, playing baseball and bouncing a heavy rubber ball from curb

to curb, stopping traffic in all directions, and screaming and screeching continuously from four to eight every evening, and practically all day Saturday and Sunday.

Danger is never considered. We can't see or listen to TV and reading is definitely out.

The attitude of the parents? – If you don't like it, why don't you move?? – So What ????

Esther Manlon
Montrose

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Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley
c/o 2717 Altura Ave.
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley

Presents:

The History of JPL

Monday, February 15th, 7:00 PM

At the Center for Spiritual Living

(Formerly known as the La Crescenta Church of Religious Science)
Located on the corner of Dunsmore and Santa Carlotta

Please check your mailing label for accuracy.

Remember:

*****2009 MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM MARCH 2009 TO MARCH 2010*****

***THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!***

Questions or changes?

Call Pam: (818) 957-2968



We're always interested...

We love to hear your recollections about Crescenta Valley from times past. Share your stories with us, please! Let us share your memories with our members.

Mail: 2717 Altura Ave.

La Crescenta, CA 91214

e-mail: lawlermom@yahoo.com



Photo: www.treking.cz/archiv/apollo3.jpg

***Travel back in time
to...1966***

Our January Newsletter will
feature articles and ads from
1966 Ledgers

(beginning with page 4)