

"Rod Chatter"



SEPT 2023



FROM: The JEWEL CITY CHAPTER

MODEL A FORD CLUB of AMERICA

P.O. Box 1833 Glendale, CA 91209



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SEPT JEWEL CITY'S ROD CHATTER 2023

YOUR 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD



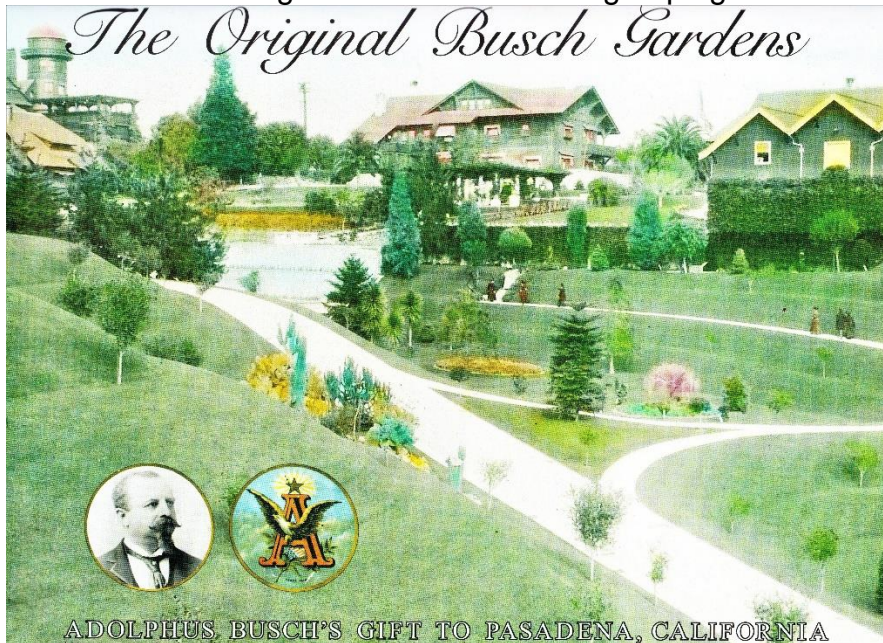
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2023 AUGUST TOUR – Southern California’s Theme Park Beginnings.

For this tour, we thought it best to supply each car with a map and description of what was there to see, then turn them loose on their own recognizance with a final regrouping destination.



ADOLPHUS BUSCH'S GIFT TO PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles area is well known for its theme parks, and one of the earliest in the area was Pasadena’s Busch Gardens that opened in 1906. The gardens were built by flamboyant brewer Adolphus Busch on 38 acres of land he assembled near his winter home on Orange Grove Avenue, just east of the Arroyo Seco.

Busch was soon busily landscaping his new pleasure park, eventually creating 14 miles of paths through extensive gardens which held 100,000 plants and featured fairy-tale tableaux of painted statues. The attraction became so popular that the Pacific Electric Railway ran a street car line to the ticket office, which admitted over 1,000,000 visitors over the lifetime of the park. Hollywood loved the park, too: *Gone with the Wind*, *Robin Hood*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* all feature scenes shot in Busch Gardens.

Adolphus died in 1913 but the Gardens continued operations until 1937. After their closure, Busch’s widow offered the Gardens to Pasadena for use as a park on two separate occasions. The city refused and the park was sold and subdivided. Upscale homes now sit on land that once played host to concrete fairies and artificial waterfalls, in an attraction that paved the way for Disneyland and other modern theme parks. Many of these homes have retained “features” (or in some cases buildings) from the park that were on their property when they built it. Some of those features, like small ponds and waterfalls are present in some front yards. So you can walk the neighborhood and view remnants of the park.

- Keeping in mind this is a neighborhood with many long-time residents that highly value their privacy!

Our tour began from Eagle Rock on Colorado Blvd. crossing over the Arroyo on the panoramic Colorado Street Bridge (better known as Suicide Bridge). The following is just a sample of what is still there to see??



The icon of the gardens is found in the upper garden - **The Old Mill**.

The mill still stands, as part of a private residence, The mill (which is on its second replacement wheel these days) looks much as it did in this old postcard painting, although the mill building has been expanded a bit in the front and back to accommodate the families that have lived there since the gardens closed.

Throughout the property, you could find several **drinking fountains**. Although they were made to look like hollowed out logs, with water pouring into them from a wooden spigot, they actually were made of concrete. The park held seven of these water troughs. The last such fountain remains visible near the end of one Pasadenan's driveway.



Oak Drive and Mystic Hut.

One of the popular features in the lower garden was the **"Mystic Hut"**, which stood behind a series of stone-lined pools. The hut is gone, but you can still see its foundation, along with the stone-lined pools, on the north side of Busch Garden Drive.

Remaining Mystic Hut's foundation



At its peak, the gardens occupied 40 full-time gardeners, who terraced the landscape using mules, as there was no power grading equipment at the time. The gardens were the design of Robert Gordon Fraser, who lived at the gardens until their closure.

Here's one remaining element of the entrance to the park's lower garden. The ticket booth stood across the street to the right: 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. You needed to buy an addition admission to visit the upper gardens across Arroyo - but all the money went to support injured war veterans in the community.



The ticket Booth

Walk along the west side of Arroyo and you might find some of the original metal "V" fence that surrounded the property.



The "V" fence

Of all the Mill Pond's that were originally a part of the garden, one does still exist in a private yard as seen here behind a fence off Stoneridge Dr.



Hope you enjoyed your tour through some of SoCal's captivating history!

A's lined up getting ready for the tour. From left to right are, Malfitano, Johnson, Fuller and Magee.



As per usual, our tours somehow wind down at some eatery in the immediate vicinity. This tour came to an end at GUS's BBQ in So. Pasadena where we had a very fulfilling lunch during which everyone had the opportunity to discuss and compare notes about their adventures on the tour.

On our tour today was: Pat & George Erhard, Ellen & Eric Fuller, Adrienne Grigorian, Lonny Johnson, Carol & Al Magee, Dominic & Laura Malfitano, Mary & Walt Thompson and Bev Wardle.

TOURS & ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2023



Sept 06 - Jewel City business meeting – this month we're planning to have the meeting in Wardle Park. For Burbanker's it is known as Mountain View Park, located at t401 W. Riverside Drive, between Beachwood Dr. and Griffith Park Drive. As usual, this is a **bring your dinner and lawn chair** event. Dinner will start around 5:32 pm with the meeting immediately following. Like around 6:30 or so? (note, would be good to bring the bug spray too!)

Sept 04 - Labor Day

Sept 16 – Tour of the he Autry Museum. Meet in the parking lot at 10:00 am. We plan to have lunch afterword in the Museum's cafeteria.

- Oct 04 – Well, as you see here, for October things will be going back to normal. This month our meeting will Return to the Star Ford 2nd floor conference room starting at 6:30 pm.
- Oct 21 – Proposed tour - Progressive Brunch, signups have started so contact Mary Thompson for more Information and to see what you can provide. (818) 842-9390.
- Nov 01 – Business meeting at Star Ford starting at 6:30 pm.

ENDING NOTE: Light travels faster than sound. That is why some people appear bright until they speak!

Meetings: The Jewel City Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Star Ford in Glendale, CA located at 1101 S. Brand Blvd. Meetings start at 6:30 PM.

< For information contact Walt Thompson (818) 842-9390 or by e-mail at Afordnut@pacbell.net >



September 2023

JEWEL CITY MODEL 'A' FORD CLUB OF AMERICA



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy Anniversary Jerry & Frances Geisen	2 Happy Birthday Jerry Geisen
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 Happy Birthday Gerry Whipple Mtg: Min View Park, Burbank 5:45 pm (dinner/Chair (8:30ish mtg))	7	8	9 Happy Birthday Eric Fuller
10	11	12 Happy Birthday Scott Cappiello	13	14 Happy Anniversary Eric & Ellen Fuller	15 Happy Birthday Eric Fuller	16 TOUR: 10:00 am Tour & Lunch at Autry Museum
17	18	19	20	21	22 Autumn begins Happy Birthday Karen Ryan	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30