



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – June/July 2016**

A long time ago, in a Woods not too far, far away...

This is a first in a series of remembrances of life in the Woods in the 50's, 60's and 70's.

“When my first husband, Dr. Simmons, and I [Autumn Stanley] and our 3 children were looking for housing on the Peninsula in the spring of 1959, we found a realtor and looked at everything he had in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Los Altos. It was all too expensive for the little money that we had. On Mother's Day he told us he had a little house up in the hills.

So we drove out Alpine Road and up the narrow and twisty Los Trancos Road to see Los Trancos Woods for the first time. We fell in love with the one-story redwood-sided house on Bonita Way and decided to buy the house.

In those days, Los Trancos Woods had very few permanent residents--only a few retirees and some Stanford grad students. All the other houses were summer places for people from SF. In any case, it was a paradise for people with little money, for some of the summer cabins could be bought for \$4,000 to \$5,000. The house we bought had been a retirement home for the former owner of a music store in Palo Alto, so its price was higher, \$16,000. We decided we could manage with my husband's parents' gift of \$5,000 for a down payment, and a mortgage for the rest. Laughably now, we were told we paid too much! “

Submitted by Autumn Stanley

Bert Chabot's father bought a cabin in the Woods in 1937. It had only two wires coming into the cabin for electricity and so there was not much you could run on it. Although Bert was only a day old, he was already brought home from the hospital, and it was a snowy day up here to boot. Some of his extended family lived up here on Carmel Way and his grandmother lived with Bert's family. Grandma wasn't paying close attention to baby Bert one day when he ate 42 cigarette butts.

The mailboxes for Ramona and Carmel Way were all situated at the beginning of Ramona Rd. There were about 20 of them. Ramona was a dead end [at about the slide area where the County recently did a reinforced wall on the downhill side] with a gate and jeep road that went on after the gate. The Mariana Ranch [now Blue Oaks development] had some barbed wire fencing around the perimeter to keep the cows in. You could hear the cows before you saw them because they wore bells around their necks. There was even a livestock grating on the entrance road. Vera Marianna used to live there with her family and it was a real working ranch, even with horses.

Some of the children learned to use guns early. Bert got a BB gun when he was 3 years old. Of course, some pulled off some mischief with the guns. One of the youth shot a 22 at one end of the row of 20 mailboxes to see how far it would go, so many of the boxes had a bullet hole through them.

As told to Linda Drey-Nightingale by Bert Chabot

Plumbers, Electricians, Painters and More

Often there is a Yahoo Group request by someone for recommendations for many of the service providers that homeowners need. Jerry Jensen, our local web page updater/maintainer, has wisely put a wonderful link on the Los Trancos Woods web page, www.lostrancoswoods.org/. Simply go to the web page and click on Service Provider Recommendations and the link will take you to a spreadsheet chock full of recommendations from local residents. You can also add your own recommendations to the list. Thank you, Jerry, for adding this great feature!

Easter Hopped on By

Well, this year was another hopping Easter. Over 20 children gathered for the annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by resident Easter Bunny assistants. There was hopping excitement at the trailhead on Old Spanish Trail before the go signal was given for the 1st heat. After the little ones had a head start, then the 2nd heat started with the older ones to explore the world of Easter egg surprises. A follow on this year was a Holi Festival hosted by the Nautiyal/Harbury family. This Indian festival is also called the festival of colors or the festival of sharing love. There was lots of sharing of colors (10 lbs. to be exact), as you can see from the photo at the end of the Newsletter courtesy of Charlie Krenz.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale with editing from Shivani Nautiyal

Los Trancos Woods Community Association Dues are Due

By now, everyone in Los Trancos Woods should have received a hand-delivered copy of the 2016-17 Community Resource Guide. If not, you can contact Cam Smith. He will make sure you get a copy.

By the way, if you have not yet paid your Community Association dues, which make the Resource Guide possible, there are 2 convenient ways you can do so. The easiest method is to pay \$60 via PayPal at the following link : paypal.me/lwca. Alternatively, you can mail or drop off a check for \$60, payable to "Los Trancos Community Association" to 127 Lake Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Dues are good for 2 years worth of Community Association activities which support the Resource Guide, the community picnic, as well as, emergency preparedness activities. Your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated, so that LTWCA Board volunteers will not need to individually contact those who have not yet remitted Association dues. Many thanks to those of you who have already paid.

Submitted by Howard Bankston Post, LTWCA Board Member

Neighborhood Notes

- Keep your eyes peeled for an **informative postcard** about making your home fire safe during this fire season which could be severe with all the growth and high temperatures predicted.
- Our **rain** calendar is just about coming to an end, but Gene Hunner has captured the salient numbers for us. April - 2.4", May - .2". year to date total (from July 1, 2015) - 40.5". Thank you, Gene, for being a faithful purveyor of the data.

2016 Community Resource Guide Updates

If you have any changes or additions to your 2016 listing please contact 851-1787.

Community Associations' Web Sites

The web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:

VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites