Fairmount Park: Riverside's Treasure



by Patricia Stewart

Fairmount Park:
Riverside's Treasure

"A favorite picnic spot since the founding of Riverside, Fairmount Park was dedicated in 1898 and has grown to many times its original 35 acres. Expansion has been made possible through private gifts and purchases of land by the city. In 1911, the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass. planned the park as an open space landscape design. This open space philosophy remains a commitment in today's urban environment.

Cultural Heritage Landmark Number 69."

Plaque that was installed near the Boathouse in 1998 for the Centennial of the Park

2005 Edition
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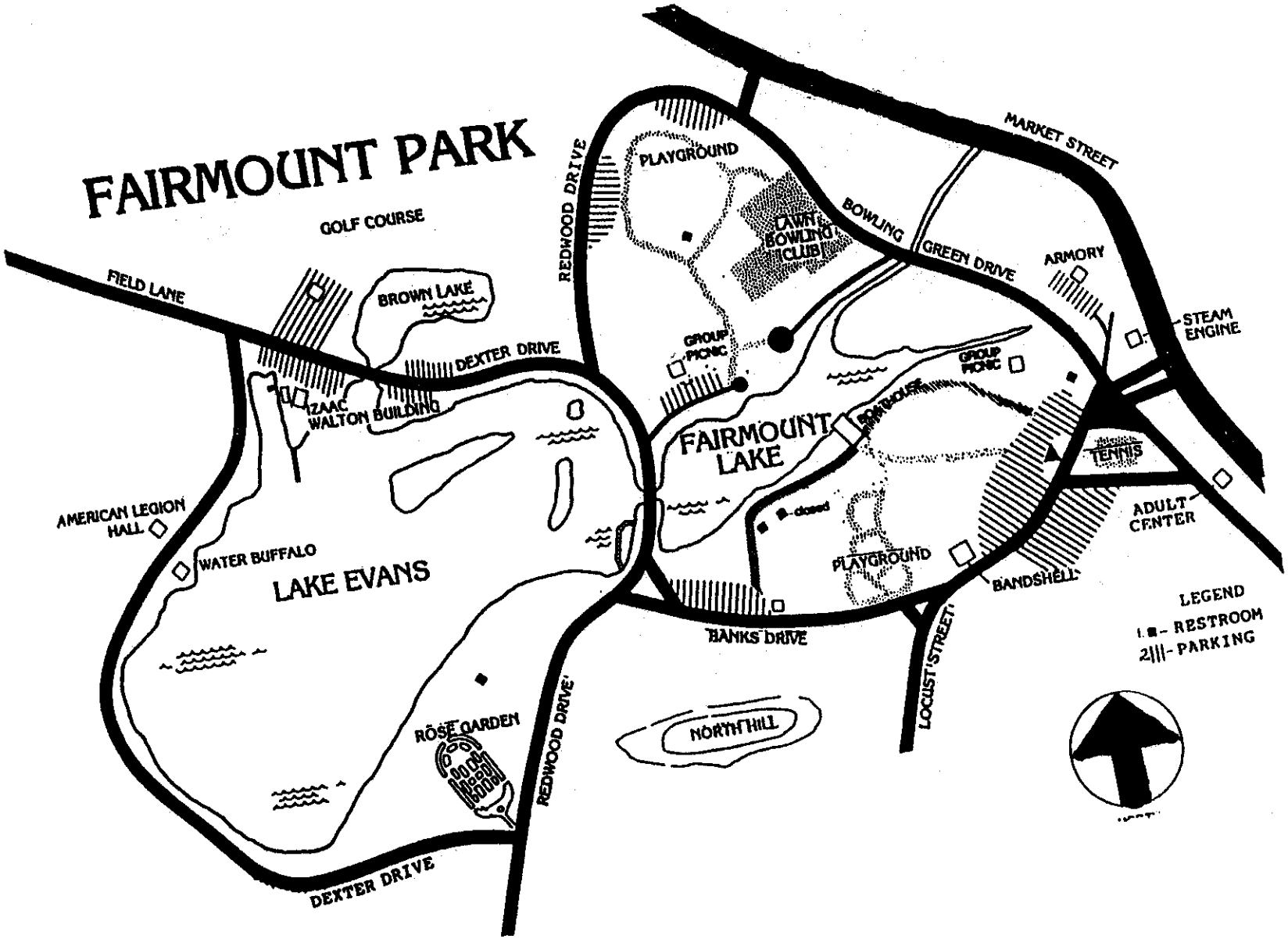
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Important Dates

1870.....	Springbrook
1893.....	Fairmount Heights
1895.....	North Hill Quarry
1897-1898....	Fairmount Park
1903.....	Fairmount Lake
1903-1980....	Old Boathouse
1910-1965....	Aviary
1911.....	Olmsted Plan
1911.....	Tennis Court
1911 & 1985.	Playgrounds
1911-1960....	Plunge
1914-1927....	Auto Camp
1915-1930....	Fairgrounds
1920 & 1995.	Bandshell
1924.....	Lake Evans & Brown Lake
1926.....	Lawn Bowling Club
1930.....	Golf Course
1933-1950's..	Zoo
ca 1930-1950	Sulfur Spring
1938 & 1965.	Floods
1939.....	Reflecting Pool in Rose Garden
1940.....	Izaac Walton Building
1946.....	Water Buffalo
1947-1978....	Amusement Park & Carousel
1954.....	Locomotive
1956.....	Rose Garden
1995.....	Stewarts Boathouse
1998.....	Centennial & Time Capsule
1979-2000....	Fairmount Park Citizens Committee


FAIRMOUNT PARK
GOLF COURSE
FIELD LANE
BROWN LAKE
DEXTER DRIVE
IZAAC WALTON BUILDING
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
WATER BUFFALO
LAKE EVANS
ROSE GARDEN
REDWOOD DRIVE
DEXTER DRIVE
REDWOOD DRIVE
PLAYGROUND
LAWN BOWLING CLUB
BOWLING GREEN DRIVE
MARKET STREET
ARMORY
STEAM ENGINE
GROUP PICNIC
GROUP PICNIC
FAIRMOUNT LAKE
SOMERHOUSE
TENNIS
ADULT CENTER
PLAYGROUND
BANDSHELL
BANKS DRIVE
LOCUST STREET
NORTH HILL
LEGEND
1 - RESTROOM
2 - PARKING

MEMORIES.....

Fairmount Park is a place that almost everyone visits sometime.
During those visits, memories are created.... here are a few...

- A proposal of marriage on a Sunday afternoon boat ride
- *Swimming across Lake Evans on the opening day in 1924*
- Watching the July Fourth fireworks in 1926 - featuring Daredevil Roman Warren, Riverside's Cowboy Aviator, flying over the lakes with 200 pounds of fireworks spitting and flashing from his plane, spinning, climbing, rolling, falling.
- *Other July Fourth fireworks set off in front of the American Legion clubhouse - the old-fashioned kind that shows the Flag or Abe Lincoln in a dazzling flash*
- Fishing for the first time ever at the age of 3, hauling out a 5-pound catfish with Grandpa's help
- *Running with the wind in a Sabot sailboat; and getting stuck with no wind at all out in the middle of Lake Evans*
- Day camp adventures, sitting in the Magic Circle, walking around the Big Lake, finding crawdads
- *Picnics of Fried Chicken, Mom's potato salad, Grama's chocolate cake, and lemonade*
- Picnics with Dad's company - the sack races and the hold-the-egg-on-a-spoon races
- *Going to the Park early in the morning to spend the day. It's too hot to stay home (before air conditioning)...so families meet, Moms cook in the old cookhouse, kids play together on the swings and in the water, Dads come down for lunch from their hot offices.*
- The Riverside City Centennial Old-Fashioned Picnic in 1983, was an all-day event, amusing over 7,000 people with all day entertainment, a carousel, arcade games, contests, and a 100-year anniversary cake.
- Chautauqua events sponsored by the Arts Foundation.
- Annual *Spring Faires* hosted by the City of Riverside.
- *Being a clown in Make A Circus, a fun-filled circus participation for kids sponsored by UCR*
- The *Riverside County Centennial Picnic* held in 1993.
- Countless picnics including most churches in the community, many organizations such as Lions Clubs, Realtors Associations, NARFE, Kiwanis Clubs, and California Electric Power Company (pre-Edison)
- *The Lions Club's Easter egg hunts held in the 1930's, filmed and shown on Movietone News in theaters*
- Petting the even-tempered horses of the Riverside Police Mounted Patrol
- *A beautiful wedding ceremony in the Rose Garden and carriage ride through the Park*

.....these are the reasons it is important to preserve the Park....

A VISIT TO FAIRMOUNT PARK

Come into the main entrance of the Park from Market Street. Ahead lies the original acreage of the Park. Across the green lawns, there are large trees - eucalyptus, elm, and oak; glimpsed between the trees is the Boathouse on Fairmount Lake, and the Bandshell on the far left near North Hill. Near Market Street are the tennis court and the Adult Center to the left, and to the right, the Armory and Engine Number 6051.

Pathways invite a walk in the park, where picnic tables encourage a rest. A little further along is a large well-appointed playground with swings, slides, and adventure play equipment. A stroll along water's edge brings the sight of countless ducks and geese, and sometimes herons or other wary birds. A pair of Japanese bridges leads to another segment of the Park.

Further along the path is a bridge; on the other side is a much larger lake, with two mysterious islands, one covered with palm trees, the other with cypress trees, and there is one lone tree emerging from the water. Lots more ducks and geese, waddling along the road or swimming in the water. There's a log cabin, and across the street is the Golf Course. Around the bend is the American Legion clubhouse with a 'tank' on a pedestal. Continuing further around, find a Rose Garden full of fragrant blooms.

The lake is beautifully peaceful, and a person feels content to sit by the water, have a picnic, and watch children and people playing. There are blue pedal-boats on the lakes, and a small sailboat catching the wind. The group picnic area has a barbecue set up for a school picnic.

This landscape is near a busy intersection and busier freeway, as just over the top of the bluff which borders the park is Riverside's Downtown Mile Square (First Street to Fourteenth; Mulberry to Pine) and north is the freeway.

Fairmount Park now occupies more than 200 acres of the riverbottom of the Santa Ana River north of town, northeast of Mount Rubidoux. The lake is divided into two areas separated visually by a bridge. Fairmount Lake, the smaller side occupying 5.5 acres, has been in existence since 1903; Lake Evans, covering 36 acres, plus Brown Lake with two acres, was opened in 1924.

Please, do not take it all for granted. The landscape represents history - of hopes and dreams for the future, of bargains made, and of lots of hard work and dedication by many people since 1870.

The people who came from the east to live in this semi-desert especially treasured water, because it was not readily available. The fascinating history of Riverside and water, from the earliest written account by the explorer Juan Bautista De Anza, through the stories of native Americans and early settlers, to the colony from Indiana led by John North, is documented in other books.

The township of Riverside was established on the tableland just above the bed of the Santa Ana River. The meadow and stream that is now the Park was used as a picnic and swim area since the earliest days of the settlement, in 1870.

WHAT IT WAS LIKE IN THE 1890's

Rising as an artesian spring about a mile north of Fairmount (North) Hill, the natural course of Spring Brook flowed into the Santa Ana River at the base of Little Rubidoux Mountain. Spring Brook is joined by two drainage systems from the hills to the east, from what are now the University area and the Highgrove area. The land was a wilderness in the swampy riverbed; cottonwoods, peppers, sycamores and wild grapes abounded; small wildlife and birds were plentiful. The geology of the area consists of granite outcrops and hills, decomposed granite, sand and clay.

Three Indian encampments were just outside of the Mile Square. The homesites of the Cahuilla Indians of this village were located on Indian Hill, just south of the park. The area offered game and other resources, but the Indians were ultimately driven away from the expanding townsite by about 1900. The graves of their ancestors were scattered in the development of Indian Hill Drive.

The land at the foot of the bluff and North Hill where Spring Brook flowed into the Santa Ana River was a popular picnic ground and site of Fourth of July celebrations from the early days of the settlement. Fish were caught from the stream and crawdads from its banks. The brook was the only source of domestic water for a time in the early years. Memories of early settlers include riding on a high horse-drawn wagon to dip buckets of water from the cold, clear stream to fill barrels for delivery to the houses at the townsite.

Early Riversiders used whatever available water they could find to cool themselves during the hot summer months. It was common practice to crawl into any nearby irrigation ditch for a quick swim, but unfortunately many people drowned when they couldn't climb out of the slick, deep-sided canals. Springbrook offered the safest and best relief for that 'quick dip'!

In the 1890's, a bathhouse was located on the stream where the banks were sandy and the water was naturally deep enough for swimming. Pliny Evans organized a men's swim club, and charged a $2 membership fee. He used the money to deepen the pond to seven feet and line the 35 by 100-foot pool with wooden planks. Without a reliable water supply, the pool was often dry. The water of Spring Creek was diverted and brought in a ditch to supply the large pool with clean, fresh water.

NEW CITY PARK OF 35 ACRES - 1898

The founder of Riverside, John W. North, and the group of investors that he brought to the area owned the land since 1870 under the Southern California Colony Association. Fairmount Land Company was organized in 1890, the parent corporation for Fairmount Heights, purchased the area. In 1893, John G. North subdivided the tract of land which included North Hill and acreage west, south, and east of it, and began on his own to make improvements at Fairmount Heights' bottom land.

The name "Fairmount Park" was suggested by John G. North, attorney for R.E. Houghton and C.E. Houghton. It originated with Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, which at that time covered 2,900 acres and was hailed in the 1890's as the greatest City Park in the world.

The City purchased North Hill, called Fairmount Hill in those days, to use as a quarry. In 1895, the City's Board of Trustees (City Council) launched a program to improve streets by establishing a gravel base and paving them. Granite curbs and gutters were also called for. To obtain stone, the City purchased 35 acres from Fairmount Land Co., which included Fairmount Hill and the meadow through which Spring Brook flowed. The purchase agreement stipulated that the meadow would become a park.

Permission to plant trees and improve the area was granted during 1896-1897 to Captain Charles M. Dexter and a committee of the Grand Army of the Republic (Union veterans of the Civil War). The land had been unofficially a public playground and picnic area but was becoming Fairmount Park. At Dexter's urging, the City provided the money for trees and ultimately took over direct responsibility for further development.

Captain Dexter was a dedicated volunteer, whose vision and energy laid the foundation for the park. For a time, the lake was named for him, until Mayor Evans donated more land. The road around part of the park was named in his honor.

On October 6, 1897, an ordinance was adopted which dedicated the 35 acres that were being developed by North, Dexter, and Evans. Fairmount Park was officially opened during a ceremony on Arbor Day, April 9, 1898.

FAIRMOUNT LAKE

At the time Mr. North was improving the area, C.M. Loring suggested to Samuel Cary Evans Sr., an early Riverside land speculator, that he, Evans, donate a park, as Evans controlled the lands west of the Fairmount Land Company property. In 1903, Fairmount Lake was created after Evans donated 12.5 acres. It was made by adding a simple dam across the brook, with the lowland of the streambed delineating the lake to maximum depth of 10 feet at the dam.

A lotus bed was started in the shallow east end of Fairmount Lake, bordering on present Bowling Green Drive. In 1910, George N. Reynolds, a major downtown merchant, returned from a trip to the Orient, and inspired by the gardens that he had seen there, donated several improvements and expansions to Fairmount Park Lake. The result was a group of islands and soil causeways, connected by arched wooden bridges in modified Japanese style.

By 1920, when the bridges became rickety, they were replace with concrete, two of which still exist. A great flood in 1938 wiped out the lotus bed, much of which was replanted by volunteers, only to die of neglect in the 1960's. Debris from the Main Street Mall project of the 60's was dumped there.

After accepting Reynolds' donation, the Park Board was eager to make more extensive improvements, and a $30,000 bond issue was voted in 1910 to improve the park, including funds for a swimming pool and a wading pool.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OLMSTED DESIGN

A great park designer, Frederick Law Olmsted, understood that city dwellers must have access to natural country like setting, and designed such parks. He always incorporated water into his designs, because people are delighted by water, whether a tiny rivulet, a whitewater river, or a mighty Mississippi, or moderately sized lake. Fairmount Park is Riverside's affirmation of that attraction to water and a 'sacred grove'.

The Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, sons of the nationally recognized landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, were working on preparations fro the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition at San Diego. Olmsted designs appear to be natural countryside, with curved paths, informal groupings of trees and plants, and meandering lakeshore.

Mayor Evans, the Park Board, and the City Council arranged for the firm to draft a development plan for Fairmount Park, including lake modification, new roadways, tree plantings, and a swimming pool. Mayor Samuel C. Evans Jr. and his brother Pliny T Evans donated an additional 18 acres.

The Olmsted Brothers submitted their proposal in June 1911, and the Mayor and Park Commission heartily endorsed it. Commissioner Hardman was engaged to carry out the plans as submitted, and was commended for so doing in May 1912. Careful accounts were kept of the enterprise. The final step was the improved entrance to Fairmount Park on Locust, following the Olmsted plan.

The National Association of Olmsted Parks was formed in 1979, and made available copies of plans of parks that the Olmsted Bros. firm has designed, including Central Park, Yosemite, Prospect Park, and numerous plans for subdivisions and towns. The Fairmount Park Citizens Committee became affiliated with the group, and members attended the 1983 conference in New York City.

PLUNGE

The Fairmount Park Plunge opened on June 1, 1912, as part of the Olmsted design of 1911. It offered a giant slide as an alternative to diving into the water. Every boy and girl in town was urged to learn to swim. It was a free public swimming pool where a person could rent a towel for ten cents or a towel and suit for twenty cents at dressing rooms and restrooms nearby. Boys' rental suits displayed a big 'F' on the front. By 1920, Riverside matrons were shocked by the short cut of some bathing outfits worn by young ladies swimming at the Plunge. These outraged women organized a board of censors consisting of mothers to make sure a proper dress code was observed.

A wading pool for toddlers was added later. Marshall Bryant, the concessionaire in the Park, recalled adding a thick layer of concrete to the 3-foot-deep toddler pool to make it shallower and less frightening to the little children! Memories of old-timers include 'being too scared to get into that big pool!'

Time brought many changes, including the construction of many public and private pools. The old Fairmount Park Plunge and wading pool were closed in the 1950's and filled in; the playground is on the site.

LAKE EVANS

Part of the 1911 Olmsted proposal was enlargement of the lake. In 1923, the plan from 1911 was rediscovered, and brought to the attention of G. Stanley Wilson, who presented it to service clubs. They endorsed many of its features, particularly the enlargement of the lake. The plan drew popular support, and Mayor Samuel Evans donated more than 40 additional acres for the project. The City Engineer drew plans for construction of a dam to hold back water in the existing Fairmount Park Lake. The dam was designed as a spillway for water to fall from it into the new, lower lake. The two lakes were not connected directly due to the extreme amount of dredging necessary to equalize the water levels in both lakes, because of the natural slope down to the river level.

Sixteen workmen and 24 mules were used to remove 50,000 cubic yards of earth from the proposed lake bed. Mounds of dirt in the middle of the new lakebed formed two islands, one an acre in area and the other five acres. Over a thousand loads of decomposed granite came from North Hill to build the dam and to surface the new road laid out around the lake, which was named Lake Evans, in honor of Mayor Samuel C. Evans Jr., and the new road was named Dexter Drive, in honor of Captain Charles M. Dexter.

The pond known as Brown Lake is an appendage of Lake Evans, connected by a pipe under the road. Mr. Brown had concessions at the park, and used Brown Lake as a fish hatchery to stock Lake Evans. It had been used even for swimming, according to various accounts. In 1937, a very cold wet winter, it froze thick enough to allow ice-skating. Brown Lake may be part of the Spring Brook streambed, but it is not shown on any early tract maps before 1924, and most likely was created as part of the Lake Evans project in 1923.

The lake was dedicated during the Independence Day celebration in 1924. There was a historic water pageant with floats depicting patriotic scenes and there were spectacular fireworks reflected in the water of the new lake that had taken a year to create.

Sailing on Lake Evans was popular since it was opened, as the winds there are challenging. "If you learn to sail here, you can sail anywhere," is often quoted, because of the tricky winds which swirl suddenly, or try to take you off course - or just stop blowing, putting you in "irons".

Sometime in the '60s, a group from the University of California started a sailing club, using Lake Evans for races and giving sailing lessons. Several groups, including the Riverside Sailing Club, the Girl Scouts Mariners, and Boy Scouts earning canoeing and kayaking merit badges, have been active on Lake Evans. Model boats are often seen, as well.

WATER SOURCES AND FLOODS

The park was flooded and the lakes silted up several times; 1938 and 1967 were the worst. A major flood in 1938 devastated the park, and much of the Riverside and Rubidoux area. Being part of the lowlands of the Santa Ana River, the park suffered the overflow as the river filled the area to the bluff along North Orange Street and raged through the park. It destroyed the dams and drained the lakes. Some trees were uprooted; the boathouse was badly damaged; the boats were washed away. Silt filled the lake and the oriental water-lily ponds. The river was deflected toward Rubidoux where it flooded houses, overturned cars, and drowned many people.

In 1938, a new dam was constructed at the west end of the lake. Because of the washouts, the lakes were equalized and connected. A spillway for excess water was provided by means of a dip in the road near the American Legion Clubhouse. The park was getting back to normal.

In 1947, the Flood Control District erected levees along the Santa Ana and linked the park lakes to the flood channel system to manage storm drainage. This led to further flooding and silting problems for the park. It has kept the Santa Ana in a controlled bed.

In 1987, state funds for rehabilitation of the Lakes was used to dredge the lakes, install fish habitats and aeration, and stabilize the shoreline. Federal funds were used for enhancement of the fishery. Piers for fishing and lake enjoyment were built near the Redwood Avenue bridge and the Izaac Walton Clubhouse.

The water in the lakes is provided chiefly by pumping from three wells that extend into the water table in the riverbottom. It is excellent water, and quite clean as it comes from underground. Relatively little water comes through the Spring Brook channel, except during rainy weather. The old Ottawa storm drain channel, coming from Linden Street flood control, has been diverted into a bypass pipe that is routed under Dexter Drive. There had been serious pollution coming from the area into the lakes prior to the rechannelization.

Since the lakes are natural, that is, not lined with concrete or plastic, water is constantly bubbling up from the water table. Also, in summer, the algae, pond weeds, duck weeds, etc. grow until the weather changes or other means clean up the appearance of the water.

A NEW BOATHOUSE

Boating on Fairmount Lake (the smaller part) was popular since the first proposal of creation of the lake in 1903. Soon after the lake was made, a rough shelter boathouse was built on the south side of Fairmount Lake. It was an open-sided building, protected from the weather. A small enclosed bay was surrounded by a walkway, so that boats could be stored, boarded and launched from inside. In 1911, additional boats and another landing were proposed to upgrade the boathouse along with the major redesign of the Park by the Olmsteds. The boathouse had a mission-style façade added in 1920, with steps down to dock level.

Marshall Bryant operated the boat concession from 1925 until 1972. There was storage space for the small battery-driven boats built by Mr. Bryant, as well as space for rowboats. Tickets were purchased for the use of the boats. The great 1938 flood devastated the concession, and boats were found in the sediment that washed up in West Riverside. The boathouse was refurbished and put back in business and operated 20 years until a flood in the late 1960's wiped out the remaining boats and filled Fairmount Lake with silt. Eventually abandoned, the old boathouse was demolished in 1980.

Replacing an old structure, a new Boathouse was opened and dedicated on October 28, 1995. Crowning the 13-year effort that entailed the design, fund-raising, and construction, the building was named Stewarts Boathouse in honor of the person who made the dream come true, Bob Stewart. Many experts volunteered their time toward the project, including a team of architects and engineers. Funds were available from a grant through state park bonds.

The new 1995 boathouse is on the exact location of the old boathouse, built to modern requirements. The original concrete steps that were part of the old boathouse for so many years were preserved and are at the top of the new steps down to the boat landing. Not only does it resemble the old mission revival style, but it includes include the Lakeside Room upstairs which is suitable for special events. There is space for a snack shop, restrooms, and a kitchen area for catering the events in the Lakeside Room. At water level, it has interior docks for a boat concession, storage areas, and a dock for the park maintenance boat. Now pedal boats and rowboats are available for rent on weekends and throughout the summer.

BANDSHELL

In the early part of the century, a prime entertainment pastime was a concert in the park. Fairmount Park's Bandshell has gone through some traumatic times, but is now completely rebuilt to modern standards, with steel framework and a sprinkler system, yet retaining the familiar design.

The first bandstand at Fairmount had been moved there from White Park in 1908. The Riverside Cornet Band, organized in 1876, had played its concerts first at the White Park bandstand, then at Fairmount Park. A more enduring musical group was the Riverside Military Band, which was organized in 1900 and played its first public concert in 1901. It remained a viable entity through 1940. Its players were local volunteers, playing part-time, hoping to collect expenses and the cost of uniforms and instruments through public donations. As audience continued to grow, the need developed for a bandshell to project music to greater distances. The Riverside Concert Band carries on the tradition.

The Fairmount Park Bandshell was built in 1920, the 50th anniversary of the founding of Riverside. It was designed by Arthur Benton, whose work at the Mission Inn, the First Church of Christ Scientist, the Riverside Municipal Auditorium, the Hole Mansion, and the Mount Rubidoux Peace Tower, which are included in Landmark designations. The bandshell exhibits features such as a tile roof and outer walls of fieldstone by which Benton's work may be recognized. The bandshell was inaugurated at a dedicatory concert before an audience of 6,000 on Sunday, September 26, 1920. Gustavus Milverkus, director of the Riverside Military band since 1905, had composed a "Greater Fairmount March" for the occasion, and Benton himself delivered a talk on "Music and Architecture." In later years, Hollywood actors including Edward Arnold and Jeanette McDonald performed at the Bandshell.

In 1980 it was designated by the Cultural Heritage Board as City Landmark #10. The plaque on the rock wall reads:

> "Public open-air concerts became a regular feature in Riverside before the turn of the century. In 1908, the wooden bandstand was moved to Fairmount Park from White Park to accommodate growing audiences. In 1920 this permanent bandshell was built from a design by the primary architect of the Mission Inn. Restoration was completed by the volunteer Fairmount Park Citizens Committee in 1986. Cultural Heritage Landmark #10."

The original bandshell stood for 60 years, but was severely damaged by an electrical fire on Christmas Day, 1982. Its repair came about through the joint efforts of the Park and Recreation Department and the volunteer Fairmount Park Citizens Committee. It was completely refurbished and reopened in 1985 only to be completely destroyed by a 'campfire' set by a transient in the center of the floor area in 1992. The outer rock walls and the concrete platform remained, and were used in the reconstruction of the building.

There were no 1920 original plans of the Bandshell; however, photographs taken after the 1982 fire were used for reference for reconstruction to be as near the original as possible. The outside rock walls were reinforced, and the new structure anchored to them. The arched interior was the most difficult to build. Bob Stewart, who had done extensive repairs in 1984, made elevations and a model of the building. Gerry Cole, of Cole & Frick Architects, used the model to work with engineers to draft the architectural plans.

The Bandshell reconstruction was completed and a rededication ceremony was held on September 23, 1995. Many people donated funds for the reconstruction, including Mayor Terry Frizzel and the Kiwanis Club who have held their annual barbecue at the site for over 35 years.

Many more concerts, plays and events have been staged at the Bandshell, as it continues to be a necessity in the life of the community.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Many unique specimens of mature trees are growing in the Park: Montezuma bald cypress, several kinds of eucalyptus, oaks, palms, and other species. A tree inventory was made in 1985 and compared with a planting plan of 1911. Many of the trees planted that were growing at that time, or were planted shortly after are still thriving; a number of mature trees have been removed because of disease; others were blown down by strong winds.

The Olmsted Planting Plan is being used to reforest the park. Over 100 trees were planted in honor of the Park's Centennial. Montezuma cypress trees from Mexico have proven their resilience, and are known to reach a grand old age of over 2,000 years.

Birds of all species live or migrate through the riverbottom and use the lakes as a resting-place. Canadian geese and herons are often seen there, along with sparrows, finches, jays, mockingbirds and other songbirds.

ROSE GARDEN

Fairmount Park Rose Garden is a showplace that is on the must-see list for Rosarians. Containing over 1300 specimen bushes, it is a wonderful and fragrant experience to be in the midst of it when the roses are in full bloom in the spring. Pink, red, yellow, lavender, multi-color, different heights, floribundas and giant roses of every description thrive there. They require consistent care, with watering, 'deadheading' (removing spent blooms), and annual pruning.

The area began as farmland in the riverbottom at the foot of the bluff. At the southern intersection of Redwood Drive and Dexter Drive, local nurseryman R.P. Small owned a piece of land along Lake Evans where he raised bedding plants. This plot comprised the only private property on the lakeshore. Mr. Small offered it for sale to the City of Riverside; however, the City expressed no interest in buying the property until Small applied for a building permit for a lakeshore home in about 1932. This led the City Council to reconsider the offer and purchased Small's land.

To beautify this new entrance to the Park at the corner of Redwood and Dexter, an elegant vista was created by landscape architect Dorothy Dunbar in 1939. There was a reflecting pool flanked on either side by a circular walkway and concrete benches, graceful plantings of palms, and a spacious lawn area leading to the lakeshore. A bronze plaque, mounted on a concrete base embedded in the lawn at the entrance, carries an inscription to the memory of the late Samuel Cary Evans Jr. When the pool proved to be difficult to maintain, it was filled in with a planting of miniature roses.

The first planting of roses was in 1956, when the Riverside Floral Arts Group won 200 rose bushes from the rose growers' annual "Fashions in Roses" show at the Mission Inn. At that time, the public rose garden was located in White Park in downtown Riverside, and there was no room for more roses; in fact, the roses already growing there were to be removed as plans were in the making for a recreation building in the park.

Ellis Kindig, park superintendent, submitted plans to the Park and Recreation Commission for a new site for the rose garden to be in Fairmount Park. It was designed in the formal manner of show gardens, with concrete curbing surrounding large sections for the roses, and walkways between. A row of tall palms flanks the walkway from the circle toward the lake. The site measures 220' by 400'. The garden is dedicated to Ellis Kinding; the plaque is in the circular garden near the lake.

The garden is an All-American Rose selection display garden, and has over 1,300 bushes, many of them award winners. The first rose pruning demonstration to instruct novice rose growers in the fine art was held in January 1959 at the request of Zelda Lloyd, a founder of the Riverside Rose Society and Park and Recreation Commissioner at the time. The annual rose pruning and care demonstration was continued for many years.

Subsequent improvements were made in 1988: a new restroom was built near the Garden, and turn-of-the-century-style lighting standards were installed flanking the walkway in the center of the garden, both projects from a HUD grant.

In 2001, a beautiful wrought iron fence was installed around the perimeter of the Garden, similar to fences in other formal rose gardens. A special touch is the circular design of roses made of wrought iron; the pieces were made in England especially for the Garden

PLAYGROUNDS

Today, the Park has two major playgrounds for children, with swings, slides, and climbing adventure apparatus. Both playgrounds were completely updated and refurbished in 1985. The larger lot, near the Boathouse, is a sandy area surrounded by curbing; there is a place for the big kids and the tot-size version of small slides and swings is separate from the "big kids" area. The favorite old "rainbow" swing was kept in place. In the mid-1950's, the equipment mostly constructed of steel pipe was updated and refurbished to a "cowboy" theme. A favorite place to play was a 1920 fire engine, but by 1983, it was removed because of its deterioration.

The other play area at the northern entrance off the Market Street near the freeway (called the "day camp" area), is nice and shady, consisting of a smaller structure with a suspended bridge and areas for climbing and sliding. It features a spongy material under the equipment to cushion the occasional fall. It replaces a wooden playground built in the 1970's, a fortress-like structure of squared-off logs with play spaces and climbing areas, which was removed in the mid-1980's as it became hazardous.

Playgrounds weren't always an option. About 1900, cities recognized the need for distinct areas for children to play, with special equipment for gymnastics and other exercises. Social reformer and newspaperman Jacob Riis (1849-1914) was the innovator of the movement. Early Fairmount Park had some play equipment such as swings and merry-go-rounds. Double-sided gliders were the adult version of swings, and were popular with all ages. A whirling and swinging hoop called the "Giant Stride" was an intimidating piece of equipment! The slide was very, very high, and called for a certain amount of bravery to climb it.

The 1911 Olmsted Plan consolidated all the play equipment near the plunge (swimming pool) just at the foot of North Hill and Banks Drive. Swings, slides, merry-go-rounds, a sand lot and a special play lot for tiny tots were included in the plan.

Playground equipment continues to evolve for safety and esthetic concerns. The playgrounds at Fairmount are periodically overhauled to suit modern requirements.

UNION PACIFIC ENGINE # 6051

"Old 6051" was installed as a permanent monument in Fairmount Park in 1954. Inspired by an editorial in the Daily Press and by efforts of the Southern California Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Union Pacific Railroad donated Engine No. 6051 to Riverside in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Union Pacific coming to the city.

Engine Number 6051 was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in August 1907. A 2-8-0 Consolidated type coal-burning freight engine, it was put into service for the Union Pacific Railroad running between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Caliente, Nevada. In 1924, after 17 years of service on the main line, Engine No. 6051 was transferred to Los Angeles for use on the San Pedro and Anaheim branch lines. At that time it was converted to an oil-burning engine. Regular use of steam locomotion essentially passed with the almost complete conversion to diesel fuel in 1947. Old 6051 had been retired from service in February 1954 and was moved from Pocotello, Idaho to Riverside.

The location chosen at the entrance to the park was near the spur of the Union Pacific and Pacific Electric line. In 1909 or earlier, the Crescent City Railroad was given a right-of-way through Fairmount Park and the fairgrounds to facilitate the building of Crestmore Cement Plant. The rails and high embankment through the Park along Market Street were removed in the 1950's.

The dedication of the monument on July 20, 1954, followed several weeks of extensive preparation. The engine itself was painstakingly cleaned, reassembled, refurbished, and polished by rail crews in San Bernardino, and the 75 feet of track which holds it had to be set in place in the dedicated plot. Special arrangements for transporting the engine and tender and for transferring them from the railroad down to the Park had to be planned. Speeches by local dignitaries and representatives of the railroad, fanfare, and lots of enthusiasm by railroad buffs marked the occasion. The acceptance of Old 6051 as a permanent monument was hailed by the Press as a glorious reminder of the days of the Iron Horse.

Over the years, volunteers have painted old 6051 to keep it from rusting away. Plans have been drafted for the refurbishment of the Locomotive. A protective shed, similar to the railroad yard sheds, will be built over the engine. Complete repainting of the engine and tender, and replacement of missing instruments have been scheduled. The area will be landscaped and fenced, with a descriptive sign placed in front to tell the story of Old 6051. Funds being sought to help pay for it, along with volunteer and in-kind donations. A wrought iron fence was erected in 2005.

WATER BUFFALO

The "Water Buffalo," an amphibious landing vehicle, was manufactured primarily in Riverside by FMC (Food Machinery Corporation) during World War II. Used in the European War effort, 11,251 were built, over half of them in Riverside. The vehicles were run into the lake down a ramp near the west end, to test them for water tightness and in preparation for sending to the troops. On Veterans Day in 1946, a ceremony was held in Fairmount Park declaring the Water Buffalo which had been acquired by the City Park and Recreation Department as a war memorial. Three years after the 1946 dedication, the City built a pedestal for the Water Buffalo on the Lake Evans shore in front of the American Legion Clubhouse. This pedestal is graced with a plaque, which reads:

"To the civilian war workers of Riverside -
Veterans of the Battle of Production and Full Partners in Victory."

AMERICAN LEGION CLUBHOUSE

Technically, the American Legion is not on park property, but has been a wonderful neighbor for many years. Legionnaires participate in special events by presenting the United States Flag and other patriotic ceremonies. The Legion has maintained the Water Buffalo since it was installed across the street from the building.

GOLF COURSE

Fairmount Park Golf Course has been established since 1930, one of the earliest public courses in Southern California. It is a 9-hole course which is on level land. As early as 1911, the City Parks Commission had discussed the desirability of establishing a municipal golf course. By 1930, Ira Fallon Jr. and his family developed and operated the nine-hole course north of and adjacent to the park, and called it Riverside Country Club. The course also includes a driving range.

The Mission Inn purchased it and increased the acreage in 1945, operating the golf course until it was sold to the City in 1960. It has been leased to concessionaires most of the time since then, except for 1979-1981, when the Park and Recreation Department operated it.

LAWN BOWLING

Lawn bowling was first introduced to Riverside in about 1920, when the Pachappa Bowling Club, with greens on Olivewood Avenue at the foot of Pachappa Hill was formed. When it disbanded, the Riverside Lawn Bowling Club was formed in 1926 at Fairmount Park, with the assistance of the City Park and Recreation Department. The city's original agreement with the club was that it would 'furnish and maintain' a site in the park if the club would raise the money to install the bowling green and equip it with lights. The sport requires very smooth and well kept grass, so that the bowls (balls) can roll toward the goal for scoring. There is a clubhouse and three greens, each with seven lanes 15 feet wide, which the City still maintains. Facilities are for the use of club members, who host international tournaments. People of all ages can play the game, and are welcome to visit the clubhouse in the Park.

IZAAC WALTON CLUBHOUSE

The Izaac Walton League was a large conservation organization in Riverside at one time, with regular meetings at the Park. Built in 1940, the clubhouse resembles a log cabin It has a large meeting hall, a kitchen and restrooms. Over the years, the building has suffered many setbacks, and has been restored several times. Most recently; it needed major reconstruction after being heavily damaged by fire in 2000,

Many organizations have used the building for a meeting place, including the Riverside Sailing Club, Riverside Fly Fishing, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and several bands.

ARMORY

The California Army National Guard Armory has been at the north end of the Park since 1954. The land is leased from the city for 99 years

RESTROOMS

The bathhouse and restrooms built in 1911 still exist today, but only the large one near the main entrance is still in use; the others are storage areas. New restrooms have been built in the same Mission revival style in the Rose Garden and near the Lawn Bowling Club

SAFE AND CLEAN

Safety & Traffic: At one time, some of the park roads were one-way. Early in our Park studies, the Police Department recommended that all the streets which enter the Park be open to two-way traffic, mainly for emergency vehicle access, and also because traffic circulation would ensure that the many eyes of park visitors would keep the park as safe as possible.

New Bridge: The first major project of FPCC was the design and building of the Redwood Avenue bridge (between the lakes). Steve Simpson, civil engineer took on the project, and recruited construction experts who donated their time, equipment and materials to demolish the old unsafe structure and rebuild it to present safety standards. Photos were taken of the entire process. The new bridge was opened with a celebration: speeches, ribbon cutting and a vintage auto procession.

Park Ranger: The Committee recommended in 1983 that there be a Park Ranger in charge at all times to enforce park rules, to lead excursions and explain the importance of the Park. In 1987, funds were made available to implement the Ranger program so that people could be hired who had police training and people skills. The program continues to be very effective with outstanding Rangers on staff.

Keeping the park CLEAN is an absolute necessity; the Park Department is aware that keeping the restrooms clean, painting out graffiti as soon as possible, cleaning up the debris in the lakes, and all other 'housekeeping' chores must be taken care of. Park patrons can see that the workers appreciate and respect the park, and for the most part, they will tidy up the area that they use.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Amusement Park and Carousel

A greatly missed favorite feature is the carousel that had been in the Park since 1947. Ray Watson, a private concessionaire, introduced the 1912 C.W. Parker carousel to the park. He eventually developed the area into a small arcade at the site of the old zoo, on the north side of Fairmount Lake. Besides the carousel, a small gauge train encircled the area, a miniature roller-coaster delighted kids of all ages, and several arcade games such as shooting targets and pitching rings were popular, as was the charming old-fashioned miniature golf course. Across the lake at the boathouse, a track extended out over the water and small electric 'race' cars on a track could be 'driven' with lots of thrills for youngsters.

During the 1970's, when the 'drug culture' and sinister types started hanging around the amusement park, the families who had supported the earlier innocent fun would not come to the park, and the amusements were completely closed or demolished. Mr. Watson's family tried to sell the carousel, but no one in Riverside was interested in purchasing it. A large amusement park in Michigan did see its value, purchased and totally refurbished the carousel. It is the premiere attraction there.

Animals

Rin Tin Tin, the German Shepherd who became a famous movie star lived near the Park. Lee Duncan, the dog's trainer, found him in France in 1918. Rinty was trained with hand signals, and was able to work well with actor in several films. The first dog worked from 1922 until he died in 1932. His offspring were trained as well, and worked in films, but were not as busy as the original until television starred Rin Tin Tin IV. The Duncans moved to Riverside in 1937; their ranch was just south of the Golf Course near the river. Duncan also helped train dogs for assignments in the Army during World War II.

Zoo: From 1933 to 1935, a small zoo was operated in the park, with a ten-cent admission. The zoo was more a hobby of the owner than a business.

Aviary:: Sometime after 1910, a very large aviary cage was built near the southwest shore of Fairmount Lake. The wooden frame covered with wire was at least 50 feet high. It was stocked with many varieties of birds and several kinds of small animals, including desert tortoises. Several peacocks were in the Park through the 1960's, and were noted for their piercing screeches and of course, their magnificent plumage. These building were removed sometime in the early 1980's.

Sulfur Spring

Now capped over, the sulfur spring was located not far from the Bandshell. Photos depict a mission revival style gazebo, with steps inside descending lower than the surrounding ground level. There was a fountain in the center for the famous water. Tourists from all over came to visit and sip the water for its medicinal value.

A favorite 'trick' was to entice the unwary to try the 'delicious' water, and watch the reaction when it tasted of sulfur. The water ceased to flow some years ago (at least 40), whether from corroded pipes or some earth movement which cut off the spring, is not certain. White Sulfur Springs or Elliota Springs which opened in 1898 is about a mile away on Strong Street, but is now closed.

Fairgrounds

In 1913, the County-promoted Southern California Fair was started at Chemawa Park, and in 1915 was moved to its own fairgrounds just north of Fairmount Park. The fair operated through 1930; several movies were filmed there. The City acquired the fairgrounds and ultimately sold most of the acreage, the site of which is now divided by the Pomona Freeway (60). A small portion between Market Street and the freeway remains City-owned and was used through the 1960's as a heliport.

Auto Camp

With the advent of families touring the country in the new automobiles, there was a need to have a place to spend the night. The Park Board felt that an auto camp would be an asset to the City, but suggested that it be placed in the Tequesquite Arroyo alongside the new Magnolia Avenue fill. The City Council, however, preferred a less central location, between Crestmore Boulevard and the rail track which still passed through the edge of the park. (Crestmore Boulevard has since become Market Street, but with a slightly different alignment). The Riverside Municipal Auto Camp opened in Fairmount Park in 1914. A 1920's sign at the auto camp offers, at the rate of 50 cents per day, the use of individual gas plates, shower baths, laundry tubs, lights and water. The auto camp was closed in 1927.

Police Mounted Unit

There was a Mounted Unit, a group of sworn officers and volunteers trained by the Police Department for patrolling the park on horses, which served on major holidays. They were always a great hit with the kids, besides being very effective at controlling illegal behavior in the Park, but the unit was discontinued in about 2000.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1993 CITY OF RIVERSIDE CENTENNIAL

In October 1983, the "Celebration of the Century" marked the incorporation of the city. A committee was formed to plan and stage a variety of events including a parade, special luncheons, exhibits downtown, fashion shows, contests, and an "Old Fashioned Picnic at Fairmount Park." The Fairmount Park Citizens Committee coordinated a park-wide celebration including a carousel, pony rides, entertainment all day at the Bandshell, a staged wedding in the Rose Garden, and a car show. Over 7,000 people attended.

LANDMARK DAY

Fairmount Park was designated Cultural Heritage Landmark #69 in December of 1985. A ceremony was held on April 19, 1986. Activities included a band concert, remarks by prominent citizens, a presentation of commemorative plaques, the planting of a special tree, and christening the new park maintenance boat. A Landmark designation requires that any proposed changes to the park, whether additions, features, buildings, changes in any part of it, must be reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Board, the Park and Recreation Commission, and the City Council. A plaque commemorating the Olmsted Brothers influence on the Park was installed near the boathouse, which reads:

> *"A favorite picnic spot since the founding of Riverside, Fairmount Park was dedicated in 1898 and has grown to many times its original 35 acres. Expansion has been made possible through private gifts and purchases of land by the city. In 1911, the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass., planned the park as an open space landscape design. This open space philosophy remains a commitment in today's urban environment. Cultural Heritage Landmark Number 69."*

FAIRMOUNT PARK CENTENNIAL 1998

To celebrate the Park's 100th anniversary, and to rededicate the Park to future generations, another 'old fashioned' event was staged, with entertainment, an art show, amusements, a special first-day postal cancellation, special tree planting, snapshots of park activities, and a historical display of photos and documents collection of the Stewarts. A special scrapbook was displayed called "Memories of Fairmount", which contains hand written and dictated oral histories, some photos and other memorabilia. A new edition of the history of Fairmount booklet was written for the occasion. using the information from the one written in 1985 for the historical landmarking.

TIME CAPSULE

To wind up the centennial year, a time capsule containing a scrapbook of memorabilia from the Centennial, photos, items from participants, a phone book, newspapers, booklets, plans from major projects, and signatures of people who attended the Time Capsule dedication. The Capsule is slated to be opened in 50 years, in the hope that some of the young people who were at the Park in 1998 will be there for the opening in 2048. It gives a good feeling to reach out to the future, knowing that someone will find it interesting to touch the original documents from 1998. It has been an adventure finding the information and tracing sources for the history.

TREE PLANTING DAYS

Tree planting in the Park and around town has become an annual event instituted by the Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful Committee of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. Since the centennial in 1998, when 100 trees were planted in the Park, volunteers have planted thousands of trees throughout Riverside. In March of 2005, 172 trees were planted in Fairmount alone. Usually held in March, Riverside's Arbor Day includes all sorts of educational booths, some entertainment, and a picnic lunch. Many conservation groups take part in it.

Report Written in 2000

Fairmount Park Citizens Committee 1979 - 1999
Bob Stewart, Chairman; Pat Stewart, Historian
(Committee was discontinued in September 2000 because of Bob's Death)

In November 1999, the Fairmount Park Citizens Committee celebrated 20 years of ongoing effort to preserve and protect the park. Many people have served on the committee, some faithfully coming to monthly meetings to decide what's to be done next and where they could help, and some by lending their expertise for a specific project. Everyone, including architects, engineers, rose growers, water experts, painters, scouts, carpenters, and cookie bakers, has contributed something of value, great and small.

In 1979 when consultants hired by the city proposed drastic alterations, many people opposed the changes that would have destroyed the natural look of the Park. Two separate committees were formed: a short-term group to make recommendations appointed by the City Council, and the volunteer Fairmount Park Citizens Committee.

Initially, the Citizens Committee identified problems in the park. One thing led to another, and as we researched and asked more questions, our motto became 'Preserve Our Park.' We challenged the consultants' plan with facts collected through library research, from books and newspapers, interviews, viewing photos and maps, observing and just asking questions. It became clear that Fairmount Park is a very important part of Riverside's heritage, and it is part of the Nation's heritage. The Park belongs to all of us; we needed to reclaim it.

Fairmount Park has the honor of being one of the Olmsted legacy parks. The natural look that we prize is a primary factor in the 1911 Olmsted Bros. landscape design, commissioned to enhance the basic parkland.

The Park and Recreation Department support the Committee; we work as a team on whatever project that needs to be done. Major projects like refurbishing the Bandshell and minor projects like painting picnic tables have been accomplished with volunteers working closely with the Park and Recreation Department staff.

Like the Park and Recreation Department, the Police Department is always supportive, ready to offer information and advice. One of the first issues was park safety, and we walked through the park with a police Captain who pointed out problem areas and recommended solutions. When available, the Mounted Unit (horse patrol) is one of the most positive police representations. The new Park Ranger program has been a definite asset, as well. We have always found support and encouragement from the Mayor, Council, Commissions, and staffs of city departments.

Other accomplishments over the years:

1985 Wrote "A Brief History of Fairmount Park"
Designed fishing dock near Redwood Bridge
Planned main parking lot and painted the striping
Coordinated many projects and clean up days
Cleaned debris from lake shore
Studied and alleviated pollution entering lakes via storm drains
Painted picnic tables
Cosponsored annual rose pruning demonstrations
Planted roses
Installed bollards for traffic control
Planned parking lot near wilderness
Coordinated a tree inventory by student from Cal Poly, Pomona
Coordinated Scout projects
Research history of park - trees, lakes, land acquisition, etc.

Goals for 1999-2000 Locomotive Refurbishment, with roof and interpretive center

SPECIAL DOCUMENTS

Fairmount Park Citizens Committee
Established 1979 for the Preservation of Fairmount Park
3830 Jurupa Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506 ❖ 909 682-5400
Bob Stewart, Chairman

October 7, 1999
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pat Stewart

Riverside Participates in Local Legacies Project to Mark the Library of Congress Bicentennial

The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. As a part of the celebration, each Congressional District has been invited to nominate a local event that will tell the story of the United States at the end of the century. Representative Ken Calvert's office has selected Riverside's Fairmount Park Centennial Celebration and Time Capsule to be part of the "Local Legacies" for Congressional District 43.

The announcement will be made at the October 12th City Council meeting by Fairmount Park Citizens' Committee founders, Bob and Pat Stewart, who have been involved in the rejuvenation of the Park for 20 years. "It is a great honor to have the history of Fairmount Park included in the Library of Congress as Riverside's legacy, because the park is truly a treasure that reflects our community's growth and outlook, and can be enjoyed by everyone."

The Local Legacies project is designed to document and pay tribute to the nation's rich cultural heritage by fostering community projects to ensure that future generations will have access to important cultural 'snapshots' of American tradition, folklore and everyday life from all 50 states and U.S. trusts and territories. The documentary material will be assembled to share with all Americans.

The Library of Congress, which has been gathering knowledge for the nation's good since 1800, is planning a nationwide bicentennial celebration of the contributions of all libraries to a democratic society. For more information on the Library's Bicentennial, check the Library's Bicentennial Web site at www.loc.gov/bicentennial, or call the Bicentennial Program Office at 202-707-2000 or toll-free 800-707-7145.

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Fairmount Park Landmark Document of the City of Riverside

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD RESOLUTION #69

A Resolution of the Cultural Heritage Board of Riverside, California Designating Landmark #69

WHEREAS the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Riverside has considered the historical and aesthetic contributions that Fairmount Park offers the City; and

WHEREAS the Cultural Heritage Board considers Fairmount Park to be an important urban open space, as well as a lasting example of the work of an historically important landscape architecture firm, the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachussetts; and

WHEREAS the Cultural Heritage Board desires that Fairmount Park remain a valuable legacy to future generations of citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cultural Heritage Board designates Fairmount Park, in its entirety, as a Landmark of the City of Riverside.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this designation includes all publicly visible elements of the park, including, but not limited to, the configuration of the lakeshores, the Fairmount Park Bandshell, the Fairmount Park Golf Course, the grounds of the Riverside Lawn Bowling Club, the Fairmount Park Rose Garden, the Food Machinery Corporation "Water Buffalo", Union Pacific Engine No. 6051, and the three Mission Revival restroom buildings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cultural Heritage Board acknowledges that some 45% of Fairmount Park's trees are at maturity and will in future years require replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cultural Heritage Board requires that the original Olmsted Brothers plan for the park serve as a guide for varieties of trees suitable for reforestation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cultural Heritage Board endorses the replacement of climaxed trees, with varieties from the Olmsted list, with the final approval for such reforestation to come from the Park and Recreation Commission.

ADOPTED BY the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Riverside, California, and signed by its Chairman and attested by its Secretary this 18th day of December, 1985.

Acting Chairman of the Cultural Heritage Board

Attested by:

Acting Secretary of the Cultural Heritage Board

Documentation

Brown, John, and James Boyd. History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, 1922

Bryant, John (County Flood Control). Interview

Bryant, Marshall (Concessionaire). Interview

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Gunther, Jane Davis. Riverside County, California Place Names

Hall, Joan. Inside Riverside

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Olmsted Preliminary and Planting Plans, 1911

Patterson, Tom A Colony for California

Proposed Fairmount Park Lake Map of 1903

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Riverside Press and Horticulturalist

Simpson, Jeffrey. The Art of the Olmsted Landscape

Small, Lorraine, local expert horticulturalist and columnist Interview

Small, Waldo. Interview

The Press Enterprise ...many issues over the years

Fairmount Park Citizens Committee
Established 1979 for Park Preservation
3830 Jurupa Avenue, Riverside, California 92506

December, 1998

TO: Future Park Friends who are Opening this Time Capsule in 2048

FROM: Centennial Celebration Committee

On the one-hundredth anniversary of its original dedication, we re-dedicated Fairmount Park to the future enjoyment of the People of Riverside. We honored those who have given generously to ensure a peaceful and beautiful open space over those years.

The year 2048 was chosen in the hope that among you who are opening the Capsule are the children and grandchildren who attended the Centennial Celebration and/or the dedication of the Time Capsule 50 years ago!

We have enclosed some items collected during the Centennial Year of Fairmount Park An album of photos of Centennial Day and interesting information from participating organizations; Fairmount History booklets: *A Brief History, 1993*, and *Riverside's Treasure, 1998*; Chamber of Commerce publications and map; a Riverside phone book; historic plans of the Park; architectural plans for the Boathouse, Bandshell, and Locomotive Shelter; and The Press-Enterprise editions containing articles relating to the Celebration.

We hope that Fairmount Park is still a beautiful and treasured family place, with the lakes, trees, playgrounds, buildings and monuments that exist in 1998, with well thought-out development of any additional land acquired in the 50 years! The classic Olmsted tradition of natural open space design is very important, and was very deliberately preserved. When Fairmount Park was designated Cultural Heritage Landmark Number 69 in 1986, we hoped to to ensure its protection against encroachment and change, and continue to be accessible to everyone.

There is an inspiring quote by the 19th century English writer, John Ruskin :

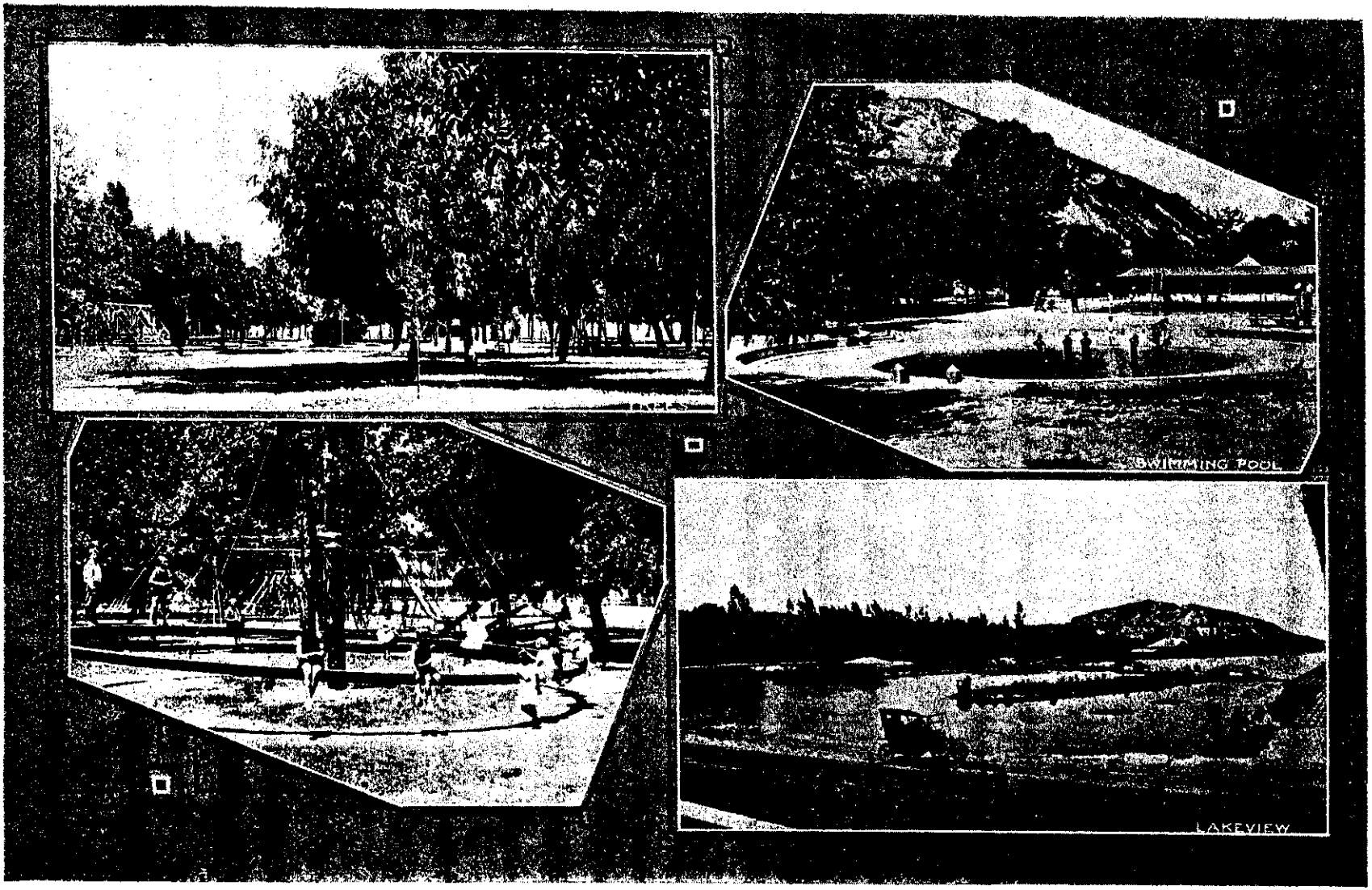
> "Therefore, when we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for the present delight or present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for and let us think . . . as we lay stone upon stone, that a time will come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that they will say . . . as they look, upon the results of our labor, 'See, this our Fathers did for us'."





Birdseye View Northward from Fairmount Heights—showing rich alfalfa and orange lands of Bean & Walker, local realty dealers.

Fairmount

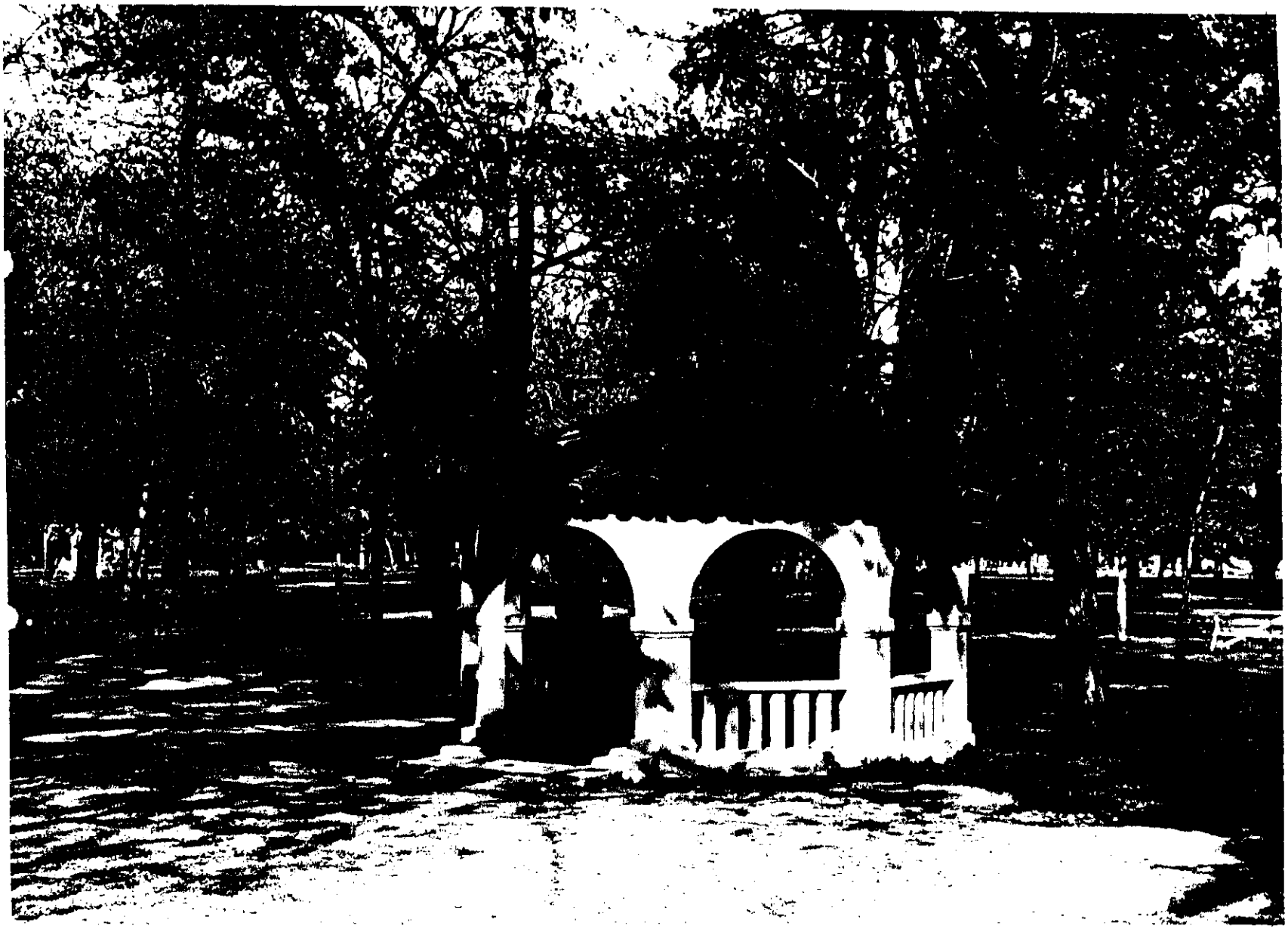


—the People's Playground.

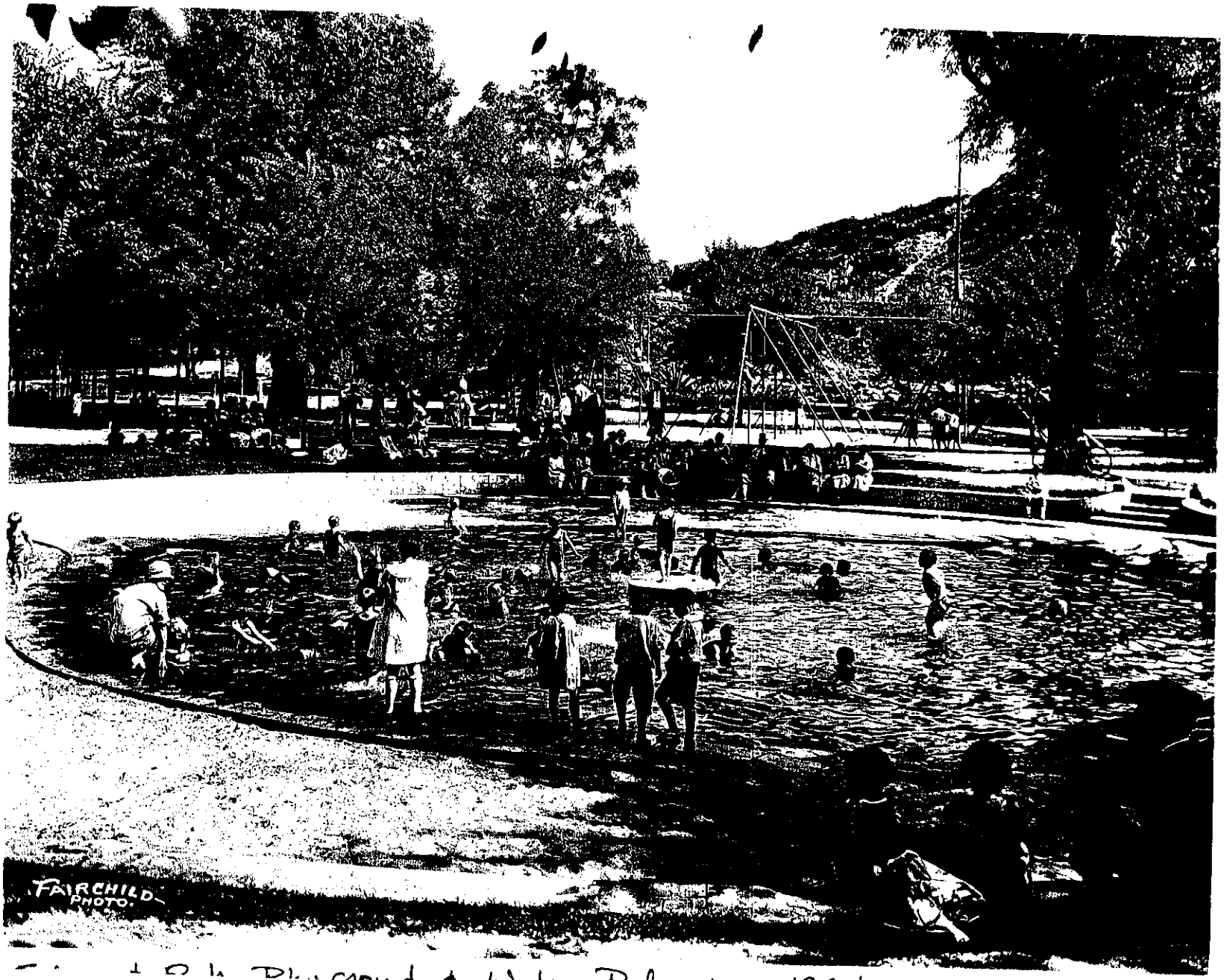
PHOTOS BY BROWN



Fairmount Park Boathouse



2-21-91 Columbus Spring 7-11



1920's

Fairmount Park Plunge circ. 1920's

F.U
Fairmount Pk

