

**MORRIS KIGHT MCCADDEN PLACE RESIDENCE**  
1428-1430 N. McCadden Place  
CHC-2022-3605-HCM  
ENV-2022-3606-CE

Agenda packet includes:

1. [Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report](#)
2. [Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—December 8, 2022](#)
3. [Categorical Exemption](#)
4. [Under Consideration Staff Recommendation Report](#)
5. [Historic-Cultural Monument Application](#)

Please click on each document to be directly taken to the corresponding page of the PDF.

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2022-3605-HCM  
ENV-2022-3606-CE

**HEARING DATE:** March 16, 2023  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Edward R. Roybal Board of  
Public Works Session Room  
City Hall, Room 350  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
and via Teleconference (see  
agenda for login information)

Location: 1428-1430 N. McCadden Place  
Council District: 13 – Soto-Martinez  
Community Plan Area: Hollywood  
Zoning: RD1.5-XL  
Land Use Designation: Low Medium II Residential  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: Central Hollywood  
Legal Description: Boyle Place Tract, Lot 18

**EXPIRATION DATE:** March 18, 2023

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the  
MORRIS KIGHT MCCADDEN PLACE RESIDENCE

**REQUEST:** Declare the property an Historic-Cultural Monument

**OWNERS:** Tal Kahana, Trustee, Tal Kahana Trust  
Paz K. Stark, Trustee, Paz K. Stark Trust  
1929 N. Curson Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
  
Tal Kahana, Trustee,  
Tal Kahana 2007 Revocable Inter Vivos Trust, Et al.  
6000 Temple Hill Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

**APPLICANT:** AIDS Healthcare Foundation  
Attn: Jonathan Eisenberg  
6255 Sunset Boulevard, 21st Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90028

**PREPARERS:** Kate Eggert and Krisy Gosney  
Gosney-Eggert Historic Preservation Consultants  
6444 Kraft Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91606

**RECOMMENDATION** That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

1. **Declare the subject property** an Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7.
2. **Adopt** the staff report and findings.



VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP  
Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Principal City Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Senior Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

Shannon Ryan, Senior City Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: Commission/Staff Site Inspection Photos—December 8, 2022  
Historic-Cultural Monument Application

## **FINDINGS**

- Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence “is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” as the meeting place and headquarters for organizations, such as the Stonewall Democratic Club, that played a significant role in the second, political phase of the gay liberation movement throughout the 1970s and 1980s.
- Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the home of gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight from 1974 to 1992.

## **CRITERIA**

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. Is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community;
2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history; or
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

## **SUMMARY**

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence is a two-story single-family residence located on the east side of N. McCadden Place between Leland Way and Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. Constructed in 1910 as a duplex in the Craftsman architectural style, the residence was later converted to a single-family dwelling and was the home of the gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight (1919-2003) from 1974 to 1992. Prior to moving to the subject property, Kight resided at 1822 West 4th Street (also nominated as an Historic-Cultural Monument under CHC-2020-3322-HCM, which was approved by the Cultural Heritage Commission but remains pending before the City Council, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2022) from 1967 to 1974, during which time he emerged as a leader in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement. While living at the subject property, Kight continued to achieve significance as a gay liberation leader within the political phase of the movement. The subject property also served as an important site for organizations associated with the gay liberation movement that held meetings and had their headquarters at the residence like the Stonewall Democratic Club (SDC), the Asian Pacific Lesbians and Gays, and First Tuesdays, an open meeting for gays and lesbians needing help or services.

Irregular in plan, the subject property is of wood-frame construction with horizontal wood siding and has combination flat and shed roofs with composition shingles and exposed rafter tails. The primary, west-facing elevation features a sloped shed roof and concrete stairs that lead to two paneled entry doors at the center of the elevation. The north- and south-facing elevations have a one-story

projection on the first story with a gable roof and triangular knee braces along with a second story projection with a flat roof at the rear of the structure. The east-facing elevation has a flat roof with minimal overhang and is three bays wide with the center bay being recessed. The northernmost and southernmost bays contain a flat panel wood door accessed by wood steps and porches, and irregularly placed windows on the second story. The center bay contains two sets of French doors on the first story and irregular placed windows on the second story. The recessed bay contains a wood porch with wood steps. Fenestration includes sliding, pivot, and fixed pane windows. Located behind the main dwelling are a small wood-framed residence constructed in 1910 and two additional stucco-clad structures that appear to be used as storage.

The gay liberation movement in the United States can be divided into two distinct phases. The first phase of the movement, from the late 1940s through the 1960s, involved consciousness raising, while the second phase, starting in the late 1960s, involved political organizing. During this period of political and social unrest, the gay liberation movement was swept into the larger youth movement, feminist movement, and sexual revolution that objected to the Vietnam War, challenged the prevailing sexual and gender norms, and confronted the policies that discriminated against women and minority groups. By this time, LGBT persons became more visible, defined themselves as a minority group, and resisted police harassment. In the late 1970s, the gay liberation movement became more institutionalized and used the legal system and electoral process to expand the civil rights of LGBT persons. In addition, new groups were formed that were less ideological and more traditional in their approach to political change.

Born in Proctor, Texas on November 19, 1919, Morris Kight studied public administration and political science at Texas Christian University and graduated in 1941. While at university, he formed the Oscar Wilde study group, which was one of the first official and openly gay clubs on a university campus. After World War II, he lived in the Southwest and held jobs with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and volunteered in the New Mexico venereal disease eradication program before relocating to Los Angeles in the late 1950s, where he committed himself to activist work. Kight served as a resource for the gay community, helping gay men secure lawyers and seek treatment for venereal diseases, and counseling those who were homeless or unemployed. A practicing pacifist, he also was involved with anti-Vietnam protest efforts. In the late 1960s, Kight devoted himself to the gay liberation movement and co-founded the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Community Services Center. Later, in 1975, he co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club which focused on LGBT governmental issues and assisted gay-friendly politicians get elected. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed Kight to his Advisory Committee on Gay People, and that same year, he co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Caucus/California Democratic Party. Kight became a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee, the subcommittee on Civil and Human Rights, and a co-chair of the Delegate Selection/Affirmative Action Committee of the California Democratic Party in 1978. The following year, after years of local activism, Kight was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, where he served for 22 years and was elected President in 1988. Kight remained an active presence in Los Angeles until his death in 2003.

The subject property has experienced alterations that include raising the roof on the southeast corner and addition of a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor in 1922; a ten-foot extension to the rear of the residence in 1923; the conversion of the first-floor porch to a sleeping porch in 1925; the addition of a roof over the outside stairs in 1930; the addition of three new baths and partitions in 1950; the construction of a 240-square foot storage building in 1959; a change of occupancy from a dwelling into a theater workshop by Harry "Jingles" Keaton, the younger brother of silent film star Buster Keaton, in 1967; the installation of doors and the replacement of kitchen cabinets in 2003; and a 50 square-foot addition to the side and rear of the 1910 dwelling in 2008. In addition, some first-story windows have been infilled and two sets of French doors were installed on the east-facing elevation, both at unknown dates. During the Commission site visit additional alterations noted

include the replacement of many of the original wood-sash windows with vinyl, the replacement of some of the beadboard on the interior walls with plaster, and the addition of a two-story interior partition wall at the rear of the living room that encloses the loft area on the second floor.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence meets two of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

It “is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” as the meeting place and headquarters for organizations, such as the Stonewall Democratic Club, that played a significant role in the second, political phase of the gay liberation movement throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

SurveyLA’s LGBT Historic Context Statement identifies eligibility standards for properties significant for their association with the gay liberation movement as being those that are directly associated with an event, organization, or institution that played an important role in the development of LGBT consciousness, community, or culture during the period of significance. Many of the early groups that played an important role in the gay liberation movement were founded in and operated out of the homes of one or more of the members. Other than the Margaret and Harry Hay House (HCM #981), which Hay commissioned for his mother, there are no residences of early gay liberation movement group members designated as an Historic-Cultural Monument as the founding location or base of operations for an organization associated with the gay liberation movement.

The subject property served as the headquarters and meeting place for the Stonewall Democratic Club (SDC), which would become one of the largest and most influential gay political organizations in the country. Founded in 1975 by Morris Kight and Howard Fox in Kight’s McCadden Place home, the purpose of the organization was to elect Democrats through federal, state, and local elections who would best serve gays and lesbians. The first gay club in a major political party, the SDC played a very significant role in California politics. As an example of their influence, in the 1976 election, SDC endorsements overturned four veteran conservative judge assignments--an unprecedented outcome in California electoral history at the time. Today, the SDC is now one of the largest Democratic Clubs in California and currently has thirty-eight chapters in the United States.

Additionally, the subject property was the founding location and meeting place for the No On Briggs/Proposition 6 Initiative (NOBIC) and the Committee Against the Briggs Initiative (CABI), two of three organizations formed to defeat California Proposition 6 on the 1978 state ballot that sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in California’s public schools. Both groups were integral to the fight against the initiative, which ultimately failed to be passed by voters.

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence is also “associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the home of gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight from 1974 to 1992. For nearly 20 years, the subject property was the residence of Kight and is directly associated with his later productive life where he continued to achieve significance as a gay liberation leader during the political phase of the gay liberation movement. While residing at the subject property, Kight’s activism and political savvy made him a rare bridge between the gay and lesbian grassroots movement and elected officials at local, state, and federal levels. At his McCadden Place residence, he hosted many politicians and other influential figures including former Los Angeles City Mayor Tom Bradley, New York author and founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives Joan Nestle, as well as an array of Congresspersons and Senators. Further, having served on the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission for 22 years, Kight was one of the longest-seated, openly gay

appointees in the history of the United States, and became the first openly gay person to serve as president on a commission in Los Angeles County. Over the course of his life, and while living at the subject property, Kight initiated innumerable organizations that advocated, supported, and influenced changes in governmental policy for members of the LGBT community.

Despite interior and exterior alterations to the subject property, it retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, materials, design, feeling, and association to convey its significance. The majority of the alterations were made prior to the period of significance, from 1974 to 1992.

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) FINDINGS**

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 *“consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.”*

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 *“consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.”*

The designation of the Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of the City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to an Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations to the interior and new construction not protected under the South Los Angeles Community Plan Character Residential Area. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The City of Los Angeles has determined based on the whole of the administrative record, that substantial evidence supports that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Class 31, and none of the exceptions to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies. The project was found to be exempt based on the following:

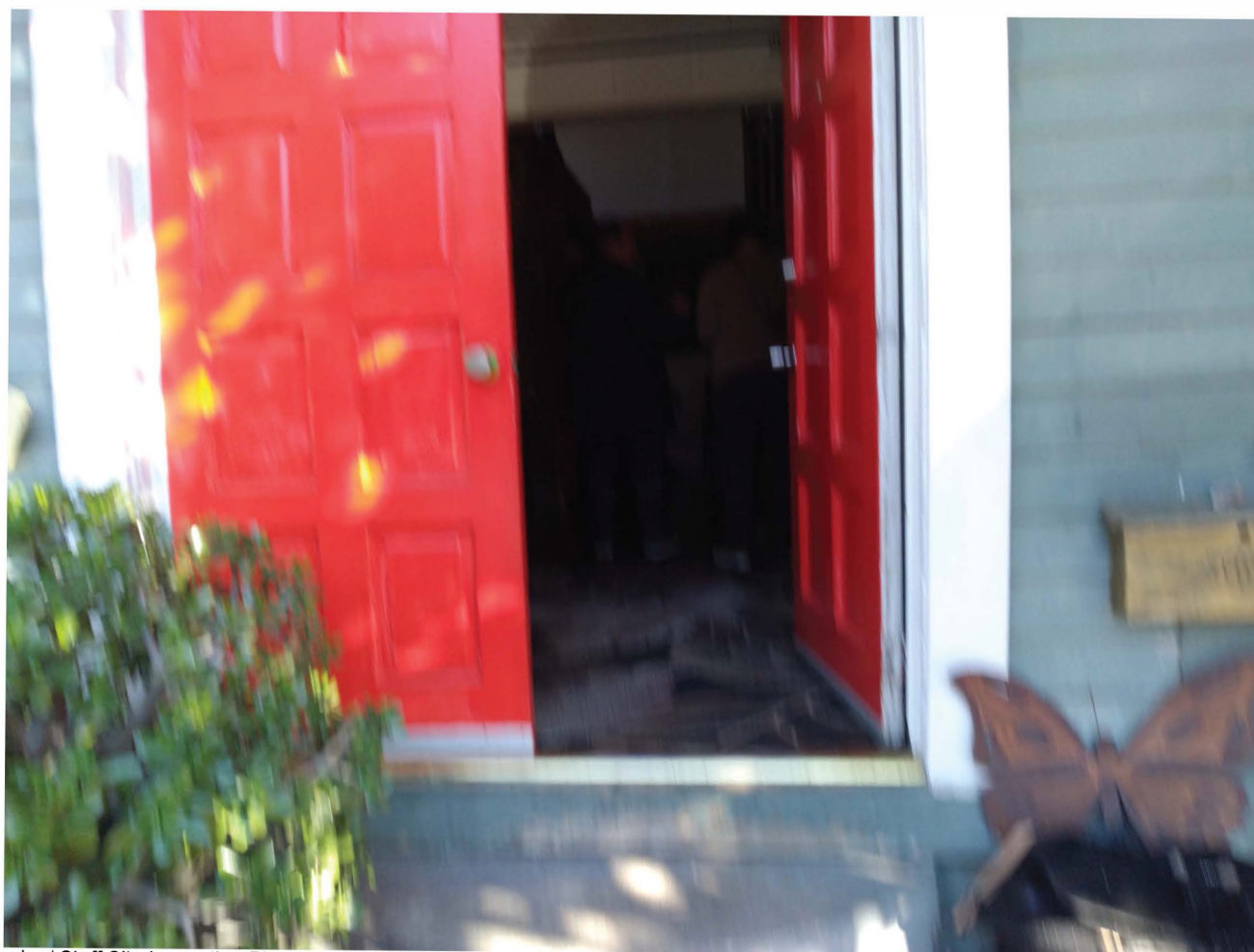
The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

## **BACKGROUND**

On May 24, 2022, the Director of Planning determined that the application for the proposed designation of the subject property as an Historic-Cultural Monument was complete. On June 16, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Commission, with mutual consent of the property owners and applicant, voted to continue the initial hearing for the application to August 18, 2022. With mutual consent of the property owner and the applicant, on August 18, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to continue the initial hearing again to a future date to be determined. On November 3, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the subject property under consideration. On December 8, 2022, a subcommittee of the Commission consisting of Commissioners Kanner and Milofsky conducted a site inspection of the property, accompanied by staff from the Office of Historic Resources. In accordance with LAAC 22.171.10, on December 12, 2022, the owner's representative, on behalf of the owner, requested up to a 60-day extension to the time for the Commission to act. On February 23, 2023, Commissioner Kennard visited the property.





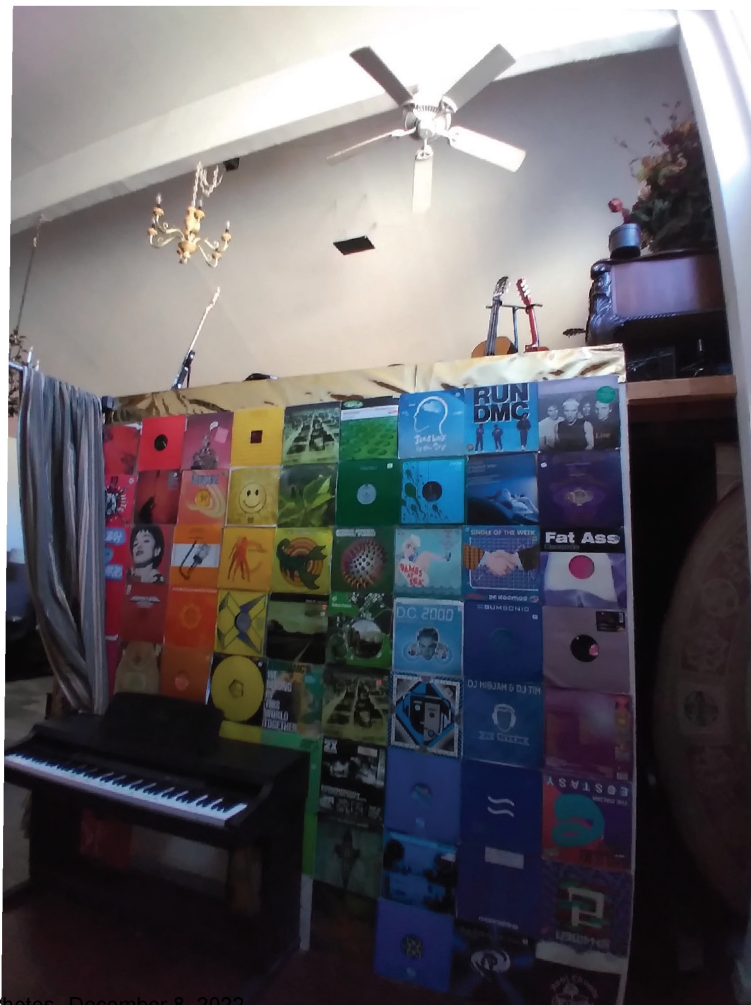




































COUNTY CLERK'S USE

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 395  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(PRC Section 21152; CEQA Guidelines Section 15062)

Filing of this form is optional. If filed, the form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15062. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167 (d), the posting of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to reliance on an exemption for the project. Failure to file this notice as provided above, results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

PARENT CASE NUMBER(S) / REQUESTED ENTITLEMENTS

CHC-2022-3605-HCM

LEAD CITY AGENCY

City of Los Angeles (Department of City Planning)

CASE NUMBER

ENV-2022-3606-CE

PROJECT TITLE

Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence

COUNCIL DISTRICT

13

PROJECT LOCATION (Street Address and Cross Streets and/or Attached Map)

1428-1430 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90028

☐ Map attached.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Designation of the Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence as an Historic-Cultural Monument.

☐ Additional page(s) attached.

NAME OF APPLICANT / OWNER:

N/A

CONTACT PERSON (If different from Applicant/Owner above)

Melissa Jones

(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER

213-847-3679

EXT.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check all boxes, and include all exemptions, that apply and provide relevant citations.)

## STATE CEQA STATUTE &amp; GUIDELINES

☐ STATUTORY EXEMPTION(S)

Public Resources Code Section(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☒ CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION(S) (State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301-15333 / Class 1-Class 33)CEQA Guideline Section(s) / Class(es) 8 and 31☐ OTHER BASIS FOR EXEMPTION (E.g., CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) or (b)(4) or Section 15378(b) )

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

☐ Additional page(s) attached

Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 of the State's Guidelines applies to where project's consists of "actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment." Class 31 applies "to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings." Designation of the **Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence** as an Historic-Cultural Monument will assure the protection of the environment by the enactment of project review regulations based on the Secretary of Interior's Standards to maintain and preserve the historic site.

☒ None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the categorical exemption(s) apply to the Project.☐ The project is identified in one or more of the list of activities in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines as cited in the justification.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.

If different from the applicant, the identity of the person undertaking the project.

## CITY STAFF USE ONLY:

CITY STAFF NAME AND SIGNATURE

Melissa Jones

[SIGNED COPY IN FILE]

STAFF TITLE

City Planning Associate

ENTITLEMENTS APPROVED

N/A

FEE:

N/A

RECEIPT NO.

N/A

REC'D. BY (DCP DSC STAFF NAME)

N/A

DISTRIBUTION: County Clerk, Agency Record

Rev. 3-27-2019

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2022-3605-HCM  
ENV-2022-3606-CE

**HEARING DATE:** November 3, 2022  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Teleconference (see  
agenda for login  
information)

Location: 1428-1430 N. McCadden Place  
Council District: 13 – O’Farrell  
Community Plan Area: Hollywood  
Zoning: RD1.5-XL  
Land Use Designation: Low Medium II Residential  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: Central Hollywood  
Legal Description: Boyle Place Tract, Lot 18

**EXPIRATION DATE:** The original 30-day expiration date of June 23, 2022, per Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.10(e)1 is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor’s March 21, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code and April 17, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders.*

The time to act on this item has been tolled for the duration of the local emergency period. Please note that other State law provisions may also apply.

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the  
MORRIS KIGHT MCCADDEN PLACE RESIDENCE

**REQUEST:** Declare the property an Historic-Cultural Monument

**OWNERS:** Tal Kahana, Trustee, Tal Kahana Trust  
Paz K. Stark, Trustee, Paz K. Stark Trust  
1929 N. Curson Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
  
Tal Kahana, Trustee,  
Tal Kahana 2007 Revocable Inter Vivos Trust, Et al.  
6000 Temple Hill Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

**APPLICANT:** AIDS Healthcare Foundation  
Attn: Jonathan Eisenberg  
6255 Sunset Boulevard, 21st Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90028

**PREPARERS:** Kate Eggert and Krisy Gosney  
Gosney-Eggert Historic Preservation Consultants  
6444 Kraft Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91606

Attachment: Historic-Cultural Monument Application



## **SUMMARY**

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence is a two-story single-family residence located on the east side of N. McCadden Place between Leland Way and Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. Constructed in 1910 as a duplex in the Craftsman architectural style, the residence was later converted to a single-family dwelling and was the home of the gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight (1919-2003) from 1974 to 1992. Prior to moving to the subject property, Kight resided at 1822 West 4th Street (also nominated as an Historic-Cultural Monument under CHC-2020-3322-HCM, which was approved by the Cultural Heritage Commission but remains pending before the City Council) from 1967 to 1974, during which time he emerged as a leader in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement. While living at the subject property, Kight continued to achieve significance as a gay liberation leader within the political phase of the movement. The subject property also served as an important site for organizations associated with the gay liberation movement that held meetings and had their headquarters at the residence like the Stonewall Democratic Club, the Asian Pacific lesbians and gays, and First Tuesdays, an open meeting for gays and lesbians needing help or services.

Irregular in plan, the subject property is of wood-frame construction with horizontal wood siding and has combination flat and shed roofs with composition shingles and exposed rafter tails. The primary, west-facing elevation features a sloped shed roof and concrete stairs that lead to two paneled entry doors at the center of the elevation. The north- and south-facing elevations have a one-story projection on the first story with a gable roof and triangular knee braces along with a second story projection with a flat roof at the rear of the structure. The east-facing elevation has a flat roof with minimal overhang and is three bays wide with the center bay being recessed. The northernmost and southernmost bays contain a flat panel wood door accessed by wood steps and porches, and irregularly placed windows on the second story. The center bay contains two sets of French doors on the first story and irregular placed windows on the second story. The recessed bay contains a wood porch with wood steps. Fenestration includes sliding, pivot, and fixed pane windows. Located behind the main dwelling are a small wood-framed residence constructed in 1910 and two additional stucco-clad structures that appear to be used as storage.

The gay liberation movement in the United States can be divided into two distinct phases. The first phase of the movement, from the late 1940s through the 1960s, involved consciousness raising, while the second phase, starting in the late 1960s, involved political organizing. During this period of political and social unrest, the gay liberation movement was swept into the larger youth movement, feminist movement, and sexual revolution that objected to the Vietnam War, challenged the prevailing sexual and gender norms, and confronted the policies that discriminated against women and minority groups. By this time, LGBT persons became more visible, defined themselves as a minority group, and resisted police harassment. In the late 1970s, the gay liberation movement became more institutionalized and used the legal system and electoral process to expand the civil rights of LGBT persons. In addition, new groups were formed that were less ideological and more traditional in their approach to political change.

Born in Proctor, Texas on November 19, 1919, Morris Kight studied public administration and political science at Texas Christian University and graduated in 1941. While at university, he formed the Oscar Wilde study group, which was one of the first official and openly gay clubs on a university campus. After World War II, he lived in the Southwest and held jobs with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and volunteered in the New Mexico venereal disease eradication program before relocating to Los Angeles in the late 1950s, where he committed himself to activist work. Kight served as a resource for the gay community, helping gay men secure lawyers and seek treatment for venereal diseases, and counseling those who were homeless or unemployed. A practicing pacifist, he also was involved with anti-Vietnam protest efforts. In the late 1960s, Kight devoted

himself to the gay liberation movement and co-founded the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Community Services Center. Later, in 1975, he co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club which focused on LGBT governmental issues and assisted gay-friendly politicians get elected. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed Kight to his Advisory Committee on Gay People, and that same year, he co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Caucus/California Democratic Party. Kight became a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee, the subcommittee on Civil and Human Rights, and a co-chair of the Delegate Selection/Affirmative Action Committee of the California Democratic Party in 1978. The following year, after years of local activism, Kight was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, where he served for 23 years and was elected President in 1988. Kight remained an active presence in Los Angeles until his death in 2003.

The subject property has experienced alterations that include raising the roof on the southeast corner and addition of a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor in 1922; a ten-foot extension to the rear of the residence in 1923; the conversion of the first-floor porch to a sleeping porch in 1925; the addition of a roof over the outside stairs in 1930; the addition of three new baths and partitions in 1950; the construction of a 240-square foot storage building in 1959; a change of occupancy from a dwelling into a theater workshop by Harry "Jingles" Keaton, the younger brother of silent film star Buster Keaton, in 1967; the installation of doors and the replacement of kitchen cabinets in 2003; and a 50 square-foot addition to the side and rear of the 1910 dwelling in 2008. In addition, some first-story windows have been infilled and two sets of French doors were installed on the east-facing elevation, both at unknown dates.

## **CRITERIA**

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. Is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community;
2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history; or
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property may be significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

## **BACKGROUND**

On May 24, 2022, the Director of Planning determined that the application for the proposed designation of the subject property as an Historic-Cultural Monument was complete. On June 16, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Commission, with mutual consent of the property owners and applicant, voted to continue the initial hearing for the application to August 18, 2022. With mutual consent of the property owner and the applicant, on August 18, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to continue the initial hearing again to a future date to be determined. The original 30-day expiration date of June 23, 2022, per Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.10(e)1 is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor's March 21, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code and April 17, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders*.

The time to act on this item has been tolled for the duration of the local emergency period. Please note that other State law provisions may also apply.

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



## 1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Proposed Monument Name: <b>Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence</b>		Former residence of notable person(s)	
Other Associated Names: <b>McCadden Place</b>			
Street Address: <b>1428 North McCadden Place</b>		Zip: <b>90028</b>	Council District: <b>4</b>
Range of Addresses on Property: <b>1428-1430</b>		Community Name: <b>Hollywood</b>	
Assessor Parcel Number: <b>5547022007</b>	Tract: <b>Boyle Place</b>	Block: <b>None</b>	Lot: <b>18</b>
Identification cont'd:			
Proposed Monument Property Type:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Building	<input type="radio"/> Structure	<input type="radio"/> Object
		<input type="radio"/> Site/Open Space	<input type="radio"/> Natural Feature
Describe any additional resources located on the property to be included in the nomination, here:			

## 2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

Year built: <b>1910</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Factual <input type="radio"/> Estimated	Threatened? <b>Select</b>
Architect/Designer: <b>Unknown</b>	Contractor: <b>Unknown</b>	
Original Use: <b>Residential - duplex</b>	Present Use: <b>Residential - single family</b>	
Is the Proposed Monument on its Original Site?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No (explain in section 7) <input type="radio"/> Unknown (explain in section 7)

## 3. STYLE & MATERIALS

Architectural Style: <b>Craftsman</b>		Stories: <b>1.5</b>	Plan Shape: <b>Irregular</b>
FEATURE	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	
CONSTRUCTION	Type: <b>Wood</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>	
CLADDING	Material: <b>Wood clapboards</b>	Material: <b>Select</b>	
ROOF	Type: <b>Combination</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>	
	Material: <b>Composition shingle</b>	Material: <b>Select</b>	
WINDOWS	Type: <b>Casement</b>	Type: <b>Sliding</b>	
	Material: <b>Wood</b>	Material: <b>Vinyl</b>	
ENTRY	Style: <b>Centered</b>	Style: <b>Select</b>	
DOOR	Type: <b>Double</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>	





# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM

## 4. ALTERATION HISTORY

List date and write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This section may also be completed on a separate document. Include copies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alterations for which there are no permits, as well.

8-2-1922	Raise interior ceilings to make new rooms and bath on loft/second floor
4-3-1923	Ten foot shed roof addition on north elevation
9-18-1925	Porch enclosed (sleeping porch built); 8-29-1930 Add roof over outside stairs
10-1950	Add three new baths and partitions
2-16-1959	24 x 10 storage building added to lot
2-3-1967	Repair floors, replaster walls
5-5-1967	Add beams in ceiling; change occupancy from dwelling to theater workshop
5-22-2003	General rehab - doors, kitchen cabinets, sanding and painting

## 5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Contributing feature
<input type="radio"/>	Non-contributing feature
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s)
Survey Name(s): Hollywood Redevelopment Project	
Area - 3CD; HRI Status Code 5D	
Other historical or cultural resource designations:	

## 6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA

The proposed monument exemplifies the following Cultural Heritage Ordinance Criteria (Section 22.171.7):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



## 7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS

*This section allows you to discuss at length the significance of the proposed monument and why it should be designated an Historic-Cultural Monument. Type your response on separate documents and attach them to this form.*

**A. Proposed Monument Description** - Describe the proposed monument's physical characteristics and relationship to its surrounding environment. Expand on sections 2 and 3 with a more detailed description of the site. Expand on section 4 and discuss the construction/alteration history in detail if that is necessary to explain the proposed monument's current form. Identify and describe any character-defining elements, structures, interior spaces, or landscape features.

**B. Statement of Significance** - Address the proposed monument's historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance by discussing how it satisfies the HCM criteria you selected in Section 6. You must support your argument with substantial evidence and analysis. The Statement of Significance is your main argument for designation so it is important to substantiate any claims you make with supporting documentation and research.

## 8. CONTACT INFORMATION

### Applicant

Name: Attn: Jonathan Eisenberg c/o AHF		Company: AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)	
Street Address: 6255 Sunset Blvd, 21st Floor		City: Los Angeles	State: CA
Zip: 90028	Phone Number: 323-860-5361	Email: jonathan.eisenberg@ahf.org	

### Property Owner

Is the owner in support of the nomination? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Unknown

Name: Tal Kalhana Trust		Company: Alternate address: P.O. Box 93368, L.A., 90093	
Street Address: 6000 Temple Hill Drive		City: Los Angeles	State: CA
Zip: 90068	Phone Number: 323-876-5043	Email:	

### Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

Name: Kate Eggert, Krisy Gosney		Company: GEHPC	
Street Address: 6444 Kraft Avenue		City: North Hollywood	State: CA
Zip: 91606	Phone Number:	Email: kate@gehpc.com	



## NOMINATION FORM

## 9. SUBMITTAL

When you have completed preparing your nomination, compile all materials in the order specified below. Although the entire packet must not exceed 100 pages, you may send additional material on a CD or flash drive.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. ✓ Nomination Form  | 5. ✓ Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation  |
| 2. ✓ Written Statements A and B   | 6. ✓ Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations<br>(include first construction permits) |
| 3. ✓ Bibliography   | 7. ✓ Additional, Contemporary Photos  |
| 4. ✓ Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade<br>(8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also<br>email a digital copy of the main photo to:<br>planning_ohr@lacity.org) | 8. ✓ Historical Photos  |
|   | 9. ✓ Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels<br>(including map)                         |

## 10. RELEASE

Please read each statement and check the corresponding boxes to indicate that you agree with the statement, then sign below in the provided space. Either the applicant or preparer may sign.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ | I acknowledge that all documents submitted will become public records under the California Public Records Act, and understand that the documents will be made available upon request to members of the public for inspection and copying.                                     |
| ✓ | I acknowledge that all photographs and images submitted as part of this application will become the property of the City of Los Angeles, and understand that permission is granted for use of the photographs and images by the City without any expectation of compensation. |
| ✓ | I acknowledge that I have the right to submit or have obtained the appropriate permission to submit all information contained in this application.  |

Name:

Kate Eggert

Date:

4-27-22

Signature:

Mail your Historic-Cultural Monument Submittal to the Office of Historic Resources.

Office of Historic Resources  
Department of City Planning  
221 N. Figueroa St., Ste. 1350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-874-3679  
Website: [preservation.lacity.org](http://preservation.lacity.org)

## **7A. Proposed Monument Description**

### **Summary Paragraph**

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence is located in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles, California. The structure is a single-story with loft, former duplex residence, converted to single residential purposes. Constructed in 1910, the structure is irregular in shape and faces west. It sits at the front of a rectangular lot in the Boyle Place Tract at 1428 North McCadden Place between Sunset Boulevard and De Longpre Avenue. An asphalt driveway runs from the street, along the south of the structure, to the back where there is a small, detached residence and two small, detached storage buildings. A 2010 Community Redevelopment Survey found the property eligible for the proposed Colegrove Historic District.<sup>1</sup> The property has never been evaluated for its significance to Gay Liberation leader Morris Kight and his achievements at the McCadden Place property.

### **Narrative Description**

Irregular in plan, the subject property is of wood-frame construction with narrow wood siding and has a raised concrete foundation. The property is a former double dwelling in the Craftsman style and contains a combination of shed and flat roof styles with composite shingles. There is a wide eave overhang on the west and east elevations with exposed rafters. The subject property is approximately 2,640 square feet with a footprint of 1,735 square feet. Fenestration includes different styles of windows and doors, most with original wood molding framing. The subject property has experienced multiple alterations since its built date, however very little has changed since the period of significance. A small wood-framed residence, of approximately 623 square feet, is located behind the subject property, and there are two additional stucco-clad structures behind the subject property which appear to be used as storage.

The west, primary elevation features a moderately steep sloped, shed-style roof. Curved, poured concrete entry steps are at the center of the elevation. Eight panel, wood, double front entrance doors access the closed porch. The doors and frames appear to be from the period of significance as seen in interior period photographs. According to a 1925 building permit, the screened porch was converted to a “sleeping porch.” The porch openings appear to have been closed and covered with wood siding; the original porch sill is visible. The west elevation appears unchanged since the period of significance.

The north and south elevations are identical with the exception of a small, shed roof projection added to north elevation in 1923. The north and south elevations contain moderately steep sloped shed and flat roofs with minimal overhang and exposed rafter tails near the rear. First and second story windows are irregularly placed and of various sizes and types, including sliding, pivot, and fixed pane, and appear replaced. Most of the window moldings appear original. Some first story window openings have been filled. The north and south elevations feature a one-story projection on the first story with a gable roof, moderate overhang, and triangular knee braces along with a

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<sup>1</sup> CRA Historic Architecture Survey, “Colegrove Potential Historic District,” accessed May 9, 2020, [https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/d66f2d68-c332-40c9-83d5-f994ceb75992/Hollywood\\_DPR\\_Forms\\_Districts.pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/d66f2d68-c332-40c9-83d5-f994ceb75992/Hollywood_DPR_Forms_Districts.pdf), 14.

second story projection with a flat roof at the rear of the structure. The projections appear to be original and are noted in Sanborn maps.

The east elevation has a flat roof with minimal overhang and is in three bays; the center bay is recessed. The northernmost and southernmost bays contain a flat panel, wood door, and window, and irregularly placed windows on the second stories. Each door is accessed by wood steps and porches. The center bay contains two sets of French doors on the first story and irregular placed windows on the second story. The recessed bay contains a wood porch with wood steps. The fenestration of the three bays appears mostly irregular and replaced; most of the molding appears original. A moderate overhang runs across all three bays between the first and second stories with composite shingles, exposed rafter tails, and triangle knee braces.

A 1913 Sanborn map shows the structure's interior as evenly split side by side; each side having identical layouts with loft spaces. The property was likely converted to a single residence and open configuration in the late 1950s/early 1960s and possibly earlier because the subject property was associated with Harry "Jingles" Keaton, the younger brother of silent film star, Buster Keaton. Harry Keaton performed vaudeville, however, he mostly worked for Buster Keaton's production studio. A business license was issued in 1960 to 1428 North McCadden for the "A. Harry Keaton Hollywood Film Players Studio Club." It was noted in a variance report that the subject property functioned under this business name and as an actor's workshop and theater "for some time" before 1960.<sup>2</sup> A property owner in the 1960s reported that when he bought the property, it was already converted to a theater and actor's workshop, complete with sound rooms and offices while still identifying to the neighborhood as a residence.<sup>3</sup>

The interior seems largely unchanged since the period of significance. There are many interior photographs of McCadden Place during Kight's residence. Photos from ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives show the loft area fully exposed along with structural poles and beams; the interior walls covered with batten slats. Permits pulled after Kight moved out involve general maintenance, kitchen remodel, and electrical work.

There is a small residence behind the subject property, also built in 1910, with a double gable roof and vertical and horizontal wood siding. A 56 square foot addition was added in 2008. There are also two small storage structures that existed before the period of significance; both are stuccoed.

The subject property retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, feeling, and association with its period of significance as it does not appear to have undergone any transformative alterations since the period of significance. Based on permits and period photographs and video of the property, the only changes made to the property since the period of significance include changing the paint color, installing two sets of French doors on the east elevation, and changing the landscape in the backyard.

1428 North McCadden was surveyed by the City of Los Angeles through the Community Redevelopment Agency in 2010. The property was given a status code of 3CD, eligible for

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<sup>2</sup> City of Los Angeles, "Z.A. Case No 18293, Zone Variance Report," 2.

<sup>3</sup> City of Los Angeles, "Applicant's Affidavit: Robert I. Gluckstein," 2.

California Register as a contributor to a district; the proposed district at the time was the Colegrove Historic District. The property was not included in the 2020 McCadden-De Longpre-Leland Residential Historic District as the survey at that time was cut short by one parcel.<sup>4</sup>

The subject property's southern lot line abuts the Aloha Apartments property which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1428 North McCadden has never been evaluated for its significance to Gay Liberation leader Morris Kight and his achievements at the McCadden Place property.

## **7B. Written Statement – Statement of Significance**

### **Summary Paragraph**

Morris Kight's home located at 1428 North McCadden Place is associated with the Gay Liberation Movement in Los Angeles, California and is eligible under Criteria 1 and Criteria 2. The property is eligible under Criteria 1 for being the meeting place and headquarters for organizations which propelled the next phase of the Gay Liberation Movement into politics and the public sector. From his McCadden Place home, Kight co-created and ran the Stonewall Democratic Club and the "No on the Briggs Initiative." He also served on the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations from 1979 to 2002. In addition, he also curated his extensive collection of early gay liberation art, posters, and ephemera; the McCadden Place Collection is now housed and exhibited at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. The property is also eligible under Criteria 2 for its association with gay liberation leader Morris Kight as his place of residence and directly associated with his later productive life where he continued to achieve significance as a gay liberation leader in the next phase in the Gay Liberation Movement – politics and the public sector. The period of significance is from 1974 to 1992.

### **Criteria 1: Is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city, or community**

Morris Kight moved to 1428 North McCadden Place in 1974 and lived there until 1992. Kight used his McCadden Place home to co-found and run organizations that would change LGBT policy, politics, and identity. He opened his home to others, especially gay and lesbians in need, and mentored those who had a vision in furthering LGBT causes. While at 1428 North McCadden Place, Kight co-founded and ran what would become the most influential gay political organization in the United States – the Stonewall Democratic Club. Kight also ran the "No on the Briggs Initiative" from his McCadden home. He co-created the Gay Rights Plank for the 1975 Democratic Convention, served as gay community advisor to President Jimmy Carter's Office of Public Liaison, and served on the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations (for 22 years) while living at McCadden Place. Kight held "First Tuesdays" each month at his home. And, he cultivated and displayed his extensive collection of early gay

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<sup>4</sup> Historic Resources Survey, "Hollywood Redevelopment Project Area," 49-50.

liberation art, posters and ephemera which he called the McCadden Place Collection. Kight's tireless activism and political savvy made him a rare bridge between the gay and lesbian grassroots and elected officials at local, state, and federal levels; he was one of the few activists with a constant presence in the Gay Liberation Movement in America.<sup>5</sup>

### ***McCadden Place, Where the Work Rarely Stopped***

Morris Kight was part of the new generation of political activists that were born out the anticipation and rage of the 1950s and 1960s. Political unrest, Vietnam war resistance, inexorable police harassment and discrimination fueled social change. By 1974, Morris Kight's name was already synonymous with gay liberation and gay pride. Coined as the grandfather of the Gay Liberation Movement, Kight stabilized the gay and lesbian community by co-founding the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA), the Christopher Street West (CSW) march/parade, and the Gay Community Services Center (GSCS) from his Westlake home. These institutions created a solid foundation of social service and gay visibility which propelled the Gay Liberation Movement into its next phase – politics.

Kight moved to 1428 North McCadden Place in 1974 to focus on the movement's political phase. His new home was described as "an old barn of a place" with tall ceilings and open loft, rumored at the time to be an early Hollywood filming studio and place frequented by silent film star, Buster Keaton. Kight was unaware at the time that his home was in fact associated with Harry "Jingles" Keaton, younger brother of Buster Keaton. Light research found that Harry ran a theater and actor's workshop called the "A. Harry Keaton Hollywood Film Players Studio Club" in the converted residence.<sup>6</sup> Utilizing the open floor plan with loft, Kight used the open space for theatrical performances and offered the space to theater groups.<sup>7</sup>

While Kight's bedroom and library were located in the open loft (what he called "his balcony"), Kight dedicated the space below to his community, causes, organizations, and art. He sacrificed most of his private life in order for his home to function as community outreach, political headquarters, and gay and lesbian art gallery. Kight kept his drapes and doors open – "I want to indicate through example that I'm not afraid."<sup>8</sup> McCadden Place's openness and its surrounding gardens created the next meeting place and headquarters for Kight's endeavors.

"McCadden Place had this interesting set up that made it really conducive for meetings. It wasn't like a house at all. The ground floor had a little balcony situation there, and the ground floor was wide enough to have pretty darn good-sized meetings, there was so many things that happened in that house. I remember Mayor Tom Bradley coming there, I remember Gore Vidal coming there, I remember a whole array of Congress persons and Senators coming there at one time or another. It became a very famous place. And those were the times that we were just doing everything, the grassroots of the gay and lesbian community was coming out of the people that were at McCadden Place, including many ring leaders." – Pat Rocco<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Clendinen and Nagourney, 573.

<sup>6</sup> City of Los Angeles, "Z.A. Case No 18293, Zone Variance Report," 2.

<sup>7</sup> Ciotti, "Morris Kight: Activist Statesman of L.A.'s Gay Community," E1.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Cherry, email correspondence, September 27, 2019.



### ***First Tuesdays***

Shortly after moving to McCadden Place, Kight held first “First Tuesdays.” Held the evening of the first Tuesday of every month, the event was an open meeting for gays and lesbians to discuss any issues they were having or talk at length on any subject. Either Kight, or someone else at the meeting, could always help or make a connection so the person’s needs were met. It was described as “the ultimate networking” in the gay and lesbian community. And, First Tuesday evenings often turned into First Wednesday mornings.<sup>10</sup>

Kight had two phonelines at his home – one was his main line which was used for frequent calls in and out, while the other one, lovingly called the “Gayline,” was set to play a recording. Kight used his main line for any topic pertaining to gay life and gay history; he called it “Dial-A-Kight.”<sup>11</sup> The Gayline was a weekly recording of Kight highlighting important topics and events, when different gay and lesbian groups met, and any pertinent political news at the time.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Stonewall Democratic Club (SDC) and Political Change***

Kight’s McCadden Place home soon became “the magnet for politicians,” including politicians, literati, and gay rights activists. It was the meeting place and headquarters for what would become the largest and most important organization of the Gay Liberation’s Movement into politics and the public sector.<sup>13</sup>

The timing of Kight’s shift to politics coincided with “a new type of democrat” in California.<sup>14</sup> Politicians including, Ed Edelman (elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1975-1994, and previously on the Los Angeles City Council from 1965-1974), Tom Bradley (Mayor of Los Angeles from 1973-1993), Jerry Brown (elected Governor of California from 1975-1983, 2011-2019), and Alan Cranston (California U.S Senator from 1969 -1993) co-existed with a new and steadily growing gay political influence. These “New Left” democrats and straight-allies would use their tenure to further and defend LGBT civil rights, union rights, affordable housing, and privacy rights. In addition, Kight had the advantage of counting on the top leaders of most radical groups as his personal friends. Many of those who he demonstrated with or went to jail with were now in high office around the state and these relationships paid off.<sup>15</sup>

In 1975, Kight sought to capitalize on the political partnerships he made during his time in the Gay Liberation Movement, utilizing the “New Left” Democrats now elected to office and their willingness to work with gays and lesbians. Kight and Howard Fox co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club (SDC).<sup>16</sup> Kight and Fox modeled the SDC after the already successful Alice B.

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<sup>10</sup> Clendinen and Nagourney, 374-75.

<sup>11</sup> LA Weekly, “Best Friend,” 172.

<sup>12</sup> Update, “All the News You Can Listen To,” accessed October 11, 2019, <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BtigQX>.

<sup>13</sup> Cherry, email correspondence, September 27, 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Bell, *Beyond the Politics of the Closet*, 77.

<sup>15</sup> Kepner, “Morris Kight: A River to His People,” 2.

<sup>16</sup> Bell, 84.



Toklas Memorial Democratic Club of San Francisco, which was the first of its kind in the nation.<sup>17</sup>

Kight and Fox believed the Democratic party was best suited to fit the goals of the Gay Liberation Movement based on its “giving room” to agrarian reformers, populists, and the Labor Movement.<sup>18</sup> With the leadership of Kight and Fox, the SDC quickly became the most influential gay political organization in Los Angeles. The SDC’s openly stated purpose was to elect Democrats through federal, state, and local elections who would best serve gays and lesbians, and encourage Democratic politics to change and diversify in California.<sup>19</sup>

One of SDC’s first tasks was to establish a Gay Rights Plank at the November 17, 1975 California Democratic Convention in San Jose. The plank was authored by Kight, Fox, and Gerry Parker, and has since become a blueprint for other marginalized groups.<sup>20</sup> The plank advocated first for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, followed by fourteen demands that included civil rights legislation to prohibit discrimination against gay people in the areas of housing, employment, public services, military service and contracts; the banning of compiling, maintenance, and/or dissemination of information on gay peoples and the “immediate destruction of all existing data”; the elimination of tax inequities victimizing single persons and same-gender couples; the establishment of an “Office of Gay Awareness” at the federal level; funding for gay social services organizations; and policy changes within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that would enable gay persons to seek housing loans and public housing.<sup>21</sup> This list of fifteen demands indicted the “straight state,” identified structural forms of discrimination, and created a road map for Kight and Fox to navigate politics and public policy with their newly formed Stonewall Democratic Club.

The Los Angeles Times marveled at the “growing respectability of the gay rights movement in Democratic political circles – and the growing political might of homosexuals themselves, particularly in Los Angeles.” It was noted that politicians saw the advantage of gay rights leaders for their ability to deliver votes and political contributions.<sup>22</sup>

In 1976, future President Jimmy Carter courted gay and lesbian voters. Carter was opposed to all discrimination, including sexual discrimination, and began speaking about the definition of “family,” introducing the idea of “pluralism of family life in America,” how families were “networks of relationships, rooted not in blood but on shared experiences, shared joys and sorrows.” Carter, however, did not endorse gay pride.<sup>23</sup> Largely due to pressure from both Kight’s SDC and the GCSC, the Housing of Urban Development (HUD) changed the housing subsidy guidelines to include “any stable family relationship.” This changed the path going forward in securing housing rights for LGBT persons, and any person who did not fit into the

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<sup>17</sup> Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, “History of Alice,” accessed August 20, 2020, <https://www.alicebtoklas.org/history-of-alice/>.

<sup>18</sup> Kight, “A Message from the President,” 2.

<sup>19</sup> Cherry, 318.

<sup>20</sup> Kight, “A Message from the President.”

<sup>21</sup> Stonewall Democratic Club Records, Coll2013.001, ONE Gay & Lesbian Archives; Bay Area Reporter, “Gay Rights Planks at CDC,” 9.

<sup>22</sup> Shuit, “Gay Rights Movement Gains Political Momentum in L.A.,” C1.

<sup>23</sup> Bell, 87, 90-1.

heterosexual definition of family. Kight and his colleagues burned through the “straight state,” destabilizing heteronormative welfare politics.<sup>24</sup>

In 1976, Jimmy Carter appointed Kight to his Advisory Committee on Gay People where he advised the president on gay and lesbian issues.<sup>25</sup> In the 1976 election, SDC endorsements overturned four veteran conservative judge assignments, which at the time was unprecedented in California electoral history.<sup>26</sup> The same year, Kight co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Caucus/California Democratic Party.

Kight and Howard Wallace joined together in 1977 to formulate the gay and lesbian response to the “depredations of the Coors Family on Gay/Lesbian issues.” One of the most pressing issues was when the Coors Brewing Company fired gay and lesbian workers without cause and gave new hires lie detector tests asking if they were gay. Coors Brewing Company forced lie-detector tests on new hires, random searches and seizures, forced physicals by company doctors, and layoffs or transfers of senior employees.<sup>27</sup> Kight worked with local unions and organized a boycott against Coors distributed and served in gay and lesbian bars. The boycott received national press and highlighted a very powerful revenue source – “the gay dollar.”

In 1978, Kight became a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee, the subcommittee on Civil and Human Rights, and a Co-Chair of the Delegate Selection/Affirmative Action Committee of the California Democratic Party.<sup>28</sup> He authored numerous resolutions pushing for funding for social services, social service organizations like the GCSC, and protecting employee rights.<sup>29</sup> He spoke before the House of Representatives on the issues of poverty and education of youth, and demanded that the concentration of discussion stay on topic rather than the house’s “single-minded preoccupation with homosexuality.” Kight urged that they “become a force for social change and not one of further confusing the social issues of the day.”<sup>30</sup>

During election years, the Stonewall Democratic Club published a slate sheet, lobbying for candidates who would fight for LGBT rights. Kight and Fox served as founding President and Vice President respectively and both men continued to serve on its Board for the rest of their active years.<sup>31</sup> Starting in Kight’s McCadden Place home, the SDC is now one of the largest Democratic Clubs in California and currently has thirty-eight chapters in the United States. The SDC endorsement is considered a must-have to win the Democratic ticket.

### ***No on Briggs Initiative Committee***

While Kight, his colleagues, and the Stonewall Democratic Club were remolding liberal politics, the “Moral Majority” and the New Right grew enraged at HUD’s decision to change the housing

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<sup>24</sup> Bell, 92.

<sup>25</sup> Bay Area Reporter, “He Has an Advisory Committee on Gay People,” 3.

<sup>26</sup> Kepner, “My First 65 Years of Gay Liberation,” 29.

<sup>27</sup> Letter from California Boycott Committee to Unions, dated January 6, 1978. Coors Boycott Committee 1978, accessed October 17, 2019, <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BwqGo3>.

<sup>28</sup> Morris, “Biographical Notes in Stonewall Democratic Club Program,” accessed October 18, 2019, <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BxPrf6>.

<sup>29</sup> Democratic Convention Resolutions 1979, accessed October 16, 2019, <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/Bw2pN5>.

<sup>30</sup> Morris Kight letter, dated May 27, 1977, p447-449 of United States Congressional Hearing, “Sexual Exploitation of Children.”

<sup>31</sup> Cherry, 318.

subsidy guidelines, seeing it as “an attack on the family.”<sup>32</sup> The late 1970s saw the repeal of many state ordinances that offered protection to gays and lesbians and much of the nation fell into a long period of conservatism and economic retrenchment. In the 1980s, a new aggressive conservatism burrowed into the Republican Party, forming a potent coalition that shaped the politics of the decade.<sup>33</sup>

In 1977, singer-spokesperson Anita Bryant wrote a book called *The Anita Bryant Story: The Survival of Our Nation's Families and the Threat of Militant Homosexuality*. Bryant led the Religious Right's war against gays and lesbians in Florida under the guise of “saving our children.”<sup>34</sup>

The “Save Our Children” campaign sought to repeal a local Dade County, Florida ordinance which prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The campaign was based on conservative Christian beliefs that homosexuality was a sin and a threat of “homosexual recruitment” of children and child molestation. Her campaign marked the beginning of an organized opposition to gay rights that spread across the nation.<sup>35</sup> The Florida voters supported the repeal. The same Religious Right that had organized to fight the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment now had a new enemy – the “liberated” gay and lesbian. Bryant's crusade was seen as a growing national trend of deep-rooted animosity and fear of gays and lesbians.

In anticipation of this growing wave of aggressive homophobia, Kight and lesbian activist Ivy Bottini formed an ad-hoc committee called the Coalition for Human Rights at Kight's McCadden Place home. The Coalition was made up of political, educational, legal, and social service groups. The Coalition's purpose was to organize the gay and lesbian community nationwide in organizing boycotts, voter mobilization, education, legislation lobbying, and media coordination. The most immediate pressure was to effectively prepare for what Anita Bryant and the Religious Right were going to bring to California. Three days after they formed the Coalition, Kight and Bottini staged a “Stop Anita Bryant” march in Hollywood; over 9000 protestors from all over Southern California marched and \$2200 was raised. The mobilization of the march was done at McCadden Place and largely over Kight's home phoneline.<sup>36</sup>

As predicted by Kight, John Briggs of the Orange County legislature sponsored Proposition 6 which sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in California public schools. Briggs called it the “California Defend Our Children” initiative.<sup>37</sup> It qualified for the November state ballot and was commonly referred to as the “the Briggs Initiative.”

Kight quickly solicited the support of activists and colleagues, gay and straight friends, celebrities, and business groups across the nation; his efforts received unprecedented support and donations to the cause.<sup>38</sup> Three main organizations formed to meet the threat of Proposition 6 – two of three were run out of Kight's home – The No on Briggs/Proposition 6 Initiative

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<sup>32</sup> Bell, 88.

<sup>33</sup> D'Emilio, 258-59.

<sup>34</sup> Bullough, 404.

<sup>35</sup> Rapp, “Morris Kight,” accessed July 30, 2020, <https://www.glbthisyrtory.org/briggs>.

<sup>36</sup> Out! The Gay Newspaper, “Los Angeles Coalition,” 7; Cherry, 320.

<sup>37</sup> Shuit, “Bitter Fight Expected on Gay Teacher Issue,” B3.

<sup>38</sup> Cherry, 320.

Committee (NOBIC) and the Committee Against the Briggs Initiative (CABI). All the groups were integral in the fight against the Briggs Initiative.

Tuesday meetings were held weekly at McCadden Place and became strategy sessions on how to mass educate California voters and to have one-to-one contact with Californians. NOBIC sponsored Frank Vel's cross-California "Walk Against Briggs."<sup>39</sup> Kight's colleague, Frank Vel, walked from the Mexican border to the California-Oregon border in order to personally speak with voters about the proposition. Kight drove alongside Vel most of the way acting as Vel's guide and guard, and to coordinate media and stops along the way. Vel walked 1200 miles in 83 days. Together, they stopped in 200 communities and talked with over 5000 people.<sup>40</sup>

In anticipation of this anti-gay and lesbian referendum on the 1978 ballot, Kight also held open SDC meetings every Thursday evening at McCadden Place. At these meetings, members would discuss the various SDC-endorsed candidates and how to defeat the Briggs Initiative.<sup>41</sup> Ultimately, Proposition 6 did not pass. When Briggs added a clause that made even knowing or associating with a gay person grounds for termination, Governor Jerry Brown and President Jimmy Carter came out against the initiative, followed by past Republican Governor and presidential candidate Ronald Reagan.

The collective effort to defeat Prop 6 showed opponents the financial and organizational power and reach of gays and lesbians. It also showed that civil rights organizations, like the American Civil Liberties Union, would continue to fight for gay rights.<sup>42</sup> Morris Kight said of the win – "We now have a vast reservoir of good will, or at least liquidated prejudice to rely on."<sup>43</sup>

Even with the defeat of the Briggs Initiative, backlash against the gay and lesbian community continued. At times Kight was optimistic noting that the work of Gay Liberation one day will be done but that "no one believes that the goals of Gay Liberation will be finished in this generation, but the spirit has been ignited."<sup>44</sup> But Kight had concerns about the general direction of the Gay Liberation Movement with his decision to enter politics rather than advocating "for basic education of the non-gay public." He said, "we're being licked here and there by being 'reactive.' We move, they move with larger forces than we do.... It makes us eternally reactive. I wish we'd done it differently. I wish we had never even tried all this legislation. It hasn't changed the quality of life for gays one damn bit."<sup>45</sup> Kight started to believe that if people met out-gays, the movement would be light years ahead.

### ***Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission***

In 1979, Kight was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission by his friend and colleague Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman; Kight served on the commission for 22 years. The Commission was originally founded in response to the Zoot Suit

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<sup>39</sup> California Proposition 6 Briggs Initiative Collection, Coll2011.018 ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

<sup>40</sup> Cherry, 320; California Proposition 6 Briggs Initiative Collection, Coll2011.018.

<sup>41</sup> The Lesbian Tide, "Stonewall Democratic Club," n.p.

<sup>42</sup> Bullough, 404.

<sup>43</sup> Scott, "L.A. Homosexuals Create Own Brand of Political Activism," D1.

<sup>44</sup> Kight, "A Message from the President," 2.

<sup>45</sup> Cherry, 320.

riots in 1943, working to improve intergroup relations between LA County's ethnicities. The Commission is the oldest of its kind in the United States.<sup>46</sup>

Under Kight's influence and guidance, the Commission accomplished numerous firsts: the creation of the Crossroads Employment Agency to provide job-finding, counseling, skill-sharing, and skills for job development in neighborhoods in crisis, and specifically with gays and lesbians;<sup>47</sup> adding the term "gay bashing" to the annual report on hate crimes; collaborated with the Los Angeles Unified School District to develop policies and procedures for data collection and reporting hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents which resulted in the founding of Project 10, a life-saving program for generations of gay and lesbian youth; held a Corporate Advisory committee panel discussion regarding discrimination against gays and lesbians in the public sector;<sup>48</sup> and held a public hearing on prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In 1984, Kight was elected Vice President of the Commission and in 1988, in a historic vote, he was elected President. As President, he became the first openly gay person to serve as president on a commission in Los Angeles County. Kight was now considered the "elder statesman of the gay community."<sup>49</sup>

With 22 years on the Commission, Morris Kight is the longest-seated, openly gay appointee in the history of the United States. Zev Yaroslavsky, former Los Angeles City Councilmember, made Kight an honorary commissioner – "we put Morris on the pedestal he belongs."<sup>50</sup>

Kight's tenure on the Commission also saw the continuation of trying times for the gay and lesbian community. On the federal level, the Democratic Party eliminated the fought-for clause from their charter – "non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation" – which posed a huge problem in securing grants needed for gay and lesbian organizations and causes. In addition, the police continued to treat gays and lesbians as if they were status offenders. Using his platform, Kight regularly spoke and wrote to the United States Congress and the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to address these issues.<sup>51</sup>

### *The AIDS Crisis*

At McCadden Place, Kight's garden was his ultimate solace; especially during the AIDS crisis. Kight would plant a tree or bush in memoriam for a friend; he soon had planted 22 trees. Some are still in existence. His friend, colleague, and fellow co-founder of the Stonewall Democratic Club, Howard Fox, died of AIDS. When Sheldon Andelson died, it was said that Morris Kight walked out to his garden and sighed because he had run out of land.<sup>52</sup> "Planting trees is what I do, it is the metaphor for my life.... Trees are the future. I plant a thing that grows and gives

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid, 328.

<sup>47</sup> Rapp, "Morris Kight."

<sup>48</sup> Cherry, 329.

<sup>49</sup> Update, "Gay President Elected by L.A. Human Rights Body," n.p.

<sup>50</sup> Cherry, 330.

<sup>51</sup> Kight Testimony of United States Congressional Hearing, "Police and the use of deadly force... March 21 and 22, 1980."

<sup>52</sup> DeVoss, "A Movement Sees Its Leaders Fall," E1; Newquist, Andelson Mourned as Political Pioneer," 1.



shade and fruit and succor to the downtrodden, the dusty and tired wayfarer. Hopefully, by planting trees and institutions I've made a few people less lonely in these 60 odd years."<sup>53</sup>

Kight was involved in the founding of Aids for AIDS in 1983, which provided funding for emergency rent, mortgage, and utility payments for people with AIDS, and helped found Being Alive in 1986, which was a militant activist group that fought for civil and moral rights of people with AIDS. In 1990, Kight formed Aunt Bee's with Miki Jackson, a free laundry service for AIDS-afflicted persons and a thrift store which helped fund the organization. Aunt Bee's picked up soiled bedding and linens from homebound patients with HIV and AIDS, then washed, dried and folded and delivered back to them.<sup>54</sup>

Kight used the bullhorn of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission to make known the massive overcrowding at Los Angeles County hospitals causing people with AIDS-related pneumonia have to wait up to four days in holding rooms.<sup>55</sup> Kight also spoke about the rise of hate crimes against gays and people of color during the AIDS crisis, and the housing crisis affecting gays and lesbians from prejudiced landlords. And, in 1993, Kight introduced domestic partners legislation which passed soon after.

Kight went back to his GLF-activism tactics during the AIDS crisis. He co-founded March On!, a political-action organization to promote understanding for people with AIDS. March-On! quickly went nationwide as they planned a successful statewide march on Sacramento and performed "die-ins" across the country.<sup>56</sup> Kight organized multiple die-ins during the 1988 Democratic and Republican National Conventions. "This country needs an all-out war against AIDS with more funding for research, health care, support programs, counseling, and anonymous-voluntary testing. A 'die-in' is a positive way to gain the delegate's support. It is also an affirmation of our brothers and sisters who have succumbed to the disease," Kight said. The die-ins were coordinated with ACT/UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund.<sup>57</sup>

Being the third largest concentration of AIDS cases in the United States, Los Angeles was far behind New York and San Francisco in providing hospice and home health care services for people with AIDS. With Kight's guidance, the "No on 64" campaign to defeat Lyndon LaRouche's AIDS quarantine proposition rolled into a coalition called "Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Committee," which included Michael Weinstein, Laud Humphries, and Jackie Goldberg.

In 1987, Kight and thirty colleagues spoke for seven hours detailing personal horror stories and bureaucratic red tape experiences of people with AIDS at the Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Committee public meeting. The meeting was also a plea to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to provide funding for a rational and compassionate approach to dealing with the

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<sup>53</sup> Gierach, "Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires."

<sup>54</sup> Cherry, 352-4; Grange, "AIDS Laundry Planned," WSJ1.

<sup>55</sup> AIDS Hospice Committee, accessed October 21, 2019, <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BydPV8>.

<sup>56</sup> The Atlanta Constitution, "March On!" 14.

<sup>57</sup> Update, "'March On' Stages Conventions' Protests," A6.



AIDS crisis. The committee and protesters gathered at Board Supervisor's Mike Antonovich's home to protest the county's negligence to provide care. Eventually the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a plan to commit \$1.5 million dollars to hospice care.<sup>58</sup> The next year, the Board of Supervisors again voted unanimously to commit \$2 million for AIDS programs, which quadrupled the county's support for hospice programs. Over the next 30 years, the Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Committee (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) has become the largest global advocate and provider of HIV/AIDS medical services with the clear mission "to rid the world of AIDS."<sup>59</sup>

### ***Gay Asian Pacific Support Network***

Prior to 1980 there were few places for gay and lesbian Asians; for the most part Asians felt isolated from the larger organized gay community. Morris Kight was instrumental in changing that dynamic. In 1980, Kight and Roy Kawasaki organized and hosted the first meeting of Asian Pacific lesbians and gays at McCadden Place. There were close to 20 people at the first meeting and within a month the group had grown to nearly 80 people. Eventually, the group formed a board, had potlucks, weekend retreats in Big Bear, and printed a newsletter. An offshoot group called Gay Asian Pacific Support Network (GAPSN) started in Los Angeles and quickly spread to other cities on the West Coast. In 1989, GAPSN presented Morris Kight with the Pacific Bridge Award.<sup>60</sup>

### ***The McCadden Place Collection***

Most of his life, Kight frequented yard sales, and thrift and antique shops. He collected 18<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch art, Native American art, Southwestern American art, Latino art, and Folk art. While living at McCadden Place, Kight devoted time to collecting paintings, photos, drawings, posters, and ephemera from the Gay Liberation Movement as well as the Civil Rights Movement and the Anti-Vietnam War Movement.

Kight exhibited annually at Christopher Street West and he kept a rotating exhibit on the walls at McCadden Place. Kight's many events allowed him to show his art collection to a broader public. As his collection became more well-known and prominent, an increasing number of quality works were donated to the collection by artists and other collectors. From his hospital bed, Kight signed over his McCadden Place Collection to ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. Since then, the McCadden Place Collection has been prominently exhibited at ONE Archives and in several of their publications.<sup>61</sup> Morris Kight's Papers, which includes 360 boxes of correspondence, videotapes, publications, and ephemera was donated to UCLA's Special Collections Library.<sup>62</sup>

***"Leadership to the uncertain, pride to the demeaned, and comfort to the dying" – Al Martinez speaking about Morris Kight***

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<sup>58</sup> Cherry, 349-351.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid, 352.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, 339-340.

<sup>61</sup> Williams, "Guide to the ONE Archives Cataloging Project: Founders and Pioneers," accessed May 2, 2020, <https://one.usc.edu/sites/one/files/images/media/documents/guide-to-the-one-archives-cataloging-project-founders-and-pioneers.pdf>

<sup>62</sup> Kight (Morris) Papers and Photographs. Coll2010.008, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

In Kight's later years, he turned his focus to the aging gay community. He spoke to the younger gay community on "how we survived" and to always remember that "old" is the best word of all. In 1992, he held a conference that focused on the concerns of the quality of gay life for seniors, legal issues, and housing needs.<sup>63</sup>

Kight moved from McCadden Place in 1992; he died ten years later. Kight had helped countless organizations, causes, and people during his time at McCadden Place. He never waited for a call or a question; Kight "offered leadership to the uncertain, pride to the demeaned and comfort to the dying."<sup>64</sup> When he passed, the Los Angeles City Council and the California State Legislature adjourned in his memory.

**Criteria 2: Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history.**

***Morris Kight***

Morris Kight was born in Proctor, Texas on November 19, 1919. He was born into a poor farming family. He was named after Virginia Morris, the midwife who birthed him, because his family did not have the money to pay her for his delivery. Kight quickly had to learn the chores of the house and farm when his father was killed in an accident when he was seven years old.<sup>65</sup> In an interview with historian John D'Emilio, Kight called his time in Proctor growing up as a "stranger in my own home, a visitor in the village, not part of it [and] always alienated."<sup>66</sup> He did find solace in botany, books, collecting art, and tinkering with his family's Model A Ford.<sup>67</sup>

In the mid-1930s, Kight and his mother owned and operated a roadside diner/food stand. There, he exercised his first act of civil disobedience when he knowingly seated an African-American couple in violation of the "mixing of the races" law. Kight was detained by the sheriffs for this act; he was sixteen years old.<sup>68</sup> During this time, he was introduced to the writings of Mohandas Gandhi. He quickly felt an affinity to the practices of ahimsa, the principle of nonviolence, and satyagraha, the truth force that guides nonviolent resistance. Kight practiced pacifism throughout his life; it especially had a profound influence in the gay liberation movement's motives and tactics. Kight almost always signed his letters with a variation of "peace through love."<sup>69</sup>

Kight studied public administration and political science at Texas Christian University and graduated in 1941; he worked his way through university. He formed the Oscar Wilde study group, which was the first official and openly gay club on a university campus.<sup>70</sup> There were occasional gatherings of gays at people's homes but discretion was essential because of the oppressive legal and social situation for gays.<sup>71</sup> While at university, he took the rigorous test for

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<sup>63</sup> Shaw, "Diversity with a Difference: Focus on Aging Community," 9.

<sup>64</sup> Martinez, "L.A. Rights Icon Loud, Proud, Moving On," E11.

<sup>65</sup> Bullough, 400.

<sup>66</sup> D'Emilio, "Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976."

<sup>67</sup> Bullough, 401.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Jim Kepner Papers, "Kight, Morris 1967-1996." Accessed October 18, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BxNRQ3>.

<sup>70</sup> Kepner, "River to His People."

<sup>71</sup> Rapp, "Morris Kight." GLBTQ Archive. Accessed September 25, 2019. [http://www.glbtqarchive.com/ssh/kight\\_m\\_S.pdf](http://www.glbtqarchive.com/ssh/kight_m_S.pdf).

the Roosevelt's administration's U.S. Career Service Training School, learned about public policy issues, specifically in the areas of civil liberties, civil rights, social service delivery, defense budgets, foreign policy, urban renewal, and housing, and formed an acquaintance with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.<sup>72</sup>

Kight opposed war and the cruelties of genocide and chemical warfare. He was active in World War II opposition efforts, including protests and later raising money to support genocide victims. During World War II, he served as a civilian administrator adjunct to the military in the Pacific Theater; his task was to plan governments and policies for the islands reoccupied or recently conquered.<sup>73</sup>

After the war, he lived in various areas of the Southwest, on his own and with his mother, opening and running hotels and restaurants. He briefly worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs but the institutionalized inequality and substandard treatment of the Native Americans he witnessed led him to quit. He soon joined local tribe leaders in organizing social services and public health services for New Mexico's indigenous people.<sup>74</sup> While in New Mexico, Kight discovered underground gay communities in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. He knew of several gay bars in Albuquerque that the police did not harass.<sup>75</sup>

Kight married a woman in 1950. He had two daughters; he was married for five years. Kight let only his closest friends know he was married and had children, mostly for fear that his credibility as a spokesman for gay rights would be diminished.<sup>76</sup>

From 1947 to 1956, Kight volunteered in the New Mexico venereal disease eradication program. He often drove people to the U.S. Public Health Service Venereal Disease Clinic in Hot Springs, Arizona.<sup>77</sup> Kight was introduced to "homophile" pamphlets by actors from California when he worked in Albuquerque's theater circuit. It was his first exposure to the Mattachine Society, a group he thought to be too elitist and too "bourgeois" for the young and soon-to-be radicalized gay liberation movement.<sup>78</sup>

Kight decided to become a full-time activist upon moving to the "gay ghetto" of Bunker Hill in 1957/58. Already a seasoned political and social activist, Kight printed business cards with his name, address and telephone number on them and handed them out. He helped gay men secure lawyers, seek treatment for venereal diseases, and counseled gay men who had been thrown out of their homes or lost their jobs. His phone number was widely circulated; he effectively created an underground social service entity for gay men in crisis.<sup>79</sup> Upon moving to Los Angeles, he also created the Gay Liberation Resistance (GLR), a group that trained gays in how to practice non-violence with the police.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Bullough, 401; Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

<sup>73</sup> Bullough, 401.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Rapp, "Morris Kight."

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

<sup>78</sup> D'Emilio, "Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976."

<sup>79</sup> Cherry, "Who Was Morris Kight." Accessed November 4, 2019. <https://www.morriskight.com/2012/>.

<sup>80</sup> Gierach, "Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires," *Gay and Lesbian Times*.

Kight was also a popular opposition leader to the Vietnam War. In 1967, he co-founded the Dow Action Committee, an anti-war group that specifically protested the chemical company's production of napalm and the defoliant Agent Orange for the U.S. Military. The committee and the surrounding protests became the one of the first successful corporate boycotts. He participated in teach-ins, demonstrations, fasts, and other pacifist demonstrations against the Vietnam War. Kight encouraged his gay friends and colleagues in the homophile movement to get involved with the committee but they feared being labeled communists or socialists.<sup>81</sup>

For years, his friends Don Slater, Don Jackson, and Jim Kepner tried to convince Kight to devote himself entirely to the gay liberation movement. In response, Kight would either try to convince them to join the anti-war movement or gently nudge Kepner, in particular, toward his belief that the homophile conservatism and elitism of the gay liberation movement did not work. In a series of letters to Kepner, Kight acknowledged the homophile movement and what it had done to a point but Kight looked to the passion and immediacy of other movements for inspiration, like the anti-war movement, and groups like the Black Panthers and Peace and Freedom party.<sup>82</sup>

"If only we had the moral character to see it, and could free ourselves of guilt feelings, feelings of inadequacy, and worst of all, shuffling papers. When I go to a homosex meeting and see a pile of reports I know that all ideas have died...."<sup>83</sup> – Morris Kight

A series of events led Kight to grab the reigns of a new radical gay liberation movement – the brutal murder of fellow gay man, Howard Efflund, by the Los Angeles Police Department; the Stonewall Riots and insurrection; and the "civilized" homophobia from the anti-Vietnam movement. Kight, Slater, and Jackson of the Los Angeles Free Press, "sent out a call," and the Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles (GLF/LA) chapter began. From the start, and for many decades to come, it was clear that Kight "was the chief driving force and fountainhead of new ideas – outrageous ideas which worked, and which got on TV."<sup>84</sup>

When interviewed by gay scholar John D'Emilio, Kight described the need of the GLF/LA – "No people can liberate themselves unless they engage in radical action."<sup>85</sup> He later reminisced that his singular goal through his years in the gay liberation movement was to "ease the fear and self-loathing we homosexuals seem to feel for ourselves."<sup>86</sup>

The GLF/LA meetings brought about excitement, action, and liberty; Kight believed it was his responsibility to "convince them that it was the most important thing in their world, and that they can achieve that, that only they stand between themselves and total freedom."<sup>87</sup> At the age of 50, Kight was organizing and managing protests, gay-ins, rap sessions, media hype, and a gay crisis phone line from his Westlake home. Kight was brilliant with the media attention. He easily commanded a crowd of protestors or a news camera. His eloquence, direct nature, and graciousness was exactly what gay liberation needed moving forward.

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<sup>81</sup> Morris Kight Biographical Notes; Jim Kepner Papers, "Kight, Morris 1967-1996."

<sup>82</sup> Jim Kepner Papers, "Kight, Morris 1967-1996."

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Clendinen and Nagourney, 37; Kepner, "River to His People."

<sup>85</sup> D'Emilio, "Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976."

<sup>86</sup> Gierach, "Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires."

<sup>87</sup> Making Gay History: The Podcast, "Morris Kight."

Through the GLF/LA, Kight co-founded the Christopher Street West (CSW) pride march/parade with Troy Perry and Bob Humphries to commemorate the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York. The purposes of both the CSW march/parade and the gay-ins held at Griffith Park was to encourage LGBT folks to come out of the closet and engender a positive self-attitude. Kight also co-founded the Gay Community Services Center (GCSC) with fellow GLF/LA members, John Platania and Don Kilhefner; the services offered filled a wide gap of social services for the LGBT community. Kight, though, continued to offer his Westlake home as an overflow to the GCSC and always manned his phone line for calls. Kight served on the GCSC Board of Directors from 1971 to 1977. During this time, he served as president, vice president, and secretary. He worked full-time at the Center in various areas. He co-founded the Van Ness Recovery House, a rehabilitation facility serving gay alcoholics, and the Liberation House which provided “crisis housing” for gay runaways and “throwaways.”<sup>88</sup> He was also responsible for the identification of three million dollars for the Center.<sup>89</sup>

Kight would regularly speak to other gay liberation groups about the “new awakening of gay political power across America” and various growing gay political conventions. He would speak about gays realizing their own political and societal power.<sup>90</sup> He offered advice on how to organize and finance social action programs because of the monumental success of the GCSC.<sup>91</sup> Kight supported and was involved in San Diego’s opening of their own LGBT Center in 1973 and San Diego’s first gay pride parade in 1974.<sup>92</sup> To the mainstream media, he offered simple explanations of what gay meant – modern and self-identifying, “dancing, mowing the lawn, washing the dishes, loving and living like other people. . . we are a fact, like age and birth.”<sup>93</sup> Put simply, anytime Kight was asked to speak or march or offer assistance, he was there.

By the time Kight moved on to his next residence at McCadden Place in Hollywood, the social and institutional picture of lesbians and gays had largely changed. There was little questioning that “gay was good” – there were over 1,000 gay and lesbian organizations, cities across the nation were holding gay pride parades, there were new economic opportunities for gay-oriented businesses – the message of gay pride had altered the way gays and lesbians lived and how they understood their lives and identity.<sup>94</sup> Kight now pivoted, along with his colleagues, to political matters.

In 1975, Kight co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club to serve as a bull-horn for LGBT governmental issues and to help gay-friendly politicians get elected. There are currently 35 active chapters nationwide. In 1976, Jimmy Carter appointed Kight to his Advisory Committee on Gay People where he advised the president on gay and lesbian issues. In 1977, Kight led the

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<sup>88</sup> Cherry, Email correspondence; Faderman and Timmons, 192-93.

<sup>89</sup> Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

<sup>90</sup> Gay Times, “Kight Visits.”

<sup>91</sup> Jackson, “Kight to Speak at GAA,” *Bay Area Reporter*.

<sup>92</sup> Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires.”

<sup>93</sup> Oliver, “We Are a Fact Like Age and Birth!” *San Bernardino County Sun*.

<sup>94</sup> D’Emilio, 250-51.



Coors Beer Boycott when the beer company fired LGBT workers without cause and gave new hires lie detector tests asking if they were gay.<sup>95</sup>

The new visibility of the LGBT community prompted a homophobic backlash. In the late 1970s, singer-spokesperson Anita Bryant lodged an attack against Floridian gay and lesbian teachers in her “Save the Children” campaign. Her movement gained the attention California Congressman John Briggs who managed to get Proposition 6, better known as the Briggs Initiative, on the California state ballot. The 1978 failed proposition sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in public schools. The national effort that Kight and others developed to defeat the Briggs Initiative displayed a new level of political astuteness and defining power in the LGBT community.<sup>96</sup>

Kight opened his McCadden Place home to “First Tuesdays,” an open meeting for gays and lesbians needing help or services. Fellow activist Bob Dallmeyer described “First Tuesdays” as a “form of a public address system, the ultimate networking in our community.” Kight offered space in his new home for meetings to anyone in the community. He held his annual “Winter Solstice” parties, which featured prominent politicians, entrepreneurs, entertainers, writers, playwrights, and the down-and-out who came in for a meal and community.<sup>97</sup> Powerful people like San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, California Governor Gray Davis, author Gore Vidal, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and local politicians and judges would regularly attend.

Kight was appointed to the LA County Human Relations Commission in 1979. He was one of the earliest gay appointees to a high-level position in county government. Kight felt it was “hugely important for the community to know that I was on that commission and could focus the attentions of the county on gay and lesbian issues when no one wanted to talk about them.” He was on first-name basis with City Councilmembers and U.S. senators alike. His conviction, humor, and understanding of the process of social change and human inaction made him an invaluable leader.<sup>98</sup> He was on the commission for 23 years.

In 1980, he founded the Asian Pacific Gays and Friends, which became the Gay Asian Pacific Network (GAPSN), to be a resource for the Los Angeles LGBT Asian-Pacific Islander community. In 1984, he founded the McCadden Place Collection, a collection of art, ephemera, correspondence, and other records that document and chronicle the emergence of the nationwide gay liberation movement and his personal involvement. The collection was originally housed at his home and he would have regular showings.<sup>99</sup> Kight’s McCadden Place Collection is now housed at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles.

Kight was on Board of Directors of Aid for AIDS and the United States Mission/Hudson House, and even helped run Out of the Closet thrift stores and Aunt Bee’s, a free laundry and housekeeping service for AIDS patients with activist and friend Miki Jackson. He received

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<sup>95</sup> McDevitt, “The Coors Boycott: The LGBTQ Movement.” Accessed November 5, 2019. <http://www.liberationnews.org/the-coors-boycott-the-lgbt-movement-and-the-peoples-counter-offensive-against-the-right>.

<sup>96</sup> Bullough, 404; City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 14.

<sup>97</sup> Cherry, Email correspondence.

<sup>98</sup> Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires.”

<sup>99</sup> Williams, “Guide to ONE Archives: Founders and Pioneers.” ONE Archives at the USC Libraries. Accessed May 12, 2010. <https://one.usc.edu/sites/one/files/images/media/documents/guide-to-the-one-archives-cataloging-project-founders-and-pioneers.pdf>.



numerous accolades throughout the 1980s and even after his death in 2003, including the Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Southern Californian Americans for Democratic Action, and a Chinese magnolia tree was planted in honor of Kight at the Matthew Shepard Memorial Triangle in West Hollywood. The Gay Community Services Center made him an honoree of the Morris Kight Humanitarian Award. When he retired from the LA County Human Relations Commission in 2002, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky made him an honorary commissioner. In 2003, the City of Los Angeles named the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and McCadden Place “Morris Kight Square.” Unveiling the sign, Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti said his hope was that the Square would “inspire the activists of tomorrow.”<sup>100</sup> (There is also a plaque commemorating the first Christopher Street West pride parade the same intersection.)

At Kight’s last LA County Human Relations Commission hearing, Yaroslavsky called him “a living legend in the gay and lesbian struggle for equality.” Kight’s last words at that meeting assured everyone that “I won’t stop working.”<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> Los Angeles Sentinel, “Officials Name Intersection After Gay Rights Activist,” A11.

<sup>101</sup> Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires.”

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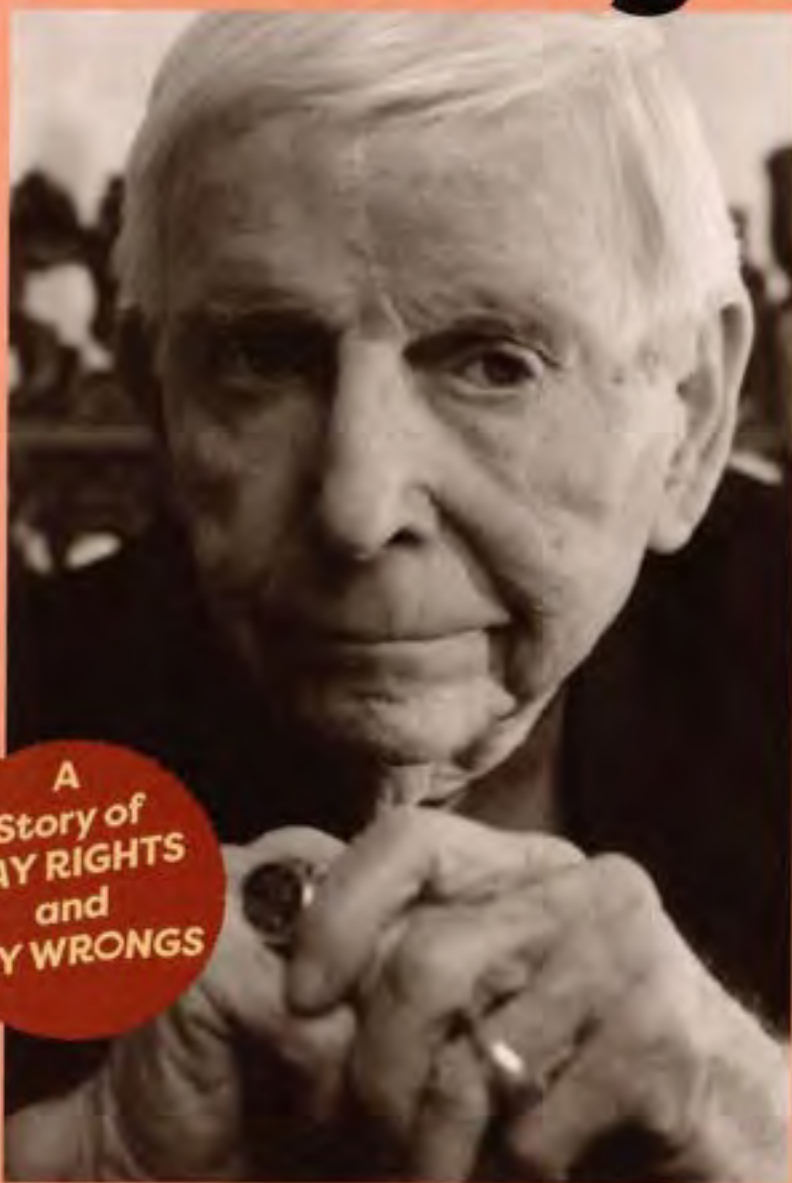
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1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
North elevation  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020|



# Morris Kight



A  
Story of  
GAY RIGHTS  
and  
GAY WRONGS

*Humanist, Liberationist, Fantabulist*

MARY ANN GIBBY

apartment and used my political power, of which I had no doubt, to argue them to give us time. So they gave us time, and they kept it."

There were many postponements while Kight and city officials went back and forth for the good of the clientele being served at the Center.

## MCCADDEN PLACE

THERE WAS A LOT OF MOVING GOING ON AROUND THE SAN FRANCISCO Bay Area. Morris himself needed to find a new home.

The redevelopment of the Bunker Hill section of downtown Los Angeles threatened much affordable housing and displaced many families and individuals, including Kight. He joined the opposition with pickets and petitions, and did everything possible to stop the inevitable development of downtown and Dadel's "downtown."

In July 1974, Kight wrote to Morty Manford about being unhappy in his current Street apartment and the landlord was "unhappy with me. Having a reputation as a liberationist on his property has finished freaking that poor man's mind." In a letter to the landlord, "The poor man there suffers from such debilitating feelings that it makes it difficult for me. I discovered also that he does not know how to use alcohol and that makes it difficult for him too."

Kight described a house in Hollywood as "ideal." He was "working towards it. I have enough room, windows, opening onto a lanai and greenery. A lot though. I am prepared to do interior redecorating for a few days to make a home of it." Kight moved in, 1428 McCadden Place was known as Unique Love Playhouse.

Located in the heart of Hollywood, a few steps south of Hollywood Boulevard where the first Gay Parade was launched, the three-thousand-square-foot rooming house was the most spacious and important place Morris ever lived. For the first time in a long time, he settled in and put down roots. Within weeks, it became a most important address for gay liberation.

Kight decided the upstairs loft, overhanging one-third of the main room and the ground floor, was what he needed for living, sleeping, reading, and playing. The rest of the house and the backyard, including a small shack, were designated to be open-use space.

A quick assemblage of befriendees donated labor and creative ideas to transform a lush and functional environment. Fred Bradford remembered crawling under the house to install an additional telephone connection for the "Gay Helpline." Volunteers kept the place going for as long as Kight lived there. They served as caretakers of both the property and Morris himself. The rent remained affordable, parking was easy for many visitors, and it was close to public transportation for Kight. The property also provided ample room for Kight's four-legged Hollywood domestic and feral.

Kight wanted for nothing while living on McCadden Place.

It was described in the press as "a big old barn of a house full of small dogs, dogs, assorted cats and a fourteen-foot dining room table," used for brainstorming

sessions, dining and entertaining. A few couches and overstuffed chairs aligned along the tables and a coffee table created an ideal meeting space.

Morris remembers that Kight "always kept the front door open on McCadden Place. It was precarious in that location." He didn't care. He'd say, "I'm not worried about it." He was indifferent to danger.

Kight explained it this way: "I want to indicate through example that I'm not worried. I don't have any draperies or shades on the windows. I never have in any of my homes."

Kight never lived in a house like openness. It's a metaphor. In the years, Kight played host to literary, political, and entertainment elite, including, to name a few, Mayors Sam Yorty and Tom Bradley, Representative Bella Abzug, L.A. politician Zev Yaroslavsky, Governor Gray Davis, President Jimmy Carter, and Chip, writer Gore Vidal, and pivotal Chicago gay activist Dr. Howard Call. Simultaneously, the house provided a safe harbor for displaced youth or those who were and unemployable middle-aged gay men.

Kight moved into McCadden Place with few personal possessions. Within a year, the walls were covered with art, memorabilia, and political posters. The rooms were full of sculptures and unique objects and furniture pieces. Kight displayed was the original "Fagots Stay Out" sign which Kight had painted off the wall at Barney's Broomery a few years earlier.

Kight had never been a place like McCadden Place. Eccentric, open and free, it provided stability and an opportunity for a disenfranchised community to establish themselves. Kight enjoyed the limelight, the attention, and he especially liked being the center of a very powerful wheel.

Kight Coplow remembered the parties at McCadden Place as legendary. Kight could party and loved to watch everybody else party. He brought a lot of people together.

Kight remembered a "kangaroo court, when there was a dispute between two men who wrote for one of the bar papers and one of the clubs, who threw each other out of the club. They were about to go to a lawsuit, and Morris spoke to the court involved and said, 'This is a terrible, terrible thing to have in the press.' It was a New York Post-type of story. Morris came up with the idea of convening a kangaroo court, and both parties agreed.

At McCadden Place, we had a trial, listened to testimony and we came to a decision. Not a bad way of handling disputes, binding, and everybody got to vent and tell their story. And three people were neutral. A very practical way of doing things." The first December that Kight lived on McCadden Place began an annual solstice celebration. December 21st was an open invite to local gays and businesses and community leaders, elected officials, and those hoping to be elected. There was a women's fire pit in the backyard, more food than necessary prepared by a small group of helpers, and an open bar prominently stocked with gallon jugs of bourbon, beer and whatever else anyone brought with them. Kight entertained and connected people from all walks of life and all shades of beliefs.

Kight fondly recalled, "Parties at McCadden Place—they all blend into one another. I was really, really fortunate in that I was able to meet people there, from the highest hills, directors and writers, and at the same time we'd meet street people there. The parties at McCadden were all fun. Anything that Morris touched



was fun. He was bigger than life. Grander without any money than a lot of people who had tons of money; he was grand in his nature."

Pat Rocco remembered, "McCadden Place had this interesting setup that made it really conducive for meetings. It wasn't like a house at all. The ground floor had a little balcony overlooking the situation, and the ground floor was wide enough to have pretty darn good-sized meetings. Morris' house was just better, so many things that happened in that house though. I remember Mayor Tom Bradley coming there, Gore Vidal coming there, I remember a whole array of Congresspeople and Senators coming there at one time or another. It became a very famous place, and everything happened there."

The small shack in the large backyard was transformed into a guesthouse and became familiar accommodations for many out-of-town guests.

Ann Bradley started and ran the "Lesbian Writers Series" at A Different Light bookstore and had the occasion to ask Morris Kight for a favor. Bradley, who had been at an event that she described as "extraordinary" in 1984 at McCadden Place, approached Kight in the fall of 1988 about hosting a similar event for Joan Nestle, a New York writer and founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives whom Kight was hosting in Los Angeles in early 1989.

"I asked him if he would host a reception for her," Bradley recalls, "and MUCON would pay. Morris said, 'That sounds like a lovely idea.' And he hosted the whole night and it was just spectacular. We had a large number of people invited. He had a banner made for her and then gave it to her for the Lesbian Herstory Archives, inscribed, 'L.A. and The McCadden Place Collection Welcomes Joan Nestle, our spiritual sister.'"

"It was also amazing to have Joan Nestle and Morris Kight standing together. It meant so much, not just politically but also for equality and justice for the Gay and Lesbian community."

Bradley explained that a day or two after the party, Joan Nestle, who had been on an exhausting schedule, had an inflammation of Epstein-Barr. "On Saturday I called him and explained that she had a restricted airline ticket and needed a medical authorization. 'Oh darling, you call Ben Teller,' Morris said.

Ben Teller saw Nestle and gave her the necessary letter to change Northwest's restricted ticket to get on an earlier flight.

Bradley continued, "You wouldn't want to abuse that kind of power [that Kight had]. He was a person of action. Very extraordinary person."

A typical thank-you note from one of the thousands of houseguests through the years went: "Dear Morris, your home is the warmest, most peaceful and spiritual. My favorite place in L.A."

## FIRST TUESDAYS

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS KIGHT DID IN HIS NEW HOME WAS TO create "First Tuesday." The first Tuesday of every month was a meeting in his home, open to all gay, lesbian, and trans persons with needs or with services to promote.

that Dahlmeier remembered being taken to a First Tuesday meeting when he first came to Los Angeles and how he met Morris Kight. "It was the ultimate in networking within our community. Unbelievable needs were addressed, and everyone got their needs met. People also came to promote themselves. It was a public address system specifically for gay people."

It was Kight doing what Kight did best—connecting people who can help one another and who will then help others.

Dahlmeier continued, "Morris had control of everything going on."

First Tuesday carried on for years on McCadden Place. Over time, Kight relinquished his control and allowed others to host at McCadden Place. Eventually, it moved to another location and the idea of community helping each other evolved into other variations. It became an institution, an insiders-club institution.

First Tuesday also birthed many activists. Writer and actor Michael Kearns received a phone call from Morris Kight, whom he had known of since before he moved to Los Angeles. Kight called to compliment Kearns on his new book and on being on the cover of the *Advocate*. He invited Kearns to join the First Tuesday crew, and thus began Kearns' commitment to activism and advocacy and a lifelong friendship with Kight.

Without the benefit of a crystal ball seeing into the future, one might have assumed that this period was the pinnacle of Kight's popularity. It was a heady time for sure. In addition to a growing list of benefactors, Kight had a steady stream of befriendees. There were a lot of people coming and going. Gino Vezina called them "pixies," while many others saw them as Morris' "followers." Whatever they were called, they waited for Morris to delegate to them some task, some menial and simple assignment that would allow them to participate in their own liberation. Lino, who was never one of them, remembered that "Morris' ego was a bottomless pit" and described them as "people who surrounded him and kowtowed. He was a great friend but I never catered to his ego like that. Morris always wanted a great deal of attention. Sometimes he got it, sometimes he didn't."

Jon Platania remembered Kight "as a very complex man." He understood and loved Kight like few others. "He was both Father and Mother to a whole community of lost souls making our way toward freedom." Kight served as a sounding board for the young Platania; he was a confidant and a mentor. "He was an incredibly beautiful man, as a young man. His lack of self-care, [his] smoking and eating didn't help, but he was still an attractive man into his fifties. I think at a certain point Morris did what he felt that he had to do."

Steve Berman and Kight also grew very close during the 1970s. Barry Copilow described them being like father and son, they had "a natural alliance." Kight would imply that his and Berman's relationship was much more intimate. Copilow insisted that "Morris Kight was the non-sexual love of Steve Berman's life. He was a mentor, a guiding light, and Steve would do anything for Morris." Lee Mentley echoed the same sentiment, that Berman would've done anything for Kight. Berman gave Morris an older orange Toyota for his use.

While working at the Center, Berman went back to school and studied to be a psychiatrist. His degree would help the Center to expand its services.



estimated, by an industry source, that in the mid-1970s disruptions at studios around the country caused nearly 5750,000 in delayed productions.

Obviously, breaking the media dysfunction would not happen with one demonstration or one argument. It would take decades of consciousness-raising and re-educating the media, print, radio, television, and feature films. It would be years of phone calls, letter-writing and petitions from activists on both coasts citing offensive behaviors and crude remarks. Kight became adept at the tightrope walk of diplomacy with a big stick, namely his reputation for being able to call an effective picket and boycott overnight.

Always polite, concentrated, and to the point about the umbrage, Kight never shied away from offering possible solutions to the plot or suggest alternative portrayals (not wanting to erase gays altogether from the cultural fabric). Often the studio or producer would respond to Kight either with a phone call or letter to thank him for bringing this to their attention. No matter the response, the show always made concessions to story lines or, sometimes, they eliminated a fictional character.

In a *Los Angeles Times* article featuring the headline "Gays Lobby for New Media Image," Kight was asked if there have been any acceptable portraits of homosexuals on TV. He replied: "No, I can't think of one. Though we thank them for the ones that are least bad."

In a note "to the file" dated September 1976, Kight documented a phone call with an ABC television executive: "Called with reaction to the 'Family' show on gayness, expressed our appreciation for parts of it, in depth discussion (and) my resistance to the homophobia in it."

## POLITICS

WHEN LOS ANGELES ELECTED AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK MAYOR, TOM Bradley (who unseated notoriously conservative Sam Yorty), Kight promptly reached out. Bradley was open to better relations with the gay community and agreed to meet with Kight publicly. At the meeting when Kight extended his hand to Bradley, the mayor responded, reaching back across a table to shake Kight's hand. This was the first kind gesture made toward the gay community from a high-ranking public official, a huge advancement. Kight would frequently call upon the mayor to discuss issues affecting homosexuals. In turn Mayor Bradley appointed a liaison to the gay community and his office remained friendly with Kight; it was hard not to be.

Another advocate was State Assemblyman Willie Brown who worked very hard on the Consenting Adults bill that repealed "all laws against homosexual acts" between consenting adults. For five years the bill failed to pass the legislature, with Brown reintroducing it every year until it passed in May 1975. For the first time in California history, gay sex acts were decriminalized. Additionally, in 1977 Brown voted against AB 607, which specifically banned same-sex marriage.

Willie Brown continued to talk about issues that affected gay communities, specifically issues with police departments in the state. His reputation as a supporter of

the civil rights of gays and lesbians was strong and consistent. Willie Brown was partially responsible for Kight joining the Democratic Party.

In 1976, Kight told an interviewer: "there is a growing populist movement inside the Democratic Party ... and I think [it] has the makings inside it somewhere for the germination of a new idea."

Kight immediately became active in state party politics. As a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee, over the years Kight served on several subcommittees for human rights and affirmative action. He remained active in the party selection of candidates and endorsements.



## STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

THE ONLY REASON FOR KIGHT JOINING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY was to shape a Gay platform within a major political party.

Wallace Albertson, an old friend and straight ally who had just become the first woman president of the California Democratic Council, recalled, "Morris was very anxious to have a gay caucus, to have a political voice which he could carry to... the Democratic Party and also the national committee in Washington."

As president of the Council, Wallace was proud to help establish the first gay caucus to the Democratic party: "There weren't enough openly gay people in the organization to come forward. We were short a couple of votes, because there was a minimum, a quorum."

"So my husband Jack and I joined the gay caucus in order to have them qualify"

Once the Gay caucus was established, a Gay-centric political club was the next step.

Harry Hay wrote in a letter to Morris, "The Gays must first demonstrate as a closely-knit cohesive group, as a political club ... the HENRY COWELL Democratic Club, let's say," referring to one of America's leading composers who in the 1930s served four years in San Quentin on a 'morals' charge.

"You have to... try to undo the harm to the political integrity of Gay Consciousness."

Harry described the foundation for what became the Stonewall Democratic Club.

Kight reached out to Anne Marie Staas and husband Dr. Saul Niedorf whom he knew for years through organizations like Americans for Democratic Action, of which Kight had

1979. Kight demonstrating at the Federal Building, Los Angeles for "Sullivan-Adams immigration case." Photo: Pat Rocco. Pat Rocco Papers, C022017-000, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.



been a member since its founding in 1947. Passionate supporters of social justice issues, Staas' and Niedorf's Hancock Park home was frequently used as a place for quiet political introductions as well as large fundraisers. Anne Marie considered the current Democratic party leadership "homo-clueless" and gay rights the last frontier of civil rights. She was immediately on board with helping to have a gay platform for the Democratic party.

Along with Howard Fox, who not coincidentally had also become a powerful operative in state Democratic politics, Morris and a few others set off to found the Stonewall Democratic Club—the first gay club in a major political party. They openly stated their purpose was to elect Democrats in federal, state, and local elections who will best serve the interests of gays ('lesbians' was later added). Wallace Alberston said, "Stonewall Democratic Club played a very significant role in California politics producing I think a lot of well-schooled activists."

Kight and Fox served as founding President and VP respectively, and both men continued to serve on the Board for the rest of their active days.

As a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee, Kight served on just about every one of its subcommittees for human rights and affirmative action.

Kight: "I don't think gay people have so very much to gain now from being involved with continuing socialist movements," because socialists had not treated gays very well. "At this time in our history, we're going to move more people inside the Democratic Party than we are elsewhere and surely that's reformist and that used to be an ugly word. I don't think it is anymore ... and hopefully the Party will respond to gay people and there's some evidence that it is."

Through Stonewall, Staas and Niedorf got to know Morris much better and they embraced him and his many quirks. Saul in particular "admired Morris very much." In the early Stonewall meetings, they found Kight's tone "imperious," as "befit his knowledge, experience, accomplishments." They both noticed that he seemed to reinvent his accent according to the situation.

Kight: "Legitimizing the word 'gay' and politicizing the word 'lesbian' was an important part of [liberation] because before that time we had been homophobic or just homosexuals, or queers or a number of things. We legitimized those terms and raised the gay and lesbian consciousness. We established a notion that gay is lesbian is, we established the notion that we are a community, common unity, that we are bound together in common destiny... We started to establish a community that has grown and grown until now there are millions of out persons, not to go back into the closet. To serve one another, to serve society, and part of that is to move up in the world, get better jobs and perfecting their skills and hiring other people."

For those professional and conservative homosexuals who weren't comfortable being associated with a blatantly gay organization but who wanted to participate politically, the newly formed committee, MECLA, created a way for affluent gay men to donate to gay-friendly candidates without having to identify as 'gay.'

Founded in 1977, MECLA (Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles) initially came together to support a candidate running against a homophobic incumbent. Steve Lachs, who has a fundraising background, described the group as "gay yuppies" who wanted to do good, and "the nicest people you could meet

but they were talking bake sales. Next morning, I called Bill, the organizer, and said 'forget it, it's not worth it,' opting instead for an intimate fundraiser in the Hollywood Hills for wealthy gays."

At the private dinner Lachs gave an impassioned speech and eventually raised \$20,000. Lachs remembered that it was "unheard of in our community. Next day we opened a bank account, we couldn't have the word 'gay' in it so we came up with MECLA." Later meetings were held at the Carriage Trade restaurant where people were told to go in the back door. "There were no windows. People couldn't deal with being seen."

Of course, Sheldon Andelson was active in MECLA (though not a founder), and that was as good a reason as any for Kight to play nice with the organization.

"This was not Morris Kight's thing. He understood it. He appreciated what was happening, but he wasn't into fundraising in the Hollywood Hills.... There was some distance there. Part class distinction. There would have been discomfort on both sides." Truth is, it wasn't Kight's crowd. He wouldn't have fit in. He'd have stood out like an old veteran uncle at a high school dance. Nonetheless he stayed supportive. Kight to Manford: "One of the most rapidly growing groups in California—Gay Republicans. I swear to god if you went to one of their meetings you'd fantasize that you're in a GAA meeting in 1970. It's exciting. Any activism should be encouraged."

As the mid-1970s ushered in a new era for the gay rights movement and metaphorical closet doors were flung open and off the hinges, a new wave of opposition to homosexual freedoms manifested, and no one was more galvanizing than orange juice pitchwoman and former beauty queen Anita Bryant.

Bryant created the "Save our Children" campaign in Florida in order to overturn legislation that banned discrimination in housing, employment, and public access based on sexual orientation. Bryant claimed the ordinance discriminated against her and her children's right to a "biblical morality."

Ivy Bottini recalls: "It was 1976 and I read an article, it wasn't even an article, it was a couple of little paragraphs in the *L.A. Times* talking about Anita Bryant, that she was trying to do some initiative against gay men in Florida. I remember reading that and it sent a chill through my body. I thought, we'll be next. Whatever happens there, we'll be next."

Bottini first met Kight while visiting Los Angeles from New York in the early 1970s, shortly after the Center opened. Ivy borrowed her friend's car to go see the "big old house on Wilshire."

Ivy remembers that Morris was sitting on the porch and they introduced themselves, and Morris invited Ivy to join a rap group that was just beginning. Bottini: "So I went inside and joined the group. It was small, maybe five or six of us. And then I went about my business, flew back to the East Coast and I didn't see Morris again until maybe 1975."

"There was a fundraising benefit at one of the theaters downtown. I think it was [a production of] *La Cage Aux Folles*. I somehow ended up in the front row on the side. I heard people talk. I turned around and here's Morris coming down on my side of the aisle, where I was sitting. He was in a tux, a black bow tie, and his hair was quite white. He looked so distinguished. And I thought, I know him. I didn't know anybody as I seriously moved to California in '75."



Kight: "I felt Ivy was somebody I ought to get to know. We got acquainted and found every reason in the world to cooperate [with each other]. We worked together on Proposition 6, the Briggs Initiative, and tried to collaborate as much as we could."

Bottini knew that she needed to get politically involved with gay men, "because," she said, "that's where the organizing would start."

"It was funny because in all my arrogance coming from New York as a lesbian feminist and having headed up the march for 50,000 women down Fifth Avenue, I thought, I gotta get over there and help them because those guys are gonna fuck it up."

At a meeting held at Morris' house on McCadden Place they formed an ad hoc committee called the Coalition for Human Rights whose purpose was to organize a nationwide gay and lesbian community and effectively *prepare*. "Something's coming at us," Bottini recalls. "We don't know what it is, but we need to be able to contact our community...we literally organized the state."

And then it hit: the Briggs Initiative.

In 1978, conservative Orange County legislator John Briggs sponsored Proposition 6, which would ban gays and lesbians from working in California public schools when it qualified for the November state ballot.

The Coalition for Human Rights was ready and the "No on 6" campaign became the most open and aggressive resistance up to that time. "John Briggs," Bottini recalls, "just had no idea what he was walking into!"

Kight quickly solicited the support of East Coast activists. Florida's Dade County had received \$20,000 in donations from California to oppose the "Save Our Children" anti-gay initiative. In return the "No on 6" campaign received an unprecedented amount of out-of-state donations.

As the coalition grew, Bottini recalls, "Morris went off on his own." Troy Perry remembers that Kight "was used to sometimes being the Lone Ranger." Kight followed his own strategies and preferred to handle his own funds. Not everyone was comfortable with that. Tony Sullivan recalled: "When I was the Treasurer of the 'No on Briggs' Initiative Committee, Susan McCreivy called me 'the conscience of the movement.' One day, she walked in, and I'm with Morris and I'm saying, 'Morris, you *cannot* have a check; you *cannot* have money.'"

In a recorded phone call with Morty Manford in 1978, Kight expressed his concerns about the general direction of gay liberation, advocating "for basic education of the non-gay public" rather than trying to legislate. "Having people meet 'out-gays,' 'up-front-gays' and meeting them with gay awareness, we'd be eight years ahead...We're being licked here and there by 'being reactive.' We move, they move with larger forces than we do, then we move back again. It makes us internally reactive. I wish we'd done it differently—(wish) we had never even tried all this legislation. It hasn't changed the quality of life for gays one damn bit. But education has changed the quality of life enormously."

The "No on 6" campaign became very one-on-one, it was about 'being out' and being proud, it involved a lot of handshaking, door-to-door speaking directly to



people about the harm the initiative would cause. There were efforts to encourage people to 'come out' to their families, co-workers, friends—to create an opportunity for straight society to personally know gay people.

Frank Wells walked from the Mexican border to the Oregon border to personally speak to people about the bill, he'd shake hands and let them meet an openly gay man in a non-threatening way. Morris drove alongside and acted as Wells' guide and guard as he walked 1,200 miles in 83 days, stopped in two hundred communities and met about five thousand persons, to a mostly positive response. Kight: "My vision and my dream told me that if we worked hard, California would vote against this." Because the bill concerned schoolteachers, the Teacher's Union was opposed. Still in late September, polls showed the bill passing.

Zev Yaroslavsky debated John Briggs on the Sam Yorty TV show. "They could've had Harvey Milk, but they wanted a straight politician." Yaroslavsky recalls that in late summer and early fall of '78, Proposition 6 was still winning.

Christopher Isherwood diary entry, October 27, 1978: "Feeling depressed. Morris Kight just admitted to me that it looks like we'll lose on Proposition 6. I certainly realized this to begin with, but had then begun to hope—and indeed things have been looking much better. Of course, it's also true, and not just a phrase, that we have won a victory of sorts just by getting ourselves into so much prominence."

A turning point was when it was revealed that the poorly written Briggs Initiative would include heterosexuals for possible termination, just for knowing or associating with a homosexual.

1977. "No on 6" gathering at McCadden Place.  
Photo: Yve Hanco. P. 10000 Papers. C. 2007-1000.  
Gift: National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries.  
University of Southern California



The way he presented himself was a bit of sleight of hand, as he was much sharper and shrewder than most would have assumed. He forced a response from people, and pity the person who landed on the wrong side. He was never belligerent or argued his point. He persuaded people, or blindsided them, with an assumption that they were on a higher ground, that they were principled enough to see the wisdom in his argument. As an outspoken champion for nonviolent social change, he was exemplary.

## APPOINTMENTS

KIGHT NEVER RAN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. IT WAS THE SORT OF THING his ego would have craved, but the scrutiny into his past and the intrusion of his former wife and family would have made it not worth the trouble. He did, however, enjoy two political appointments: one, to the newly created California Governor's Task Force on Civil Rights, came from then-Governor Edmund Brown Jr. Short-lived ('81-'83) but impactful, the Task Force was given the assignment of addressing an increase in threats and violence against racial, cultural, and religious minority individuals and groups. The Ku Klux Klan had an unexplained revival and similar groups were of great concern to civil rights advocates.

The Task Force interfaced with the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission and the California Commission on Crime Control and Violence Prevention, and established liaisons with numerous government and private entities that were concerned with civil rights, including various county Human Relations Commissions.

In an undated "Memorandum for Archives" Kight wrote about the Task Force:

"Held a three-day symposium at Chaffey College, Alta Loma, California. Six members of the Task Force were present, among them me. We got much hard work done."

At the workshops at Chaffey College, Kight explained, "People got going on some synergistic kinds of ways and everyone's space was respected. In the course I did, I used my one-on-one technique [of] going into each person's agenda. It worked, and we came out with 31 resolutions each with suitable debate. We did go on record to support inclusion of Gay and Lesbian concerns in the report. By staying on top of that it can happen."

Though Kight did not enjoy a high profile on the Task Force, his very presence at the table kept gay rights included on every list as targets of hatred and of violence.

"But the real question is," Kight continued, "what of the report? What can I do for the improvement of the quality of life in California? I have proposed that we really take a hard look at the content of the report and hope that a paperback book can come from it."

He compared the proposed book to be as significant as the Kerner Commission (1967) and McGone Commission (1965). "And certainly hopefully more focused than the Kennedy Assassination Commission report."

In 1982 the Task Force submitted its two-volume *Report on Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Violence* to Governor Brown.

Kight ended his memo to the archives: "I am troubled about the emergence of three classes of people in society: super-rich, the haves and the have-nots. Right now I think that society has written the have-nots off, and those who are escaping into walled communities can hire people to come down into the ghetto to do their dirty work."



The other appointment was more fruitful and long-lasting: In 1979, long-term and respected Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman selected Kight to serve on the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, a position he held for two decades.

Founded in 1943 in response to the infamous Zoot Suit riots, and still going strong, the Commission consistently works to improve intergroup relations in the increasingly complex multicultural environment of Los Angeles County. It is the oldest of its kind in the United States.

During his tenure, Kight implemented the promise of protection based on sexual orientation, brought gay concerns directly to straight people, and developed many important heterosexual allies. He also involved gay people in other civil rights issues not exclusive to homosexuals thereby infusing all corners of society with open homosexuals.

The commission, under his influence and guidance (he was elected the first gay President in 1988), accomplished numerous "firsts."

Kight kept a full and active agenda while serving on the Commission. In 1984 the Commission held a public hearing on Prejudice and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, the first of its kind in the nation; added gay students to a hearing on "Minority Youth Unemployment"; formed the Media Image Coalition with Gay and Lesbian participation; added "gay bashing" to its annual report on hate crimes; conducted the first in the nation school hate-crime survey, which included gay and lesbians and which resulted in the founding of Project 10 by Dr. Virginia Uribe, a lifesaving program for generations of Gay and Lesbian youth; published a brochure, "What Can I Do About Bigotry Toward Gays and Lesbians"; held a Corporate Advisory Committee panel discussion regarding discrimination against gays and lesbians in the private sector, and a hearing titled "Effects on Prejudice on the Lives of Gay and Lesbian Youth"; endorsed a boycott of the State of Colorado for their passage of anti-gay Amendment 2; collaborated with Los Angeles Unified School District to develop policies and procedures for data collection and reporting hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents (including race, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation); corresponded with Peter Haskstra, Chair on the House Committee on Oversight and Investigation in Washington, D.C., and requested that a proposed hearing on homosexuality include expert witnesses on discrimination based on sexual orientation with a copy of the Commission's report on Gay and Lesbian Youth.



And so it went for the 22 years that Kight served on the Commission, during which time he became known as "the longest-seated openly gay appointee in the history of the United States."

Ann Bradley remembers that Kight "changed the hearts and minds of the Commission.... He used his power in a very generous way, not just to mentor young people and create opportunities, he did sweet things. I had a couple letters in the *LA Times* and I always got a call from him, so sweet. He'd say, 'Oh darling, it's the second most important thing, people read the front page and then letters to the editor'.... Many people are always waiting for the right time. There is no right time for people who do not want you to have full civil liberties and civil rights. I think Morris Kight got that at a very concrete level. He was not waiting for the right time."

Through his work with the Commission, Kight grew close to City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky (later Supervisor of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors).

Yaroslavsky recalled, "Morris was a legend in his own time. At a time in the community.... You knew when he was expressing his views that he wasn't just another guy. He was a proud Gay man. Even people who weren't inclined toward Gay people, who didn't agree with him, respected Morris. He was a symbol.... The personification of the cause."

Whenever Yaroslavsky ran for re-election on the City Council he always counted on Kight's endorsement. Instead, in 1989, Yaroslavsky recalls, "He endorsed my opponent. I called Morris and asked him about it and he said, 'well, she's right' and asked, 'I said yes.' 'Well,' Zev reasoned with his old ally, 'she's running against me. Does anything we've done together matter?' 'I hope you win,' he said and then added, 'it's good to get change.' He had an independent mind and it didn't hurt our relationship. He was embarrassed, he did it impetuously."

In 1999, then-County Supervisor Yaroslavsky (who won the election when Ed Edelman did not seek re-election) reappointed Kight to the County Human Relations Commission, citing, "He has served our community well for many, many years as an appointee." Yaroslavsky reappointed Kight for every subsequent term that Kight was willing to serve.

In the last days of April and the first few days in May of 1992, the city of Los Angeles was besieged by race riots. In response to the acquittal of four white police officers in the brutal beating of a black motorist, the city erupted in anger, hate, and a rage so vile it was humbling.

Miki Jackson recalls the afternoon that the verdicts were read when initial reports of disturbances on the streets came in, including the uneasy absence of a police presence.

"I called Morris and we went back and forth a couple of times. There were no cell phones, so we had to phone-free and listen to the news. Morris called his contacts in the African American community, friends from the peace movement specifically James Lawson, and head of the First AME Church, Reverend (R.D.) 'Chip' Murray. They all agreed that we should meet at First AME Church in South L.A. and call for the rioting to stop, call for peace."

As a Commissioner of the Human Relations Commission, it made sense that Kight would engage with other city leaders at First AME.

In her van, Jackson picked up Morris and their friend Julie Schollenberger and they drove to South Central L.A. to the First AME Church which, as it turned out, was "the axis of the riot." There was an "eerie feeling" in the streets.

Once in the church, a bunch of them decided to march down the street. Kight stayed at the church as part of the core group of speakers and planners.

Jackson describes what happened next: "Most businesses had already closed. Walking down the street, a lot of small pick-up trucks and other vehicles, came toward us. They were full of youngish men, not all but a lot were wearing white, they had clubs and bats and what have you. They stopped in front of the liquor store. They jumped out of the trucks, maybe 25 of them, they beat in the windows of the liquor store."

"The people who were leading our march, who were from that neighborhood and who were leaders in the church, told us all to turn back. We went back to the church. As this happened, the streets started to fill up. It just ballooned."

Karen Ocamb remembers pulling into the AME church parking lot as a couple of people pulled signs from a car trunk to nonviolently protest the verdict. They saw a crowd coming toward them.

Ocamb: "I pulled out my little *Frontiers* press pass, thinking it would 'protect' us so we could get into the church. A few neighbors saw what we were about to do and urgently told us to get the hell out of there. We all got back into our cars and left." As they left, they passed "a caravan of cars with angry young men."

Jackson: "We were at the church, inside, for a while. It was still very active, networks were set up (to check on each other) and then it came time to go home, it was already dark."

"People from the church insisted that any non-African Americans were to be accompanied by African Americans until they got out of the neighborhood. We took the streets back to Hollywood and got Morris home, it was very late. The whole city was strange, little groups of people walking around, prowling storefronts. It was still bubbling up. Hollywood was mostly deserted. Very eerie, like a science fiction movie."

"Morris was on the phone at 5 a.m. for the next two or three days of the riots," Jackson remembers.

Because of his position on the Human Relations Commission, he had a vast and valuable list of contacts. Phone trees and organizing were set in place. They checked on people and helped people and Kight could monitor the police activity.

Jackson: "Morris was a nerve center. Because of his long deep relationships in the African American community, he was on the ground. It was grassroots all the way with close intimate contacts in the police, with the County Commissioners, City Council. He patched a lot of people together, he was communications central."

By the middle of the second day, the rioting in Hollywood grew more intense. Kight lived one half-block away from Hollywood Boulevard which was burning down. Storefront by storefront, the fires ruined what was once a neighborhood inside a city.

The next day more fires started. Kight often talked about the fires and the destruction that fires caused to gay liberation. These fires were a lot closer to home.



Bortini said, "I used to wonder how much more quickly we could've done it under control if more people took it seriously as being sexually transmissible." Mike Jackson recalled going to visit Ken Schnorr, president of the Democratic Club, in the hospital. "Around that time the medical people were appalled. He said 'Imagine—naming a disease after a class of people.' He called people to get the 'gay' out of the name of the disease."

"He also used to say 'They named it over Ken Schnorr's body.'"

Schnorr died in January 1982 at age 35.

By that time Kight couldn't ignore the obvious. He, and everyone else in the community and medical establishment, had to accept the bitter truth that the virus was spread, not caused, by sexual contact. Ivy Bortini, who hadn't spoken to Kight for over three years over the disagreement, said: "Morris had to make his statement."

When one of Kight's helpers, David Spencer, became ill, Kight and Ily took care of him at McCadden Place for over a year. When David died in 1987, his cremated remains were buried in the McCadden Place yard. Soon to be joined by many others. According to Jackson, Kight used his position on the Human Relations Commission and Stonewall Democratic Club. "He worked on elected officials and staffers to help with funding and policies." This would prove to be a long and difficult path.



1983: Morris in the garden of his McCadden Place home. Photo by Stephen Storer. Reprinted from Photographs, 1983-1987, AIDS National Day, 5 California Antilebanian Los Angeles, California.

Sheldon Anderson died in December 1987 at 56 years old. Howard Fox, Kight's co-founder of Stonewall Democratic Club, died in 1988 at age 52.

It was a call to action for all hands on deck to address the crisis. Civil rights attorney Al Gordon stepped up to help many people who were dying of AIDS get their affairs in order. Family abandonment and outright rejection for being homosexual continued to happen. Some young men, deathly ill, were turned away by their righteous relatives who was heartache on top of heartache with a desperate need for pragmatism. Most of the pragmatic help came from a coalition of lesbians who did not separate as much as they mobilized themselves. They rolled up their sleeves and did what

needed to be done for men wasting away alone in their apartments or just as alone in hospital wards. They brought food and comfort, they did laundry, light housekeeping, and they contacted family members and whoever else needed to be contacted. There is no name for this group of people, perhaps angels.

They also healed a divide that had always been between gay men and lesbians, all too known cause. A rift with no argument. The surviving gay men acknowledged each other's respect and gratitude the fortitude their sisters brought to the crisis.

Kight and others were met with brick walls when they tried to mobilize national, seeking government funds for treatment, medical research, prevention, and education. President Ronald Reagan was briefed on the crisis but would not address the issue much less say the word "AIDS." The White House responded with an unfortunate lightheartedness, humorously referring to a "gay plague."

Meanwhile fear and misinformation led to a noted increase in homophobia and gay-bashing. And the death toll continued to rise. Steve Lachs remembers a period of time when "a friend was dying every ten minutes."

Los Angeles had the third largest concentration of AIDS cases in the U.S., only behind New York and San Francisco. Hospitals were overcrowded. Dying men were "stored" in hallways with no one willing to treat them. Large cities set up "AIDS units" that were difficult to staff, and patients were never touched by a human hand, unless it was a visiting loved one. People were losing their housing from being unable to work or were refused housing based on their health status. People were literally dying in the streets.

In 1982 the Gay and Lesbian Services Center held an emergency meeting to address the many needs that were coming in their doors and to vote on whether or not the Center should become exclusively about AIDS services. Kight was concerned that limiting their focus would sacrifice other concerns of the gay community.

The board voted that in order to effectively battle the disease on all fronts there needed to be a new organization with its own funding and its own corporate status. In January 1983 they founded AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA). It was a defining moment for the GCSC and for the ultimate success in handling the AIDS crisis.

Early on, word came around that Paul Olson, who was responsible for the early Liberation Houses, had succumbed to the illness, a few years shy of his 30th birthday. In 1983, Steve Berman decided he would run through Northern California to raise money and awareness about AIDS. Kight often described Berman as a "companion, one of the two loves of my life, the light of my life. I loved Steve more than I've ever loved anybody in my lifetime."

Kight told Nicholas Snow: "He engaged in a 5K run to raise money for AIDS research. He did very well. And when he got to the finish line, he marched 75 more yards and fell dead of an aneurysm in the brain. It nearly drove me crazy, I loved him so much." Steve Berman was 36 years old.

Barry Coplow explained, "In 1973, Steve had a cerebral hemorrhage, an aortic malfunction, at 26 years old. No one knew about his health condition. His brain couldn't function on the level that was required to go to school. Steve wouldn't let anyone know about his impairment. He couldn't function fully. Had to put everything down in meticulous notes. He made copious notes how to walk to different clients' houses."

"Steve loved Morris very much, but they were not lovers. He loved Morris like a father. They did not have a sexual relationship. Steve was on an anti-seizure medication which was a libido suppressor."

For two years Kight was in "deep personal grief." Subsequently, Kight created the "Steve Berman Award" at Christopher Street West Gay Pride Parade. He made the nominations. The first Steve Berman Award was presented to Mina Meyer and Sharon Raphael.

Steve Berman is in-urned in Hilltop Memorial Cemetery in Richmond, California. Kight planted a bottle brush tree in the McCadden Place yard in his memory.

Miki Jackson: "It was intentionally planted right outside the window behind the huge old table he used as a desk—so he could look out on it when he worked. He sat for quite a while under it and looked at it for a long time that day. He mourned Steve's death the rest of his life. That was a loss he really didn't get over."

By 1985, there had been more than 5,600 U.S. deaths from AIDS and still no action from the White House.

Then in 1986 things went from bad to worse when extreme right-wing ideologue and three-time failed presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche and his supporters were able to get Proposition 64 on the November 1986 California ballot. Proposition 64 was written with the tagline: "Spread Panic, not AIDS." And that is what they did.

LaRouche had a following of lobbyists who named themselves PANIC (Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee) and they covered the state spreading his hate-filled and shameful rhetoric, most of it misinformation and outright lies. The "Yes on 64" initiative called for a multi-billion-dollar budget to eradicate the disease by classifying AIDS as easily spread; to require mandatory HIV testing of various "high risk" groups; and to publicly name and quarantine all those who tested positive.

Ronald Reagan's lack of leadership on the federal level made LaRouche's campaign frighteningly effective. One poll, three months prior to the election, had half of California voters in favor of quarantining.

The "No on 64" and "Stop LaRouche" campaign set up offices and modeled their efforts after the successful statewide anti-Briggs effort. Call centers were set up around the state to systematically call every phone number in the phone book to discuss the initiative with whoever answered the phone. They made flyers, posters, mailers, and T-shirts with a simple message: "No on 64." They wrote position papers and editorials.

Fortunately, the California Medical Association, the California Nursing Association, and the Centers for Disease Control all refused to support Proposition 64, and the measure failed by 71% to 29%. And the country was no closer to a cure or an effective treatment.

Los Angeles was far behind New York and San Francisco in providing hospice and home health care services. With Kight's guidance, the "No on 64" campaign rolled into an organized coalition called "Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Committee" that included, among others, Michael Weinstein, psychologist, author Laud Humphries, and Jackie Goldberg of the Los Angeles School Board.

On February 16, 1987, the AIDS Hospice Committee held a public hearing in West Hollywood to convince the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to provide funding for a rational, non-moralistic, and compassionate approach in

dealing with the AIDS crisis. Kight opened the meeting with a true story of a young man found dead in his apartment. "He had spent the last four days of his life alone and unable to move. When his body was discovered, it was mired in human waste. A civilized society does not allow this to happen."

Kight was followed by 30 first-person eyewitness testimonials that went on for seven hours detailing the bureaucratic governmental red tape that held up grant requests for needed AIDS support services, research, and education, and the atrocious conditions and care for people with AIDS—"the worst care in the country, it's a scandal" is how Weinstein summed it up. They requested a two-pronged approach: establish an in-home hospice program and shelters for homeless AIDS patients.

Before the meeting ended, the AIDS Hospice Committee announced the creation of the AIDS Hall of Shame. The first inductee was Ronald Reagan, followed by California Governor George Deukmejian, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, with the exception of Supervisor Ed Edelman, who had testified during the day. Michael Weinstein directly called out supervisors Pete Schabarum, Deane Dana, Mike Antonovich, and Kenneth Hahn for allowing the county to provide a "a very low level of care." (Antonovich had suggested in a 1985 interview that "all the gay people turn straight" as a solution to the crisis.)

After the testimonials, Antonovich held a news conference wherein he stated, "The responsibility for the AIDS epidemic does not belong to the Board of Supervisors. It belongs to the heterosexuals and the homosexuals who are drug users and engaging in promiscuous sexual behavior." He went on to say that they must adopt "abstinence or monogamous relationships to stop the transmission of the disease."

Hours later the AIDS Hospice Committee and over one hundred protesters were outside Antonovich's Glendale home, staging a peaceful demonstration "to call attention to the board's insensitivity to the care of AIDS patients," Weinstein was quoted as saying.

Secretary for the hospice committee, Paul Coleman, met with Antonovich and County Health Director Robert C. Gates to reach an agreement on hospice funding. "It was like talking to a brick wall," Coleman was quoted, and described the meeting as "a total failure."

Less than two months later, in May 1987, AIDS Hospice Committee with two hundred supporters marched to Governor George Deukmejian's home in Long Beach. Chris Brownlie presented him, in absentia, with a symbolic "Heart of Stone" award and officially inducted him into the "AIDS Hall of Shame." Another candlelight vigil this time accompanied by chants of "shame, shame, shame."

Supervisor Edmund Edelman, who had appointed and reappointed Kight to the Human Relations Commission, stepped up and demanded the board address the issue in helpful and meaningful ways. It was, after all, their responsibility to respond to the community's needs.

The Director of County Health Services also recommended the supervisors provide funding and coordination of services for AIDS.

In December 1987, the Board of Supervisors voted on a plan presented by Ed Edelman to set aside \$1.5 million dollars for hospice care. The plan was passed unanimously.



In January 1988 the county supervisors awarded, without debate, two contracts totaling \$500,000 to two nursing agencies in Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The hospice at Barlow Hospital in Elysian Park, near Dodger Stadium, opened in September 1988 with \$200,000 from the county and a \$200,000 donation from gay businessman Gene LaPietra. It was named for one of its founders, Chris Brownlie. The Chris Brownlie Hospice could care for 25 AIDS patients and was the most exclusively AIDS hospice in the county.

In March 1988, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors surprised everyone with a unanimous vote to commit \$2 million from the following year's budget to pay for AIDS programs. This quadrupled the county's level of support for hospice programs, including an additional \$400,000 toward the Chris Brownlie Hospice.

Over the next 30 years, the AIDS Hospice Committee (with its name changed to the AIDS Healthcare Foundation) became the largest global advocate and provider of HIV/AIDS medical services with the very clear mission "to rid the world of AIDS." In June of 1988, AHC threw a special luncheon to honor Supervisor Ed Edelman with a "Heart of Gold" Award. "His heart has always been on the side of the people," Knight said as he introduced the Supervisor.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center named a new medical facility after the supervisor, the Edmund D. Edelman Health Center, to acknowledge his leadership.

In October 1989 Governor Deukmejian signed legislation authorizing uninsured Californians suffering from serious illnesses, such as AIDS, to purchase state health insurance paid for through tobacco tax revenues. That created more funds for medical care and hospice.

In addition to Knight's long list of daily phone calls and meetings, every weekday was filled with hospital visits, and weekends were reserved for memorials. Bob Dallmeyer recalled coming back from a memorial in Pacific Palisades with Morris. "He said, 'You know, if horsesbit could stop AIDS I'd be putting it in capsules.' We used to go to an average of three to four memorials services a month. We became professional eulogists. Morris' brain was so fecund, his humor—he came up with a totally patented ending. He always wanted to speak last in the remembrance, and he'd say, 'I am sure [Bob] never got that true meaningful standing ovation in his life. Let's give him that standing ovation now, everyone up on your feet.' And he'd leave them to a standing ovation."

For his part, Knight would support any fledgling organization by providing a meeting space, referrals, and funding ideas. He was involved in the founding of "Aid for AIDS" in 1983 which provided funding for emergency rent, mortgage and utility payments. It was another way to allow people to die with dignity, ideally in their own homes. Since its founding, AEA has helped more than 16,000 men, women, and children.

In 1986, Knight helped found "Being Alive," a militant activist group that came together over the civil and moral rights of PWAs, "not a burial society looking for respect and sympathy as the callous might assume," as Bob Dallmeyer described it. At a gathering in West Hollywood Park with 2,500 PWAs he exhorted the crowd, "on behalf of death with dignity, more hospices and better health care. Take to the

streets, demonstrate, sit in, chain yourselves to the front door of any clinic that treats you like vermin." The crowd thanked him with a standing ovation.

In March 1987, a national organization began in New York called ACT UP. They were more militant and radical than anything before or since. They did not bar civil disobedience, even property damage. Their immediate goal was "greater access to experimental AIDS drugs and for a coordinated national policy to fight the disease."

Miki Jackson remembers attending one of the first Los Angeles meetings for ACT UP with Morris. "We quickly realized that this was going in a different direction" than they would choose. A focused national effort to access drugs was to be contended, but Knight made the decision not to participate though he was supportive of the hugely successful ACT UP.

The national death toll was on the kinder side of 16,000 in June of 1987 when President Reagan appointed a President's Commission on the HIV Epidemic. It was a small move in the right direction and began the myriad political battles for funding, appointments, and priorities.

Reverend Nancy Wilson (MCC Los Angeles) said, "It is not the Lyndon LaRouches that we have to worry about in our state, it is our elected officials, and even those persons who will call themselves our friends." Wilson was among many others who called for massive protests.

Chris Brownlie, an AIDS Hospice Committee member and person with AIDS, said, "There is an enemy we fight that is more deadly than AIDS, it's homophobia. We don't count, our lives don't matter to them. We have to tell them our lives do matter. I don't want to see another person, gay or straight, die of this disease on the streets. That's inhumane. That's a crime against humanity. It's our responsibility to stop it."

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ignored the many pleas for help and dragged their funding feet to take a vote for emergency funding.

In November 1989, about a year after opening the hospice in his name, Chris Brownlie died at his home at the age of 39.

Knight did not like that his community was being consumed by all things AIDS. He still counseled people on a variety of topics. Michael Kearns was one of many who turned to Knight for help, to clear the fog on an important personal life-altering decision: adoption. As a single, HIV-positive man, Kearns was determined to become a parent. It was always a personal goal of his. "When I began thinking about adoption," Kearns wrote for *Gaytoday.com*, "I sought Morris' opinion. He was one of a very few gay men who didn't attempt to dissuade me. Since I was considering parenting prior to the 'miracle' of protease inhibitors, many labeled my actions as 'selfish.' Morris chose to rivet on the bigger picture: was I going to adopt a child who otherwise might be one of society's routinely discarded? Yes, of course. When hateful judgments of my ultimate decision to adopt appeared in print, it was Morris who consoled me."

A quick update: as of 25 years after the adoption, both father and daughter thrive and enjoy individual successes in life, profession, health, and love.

In 1990, while on a day trip to San Diego for Morris to do another eulogy at another memorial, Knight told Miki Jackson about a laundry service for people with AIDS in San Diego and, Jackson remembers, "he wanted to visit it, he said that

he wanted to see the program. It was called Auntie Helen's and it was supported by a thrift store with washing machines in the back." It was self-supporting and provided a much-needed in-home supportive service. "On the way home, I told Morris that 'I want to do this. I want to give this a try in L.A.'"

Kight helped to raise funds for the laundry service from grants for small programs. Ed Edelman helped with a \$5,000 grant from the county. They rented a small space on Santa Monica Boulevard and hung a sign. Soon Aunt Bee's Laundry Services and Thrift Store was open and providing the same valuable laundry services in Los Angeles. They picked up soiled bedding and linens from homebound patients, washed, dried, and folded, then delivered back to the home. It involved sometimes two pick-ups a week and, of course, expanded into checking on clients. By the end of the first year, Aunt Bee's moved to a much larger storefront and functioned seven days a week.

Morty Manford had become New York state Assistant Attorney General. He died in May 1992 at age 41.

The first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights took place in October of 1979 to protest Anita Bryant's attacks on homosexuals. Subsequent marches were focused on raising awareness about the national health crisis and combating irrational fears. In 1987, Kight was featured speaker to 650,000 participants. Again in 1993, when attendance at the march was closer to one million people, Kight addressed the crowd who shouted for "justice."

By the end of the twentieth century, gay life had an identity in the world. Gay politicians were not rare and gay causes not unusual. Political and public gay allies were more common than not. Gay life had been organized and mainstreamed.

In 1992, Kight said: "A generation ago it was not very gay to be gay. Since then, a worldwide, nonviolent revolution has brought millions out of the closet and created wholesale change in societal attitudes."

Randy Shilts died in February 1994 at age 42.

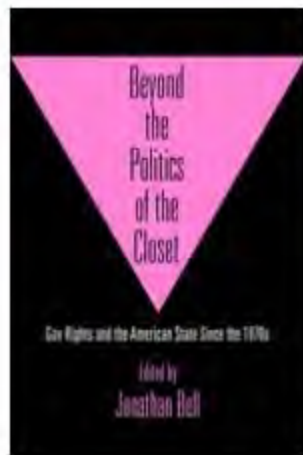
Over the long years of the AIDS crisis, many bodies of young gay men were left unclaimed at the city morgue. If Kight knew them or knew of them, he'd claim the remains and bury them in his yard at McCadden Place. Along with his numerous four-legged housemates, the garden at McCadden Place was the final resting place for many who had succumbed to AIDS.

A necrology of AIDS up to 2015 would bring the estimated total of deaths in the United States on the darker side of 659,000.



1990. Kight, Pat Rocco, Michael Kearns with daughter Katherine. Photo: David Ghee. Pat Rocco Papers, Coll2007-006, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

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## Beyond the Politics of the Closet: Gay Rights and the American State Since the 1970s

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## Financing a Queer War on Poverty

While historians usually associate Johnson's War on Poverty with the 1960s, the ambitious initiative continued to evolve in the 1970s. The Economic Opportunity Act "poured millions into job training" and provided "much-needed services to impoverished communities" throughout the nation.<sup>40</sup> Although conservatives such as Ronald Reagan ridiculed the investment, it nurtured countless local social justice movements. Indeed, a central component of the act was the Community Action Program, which offered grants to a range of community organizations across the nation. In Las Vegas, black women took control of local antipoverty organizations, while Black Panthers in Oakland designed the first free-breakfast programs for children.<sup>41</sup> Lesbian and gay activists also sought support. Martin Meeker, Jonathan Bell, and Christina Handhardt have documented efforts to recast poverty in queer ways in mid-1960s San Francisco.<sup>42</sup> These were impressive but short-lived. The political developments for lesbians and gays in Los Angeles, however, were not. In addition to funding through established programs, lesbians and gays made

use of new social welfare opportunities, especially Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) and Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) programs to implement gay social services. Often cast as a decade of struggle against homophobic backlash, in Los Angeles the 1970s was a decade defined by dramatic state support for queers.

The GCSC resembled other social service organizations in Los Angeles, including the Watts Neighborhood Improvement Association and the East Chicano Community Union. In founding documents, organizers offered a structural explanation for homelessness and poverty, what Alice O'Connor has called "poverty knowledge."<sup>43</sup> Martin Meeker traced the origins of "queer poverty knowledge" in San Francisco, but Angelenos added even greater complexity.<sup>44</sup> Young gay migrants, they explained, fled to Los Angeles hoping to partake in a "fantasy that never existed." Arriving with "a lack of financing" and "few marketable job skills," many became trapped in a downward spiral of "disappointment, drugs, lack of funds," and "prostitution." More insidiously, "the lack of housing and employment among adult gay men and women" placed "them in positions of continuing economic insecurity." Taken together,



these impediments created an “unending cycle between the streets, the jails, the clinics, the hospitals, and prisons.” For many lesbians and gays, Los Angeles was “a nightmare of fear and self-depreciation.”<sup>45</sup> To rectify the situation, activists argued, the state needed to fund gay activists. Such aid was by no means a given, but the 1974 election of Ed Edelman to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proved to be a game changer. While Timothy Stewart-Winter found that “the path to lesbian and gay political power led through city hall” in Chicago, in Los Angeles it was the county that offered the breakthroughs.<sup>46</sup>

Aides and supporters believed Edelman to be “a new type of Democrat.”<sup>47</sup> Part of a cohort that included Jerry Brown, Alan Cranston, and Tom Bradley, Edelman constructed his liberalism in what Jonathan Bell described as the “crucible” of California’s “diverse mosaic.”<sup>48</sup> Bridging Great Society liberalism with the New Left, Edelman touted his support for union rights and affordable housing while he criticizing the Vietnam War and defending personal privacy rights. In populist rhetoric, he promised to represent marginalized “underdogs, outsiders, [and] neighborhoods” and lambasted “downtown interests,”

including “land owners, developers, oil companies,” and “big businesses,” that refused “to open up government to the people.” His “philosophy of inclusion” promised “equal rights in housing, education, and employment to all persons, regardless of age, sex, religion, race, or sexual orientation.”<sup>49</sup> During the 1974 election, opponents tied Edelman to the gay community. To the surprise of many, he welcomed the connection and condemned “gay-baiting” as “sad and unfortunate.” Activists rightly saw opportunity in his election. “The County’s five supervisors wield sultanic [sic] power,” an observer in *The Advocate* noted. “Ranging from hundreds of appointments to appropriations totaling \$2.6 billion, how such funds are spent sets policy.”<sup>50</sup> After his victory, Edelman did not disappoint. He quickly hired David Glascock as his personal gay liaison in order to “raise the level of consciousness in County Government to the needs of all, including gay people.”<sup>51</sup> This partnership shaped and financed gay activism. As a GCSC insider, Glascock fielded constituent mail, prepared weekly briefings, and located funding opportunities for GCSC programs.<sup>52</sup> His position gave lesbians and gays an important ally in the halls of power. In one note to Glascock, Kilhefner confided, “‘Praise the Lord’ that you are where you



are and doing what you do. We love you.”<sup>53</sup> That love was well deserved.

Edelman was elected at a fortuitous moment. The county had always been more powerful than the city, but two new federal programs enhanced its clout.<sup>54</sup> Largely ignored by historians, CETA programs offered radical possibilities to grassroots activists. Signed into law by Richard Nixon in 1973, CETA provided grants to community service organizations and created thousands of new jobs. Nixon thought that it would “consolidate the many manpower programs that had been started during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations,” but CETA actually expanded those programs.<sup>55</sup> For African Americans and Chicanos, one scholar has argued, it was the “most significant federal jobs program in the 1970s.”<sup>56</sup> Since grants were awarded at the local level, county supervisors held enormous power. Once aware of the program, activists began spreading the word “that the County [was] funding organizations that [were] helping poor people.”<sup>57</sup> Lesbians and gays joined a diverse mosaic seeking funding including the Greater Los Angeles Community Action Agency, which emerged from the ashes of the Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency and empowered working-class African, Mexican, and Jewish

communities.<sup>58</sup> Thanks in part to Glascock and Edelman, by the summer of 1976 over \$300,000 in CETA funds were flowing annually to the GCSC. These provided salaries, funded social programs, and linked gay rights with racial minorities. The funds also created jobs with the city such as Mayor Tom Bradley’s gay liaison, which dramatically expanded possibilities for gay activists.<sup>59</sup>

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 also offered prospects through CDBG programs. A gift of President Gerald Ford, CDBGs were admired by liberals and conservatives alike. The former applauded urban investment, while the latter celebrated local community control (as well as the inclusion of private developers within the program). CDBG allocations could be made for public infrastructure, housing, administrative planning, public services, economic development, and property acquisitions. Those categories were deliberately vague in order to maximize local control. Beginning in 1975, GCSC organizers submitted grant proposals to the county on a regular basis. “Whenever we got requests for proposals we applied,” an activist remembered. “Nobody else [in the country] was doing that, but *our* government was



within the statewide and national Democratic Party in heretofore underappreciated ways.

### Gay Politics and Public Policy in the Carter Era

By the mid-1970s, the most influential gay political organization in Los Angeles was the Stonewall Democratic Club (SDC). Through the SDC, activists encouraged Democratic politics to change and diversify in California. With the election of Jimmy Carter in 1976, they also hoped to impact federal policy with an ambitious gay rights plank outlining necessary changes to eradicate sexual discrimination and improve economic opportunities nationwide. While the born-again Carter appeared culturally conservative, historians have documented how feminists made gains within his administration.<sup>72</sup> So too, lesbians and gays impacted the direction of Carter's social agenda and helped reveal cracks in the straight state. Ironically, they achieved success as liberals continued to develop punitive policies directed against other social minorities in the nation.

The success of GCSC programs won immediate political allies. As early as 1973, *Los Angeles Times* columnist Art Seidenbaum praised the organization

and its activists. "My visit to the Gay Community Services Center," he wrote, "persuades me that dignity is being fostered there." The GCSC addressed "needs that have not been met heretofore in this city" and earned "respect from the larger community because it helped spread human understanding rather than antagonism." A representative of the Sons of Watts Assistance and Rehabilitation Project commended the "untiring efforts" to "provide vital services to persons in need, such as counseling, job referrals, [parole] applications, and emergency housing." Noting that many gay residents of Watts were in need of those services, he wished the GCSC "much success" and encouraged organizers to "hang in there!" The Southern California Prison Coalition supported the attention on gay prisoners and parolees. "There are all too few organizations operating in our society today to help ex-convicts adjust to living again in the community," a representative wrote. The GCSC instituted "constructive efforts to help our most disadvantaged citizens who need so much support.... You can be assured that you have our support." Los Angeles city attorney Burt Pines believed that the GCSC offered a "chance" for those who "otherwise had none," making it "vitally important to the city." A



representatives of the East-Los Chicano Education Training and Research Organization admired the “refreshing and innovative ... step in the right direction,” and a black activist in Watts was “encouraged to see the progress [the GCSC] has made in providing services to a previously neglected segments of our population, specifically black gays and females.” The Asian Women’s Center was impressed by attention to women’s issues and the “diversity of [GCSC] programs.”<sup>73</sup> These letters admired gay activists and also acknowledged queer needs within their own communities. The GCSC lifted all boats.

Established in 1975, the SDC sought to capitalize on these political partnerships. The very name of the organization implied its left-liberal orientation. “Stonewall” identified the SDC with gay liberation and the New Left, while “Democratic” signaled its willingness to work within the liberal establishment. *The Advocate* took note of this in a cartoon: during an SDC meeting, a young demonstrator held signs reading “2-4-6-8, Register as Democate [sic],” and Morris Kight kindly explained, “Now that we’re establishment, dear brother, we’re just not sure we’ll be picketing with signs anymore.”<sup>74</sup> Overall, the SDC embraced more a shift in strategy, not ideology. “In recognition of a new

awareness within the Democratic Party” to “fully and equally represent Gay People,” founders labored to “make the Democratic Party responsive to and responsible for the needs of *all* people.” The SDC prioritized the low-income populace, emphasizing “welfare rights” and the empowerment of “single and lower income persons.”<sup>75</sup> In doing so it joined other grassroots Democratic clubs in California in order to push liberalism leftward.

The 1975 gay rights plank outlined how this could be done. An all-out indictment of the “straight state,” it identified structural forms of discrimination and offered detailed remedies. Since the tax system “victimized single persons and same-gender couples,” it ought not to use sexuality as criteria. Moreover, Congress needed to draft “legislation to enable persons covered by Social Security and all federal pension programs to designate whomever they so choose to receive benefits.” Importantly, the language insisted on plural possibilities and did not clearly define what gay families would consist of. In demanding the right to choose *whomever* they wanted as beneficiaries, activists hinted at multiple familial possibilities. They also claimed solidarity with women’s liberation, calling for the immediate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment



(ERA). When it came to housing, activists specifically targeted HUD and FHA policies and demanded changes to encourage “all persons to choose housing and living arrangements in accordance with their own preferences.” This necessitated ending “discrimination against gay people in public housing projects, federally guaranteed housing loans, and in all other areas under HUD’s jurisdiction.”<sup>76</sup> While they did not explicitly call for the redefinition of family, implicitly they did. How else could policies be changed? Reforms in HUD, the tax system, and immigration policy logically implied that sexuality and family not be tied to citizenship or welfare rights.

Alongside gay political clubs in the Bay Area, the SDC helped to incorporate gay rights into the California Democratic Party swiftly. Edelman endorsed the gay rights plank without reservation, and many left-leaning Democrats voiced support as well. These included Sabrina Schiller and Tom Hayden, both of whom pledged to author legislation to enact the plank.<sup>77</sup> If Democrats rejected gay rights, the SDC attacked. When Joe Montoya ran for a California Senate seat and refused to endorse the plank, activists informed Democratic leaders that he was “*not*, to use the word loosely, favorable to our cause” and

threatened to support his opponent.<sup>78</sup> Beyond Los Angeles, activists won statewide approval. Jonathan Bell argued that the California Democratic Council helped push liberalism leftward in the 1950s and 1960s.<sup>79</sup> Progressive Democrats such as Alan Cranston, Phil Burton, and Jerry Brown succeeded thanks to council endorsements and support. In the 1970s the SDC continued this legacy. At the 1975 California Democratic Convention in San Jose, Morris Kight and David Glascock served as delegates.<sup>80</sup> On the evening of November 17 they introduced the gay rights plank, which was approved without debate. “The Democratic Party in California,” the California Democratic Convention announced, “now affirms the right of all persons to define and express their own sexuality.... We pledge an end to all social, economic, legal and psychological oppression of gay people.”<sup>81</sup> Activists had indeed “taken gay and lesbian issues from the streets to the halls of government.”<sup>82</sup> The *Los Angeles Times* marveled at the “growing respectability of the gay rights movement in Democratic political circles.”<sup>83</sup> While many memories of 1970s California highlight the Briggs Initiative and homophobic backlash, below the surface a political transformation had unfolded. At the national level, change could also be detected.



In 1976 the SDC plank was sent to all Democratic presidential contenders, including Hubert Humphrey, Jesse Jackson, Sargent Shriver, Birch Bayh, Fred Harris, and Jimmy Carter.<sup>84</sup> For many liberals, Carter's triumph proved confusing. The Democratic standard-bearer was often a sphinx. He disappointed progressives on many fronts and, according to some, implemented economic policies that exacerbated an "age of inequality."<sup>85</sup> At the same time, Carter expanded CETA and named avowed leftists (including many feminists) to key positions of power. The former governor of Georgia was an evangelical Christian who read his Bible nightly but, as Randall Balmer suggested, was cut from progressive evangelical cloth.<sup>86</sup> While Carter held moral anxieties regarding homosexuality, he thought that poverty and homelessness were greater sins. During the 1976 Democratic primary in California, he actively courted lesbian and gay voters. During one Edelman fund-raiser for Carter, SDC leaders pressed him on sexual discrimination in housing, immigration, military policy, and civilian contract employment. Carter pledged to end discrimination in all areas except military policy.<sup>87</sup> Pleased, some members rallied around the Georgian and founded Gays for Carter.<sup>88</sup> When Carter condemned racist housing

and employment practices in a California speech, they wrote to clarify that this "also extended to sexual minorities." A Carter aide replied that the candidate was "opposed to discrimination in all forms, including discrimination because of sexual preference."<sup>89</sup> Yet in another letter, an aide confessed that "Governor Carter is not entirely comfortable with the issue of homosexuality."<sup>90</sup> Carter could endorse nondiscrimination but not gay pride. The breakthroughs that would unfold during the Carter administration would therefore need to be surreptitious.

This was certainly the case when it came to housing policy. Although largely overlooked by historians, in May 1977 HUD officials radically rewrote the definition of family. Shortly after Carter's election, the SDC sent copies of the gay rights plank to HUD and urged a new policy to allow "all persons to choose housing and living arrangements in accordance with their own preferences."<sup>91</sup> It is unclear how impactful this action was, but it likely found a favorable audience with HUD secretary Patricia Roberts Harris. A graduate of Howard University, she gained stature in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations as a civil rights and Democratic Party organizer.<sup>92</sup> A liberal, Harris was also a vocal



supporter of the New Left, especially women's liberation and Black Power. Under her leadership, HUD moved in a decidedly feminist direction.<sup>93</sup> Indeed, televangelist Pat Robertson considered her an "avowed enemy" of conservatives after she labeled the Moral Majority "dangerous, intolerant, and polarizing."<sup>94</sup> Considering the heated cultural atmosphere of the mid-1970s, the policy change was subjectively ingenuous. "Any stable family relationship," HUD spokesman Tom Bacon explained, was now eligible to apply for housing subsidies. He did not mention gays, nor did he define "stability." When reporters asked if gay activists influenced the decision, he insisted that "the change was not made in response to pressure from any group." HUD was not "trying to get a particular group in. We are simply trying to expand the eligibility of low-income housing for *all* families."<sup>95</sup> Regardless, what HUD administrators decided to do was radical: they had in effect *destabilized* any definition of family. Theoretically, a *stable* queer family might be eligible for subsidies, while an *unstable* heterosexual one might not be. Stability was in the eye of the beholder. According to HUD, family was not beholden to marital and biological constraints. Historians have argued that the New Right and the Moral

Majority coalesced around "attacks on the family" in the 1970s.<sup>96</sup> The 1977 HUD decision allows us to better understand the context of those fears.

The press reported the policy change as an issue of gay rights. A *New York Times* editorial declared that "the government [was] opening public housing to homosexual couples."<sup>97</sup> At a press conference, reporters asked President Carter if homosexuals could be families. Homosexuals did not form "normal interrelationships," he replied, but "I don't see homosexuals as a threat to the family either."<sup>98</sup> Across the nation, lesbians and gays expressed excitement and confusion. One woman celebrated but wondered "what does a 'stable family relationship' mean?" If "each public-housing authority" could "determine whether a couple fits the new description," then the law was "endlessly vague," she worried. *The Advocate* reported that HUD had finally decided that "gay people need roofs over their heads, too." Opponents recognized the potential of the new policy as well. In Congress, HUD's budget was threatened when two representatives proposed an amendment that barred lesbians and gays from subsidies. This caused headaches and a Democratic rumble in the Senate. As it reviewed the House amendment, "the usually stolid Appropriations



Committee became a forum on gay rights.” Two Democratic senators supported the amendment and argued that since “there is a waiting list for public housing ... traditional wife-husband stable family relationships should have preference.” Yet, two Democrats fought back, opposing the amendment on constitutional grounds. “Such language would put Congress on record favoring discrimination,” they stressed. “We don’t want to get caught up in some temporary hysteria and start mashing people’s constitutional rights all over the place.” The antigay language was removed; in its place, lawmakers emphasized that “eligibility would be determined” by local authorities on a case-by-case basis. This allowed Congress to approve the appropriations bill “without a whisper of gay rights” but did nothing to alter the nature of HUD’s policy change.<sup>99</sup> Historians have not been terribly kind to Carter’s urban policy, yet the 1977 HUD policy change was significant and opened housing to previously excluded people.<sup>100</sup> The victory did not belong to Angelenos alone but was certainly assisted by them, as was the White House Conference on American Families, which fittingly concluded in Los Angeles.

When Carter ran for president in 1976, he promised to bring Americans

together for a conference about “the family.” By 1977, he began speaking of “families” in order to “recognize the pluralism of family life in America.”<sup>101</sup> His insistence on *pluralism*, like HUD’s insistence on *stability*, allowed for the possibility of queer inclusion without deliberately saying so. Conference planners organized three regional meetings in Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles. As the conference neared, the politics of family became volatile. Nevada Republican senator Paul Laxalt introduced the Family Protection Act in 1979 that, among other things, would have “banned federal support for any form of gay rights.”<sup>102</sup> While the measure failed to win congressional support, it evidenced the growing power of the Moral Majority. The White House Conference on American Families did not. In Baltimore, the conference descended into a fierce struggle. Conservatives accused Carter of building “the worst record for family issues for any president in history.”<sup>103</sup> Conference attendees, however, voted to endorse the ratification of the ERA and offered support for gay rights.<sup>104</sup> Antifeminist Phyllis Schlafly decried the results and stormed out. In Minneapolis, conservatives fought back and voted to “exclude homosexuals in the definition of family.”<sup>105</sup> The conference was now ideologically confused.



Los Angeles settled the debate. There, attendees voted to approve the ERA and “outlaw housing laws that would discriminate based on sexual preference” and reversed the exclusion of lesbians and gays from the definition of family.<sup>106</sup> Often a quiet supporter, Carter spoke more boldly after the conference. Families, he explained to reporters, were “networks of relationships, rooted not in blood but on shared experiences, shared joys and sorrows, and most of all, a shared love that crosses vast distances.” He warned Americans against conservative fantasies. “Americans often feel nostalgic,” he counseled, “about a past that seems to be simpler and sometimes seems to be better. We can learn from the past, but we must not limit our vision of what a good family *is* just to what a family *was*.”<sup>107</sup> Through liberation houses, the GCSC, and the SDC, lesbian and gay Angelenos had made the same argument. HUD and the White House Conference on American Families represented but two breakthroughs in the Carter era. Others, such as the decision to remove homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses in 1979, were equally significant.

Ironically, as liberal policy makers moved in more progressive directions for lesbians and gays in the 1970s, punitive measures targeting racial minorities

were enacted with more vigor, severely limiting the possibilities of reform. Elizabeth Hinton and Julilly Kohler-Hausmann have both detailed how liberal policy makers came to embrace draconian “law and order” policies that resulted in the mass incarceration of racial minorities. Even in Los Angeles, Mayor Tom Bradley courted the law and order vote at the expense of traditional economic liberal orthodoxy.<sup>108</sup> Thus, while it would be tempting to view the growing political power of lesbians and gays within a liberal progression narrative, in reality liberalism was suffering from very uneven development in the 1970s. That is an important caveat to this story. So long as they coexisted alongside policies limiting the socioeconomic possibilities of racial minorities, liberal gay achievements would benefit whites above all others. So long as the liberal pathology of the black family remained unchallenged, the growth of new queer families would be stunted. In other words, the important reforms detailed in this essay occurred in a liberal house that had already begun the process—unconsciously or not—of excluding many from the premises. As is so often the case in American history, progressive breakthroughs were tempered by new reactionary limits.



Still, the work of lesbian and gay activists in the 1970s began an important process of demolishing the straight state. Through housing, social service, and political activism, lesbian and gay activists in Los Angeles helped destabilize heteronormative welfare policies that were foundational to breadwinner liberalism. Working through established political channels, they helped remold liberal policies in more inclusive ways and at the very moment when religious conservatives were attacking them. Above all else, they showed that a strong welfare system was a necessary and vital partner in the quest to create a queer world. In the tumultuous political environment of the present, this is a lesson worth remembering.



# MAKING TROUBLE

essays

on gay

history,

politics,

and the

university

JOHN D'EMILIO



left municipal authorities shaken; one can imagine them easily abandoning age-worn policies of harassing gay meeting places, once those policies were vigorously challenged. The psychiatric profession, buffeted by ideological assaults ranging from the work of Thomas Szasz to that of R. D. Laing, meekly reversed generations of pronouncements about the pathology of homosexuality.<sup>22</sup> Religion, too, was in ferment, with liberation theology and issues of social justice displacing doctrine and ritual in the concerns of many churches.

I am not suggesting that the gains associated with gay liberation in the 1970s came through the beneficence of a responsive system. Without a social movement agitating for change, without collective action persistently applying pressure on a range of institutions, and without masses of gay people willing to force the issue by coming out, the pace of progress in the seventies might well have resembled the snail-like inching forward of the homophile movement in the 1960s. But the achievements of gay liberation and its successor movements owed at least as much to the broad crisis of authority that existed by the end of the 1960s as they did to the power of the movement. To be sure, in absolute terms the movement was larger and stronger. But our opponents were also temporarily enfeebled. By the latter part of the 1970s

the crisis was over; its passing would make new demands of gay and lesbian politics.

Misapprehension played itself out in another way. At the time, most activists of each of these gendered movements were acutely aware of how different the trajectories of gay and lesbian life were. Depending on conviction or experience, one might evaluate these differences in any one of a variety of ways. I know that I, and some of my gay male friends, tended to look with envy at the solidarity, the sense of community, and the commitment to radical transformation that we associated with lesbian-feminism, including its separatist form. Later I would learn that many lesbian-feminists were fascinated and, to some degree, attracted, by the richness of our sexual subculture. But most would have agreed that the points of convergence between gay men and lesbians were few and far between.

As I look retrospectively at these two political impulses, I am now struck by their surprisingly similar outcomes. Take, for instance, what may very well be the quintessential product of each: the elaborate, glitzy, high-tech gay male discos found in many cities, and the self-sufficient, rural communes of lesbian separatists. Here were men, in a public space, spending money, focused on themselves, and searching for sex. And here were



women, in a private retreat, financially marginal, focused on group process, and nurturing loving relationships. For all our talk about a brave new world of sexual freedom, or the building of an Amazon Nation, what I now see is how thoroughly enmeshed such institutions remained in gender conventions. A cynic might argue that, unencumbered by the constraints imposed by the “opposite sex,” stereotypical gender roles reached their full flowering. A more accurate view, I believe, would acknowledge that some scrambling of gender characteristics did occur, while still conceding that gender dichotomies continued to be reproduced by those who claimed little allegiance to them.

During the flush times of new freedoms in the early and mid-1970s, it was possible to brush aside uncertainties and revel in the adventure of remaking our worlds. But as the decade neared its end, challenges erupted on a variety of fronts. These challenges exposed both strengths and weaknesses in the gendered movements that replaced radical gay liberation.

The first of these challenges came in the form of the New Right's crusade against homosexuality, a crusade that testified to the gains the movement had achieved.<sup>23</sup> After 1977, activists faced not the garden-variety homophobia that had come to seem familiar, but a more truculent, militant variety. Two disparate

forces—a religious fundamentalism only recently politicized, and an aggressive new conservatism burrowing into the Republican Party and looking for a winning strategy—began to make common cause. Sharing a revulsion at the effects of the upheavals of the 1960s and fashioning a rhetoric of moral renewal and national resuscitation, they formed a potent coalition that shaped the politics of the 1980s.

The New Right initially targeted the gay movement in Dade County, Florida. In January 1977 the county commissioners, with little public debate or fanfare, added sexual orientation to the local civil rights ordinance. Fundamentalists countered very quickly, forming as their vehicle an organization with the emotionally explosive name of “Save Our Children” and with the popular singer Anita Bryant as its spokesperson. Bryant's involvement guaranteed that the repeal campaign would draw national media attention—the first such sustained exposure for issues of gay rights—and New Right luminaries such as Jerry Falwell made repeated appearances in south Florida. Activists attempted to respond, but their efforts at reasoned presentation of the issues and the sparse resources they could muster on their behalf proved sorely inadequate. When voters cast their ballot in June, the gay rights clause was overwhelmingly defeated.



The Dade County drive was the first of several referenda and initiative campaigns that were waged over the next eighteen months. In St. Paul, in Wichita, and in Eugene, Oregon, voters resoundingly rejected gay rights. In Seattle and in California, the gay community emerged victorious. The California campaign against the Briggs initiative was especially significant because of its statewide scope. In particular, it offered a favorable portent of things to come as many gay men and lesbians for the first time found themselves working together against a common enemy. But even this victory turned sour when Harvey Milk, the openly gay supervisor in San Francisco, was assassinated three weeks after the November balloting.

The rise of the New Right sent tremors of fear through the gay and lesbian community across the country. Its press increasingly offered analogies with McCarthy's America and Nazi Germany. The movement seemed to lack the financial resources, the numbers, the influence, and the political sophistication to counter the threat. The placid politics of gay rights lobbying was helpless before the emotional onslaught of fundamentalist rhetoric. The single-issue orientation of gay rights activists made effective coalitions difficult to construct, or even to conceive; the separate community-building strategy of lesbian-feminism left

little room for fierce political engagement. A collective crisis of faith seemed to paralyze the movement. The dazed leadership of national organizations expended more energy in internecine warfare and mutual recrimination than in attending to the crisis at hand.

A second challenge came in the form of the collapse of the lesbian-separatist Utopia. In part this could be blamed on the changing economic times. High inflation in the Carter years and high unemployment in the early Reagan years pressed marginal institutions to the wall. Organizations fully dependent on volunteer labor struggled to survive, and the accumulated stress of years of subsistence living took their toll on women who, by virtue of their class position and educational background, in fact had other options. Downward mobility became less and less liberating and more and more painful.

But the shattering of Utopian dreams stemmed from internal tensions as well. Toward the end of the 1970s, the effort to enforce standards of "political correctness" turned toward sexual issues. Some radical feminists, enraged by images of sexual violence, campaigned for restrictions on the distribution and sale of pornography. Using emotionally volatile slogans—"Pornography is the theory; rape is the practice"—they seemed





# BEFORE STONEWALL

Activists  
for Gay and Lesbian Rights  
in Historical Context

VERN L. BULLOUGH, RN, PhD

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## Morris Kight (1919- ): Community Activist

Felice Picano



Photo by Tom Bianchi

Any volume of important gay rights figures in our time would be incomplete if it did not include Morris Kight. A simple listing of the organizations, groups, and events he has begun, spearheaded, or revived makes it immediately apparent how dynamic and how effective Kight has been in seeing that gay men and lesbians achieved political and social rights and recognition. Kight founded the Gay Liberation Front; he was cofounder of the Gay Community Services Center of Los Angeles; founder of the Christopher Street West; founder of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles; cofounder of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Party; cofounder of Asian and Pacific Lesbian/Gays; Com-

missioner of the National AIDS vigil in Washington, DC, in 1983; leader of the 1987 March on Washington; organizer of the 1988 March on Sacramento; cofounder of the Van Ness Recovery House for Alcoholism and Addiction in Los Angeles; and founder of the nationally celebrated twenty-fifth anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion March in New York City in June of 1994. Before and since, he has been involved with many nongay organizations.

These activities and successes, however, must be weighed against other factors: Morris Kight remains one of the more controversial, scrutinized, and at times criticized of our gay leaders. He calls himself a feminist, a pacifist, a generalist, a universalist, and, above all, a humanist. Unquestionably, personal, philosophical, and political opposition to Kight coming from many sides within the gay-lesbian-transgender community has arisen and become a constant in his life.



Partly this has come about as a result of the inherent combativeness within any revolutionary movement. Partly it has been exacerbated by the extreme individualism, even orneriness, of many in the community toward any leader: More than one gay psychologist has noted that for most gays, growing up in an overwhelmingly homophobic society often leads to a tendency to internalize that hatred. By extension, it also leads to fierce self-analysis and a willingness, even an eagerness, to apply the same harsh critique to other gay men and women, especially those who ask for trust and power. As the old saying goes: He who rises high makes the best target.

On the other hand, Kight himself has—either unconsciously through his personal exuberance or by design—left himself open to attack. The most frequent points made against him have been the scattering of his force into areas outside the gay community and his support of sometimes unpopular ideas and causes. Yet the most egregious of his shortcomings noted have been Kight's instinct for grabbing attention and personal publicity whenever possible and, to some critics, his seemingly infinite capacity to receive—and even negotiate receiving—honors, even when they are most deserved. Kight himself perceives those accolades far less personally than do his critics. He sees himself an exemplar: whenever he receives another kudo, he feels he is standing in for many other gays who do not wish to be or who through circumstances cannot be as highly recognized.

To many in the community, Kight is an imperfect person in need of corraling: an unrelenting activist, at times running over or eliminating those in his path. To others, he is a bright and charming person, one of the most astonishingly effective leaders we've had. As his field of endeavor for half a century, Los Angeles in particular owes a debt to him.

Morris Kight was born November 19, 1919, at 11 p.m. into a poor farming family in Comanche County in central Texas. Because his parents didn't have the entire fee for Virginia Morris, the midwife brought from town to help birth him, they named him after her, using her last name as his first. Kight's father died in an accident when he was seven years old, and the boy was forced to grow up quickly as an around-the-house, then an around-the-farm worker.

He felt from a young age that he was "different" and said that he was "never invited into the games" of other children. He found solace in nature and in books. He also began collecting art in the form of fine art prints, and his many years of collecting eventually resulted in a substantial collection. His childhood reading was so extensive that later on, at Texas Christian University, he was passed through freshman literature class and promoted ahead.

But Morris wasn't "arty" and impractical. As a boy he planted seeds, and experimented in botany and also with local water control. He also taught

himself, through trial and error, how to keep the engine of the family's Model A Ford running. Kight's older siblings departed the farm while he was still a preteen. Left with the support of himself and mother during the difficult mid-1930s, and years of poor weather and extensive drought in the region, he opened and operated a roadside diner when he was sixteen years old. This enterprise led to Kight's first encounter with hatred of difference and with institutionalized prejudice. He was witnessed serving food to a traveling African-American family who could not get fed anywhere else and was arrested for "mixing the races." Young Kight was tried in court and avoided serving time only when friends of his deceased father intervened. Asked if he had "learned his lesson," Kight said he had. The rebellious boy would thereafter throw himself into various forums of intense civil rights activism.

Another crucial life lesson Kight says he learned was from the girl in his tiny high school graduating class who was forced to leave school in her final year to have a baby. Her anger at the teacher who made the pregnant teen leave and at her poor treatment by the authorities led the boy to begin to think for himself about issues such as the lack of women's privileges—especially their lack of abortion rights.

Kight worked his way through college, first as a gardener and later in the dean's office. He also took the rigorous test for the Roosevelt administration's U.S. Career Services Training Academy through which those needed to operate the various New Deal agencies were enlisted. He won a spot over many thousands and graduated from the Academy in 1941, in the process forming an acquaintance with the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. During World War II Kight served as a civilian administrator adjunct to the military in the Pacific Theater, where his task was to plan governments and policies for the islands reoccupied or recently conquered.

After the war he lived in various areas of the Southwest, on his own and with his mother, opening and running hotels and restaurants. He briefly worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but the institutionalized inequality and substandard treatment of Native Americans he witnessed led him to quit. He soon joined local tribal leaders in organizing social services and public health services for New Mexico's indigenous people.

Despite the fact that by the time he was in college Kight was sexually active with other males, he resisted accepting the identity of a homosexual, an understandable action shared by millions of closeted American gays at the time. A few years later, in Albuquerque, Kight married a woman with whom he had two daughters. He remained married only five years but stayed in contact with his family thereafter.

By the time Kight moved to California in 1957, he was already a seasoned and dedicated activist, and was considered a radical. First the civil



rights movement, then the movement against the war in Vietnam were his chief arenas. As part of the latter, in 1967 he formed and headed the Dow Action Committee, dedicated to stopping that chemical company from manufacturing the napalm that was being sprayed from U.S. warplanes, with lethal effects upon both the population and the environment of South Vietnam. He also worked for gay causes—not as an openly gay man but as part of his struggle for civil rights for all.

Out of the Stonewall riots in New York City and the subsequent days of political action that swirled about their confrontation with the authorities, was born the Gay Activists Alliance and eventually the entire gay rights movement. Precursors to the GAA and Stonewall had existed for decades: the small but daring openly homosexual Mattachine Society, formed in Los Angeles during the 1950s, picketed the U.S. Post Office and other government offices for discriminating against homosexuals, and it sponsored the first homosexual publication, a newsletter called *ONE*. The Daughters of Bilitis was a comparable organization for lesbians. Although few gays were actually organized within cities such as New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles, openly gay lives were being led by thousands of men and women, and their choice of neighborhoods, so-called “gay ghettos,” were already solidly established.

It was only a few months after Stonewall, during a massive demonstration by mostly young, educated, and middle-class people against the Vietnam War in San Francisco's Polo Grounds that Kight realized that homosexual rights could also be made to attract large numbers of “clean, well-bred, ordinary men and women” who, in his words, “saw their dentist twice a year,” and who, he recognized, constituted the mass and character of gay life. Kight recognized that—like the groups of students and professionals who marched against the war and who influenced public opinion sufficiently to end the conflict in Southeast Asia—their lesbian and gay counterparts should also be able to sway public favor to their cause. Kight, the closeted activist for gay causes, came out in the open.

Shortly afterward, Kight moved from Albuquerque to Los Angeles in part because it had the large middle-class gay population. However, because it also possessed an official environment hostile to homosexuals—predominantly due to an outspoken homophobic police chief—Kight judged the southern California city prepared for some incisive political action. Kight moved to the Westlake area of the city, which was close to downtown and popular with many gays who lived there. Once there he soon formed the Gay and Lesbian Resistance. Unlike the Gay Activists Alliance in New York City, the GLR dealt not only with the issue of gay and lesbian rights but also with social issues such as health care and poverty in general, which were problems of interest to a wide variety of politically active groups. By

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1969, the GLR and its activities were subsumed under the banner of the Gay Liberation Front, or GLF.

At the time of his move to Los Angeles, Kight was fifty years old and already a longtime experienced activist on many social and political fronts. At that same age, many other men are thinking of how to solidify their career position, even considering retirement; for Kight it was the start of an entirely new life.

Kight's first target for the Gay Liberation Front was a West Hollywood restaurant named Barney's Beanery. That neighborhood had become increasingly populated by lesbians and gays; police activity against establishments serving homosexuals had correspondingly increased. The owner of Barney's Beanery put a sign on the door reading "Faggots Stay Out." In January of 1970, the GLF began holding actions—"shop-ins," "change-ins," and "sit-ins"—inside the restaurant, and they continued until the management agreed to take down the sign.

The success of that action led to 175 more protests and demonstrations by the GLF in the next two years. Kight became such a thorn in the side of Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis that official retaliation ensued, including three police raid/searches of Kight's home. Many gays were convinced that the worst was yet to come. Kight held to his constitutional guns; hearing that, in New York City, gay activists had made plans for a parade to celebrate the previous year's Stonewall bar riot, Kight quickly formed plans for a corresponding West Coast version. Chief Davis was unsuccessful in his attempts to stop the parade and, although Kight received multiple death threats, the parade went on nonetheless. Like its East Coast version, it was small and dowdy, but it was also brave and it raised many people's spirits and raised gay awareness: achieving—many people feel—exactly what the huge festivals of drugs, dancing, shirtless torsos, and commercialism that today call themselves gay parades cannot achieve.

In 1971, Kight joined Don Kilhefer and several other men to form the Gay Community Services Center in an old clapboard Victorian house. The first such focal point, it provided social, medical, and legal aid to gays, as well as giving them a place to gather, feel at home, and air their grievances. The structure has since been razed, but its descendant, Los Angeles's current Gay and Lesbian Center, consists of two enormous, well-funded, well-equipped, well-staffed, up-to-date Hollywood locations, with one campus given entirely over to the arts. Other American cities such as New York, Chicago, most recently San Francisco, and many foreign cities, from Vienna to Tel Aviv, have used the Kight-Kilhefer pilot as a model for their own lesbian/gay community centers.

As much work as all that was, soon enough Kight and colleagues had their hands full with other more pressing, specifically political matters. In



the late 1970s, singer-spokesperson Anita Bryant's war against lesbians and gays in Florida under the cynical disguise of "saving the children" quickly led to various imitations around the country, the most significant being John Briggs, who managed to get gay discrimination clauses onto the state of California's ballot. Seeing how serious the threat was, Kight and other gays sprang into action, calling for aid from homosexuals, heterosexuals, friends, celebrities, business groups, and individuals across the country.

The national effort that Kight and others helped develop to defeat the Briggs Amendment displayed for the first time to opponents and adherents alike the true financial and organizational power and reach of lesbians and gays—in effect, proving that Kight's original thesis, when he'd relocated to Los Angeles, had been correct. It also showed that consequential civil rights associations, such as the distinguished American Civil Liberties Union, would join the fight for gay rights.

In an interview he gave to *The Advocate* a few years later, Kight provided a few reasons why a man such as himself, who had worked for the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Council, and other national forums, would concentrate all his efforts toward the issue of gay rights.

No matter where I am in the world, when I meet another gay person I feel recognition. We're a new race of people, writing our own script. . . . We have a chance to be the first people in history to define itself. We can break the heterosexist mode and create something entirely different. (Sarf, 1974)

Possibly because that potential is so general, Kight has branched out from the specifically political, leaving several civic issues to younger people. Meanwhile, his interest in art, his collecting of various souvenirs from the many demonstrations and protests he was involved in, and his personal relationship with friends who died and whose own collections of GLBT memorabilia were destroyed or disposed of, led him to open the McCadden Place collection, containing work ranging from Southwest folk art to documentary film and photos specific to the beginnings of gay activism. Every year, Kight hosts an exhibit of parts of this collection at Christopher Street West's Gay Pride Festival in West Hollywood.

He has also become reinvolved in the needs of others besides gays, chiefly the homeless: Kight was president of the board of directors and consultant on housing beginning in 1978. He aided in forming the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations in 1980 and has served on its board as commissioner, secretary, and vice president. Officials of City Hall who snubbed him for years, hoping he would just go away, have instead

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gone themselves, replaced by people his activism has influenced, who now honor him and appoint him to municipal positions.

In recent years, as he has aged, Kight has become increasingly aware of the predicament faced by many of the elderly. That new interest has retied him to the gay community, where he sees ageism and the disregard of senior lesbians and gays as an acute current and future ongoing anxiety. He recently involved himself with a photographer putting together a book of portraits of seniors from our community. Will Morris Kight's work ever be done?

Over the past decades as an activist and politician, Morris Kight may very well have been humanly imperfect, but he has also been perfectly humanitarian, a model for future activists. And that's just how he'd like to be remembered.

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"What Clendinen and Nagourney have created is an invaluable document, impressively researched, remarkably well written, and groundbreaking in scope."

—SHANE HARRISON, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

# OUT *for* GOOD



The Struggle to Build  
a Gay Rights Movement  
in America

DUDLEY CLENDINEN & ADAM NAGOURNEY



activist. It was cathartic. “If we can pick up from here, having left the past behind, let’s see what we can do together,” Voeller told Goodstein, who invited Voeller to bring his lover to the next Advocate Experience, which he did.

David Goodstein even called on Morris Kight, but befriending him proved more difficult. Kight had never forgiven Goodstein for barring his name from *The Advocate* or for assigning Randy Shilts to investigate his personal behavior. He was intrigued by Goodstein’s invitation, though, and he went to the Advocate Experience offices on Wilshire Boulevard. The session itself, as described by Kight, was almost identical to Goodstein’s meeting with Voeller, though the result was not the same. Once again, Goodstein shared the painful formative experiences of growing up. He then asked Kight what he thought of *The Advocate* and the movement. Kight told Goodstein he considered the paper “warmed-over pap.” Goodstein also asked Kight if he would undergo an Advocate Experience weekend. Kight had viewed the Advocate Experience as the latest attempt by Goodstein to control the gay movement—“ill-conceived brainwashing”—and he declined Goodstein’s invitation. “I don’t think I’d care to join a cult,” Kight responded.

March 1978, Los Angeles

MECLA’s first anniversary dinner, a black-tie affair that cost \$100 a plate, was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. There were less expensive hotels in Los Angeles, but in spring 1978, as John Briggs’s supporters were gathering signatures for his teacher initiative, MECLA wanted to communicate its influence and stature. The Grand Ballroom of the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel was where the state and city Democratic and Republican Parties held their fundraisers. Presidents, governors, senators, congressional members, mayors and state party leaders had stood at its podium.

There had been some debate about whether this should be a black-tie dinner, since that might confirm the perception that MECLA was elitist. But Rob Eichberg had decided he didn’t care what other gay activists, like Morris Kight, thought of the group. He had given up arguing that MECLA was not elitist after attending monthly meetings of gay community leaders at Kight’s home. Anyone who signed in at the door could talk on any subject, at any length, so First Tuesday evenings often turned into First Wednesday mornings. It was, in short, everything Rob Eichberg hated about street politics, and he was boiling by the time





Morris Kight came out of the peace movement in Los Angeles to help organize that city's Gay Liberation Front in 1969 and then the Gay Community Services Center. Kight has been one of the few constant presences in the gay rights movement in America. *Richard C. Wandel, NALGH*



## MORRIS KIGHT: A RIVER TO HIS PEOPLE

by Jim Kepner

After the first Christopher Street West Parade in Hollywood, which Morris had planned, the formerly anti-gay HOLLYWOOD CITIZEN NEWS called him "a river to his people."

Born in 1919 in back-country Proctor, Texas, Morris (the name is not Kite or Knight, as so often printed) is a chief patriarch of the gay movement, portly and ~~sporting a handsome~~ white mane<sup>d</sup>, establishing and maintaining his primacy as an organizer par excellence, and an originator of flashy new ideas, in an era otherwise dominated by much younger persons.

~~While~~ Morris's first efforts to organize along gay lines dates to his post-graduate days as a government major at Texas Christian University (an Oscar Wilde study group), ~~and while~~ <sup>But</sup> thereafter, working in social service, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or artistic circles (~~he was~~ President of the New Mexico Art League and a founder of the New Mexico Conference on Social Welfare) and later in the peace and ecology movements, he never made a secret of his gayness. <sup>^</sup> he didn't fully enter the gay movement until December 1969 when he organized the Gay Liberation Front of Los Angeles in the wake of the Stonewall Rebellion and the massive anti-war mobilization.

Even <sup>in</sup> ~~when his~~ health ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> bad, his energy ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> amazing ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> other busy activists. He seems to attend or organize a dozen meetings daily. His phone rings constantly; from politicians all over the state, from gay activists all over the country, from other "cause" people, from gays in trouble, from gays angry or happy about the latest news. He is a genius at ~~turning~~ <sup>turning</sup> other people's half-developed ideas ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> turning ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> into ~~reality~~ <sup>reality</sup> headline-making reality. And he is an embarrassment to many who are ~~overconcerned~~ <sup>desperate for</sup>



~~that~~ <sup>to</sup> gays ~~should~~ have a conservative, spit-and-polish, professional image.

Morris' appearance and his life-style are a deliberate <sup>affront to</sup> ~~repudiation of~~ that image approach. ~~Not only does he reject the idea of having people judge us by the way we look.~~ He ~~flouts it,~~ and has worn costumes in public which would have made Janis Joplin look <sup>tea-party-</sup> ~~middleclass~~ respectable.

He had contacts enough with the earlier movement, settling in L.A.'s downtown gay ghetto (Bunker Hill) in 1958. He <sup>participated</sup> ~~was present~~ at the founding of San Francisco's Society for Individual Rights (in 1964) and joined in the late 60's picket lines in ~~Los Angeles~~ organized by PRIDE and TANGENTS. He was around ONE Inc a bit earlier, but the 1960's homophile organizations were inhospitable to Morris' funky style and his anarchist vision of "the new society." Few of us were then ready for "the Movement" -- that conglomerate of struggles: Black, Chicano, Women, Indians along with what this writer later called the peace-pot-porn-and-pig issues.

Morris appeared frequently on L.A. talk shows, and interviewers like Joe Pine began to zero in on his gayness: "Isn't that an embarrassment to the Peace Movement?" Morris's "minions" -- a gaggle of recognizably gay and very funky friends, making up his tremendously inventive Dow Action Committee, <sup>and minority rights</sup> were visible in most peace/demonstrations. He counted the top leaders of most radical groups among his personal friends -- and many people with whom he once did picket duty or jail time are now in high office around the state -- and those old associations pay off.

They have particularly paid off after Morris's change of tack and his decision to enter Democratic party politics -- with the establishment of the thriving Stonewall Democratic Club. He had scorned the establishment parties earlier, calling himself a sort of anarchist (he is never dogmatic about these labels) and he led the first Gay Lib incursions into the Peace and Freedom Party and the nascent Libertarian movement in the Spring of 1970.



He was at one time expected to be the P&F candidate for governor -- and it certainly would have been a colorful race.

He backed off that because of the needs of the Gay Community Services Center -- his proudest creation. He had been a one man gay community service center for a decade before gay lib, constantly bailing unfortunate (and often ungrateful) gays out of jail or providing temporary housing, while he made a precarious income at occasional antiques sales.

Friends who admired his organizing abilities, especially Don Slater and Don Jackson, had tried for some time before Dec 1969 to persuade Morris to devote himself to building a radical gay movement. They had seen revolutionary movements in other countries take up the cause of all other minorities, and leave gays behind. Gays needed to be part -- before hand, and openly -- of the American revolution, and as Morris saw it, it needed to be a peaceful cultural revolution, not a violent power trip. The revolution he envisioned would operate like the people's laughter in the story of The King's New Clothes.

At one supersized peace rally in San Francisco in late 1969, Morris looked at the sea of 300,000 protesters and decided that the Peace Movement didn't need him anymore, but that his own people, scattered mostly anonymously through that crowd, did. He decided to "come home."

The older homophile groups, he felt, were not addressing the general social issues which concerned gays and straights alike -- indeed they were hostile to the broad alliance sought by the movement, and very hostile to hippie styles, very image conscious.

Gay Liberation Fronts had already sprung up in New York, the Bay Area, Chicago, San Jose and Detroit. Morris, Slater and Jackson sent out a call, and some 20 showed up at Tangents' office for an organizing meeting -- not all radical, not all young, not all strangers to the older homophile groups. But Morris' minions formed a solid core of the group. And from the first,



whoever held the rotating chair, Morris was the chief driving force and fountainhead of new ideas -- outrageous ideas which worked, and which got on TV.

Picket lines, Gay-Ins, CSW parades, confrontations with every kind of authority, dances, rap sessions, media hypes, the ultimate transmutation of GLF into GCSC were each very much the brainchild and/or the hard work of Morris and his overflowing household. The Alpine County project, which many took quite seriously despite its unworkability, was transformed by Morris as one of the most successful media hypes, telling to all the world how desperate gays were to escape the hassle and persecution.

His approach to politics and his funky lifestyle, coupled with a manner reminiscent of many southern senators of a generation ago, confuses and infuriates many people. He has the manner of a flim-flam man, and of the many gains gays have made in the past eight years, Morris can take more of the credit than any three other persons.

Those who feel we should not shout our demands, but should work quietly behind the scenes, or have somebody "respectable" to front for us, are constantly dismayed by Morris, who is unsurpassed as a back-room manipulator, despite his preference for open, grass-roots politics. And he still collects on debts picked up in the Deep South Civil Rights Actions, in the 1968 streets of Chicago, or at the Century City riot, or his work organizing the Greater Los Angeles Council of Community Agencies.

As his health seems shakier, L.A. activists, including many who were originally put off by his style, wonder where we can possibly find ten super-competent people to take his place. But then Morris hasn't resigned yet....



# Morris Knight

## the father of Gay Pride retires

by Ryan Gierach

**W**hen the history of the 20th Century is written, prominent in the story of the great social movements will be the struggle for GLBT equal rights. One of the standout activists of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement about whom many chapters will undoubtedly be penned — the grandfather of the movement, some would say — is Morris Knight, founder of numerous gay institutions. Knight announced his retirement from the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission at a special ceremony in the commission's meeting room this past Monday, July 15. Perhaps most notable during his many years of involvement as a GLBT activist, Knight founded the first gay pride parade in Los Angeles (Christopher Street West).

"I won't stop working," said Knight. "I'm only stepping down from the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. I must write my memoirs and help where I can, but my health is failing and that has forced me to discontinue my efforts on behalf of Los Angeles County."

Knight's activist beginnings reach back into the 1940s when, as a college student, he began writing letters to the editor of the *New York Times*, denouncing Hitler's treatment of gays. But even before then, his social conscience was being shaped, as he refused to buckle to the bigotry he found in his Texas hometown. "I served an African-American family at my mother's roadside diner in 1946 — we lost the diner after that," Knight recalled.

The 1940s saw Morris Knight struggling with his pacifist beliefs as he saw the world go to war. "As a boy I went to the library and tried to read everything in it," Knight told the *Gay and Lesbian Times*. "On a shelf I found a pamphlet about Mahatma Gandhi. I was entranced, an instant convert to pacifism and using non-violent protest as a tool to gain social justice for the disadvantaged. I wrote the address listed in the pamphlet and began a correspondence with Gandhi's sons.... Now I was in college, having created the Oscar Wilde Club on the Teutonian University campus, perhaps the first official and open gay club in any campus, but I faced a dilemma. The world was at war and I was of the age to serve, but how to do so without wielding a gun? Instead I put my public administration training to work in the Army Corps of Engineers, designing infrastructure for the Pacific Islands as we were then hopping across on the way to Japan."

Knight's combination of activism and pacifism continued after the war and he took a position working as a social worker on a Native American reservation in New Mexico, working to eradicate venereal disease. He continued with this through the age of McCarthyism and its anti-communism, Cold War aftermath.

In the late 1960s, Knight

moved to Los Angeles and took an apartment on Bunker Hill, below what is now downtown Los Angeles — his apartment was leveled to make way for the 75-story First Interstate World Center. "It cost me all of \$35 a month," he narrated from that cottage, the young Knight walked the streets and gave out business cards with his home phone number on them, saying he could help gays who were in trouble. "I had a degree in public administration and expertise giving social services," he recalled.

"You might say I was a consumer social services agency — My first client called me from jail. He was arrested in a park, cruising for men, but was married and had kids — in 1957 that kind of arrest was the death-knell for married gay men, many of whom wanted to pass as straight. The police used the shame incidentally to harass gay men, doing roundups in the downtown parks, the MacArthur and La Fayette, or De Longpre Park in Hollywood — all parks where men would meet for anonymous sex, there being few bars catering openly to gays, and those bars being subject to frequent and brutal raids. I got the man off with a small fine."

Morris also helped arrange housing situations for gay men, being few landlords running rooming houses that allowed gays in. "Others, they would ask you for your gay friend's name," Knight recalled, "or even monitor your citizenship and politics for nationalism than with other users. Then they would simply put you out, or even have you arrested as a pervert." Knight created a coalition of gay men who owned large houses who would then rent to single gays.

Another fact of life then was that a gay man could be fired at any time for being gay. "Men had to live such careful, careful lives," said Knight, "if your boss got wind of you being gay, except in the film industry where there was more tolerance, you were fired. I spent much time talking to gay men with businesses who might help these poor men when they were discriminated against."







Kight also hospitalized many men out of jail, especially after bar raids. "There were many raids during which two dozen or more men, and again, often married men, would be arrested and forced to strip on the street corner for searches while the cops taunted them, calling them names."

Kight sought out gay nurses who could provide treatments for syphilis and gonorrhea on the fly, stealing the penicillin and needles they needed for treatment (at the time, men who had venereal diseases had to report their partners to the County Public Health Department, and if they were same-sex partners, both could be arrested for sodomy). That scheme to "liberate" supplies needed to rescue men's careers, lives, and reputations developed slowly into today's Jeffrey Goodman Clinic, currently a part of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, which serves 1,800 patients.

In 1957, Moers formed the Gay Liberation Resistance (GLR). The GLR would train people in how to do non-violent resistance, such as training protesters to respond to police in the most intelligent way. A militant GLR march demanded an immediate end to homosexual persecution. As an early precursor of the social ideals of the 1960s, including non-violent protest, peace, equality and economic justice, Kight used the GLR in Los Angeles to organize resistance to LAPD tactics and advocate for better overall treatment of gays by Los Angeles city and county government.

The GLR conducted marches, demonstrations, speeches, confrontations, meetings, and articles and essays to focus attention on gay existence and to demonstrate to the world the fairness of their struggle. Their visibility encouraged more people to take what was then a very difficult step—coming out of the closet. But that also fueled hate groups to oppose them with greater vigor.

McCadden Place in Hollywood became the salon of choice for sores, especially gay and lesbian people—a place both private and public, safe for any intellectual, artistic, creative, political, or socialistic activity. If you needed a space or floor on which to sleep, you slept; if you needed food, you ate; if you craved discussion, you talked. The halls were populated by street-urchins and junkies, but

would frequent—the guests got fortune cookies inside of which every message said the same thing: "The FBI is watching you." The inmates explained to Kight that questions were being asked about him and that he was under FBI surveillance. However, the Chinese owner said, in plain English, that he knew no English whenever the FBI agents interrogated him. Moers is still proud of his (rather large) FBI file.

Another chapter in Kight's record of social activism is his founding of the Dow Action Committee and his war with the Dow chemical company over the production of napalm. "I am a pretty good researcher," said Kight, "so it didn't take me long to find out that Dow had been given the patent for the same chemicals used by the Germans to gas the Jews, and were using another to burn forests and people in Vietnam. I began to write letters and do protests. We were eventually successful in getting the company to cease manufacture of both chemical agents, including napalm."

Kight's founding of the first gay pride came on a whim, on the one-year anniversary of the now historic Stonewall riots in New York City. "It was the year after the Stonewall riots," Kight told the Times, "and I got a call from an activist in New York asking me what we would be doing for the anniversary of the event." After sequestering himself in his apartment to contemplate, Kight decided to create a parade. "Not a march, mind you," he recalled. "A parade, a celebration of our gayness."

**Kight's activist beginnings reach back into the 1940s when ... he began writing letters to the editor of the 'New York Times,' denouncing Hitler's treatment of gays.**

"My singular goal through the years," Kight said,

"was to ease the fear and self-loathing we homosexuals seem to feel for ourselves, and to assist the greater community in facing down the fear and loathing with which they look upon us. The Gay Liberation Front bespoke my values of peace, love, progress, fairness, and more peace."

Throughout the '60s, Kight developed institutional responses to discrimination by bringing people together in coalitions by interest, ethnicity, language, politics and art. His home on

McCadden Place in Hollywood became the salon of choice for sores, especially gay and lesbian people—a place both private and public, safe for any intellectual, artistic, creative, political, or socialistic activity. If you needed a space or floor on which to sleep, you slept; if you needed food, you ate; if you craved discussion, you talked. The halls were populated by street-urchins and junkies, but would frequent—the guests got fortune cookies inside of which every message said the same thing: "The FBI is watching you." The inmates explained to Kight that questions were being asked about him and that he was under FBI surveillance. However, the Chinese owner said, in plain English, that he knew no English whenever the FBI agents interrogated him. Moers is still proud of his (rather large) FBI file.

One night at a Chinese Restaurant near LA's first gay community center on Wilshire—once Kight and other activists

also by judges and politicians-to-be. Kight was a master at getting people together to create social change. His Winner Solstice Parties were must-do events for such luminaries as San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, then a state Assemblymember, and Governor Gray Davis, who was then chief of staff to former Governor Jerry Brown. All during this time, the FBI investigated Kight and the GLRF conducted witch-hunts of gays throughout Los Angeles.



**“ We must remember those who went before us and what they did, what injuries they sustained, to allow us to be a part of this great country and this free society. ”**

— Morris Kight

However, the LAPD and other city officials stood in his way, refusing to give permission to walk Hollywood Boulevard, except if Kight's group stuck to the sidewalk. "What kind of parade is that?" asked Kight. "We fought on for the same right to parade as the Shriners have. Then they switched gears and said, 'Oh, have your parade,' but they slapped us with a \$1.5 million bond. In case we caused a riot, which, of course, if you look at it from their point of view, was likely with all we rallies marching. I went to a pay phone and called the A.C.U., who went to bat for us and got a judge to allow us the parade. So, in 1970, on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, hundreds of gay men, drag queens, lesbians, and a scattering of heterosexual supporters marched in broad daylight down Hollywood Boulevard, proudly and openly proclaiming their sexual orientation. A festival with booths and resources, games and dancing was added four years later, and from that grew hundreds of celebrations of gayness around the world now called Gay Pride."

It was during that year, 1970, that Kight and a few others created the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center to provide the destitute and dispossessed with basic services, such as health care, job placement, legal affairs and roommate matches. The Los Angeles Gay Community Services Center was the first gay community center in existence and today, in its current incarnation as the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, remains one of the largest and most powerful gay organizations in the world, with a budget totaling \$34 million dollars — larger than most small cities' budgets.

The importance of that agency cannot be underestimated, as it served as a model for others to follow, including San Diego's own GLBT Center (founded in 1973).

Local attorney and longtime San Diego activist Bridget

Wilson recalled Kight's support and involvement in the formative years of San Diego's GLBT community, including the opening of our own LGBT Center in 1973 and our first pride parade in 1974 — at a time when sodomy was still illegal in the state of California and most were still terrified at the prospect of coming out.

"Morris was kind of 'Mr. Gay Liberation: West Coast,'" recalled Wilson. "He was such an eccentric fellow, [and] one of the most intelligent people you met floating through the early days of Gay Liberation, and I think sometimes that didn't get recognized. We all moved in a universe for a very long time, where the only thing you could be if you were gay — and get away with it — was fisherman.... You know, you owned a bar, you were in the sex business or you were a bohemian."

Wilson recalled that at the time she first met Kight, she was serving as a military counselor at The Center and that Kight was especially close friends with The Center's first

civil rights movement and Vietnam were just inextricably linked to the rise of Gay Liberation. Even though Morris had been around before that, he was really someone who came into his own... around that time, and there just weren't a whole lot of people. You know, the stockbrokers and doctors and lawyers were all shivering in their cloths.

"I think there reached a moment in our intimate community movement," continued Wilson, "where people would look at someone like Morris and say, 'Well, who are you and what are you qualified to do?' And the reality is that he opened his mouth over than anybody else did.... I mean, remember, ... sodomy wasn't decriminalized here until 1976. So, it was in that kind of context that Morris and his kind of scrappy, deep voice would come and kind of lecture us — almost like a late-day Walt Whitman. I think he might have seen himself that way."

Though Wilson said many people would like to claim to have been part of San Diego's

Diego, but Morris had a very good sense of that. I think it's very easy for people to dismiss the influence of someone like him — in a world full of slick lobbyists and lots of money, where we've become just like everybody else. He had a philosophy that very much connected with the idea that being gay was, in and of itself, very much an element of social progress. I think over time, he got less and less appreciated, but he was often in San Diego during the early days of war and he supported."

In the 1970s Kight was appointed as a Commissioner to the LA County Human Relations Commission. From there he spent 23 years as one of the nation's highest level gay political appointees, shepherding Los Angeles County government's efforts to promote equality.

Meanwhile, Kight organized the Stonewall Democratic Club in 1975 to act as a means of electing gay-friendly officials to public office and to encourage openly gay people to run for office. The Stonewall

Democratic Club is currently the largest Democratic Club in California and gives endorsements and hundreds of thousands of dollars to gay-friendly candidates each year.

Long-time San Diego activist and San Diego Democratic Club member Gloria Johnson recalled that Kight had already established quite a name for himself by the time she came on the scene in the 1970s. "I met Morris in the '70s, and can tell you he was at the forefront then of the gay, women's and lesbian movements. As I remember it, he was very influential in San Diego, as much we have been to him."

In 1978, Kight also led the coalition that defied the Briggs Initiative, an initiative which threatened the livelihood of all gay government employees. Kight recalled his time on the committee to defeat the Briggs Initiative. "Briggs wanted to run for governor, and thought he could get votes by ousting gay teachers and school employees from

**"(P)eople would look at someone like Morris and say, 'Well, who are you and what are you qualified to do?' And the reality is that he opened his mouth more than anybody else did...."**

— Local attorney and activist  
**Bridget Wilson**

executive director and co-founder, Jess Jesop. "He was very good pals with Jess Jesop," said Wilson. "Jess had a long ponytail, and Morris was an even older hippie than Jess was.... I think people now don't understand.... It was a much different universe in terms of social issues. You know, Jess had been in Vietnam, and the American

first gay pride march in 1974, there were only about 200 to 300 people — and among them were herself and Morris Kight, who she said spoke at several of San Diego's early gay pride events.

"Morris Kight would show up over and over again to our events, because there were so few people who were capable and willing to be public.... No one in Los Angeles has ever cared that much about San



**“ You might say I was a one-man social services agency.... My first client called me from jail. He was arrested in a park cruising for men, but was married and had kids — in 1957.... ”**

— Morris Kight

their jobs,” Kight told the Times. “We formed a vast, statewide coalition of libertarians and activists including the American Civil Liberties Union, National Education Association, and political activists in San Francisco. We caught them lying to get signatures, even creating them, but an investigation sent one man to jail. We tried to do so in the courts, but we couldn’t get the initiative taken from the ballot. So we faced the voters with truth and beat the initiative.”

As the Asian-American community was expanding in Los Angeles, Kight realized that there were cultural differences in the coming out process for minorities, which led him to found Asian Pacific Gay and Friends in 1980, which became the Gay Asian Pacific Network (GAPN), a set of resources for the Los Angeles GLBT Asian Pacific-islander community. He also took the lead in addressing the alcohol and drug abuse rampant then (and now) in the gay community and founded Van Ness House, which serves hundreds of gays and lesbians and transgendered recovering from drug addiction each year.

But it was in the 1980s that Kight felt he made the largest impact on the culture at large. In late 1979, he was appointed to the LA County Human Relations Commission, making him one of the earliest gay appointees to a high level position in county government. It was this commission, under Kight’s urging, that came up with the notion of hate crimes, helping make specific hate motivated violence against GLBT people illegal in California.

“It is hugely important for the community to know that I was on that commission,” he said, “and could focus the attention of the county on gay and lesbian issues when no one wanted to talk about them.”

“Morris has always been an articulate, passionate and savvy advocate on behalf of human rights,” said Dennis Rojewski, current vice-president of the LA County Human Relations Commission. “His conviction,

his humor, his understanding of the process of social change, and human interaction has made him an invaluable leader in this arena. On the commission, he has always stood up for what he believed to be right — particularly for those who had no powerful voice of their own. His insights, his sense of history and his passion for human understanding and justice will be surely missed — but many of his legacies will live on long after his formal tenure has been completed.

Zey Vanclovsky, an LA County Supervisor who has misquoted Kight in the past several times added, “I’ve known him for 22 years, and he has been a living legend in the gay and lesbian struggle for equality. Some might take his place on the commission as a director, but he has been vital and valuable to the commission’s ability to make strides in tolerance for others.

“In making him an honorary commissioner,” Vanclovsky added, “which I just proposed to the board [the measure passed unanimously], an honor

has always been invited to cities to lend advice when they start a community center, or they invite him to be honored, or speak. Morris is probably the most eloquent public speaker the gay movement has known.

“What people don’t know,” Murray-Ramirez continued, “is that Morris will be on our Mount Rushmore along with Terry Perry and Harvey Milk and Harry Hay. They constructed the bridges by which we cross the river of discrimination and become full citizens. And Morris is in us what the American-lesbians’ storytellers were to them: truth-sayers and



Morris Kight and Nicole Murray-Ramirez

grows and gives shade and fruit and water to the disadvantaged, the dairy and third waylens. Hopefully, by planting trees and institutions I’ve made a few people less lonely in these 60 odd years.”

The City of West Hollywood planned a Chinese magnolia tree in West Hollywood’s Matthew Shepard Memorial Triangle in Morris’ honor on June 19. “We want to acknowledge how important Morris has been to the city and its residents in a way meaningful to him and others by planting a bit of shade and beauty here in our sacred space,” said West Hollywood city councilmember John Duran.

Kight urged that the Memorial Triangle be considered by the community to be “Quite Sacred Space.... We must remember those who were before us and what they did, what injuries they sustained, to allow us to be a part of this great country and this free society,” said Kight. “We must especially remember and honor those who show us that freedom is not a destination, but a journey. As this tree will give shade and beauty, so too shall our sustained effort to live free of harassment and discrimination.” ■

All during this time, the FBI investigated Kight.... One night at a Chinese Restaurant near LA’s first gay community center ... the guests got fortune cookies, inside of which every message said the same thing: ‘The FBI is watching you.’

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reserved for only three others, we put Morris up on the pedestal he belongs, he is in the very late ... statefulness of humanists and peace-makers and activists.”

Of Kight, longtime San Diego GLBT activist Nicole Murray-Ramirez added, “I’ve known Morris for three decades, not only as a Los Angeles activist, but as an activist of national nature. He

glue... Our community has often neglected our elders, leaders, and history. Let’s not do that this time, and let us honor, listen to, trust, and build a true giant among us.” A living legacy himself,

Kight has long been fascinated with planting trees, beginning with a cottonwood in his youth. “Planting trees is what I do, it is the metaphor for my life,” he said. “Trees are the future. I plant a thing that

## Morris Kight: Activist Statesman of L.A.'s Gay Community

Ciotti, Paul

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pg. E1

# Morris Kight: Activist Statesman of L.A.'s Gay Community

By PAUL CIOTTI, *Times Staff Writer*

It's early afternoon and Morris Kight is touring an AIDS hospice on a quiet street in West Los Angeles. The hospice is really a cheery little bungalow with shining hardwood floors, an immaculate kitchen, a large sunny back-

yard full of colorful flowers and neatly trimmed shrubs. But in the three side bedrooms, five people are dying of AIDS.

When Ron Wolff, the hospice's executive director, introduces him to a patient named Joey, Kight

hurries up to take his hand: "Hi, Joey."

Joey is too close to death to do more than give a hoarse croak. His limbs are shriveled, his face black, his skin shrunken against his skull. From his eyes to his chin, his face is

a open sore.

His family has just come in from out of town to see Joey. And now, stunned and aghast, they sit in the foyer crying.

Kight comforts them, too, then retires to the living room to talk to

Wolff. Although Kight is no stranger to AIDS—he says he knows more than 500 people who have died from it—the sight of such a pathetic case has left him close to tears. "I don't want to patronize

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# KIGHT: Gay Community's Longtime Activist

Continued from Page 1  
you," he tells Wolff. "but I am in awe of what you do."

"I hope you don't think I'm patronizing you," Wolff replies, "but this is an important day for me because I get a chance to meet a legend in the community."

□

For the last 30 years, Morris Kight has been a noisy fixture among Southern California gays, counseling people, holding protests, giving speeches, organizing institutions, fighting homophobia and defending gay rights.

To many of his friends and supporters, he is, at age 68, the "grand old man of the gay movement," "the elder statesman of the

gay community," "a national treasure" and a worthy candidate for the Nobel Prize.

But to his enemies, he's a "silly old man" who takes undue credit for other people's work and whose legendary status exists mainly in his own mind.

Kight is not an easy person to forget. With his aristocratically flared nose, pink cheeks, lank white hair and baroque manner of speech, he has the air of a Southern gentleman of independent means. He calls people "sir" and "dear lady." He refers to common thugs as "brigands" and junkmen as "ironmongers." In conversation, he has a delicate way of soothing his hair with his fingertips.

He has uncommonly good man-

ners. He's unusually sensitive to the needs of other people and revels in small courtesies—buying a boutonniere for a dinner guest or calling impending visitors to offer advice on parking. Erudite to a fault, he has an astonishingly agile memory for names and places (including their correct spellings), some from 50 years ago.

When it comes to dealing with the press, he's a grand master, and if asked a question he doesn't want to answer, he'll simply answer another one, albeit with great sincerity and conviction. "I have no apologies to make," he says, "for I am a fiercely political person."

□

For the last 11 years Kight has

lived in Hollywood on McCadden Place, just south of Sunset Boulevard in a big old open barn of a house full of small noisy dogs, assorted cats and a 14-foot dining room table from a Paramount board room.

Although his neighborhood has a dangerous feel—all parking on this part of McCadden and neighboring streets has been banned for years to curb drug trafficking—Kight always leaves the front door wide open during the day.

"I want to indicate through example that I'm not afraid," he says. "I don't have any draperies or shades on the windows. I never have in any house I've ever lived in. Gays like openness. It's a metaphor."

At numerous functions over the years, politicians such as Mayor Bradley, Sam Yorty, Bella Abzug,

Zev Yaroslavsky, Gray Davis, Chip Carter and Gore Vidal have all come to McCadden Place to pay their respects.

But such functions are much less frequent nowadays, and the room has a dusty, unused look. "It is not the place where the power in the community is anymore," says Jim Kepner, longtime gay activist and founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Which is not to say that Kight necessarily has lost influence in an absolute sense.

"He took the leadership on gay issues long before most people were comfortable coming out of the closet," West Hollywood Councilman Steve Schulte says.

Because of Kight's work, the gay movement now is "diverse," including not just the "progressive" left where Kight started but also

"gay Republicans and mainstream political gays," says Schulte, who adds that if Kight no longer is at the center of the movement, it's only because no one is.

Kight says his most important contributions to the movement are attitudes and ideas.

"I have elevated the mood," he says. "I have made it OK to be gay and proud to be lesbian. I have inculcated the idea of community." Most important of all, he asserts that he has for gays "made it fashionable to be gay."

□

When Kight first arrived in Los Angeles in 1957, he lived on South Hope Street in a cottage with a big porch, lots of land, a native walnut tree, geraniums, fern palms and bougainvillea.

Please see KIGHT, Page 3

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# KIGHT: Elder Statesman of Gay Community

Continued from Page 2

In those days, it wasn't "very gay to be gay. It was a blind horror."

As a way to help, Kight passed the word in the city that he hoped to be of service to gays and lesbians on a "non-judgmental, non-threatening basis," whereupon, "they started coming to me in droves—hundreds of people coming and going. And the number increased: someone is in jail; someone is threatening suicide; somebody has a dead companion in their house and wondering what to do with the body. . . .

"It's a real problem," Kight says, "if you don't know how to dispose of the dead."

Although Kight is eminently re-

spectable today—he's quoted constantly in the press on gay issues and is the president of the County Commission on Human Relations—in the '60s, he was considered a radical activist. He participated in the civil rights and anti-war movements. His constituency included drag queens, hustlers and street people—"the sort of people that respectable gays sniffed at," activist Kepner says.

What was harder to dismiss was his genius for publicity. Kight had an "inventiveness and rashness and campiness" that was effective in demonstrations, Kepner says, adding, "I swear he could smell" the news media.

Some gays consider Kight an egomaniac. "If there is a TV cam-

era at a demonstration," gay activist John O'Brien says, "he will dart out of line, run and try to get in front of it. He is obsessed with being on camera. He puts out news releases to promote himself. He goes out of his way to get awards. He says he was active in the movement for 50 years." But people who were active 50 years ago say they "never heard of him."

In person, O'Brien says, Kight may come across as a "nice, sweet old man," but "if you turn your back you might find a knife in it."

In Kight's opinion, such critics are overcome by their own envy: "They wish they had the same sense of risk, daring andchutzpah." And they're jealous that they haven't done as much with their

lives as he has with his.

Some people resent Kight, says lesbian activist and long-time ally Ivy Bottini, "because when he sees something [that needs to be done] he goes out and does it. . . . He doesn't need a crowd to tell him he's right."

To Susan McGreivy, a Los Angeles gay-rights lawyer, people who try to demean Kight's contributions are ignorant and probably "haven't been in the movement very long, either. There is no doubt that at one point Morris Kight was at the center of the gay universe. . . . Ever since I can remember, he has gotten up at 7 a.m., spending the day jaw-boning, talking people out of money, urging people to take a stand, making his home the center—and all for the greater good of the community.

Please see **ACTIVIST**, Page 4



RANDY LEFFINGWELL / Los Angeles Times

To many, Morris Kight is the gay movement's "grand old man."

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# ACTIVIST: A Continuing Gay-Rights Mission

Continued from Page 3

"This is the man," says McGreivy, who confronted a meeting of the California Psychological Assn. "with a sign saying, 'Gays are not sick.' . . . If he had never done anything else in his whole life, he'd deserve our gratitude for that alone."

"If he had been born straight he'd probably be the senior senator from California today."

□

By Kight's account, his decision to devote himself full time to gay liberation was practically a mystical revelation. In November, 1969, having spent two years trying to stop Dow Chemical Co. from making napalm for Vietnam, he was

invited to speak at an anti-war rally at the polo grounds in San Francisco.

Kight, then 50, recalls standing on the speakers' platform looking out over a crowd of 350,000 people. And when he saw all the "young, bright, healthy, scrubbed, see-your-dentist-twice-a-year people opposing the war," it dawned on him that the anti-war movement didn't need his help. "Let the 350,000 do it."

He caught a bus to the downtown airline terminal in San Francisco, bought a \$12 ticket on a PSA flight back to Los Angeles and cleared his desk of all other projects in favor of what thereafter would be his main mission in life—gay liberation.

"And the rest," he says, "is

history."

□

For the first meeting of the Gay Liberation Front, 18 people showed up. "Everyone wanted to do something," Kight says. For its initial project, the group decided to get rid of the "FAGGOT STAY OUT" sign hanging over the bar in Barney's Beanery in West Hollywood. "It was ignominy," Kight says. In January, 1970, the group began holding shop-ins, change-ins and sit-ins until management agreed to take down the sign (which now hangs over the bar alcove in Kight's living room).

Those early years were "magical," says Kight, who set up what he says was the only hot line for

out-of-the-closet gays west of the Mississippi. As many as 350 people a day called, mainly for help and reassurance they weren't alone.

In two years, he says, he helped organize 175 protests and demonstrations. The police, in turn, he says, raided his house three times looking for subversive mailing lists. Many in the gay community were terrified. "People were saying, 'He is embarrassing us all with those radical ideas,'" Kight says. "'He is going to get us killed. We'll all be killed. This fool is killing us.'"

Matters reached a fever pitch in summer 1970, when in response to a challenge from a group of New York gays, Kight organized a gay pride parade to commemorate the Stonewall riot, an incident in which gays attacked police for harassing a gay bar.

Not everyone thought the pa-

rade was a good idea. Police Chief Ed Davis "argued that it would be just as responsible to let thieves and robbers have a parade," Kepner says. And in any case, "it would cost a lot of money and blood to protect us which they didn't want to do."

Actually, Davis was right about one thing: On the morning of the parade, Kight says he received eight separate death threats. "One of them," Kight says, "said, 'Is it OK if I kill you?'"

"'Oh, not today,' I said. 'I'm very busy today. I have to put on a parade. Tomorrow would be much better. How about Monday? Tuesday. Call Wednesday. Ta-ta.'"

□

Nowadays, Kight says, it's hard to remember how rampant homophobia was. But in 1971, when

Kight and Don Kilhefner, another activist from the Gay Liberation Front, founded the Gay Community Services Center in an old clapboard Victorian at 1640 Wilshire Blvd., it promptly became a tourist attraction.

"The tour buses stopped outside," Kight says, "and here were all the tourists taking pictures through the windows, which they took home to Des Moines and Indianapolis and showing them to their families: 'You don't know what they are into in Los Angeles. They are really degenerate. They are really degraded. They have a Gay Community Services Center.'"

"And then started the calls from around the country—'My aunt was at your place recently.' We'd spend a couple of hours with them on the phone. And in a couple of days,

Please see KIGHT, Page 5

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# KIGHT: Gay Community's Grand Old Man

Continued from Page 4

they'd show up with their luggage. True, true, true. They'd show up with their luggage."

□

As the years passed, Kight carried his efforts from the streets to the halls of power—often with surprising success. In September, 1973, says Doug Sarff, former news editor of the Gay Advocate, LAPD sent young vice police into Griffith Park to arrest gay males on the trails.

Before they were through, "They arrested 37 people as fire hazards," Sarff says. (The suspects, Kight says, included one interracial heterosexual couple sunning themselves on a rock.)

Despite the ridiculousness of the charges, Sarff says, many gays were so terrified they hired expensive lawyers, none of whom were needed. Before the hearing, Kight had cut a deal with the prosecutor and the judge to let all the defendants off with a \$10 fine. Meantime, he played the courtroom like an old violin. "He had a seat in front of the bench," Sarff says, "and every so often he'd stand up and make a speech."

The judge, who just wanted the circus out of his courtroom, proposed a fine of \$200 a person, prompting Kight to jump up and say, "Judge, that wasn't the deal we made!"

The judge capitulated, Sarff says, and what had formerly been bad

melodrama now turned into farce: "People were dancing across the courtroom waving their \$10 bills to pay the bailiff."

□

On a warm Tuesday on the 11th floor of the Hall of Records, Kight presides over the biweekly meeting of the County Human Relations Commission. In contrast to the political T-shirts he usually wears, today he is in a tan suit and blue shirt.

As chairman, Kight is smooth, efficient, polished and professional in keeping events moving swiftly.

On this day, the group has visiting dignitaries—two members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights—who want the commission

to endorse a forum they have planned in the city later this fall. Kight is not enthusiastic about the request because he privately contends the Civil Rights Commission under President Reagan has been deplorably right-wing.

"Are you searching for ideas?" Kight asks innocently. "Let me toss in a few if I may."

## A Few Suggestions

In rapid order, he denounces a plan by Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Harold Ezell to seize cars of those who hire casual labor off the streets. He complains that "as a feminist" he doesn't see much "in the way of gender parity" in the proposed forum's speaker list. He urges support for proposed national AIDS anti-discrimination legislation.

And he talks about the "scarring" devastation of white racism in the black community.

He closes by noting that the tight deadline will make it impossible for his commission to endorse the Civil Rights group on such short notice, but that they had the commission's best wishes for the success of their project.

No sooner have the federal commissioners walked out the door than Kight turns to his group's other members. "Let's debrief ourselves. Did we achieve anything?"

"I think so," says Roger Ragan, staff assistant director. "I was pleasantly surprised at the names on the list."

Kight takes exception. The phrase *crypto-fascists on the march* comes up. Kight concludes the meeting by observing that the commission will keep its word to support the forum and send observers. "But we're not going to beat the bushes for them."

Besides, he asks, "why did they just come out here the last few days? We've been here 40 years."



# Al Martinez; L.A. Gay Rights Icon Loud, Proud, Moving On

Martinez, Al . Los Angeles Times ; Los Angeles, Calif. [Los Angeles, Calif]22 July 2002: E.1.

[ProQuest document link](#)

## ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

No one was listening to [Morris Kight] this time. Those who had gathered on the eighth floor of the county administration building were not to be denied. Kight was retiring after 22 years, and by God, they were going to honor him whether he liked it or not.

They wanted everyone to know that Kight, almost 83, was a hero of the gay rights movement in L.A., and Kight wanted everyone to know it too. No stranger to publicity, he had telephoned me to be there, and I hesitated not a moment.

Texas born, Kight knew almost from the beginning that he was "different." His father, a blue-collar worker at many jobs, knew it too. "He brought me a present once when I was 4," Kight recalls. "It was an embroidery set. Then he kissed me and said he knew something about me. He just sensed it, and he wanted to make it easier for me."

## FULL TEXT

Clearly, Morris Kight was in a hurry.

He wanted to get through the ritual, even though it was a day when honors were being heaped upon him as a retiring member of the L.A. County Human Relations Commission.

He fidgeted, made mumbled references to moving on and rose to lean on his walker midway through a laudatory talk by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to indicate that Yaroslavsky should wind it up.

It was, in some ways, characteristic of the man who has been in the forefront of the gay liberation movement for almost half a century. Speak out. Get it done. Hit the streets. Move on.

But no one was listening to Kight this time. Those who had gathered on the eighth floor of the county administration building were not to be denied. Kight was retiring after 22 years, and by God, they were going to honor him whether he liked it or not.

Later, a tree would be planted in his honor in a small park in West Hollywood, a city in which so much of Kight's work had been done. But for now, members of the commission, friends, supporters and co-activists in the gay community wanted to thank him for standing tall when it was neither popular nor safe to do so.

They wanted everyone to know that Kight, almost 83, was a hero of the gay rights movement in L.A., and Kight wanted everyone to know it too. No stranger to publicity, he had telephoned me to be there, and I hesitated not a moment.

Why not celebrate a man who through deed and effort had demanded a place in the sun for a group of people defiled and murdered by religions and governments throughout human history? Why not be there?

"Kight," as someone at the meeting pointed out, "was always there."

Felled by a series of strokes, he is frail and must use a walker to get around these days. And yet, there remains a patrician authority in his voice, a crisp, articulate degree of command that will not be silenced. He was, as someone has said, "the liberator," and in some ways, he still is.

Texas born, Kight knew almost from the beginning that he was "different." His father, a blue-collar worker at many jobs, knew it too. "He brought me a present once when I was 4," Kight recalls. "It was an embroidery set. Then he kissed me and said he knew something about me. He just sensed it, and he wanted to make it easier for me."

His mother was less forgiving. She maintained her silence throughout her life but left behind notes that burned with hatred toward homosexuals. Kight read them only after her death, and destroyed them.

"She'd have been happier," he said to me in a voice oddly muted, "if she had loved me."

It was Rosa Parks' refusal to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955 that "radicalized" Kight. He came to L.A. because, inspired by Parks' courage, he felt the time was right for a nonviolent movement on behalf of gays, and this was the place where it should begin.

"I never denied or concealed my gayness," he said, peering out from large, horn-rimmed glasses. His thinning hair is white and his skin pale. "I just eased out the closet door in stages. But I never pretended to be anything I wasn't."

Once here, he says, he founded the Gay and Lesbian Resistance in 1957, one of the first organizations of its kind in the country. For nine years he conducted training classes every Sunday afternoon that taught gays how to react in the face of insults and brutality. Twelve years later, he was instrumental in establishing the Gay Liberation Front in L.A., only the third such organization in the nation.

For all those years, Kight has offered leadership to the uncertain, pride to the demeaned and comfort to the dying. In 1970, he and others marched through Hollywood to honor the first anniversary of the so-called Stonewall Uprising in New York. It was the start of the Gay and Lesbian Pride celebration and parade here.

And it galvanized a population that for too long had been almost invisible.

Critics have called Kight theatrical and egotistical, but leaders must always possess those traits. Theatrics are necessary to gather a crowd, and self-assurance is required to convince others to follow a path of resistance they might otherwise avoid, or liberation will never be achieved.

"Morris comes from an era where, to be openly gay, you were putting your physical safety on the line," Yaroslavsky once told an interviewer, adding: "When the history of civil liberties is written, he'll be there."

"It has been exciting," Kight says as we talk in a corner of the room where the Human Relations Commission is about to begin its first meeting without him in more than two decades. There is a prevailing sadness to the event, a sense that an important era is ending.



Kight is made an honorary commissioner, and then he's halfway out the door by the time the commission is called to order to begin its formal meeting without him. Walker or no walker, he moves away from the meeting room as quickly as he can. It's time to step out, to get going, to move on.

"That was the past," he says, in a tone meant to categorize his honored yesterdays. "There are still things to do in the future."

And the liberator moves determinedly down the hall toward the elevator.

\*

Al Martinez's columns appear Mondays and Thursdays. He's at [al.martinez@latimes.com](mailto:al.martinez@latimes.com).

# MORRIS KIGHT

Biographical Notes in  
STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB Program  
9 November 1978

It seems that any analysis of what Morris Kight represents cannot be done in any regularized resume style. The many themes of his life seem to run concurrently, with some interruption here and there, and a recommencement at another time; but through it all is a pattern of social service delivery, elimination of communicable diseases, correction of the horrors of discrimination against minorities, and doctrine pacifism.

He has tried to put all of this in some order and has found it hard to do, indeed, impossible. Therefore, he has asked me to step in to try to bring some order into an analysis of what he has been doing. In a quest for simplicity and logical progression (in a life which has included a myriad of activities and involvements), here are some headings and data:

**DOCTRINAIRE PACIFISM:** He became aware of ahimsa and satyagraha from the writings of Mohandas Gandhi in 1933 and gradually developed into a pacifist. He worked during World War II to call attention to genocide being conducted in Europe, and at the end of the war he raised monies for relief of the victims. He opposed the police action in Korea. In the 1950's he worked in opposition to the use of nuclear power for weaponry. In 1963 he began organized opposition to the war in Indo-China. He became a member of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. In 1967 he was founder of the Dow Action Committee. He was a pioneer in calling for research on the use of herbicides and defoliants for military use, and he opposed their use. He participated in teach-ins, demonstrations, numerous fasts, and other related activities in opposition to the war. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the War Resisters League (1972-1975).

**ELIMINATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY:** Beginning in 1937 he found women and men carriers of syphilis and counseled them into treatment for it. He often drove various persons to the U.S. Public Health Service Venereal Disease Clinic in Hot Springs, Arkansas. From 1947 to 1956 he was a volunteer worker in the venereal disease eradication program in New Mexico. From 1958 onward he counseled many carriers in Los Angeles, leading them to the city and county clinics, identifying doctors who would treat cases without judgement. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Venereal Disease Clinic of the Gay Community Services Center in Los Angeles. He worked on the rehabilitation of its space, assisted in its licensure, helped identify a staff and a Medical Director. He generated public funding for the clinic — the first such public funding in history. From 1973 to 1978 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Free Clinic Council, urging attention to communicable diseases.

**TUBERCULOSIS:** From 1950 until the discovery of major cures he did health education about tuberculosis and its eradication. He coordinated the work of 9,000 volunteers in a tuberculosis identification, cure and treatment program.

**PART OF THE SOLUTION:** From 1937 to 1942 he attempted to integrate the university he attended, later joining the NAACP. He has insisted on an integrated board of direc-

tors of any activity he joined. This activity eventually took him into work with the Southern Conference Educational Fund in Louisville, Kentucky, and association with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

**PUBLIC POLICY:** From 1942 onward he has taken part in special study health services administration. In 1942 he graduated from the U.S. Career Service Training School. He has analyzed and written widely on public policy issues, particularly in the areas of civil liberties, civil rights, social service delivery mechanisms, defense budgets, foreign policy, urban renewal and housing.

**GAY LIBERATION:** He directed one-to-one services in behalf of members of the community in Los Angeles from 1958 onward. His areas of concern included housing, job finding, bail bonds, counseling, identification of resources, and advocacy.

In 1968 he founded the Gay Liberation Front of Los Angeles. He assisted in defining its philosophy, projected the first demonstration and took an active part in many such street demonstrations. In 1970 he assisted in the establishment of Christopher Street-West, which along with New York, was the first public commemoration of the Stonewall Uprising of 28 June 1969. He was a resource person for the Gay Survival Committee of the Gay Liberation Front.

He was one of the founders of the Gay Community Services Center. He was one of those who conceptualized the first such agency in history. He was a member of its Board of Directors from 1971 until his chosen retirement in 1977. During his time on the Board he served as President, Vice President and Secretary. During those years he was a full-time worker at the Center working in various areas. He was Director of the Public Funding Task Force of the Center from the time of its creation. As such he assisted in the identification of three million dollars for the Center. He was Director of the Private Funding Task Force, and as such he assisted in developing sufficient funds to purchase the Center's property. In 1978 he asked to be retired from the Center.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** He has been active on many political fronts. He helped, along with Howard Fox and others, to found the Stonewall Democratic Club. He was the club's first president and he remains actively involved with it. In 1978 he became a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee. He is a member of the Subcommittee on Civil and Human Rights of the Platform Committee, and a Co-Chair of the Delegate Selection/Affirmative Action Committee of the California Democratic Party.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Morris is in daily communication with a true cross-section of our population. He is never too busy to take time out of his frantic schedule to listen to anyone. He has received several hundred phone calls in a single day. He certainly has not forgotten the persons who represent the grassroots. He is almost always available as a speaker, counselor, mediator, understanding listener, and advocate of just causes. He is truly a public person.



# Morris Kight

1428 North McCadden Place, Los Angeles, California 90028 / Tel. (213) 483-3928

**MORRIS KIGHT** celebrated his 70th Birthday, 19 November 1989 ...

One of the Pioneers of Lesbian/Gay Liberation ...

Community Organizer ... Feminist ... Pacifist ... Generalist ... Universalist ... Social Services Organization Founder ... Lesbian/Gay Liberationist ...

Since 1980, Commissioner of Human Relations for the County of Los Angeles  
(Vice President 1981-1988; President 1988-1989) ...

Founder 1965, Dow Action Committee ... Founder 1969, Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles ... Founder 10 May 1970, Christopher Street West/Los Angeles ... Principal Co-Founder May 1971, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center/Los Angeles ... Co-Author 1972, Gay and Lesbian Rights Platform/Chicago ... Grand Marshall 1972, Gay and Lesbian Freedom Parade/San Francisco ... Grand Marshall 23 June 1973, Christopher Street Liberation Day/ New York ... Grand Marshall 1975 and 1977, Christopher Street West/Los Angeles ... Grand Marshall 1978, Dade County Lesbian/Gay Freedom Parade ... Principal Co-Founder 1973, Van Ness Recovery House (First in History for Lesbian/Gay Alcoholism/Addiction Recovery) ... Principal Co-Founder 1975, Stonewall Democratic Club ... Co-Founder 1976, Gay and Lesbian Caucus/California Democratic Council ... Co-Founder 1977, Gay and Lesbian Caucus/California Democratic Party ... Statewide Issues Chairperson 1985-1986, California Democratic Council ... Co-Founder 1980, Asian Pacific Lesbians/Gays ... Principal Co-Founder 1984, McCadden Place Collection ...

Recipient 1983, Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award/American Civil Liberties Union ... Recipient 1989, Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award/Southern California Americans for Democratic Action ... Honoree Since 1985, Morris Kight Humanitarian Award/Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center ... Honoree Since 1988, Morris Kight Humanitarian Award/The Experience ...

- Authored by Frank Vel

# HOW IT ALL BEGAN

BY MORRIS KIGHT

I marched down Hollywood Blvd. on Sunday, June 28, 1970, in a splash of color, sound, joy and Gay Pride. Every group in the Southern California area was represented, all found a place for their own philosophy, their own commitment. Fears and doubts faded away, and no one could get enough of it. At the end of this historic event, the vast crowds on the Boulevard followed after the parade during dispersal eager to get a bit more of the magic of that exciting event. This was the First Christopher Street West Parade.

As easy as all that sounds it was not quite that easy! The genesis of this event, the Stonewall Uprising, the Gay Liberation Movement, the exciting growth of the Metropolitan Community Churches, and The Movement forerunners has been gone into quite well in James Kepner's article in this Programme. The genesis of this event is something else.

As Brother Jim has said, so correctly, it was a bit of time before we all realized the miracle of Christopher Street; and then began the legend about that night, and the following days of rage. Those who "were there," "who saw it all," "who knew what it meant" are now legion; but in fact the enormity of that struggle was a full month in penetrating our consciousness. I had several calls from Christopher Street from pay telephones during the time; and frankly, I felt it was important, wished I were there, but deep in my heart I could not sort it out. That sorting process came later.

In the press I have called it a "non-violent riot" and this has brought some consternation from friends who know that I have never thrown a brick, and have always advocated social changes through non-violent means. I have called it non-violent because not a shot was fired, property damage was next to nothing, no one was killed, nor was there any wounding except for a few minor abrasions.

Whether that is, or is not, a correct analysis is not important; that within one year several Gay activists around the New York area felt it was an event worthy of commemoration is important. Thus late in May, The Rev. Troy Perry and I got letters from friends in New York, asking what we were going to do out on the Coast. We exchanged telephone calls, and I said "Troy let me think about it, and suggest a plan." To have a moment to think in my house was next to impossible in those days — remember the Gay Liberation Front was still meeting in a non-pay owned dance hall, and all calls were handled out of there, all two hundred a day! . . . and the flood of welcome visitors was widening.

Thus, I took the telephone off the hook for a few hours, did not answer the door and started the process of thinking out what to nominate. A massive teach-in



(we'd done that already), a series of decentralized events (we were doing that), a series of small demonstrations at the symbols of oppression, repression, and exploitation (that had been done), what? So somewhere out of the consciousness of the March to the Pentagon, San Francisco Anti-War March, April 15, 1967, Century Plaza, June 23, 1967, Selma II, and any other such popped the idea. Why not have a parade right here in Los Angeles on a major street? So I called Brother Bob Humphries to go with me and off to Troy's office, in an older-house-in-the-rear in East Hollywood. Beloved Brother Bob Ennis was there in those days and the four of us sat down. I recall saying "Now you may not like what I propose, but please listen." Thus, for forty-five minutes I rapped down the joys, the hazards, the enormity of the mobilization, and the positive results to be achieved. By the time I was done, Troy was up from behind the desk, throwing his beautiful arms into the air, and saying: "Morris, let's do it."

Los Angeles asks forty days to apply for a parade permit, and here we were forty-four days ahead of the agreed-upon time! So we went right down to the Police Station, got the forms, filled them in, and all this almost unilaterally, and called the first meeting.

So we all gathered at the Virgil Street Parsonage and talked it out. Every organization around was represented, and those representing the many tendencies in our community. To this day I wonder why not one said: "It can't be done." So we did it, and together, and lovingly, and respecting one another's individualities.

In great haste we raised sufficient money to get it going, someone loaned \$500 (re-paid one year later),



leaflets were printed, groups mobilized, and the show was on the road. We had suspected that the Police might not like to issue such a revolutionary permit, and they did not like it at all. A devastating hearing in which we were likened to "robbers and burglars," and a few restrictions put upon us — that we should have to get a security bond of \$1,000,000 to cover personal damages in "the riots," \$500,000 to cover "property damage in the wake," and \$500 cash to "pay the police." These same police who are paid by us all collectively, including the Gay Community!

So I called the American Civil Liberties Union and used emergency procedures to launch a lawsuit. Within two hours Attorney Herbert Selwyn had agreed to take our case, and we were in motion. Judge Richard Schauer granted a temporary injunction and asked the Police to "show cause." This matter was finally settled at noon on Friday before the march on Sunday! Literally a photo-finish. That no one doubted that we would win, nor that our cause was not just, nor that we would march on the sidewalks if necessary, is to the everlasting commitment of our community.

So marched we did, with butterflies in our stomachs, with legitimate doubts and fears, but with enormous courage and devotion. Ms. Helen Nicheus of Anubis at the head, "Bo" Siewert in the second wave, then the massive memberships of GLF/LA, MCC, SPREE, and thirty other groups joining in. Our joy seeing more and more of us arrive, more and more creative showings of pride, but always wondering? . . . "What awaits us on the Boulevard?" Well, what awaited us was 30 to 50,000 delighted residents, spurred on by the radio and television campaigns brought on by the Police Department attitude. So there it was! The thing we could not do for ourselves the Police did for us. Who would make a public issue of a Gay Parade? A lawsuit to demand one, ah! that is news!

So the public loved us, rushed into the middle of the street to greet us, leaving a path barely wide enough to negotiate. I shall never forget the vigor and diplomacy of Brother Cliff Lottieri persuading that crowd to make a pathway for us.

So down the Boulevard we marched, proud, successful, the winners! What our brothers/sisters had done at Stonewall in rage, we honored with determination.

The rest is history. I was so moved by the beauty of it all that I could not sleep, but just walked the floor the rest of the night to enjoy the last bit of that magnificent day.

We have come a long way since those far-off days. We have long since established that Gay is Good, indeed Gay is Great! The rage and anger is largely gone, our determination to serve one another, and to carve out our own lives is an established fact, and now established institutions are dealing with us, often taking the initiative to do so, and a whole new generation of Gays will only be able to guess at what it was once like.

Stonewall, Requiescat in Pace! You did your work, fine Brothers and Sisters, you did it well. Wherever each of you is, stand high, as you did that night, and know that we are forever in your debt.

Footnote to history: the name of the game. We spent two days listing names, discarding them, and narrowing the list down. Bob Humphries came flying out of the rear of my house and said "I have it, Christopher Street-West." . . . and he did! That he is important to Christopher Street-West at San Francisco, along with Rev. Ray Broshears, Perry, and a vast group of volunteer workers is proof of the efficacy of that name.





## Kight, Morris (1919-2003)

by Linda Rapp

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Activist Morris Kight was a determined and courageous--if sometimes eccentric--fighter for glbtq rights. He worked vigorously for decades in the struggle for equality.

Morris Kight was born in Comanche County in the heart of Texas on November 19, 1919. He grew up on the family farm. Kight recognized his sexual orientation as a youngster. He stated in a 1994 interview that he began exploring his sexuality while in high school and that he was "happy to say that [he] didn't have a trace of guilt feeling about that."

Kight went on to study at Texas Christian University, from which he graduated in 1941. During these years in Fort Worth he was, in his own words, "somewhat active as a gay person," although the social scene for gay men was extremely limited. He recalled "occasional gatherings" at people's homes. Discretion was essential because of the oppressive legal and social situation for gay men.

After graduation Kight moved to New Mexico. There he discovered "underground gay communities" in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. At the time, he recalled, Albuquerque had several gay bars to which police generally turned a blind eye. Kight described the gay scene in 1940s and 1950s New Mexico as "furtive"--necessarily so since men convicted under the state's sodomy law faced a prison term.

Kight married in 1950. The union, which lasted until 1955, produced two daughters. Once Kight became a gay rights activist he avoided mentioning his marriage to any but a few of his closest friends, apparently for fear that his credibility as a spokesman for gay rights would be diminished.

Kight moved to Los Angeles in 1958. He had worked with a theater group in Albuquerque in the early 1950s but was generally more interested in being a social activist than in earning a salary. Nevertheless, he needed some source of income. For four years he had a part-time job as a novelty vendor at Dodger Stadium during baseball games.

He also began holding semi-annual "garage sales" at which he sold antiques picked up on the cheap at thrift shops. In time, dealers and well-to-do buyers, including Liberace, became regular attenders of his sales.

In Los Angeles Kight found a much more vibrant gay community than those he had known in Texas or New Mexico. Kight became involved, opening his house for meetings to foster gay identity and pride, and helping arrested gay men secure lawyers so that they could get out of jail.

As the war in Vietnam escalated, Kight, a Gandhian pacifist, devoted an increasing amount of time to protests against it. He first became well known not for championing glbtq rights but for the founding in 1967 of the Dow Action Committee, an anti-war group protesting the chemical company's production of Agent Orange. For his efforts he was vilified as a Communist sympathizer, but he persisted. He encouraged gay men and lesbians to join him in the cause but met with a mixed response. Many were leery of the



**FAGOTS STAY OUT!**

Top: A portrait of Morris Kight by Stathis Orphanos.  
Above: A sign from a West Hollywood restaurant that inspired a protest led by Morris Kight and Rev. Troy Perry.  
Images courtesy Stathis Orphanos. Copyright © Stathis Orphanos. All Rights Reserved.



strong presence of Socialists in the organization, but others worked with Kight in demonstrations, sit-ins, leafleting campaigns, and other forms of non-violent actions.

To this point Kight, though a fixture in the underground gay community in Los Angeles, had not joined more visible homophile groups such as the Mattachine Society, which he considered elitist. In the wake of Stonewall, however, he became one of the founders of the Los Angeles branch of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in December 1969.

One of the Los Angeles GLF's first activities was a protest against a West Hollywood chili parlor called Barney's Beanery, which had a sign that read "Fagots [sic] Stay Out." Led by Kight and the Reverend Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church, gay men and lesbians demonstrated outside the restaurant, demanding removal of the offensive sign.

When the owner, who had in fact never denied anyone service, refused to take down the sign--and indeed added more--Kight and other protesters began coming in, ordering a single item, and remaining for hours. Since the owner was losing money, he repeatedly called the Sheriff's Office to try to evict the protesters. After three months the owner relented and took down the signs, handing them over to Kight and others.

The victory was short-lived. Once the protesters and the news media had departed, the owner replaced the sign. It only came down for good in 1984 when Valerie Terrigno, the first lesbian mayor of West Hollywood, removed it herself as soon as the city council passed an anti-discrimination ordinance.

Kight was a firm believer in the importance of media attention, and he relished the spotlight, which is exactly where he put himself in 1970, only a few months after the Barney's Beanery demonstrations. GLF member Don Jackson had proposed that some two hundred gay men and lesbians should move to the tiny community of Alpine County, California, register to vote, and then take control of the local government.

Jackson's plan was to proceed quietly, but that was not Kight's style. In short order he and fellow GLF member Don Kilhefner were calling press conferences to announce the new "gay Mecca." The story received nationwide coverage but also drew a lot of hostility, and the plan never went forward. Kight's heavy-handed tactics caused a rift between him and some other leaders in the gay rights movement, but he never stopped working in the way that he thought best.

Another of Kight's early projects was the organization of Christopher Street West, a march held in Los Angeles on June 28, 1970, the first anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York. Los Angeles Police Commission officials attempted to block the event by denying a permit unless the organizers put up the exorbitant sum of 1.5 million dollars in security bonds. The Reverend Perry sought the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, which won a court order that allowed the parade to proceed and eliminated the onerous costs. Christopher Street West has evolved into one of the country's largest pride parades. Kight was a frequent participant over the years, last marching in Christopher Street West in 1999.

Kight was also instrumental in establishing the Gay Community Services Center (later renamed the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center), which opened its doors in October 1971. The center was registered as a non-profit corporation, allowing donors to receive tax deductions for their contributions and permitting the center to apply for government grants. From distinctly modest beginnings it has grown to be the largest gay and lesbian services center in the world, offering a wide range of legal, medical, and social services. In his final years Kight cited the founding of the center as one of the achievements of which he was proudest.

In founding the Gay Community Services Center Kight was working within the system; nevertheless, his leftist politics and his occasionally outrageous tactics struck some in the glbtq rights movement as too radical and potentially detrimental to the goal of gaining acceptance for glbtq people in the wider society. One person holding this opinion was David Goodstein, who bought the gay newspaper *The Advocate* in 1975

and immediately began to transform it into a slick magazine. One of his first moves was to ban reporting on people whose activities he considered deleterious to the cause. Kight was chief among them.

Goodstein took things a step further, sending young reporter Randy Shilts to do an "exposé" on Kight. Shilts found no basis for a negative article on Kight, refused to write such a piece, and eventually left the magazine. Several years later Goodstein attempted to repair the breach by inviting Kight to participate in the Advocate Experience, a confrontational consciousness-raising group that he sponsored. Kight declined, saying, "I don't think I'd care to join a cult."

Kight never flagged in his efforts to empower glbtq people. In 1975 he founded the Stonewall Democratic Club to give glbtq people a stronger voice in politics.

Kight also spearheaded the boycott of the Coors Brewing Company to protest its discriminatory employment policies. After the company dropped the offensive practices and began donating money to glbtq organizations to lure back customers, Kight was among those who called for keeping the boycott in place because the Coors family's foundations continued to make major contributions to right-wing organizations inimical to glbtq rights.

When California State Senator John Briggs proposed an amendment to ban homosexual teachers from the public schools in 1978, Kight was one of many to join the fight against it. In the end the measure, opposed by a wide variety of groups, went down to a solid defeat, giving the young movement for equality a rare victory at the polls.

In the early 1980s Kight was appointed a member of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, on which he served for twenty years, retiring in 2002. Among the projects he implemented during his tenure was the Crossroads Employment Agency, the first specifically created to assist gay men and lesbians.

Kight remained an active participant in the glbtq rights movement until the very end of his long life. On his eighty-third birthday in 2002 he appeared before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to call for better services for people with HIV/AIDS. Another of his final projects was to have a corner in West Hollywood designated the Matthew Shepard Memorial Triangle in honor of the gay college student who was the victim of a savage homophobic murder.

Kight left a lasting legacy in the 3,000-piece Morris Kight Collection, which contains both fine art by gay men and lesbians and a variety of memorabilia including posters and photographs documenting the struggle for glbtq rights. Shortly before his death Kight donated this valuable resource to the ONE Institute.

Kight, who had suffered several strokes in his last years, was hospitalized in December 2002 because of various health problems including cancer and heart trouble. He spent his final weeks at the Carl Bean House, a hospice of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which donated its services in recognition of Kight's many years of support for the organization.

Kight died peacefully in his sleep on January 19, 2003. He was survived by his companion of twenty-five years, Roy Zucheran.

A tireless worker but something of a maverick, Kight never achieved the leadership role in the glbtq rights movement that he undoubtedly would have wanted. As he grew older he was somewhat eclipsed by new generations of leaders who used different tactics to gain equal rights. Toward the end of his life, however, he was "rediscovered" by younger glbtq rights supporters, who appropriately honored him for the pioneering work on which they are now able to build.

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#### **About the Author**

**Linda Rapp** teaches French and Spanish at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She freelances as a writer, tutor, and translator. She is Assistant to the General Editor of [www.glbtq.com](http://www.glbtq.com).

## Gay Rights Planks At CDC

Nearly two hundred members of the California Democratic Council (CDC) gathered from all over the state in San Jose on Nov. 14, 15 & 16 to create a proposal for the national Democratic Party Platform. The measures adopted at the San Jose conference will be voted upon at the statewide convention of the CDC in Los Angeles in February.

Several historic tests took place, as blacks and gays joined together in unity on several issues to form a strong voice. The hottest item they worked together on was the controversial gun control plank which was adopted. Both the gay caucus and the black caucus joined loudly in opposing the item, as it was known to be a racist action in which limited control was placed on handguns only, and just in the "private sector."

Shouting erupted and disrupted the meeting, and was made worse by the "Sgt.-At-Arms," an administrative assistant to Los Angeles City Councilmember John Farnen, anti-gay member of that body, when the body was threatened to have a black woman arrested by the police if she did not quiet down. This action caused a greater uproar, which subsided when apologies were made to her and her supporters. The gay and black caucuses wanted either full and complete ban on all handguns for everyone in the nation, or no one. But, the vote was lost as "hawks" and "doves" joined together to defeat the gays and blacks.

The gay rights platform, of which three planks made it to the final



Congressman Ron Dellums strikes a pose with Gay Caucus Members at CDC Platform Conference in San Jose. From the left: Pat Rocco, Frank Fitch, Gary Dellums, Howard Fox, *Mama Notti*, Elmer Wilhelm, and kneeling, Rev. Ray Brothman.

Photo by Pat Rocco/Newsweek.

Platform proposal, was prepared by members of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Hollywood, which is headed by *Mama Notti* and Howard Fox. They were totally supported by Frank Fitch of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club and the Rev. Ray Brothman of the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club. The four continued to make all the

workshops lively with motions and amendments on behalf of various gay rights issues. The quiet, but effective Pat Rocco of the Stonewall Democratic Club was one of the gay caucus. The SF Reform Democratic Club, represented by Elmer Wilhelm, was present also.

Three measures passed by the conference for gay rights were to

"prohibit discrimination against gay people in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations and public services."

And most importantly, was legislation banning the compiling and/or maintenance and/or dissemination of information on sexual orientation and/or affectional preference of an individual, for dossiers and data banks, and ordered the immediate destruction of all such existing data.

Another important measure passed was that of the establishment of an office on Gay Awareness in the proposed Department of Public Education, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare which now exists. *Mama Notti* and Rev. Brothman made these last two proposals which were adopted and are most important to the welfare of all homosexuals as well as gaypeople.

The conference was highlighted by the Saturday evening dinner at which Congressman Ron Dellums (D-Berkeley) spoke. On Sunday, during the closing session, Assemblymember Willie Brown Jr., of San Francisco, spoke to the vast audience, and his remarks stirred the audience in supporting of George Moscone for Mayor of San Francisco. He urged Democrats to come from all over the state to work to elect Moscone for mayor on Dec. 11th. Brown met and posed for pictures with the gay caucus later on. At this meeting, Brown was informed by the Gay Caucus that the Rev. Brothman was totally committed to the election of George Moscone for mayor. Brown was urged to oppose Milton Marks for the 5th Senatorial Seat in 1976 by the gay caucus members from the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club.



## al Civil

't think it's right to  
(5/21/76) Abzug's  
in housing, credit;  
government and

## He has an Advisory Committee on Gay People:

REV. TROY PERRY; BETTY BERZON, psychologist;  
LARRY LITTLEJOHN, businessman; NEWT DEITER, Ph. D.,  
psychologist; SHARON CORNEILSON, feminist;  
IAN D. BARLOW, M.D., psychiatrist; PAT DENSLOW, educator;  
**MORRIS KIGHT** REV. CHUCK LARSEN; PAT UNDERWOOD,  
businesswomen; REV. RAY BROSHEARS;  
TERRENCE K. O'BRIEN, attorney; PAT ROCCO,  
filmmaker; BOB ROSS, publisher; LARRY REH;  
DAVID GLASCOCK; and George  
MENDENHALL, political writer. (partial list, affili-  
ations listed for identification only)



## He has deep religious beliefs, but he doesn't believe in legislating morals:

"I don't consider myself one iota better than anyone  
else because I happen to be a Christian, and I have  
never done anything other than keep strictly  
separated my political life from my religious life. There would be

## Los Angeles coalition

# New group already at work; march is its first success

"Horrible Tuesday," the day gay rights were lost in Dade County, Fla., has sparked gay leaders in Los Angeles to form a local Coalition for Human Rights.

The coalition's first task was the Stop Anita Bryant march in Hollywood June 13 attended by an estimated 9,000 people and staged only three days after the group's first organizational meeting (see related story).

The demonstration also raised \$2,200 for the Coalition.

"The mobilization was done over my phone—in large part," Morris Kight, gay activist of long-standing, told *NewsWest*. Kight and the Rev. Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church contacted local groups and asked them to send two delegates to the initial planning meeting June 11.

"There was no time to elect delegates—the first meeting was more of a potpourri of those who wanted to be involved," said Dr. Susan Kuhner, programs director of the Gay Community Services Center. "The major focus was the march—what it was going to look like."

"We decided not to call it the Los Angeles County Coalition for Human Rights," Kuhner continued.

"We didn't want to discount all the people who were participating from Orange County and Camarillo."

Kight called the Bryant campaign "the greatest thing to happen to gay liberation."

For many, this marks a return to the political activism of the '60s, with a heightened strategic awareness developed in the '70s, Kight

said. "I believe deeply in coalition politics," he added.

About 50 people were represented at the first planning session. They included political, educational, legal and social service groups, women's and Third World organizations and non-gay groups with human rights orientation.

*Contact*, a directory of gay organizations, lists 237 groups in Southern California. Six of these are exclusively political. "But that is irrelevant," Kight asserted. "Gay" and "lesbian" are political terms.

The goals of the coalition include organizing boycotts and demonstrations, voter mobilization, education, legislative lobbying and media coordination, he said.

Another goal expressed by Kight is "co-sexual parity"—equal representation of males and females in the coalition and its committees.

"There is a lot of support for the contributions of lesbians," Kuhner said. "That space hasn't been there before."

"In light of the real enemy," Kuhner concluded, "it's time for feminists to join ranks with gays. We must work together to win."



ACTIVIST Morris Kight



# Stonewall Celebrates 2nd Birthday

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF A VERY ACTIVE TWO-YEAR-OLD

The Stonewall Democratic Club was organized on November 8, 1975 by 13 gay activists and friends. They chartered with the L.A. County Committee, the California Democratic Council and promptly sent a delegation to the CDC Issues Conference in San Jose.

February, 1976 was a very busy month for Stonewall. On the 7th, Tom Hayden, the first in a long and ever-growing line of office seeking candidates, appeared before the Club seeking their endorsement. We closed the month by making our fast-growing strength felt at the CDC Statewide Convention held in Los Angeles. Stonewall hosted a Gay Hospitality Suite that is still the talk of the convention delegates. Stonewall also introduced the Gay Rights Platform. Parts of the GRP made it into the State Party Platform but unfortunately were not part of the National Platform that year. In April, several members participated as candidates in the Democratic Delegate Selections for the Party Nominating Convention. Some made it past the first hurdle but only one, Clayton Wells, went on to represent us as a delegate to the New York Convention which nominated the Carter-Mondale slate.



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley addresses the Stonewall Democratic Club.



Daniel Whitehead, David Schweikendurf, Ken Schnorr and Morris Knight (President of Stonewall) celebrate the event.

With important upcoming local elections, candidates continued to solicit Stonewall's endorsement. District Attorney John Van DeKamp and his opponent Vincent Bugliosi both addressed the club before the June Primary. Stonewall printed and distributed its first Slate Sheet, giving our endorsements for the various races and propositions. We knew it was a success when we were told voters carried the Slate Sheet into the voting booth with them.

The Fourth of July weekend was a big one for the Gay Community as a whole with the Christopher Street West Carnival and Parade. Stonewall's booth sold popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. We also registered voters by the dozens. Our marching unit in the parade, with the slogan REGISTER TO VOTE... VOTE GAY, was awarded the theme prize. CDC President Wallace Albertson, a longtime friend of the gay community, rode in the parade as part of the Stonewall contingent.

In October, Senator John Turney appeared before Stonewall, the highest elected official to do so.

The November election results were especially pleasing to us with the election of two liberal women candidates we supported to judgeships, Roberta Ralph and Florence Bernstein. Bernstein's opponent, incumbent Judge Dietmar, was quoted as saying, "Those god damned faggots beat me." referring to our endorsement and distribution of Slate Sheets.

Stonewall saw in the new year, 1977, with a Trashy, Flashy Bent Best at Jus-

Continued on next page

## STRICTLY FOR FUN!!

Following the success of Stonewall's first Dinner-Social in August, we happily announce a replay of the same - Good food, Cheerful wine, Convivial friends.  
The Date: Saturday, Dec. 10, 1977  
The Time: 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
The Place: President Knight's, 1428 McCadden Pl. 1 block east of Highland, 1 block south of Sunset in the Heart of Hollywood.

Join us for a pre-holiday social gathering, meet the Stonewall officers and mix with our friendly members. Non-members joyfully welcomed. In the Holiday Spirit, you may bring a gift of underwear or an educational toy that will be distributed to children through the Gay Community Services Center. Please RSVP (we need to know how much to prepare for the feasting). Call Morris at 463-3928 / Clay at 661-3339 or Rob at 874-0640.

## SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL

Political activity can be an exciting and rewarding experience and Stonewall members have sure had their share of those hectic, frustrating and exhilarating moments in our brief two-year history.

But now and then it would be nice to relax and socialize, get to know individual members on a more personal level.

Meet some old friends, make some new ones. An evening at the theatre, a picnic, a ball game, a barbecue... Rob Jurina is interested in planning a monthly social activity for Stonewall and would like input from members. Your feelings pro and con, suggestions for events. Contact Rob at 874-0640 or see him at the December Dinner-Social.



Jack Albertson, star of "Chico and the Man", Wallace Albertson, President of the California Democratic Council and Morris Knight.



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Stonewall President Morris Kight

Photo by Pat Rocco

## WHO WANTS TO GO TO FRESNO FOR A POLITICAL CONVENTION?

Fortunately several Stonewall members did express the desire and attended the recent California Democratic Council Bylaws Convention. Stonewall had a very vocal presence both in the Gay Caucus meeting and on the floor of the convention. Gerry Parker led the floor fight on several minority positions as a member of the Bylaws Committee. Wes Smith and Alan Shackmen also contributed to our positions on the Bylaws. President Kight prepared a bylaw that gives official substance to the Caucuses in the CDC. Rick Saslow held an important post in coordinating the convention. Rob Jurina and Rick Stevenson also attended. The Wilde-Stein Club of Fresno, our newest gay club, hosted a dinner for the Gay Caucus.

## OUR GROWING PRESENCE IN DEMOCRATIC PARTY CIRCLES

Four Stonewallers are members of the L.A. County Democratic Central Committee, Gerry Parker, Alan Shackman, Clayton Wells and Wes Smith. The first three also sit on the Executive Board and were instrumental, along with a coalition of Blacks and Chicanos, in denying endorsement to John Gibson, then President of the City Council and no friend of minorities, in his recent bid for reelection. Ed Burke, Chairperson of the County Committee, has been very helpful in establishing the gay presence.

Gerry, Clayton and Jerry Krieger are also members of the Democratic Party State Central Committee. President Bert Coffey has fulfilled his pledge to Stonewall, made in January when he solicited our support in his election, and recognized a Gay Caucus.

Their next meeting will be at the Disneyland Hotel on Saturday December 3 at 8:00 AM. All interested gays are invited to attend the Caucus meeting to show the State Party we are a viable force.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Throughout the summer of 1975, Howard Fox and I spent a lot of time and energy to develop a gay-issues-oriented club within the Democratic Party and the California Democratic Council.

Why a Democratic Club? Many of us had been in other parties; many had given up on politics altogether. But we needed an organized political home, and we had the pioneering efforts of the Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club in San Francisco as our model.

Our judgement that the Democratic Party might be our most creative home was no accident. The Party had given room to agrarian reformers, to populists, and, during the Thirties, to the Labor movement. Might it not also take up the goals of Gay Liberation? Would it not be our best forum to deal with the majority voters? The opening of the Party to our concerns has been remarkable, and we think our judgement has been vindicated.

Thus, on November 9th, 1975, thirteen of us, including gay and non-gay friends, met to form a Club. In one day we named it—Stonewall—on the vigorous advocacy of Charter Member Gerry Parker. We elected officers—three of whom still serve—Secretary Clayton Wells, 2nd Vice President Pat Rocco, and President Morris Kight. We wrote a set of by-laws which have stood the test of time, with only three minor revisions.

The Club's successes have been enormous—they are enumerated verbally and photographically elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Gay Rights Plank—authored by Gerry Parker, Howard Fox and myself, has become the platform for most groups.

Much work needs to be done; we are aware of a long and unfinished agenda. But the work of the Club is in the hands of many hard-working, dedicated and sophisticated members. The work WILL be done! No one believes that the goals of Gay Liberation will be finished in this generation, but the spirit has been ignited. We SHALL overcome!

Peace, Love, Community.

*Morris Kight*  
Morris Kight

## Congratulations HARVEY MILK!

Stonewall's hearty and heartfelt congratulations go to our gay brother to the North, Harvey Milk, recently elected to the post of County Supervisor of San Francisco. This makes Harvey the first openly gay candidate to be elected to political office in California. Hopefully Harvey will be the first of a new breed of elected politicians, GAY, as we prepare ourselves for the 1978 elections.

## HELP TO REGISTER VOTERS

With the impending threat of the Briggs Initiative and Ed Davis running for Governor, we must try to get as many gays registered to vote as possible. To become a voter Registrar requires taking a simple class. For more information contact Don Foley at 474-4475.

**INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**  
Fill out the information requested below and send it in to  
Stonewall Democratic Club, P.O. Box 39495, Los Angeles, CA. 90039

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephones \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 5.00 Student / Unemployed / Senior Citizen

\$15.00 Regular

\$25.00 Stonewaller

\$50.00 Big Stonewaller





# Gay Rights Movement Gains Political Momentum in L.A.: Out of the ...

Shuit, Doug

*Los Angeles Times* (1923-1995); Mar 19, 1978; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times

pg. C1

## Gay Rights Movement Gains Political Momentum in L.A.

### Out of the Closet, It's Becoming Respectable Force in Election Campaigning

**BY DOUG SHUIT**

*Times Staff Writer*

"It's out of the closet, and into the Beverly Wilshire," shouted the Rev. Troy Perry, minister of the homosexual-oriented Metropolitan Community Church, during a recent speech.

Clearly, this was heady stuff for these 1,000 or so onetime sexual outlaws who filled the big room at the posh Beverly Hills hotel. And they greeted Perry and other speakers with waves of applause.

The gay rights movement in Los Angeles—rather than taking a low profile after Anita Bryant's successful Save Our Children campaign in Florida last year—has more momentum

than ever before.

It truly has come out of the closet, and, with the support of many local political leaders, has become a respectable political force.

Even as they prepare for the fight of their lives—Republican state Sen. John Briggs of Fullerton is pushing a statewide initiative campaign giving school districts the right to fire homosexuals—leaders of the gay rights movement are looking beyond Briggs and fighting for a much bigger issue: full employment rights without discrimination.

"What we want—the bottom line—is to be left alone," says attorney Peter Scott, one of the founders of the

latest gay rights political action group, the New Alliance for Gay Equality, or New Age. "We're not asking for any special treatment. We're just asking to be allowed to express affection, like any heterosexual would. . . without fear of losing our livelihoods."

Another founder of New Age, political consultant David Mixner, said in an interview:

"We believe this issue must be moved into the mainstream of the political process. You have to deal with it, and now is the time.

"If ever we are going to assure that people who follow us won't live in closets filled with terror and blackmail, and can have the freedom to be open and whole human beings, then we have to do it in the next couple of years or it's just not going to happen."

Those positions, in themselves, are extremely controversial, for gay rights leaders admit they are facing a deep-rooted animosity toward homosexuality, based on concerns that homosexuality involves mental illness and immorality.

Leaders of the gay rights movement believe such concerns are the result of social prejudice, lack of understanding and bigotry.

They are encouraged by signs they see that the society at large is finding homosexuality more acceptable.

One of the most recent signs was the victory of Dr. Josette Mondanaro over the Brown Administration in winning back her job as a top state drug abuse official. The debate centered on her job performance and Gov. Brown's justification in firing her, rather than the fact that she is an avowed lesbian.

Another is the fact that a book by a homosexual football player, David Kopay, rang up healthy national sales, indicating that many heterosexuals, as well as homosexuals, found the book interesting. Another is the prominent role that lesbians have

played in the national feminist movement. Still another is the fact that male and female homosexuality is openly discussed on radio and television, and a homosexual character has a regular role on the show *Soap*.

Despite these apparent advances of their cause, gay rights leaders believe they still have a long way to go, in large part because of the backlash they saw develop last year in Dade County, Fla., when voters supported Anita Bryant and her crusade to repeal a sexual equality ordinance.

Where gay rights leaders may see themselves as part of a social and intellectual evolution that is ever going forward, the backlash is seen as evidence, in some quarters, that gay rights has gone as far as it can go and

**Please Turn to Page 5, Col. 1**

# Gay Rights Movement Making Weight Felt in Los Angeles Political Life

Continued from First Page

that the pendulum is swinging back now to more traditional Christian moral values.

Briggs sees it that way. "Our people—the normal majority—are out of the closet, too. They have been pushed and shoved too far," he says.

Briggs is spearheading an initiative campaign aimed at putting before voters in the November election a state constitutional amendment that would give local school boards the right to fire homosexual teachers and administrators, and even nonhomosexual teachers and administrators who endorse a gay way of life.

(It is considered a question of gay rights, as opposed to homosexual rights, because of what the terms have come to mean. Whereas homosexual relates primarily to an individual's sexual preference, gay relates to a whole way of life that is public in a way that private bedroom activity is not. It is this gay life-style that is so controversial. For most in the gay rights movement, gay means out of the closet, whereas homosexual means still in the closet.)

Briggs says he has half the signatures needed to put his initiative on the November ballot. Once it goes before the voters, he predicts that the issue will capture national attention the way the Anita Bryant campaign did.

And he predicts he'll win.

"It will be a fight regarding morality, a fight between those who stand for morality and those who stand for immorality," he said.

Briggs says the issue is one of homosexuals in the classroom, and their influence on schoolchildren. "There is no question that people will stand up for their children," he added.

Briggs predicts the fight, if it gets

before the voters, "is going to be a wingdinger."

Briggs' prediction is based in part on the growing respectability of the gay rights movement in Democratic political circles—and the growing political might of homosexuals themselves, particularly in Los Angeles.

Gay rights in Los Angeles still has not made the impact that has been felt in San Francisco, where gays have not only elected one of their number to the city-county Board of Supervisors, but have congregated in such numbers that they have had a significant impact on housing and business. ("San Francisco is the fountainhead of all homosexuality," Briggs said.)

The movement has come a long way in only a short time.

"A few years ago, when you approached a politician, he ran the other way," said Perry, one of the chief leaders of the gay rights movement in Los Angeles.

During his recent speech at the Beverly Wilshire, Perry declared, "I can remember a long time ago (1969) when only one person would speak to us in this community—the late City Councilman Robert Stevenson . . . Yet I look around, and how times have changed. Everyone's here except Anita Bryant and John Briggs."

He was referring to the keynote speaker, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), Democratic state Assemblyman Art Agnos of San Francisco, and to a number of local politicians.

They included City Atty. Burt Pines, county Supervisor Ed Edelman, City Council members Zev Yaroslavsky, Peggy Stevenson (widow of Robert Stevenson) and Joel Wachs; state Assemblymen Mike Roos and Mel Levine, and Community College Board members Wallace Albertson and Gwen Moore.

And these political figures represent only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the real political support the gay rights movement is receiving in Los Angeles. A recent fund-raising event by a gay rights organization known as the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) listed on its dinner committee 27 politicians holding state, federal, county and city political offices.

Politicians have found that gay rights leaders can deliver a sizable vote at election time and generate substantial political contributions. They also appear to be in agreement with the goals of the gay rights movement.

Pines, now running in the Democratic primary for state attorney general, aggressively sought gay support in 1973 during his first campaign for city attorney, making him one of the earliest politicians to recognize gays politically.

Another politician especially well liked in the gay community is county Supervisor Edelman, who, in addition to appointing a gay person to his staff, has worked to get county money for the Gay Community Services Center in Hollywood.

"I think what I've done," Edelman said "is to recognize primarily their needs as a community. I've recog-

nized that they have needs not normally met through other county agencies, like alcoholism and venereal disease. They've been discriminated against in the past, but they pay taxes like the rest of us, and government has to be open to all people."

Sen. McGovern, the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for President in 1972, called the gay rights movement "the latest struggle against prejudice and discrimination" in the United States in his speech at the Beverly Wilshire.

He said, "There should be no controversy in the United States over the right to personal privacy, the freedom from discrimination and prejudice."

The event at which McGovern spoke, along with Perry, was staged to celebrate the latest in a series of gay rights political action groups, this one New Age.

Others include MECLA, a fund-raising group that in 1977 began dispensing hefty contributions—\$1,500 to \$2,000 each—to local politicians; the volunteer-oriented Stonewall Democratic Club, which was formed in 1975 by longtime activist Morris Kight; the gay chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and a heterosexual organization called Parents and Friends of Gays.

New Age and other groups see the Briggs initiative as a step backward in terms of political gains they have made in recent years, primarily because it would amend part of the 1975 legislation that changed their status. The legislation legalized all privately conducted sex acts between consenting adults and has been called, in some quarters, "the homosexual's bill of rights."

But they also see, beyond the developing fight with Briggs, a much bigger one—one that involves their fundamental rights. They say that what they want is the right to live their gay life-style free of fear that they will be fired, held back from promotion or not hired in the first place if they do not hide their sexual preference.

They have allied their movement with the black civil rights struggle, the antiwar movement, the feminist movement, the international human rights movement, and believe ultimately they will be successful.

Kight pioneered a public advocacy role for homosexuality in the early 1950s. "Our first role in this society was to survive," he said. "All of society's institutions were massed against us—churches, schools, the family, the courts. We have done that. We have survived. Our next goal was to plug in to society, and we are doing that, too. Look at the support we're receiving."

One favorable sign Perry and others see is that attitudes are softening even in the Republican Party, source of much of the antigay backlash. Two prominent Republicans running this year, Assemblyman Ken Maddy of Fresno, who is running for governor, and record producer Mike Curb, running for lieutenant governor, have made public statements opposing the Briggs initiative.



# Stonewall DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ANNOUNCES ITS AGENDA FOR SUMMER AND FALL OF 1978



**1** To continue to serve the Lesbian and Gay Community in...  
Making YOUR Vote Count Within The Democratic Party

**2** To work for the election and/or re-election of these  
STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS:

JERRY BROWN for Governor.....

*He has spoken out against the Briggs' Proposition 6, and has pledged to continue doing so.*

MERVYN DYMALLY for Lt. Governor.....

*He has been a consistent supporter of Lesbian and Gay rights and delivered the deciding vote AB 489 (the California Consenting Adults Law) and is a vigorous opponent of Prop 6.*

MARCH FONG EU for Secretary of State.....

*She has redressed the LA Police Dept. for furnishing grossly erroneous figures about gay involvement in child molestation cases, and brought those corrections to the attention of the public through the press and the PTA.*

KENNETH CORY for State Controller

JESSE M. UNRUH for State Treasurer

YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE for Attorney General..

*She spoke out at a Stonewall meeting saying "I am for Gay Rights and opposed to Proposition 6"*

ROSE BIRD for Chief Justice Cal. Supreme Court.....

*Simply because she is a woman doing a good job in an important position she has been under attack by the anti-feminists and is deserving of all the support we can muster.*

ATLANTA LESBIAN FEMINIST ALLIANCE

P. O. BOX 5502

ATLANTA, GA 30307

**3** To work vigorously for the defeat of Proposition 6 within the Democratic Party and other alliances...



*The Stonewall Democratic Club has been central to securing the resolutions in opposition to Proposition 6 coming from the Democratic State Central Committee, and the Democratic County Committees of Los Angeles, Orange, San Francisco, and Merced Counties. Stonewall has mapped out an intensive campaign to bring our party into total opposition to Prop. 6.*

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- A REGISTER TO VOTE...a call to us will connect you with a Deputy Registrar to see that you are registered.
- B STUDY THE ISSUES... attend Stonewall's meetings and engage in discussions. See time and place below.
- C CONVERT YOUR HOME into a neighborhood campaign office in opposition to Prop 6. Distribute literature on the issues. Hold Coffeeklatches (call us, we'll be happy to furnish a speaker).
- D USE OUR SLATE SHEET... our endorsements are the results of close examinations of candidates and issues. Previous slate sheets reached 100,000 copies. Your contribution can help us print more and distribute more.
- E GET OUT THE VOTE... once you learn who supports us within your immediate precinct, you can see that they are registered in advance and turned out to vote on election day. That is a critical priority!

Open meetings of Stonewall Democratic Club are held every Thurs. evening at 7pm from now until the November elections  
Place: 1428 No. McCadden Pl., Hollywood (near Sunset)  
Tels: (213) 463-3928 and (213) 463-3184

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION...** To join Stonewall Democratic Club simply fill out this coupon and mail it in to Stonewall, P.O. Box 39495, Los Angeles, CA. 90039

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephones \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 5. Student/Unemployed/Senior Citizen

\$ 15. Regular \$ 25. Stonewaller \$ 50. Big Stonewaller

# Morris Kight

1426 North McCadden Place, Los Angeles, California 90028 / Tel. (213) 463-3928

Mr. Otis Chandler, Publisher  
Los Angeles Times  
Times-Mirror Square  
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Chandler:

Herewith is a file on the experience of Ms. Claudia Long in connection with the signature gathering process for the now-filed Briggs Anti-Homosexual Initiative. We think that the file speaks for itself.

Ms. Long was recruited within Los Angeles County to commit a series of felonies. Happily for her she found out that that is exactly what she was doing, checked with some of the electors and found that they had not authorized their signatures. Indeed, under the Elections Code that could not have been done so under any conditions.

We present the file to you and your associates for evaluation, investigation, and possible action. We have met with Ms. Long, in several extensive meetings, attended by attorneys, and advocates of respect for the electoral processes. We are convinced of the legitimacy of her complaint, and hope that you might cover the same ground that we have.

We presume that some employees of the Times Publishing Company would favor the Briggs Initiative, that some would oppose it, but we would presume that none of you would favor such blatant perversion of the electoral processes. I have been central to initiative-recall and referenda myself, and am happy to say that I, nor any of my associates, ever considered such deviousness in signature-gathering.

We have done research in the streets of Los Angeles during the signature-gathering phase, and are shocked at the blatant deceit that was used in gathering signatures.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris Kight



NO ON THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
1428 N. MC CADDEN PL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90028

(213) 463-3028 or 863-41376

8/50/98  
Cecilia: Maria Elena

## http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jmb

LBS A00116, Co -- Today Judge George R. [redacted] Department #7, Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, issued a temporary restraining order, in the matter of Morris Light and Others vs. Secretary of State Earl  
Warren, Case No. 1-111111-111111. The court's decision was based on the fact that the plaintiff has shown a likelihood of success on the merits.

The show cause order was in pursuit of a lawsuit filed under the sponsorship of this committee. The show cause order was sought because, under the Elections Code of California, Secretary of State DeWitt conspired to print the November ballots having to do with "Design" Proposition 1 on 11 August.

It was felt that the issues brought up in the event were so multi-faceted and that supportive affidavits were so considerable, and the issue so important -- whether the entire mechanism of seeking signatures to Bridge Anti-Racism Employees Initiative and the Bridge-Nine method of mounting the signatures would not entirely rule it off the ballot --, and because of the 15 August time constraint, that a temporary restraining order should be sought.

All of the many parties plaintiff, and parties defendant to this lawsuit have been notified to be in Court on 22 August, 1978, Department #11, County Court House, Hill Street at Greensburg. It is hoped that the Court will appoint a full evidentiary hearing on the many matters inherent in the lawsuit.

in the meantime, Secretary of State Bay is acting under court restriction from proceeding with Proposals C.

Let roughs on outside of correspondence  
from me to try to know Don Bergs out of the game  
early on, it might be working, etc

Mr. March Toug Shi

Dear Mr. Don:

Re: Possible Forgery Solicitation  
on Briggs Initiative.

Herewith a rather complete package which, we think, indicates a serious  
threatening for the solicitation of forgery, and/or violations of the  
election code during the signature-gathering state of this  
initiative.

Mr. Long has been interviewed by a panel of a lawyers, and  
commentary persons who believe that the election processes should  
not be tampered with.

We send this material along to you with the hope that it might  
be of guidance to your staff in determining how to deal with the  
entire question of the initiative.

We think, frankly, that the accusations of fraud in this matter  
are so serious that steps should be taken to determine if the  
entire initiative should be thrown out, and the Governor asked to  
start afresh, with such strict adherence to the Election Code,  
that should a considerable number of Californians sign the initiative  
that they at least have an opportunity to know what is that  
they are signing.

As for forgery, surely no right thinking California could possibly  
approve such perversion of the election processes, as to permit  
this to go by without adequate, and thorough investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris Knight



**NO ON THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**1428 N. MIC CADDEN PL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90028**

October 5, 1978

(213) 463-3928

- To: 1. The Honorable Evelle Younger,  
Attorney General  
State of California
2. The Honorable March Fong Eu,  
Secretary of State  
State of California
3. Ian Lowenstein, Chairperson  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
State of California  
and  
Members of the Commission
4. The Honorable Stephen Reinhardt, President  
Police Commission  
City of Los Angeles
5. Chief Daryl Gates,  
Los Angeles Police Department  
City of Los Angeles

From: Morris Kight, Chairperson  
No on Briggs/Proposition No. 6 Initiative Committee

Enclosed is the latest mailer from Senator John V. Briggs and the Reverend Louis F. Sheldon of CALIFORNIA DEFEND OUR CHILDREN, a political lobbying group, State of California, ID 771112, an organization liable to the State of California for its actions, work, and printed material.

We call your attention to a particularly dangerous part of the Senator's letter (Exhibit A) which calls upon his followers to: "First, you can immediately have the brochure produced and distributed to all your parishioners." The brochure, to which that letter refers, contains several falacious statements originally based on faulty information from the Los Angeles Police Department. The brochure includes a reprint of a newspaper page headlining: "Police find sexually abused children." The brochure further states: "According to the Los Angeles Police Department there are some 30,000 boys.....". [Brochure in this, Exhibit B]

The quotation and the reprint presented in that brochure were based upon material distributed by the Los Angeles Police Department - materials which were totally fictitious and were subsequently withdrawn. Therefore, these totally incorrect and libelous statistics should receive no further dissemination.

**NO ON THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
1428 N. MC CADDEN PL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90028**

(213) 463-3928

Dear Donors - and potentially new donors - from the Gay and Non-Gay communities:

This is our third general mailing; Some of you may be receiving a mailing for the first time. These mailings are our attempt to report what we have done, what we are doing, and what we plan to do in the future. Each of these reports has been approved by the full staff, each reflecting the thinking of us all.

We have been at it for four months now, and, in addition to our regular activities, have passed some true milestones: the WALK AGAINST BRIGGS and the recent lawsuit. Much, much more needs to be done. We shall continue those activities to which we have committed ourselves and we will add new components now that the WALK has gone into history. We will attempt not to duplicate the activities of any other group.

You can see from our financial report that we have operated on an exceedingly modest sum. It does need to be increased, and we hope that you will assist in accomplishing that goal.


Many people call us about a wide variety of subjects, some old friends, some new ones, some people we did not previously know. We hope that we are dealing responsibly with each caller.

We would welcome a call from any of the recipients of this letter. Tell us how you feel about what we are doing, make suggestions for the future.

AN INVITATION! We are now expanding the Friday night meetings. The agenda is set, the work pattern is developed. At each meeting specific plans are projected, programs are reviewed, responsibilities are parcelled out. Always at 7:30 P.M., soft drinks and coffee are served.

FRANK and COMPANY will be home now, and you'll have an opportunity to hear from them at meetings and assist them in developing programs with groups you may be involved with.

Toward Victory 7th November,

  
Morris Knight, for NOBIC

State of Calif. Official I.D. No. 78-1963



**NO ON THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
1428 N. MC CADDEN PL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90028**

(213) 463 3828

October 5, 1978

MEMO FOR: EDITORS, COMMUNITY CONTACT PERSONS

FROM: MORRIS EIGHT, CHAIRPERSON, NO ON BRIGGS PROP 6 INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

FRANK VEL brings with him an up-to-date message from this committee.

Our directions: A. Between now and November 7th we shall attempt to continue to be an information gathering and contact network. Twenty-one groups have grown in California which have a primary Anti-Briggs thrust. We attempt to provide responsible information with dispatch, and B. We have asked FRANK VEL to return to some areas he covered in his "WALK AGAINST BRIGGS". He bears our essential message.

C. While we believe that, if our work, and that of other groups, and our many supporters is done well, that a majority of Californians will vote NO ON PROP 6. If, however, that is not done, we have prepared a lawsuit on civil and constitutional rights which will emphasize freedom of speech and association, the doctrine of separation of Church and State (while in Prop 6 we are not voting upon the Bible, the Senator's commentaries indicate that he thinks we are), and most particularly, the due process doctrine (the opportunity for abuse inherent within Prop 6 are too dangerous to consider. One linerick going around: "Teacher, if you don't give me an 'A', I'll tell 'em you're gay". The lawsuit is ready to file, we hope that can be avoided.

D. Mass education and one-to-one contact: While our spirits are rising about the numbers who have found Prop 6 unacceptable and are taking that message to their members, our real concern is that millions have not been directly reached, and a method must be found to reach them. The real danger is that the VOTING MACHINE BALLOT DESCRIPTION has the following: SCHOOL EMPLOYEES--HOMOSEXUALITY--INITIATIVE STATUTE, and included in the twenty-word description are "homosexual conduct", and "advocacy". An uninformed public could take fright at those terms and vote YES.

Thus, we shall be publishing millions of education pamphlets to explain the total lack of necessity of Prop 6, and its inherent dangers, and its vast potential cost.

E. Educational outreach: beyond the above, we are the sponsors or co-sponsors of any number of legal, peaceful, and creative activities which we hope will generate healthy public discussion of Prop 6.

The issues: There is a vast body of public felony law having to do with child abuse, abandonment, neglect and "contributing to the delinquency of a minor", and these laws are vigorously enforced against homosexual school employees. That body of law is buttressed with an Educational Code which takes on the force of law, since it has the approval of the California Senate and Assembly, and is administratively enforced with vigor against

# Bitter Fight Expected on Gay Teacher Issue

## Both Sides Gearing Up for Campaign That Could Rival Battles Over Prop. 13

BY DOUG SHUIT

Times Staff Writer

The question of homosexual rights, already battled on the local level from Florida to Oregon, is coming to California in a statewide campaign that might rival the emotional intensity of the current fight over Proposition 13.

Both sides were already gearing up for the fight Thursday in the wake of qualification of an initiative that would remove homosexual teachers, or others who advocate homosexual acts, from California public schools.

The initiative, called the "California Defend Our Children" initiative by its author, state Sen. John V. Briggs (R-Fullerton), will be on the Nov. 7 general election ballot if it overcomes legal challenges.

Briggs, a conservative maverick from Orange County, predicted in Sacramento that the initiative likely will generate as much interest, controversy and national attention as the Proposition 13 campaign.

And, while gay rights leaders were hoping that it would not degenerate into the kind of emotional campaign waged over the Jarvis property-tax initiative, they were getting ready for it.

Both Briggs and gay rights leaders have been expecting the battle for months, almost from the day a similar fight ended last year in Dade County, Fla.

It was shortly after the Dade County (Miami) fight, led by singer Anita Bryant, that Briggs decided to make California a statewide battleground over the issue of homosexuality and public schools.

And that was when local gay activists, surprised and disturbed by the emotions and antigay bias reflected in the Florida vote, began thinking seriously about the same kind of thing happening in California.

What had already been a well-organized gay rights movement really took off after Dade County, particularly in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and gay activists won the support of many local politicians.

To defeat the Briggs initiative, gay leaders will have to buck a national trend that goes against protecting homosexuals from job and housing discrimination.

After the Dade County fight, homosexuals suffered a series of defeats across the country as cities like Wichita, Kan.; St. Paul, Minn., and Eugene, Ore., voted in public referendums to repeal laws protecting homosexuals from job and housing discrimination.

What the Briggs initiative would do is remove public school officials from protections under California's landmark consenting adults law, which, when passed in 1975 after a long fight, had the effect of legalizing homosexual conduct between consenting adults.

But the initiative would go further than that, making any teacher, teachers' aide, school administrator or counselor—gay or straight—subject to firing if they advocate or encourage a homosexual way of life, leaving the decision up to local school boards.

That was a key element in the initiative that surfaced Thursday in interviews with individuals lining up on both sides of the fight.

Briggs, in a telephone interview from Sacramento, specifically noted that his initiative would cover a case he said was brought to his attention involving an Orange County health instructor who brought into his classroom a homosexual couple for a discussion "of their love life."

Gay leaders said they expected to

**Please Turn to Page 31, Col. 3**



# TEACHERS

Continued from Third Page

draw substantial support from school teachers and others who would fear widespread "witch hunts" in the public school system as a result of the initiative.

"The initiative presents a challenge to all school employees in that any angry, disaffected student could work out his or her revenge against any school employee by bringing them up on charges," said Morris Kight, leader of the gay Stonewall Democratic Club in Los Angeles.

The initiative battle, as it shaped up Thursday, likely will be fought on a number of other grounds as well, and the rhetoric that surfaced also gives a good indication of the fight to come.

"What this initiative is all about is whether or not parents have the right to determine who will teach their children. The key words in the initiative say that one of the most fundamental interests of the state is the establishment and preservation of the family unit," said Briggs.

In another interview with Sacramento reporters, he said: "They want to take street morals into the classroom."

Los Angeles attorney Peter Scott, one of the founders of the politically active New Alliance for Gay Equality, said the initiative would put ho-

mosexuals' backs to the wall throughout the nation.

"It's really a Jim Crow-type law, and if it's not stopped in California, this type of thing will happen across the country," he said.

Scott and others were predicting that gay activists would have to raise at least \$1 million, and probably more, to successfully battle the Briggs initiative.

Briggs told reporters in Sacramento: "It all boils down to money now. I anticipate they will raise \$3 to \$5 million. We will be lucky if we raise \$1 million."

The senator estimated that he had already spent \$150,000 to circulate the petitions that came up with the names of 312,404 registered voters

necessary to qualify the initiative for the November ballot.

At least two major political action groups were already organized in the gay community as of Thursday, and a major fund raiser is planned for June 7, the day after the primary and the official start of the general election campaign, which probably won't get into high gear until after Labor Day.

The two political action groups are the Concerned Voters of California, which has already hired a San Francisco-based political consulting firm headed by Don Bradley, and the No on Briggs Initiative Committee, in which Kight will play a key role.

Kight, who has been fighting for homosexual rights since the 1950s,

even before the word "gay" began being used for persons publicly identifying with a homosexual life-style, said the initiative campaign would force most Californians to think about homosexual rights.

"People never reached by the voices of gay liberation will be reached," he said.

Kight, like others, predicted that ultimately the initiative would be defeated in the courts on constitutional grounds, even if approved by voters, because of what he described as alleged "wholesale violations of the Bill of Rights."

# Mexico to Oregon Walk on Briggs

by Gene Earl

Frank Vel, longtime Los Angeles Gay activist, stopped in Fresno on July 30, midway in his walk the length of California. The weary but determined Vel is answering questions and speaking out against Prop. 6, the Briggs Initiative to bar Gay school employees.

The 87-day journey began at the Mexican border on June 19. It will conclude at the Oregon border on September 9 in the town of Dorris.

Vel is deliberately taking an inland route in his exhausting trip in order to reach voters in more conservative areas. He believes that his person-to-person approach is the kind of effort that must be made if the initiative is to be defeated.

Walking from Fresno, Vel will be in Modesto on August 9, Stockton on August 12, Sacramento on August 15, and Weed on September 5. He has spoken on 58 radio and television programs and received considerable press coverage already, often in newspapers that support the Briggs initiative.

Morris Kight, a Los Angeles Gay activist and founder of the

Stonewall Democratic Club, told B.A.R. that the walk by Frank Vel is "in the tradition of non-violence exemplified by the late Mahatma Gandhi." Praising Vel, Kight said, "This honest and dedicated person has put himself on the line in a personal commitment to defeat the initiative."

Vel is talking with municipal government representatives, news reporters, and the curious among Gay and straight onlookers. His message is that the initiative is unnecessary, as there are already ample laws to protect children, that it is financially burdensome with an estimated \$75 million cost of enforcement anticipated and that the initiative violates privacy rights.

Kight urges those who wish to observe and celebrate the conclusion of the walk to be in Dorris at the Oregon/California border on September 9 at 11:00am. He cautions that visitors should bring their own food and bedding.

The cross-California walk is sponsored from contributions to NO ON BRIGGS' PROP. 6 COMMITTEE, 1428 No. McCadden St., Los Angeles, CA 90028.





Newspaper of the Party for Socialism and Liberation

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# The Coors Boycott: The LGBTQ movement and people's counter-offensive against the right

By John McDevitt

Jul 28, 2015

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in the tail of the tremendous same sex marriage victory and with the 2016 U.S. elections fast approaching, the ruling class forces of the rich and

powerful are now forced to decide how to relate to this historic moment in the LGBTQ struggle for equality.

Some candidates, mainly Democrats like Hillary Clinton, who only a short time ago refused to endorse marriage equality at all, are already rushing to pretend that they are lifelong allies of the movement. Others, right wing bigots, will use their reactionary and false version of history as an attempt to incite more hatred and violence against LGBTQ people, and to sow divisions among all workers on the issue of civil rights.

The spectacular ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, however, did not come about suddenly. Rather, the ruling was the result of a dramatic sea change in public opinion on the issue of marriage equality, in response to decades of struggle carried out over decades in cities large and small.



Coors Boycott contingent



The struggle against Coors Beer, embodied in the Coors Beer Boycott that began in 1971 and continued through the Reagan years and beyond, is an important example of working class unity that took up the banner of LGBTQ rights through an unshakable alliance of gay activists and organizations, labor unions, immigrant rights groups and other anti racist sectors, setting the basis for the unity that these movements share today.

Reagan's breaking of the ATCA air traffic controllers union in 1982 exemplified the first shot in a huge offensive against labor and working people in general in which the unions lost over 5 million members during those years.

The Coors Beer Boycott was a counter offensive of the people against Reagan's anti labor offensive one of the most wide spread and militant labor struggles in decades. In 1971, ferociously anti union Coors Beer moved



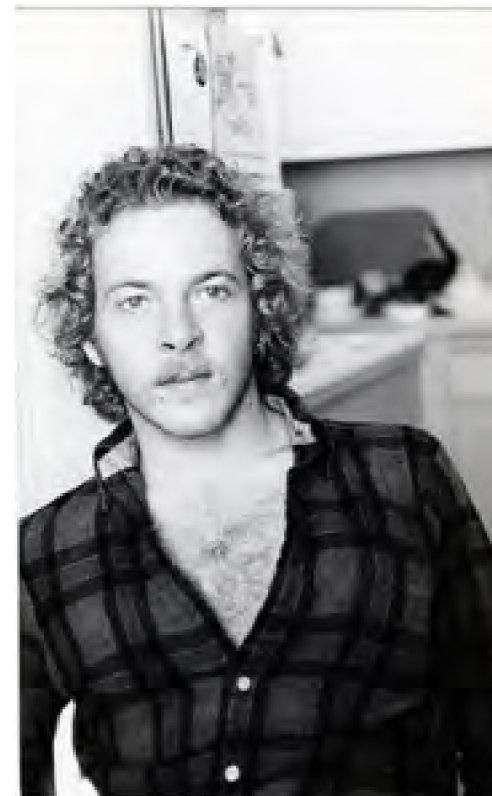
Morris Kight

to smash the union after a strike of nearly 5,500 workers in 1978. Part of the anti union campaign was to fire without cause workers suspected of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or queer from its Colorado based brewery.

At the same time, the Coors family was the funding power behind anti immigrant legislation in Colorado, California and other states. A large number of the union fighters at Coors were immigrants from Mexico. For years there was no women's bathroom at the Coors Brewery as management refused to hire women. Workers who applied for positions at Coors underwent lie detector tests in which they were



Coors Boycott poster



Scott Smith



asked their opinions about collective bargaining and if they were homosexual.

In 1975 Coors reluctantly agreed not to discriminate against Blacks, Latinos and women after a settlement was reached under the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) lawsuit against Coors. Joseph Coors, a founder of the right wing think tank, the Heritage Foundation, became the corporate poster child for the Reagan administration and the target of an unprecedented united fightback movement—a new movement that concurrently emerged along with the AIDS movement and after the first march for LGBTQ rights in Washington, D.C. in 1985. The alliance of these forces at the time laid the basis for the current united movement of today.

### **Morris Kight and Scott Smith, two exemplary leaders**

Morris Kight is recognized by many as one of the founding members of the modern day LGBTQ movement. Kight was a close collaborator with Larry

ay. Both men are credited with forming the Mattachine Society. Along with the daughters of Bilitis, a lesbian rights organization, Mattachine was one of the first gay rights organization in the U.S.

Harry Hay was a communist activist, labor organizer, anti war, anti racist fighter, and advocate for Native rights. Morris West was a close collaborator with several organizers who today are members of the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

West was never a narrow gay rights advocate. His work as early as the 1940s included in many civil rights and labor actions. Along with forming the Mattachine Society, he also organized the Bow Action Committee in 1965, organizing protests against the Bow Chemical company for producing Agent Orange used against the people of Vietnam in the U.S. war of aggression in Southeast Asia.



But perhaps, Ight was best known in his role for linking the LGBTQ rights movement at the time with the larger people's counter offensive against the right wing, when he called a powerful demonstration at Outfest, a gay and lesbian film festival, in 1985, after organizers for the LGBTQ social event accepted funding from Coors Beer. He used the opportunity to educate the LGBTQ community about the racist, anti labor and anti LGBTQ practices of Coors Beer, forging a new alliance that succeeded in banning Coors Beer forever from the event. Although other organizations later called an end to the boycott of Coors Beer, the boycott continues until today, where it is virtually impossible to find a gay bar selling Coors Beer.

As Ight was pushing back the bigots in Southern California, activist Scott Smith, born in Florida and raised in Mississippi, took to the front lines of the Coors Beer boycott in San Francisco.

Scott Smith's name may not be recognizable to many. He had a romantic relationship with Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in the

United States, who won a seat on the San Francisco City Council in 1978. Harvey Milk was assassinated by the bigoted police officer Dan White the next year.

Scott Smith, however, played an important role in Milk's own political development and remained an ally and friend of Milk even after their relationship ended. Smith brought the Coors Boycott to Harvey Milk's attention, who used his position as an openly gay elected official to push forward the labor LGBTQ immigrant alliance that was forming in the Bay Area at the time through the militancy of the Coors Boycott.

Gay activists at the time secured full agreement of gay establishments not to sell Coors Beer, dramatically dumping Coors beers down the drain and into the streets. These actions, orchestrated by Smith, spread to securing the boycott in LGBTQ venues across the country.

Smith died in 1985 of AIDS related pneumonia at the age of 36.



There were many others in the LGBTQ movement who played key roles, such as Howard Wallace, an openly gay Teamster who helped establish the the labor LGBTQ alliance and of course, and the untold number of rank and file community members who would not support any establishment that served Coors Beer or any of their products.

Coors Beer did not just sit there in the face of this this new united movement. Coors tried tooth and nail to split up this emerging powerful alliance of Blacks, Latinos, immigrants, women and LGBTQ community activists who stood together shoulder to shoulder no matter what.

In 1984, Arthur Schlesinger, Pres. of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, denounced Coors at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the students soon thereafter banned the beer from campus. The momentum of the labor movement in general was a forward march to smash Coors and send a signal to racists, bigots and anti labor companies. Even the non AFL-CIO

National Education Association with nearly 2 million members was pressured by its members to support the boycott of Coors.

Coors appealed to the African American community with promises of \$650 million in community investments and jobs, but less than 5 percent of that was accepted by members of the Black community, who, due to the struggle, were aware of Coors' virulent racism.

As the boycott grew and more and more joined the campaign and picked up the banner, the movement in different parts of the U.S. learned from each other and saw, in a mass way, that unity, unshakable unity, is key in winning victories. Campaigns such as the Coors Beers Boycott nurtured allies for the LGBTQ movement that propelled it forward to where it has won tremendous concessions today. We can continue to win even more, and push forward, recognizing how the movement has been built thus far through unity and militant struggle.



# L.A. Homosexuals Create Own Brand of Political Activism

## Gays, Lesbians Succeed in Building Unusual Network of Election Clout

By AUSTIN SCOTT, Times Staff Writer

In the very short history of America's gay and lesbian politics, there has never been a political force quite like the one intent on flexing its muscles in the upcoming Los Angeles city elections.

There have been other success stories. San Francisco has had two openly gay supervisors. Its mayor, as well as the mayor of Washington, D.C., might not have been elected without well-organized homosexual support. Elaine Noble, a Boston lesbian, spent four years in the Massachusetts Legislature, thanks to her community's strong support.

But in Los Angeles, politically active gays and lesbians, supported by their heterosexual friends, have succeeded in building a network of political clout that is based on converting money and influence into political power, rather than electing gays to political office.

"No serious politician in his right mind is going to ignore the gay vote in this town—the gay vote and gay money," said Larry Kaplan, who is helping direct the campaign for Michael Woo, a City Council candidate in the 13th District, which has a large gay population.

### Success in L.A.

Not even in San Francisco or New York city have power building attempts succeeded as they have in Los Angeles. Examples of how the clout is affecting the April 14 primary election include:

—Early in February, more than 35 of 51 invited candidates for city and county offices paraded before three interview committees of the predominantly homosexual Stonewall Democratic Club, seeking its endorsement, which can help bring in campaign contributions, precinct workers, more endorsements, and votes.

The candidates were a diverse group, including Republicans like School Board President Roberta Weintraub, and former Mayor Sam Yorty, who wants his old job back. City Attorney candidates Ira Reiner and Bob Ronka, Mayor Tom Bradley and Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson were among others who sought support.

But although he appeared before the gay group, Yorty

declined to ride in the annual Gay Pride parade.

"They didn't tell me they were queers," he later told a reporter. "... I said no because I felt I might be taken as a queer myself."

—The Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA), a gay and lesbian political action committee that has no parallel in the country, expects to raise \$100,000 at its annual fund-raising dinner-dance next Friday.

Much of the money will be contributed to local, state and even national officeholders who are willing to support gay and lesbian concerns. Candidates from Bradley on down seek contributions from MECLA in the same way they seek endorsements from the Stonewall club.

*The most heavily homosexual precincts were more heavily registered to vote than the citywide average and turned out a higher percentage of voters.*

—Both groups are active in all areas of the city and county, even in the very traditional, heavily Catholic, heavily blue collar 15th City Council District, where a few Yugoslavian and Italian families dominate the local political scene. The district, scene of a lively City Council campaign, stretches from Watts to San Pedro, and includes few politically active homosexuals.

Four years ago, MECLA pumped \$5,000 into Jim Stanbery's campaign to unseat Councilman John Gibson Jr., who had represented the 15th District for most of a generation. Their contribution helped Stanbery force Gibson into a runoff, which Gibson won.

Partly with an eye on the impact MECLA made, two of the leading candidates to replace the now retiring Gibson, Joan Flores and John Greenwood, sought sup-

port last month from Stonewall, which instead endorsed Stanbery.

The predominantly gay Log Cabin Republican Club has four to five dozen members and makes endorsements. But its recommendations are less influential than others because not many Republicans are deeply involved in the politics of the strongly Democratic city.

And, the GOP does not seem to offer gays the same warm welcome as do the Democrats. "There is resistance within the Republican party," said Chuck LaMoy, president of Log Cabin. "It's a matter of being informed, that's all."

It is not necessarily easy for gay and lesbian activists to agree on an endorsement. In an emotional meeting

last month, members of Stonewall gathered in an old Hollywood home just off Sunset Boulevard to debate for half an hour over whom they should support in the 13th Council District.

The district stretches in a broad band across some of the most heavily homosexual areas of Hollywood, Silverlake, Echo Park and Highland Park. Councilwoman Stevenson, who represents the area, is counted as one of their longest and most steadfast supporters.

"How can we slap a good friend like Peggy Stevenson in the face?" asked one of her supporters. "How can we slap one of our own in the face?" retorted a supporter of Don Amador, who is challenging Stevenson and is the first openly gay candidate in years to run for the council.

### Support for Woo

Others were strongly in support of Michael Woo, who has no elective office record, but was saying things that pleased them.

In the end, each of the three had so many friends and so many enemies within the club that they could not agree on one, and voted to add all three names to their slate as acceptable.

After the meeting, supporters of Woo were jubilant. Having his name on the slate, they said, would go a long way toward building a powerful campaign.

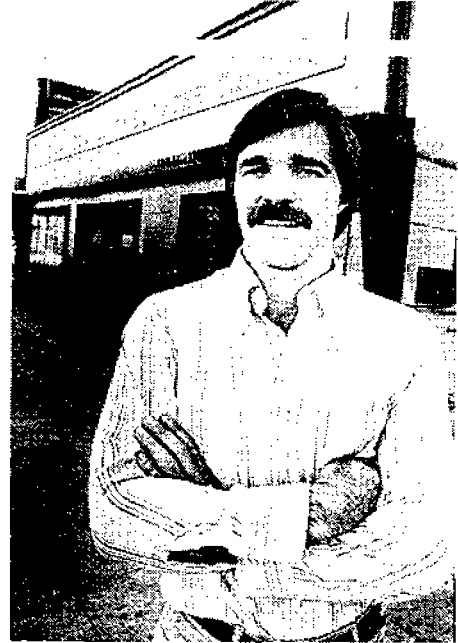
One reason is the voting strength of the gay community. There are no accurate figures on how many Los Angeles voters are gay or lesbian, but the best available educated guesses add up to a lot.

Woo aide Kaplan, estimates that 10% of the voters in the 13th Council District are homosexual. David Mixer, a partner in the political consulting firm of Mixer/Scott Inc., estimates a 15% gay and lesbian population in Los Angeles. That figure comes, he says, from taking the national estimate of 8% to 10%, and weighting it for heavier concentrations in major urban areas. Comparable estimates for San Francisco range from 15% to 25%.

The most heavily homosexual precincts, which are in Silverlake, West Hollywood and Hollywood, were more heavily registered to vote than the citywide average in last November's election, and turned out a higher than average percentage of their voters, Mixer said.

### Not as Visible

The Los Angeles network is not as visible, or as talked about, as its sometimes flamboyant counterpart in San Francisco. But it is no less courted by public officials, and it is fueled with quite a bit more money.



Los Angeles Times

Stephen Schulte, one of the leaders of Los Angeles' traditionally diverse gay community.

MECLA is the homosexual community's chief fund-raising organization, and the biggest single force that makes Los Angeles homosexual politics different than that in other cities. There is no equally effective counterpart anywhere, political strategists say. MECLA's just-announced goals for the 1980s include raising \$1 million "for candidate support."

Two years ago, sponsors of MECLA's \$150-a-plate annual fund-raising dinner included Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Bradley, now Democratic National Chairman Charles T. Manatt, nine congressmen, 20 state legislators and nine of the 15 Los Angeles City Council members.

In the last four years, MECLA gave \$35,250 to races in the city alone, and \$110,500 overall, including congressional, legislative, judicial and Los Angeles County races. The figures do not include spending for last November's election. The budget for the current city election has not yet been set.

The size of the MECLA war chest does not equal that of other influential city political groups, such as the Police Protective League or the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's Committee on Political Education.

The Police Protective League spent \$318,000 in its unsuccessful attempt to defeat a ballot measure limiting police and firefighter pensions in the November, 1980, election.

But MECLA is influential because it targets the money it has on specific politicians, giving its favorites a substantial boost, when they need it.

In the pressure-filled political world of shrinking dollars and special interest groups, that kind of clout does not just happen. Only in the last five years has there been the combination of intense work and easing public opinion necessary to build this network.

A major step in the effort came in 1978. That year, local gays were a major part of the surprisingly successful campaign which defeated Proposition 6, the initiative

Please see GAYS, Page 4

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See full page image or  
microfilm.

Lesbian activist Ivy Bottini, with Rick Saslaw: "I don't think he'd know if he saw me on the street."

# GAYS: Unusual Network of Clout Developed in L.A.

Continued from First Page

written by state Sen. John V. Briggs (R-Fullerton). It would have required the firing of homosexual teachers and any other teacher who advocated homosexuality as a life style.

## 'Voting Their Self-Interest'

Morris Kight, seen by many as a kind of political godfather to the Los Angeles gay activist community, said, "Never again will Californians respond to us as they did before the Briggs campaign. The state's voters heard from us some extraordinary limited argumentation on why they should vote no... an appeal to their self-interest. And in voting their self-interest, they also voted (our) interests... We now have a vast reservoir of good will, or at least liquidated prejudice, to rely on."

Another factor in growing gay political power, many say, is a "coming out" of people who already were influential before they revealed their sexual preferences. Among them were attorneys Sheldon Andelson and Richard Kaplan. This has made large numbers of local politicians receptive to gay and lesbian issues.

"Five years ago if you walked in and said you were gay, you might be let into two or three City Council offices," said Jeanne Cordova, elected in February as the first lesbian president of Stonewall. Council members Joel Wachs and Stevenson were the earliest supporters, activists say.

Now no one drops the phone when you say I'm from the gay this or that, and almost all are favorable. We're treated just like any other constituency that wants something," Cordova added.

"When I first came on the City Council, it was unheard of that you would support gay causes," said Council President John Ferraro, considered to be one of the more receptive politicians. "I think the gay groups found a way to get their message heard, and they're very effective at it."

There are many examples of how gays have been accepted by mainstream politicians.

Last June, Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman was grand marshal of the second annual Gay Pride and Festival Parade in West Hollywood, which is in his district.

In October, 1979, at a Beverly Wilshire fund-raiser that generated \$120,000 for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Hollywood, then-President Jimmy Carter's mother was the featured guest.

City Attorney Burt Pines, District Attorney John Van de Kamp and then-Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy were included in the list of political stars, as was Gov. Brown.

Councilman Art Snyder, whose East Side district is heavily Catholic and Latino, bought a \$100 half-page advertisement in a testimonial booklet for a political star-studded testimonial dinner in January for Ivy Bottini, a longtime lesbian activist.

"I don't think he'd know me if he saw me on the street," Bottini later commented.

Other politicians who bought advertising space included City Controller Reiner, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles), six state assemblymen, state Sen. Alan Sieroty (D-Los Angeles) and four other council members.

Outsiders agree that there is evidence of gay political strength.

John Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League and one of the city's more politically influential blacks, said he thinks Los Angeles' homosexual community has developed considerable political clout.

However, he added that blacks, who have been seeking political power for a great deal longer, probably have more influence with "certain elements of the business community," and "the West Side liberal Jewish community."

William Robertson, executive secretary-treasurer of

the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, local AFL-CIO, said he did not want to compare the influence of the gay movement with labor.

"We've been in operation a long, long time," he said. "Perhaps we've developed a greater degree of sophistication over the years in our approach... I think they are being quite effective for an organization that has only been in operation for a short while. If they don't have inner power struggles and remain united, they can increase that effectiveness..."

The growth of political power is taking place in a traditionally diverse gay community—a community that has always had trouble unifying in pursuit of a goal. But politics, gay activists say, has helped provide unity that is overcoming differences in gay life styles.

The local gay political constituency consists of flamboyantly sexual gays who strut in costumes of leather or nearly identical jeans, T-shirts and hair styles along Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood.

They are quite unlike the conservative "married" gay and lesbian couples who have been coming home to each other for 10, 20 and even more years, who have as settled a domestic life as any "straight" couple, and who would never be flamboyant.

There are "street kids" to whom an aggressively gay or lesbian demeanor is as important a personal statement as painted faces, tattered clothes and easy sex and drugs were to the "flower children" of the late 1960s.

They are worlds away from the very successful professional men and women who live in Beverly Hills, Bel-Air and other affluent parts of town, act conservatively and pride themselves on the same kind of competence in what they do as successful straight professionals.

Amador, the openly gay council candidate, said at a recent fund-raising dinner that there are too many differing values for any one gay candidate to get all—or maybe even most—of the gay vote.

Despite the diversity, there is one place that Los Angeles gays and lesbians come together. That is the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, the main point of contact between the political, professional elite and "street people." It is an important part of the network that is producing gay political power.

There is a political test of sorts going on around the center right now, because it is in the middle of a major funding crisis. Forty of its 84 paid staff positions are funded by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, and it expects to lose \$500,000 in CETA funds starting April 1 because of President Reagan's budget cutbacks.

"We're going to have a very different kind of center," said director Stephen Schulte, a former aide to Councilwoman Stevenson. "Over the past two or three years we've been seeing 6,500 people a month."

"We had 10 programs... crisis counseling, day labor employment, incest survival counseling, information referral, housing referrals that placed 400 people a month."

The center will serve anyone who walks in the door, and about 14% of its clients are not homosexual, Schulte said.

The new Harvey Milk Democratic Club in Los An-



*'We're treated just like any other constituency that wants something.'*

—Jeanne Cordova

geles is another group that hopes to become influential. Genevieve Vigil and Conrado Terrazas, both of whom have worked for Tom Hayden's Campaign for Economic Democracy, are starting the club.

They said the club is in the beginning stages of holding more than 50 house meetings in neighborhoods around the city to find out what issues are on people's minds. And they said they want to attract blacks, Latinos and Asians.

It seems to be an attempt to borrow some of the political style of San Francisco's gay-lesbian community.

San Francisco, usually cited as the best example of a city where homosexuals have political power, has a rough and tumble, issue-oriented politics based on small, well-organized neighborhoods.

"Gay people have learned to lead from strength here," said Harry Britt, a gay former methodist minister appointed by San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein to succeed the late Supervisor Milk. "In a lot of communities, gay strength meant keeping the police from closing down the bars, and that's what it used to mean here."

Now, Britt said, gay strength in San Francisco means creating alliances between different neighborhoods and around particular issues—jobs, mental health, the care of senior citizens, housing for the poor, environmental issues.

In Los Angeles, some gay and lesbian groups are also issue-oriented and do not get directly involved in politics. But they are an integral part of the homosexual political constituency, they talk about political issues and add legitimacy to the whole movement.

They include gay professional and business organizations, gay chapters in unions and educational groups like the Southern California Women for Understanding. Founded in 1976, SCWU has doubled its membership to about 750 in the last year and a half.

"Certainly it's the political atmosphere in this country that encouraged the founding of the organization," said SCWU board member Susan Kuhner.

"It's for women who are in a sort of precarious position in terms of coming out, to meet other lesbians, to understand our own feelings of being in the world as lesbians... to know that we are not alone."

SCWU members are "prestigious in the community," Kuhner said. "We have a wide sphere of influence with politicians and other prominent people... We are fairly non-threatening... since we don't have a radical aura and we can speak the language, and appear in a manner that people of influence are comfortable with. We know what we're talking about, and we make a lot of sense..."



**THE RADICAL FAIRIES** have over the previous, loosely organized group gathers in an unlicensed building, mainly used to hold the "Tentative

POWERED BY  
**News**papers<sup>TM</sup>

# Gay President Elected by L.A. Human Rights Body

LOS ANGELES — In a history making vote, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations unanimously elected Morris Kight its president. This is the first time in Los Angeles County that an openly Gay person has served as president of a major commission.

The May 16 vote recognized Kight's tireless efforts to uphold the commission's charter to promote improved human relations, civic peace, intergroup understanding, and the full acceptance of all persons in every aspect of community life.

Reduction and eventual elimination of all racially and religiously motivated violence, intergroup tension and conflict, discrimination and prejudice based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any arbitrary factor are the Commission's goals.

Kight, the only openly Gay

member of the commission, was instrumental in the 1975 revision of the commission's charter to include the words "sexual orientation." Today, three Blacks, five women, and one Asian also sit on the commission.

Kight was appointed to the commission by Supervisor Ed Edelman and is currently serving his fourth term on the 15-member panel.

He succeeded the Rev. Troy Perry on the commission, who hailed Kight's election saying, "I am proud of Morris and his hard work over the years to advocate the Gay/Lesbian agenda. His presidency is long overdue."

Morris Kight is consistently referred to as "the elder statesman of the Gay community" by the *Los Angeles Times* and other California media. Since 1937 he has championed a variety of causes including the environment, cultural

Turn to KIGHT, Page A-9



MORRIS KIGHT

Photo — Don Saban



# **KIGHT**

## **Continued From Front Page**

arts, poverty, peace, and civil rights. It was Kight who coined the phrase "physically challenged."

Kight is also a founder of the Christopher Street West Gay pride organization, the Van Ness Recovery House, Stonewall Democratic Club, McCadden Place Collection, and the Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Community Center. He is co-author of the famous 1972 Gay Rights Plank which was taken up by the Stonewall Democratic Club, adopted by the California Democratic Council in 1975, and by the California Democratic Party in 1976.

Party. (9 to 10:30 a.m.)  
**March On!** A Los Angeles-based organiza-  
tion founded by gay activist Morris Kight to pro-  
mote understanding for people with AIDS. The  
group plans a mass "die-in" to dramatize the is-  
sue. (11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)  
**People's Independent Democratic Club**

**MK 1988**

Clipped By:



**kateblaine**

Tue, Oct 29, 2019



## 'March On' Stages Conventions' Protests

LOS ANGELES — "Every subject at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions must be made aware of their responsibility to the AIDS community," said the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which has ignored 76 accusations this March that its organizing "disseminated false information about the disease," by Austin and Miami Herald reporters of the effort, said a prepared statement.

LOU ANGELES — "Every segment of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions must be made aware of their responsibility to and the AIDS virus. 30,000 people last year died from AIDS. It is a tragedy. We are going to be doing this, 'Die to' 'democrats' at both political conventions," by Austin and Morris. High schoolers of the effort used in a featured statement.

—This country needs an AIDS

**AMYL**  
Continued From Page A-3

Marijuana use among homosexuals was the first AIDS-related disease identified in Kaposi's Sarcoma," according to Transmitted Diseases. Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Marijuana, as of Oct-Dec 1985, may make interfering other factors, but it's hard to say whether they may be related to

For example, "Through March 4, 1986, only one of the 622 homosexual patients with AIDS reported to the CDC had K5, and only two of 104 AIDS cases attributed to transmission of blood products had developed K5."

In interviews of PPHs, interviewers, for example, that a patient is not more likely to give a flow

an agent AIDS with more than 100 homosexual, health care and drug programs, counseling and emergency-refugeary settings. A study is a quick way to gain the qualitative support it is said to give the "voice" of our disadvantaged and victims who have suffered from this disease. The last "Day in" was scheduled to take place as doctors went to work on Monday, July 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the official

that Disney didn't do find such a line between K.S. and success.

Haverkorn found that "patients with PCP only had lower economic burden (rates of non-B hepatitis and mucositis) as well as fewer side effects than did patients who developed AIDS or both AIDS and PCP. The patients with PCP only reported fewer side effects, namely, fatigue, nausea and diarrhea, but not headache, and did not die."

When this study focused on variables to the exclusion of other possibilities, it raised red flags about CMV infection and its local and sexual use and the risk of not B hepatitis and hepatitis other STIs and AIDS — on which there has been relatively

**Interpretation:**  
In testing the vaccine, the Department of Health and Human Services

Atlanta (Georgia), Democratic National Convention will, actors from the *Cable News* (Atlanta) Channel. The event is being co-ordinated with ADRIUS (ABLE) Channel 10 (Atlanta) Power, the National Day and National Task Force, the National Association of Day and National Democratic Clubs, and the National Night Campaign Fund.

Alabama, Georgia, Democratic National Committee, etc., across from the Cable News Network Channel. The event is being coordinated with ACTUP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power), the National Queer and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs and the American Rights Campaign Fund.

Eight attended to discuss their selective advertising programs and those made with Atlanta posts.

for the demonstration just outlined, the demonstrator could say:

"The 'Cin' at the Republican Convention in New Orleans was held on August 15 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m."

A 'cin' is a symbol for action. You must use the symbol. You must read the symbol. You must use the symbol and read the symbol as outlined with children and the name of a person who died of AIDS is written within the symbol. Hanging inside the matrix of the 'Cin' takes from the name.

The "Day in" at the Republican Convention in New Orleans will be on August 15 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A far better approach, however, is to use the patient's real name and to follow with the name of a person who died of AIDS, as written below the name of the dead, taken from the Bureau

## Black Jack Sees Afro-US Exhibit

LOS ANGELES — Black Jack, a social club for the Black Gay men, will host the California Afro-American Museum for a social tour on Tuesday, June 24. The museum is currently exhibiting "Black Angerances: The Afro-American in Los Angeles, 1850-1900."

This subject, which will be controlled by a committee that

members get together to socialize and watch videos. Only safe sex practices are allowed between members at these functions.

Each man who wish to know more about the club or the program, just should write for information to Black Jack, P.O. Box 62515, D. Los Angeles, CA 90062.



Project quit. Elections in Atlanta and New Orleans have pricing and financial numbers to be paid.

Way political figures have been asked to join with Pat Horman and Jack Campbell, supporters of the Democratic Party Day & US House.

Daigraff's Carlu & reading names. Volunteers from all over the country are joining with Harriet in her demonstration.

March Carl is a political actor organization of Lincolns and Day.

Project quite precise in Atlanta and New Orleans are proving as official number to be read.

Any political Nigeria must be based to join with Pat Heugan and late Cardinal, members of the Democratic Party Day & Joseph Odiagbhe. Cawala, a reading, famous Volunteers from all over the country are joining with Abba Odi in his demonstration.

Melvin Bell is a political action organization of leaders and they

men founded to organize the two  
castles statewide March 18  
Sacramento. It is expanding  
nationwide.

During the March demonstrations in Berlin and Regensburg, the March was led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the late Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Josef Frings. On 64 campaign against Leuchtgas, Dr. King also founded the first chapter of NOW. King is better known for his role in the civil rights movement, but he was also a vocal advocate of the gay and lesbian community. Dr. King's legacy is honored by the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, Christopher Street West, Van Ness Recovery House and the National Historical Park.

For more information, contact  
March On!, 4275 Beverly Blvd. Ste.  
250, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (213)  
261-7192.

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Michael Hedderman, R.N., from USC County Medical Center and Manager of the Outpatient AIDS Clinic, believes:

**The health care system is coping with the present patient load, but the numbers will rise dramatically over the next few years...we will not be able to meet the needs of this enlarged patient population without a well-developed, carefully planned response on the part of the entire community.**

**(Michael Hedderman)**

This assertion that the health care system is coping at present was disputed by Ron Rose, who described conditions at the County Med Center as being terrible. Morris Kight also described conditions at the County as deplorable, and in testimony in front of the Board of Supervisors several weeks following these hearings talked about the case of a gay man with pneumocystis pneumonia who had to wait in a holding ward for three days with other patients. This situation was only changed when the LAAHC politically intervened with the Supervisors. Witnesses from the LAAHC also disputed the claim of Hedderman that the County was coping with the present patient load. Hedderman offered:

**Significant gaps in service exist. We have been unable to place even one patient in a skilled nursing facility. Hospice care is very limited. Reimbursement for attendant or homemaking service is difficult to obtain. Emergency and residential shelters are just getting off the ground. It is difficult for HIV-infected patients to access dental treatment.**

**(Michael Hedderman)**

Hedderman, who is a hard-working AIDS care provider dealing with an exponentially increasing patient load combined with a lack of funding, had this to say in summary:

**In summary, one can react to the information I have presented in two ways. The first is to accept the inevitability that this epidemic will overwhelm the health care and social service systems. The other is to see the epidemic as presenting challenges that can be met...Legislation is needed to provide incentives for outpatient visits, home care and hospice...It is my belief that if we do not act soon, we will be overwhelmed.**

**(Michael Hedderman)**



The per day losses of \$180 for Medi-Cal cases and as much as \$827 for Self-pay patients, show that home and residential hospice care, at the rate of either \$115 or \$150 could be paid for today out of the deficit in Medi-Cal funding. This would still result in a saving for the County even if they received no state funding for these programs.

However, the San Francisco program is receiving 15% of its funding from Medi-Cal. They will receive considerably more once the new Medi-Cal hospice benefit and the home and community based Medicare waiver take affect.

It is difficult to justify waiting for new government entitlement programs to be instituted, given the desperate need that now exists for this type of care. The County can advance an innovative and rational new system of care without putting itself in any financial jeopardy,

County/USC is running at 95% of capacity (which means that on any given day they are above 100% of capacity). We must recognize that the savings from early discharges are not the only savings to the County. In light of an exponentially exploding epidemic, which will fill one-half of the general medical beds at County/USC within 5 years, we cannot depend so heavily on hospitalization. If we continue to do so, the incremental costs will increase substantially. Expensive new hospital facilities to cope with the AIDS patient load, with the capital costs involved, would increase the incremental costs substantially.

The following case illustrates the overcrowding at County/USC.

#### Specific Patient Incident

The patient referred to by Mr. Morris Kight in his March 3, 1987 testimony to the Board is a patient currently followed by our AIDS Outpatient Program. On the afternoon of February 17, 1987, the patient was referred to Admitting Area 1200 at General Hospital for evaluation. This admitting area is staffed to evaluate 48 patients and is designed to conduct thorough evaluations prior to patients being transferred to an inpatient medical ward. On February 17, 1987, there were approximately 60 patients in Admitting Area 1200 that were being evaluated for admission. At the same time, the inpatient census for medical service in General Hospital was 492 which is 27 patients in excess of what the hospital is budgeted and staffed for. As a result, the patients in Admitting Area 1200 were held and cared for in that area until such time as more suitable beds became available. In this particular case, the patient was ultimately transferred to an inpatient ward the morning of February 19, 1987.

In addition to the increase in AIDS patients, LAC/USC Medical Center has steadily experienced a high census which has contributed to the difficulties in managing the AIDS caseload. During this fiscal year, the LAC/USC census has been averaging over 95%. As a result, there have been delays in transferring patients from admitting areas onto the wards. Consequently, several actions have been taken to deal with this dramatic increase in workload. When an overload situation occurs, the professional staff identify all patients who can be safely discharged early.

The nursing offices obtain updated bed counts more frequently and identify units that can accept patients. At times, it is also necessary for LAC/USC to stop accepting inpatient transfers from community hospitals. This situation is expected to continue throughout the year. (Gates, R., 3/18/87)

San Francisco has already reduced the average hospital stay dramatically. It is conceivable that with the proper planning and without short-changing the patients, that average hospital stays could be reduced to fewer than ten days per hospitalization. Typically AIDS patients are being treated for bouts of pneumocystis pneumonia, and often the only treatment needed after they have been stabilized is intravenous Bactrim or other drugs. When there is an attendant or other care-giver in the home, this makes it possible for these drugs to be routinely administered by visiting nurses.

### Capital Costs

While the County will realize immediate cost saving benefits from the implementation of a comprehensive home and hospice program, there are start-up costs which will be incurred.

The purchase and/or construction of these facilities plus furnishing and supplying can be amortized over a long period as with any capital expense. We propose that a five year \$54. million L.A. County bond issue be adopted to cover these costs, which represents \$2 million per facility. This is far less than the cost of constructing new hospitals.

### OTHER CONCERNS

A number of issues that have not been addressed in great depth in this report, are discussed briefly below. These matters would be dealt with most appropriately by the Hospice Commission.



**AIDS Laundry Planned: Health: Organizers say volunteers will pick up, ...**  
LORI GRANGE TIMES STAFF WRITER  
*Los Angeles Times* (1923-1995); Dec 6, 1990; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times  
pg. WSJ1

# AIDS Laundry Planned

■ **Health:** Organizers say volunteers will pick up, wash and return clothes for free for people with the disease.

By LORI GRANGE  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**A**IDS activists from Northeast Los Angeles and Hollywood plan to establish a free laundry service for people with the disease.

Aunt Bee's, expected to be in operation by January, would be only the second program of its kind in the country, organizers claim. The proposed operation is modeled after Auntie Helen's Fluff 'n Fold, a nonprofit service in San Diego believed to be the only self-sufficient laundry service for people with AIDS or AIDS-related complex.

Aunt Bee's most likely will operate from a rented building in Silver Lake or

Hollywood, organizers said. Volunteers each week will pick up the laundry of about 500 men, women and children with AIDS, wash it at the building and return it for free, said Miki Jackson, a free-lance graphic artist and community activist who will serve as executive director.

A thrift store at the front of the building, small fund-raisers and private donations will pay for the service, Jackson said.

"As long as someone is healthy and well and able, they should do their own laundry and be responsible for their life," she said. "But when they are too challenged and too ill, we want to be there to do it for them."

At least 3,450 people in Los Angeles  
**Please see LAUNDRY, J6**



RICARDO DEABATANIA / Los Angeles Times

Activist Miki Jackson will serve as executive director of the laundry service.

# LAUNDRY:

## Free Service for AIDS Victims

**Continued from J1**

County have AIDS, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Many have more laundry needs because of night sweats, diarrhea and other problems associated with the disease, said Dr. Martin Finn, AIDS program medical director for the county's Department of Health Services.

And although people with AIDS are encouraged to try to live a normal life at home, they may lose the energy or ability to do their laundry, Finn said.

"When you get down to it, it's pretty hard to live when you don't have your laundry cared for," Finn said. "The illness, and its various ramifications, results in the use of a tremendous amount of laundry, so I don't think one can underestimate how important it is to meet this need."

Jackson and several others—including Morris Kight, a prominent gay activist who founded the Gay and Lesbian Services Center in Hollywood—started planning the service in September after touring Auntie Helen's in San Diego.

That facility was founded in 1988 by Gary Cheatham, who quit his job as a computer analyst when he tested positive for the HIV virus, the precursor to AIDS.

Auntie Helen's operates out of a rented building and washes 1,400 loads each month for about 200 people, Cheatham said. A thrift store in front pays for about 75% of the operation's \$12,500 monthly expenses, with biweekly yard sales and private donations making up the rest.

The operation's three trucks, eight washing machines and eight dryers were donated, Cheatham said. About 70 volunteers do the washing and delivery.

**Please see LAUNDRY, J7**



# LAUNDRY: Free Service

Continued from J6

Although some AIDS service groups have "buddy systems" in which a volunteer may wash clothing for an individual with AIDS, Auntie Helen's is believed to be the only self-supporting, city-wide program in the country specifically dedicated to washing laundry, Cheatham said.

The service also loans medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, and gives its clients clothing, linens and household goods, he said.

**T**he proposed Los Angeles service will operate in nearly the same way—it will wash laundry and eventually will provide medical equipment and clothing—but it will require twice the number of washers and dryers to serve twice the number of people, Jackson said.

Aunt Bee's initially will serve about 500 people under the corporate umbrella of the U.S. Missions, a nonprofit shelter in Hollywood that feeds senior citizens and the homeless. Eventually, it will become an independent, nonprofit organization serving up to 1,000 people, Kight said.

U.S. Missions already has donated office equipment and two businessmen donated \$1,000. But organizers still are soliciting donations of washing machines, dryers and cars.

The organizers want to have the service running by January. They have decided to send out an Aunt Bee's Christmas card to solicit donations and support, Kight said.

San Diego's facility is widely considered a success, he said. A Los Angeles service probably will be more difficult to establish, Cheatham and Jackson agreed. San Diego has at least 900 residents with AIDS, compared with Los Angeles' 3,450, federal statistics show.

Also, most San Diego users of the service live in the area of the UC San Diego Medical Center, which has an AIDS clinic, but Los Angeles residents are spread throughout the county—making pickup and delivery of clothing potentially more difficult, Jackson said.



Del Martin, Bernard Mayes, Phyllis Lyon, Shevy Healey, Morris Kugler and Darrin Jones at Diversity With a Difference.

(Photo: Jane Phibbs/Cowart)

# Diversity With a Difference: Focus on Aging Community



# Officials Name Intersection After Gay Rights Activist

A little piece of Hollywood was named today in honor of Morris Kight, the late gay-rights pioneer and longtime Los Angeles County Human Relations commissioner.

"For Morris Kight, the fight for justice ran broad and deep," City Councilman Eric Garcetti said after pulling a drape off a sign designating Morris Kight Square at Hollywood Boulevard and McCadden Place, near the Hollywood & Highland entertainment complex.

"Though he is known as a leader among gays and lesbians, he wanted a better world for every one of us. It's my hope that the naming of Morris Kight Square today will inspire the activists of tomorrow," Garcetti said.

Kight is credited with organizing the first-ever closed-street gay pride parade, held in West Hollywood in 1970.

After a long period of declining health from a number of ailments, he died in his sleep in Los Angeles Jan. 19 at age 83.

Those who spoke at his funeral included Gov. Gray Davis, Sens. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, and Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, as well as Assembly members Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood and Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles.

Kight was born in Comanche County, Texas, in 1919, and gradu-

ated from Texas Christian University.

During the Vietnam War, Kight worked with the Dow Action Committee, protesting weapons manufacturing. He helped launch the Gay Liberation Front in 1969, and two years later co-founded the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center.

He also created The Morris Kight Collection, which archives thousands of artifacts chronicling the emergence of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights, as well as formed the Stonewall Democratic Club.

"Morris Kight is owed so much credit for leading the way for gays and lesbians to be proud of who they are and what they stand for," said Councilman Tom LaBonge, who also attended the ceremony. "Although he rose from humble beginnings in rural Texas, he will always be remembered as a great Angeleno and an exceptional human being."

Kight, who often cited Eleanor Roosevelt as an influence on his values and his activism, retired last year after 20 years on the Los Angeles County Human Rights Commission. He spent his last days at Carl Bean House as a guest of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, one of the agencies he supported.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Resource Name	Street number	Fraction	Street Name	Unit #	Alternate Address	APN	Current Survey	2003 Survey	1997 Survey	1986 Survey	Status Code	HRI Status Code
2130		1410		MCCADDEN PL			5547021011	3CD	6Z1	5D			5D
2131		1428		MCCADDEN PL			5547022007	3CD	6Z1	5D			5D
2132		1434		MCCADDEN PL			5547022025						
2133		1442		MCCADDEN PL			5547022023						
2134		1519		MCCADDEN PL			5547020020	3CS					
2135		1527		MCCADDEN PL			5547020021	6Z					
2136		1533		MCCADDEN PL			5547020022						
2137		1534		MCCADDEN PL			5547020031	7R					
2138	SIVANANDA YOGA COMMUNITY	1540		MCCADDEN PL			5547020030	6Z					5S
2139		1542		MCCADDEN PL			5547020029	3CS					
2140		1547		MCCADDEN PL			5547020025	3CS					
2141		1600		MCCADDEN PL			5547014039						
2142		1606		MCCADDEN PL			5547014038						
2143		1607		MCCADDEN PL			5547013003						
2144		1612		MCCADDEN PL			5547014037						
2145		1616		MCCADDEN PL			5547014036						
2146		1621		MCCADDEN PL			5547013006	6Z					
2147		1622		MCCADDEN PL			5547014035						
2148		1655		MCCADDEN PL			5547012014	6Z					



# PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_

HRI # \_\_\_\_\_

Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_

NRHP Status Code 3CD

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_

Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 1

\*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1428 N MCCADDEN PL

P1. Other Identifier: \_\_\_\_\_

\*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted \*a. County Los Angeles County

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Hollywood Date: 1996

c. Address: 1428 N MCCADDEN PL City: LOS ANGELES Zip: 90028

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_\_ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

APN: 5547022007

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP03

\*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☒ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of photo:

(View, data, accession #)

12/16/08

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Sources: ☒ Historic

☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

1910

Assessor

\*P7. Owner and Address:

KAHANA, TAL TR  
6000 TEMPLE HILL DR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90068

\*P8. Recorded by:

Jenna Snow  
Chattel Architecture, Planning & Preservation  
13417 Ventura Boulevard  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3938

\*P9. Date Recorded: 12/16/2008

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Intensive



\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources or enter "none.")

Chattel Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Inc. Historic Resources Survey of the Hollywood Redevelopment Area. Prepared for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles in collaboration with PCR Services Corporation and LSA Associates, Inc., March 2009.

\*Attachments: ☒ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record

☐ Archeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record

☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List): \_\_\_\_\_





#### LEGEND

- Potential Historic District
- ▨ District Contributor



0 125 250  
FEET

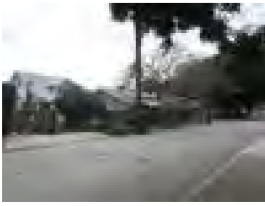
SOURCE: Aerials provided by City of Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency (2005)

I:\CAX0701\GIS\Hollywood\_District\_Colegrove.mxd (6/11/2009)

CRA Historic Architecture Survey  
Colegrove Potential Historic District



**Name: McCadden-DeLongpre-Leland Residential Historic District**



**Description:**

The McCadden-De Longpre-Leland Residential Historic District is a concentration of pre-World War II residences in central Hollywood. The district is flat and moderate in size. It encompasses an L-shaped area that includes parcels on the 1300 block of McCadden Place, the 6600-6700 blocks of DeLongpre Avenue, the 6700 block of Leland Way, and the 1400 block of Las Palmas Avenue.

The district is primarily composed of detached, single-family houses that were built between the very early 20th century and the 1920s. These houses are sited on deep, narrow lots, are one or two stories in height, and are designed in the Craftsman style, though some of the earlier houses exhibit characteristics of Late Victorian era styles. Common architectural features include low-pitched roofs with wide eaves and exposed rafters, broad porches, wood clapboard siding, and multi-light wood windows. Most houses feature a detached garage or ancillary building at the rear of the lot. Common alterations include the replacement of original doors and windows, some limited replacement of original wall cladding, and the addition of security bars and perimeter fences. Rear additions have also been made to several houses.

Interspersed between these houses are a few low density, early 20th century multi-family dwellings that generally complement the neighborhood's prevailing scale and character, as well as a few examples of larger-scale multi-family properties – mostly apartment houses – that post-date World War II and do not contribute to the district.

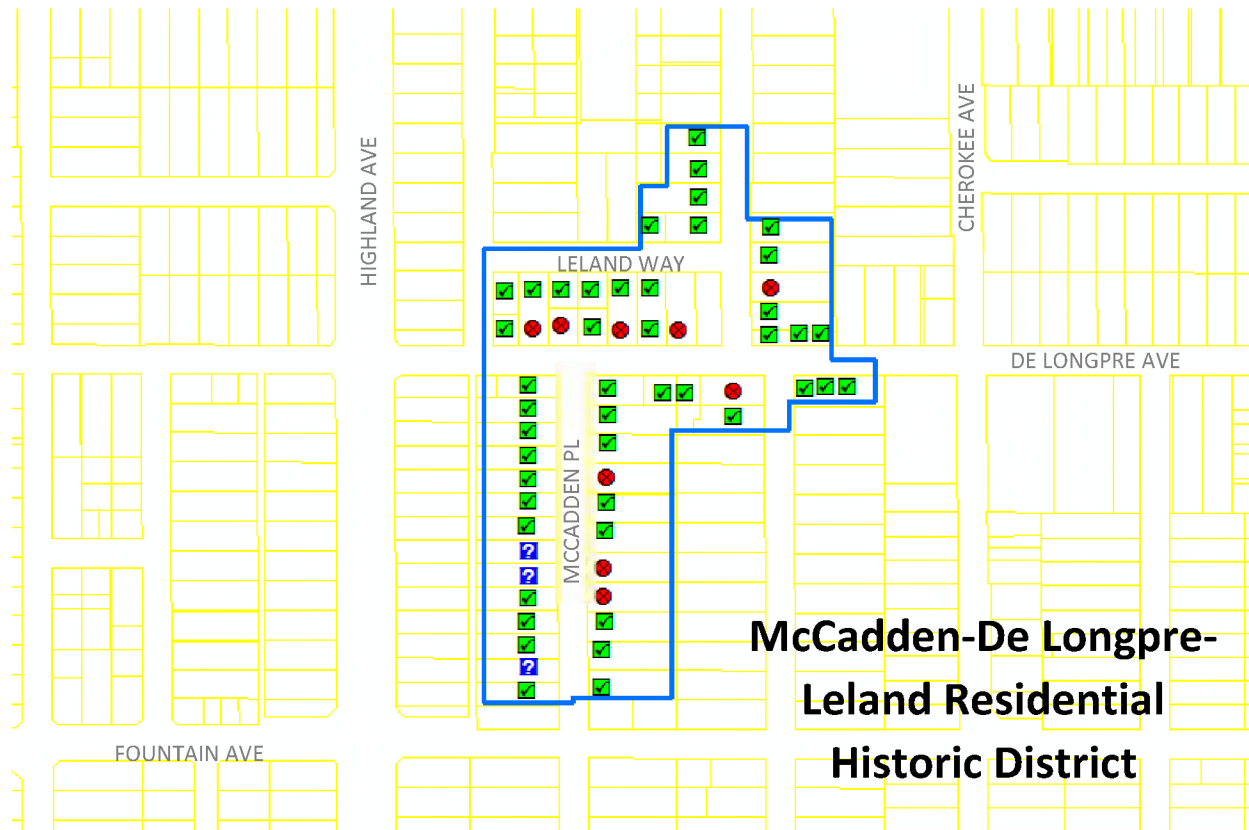
Streets in the district are narrow and adhere to the rectilinear grid along which most of Hollywood is oriented. Streetscape features are limited to concrete sidewalks and narrow parkways; the parkways are planted with a somewhat sporadic assortment of trees and shrubs. Many of the properties – and especially those along McCadden Place – are partially obscured from public view by a tall hedge or perimeter fence.

**Significance:**

The McCadden-De Longpre-Leland Residential Historic District is significant for conveying patterns of streetcar suburbanization in Hollywood. Its scale and character are indicative of the type of residential development that developed alongside Los Angeles's expansive network of streetcar lines in the early 20th century. The period of significance has been identified as 1906-1923, which accounts for the district's primary period of development. Within the district are 57 properties, of which 45 (79%) contribute to its significance. Due to alterations to some individual buildings and some infill development, the district may not retain sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

The district comprises portions of three contiguous residential tracts that were subdivided in the early 20th century: Boyle Place (1904), Strong and Dickinson's Hollywood High School Tract (1905), and Tract 1060 (1910). These tracts were strategically located near a number of major streetcar routes, which provided residents with convenient access to central Hollywood and the downtown central business district. Their subdivision is associated with patterns of suburbanization that played a heavy hand in shaping the built environment of Hollywood during the early 20th century.

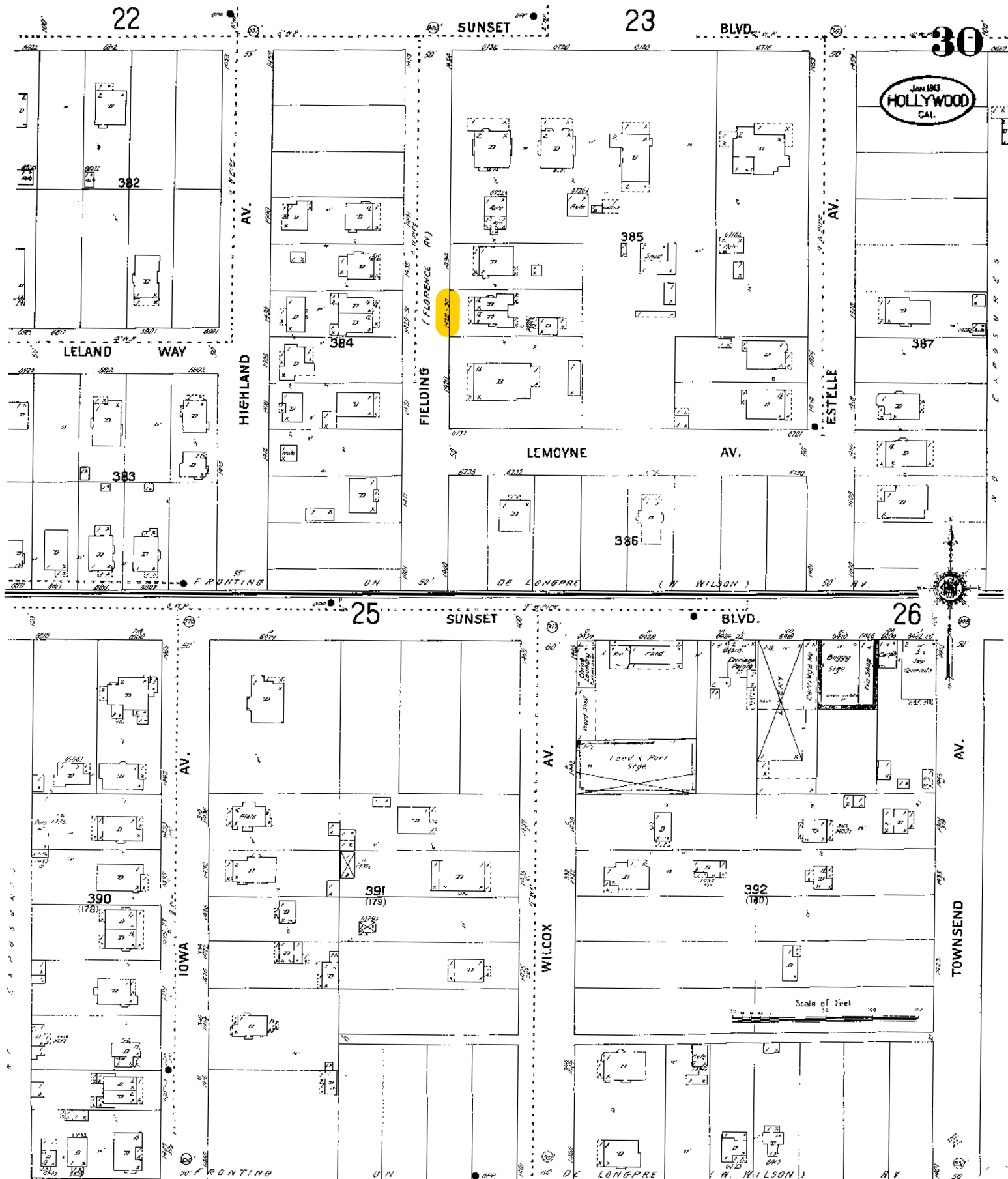
Lots within these tracts were sold and developed individually. To ensure that the neighborhood retained a sense of cohesion as it developed, restrictions accompanied the sale of each lot, requiring that houses abide by common setback requirements and minimum construction costs. Development within all three tracts occurred contemporaneously. Almost all of the lots were developed in the 1910s with modest Craftsman style bungalows; however, a few featured small-scale multi-family buildings that were compatible with the adjacent stock of single-family houses. The neighborhood was built out by the mid-1920s, though a few properties were redeveloped in the post-World War II era.



**Context 1:**

Context:	Residential Development and Suburbanization, 1850-1980
Sub context:	No Sub-context
Theme:	Streetcar Suburbanization, 1888-1933
Sub theme:	Suburban Planning and Development, 1888-1933
Property type:	Streetcar Suburb
Property sub type:	Neighborhood
Criteria:	A/1/1
Status code:	3CS;5S3
Reason:	Significant example of an early 20th century residential neighborhood that was developed in proximity to a streetcar line. Due to alterations to some individual buildings and some infill development, may not retain sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.





HIGHLAND

AV.

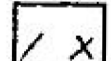
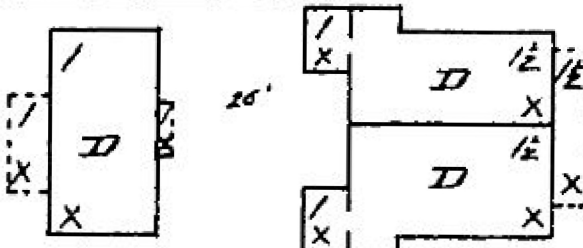
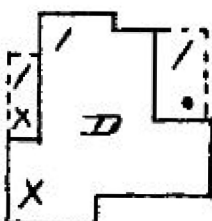
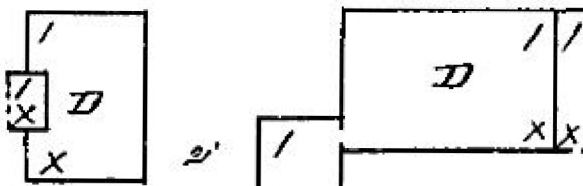
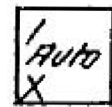
1416

1418

1426

1430

1440



384

32'

25'

32'

26'

32'

53'

19'

22'

21'

1421

1429-31

1435

1441

FIELDING

( FLORENCE AV.)

1913

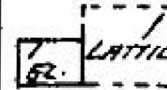
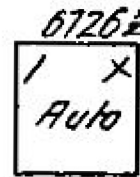
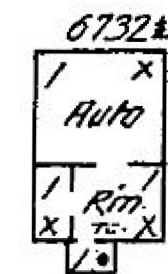
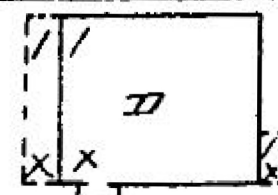
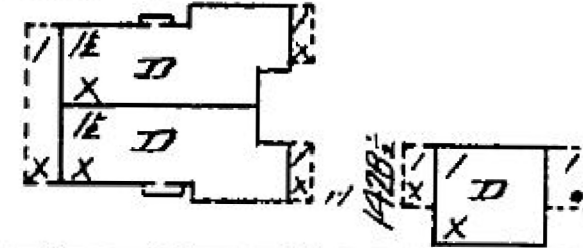
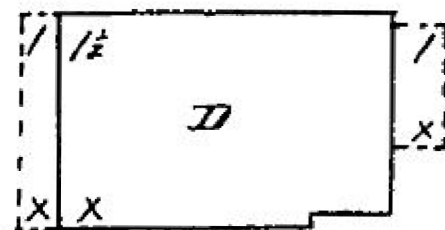
4" W. PIPE

1420

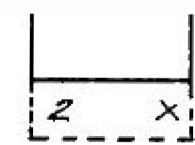
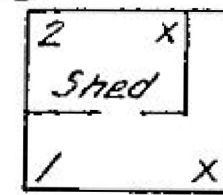
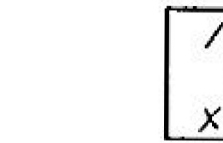
1428 - 30

1434

6737



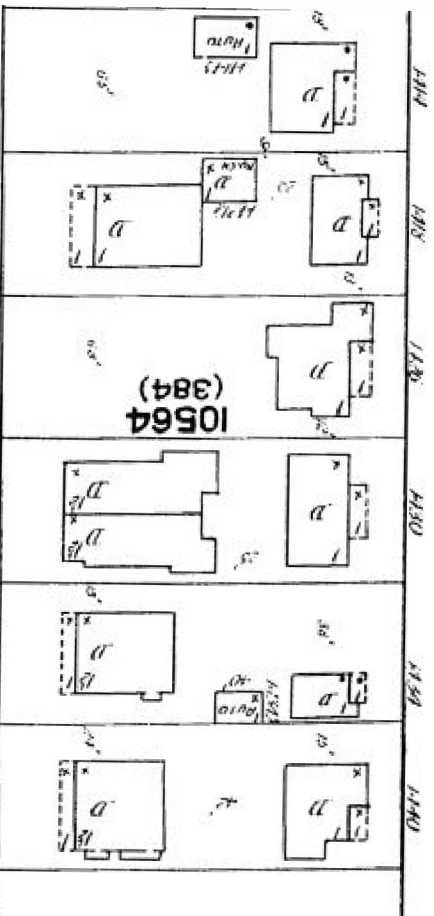
385



LEMOYNE

50'





McCadden

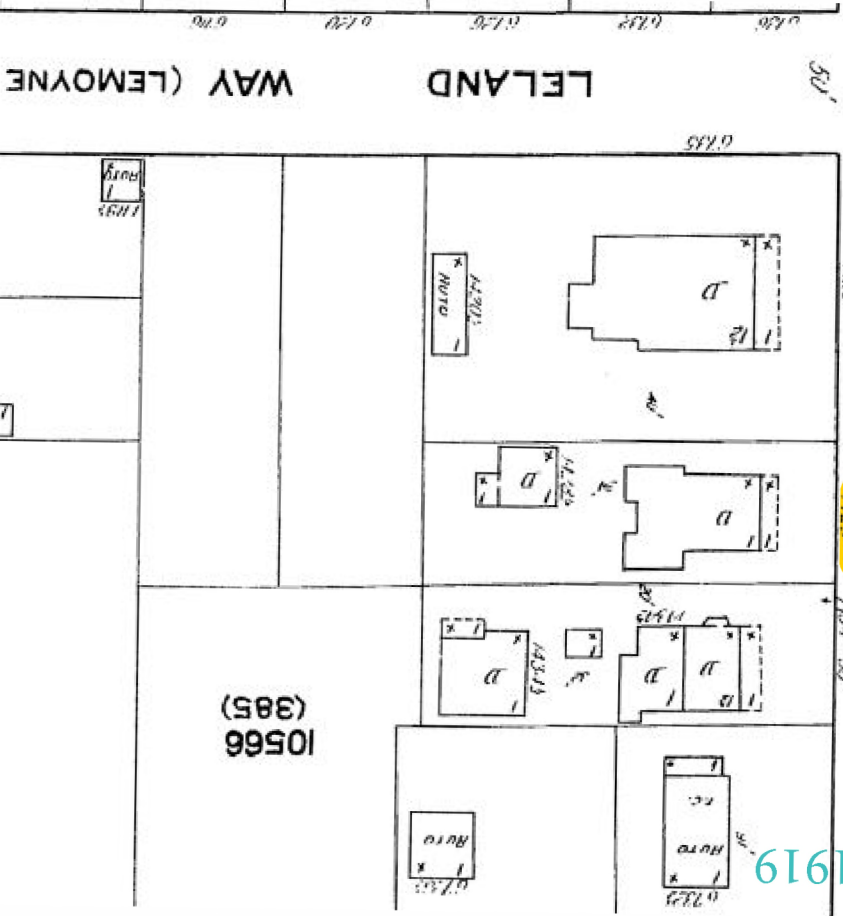
PL. (FIELDING ST.)

1420

1428-30  
1428

1424-26

1916



1944-47

AMERICAN PROMOCATIONS CO.

Received 28 November 2003  
 Accepted 12 January 2004

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

10564

ALONG  
SPARE  
HOTEL

LELAND

WAY (LEMOYNE

10566



All Applications must be filled out by Applicant

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

3

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles:

Application is hereby made to the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Chief Inspector of Buildings, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the exercise of the permit:

First: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof.  
Second: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by ordinances of the City of Los Angeles.  
Third: That the granting of the permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

REMOVED FROM		REMOVED TO	
Lot <u>18</u> Block <u>      </u>	Lot <u>      </u> Block <u>      </u>		
Tract <u>Boyle Pl</u>	Tract <u>      </u>		
Book <u>      </u> Page <u>      </u> F. B. Page <u>      </u>	Book <u>      </u> Page <u>      </u> F. B. Page <u>      </u>		
From No. <u>1428</u> <u>McCadden Pl</u>	From No. <u>      </u> <u>      </u>	Street <u>      </u>	Street <u>      </u>
To No. <u>      </u> <u>Sanct &amp; Island Way</u>	To No. <u>      </u> <u>      </u>	Street <u>      </u>	Street <u>      </u>

(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

- What purpose is the present Building now used for? Dwelling Residence 2 family
- What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? Dwelling Residence 2 family
- Owner's name Jacob Hain Phone 578662
- Owner's address 1428 McCadden Place
- Architect's name        Phone
- Contractor's name        Phone
- Contractor's address
- VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK {Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, Ceaspoils, Elevators, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc.} \$500 =
- Class of present Building D No. of rooms at present 7
- Number of stories in height 1 1/2 Size of present Building 32'80" x 40'86"
- State how many buildings are on this lot Two
- State purpose buildings on lot are used for Dwelling  
(Tenement House, Hotel, Residence, or any other purpose.)

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

Raise roof on South East Corner and finish  
porch marked in drawing

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

OVER

(Sign here) G. E. Hain  
(Owner or Authorized Agent)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

PERMIT NO. <u>23502</u>	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinances, State Laws, etc. <u>G. Hain</u> Plan Examiner	Application checked and found <u>7/12/22</u> <u>3 B</u> <u>NOS</u> Clark	Stamp <u>RECEIVED</u> <u>JUL 12 1922</u> <u>TOULU</u>
----------------------------	--	--	--

✓ Re PLANS 2 135

13. Size of new addition interior No. of Stories in height 2  
14. Material of foundation Concrete Size footings 12" Size wall 5' Depth below ground 12"  
15. Size of Redwood Mudsills 2" x 4" Size of interior bearing studs 2" x 4"  
16. Size of exterior studs 2" x 4" Size of interior non-bearing studs 2" x 4"  
17. Size of first floor joists 2" x 6" Second floor joists 2" x 6"  
18. Will all provisions of State Dwelling House Act be complied with? yes

I have carefully examined and read the above blank and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

(Sign here)

G. E. Hain  
(Owner or Authorized Agent.)



# All Applications must be filled out by Applicant

Bldg. Form 3

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

# 3

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

### Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles

Application is hereby made to the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Chief Inspector of Buildings, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the exercise of the permit:

First: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof.

Second: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Los Angeles.

Third: That the granting of the permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

REMOVED FROM		REMOVED TO	
Lot	Block	Lot	Block
Tract		Tract	
Book	Page	Book	Page
F. B. Page		F. B. Page	
From No.	Ret. Annex + Island		Street
To No.	1428 Mc Cadden Hall		Street

(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

TAKE TO REAR OF NORTH ANNEX 1st FLOOR CITY CLERK PLEASE VERIFY

TAKE TO ROOM No. 405 SOUTH ANNEX ENGINEER PLEASE VERIFY

O.K. City Clerk

O.K. City Engineer

By Deputy

- What purpose is the present Building now used for? Dwelling 2 Families
- What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? Same
- Owner's name J. Hain Phone 178.6.6.2
- Owner's address 1428 Mc Cadden Pl. Hollywood
- Architect's name J. Hain Phone
- Contractor's name J. Hain Phone
- Contractor's address
- VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK {Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, Cesspools, Elevators, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc.} \$500.00
- Class of present Building D No. of rooms at present 10
- Number of stories in height 2 Size of present Building 42 x 50
- State how many buildings are on this lot Two
- State purpose buildings on lot are used for Dwelling  
(Tenement House, Hotel, Residence, or any other purpose.)

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

Raising roof + making two new rooms on second floor

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

**OVER**

(Sign here) Eleanor Hain  
(Owner or Authorized Agent.)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
PERMIT NO. <u>26025</u>	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinances, State Laws, etc. <u>J. Hain</u> Plan Examiner	Application checked and found O.K. <u>J. Hain</u> City Engineer
<p>175</p>		<p>175</p>

For Plans SEE

13. Size of ~~new addition~~ 2nd floor 14 x 19 No. of stories in height one
14. Material of foundation Cement Size footings 16 Size wall 8 Depth below ground 12
15. Size of Redwood Mudsills 2 x 6 Size of interior bearing studs 2 x 4
16. Size of exterior studs 2 x 4 Size of interior non-bearing studs 2 x 3
17. Size of first floor joists 2 x 6 Second floor joists 2 x 8
18. Will all provisions of State Dwelling House Act be complied with? yes



# All Applications must be filled out by Applicant

Blg. Form 3

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

### Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles:

Application is hereby made to the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Chief Inspector of Buildings, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the exercise of the permit:

First: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof.

Second: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Los Angeles.

Third: That the granting of the permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

REMOVED FROM		REMOVED TO	
Lot	Block	Lot	Block
Tract		Tract	
Book	Page	Book	Page
F. B. Page		F. B. Page	
From No.	1428 - 9th St. McCadden St.	To No.	1428 - 9th St. McCadden St.
(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)			

- What purpose is the present Building now used for? Dwelling
- What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? Dwelling
- Owner's name Jacob Hain Phone 578 662
- Owner's address 1428 - 9th St. McCadden St.
- Architect's name Thomas Corcoran Phone 200 59
- Contractor's name Thomas Corcoran Phone 200 59
- Contractor's address 5924 Wilshire St. Los Angeles
- VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK {Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sowers, Ceilings, Elevators, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc.} \$ 200.00
- Class of present Building 2 No. of rooms at present 3
- Number of stories in height 1 Size of present Building 10' x 18'
- State how many buildings are on this lot 2
- State purpose buildings on lots are used for Dwelling

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

Two foot extension built on rear and placed under old part north side of old part.

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

OVER

(Sign here)

Eleanor Hain  
(Owner or Authorized Agent)

FOR DEPARTMENT/USE ONLY	
PERMIT NO. <b>14700</b>	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinances, State Laws, etc. <u>14700</u> Plan Examiner
Application checked and found O.K. <u>14700</u> City Clerk	RECEIVED APR 3 1923 TODD L.A. City Clerk

Plans

2

175

13. Size of new addition 10 x 18 No. of Stories in height 1
14. Material of foundation Reinforced Concrete Size footings 2 x 6 Depth below ground 1
15. Size of Redwood Mudalls 2 x 6 Size of interior bearing studs 1 x 1
16. Size of exterior studs 1 x 1 Size of interior non-bearing studs 1 x 1
17. Size of first floor joists 2 x 6 Second floor joists 2 x 6
18. Will all provisions of State Dwelling House Act be complied with? Yes

I have carefully examined and read the above blank and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

(Sign here) Elmer Harris  
(Owner or Authorized Agent)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

APPLICATION	O. K. <u>Yes</u>
CONSTRUCTION	O. K. <u>Yes</u>
ZONING	O. K. <u>T</u>
SET-BACK LINE	O. K. <u>T</u>
ORD. 33761 (N. S.)	O. K. <u>T</u>
FIRE DISTRICT	O. K. <u>Yes</u>

TO LOCATE AND SET THIS BUILDING ON STRUCTURE AND ERECTION THEREOF, EXCEPT UNENCLOSED PORCHES, EACH EXTENDING FROM THE FRONT PROPERTY LINE EQUAL TO THE SET-BACK LINE OF THE NEAREST BUILDING ON EITHER SIDE OF THIS PROPOSED BUILDING OR STRUCTURE.

Elmer Harris  
Owner



# All Applications must be filled out by Applicant

Blg. Form 1

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

3

## Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles:

Application is hereby made to the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Chief Inspector of Buildings, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the exercise of the permit:

First. That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof.  
Second. That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by ordinances of the City of Los Angeles.  
Third. That the granting of the permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession to, the property described in such permit.

REMOVED FROM		REMOVED TO	
Lot _____	Block _____	Lot _____	Block _____
Tract _____		Tract _____	
Book _____	Page _____	Book _____	Page _____
From No. <u>1428 McCadden Pl.</u>	Street <u>McCadden Pl.</u>	To No. <u>Sunset Blvd + Leland Way</u>	Street <u>Sunset Blvd</u>

(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

- What purpose is the present Building now used for? Dwelling
- What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? Dwelling
- Owner's name Miss Eleanor Hain Phone 472-419
- Owner's address 1428 McCadden Pl.
- Architect's name C. H. Sander Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Contractor's name C. H. Sander Phone 472-216
- Contractor's address 1216 Crenshaw Ave
- VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK {Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sowers, Ceaspoils, Elevators, Painting, Finishing, etc.} \$ 250.00
- Class of present Building \_\_\_\_\_ No. of rooms at present \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of stories in height 2 Size of present Building 38 X 50
- State how many buildings are on this lot Two
- State purpose buildings on lot are used for Dwelling

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

New roof put on attic 12x15-  
Outside stairway

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

OVER 1/10/24 (Sign here) Eleanor Hain  
(Owner or Authorized Agent.)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

PERMIT NO. <u>1693</u>	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinances, State Laws, etc. <u>Plan Examined</u>	Application checked and found O. K. <u>11</u>	Stamp: <u>RECEIVED</u> <u>JAN 10 1924</u> <u>DEPT. OF BUILDINGS</u>
---------------------------	---	--	---

13. Size of new addition None No. of Stories in height 2  
 14. Material of foundation Size footings Size wall 2 Depth below ground 4  
 15. Size of Redwood Mudalls 2 Size of interior bearing studs 2  
 16. Size of exterior studs 2 Size of interior non-bearing studs 2  
 17. Size of first floor joists 2 Second floor joists 2  
 18. Will all provisions of State Dwelling House Act be complied with? Yes

I have carefully examined and read the above blank and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

(Sign here)

Eleanor Hein  
 (Owner or Authorized Agent)

### FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

APPLICATION	O.K.
CONSTRUCTION	O.K.
ZONING	O.K. <u>T</u>
SET-BACK LINE	O.K. <u>T</u>
ORD. 33761 (N.S.)	O.K. <u>T</u>
FIRE DISTRICT	O.K. <u>T</u>

### REMARKS

I hereby agree to locate and erect this building or structure and every portion thereof, except unenclosed porches, back a distance from the front property line equal to the set-back line of the nearest building now erected on any lot in this block in Zone "A" or "B" on the same side of the street.

Owner.



# All Applications Must be Filled Out by Applicant

Std. Form 3

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

3

### Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles:

Application is hereby made to the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Chief Inspector of Buildings, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the exercise of the permit:

First: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof.

Second: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described; or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Los Angeles.

Third: That the granting of the permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

#### REMOVED FROM

#### REMOVED TO

TAKE TO  
ROOM No. 6  
REAR OF  
NORTH  
ANNEX  
1st Floor  
CITY CLERK  
PLEASE  
VERIFY

TAKE TO  
ROOM No. 405  
SOUTH  
ANNEX  
ENGINEER  
PLEASE  
VERIFY

Lot.....Block.....  
Tract.....  
Book.....Page.....F. B. Page.....  
From No. 142 1/2 North McCadden Pl. Street  
To No. Bet. Sunset and De Longpre Street

Lot.....Block.....  
Tract.....  
Book.....Page.....F. B. Page.....  
From No. 142 1/2 North McCadden Pl. Street  
To No. Bet. Sunset and De Longpre Street

O. K. City Clerk  
O. K. City Engineer

(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

1. What purpose is the present Building now used for? *Dwelling - 2 families*
2. What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? *Dwelling - 2 families*
3. Owner's name *Charles H. King* Phone *Granite 2419*
4. Owner's address *142 1/2 North McCadden Pl.*
5. Architect's name..... Phone.....
6. Contractor's name *C. J. Snyder* Phone *Granite 0216*
7. Contractor's address *1216 C. Street*
8. VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK *including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, etc.* \$ *750*
9. Class of present Building *Dwelling* No. of rooms at present *12*
10. Number of stories in height *two* Size of present Building *38 x 40*
11. State how many buildings are on this lot *two*
12. State purpose buildings on lot are used for *Dwellings - 1 family + 2 families*  
(Apartment House, Hotel, Residence, or any other purpose.)

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

*The roof over bath and screen porch on first floor removed and sleeping porch built*

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

OVER 9/15

(Sign here)

(Owner or Authorized Agent)

#### FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

PERMIT NO. <b>32066</b>	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ord. person, State Laws, etc. <i>W. H. Friedman</i> 9/15/25	Application checked and found 9-15-25 2-B <i>Chasman</i> Clerk	Stamp here when issued <b>RECEIVED</b> <b>SEP 18 1925</b> <b>DEPT. OF BUILDINGS</b>
----------------------------	--	---	--

pc PLANS

*W. H. Friedman*

150

13. Size of new addition 7 1/2 x 13 No. of stories in height on second floor  
 14. Material of foundation concrete Site footings 12 x 12 Size of wall 12 x 12 Depth below ground 12  
 15. Size of Redwood Mudsills 2 x 6 Size of interior bearing studs 2 x 8  
 16. Size of exterior studs 2 x 4 Size of interior non-bearing studs none  
 17. Size of first floor joists 2 x 8 Second floor joists 2 x 8  
 18. Will all provisions of State Housing Act be complied with? Yes

I have carefully examined and read the above blank and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

(Sign here)

Eleanor Hain  
 (Owner or Authorized Agent)

### FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

APPLICATION	O. K. <u>S W J</u>
CONSTRUCTION	O. K. <u>S W J</u>
ZONING	O. K. <u>S W J</u>
SET-BACK LINE	O. K. <u>S W J</u>
ORD. 33761 (N. S.)	O. K. <u>S W J</u>
FIRE DISTRICT	O. K. <u>S W J</u>

The building referred to in this application will be more than 100 feet from Bayview Blvd

### REMARKS

Eleanor Hain  
 Owner or Authorized Agent



All Applications Must be Filled Out by Applicant

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

Form 1

3

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY  
BUILDING DIVISION

Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles:

Application is hereby made to the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Superintendent of Building, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the exercise of the permit:

First: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof.

Second: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Los Angeles.

Third: That the granting of the permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

REMOVED FROM

REMOVED TO

TAKE TO  
Room No. 248  
(2ND FLOOR)

CITY CLERK  
PLEASE  
VERIFY

TAKE TO  
Room No. 5  
(MAIN ST.)  
FLOOR)

ENGINEER  
PLEASE  
VERIFY

Lot..... Block.....

Tract.....

Lot..... Block.....

Tract.....

Book..... F. B. Page.....

From No. 1428 1/2 N. McCadden Pl.

To No. 1428 1/2 N. McCadden Pl.

Book..... F. B. Page.....

From No. 1428 1/2 N. McCadden Pl.

To No. 1428 1/2 N. McCadden Pl.

(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

- What purpose is the present Building now used for? Dwelling & family
- What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? Dwelling
- Owner's name Eleanor Hain Phone 3957
- Owner's address 1428 1/2 N. McCadden Pl.
- Architect's name Not to be filled in unless by name of Certificated Architect or Licensed Engineer Phone 2216
- Contractor's name Phone 445
- Contractor's address 38
- VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK (including All Material, Labor, Finishing, Equip- ment and Appliances in Completed Building) \$ 30
- Class of present Building 1 No. of Rooms at present 13
- Number of stories in height 2 Size present Building 38 x 40
- State how many buildings are on this lot 2
- State purpose buildings on lot are used for 2 fam x 1-1 fam Res. (Apartment House, Hotel, Residence, or Any Other Purpose)
- What Zone is Property in?

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

add roof over stairs out side.

Eleanor Hain

No required windows will be obstructed.

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

OVER

(Sign here)

Eleanor Hain  
(Owner or Authorized Agent)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

PERMIT No.  20354	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinances, State Laws, etc.  Plan Examiner.	Application checked and found O.K. 8/18/30 G.B. White Wood	RECEIVED AUG 20 1930 BUILDING DIVISION
-------------------------	---	--	--

wpe

John W. Habigant @ Owens 100

14. Size of new addition None No. of stories in height 1 Size of Lot 35'0" x 14'0"  
 15. Material of foundation Size footings Size wall Depth below ground  
 16. Size of Redwood Mudsills X Size of interior bearing studs X  
 17. Size of exterior studs X Size of interior non-bearing studs X  
 18. Size of first floor joists X Second floor joists X  
 19. Will all Lathing and Plastering Comply with Ordinance? Yes  
 20. Will all provisions of State Housing Act be complied with? Yes

I have carefully examined and read the above blank and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

(Sign here) Eleanor Hain  
 (Owner or Authorized Agent)

### FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

APPLICATION	O.K.
CONSTRUCTION	O.K.
ZONING	O.K.
SET-BACK LINE	O.K.
ORD. 33761 (N.S.)	O.K.
FIRE DISTRICT	O.K.

### REMARKS

The building referred to in this application, will be more than 100 feet

from Sunset Highlands  
Eleanor Hain  
 Owner or Authorized Agent



3

ELECT. DIV.  
 Plan, Box 1000  
 Name  
 Address  
 City

# APPLICATION TO ALTER, REPAIR, or DEMOLISH AND FOR A Certificate of Occupancy

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
 DEPARTMENT OF  
 BUILDING AND SAFETY  
 BUILDING DIVISION

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Tract **BOYLE PICK TRACT**

Location of Building **1428-30 MCCORDEN PLACE**  
 (House Number and Street)

Between what cross streets **SUNSET & IRLAND**

USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL **WELLER**

1. Present use of building **REPAIR** Families **2** Rooms **12**

2. State how long building has been used for present occupancy **30 YEARS**

3. Use of building AFTER alteration or moving **DWELLING** Families **2** Rooms **10**

4. Owner **LAWSON & PIER** Phone **BR 24323**

5. Owner's Address **232 S. BEVERLY DRIVE** P.O. **BEVERLY HILLS**

6. Certified Architect **NONE** State License No. **None**

7. Licensed Engineer **None** State License No. **None**

8. Contractor **None** State License No. **None**

9. Contractor's Address **None**

10. VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK **\$2000.00**

11. State how many buildings NOW **2** on lot and give use of each **1 SINGLE UNIT AND 1 DWELLING**

12. State of existing building **38 x 43** Number of stories high **2** Height to highest point **21'**

13. Material Exterior Walls **WOOD** Exterior Framework **WOOD**

14. Describe briefly all proposed construction and work:  
**ADD 3 NEW BATHS, AND PARTITIONS.**

**NEW CONSTRUCTION NONE**

15. Size of Addition **None** Size of Lot **50 x 150** Number of Stories when complete **2**

16. Footing: Width **None** Depth in Ground **None** Width of Wall **None** Size of Floor Joists **None**

17. Size of Studs **2x4** Material of Floor **None** Size of Rafter **None** Type of Roofing **None**

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above application is correct and that this building or construction work will comply with all laws, and that in the doing of the work authorized thereby I will not employ any person in violation of the Labor Code of the State of California relating to Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

DISTRICT OFFICE **None** Sign here **None**

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

PLAN CHECKING

Valuation **2000** Area of Bldg. **None** Sq. Ft. **None**

Investigation Fee **None** Cert. of Occupancy Fee **None** Bldg. Permit Fee **9.00**

TYPE **None** Maximum No. Occupants **None** Inside Lot **None** Key Lot **None** Lot Size **50 x 142.82**

GROUP **None** Plans and Specifications checked **None** Corner Lot Kept **None** Fire District **None** Fire Station **None**

For Plans see **None** Correlation checked **None** Bldg. Code **None** Screen Walling **None** Number Map No. **4507**

Filed with **None** Plans, Specifications and Approvals received and approved **None** Comments **None** SPECIAL **None**

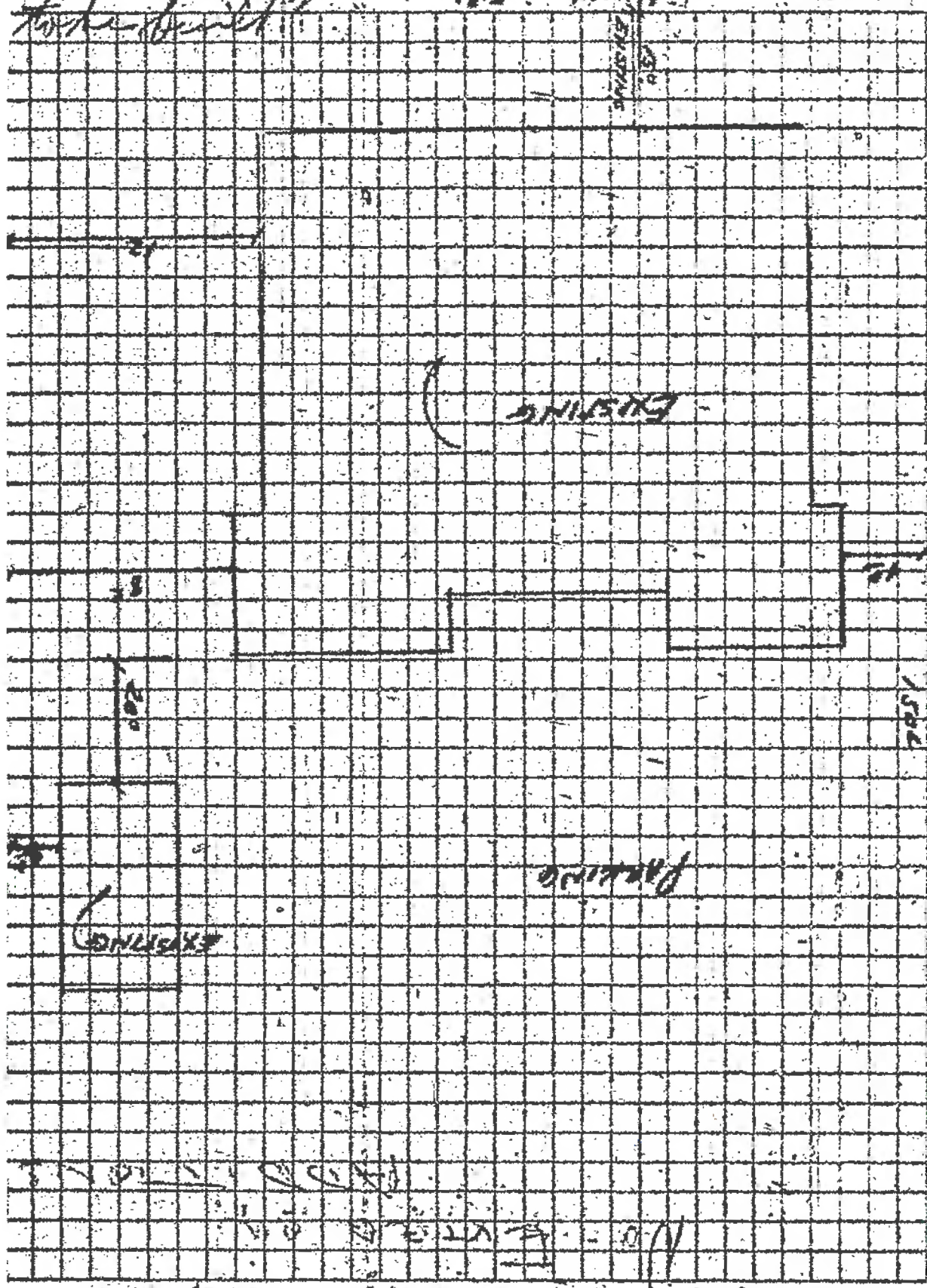
DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

TYPE OF RECEIPT **Plan Checking** DATE ISSUED **11/14** TRACER NO. (M) **1441358** CODE **None** FEE PAID **None**

**Building Permit** **144170**

H.I.E. OCT 19 1950  
Mr. J. W. [unclear]  
[unclear]

McClure Place  
[unclear]



110 - [unclear]  
[unclear]



1

# APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT NEW BUILDING AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Form B-1

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

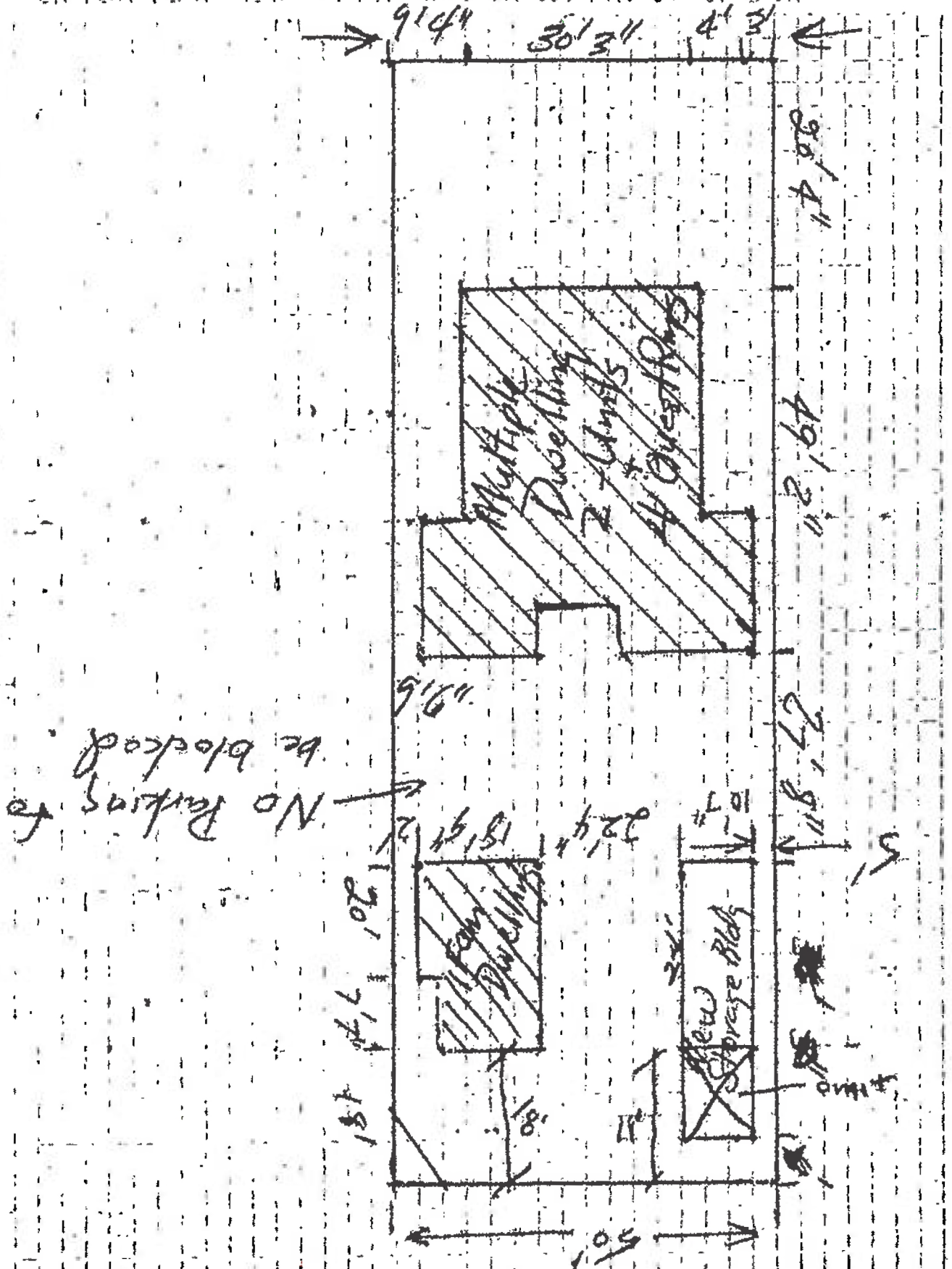
INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.  
2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.

1. LEGAL LOT <b>18</b>	BLK.	TRACT <b>Boyle Place</b>	DIST. MAP <b>4507</b>
JOB ADDRESS <b>1428-30 N. Mc Cadden P.</b>		APPROVED	ZONE <b>R-4-2</b>
2. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS <b>Sunset Blvd.</b>		AND <b>Leland Way</b>	FIRE DIST.
3. PURPOSE OF BUILDING <b>Storage</b>		INSIDE <b>X</b>	
4. OWNER <b>Cal &amp; Ruth Portis</b>		PHONE <b>HO 77616</b>	KEY COR. LOT REV. COR.
5. OWNER'S ADDRESS <b>Above</b>		P.O.	ZONE <b>50 x 143</b>
6. CERT. ARCH.		STATE LICENSE	PHONE
7. LIC. ENGR.		STATE LICENSE	PHONE
8. CONTRACTOR <b>Owner</b>		STATE LICENSE	PHONE
9. CONTRACTOR'S ADDRESS		P.O.	ZONE
10. SIZE OF NEW BLDG. STORIES HEIGHT NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE <b>1 x 10 1 10! 2- Dwellings</b>		DISTRICT OFFICE <b>L. A.</b>	
11. MATERIAL EXT. WALLS: <input type="checkbox"/> WOOD <input type="checkbox"/> METAL <input type="checkbox"/> CONC. BLOCK <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WOOD <input type="checkbox"/> STEEL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUCCO <input type="checkbox"/> BRICK <input type="checkbox"/> CONCRETE <input type="checkbox"/> CONST. <input type="checkbox"/> CONC. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		ROOFING <b>Felt Rock</b>	
12. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING. <b>\$ 1,000.00</b>		SPRINKLERS REQ'D. SPECIFIED BLDG. AREA <b>240 sq</b>	
<p>I certify that in doing the work authorized hereby I will not employ any person in violation of the Labor Code of the State of California relating to workmen's compensation insurance.</p> <p><i>Cal Portis</i> SIGNED</p> <p>This Form When Properly Validated is a Permit to Do the Work Described.</p>		VALUATION APPROVED <i>Schwartz</i>	
		APPLICATION CHECKED <b>Koshi</b>	
		PLANS CHECKED	
		CORRECTIONS VERIFIED	
		PLANS APPROVED	
		DWELL. UNITS <b>2</b>	
		PARKING SPACES	
		GUEST ROOMS	
		FILE WITH	
		CONT. INSP.	
		INSPECTOR	

TYPE	GROUP	MAX. OGD.	P.C.	S.P.C.	B.P.	I.F.	O.S.	C/O
<b>V</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>6</b>			
VALIDATION								
CASHIER'S USE ONLY								
<b>LA24518</b>	<b>FEB-16-59</b>	<b>09908</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>2 CK</b>	<b>2.00</b>			
	<b>FEB-16-59</b>	<b>09909</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>1 CK</b>	<b>6.00</b>			

# Site Plan

ON FLOOR PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE OF EACH





3

APPLICATION TO ALTER - REPAIR - DEMOLISH  
AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

SAS Form B-3

AC-1

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only 2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.				CENSUS TRACT
1. LEGAL DESCR.	LOT 18	BLK.	Boyle Place	4507
2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING	12 Workshop	NEW USE OF BUILDING	12 same	ZONE R-4-2
3. JOB ADDRESS	1428 N. McCadden Pl.			FIRE DIST. 7
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS	Sunset	AND	Ireland Way	INSIDE COR. LOT KEY REV. COR. LOT SIZE
5. OWNER'S NAME	R. Gluckstein	PHONE		50X142.8
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	same	P.O. BOX	ZIP	
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER		STATE LICENSE NO.	PHONE	REAR ALLEY
8. ENGINEER		STATE LICENSE NO.	PHONE	SIDE ALLEY
9. CONTRACTOR	Lessee - owner	STATE LICENSE NO.	PHONE	B'G. LINE
10. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG.	STORIES 2	HEIGHT	NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE	AFFIDAVITS
11. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION	EXT. WALLS	ROOF	FLOOR	1
12. JOB ADDRESS	1428 N. McCadden Pl.			DISTRICT OFFICE LA
13. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING.	f. 500			GRADING 7
14. NEW WORK: (Describe)	repairing, f. 500, 8 replastering walls			CRIT. SOIL 7
NEW USE OF BUILDING	Same	SIZE OF ADDITION	STORIES	HEIGHT
TYPE	GROUP	SPRINKLERS REQ'D	VALUATION APPROVED	CONS.
BLDG. AREA	MAX. OCC.	TOTAL	PLANS CHECKED	ZONED BY
DWELL. UNITS	GUEST ROOMS	SPACES REQ'D PROVIDED	PLANS APPROVED	FILE WITH
P.C. No.	CONT. INSP.	APPLICATION APPROVED	INSPECTOR	
P.C.	S.P.C.	G.P.I.	B.A. 50	L.F. 1
			O.S.	C/O
				TYPIST pm

FEB-3-67

05086 E

40143 X-1CS

3.50

## STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I certify that in doing the work authorized hereby I will not employ any person in violation of the Labor Code of the State of California relating to workmen's compensation insurance.

"This permit is an application for inspection, the issuance of which is not an approval or an authorization of the work specified herein. This permit does not authorize or permit, nor shall it be construed as authorizing or permitting the violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Neither the City of Los Angeles, nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed. (See Sec. 91.0202 L.A.M.C.)

Signed

L. Dalton

(Owner or Agent)

Name

Date

Bureau of Engineering

ADDRESS APPROVED

SEWERS AVAILABLE

NOT AVAILABLE

DRIVEWAY APPROVED

HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED

COMPLETED

FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED

APPROVED FOR ISSUE

FILE #

Conservation

Plumbing

PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM APPROVED

Planning

APPROVED UNDER CASE #

Fire

APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)

Traffic

APPROVED FOR

L. Dalton 2/2/67

**APPLICATION TO ALTER - REPAIR - DEMOLISH  
AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY**

**B&S Forms: 8-9**

AC-2

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

INSTRUCTIONS:										SUNSHINE TRACT		
1. Applicant to Complete Numerous Items Only										SUNSHINE TRACT		
2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.										SUNSHINE TRACT		
1. LEGAL DESC.	LOT	BLK.	TRACT							DIST. MAP		
	18		Boyle Place Per MB 6							4507		
2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING	01 dwelling		NEW USE OF BUILDING							ZONE		
			21 theater workshop							R-4-2		
3. JOB ADDRESS	1428 N. McCadden Pl										FIRE DIST.	
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS	Bohset										INSIDE COR.	50
	AND Ieland Way										KEY REV. COR.	
5. OWNER'S NAME	Robert Gluckstein										LOT SIZE	50x142.8
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	341 S. Vermont Ave										P.O. BOX	
	IA 90005										ZIP	
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER	Mackintosh & Mackintosh										STATE LICENSE NO.	PHONE
8. ENGINEER											STATE LICENSE NO.	PHONE
9. CONTRACTOR	NEW MONTELL										STATE LICENSE NO.	PHONE
10. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG.	STORIES	HEIGHT	NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE							AFFIDAVITS		
40' x 37'	2		4-wk shp & 3 sheds							ZA 18293		
11. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION	EXT. WALLS	ROOF	FLOOR							BZA 1667		
	BRICK	COMP	WOOD									
12. JOB ADDRESS	1428 N. McCadden Pl										DISTRICT OFFICE	IA
13. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING.	500										GRADING	
14. NEW WORK: (Describe)	beams in ceiling & Change of occupancy										CRIT. SOIL	
From Dwelling To Theater Workshop. 500											HIGHWAY DED.	
NEW USE OF BUILDING	NO. OF EXISTING BLDGS. ON LOT	SIZE OF ADDITION	STORIES	HEIGHT	FLOOD							
THEATER	0	0	0	0								
TYPE	GROUP	SPRINKLERS REQ'D	NC	VALUATION APPROVED								
	0-1	SPECIFIED		Planned								
BLDG. AREA	MAX. DCC	TOTAL		PLANS CHECKED								
	40			Planned								
DWELL. UNITS	GUEST ROOMS	SPACES REQ'D	PROVIDED	PLANS APPROVED								
0	0	0	5	Planned								
P.C. No.	7774561		CONT. INSP.		FAB (GLU)		APPLICATION APPROVED		FILED			
									Inspector			
P.C.	2.28	S.P.C.		G.B.I.	B.P.	350	I.F.	1000	O.S.	C/O	TYPYST	
							YES				dw	
MAY-5-61 09345 B-2 2.28												
JUN-18-68 01406 E 59114 X-1 CK 13.50												

## STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I certify that in doing the work authorized hereby I will not employ any person in violation of the Labor Code of the State of California relating to workmen's compensation insurance.

"This permit is an application for inspection, the issuance of which is not an approval or an authorization of the work specified herein. This permit does not authorize or permit, nor shall it be construed as authorizing or permitting the violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Neither the City of Los Angeles, nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed." (See Sec. 91.0202 L.A.M.C.)

(See Sec. 91.0202 L.A.M.C.)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Robert H. Hushon  
(Owner or Agent)

(Owner or Agent)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau of Engineering

ADDRESS APPROVED

SEWERS AVAILABLE

NOT AVAILABLE

**DRIVEWAY APPROVED**

HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED

COMPLETED

FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED:

### Conservation

APPROVED FOR 1951E

FILE #

## Plumbing

## PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

SYSTEM APPROVED

## Planning

APPROVED UNDER

CASE #

## Fire

APPROVED (TITLE 19)

(L.A.M.C-5700)

## Traffic

APPROVED FOR

RTA

4/20/67

### IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

20. 9/19/17

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 277: 1001-1002, 1997.

242

JK F-100





Bldg-Alter/Repair 1 or 2 Family Dwelling Express Permit No Plan Check	City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety <b>APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY</b>	Issued on: 05/22/2003 Last Status: Permit Finaled Status Date: 09/16/2003
--	--	---

<b>1. TRACT</b> BOYLE PLACE	<b>BLOCK</b> 18	<b>LOT(s)</b> 18	<b>ARE</b> M B 6-45	<b>COUNTY MAP REF #</b> M B 6-45	<b>PARCEL ID # (PIN #)</b> 147A185 156	<b>2. ASSESSOR PARCEL #</b> 5547 - 022 - 007
--------------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	---

<b>3. PARCEL INFORMATION</b> Arca Planning Commission - Central LADBS Branch Office - LA Council District - 13 Certified Neighborhood Council - Central Hollywood Community Plan Area - Hollywood	Census Tract - 1907.00 District Map - 147A185 Energy Zone - 9 Near Source Zone Distance - 1.0 Thomas Brothers Map Grid - 593-E5
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**ZONES(S):** RD1.5-1XL

<b>4. DOCUMENTS</b> Z1 - Z1-1352 Z1 - Z1-2277 ZA - ZA-18293 SPA - Adaptive Reuse Incentive Areas	ORD - ORD-173562 CRA - Z1 1352 HOLLYWOOD CPC - CPC-1999-2293-ICO CPC - CPC-1999-324-ICO	CDBG - 1AR7-Central City BZA - BZA-1667
--	--	--

**5. CHECKLIST ITEMS**

<b>6. PROPERTY OWNER, TENANT, APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>			
Owner(s): LELAND REGENT PROPERTIES	149 HIGHLAND AVE	LOS ANGELES CA 90036	
Tenant:			
Applicant: (Relationship: Agent for Contractor) DIANA URIBE -		P.O. BOX 3574	LOS ANGELES, CA. 90028 (323) 228-4631

<b>7. EXISTING USE</b> (01) Dwelling - Single Family	<b>PROPOSED USE</b>	<b>8. DESCRIPTION OF WORK</b> GENERAL REHAB. INSTALL DOORS, REPLACE KITCHEN CABINETS, SANDING, PAINTING & CERAMIC.
---	---------------------	---

<b>9. # Bldgs on Site &amp; Use:</b>	For inspection requests, call toll-free (888) LA4BUILD (524-2845), or request inspections via <a href="http://www.ladbs.org">www.ladbs.org</a> . To speak to a Call Center agent, call 311. Outside LA County, call (213) 473-3231.
<b>10. APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION</b>	
BLDG. PC By: OK for Cashier: Ozzie Radford Signature:	

DAS PC By:

Coord. OK:

Date:

For Cashier's Use Only

W/O #: 31609799

<b>11. PROJECT VALUATION &amp; FEE INFORMATION</b>	
Permit Valuation: \$10,000	Final Fee Period
PC Valuation:	
FINAL TOTAL Bldg-Alter/Repair	211.43
Permit Fee Subtotal Bldg-Alter/Re	165.00
Fire Hydrant Refuse-To-Pay	
E.Q. Instrumentation	1.00
O.S. Surcharge	3.72
Sys. Surcharge	11.16
Planning Surcharge	5.55
Planning Surcharge Misc Fee	5.00
Permit Issuing Fee	20.00
Permit Fee-Single Inspection Flag	

Sewer Cap ID: Total Bond(s) Due:

**12. ATTACHMENTS**

Payment Date: 05/22/03  
Receipt No: LA04-092091  
Amount: \$21143  
Method: Check

2003LA42932



\* P 0 3 0 1 6 1 0 0 0 0 9 7 9 9 F N \*

13. STRUCTURE INVENTORY (Note: Numeric measurement data in the format "number / number" implies "change in numeric value / total resulting numeric value")

03016 - 10000 - 09799

14. APPLICATION COMMENTS:

15. BUILDING RELOCATED FROM:

16. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT & ENGINEER NAME	ADDRESS	CLASS	LICENSE #	PHONE #
(C) AMERICAN GENERAL CONSTRUCTION	4769 WEST ADAMS BLVD.	B	681245	(323) 463-0192



1428 N McCadden Pl 1-8

Permit Application #: 08014 - 10000 - 05551

Bldg-Addition

City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety

Plan Check #: B08LA12383

1 or 2 Family Dwelling

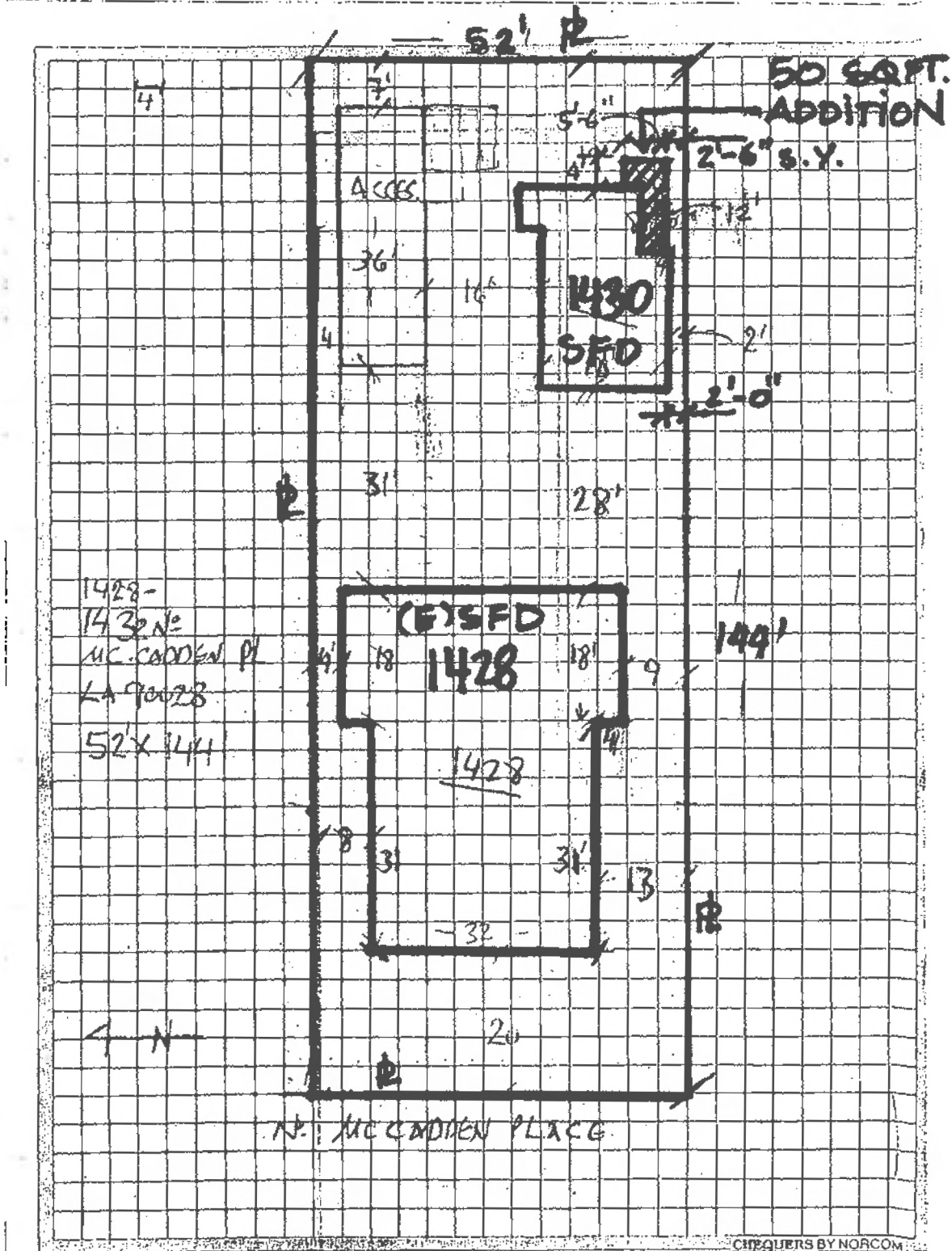
Initiating Office: METRO

Plan Check

PLOT PLAN ATTACHMENT

Printed on: 12/16/08 14:34:35

(DO NOT DRAW, WRITE, OR PASTE ATTACHMENTS OUTSIDE BORDER)



CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Certificate of Occupancy**

NOTE: Any change of use or occupancy must be approved  
by the Department of Building and Safety.

Issued

June 2, 1959

Address of  
Building

1428-30 N. McCadden

Permit No.  
and Year

LA 24518 - 1959

This certifies that, so far as ascertained by or made known to the undersigned, the building at above address complies with the applicable requirements of the Municipal Code, as follows: Ch. 1, as to permitted uses; Ch. 9, Arts. 1, 3, 4, and 5; and with applicable requirements of State Housing Act,—for following occupancies:

1 story, type V, 10' x 29' storage building.  
G-1 Occupancy



G. E. MORRIS,  
Superintendent of Building

By.....A. E. Hewitt.....JF





Electrical  
1 or 2 Family Dwelling  
Express Permit  
No Plan Check

City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety

Issued On: 06/18/2003

### APPLICATION FOR ELECTRICAL PLAN CHECK AND INSPECTION

Last Status: Permit Finaled

Status Date: 09/18/2003

**1. PROPERTY OWNER**

LELAND REGENT PROPERTIES 149 HIGHLAND AVE LOS ANGELES CA 90036

**2. APPLICANT INFORMATION** (Relationship: Net Applicant)

BARRY GLEIBERMAN - 720 S SANTA FE AVE LOS ANGELES, CA 90021 (213)489-4646

**3. TENANT INFORMATION****4. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT & ENGINEER NAME****ADDRESS****CLASS LICENSE# PHONE#**

(C) BEAR CONTRACTORS INC 720 S SANTA FE AVENUE # LOS ANGELES, CA 90021 C10 688203 (213)489-4646

**5. APPLICATION COMMENTS**

E-Permit paid by credit card, fax number-&gt; (213)489-4733.

**6. DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

Install new 400 amp service

**7. CHECKLIST ITEMS:****8. COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 13**9. APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION**

Plan Check By:

OK for Cashier:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For inspection requests, call toll-free (888) LA4BUILD (524-2845),  
or request inspections via [www.ladbs.org](http://www.ladbs.org). To speak to a Call Center  
agent, call 311. Outside LA County, call (213) 473-3231.

**For Cashier's Use Only****W/O #: 34113304****NOTICE:**

The work included in this permit shall not be construed as establishing the legal number of dwelling units or guest rooms. That number is established by a Building Permit or a Certificate of Occupancy. In the event that any box (i.e. 1-10) is filled to its capacity, it is possible that additional information has been captured electronically and could not be printed due to space restrictions. Nevertheless, the information printed exceeds that required by Section 19825 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

**10. FEE INFORMATION** Inspection Fee Period

Permit Fee: 70.20

INSPECTION TOTAL Electrical	70.20
Permit Total	70.20
Permit Fee Subtotal Electrical	65.00
Permit One Stop Surcharge	1.30
Permit Sys. Development Surcharge	3.90
Permit Issuing Fee	0.00

Payment Date: 06/18/03  
Receipt No: IN050119702  
Amount: \$70.20



\* P 0 3 0 4 1 9 0 0 0 0 1 3 3 0 4 1 N \*

R E P O R T

Z. A. CASE NO. 18293  
ZONE VARIANCE  
ROBERT I. GLUCKSTEIN

PROPERTY INVOLVED:

An interior record lot  
located in the R4-2  
Zone at 1428 North McCadden Place, Hollywood District.

REQUEST:

To permit continued use  
of the wood-frame converted dwelling as a theater workshop and office, with incidental storage in accessory buildings and with accessory automobile parking for a total of only five (5) automobiles, two of which are indicated in the required front yard space adjacent to McCadden Place.

The subject property has a 50 ft. frontage on the easterly side of McCadden Place and a depth of 142 ft. It is located approximately 210 ft. southerly of Sunset Boulevard and is classified in the R4-2 Zone in common with properties fronting and siding on McCadden Place southerly of the Sunset Boulevard commercially zoned frontage and in common with properties fronting on both sides of Leland Way and Las Palmas Avenue. Other properties in the area are classified in the C2 and C4 Zones.

Highland Avenue and Sunset Boulevard are both classified as major highways dedicated 100 ft. in width and fully improved. McCadden Place is a local street dedicated 50 ft. in width and fully improved.

The surrounding commercially zoned properties are improved with a variety of neighborhood type retail uses, motels and theater-type uses, and a few used car sales and auto repair uses, while the residentially zoned properties vary in density from one-story single-family dwellings to 3-story apartment-hotel type buildings. Many of the existing apartment buildings were constructed at the time offstreet parking was not required and resulting in the streets being congested with on-street parking.

Abutting the subject property on the north is a residentially zoned lot which has transitional privileges and said lot is utilized as a parking lot for the auto body and shop place. Adjoining the subject property on the south are two lots improved with a 3-story hotel type apartment building. Adjoining the subject property on the east is a deep interior record lot improved with a 2-story



17-unit apartment building.

The involved property is improved with a front building located approximately 20 ft. from the front property line and observing a southerly side yard of 9 ft. and a northerly side yard varying from 4 ft. to 7 ft. The rear portion of the property is improved with three one-story buildings designated as storage facilities. Said buildings have dimensions of 10' x 36', 18' x 28', and 14' x 15'. Available records did not disclose any building permits for the construction of the existing buildings. However, in 1959, a building permit was issued for the construction of a 10' x 29' storage building, possibly an addition to one of the existing rear buildings. Also, a check with the License and Tax Division of the City Clerk's office revealed a professional occupational license was issued in October 1965 for this property.

Field investigation, conversation with one of the proposed instructors or managers of the theater workshop and details specified on the plot plan and application revealed that there is an existing theater workshop on the site and said facilities have been in operation for a period of years and is now being taken over by a new manager and apparently it was found that the use was not a permitted one for the existing zoning. It was revealed that in 1960, a business license of some sort was issued at this address and that the property has been known as the "A. Harry Keaton Hollywood Film Players Studio Club". The activities of the proposed organization take place principally at night and normally consist of three groups of active and prospective actors and actresses, with their hours of operation between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 P.M. There are approximately 23 persons enrolled in the classes which meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. The number may increase or decrease depending upon the season of the year and other determining factors.

The submitted plot plan revealed two parking spaces will be located in the front yard area and three parking spaces located between the front building and the rear storage buildings and access to the rear parking spaces will be through a 9 ft. in width paved driveway along the southerly property line from McCadden Place. The front building will be utilized for two office spaces, two dressing rooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and a "prop" room, with the theater workshop area having dimensions of 23' x 28' and containing an area of approximately 744 sq. ft.

The involved property is located in the Hollywood area where a variety of theater-type activities and commercial uses including many motels and hotels are being utilized without providing required offstreet parking facilities. The subject property is in close proximity to many of the Hollywood-type activities and maybe a reasonable type use to be located in the area. However, this particular site is inadequate due to its size and location to adjoining residential uses and its location upon a street having

dedicated width of only 50 ft. and an improved roadway of less than what's considered desirable. The location of parking facilities in the front yard area is not a desirable factor and cannot be condoned in a congested area as the Hollywood District. The proposed three parking spaces to be located on the rear portion of the site will not be feasible and very inaccessible due to the limited turning radius and limited width of the access driveway. Investigation revealed the use has existed in the building for a period of time; however, the existing violation is no justification for deviating from the regulations since such a use would further cause parking congestion on abutting streets. The field investigation revealed the existing buildings are somewhat in a dilapidated condition and would require extensive rehabilitation for human habitation and could not reasonably be expected to accommodate public assembly without extensive repairs. The proposed use appears to be a limited type operation but even a limited activity on this interior lot in the existing building would be detrimental to the area. The operation of an auto body shop and other commercial uses in the area are no justification for placing an outright commercial use on this residentially zoned lot.

*[Signature]*  
W.H.G.  
8-1-66

*[Signature]*  
WILLIE H. GERARD  
City Planning Associate

Please note that Job Order D-22393 issued 3/23/66 to discontinue film production in the R4 Zone.



05500900130  
NOTICE

Your application herein will receive full, fair and impartial consideration. Experts on the staff of this department will fully investigate and analyze the subject-matter of your application without cost to you other than the filing fee paid by you. The same full, fair and impartial consideration will be accorded your application regardless of whether or not you engage any person to represent you.

This information is furnished you for your protection against any person who might indicate to you that but for his services you would not receive the same full, fair and impartial consideration.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES—CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Applicant's Affidavit

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES,  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. } SS.

I, ROBERT I. GLUCKSTEIN

being duly sworn, depose and say that I am the  
(Print Name in Full)

~~LESSOR~~ OWNER of the property involved in this application and that I have familiarized myself with the requirements of the Chief Zoning Administrator with respect to preparing and filing this application and that the foregoing statements and answers herein contained and the information on

the attached map and property owners' list thoroughly to the best of my ability present the argument in behalf of the application herewith requested and that the statements and information above

referred to are in all respects true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Robert I. Gluckstein

Phone No. 383-2623

341 S. VERMONT AVE. LOS ANGELES, 90005  
Mailing Address of Applicant Postal Zone

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

GOLDIE A. WINSTEIN  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1966

My Commission Expires January 20, 1970 Notary Public

This is to certify that the foregoing application has been inspected by me and has been found to be thorough and complete in every particular and to conform to the requirements of the Chief Zoning Administrator governing the filing of such application.

State below the name, address, and phone number of person to be contacted for details, if other than above signatory.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7/15/66  
Application 49272  
Application Completed and  
Received by Zoning Administrator \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
By Ruth T. Carey  
For the Office of Zoning Administration

We, the undersigned OWNERS of ADJACENT PROPERTY as shown upon map attached to the application hereby certify that we have read the foregoing petition and agree that the facts stated, correctly present the conditions surrounding the property involved in this application, and believe the application SHOULD BE GRANTED. (Add additional sheets where necessary. These signatures are desirable but not demanded.)

No. on Map	Name	Address	Lot	Blk.	Tract

(DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)

3 5 6 0 0 4 3 0 1 3

NOTE: The law requires that the conditions set forth in the following three Sections 1, 2, and 3 MUST be established before a Variance CAN be granted. Answers to these sections must be complete and full.

*Explain in detail wherein your case conforms to the following requirements.*

1. That the strict application of the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with its general purpose and intent.

PROPERTY IS UNSUITABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE DUE TO LOCATION AND DUE TO THE INTERIOR DESIGN WHICH IS USEFUL ONLY FOR A THEATER WORKSHOP OR SIMILAR USES, THUS APPLICANT HAS A PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY AND AN UNNECESSARY HARSHIP INCONSISTANT WITH THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THIS ZONING ORDINANCE.

*State fully wherein your case conforms to the following requirements.*

2. That there are exceptional circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved or to the intended use or development of the property that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone or neighborhood.

THE INTERIOR OF THIS DWELLING WAS CONVERTED BY SOME PRIOR OWNER INTO A SMALL THEATER COMPLETE WITH SOUND ROOMS AND OFFICES, ETC THUS CREATING A RESIDENTIAL EXTERIOR WITHOUT OFFENDING THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY A STORAGE YARD FOR WRECKED AUTOS AND AN AUTO BODY SHOP, IT IS BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY A NARROW COMMERCIAL BLOCK WHICH EXTENDS FROM SUNSET BLVD., SLY TO DE LONGPRE AVE.

SLY OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS A FOUR STORY APT. HOTEL WHICH IS OWNED BY THE APPLICANT.

THE PROPOSED USE WILL BE AN INTERIM USE UNTIL THIS AREA IS READY FOR HEAVIER COMMERCIAL USES.

*State fully wherein your case satisfies these requirements.*

3. That the granting of a variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in such zone or neighborhood in which the property is located.

THE PROPOSED USE IS INSIDE THE BLDG. WITH NO NOISE TO BOTHER ANYONE THE BLDG. IS KEPT IN GOOD CONDITION AND WITH THE SURROUNDING COMMERCIAL USES THIS PROPERTY CANNOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE AREA.

NOTE: A Zoning Administrator, before granting any variance, is required to make a written finding of facts from the showing applicant makes that the three above enumerated conditions exist and in addition thereto must find that the granting of such variance will not be contrary to the objectives of the Master Plan.





## ZONING SERVICE COMPANY

Planning and Zoning Consultants

257 S. SPRING STREET • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
TELEPHONE 628-1788  
S.F. VALLEY 783-0016

- Zoning Cases Preparation
- Mapping
- Ownerships
- Plot Plans
- Research

Approved by Los Angeles City Planning Commission for the Preparation of Required Use Maps and Ownership List

OWNERSHIP LIST

ZONE VARIANCE

APPLICANT ROBERT I. GLUCKSTEIN

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS TRUE AND CORRECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECORDS OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY ENGINEER AND CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

ALLAN MOLINE

ZONING SERVICE COMPANY

A-18293

## Additional Contemporary Photos



1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
West elevation  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020



1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
West elevation, front door  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020





1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
West elevation, view from street  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020



1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
North elevation  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020





1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
East elevation  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020



1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
South elevation  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020





1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
Small structure behind subject property (address is 1430 North McCadden Place)  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020



1428 North McCadden Place – Morris Kight Residence  
Storage structures behind subject property  
Photograph taken: May 8, 2020

## Historical Photos

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO DEFEAT PROPOSITION 6

In Los Angeles, two organizations have developed to meet the grave threat posed by Proposition 6. Their achievements and activities are the cutting edge of the growing movement to defeat Proposition 6. They are:

#### THE NO ON BRIGGS / PROPOSITION 6 INITIATIVE COMMITTEE, NOBIC

NOBIC carries out several important tasks, which are:

- Gathering and sharing information on all the groups and activities opposed to Proposition 6,
- Pursuing a lawsuit to challenge Proposition 6 on procedural and constitutional grounds,
- Sponsors Frank Vel's cross-California "Walk Against Briggs",
- Gathers and disseminates information about fraud, forgery, and misrepresentation in connection with the circulation of petitions and signatures for Proposition 6.

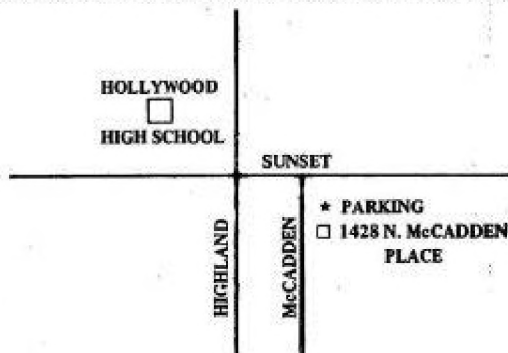
#### THE COMMITTEE AGAINST THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE, CABI

CABI was founded at a conference the same week that the Briggs Initiative, Proposition 6, became a real threat. The Los Angeles Committee Against the Briggs Initiative is part of a growing statewide network of CABI's who plan to build a massive visible, peaceful response to this threat against everyone's civil liberties.

CABI has a strategy aimed at winning, geared towards defeat of Proposition 6. Proposition 6 is the only subject of business for CABI, and CABI is open to all who oppose it.

Massive distribution of literature, rallies and peaceful demonstrations, voter education and outreach to all Californians who can be convinced are some of the major projects CABI is currently working on.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE COMMITTEE AGAINST THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE, PLEASE COME TO ONE OF OUR MEETINGS.



**CABI MEETS EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT 7:30 AT 1428 NORTH McCADDEN PLACE IN LOS ANGELES, NEAR THE INTERSECTIONS OF SUNSET AND HIGHLAND**

Clip and Mail to: CABI/LA 1428 N. McCadden Place,  
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Phones (213) 463-3928 & 664-5354

☐ I endorse CABI/LA. My name can be used for other anti-Briggs activities sponsored by CABI/LA.

☐ I can volunteer! Phone me at: \_\_\_\_\_

I can donate: ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$49.95

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Required for contributions over \$50.

DISTRIBUTED BY

CABI and NOBIC can be reached at  
1428 NORTH McCADDEN PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90028  
(213) 463-3928 or 463-3184

CABI, NOBIC headquarters at McCadden Place, 1975

Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender





1979. Morris Kight Tribute at the Ambassador Hotel with (l-r): Sheldon Andelson, Rand Schrader, Wallace Albertson, Troy Perry, Jim Kepner, unidentified male, unidentified male, unidentified female, Ivy Bottini, Gloria Allred, Al Gordon, Pearl Gordon. Photo by Pat Rocco. Pat Rocco Papers Coll2007-006, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

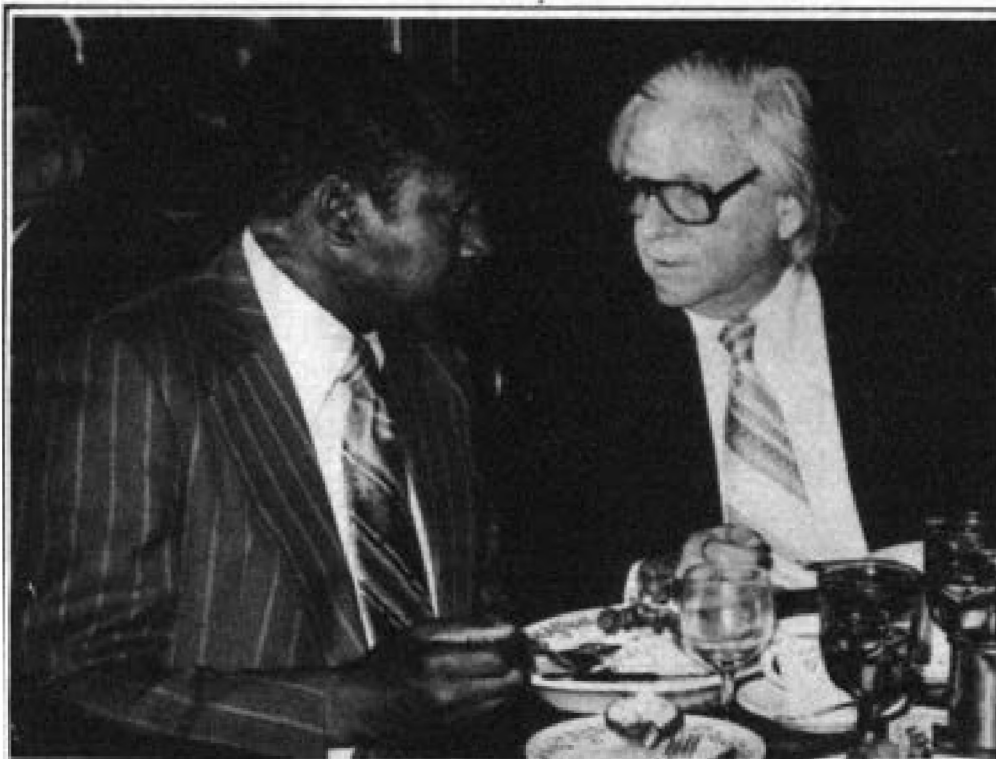
1977. "No on 6" fundraiser. Unidentified woman, Mervin M. Dymally, Morris, Frank Vel, Gene LaPietra, unidentified man. Photo by Pat Rocco. Pat Rocco Papers Coll2007-006, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

"No on 6" fundraiser at McCadden Place, 1977  
 Photo courtesy: Mary Ann Cherry, *Morris Kight: Humanist, Liberationist, Fantabulist*



"No on 6" fundraiser at McCadden Place, 1977

Photo courtesy: Mary Ann Cherry, *Morris Kight: Humanist, Liberationist, Fantabulist*



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Stonewall President Morris Kight

Photo by Pat Rocco

Los Angeles Mayor Bradley and Kight, 1977

Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender, Newsletter of Stonewall Democratic Club





Morris Kight with Harvey Milk (and Christopher S. Dogg) at McCadden Place, 1978  
 Photo courtesy: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives



Morris Kight and Governor Jerry Brown, 1978  
 Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender, Philadelphia Gay News



Jim Kepner and Morris Kight, 1978  
Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender



# Stonewall DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ANNOUNCES ITS AGENDA FOR SUMMER AND FALL OF 1978



**1** To continue to serve the Lesbian and Gay Community in Making YOUR Vote Count Within The Democratic Party

**2** To work for the election and/or re-election of these STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS:

JERRY BROWN for Governor.....

*He has spoken out against the Briggs' Proposition 6, and has pledged to continue doing so.*

MERVYN DYMALLY for Lt. Governor.....

*He has been a consistent supporter of Lesbian and Gay rights and delivered the deciding vote AB 489 (the California Consenting Adults Law) and is a vigorous opponent of Prop 6.*

MARCH FONG EU for Secretary of State.....

*She has redwooded the LA Police Dept. for furnishing grossly erroneous figures about gay involvement in child molestation cases, and brought those corrections to the attention of the public through the press and the PTA.*

KENNETH CORY for State Controller.....

JESSE M. DINRUH for State Treasurer.....

YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE for Attorney General.....

*She spoke out at a Stonewall meeting saying "I am for Gay Rights and opposed to Proposition 6."*

ROSE BIRD for Chief Justice Cal. Supreme Court.....

*Simply because she is a woman doing a good job in an important position she has been under attack by the anti-feminists and is deserving of all the support we can muster.*

ATLANTA URBAN EMPLOYMENT ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 1003  
ATLANTA, GA. 30304

**3** To work vigorously for the defeat of Proposition 6 within the Democratic Party and other alliances...



*The Stonewall Democratic Club has been active in securing the resolutions in opposition to Proposition 6 coming from the Democratic State Central Committee, and the Democratic County Committees of Los Angeles, Orange, San Francisco, and Merced Counties. Stonewall has mapped out an intensive campaign to bring our party into total opposition to Prop. 6.*

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- REGISTER TO VOTE...** a call to us will connect you with a Deputy Registrar to see that you are registered.
- STUDY THE ISSUE...** attend Stonewall's meetings and engage in discussions. Set time and place below.
- CONVERT YOUR HOME** into a neighborhood campaign office in opposition to Prop 6. Distribute literature on the issue. Host Coffeehouses (ask us, we'll be happy to furnish a speaker).
- USE OUR SLATE SHEET...** our endorsements are the result of state examinations of candidates and issues. Previous slate sheets reached 140,000 copies. Your contribution can help us print more and distribute them.
- GET OUT THE VOTE...** when you learn who supports us within your immediate precinct, you can see that they are registered in advance and turned out to vote on election day. That is a crucial priority!

Open meetings of Stonewall Democratic Clubs are held every third meeting at 7pm from now until the November election. Place: 1428 N. McCadden Pl., Hollywood (near Sunset) Tel: (213) 463-2828 and (213) 463-3164

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION...** To join Stonewall Democratic Clubs simply fill out this coupon and mail it in to Stonewall, P.O. Box 28495, Los Angeles, CA. 90028

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
\$5. Student/Unemployed/Single/Child  
\$15. Regular \$25. Senior Citizen \$50. Big Stonewall

**NO ON THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**1428 N. MC CADDEN PL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90028**

(213) 463-3928

October 5, 1978

Stonewall Democratic Club ad/meeting notice, 1978  
Photo courtesy: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

NOBIC headquarters at McCadden Place, 1978  
Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender



Gore Vidal, Ed Edelman, and Morris Kight at McCadden Place, 1980s  
Photo courtesy: USC Digital Archives, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives





Morris Kight at McCadden Place, circa 1980  
Photo courtesy: USC Digital Archives, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives



Morris Kight at McCadden Place, circa 1980  
Photo courtesy: USC Digital Archives, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives



Morris Kight at McCadden Place, circa 1980  
Photo courtesy: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Mary Ann Cherry





Morris Kight during his annual solstice party at McCadden Place, 1981  
Photo courtesy: Mary Ann Cherry, *Morris Kight: Humanist, Liberationist, Fantabulist*



Morris Kight's McCadden Residence, interior, 1984  
Photo courtesy: USC Digital Archives, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives





*Los Angeles Human Relations Commission officers Patricia Russell, Morris Kight, Eleanor Montano, Ray Bartlett and James M. Riewer.*

## Kight Sworn in as Human Relations Commission VP

Morris Kight sworn in as Vice President of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, 1984  
 Photo courtesy: Frontiers Magazine



Morris Kight and Jim Kepner at McCadden Place, 1985  
 Photo courtesy: USC Digital Archives, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives



***Morris Kight with his best friend.***

Morris Kight at McCadden Place, 1985  
Photo courtesy: LA Weekly





TROY MABEN / Los Angeles Times

**Morris Kight in window of home he believes was Buster Keaton's. It now houses an art gallery that benefits the gay community.**

Morris Kight at McCadden Place, 1986  
Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Times



**On display**—Art works depicting gay, lesbian, feminist, black, Jewish, protest and peace themes will be displayed as part of the McCadden Place Collection Sunday at 1428 N.

McCadden Place, Hollywood. The free exhibition is being held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the McCadden collection of posters, prints, paintings and found objects.

Small portion of Kight's art collection at McCadden Place, 1986  
Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Times



RANDY LEFFINGWELL / Los Angeles Times

To many, Morris Kight is the gay movement's "grand old man."

Morris Kight with his beloved best friend at McCadden Place, 1988  
Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Times





**Lesbian L.A. Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, with County Human Rights Commissioner Morris Kight, introduced domestic partners legislation; it passed Nov. 23.**

Morris Kight with Los Angeles Councilmember Goldberg, 1993  
Photo courtesy: Frontiers Magazine

## Grand Marshal

### Morris Kight — A Living Forefather

The gay liberation movement is long on recollections and short on living history. To help rectify that, San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride has named Morris Kight a grand marshal for the 1994 Pride Parade.

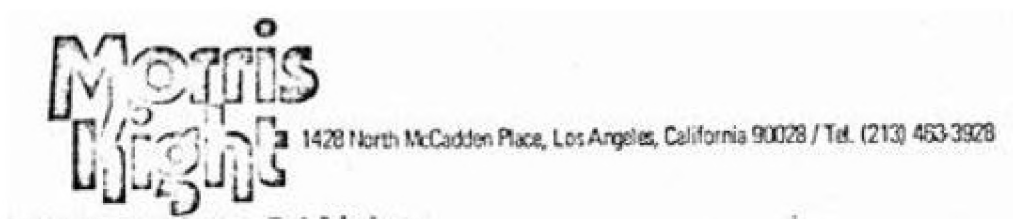
Known as a principal architect and founder of gay liberation in 1969, Kight was not only a crusader for gay and lesbian rights but an activist for peace, environmentalism and humanism. As a younger man, Kight worked on the early integration projects at the University of Texas.

Arriving in Los Angeles in 1957, he began his career as a self-described "underground" gay-liberationist, establishing and coordinating one-to-one services for many homosexuals in the areas of housing, employment, counseling, legal assistance and health care.



Parade grand marshal Morris Kight, who earlier this year was honored as "Man of the Year" by Christopher Street West.

Morris Kight as Grand Marshall, 1995  
Photo courtesy: Gay and Lesbian Times



Morris Kight at McCadden Place letterhead, 1980s-1990s



Morris Kight at McCadden Place letterhead, date unknown



Morris Kight stands at the corner of McCadden Place and Hollywood Boulevard, the beginning of the first Gay and Lesbian Pride parade in 1970.

# The Liberator

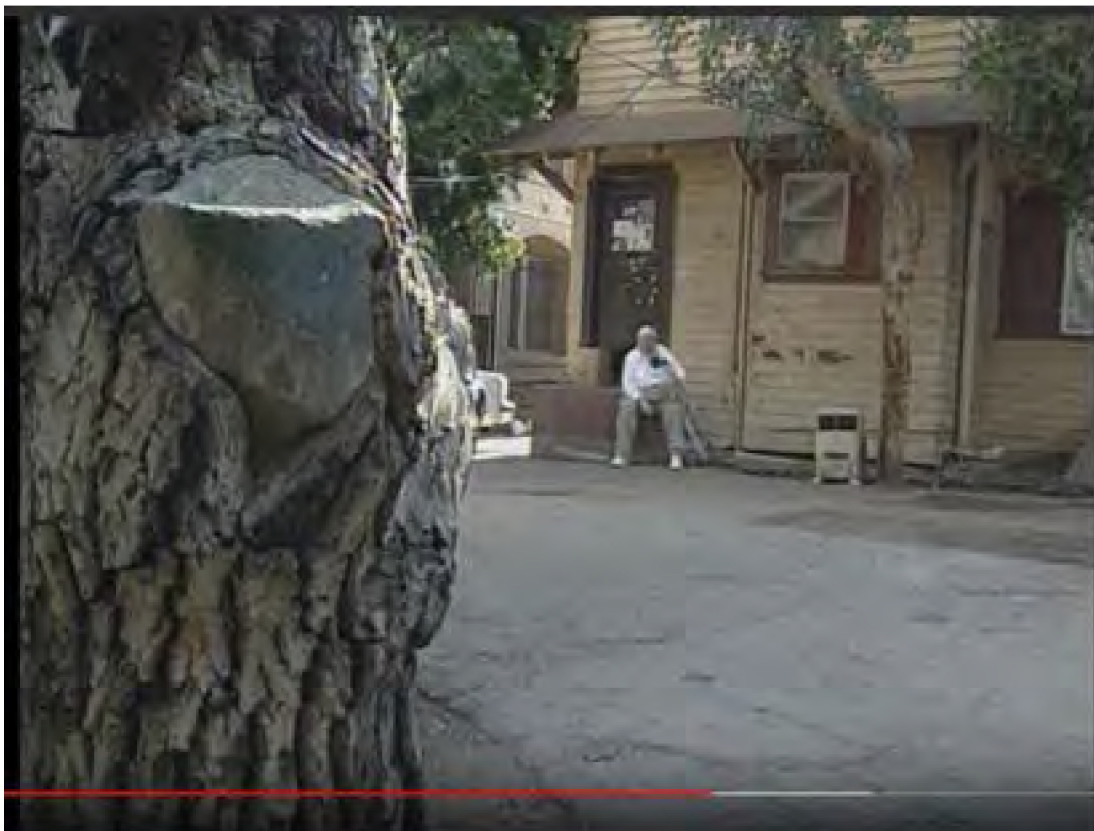
Morris Kight on Hollywood Boulevard, blocks away from his McCadden Place and where the first CSW parade/march was held, 1999  
Photo courtesy: Los Angeles Times





Kight speaks at McCadden Place, date unknown

Photo courtesy: Live on Tape, The Life and Times of Morris Kight, Liberator



Kight visits his McCadden Place with documenatarian, 1999

Photo courtesy: Live on Tape, The Life and Times of Morris Kight, Liberator



Kight visits his McCadden Place with documentarian, 1999

Photo courtesy: Live on Tape, The Life and Times of Morris Kight, Liberator





Morris Kight Square, located at McCadden Place and Hollywood Boulevard  
Photo courtesy: Kate Eggert, 2020



Christopher Street West plaque in sidewalk, located at McCadden Place and Hollywood Boulevard  
Photo courtesy: Kate Eggert, 2020



# City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## 5/23/2022 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

### PROPERTY ADDRESSES

1428 N MCCADDEN PL  
1430 N MCCADDEN PL

### ZIP CODES

90028

### RECENT ACTIVITY

ENV-2022-3606-CE  
CHC-2022-3605-HCM

### CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2018-6005-CA  
CPC-2016-1450-CPU  
CPC-2013-3169  
CPC-2003-2115-CRA  
CPC-2002-1128-CA  
CPC-1999-324-ICO  
CPC-1999-2293-ICO  
CPC-1986-835-GPC  
ORD-175038  
ORD-173562  
ORD-165658-SA130  
ZA-19XX-18293  
BZA-1667  
ENV-2019-4121-ND  
ENV-2018-6006-CE  
ENV-2016-1451-EIR  
ENV-2013-3170-CE  
ENV-2002-1131-ND  
ENV-2002-1130-ND

### Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	147A185 156
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	7,141.0 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 593 - GRID E5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5547022007
Tract	BOYLE PLACE
Map Reference	M B 6-45
Block	None
Lot	18
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	147A185

### Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Hollywood
Area Planning Commission	Central
Neighborhood Council	Central Hollywood
Council District	CD 13 - Mitch O'Farrell
Census Tract #	1907.02
LADBS District Office	Los Angeles Metro

### Permitting and Zoning Compliance Information

Administrative Review	None
-----------------------	------

### Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	RD1.5-1XL
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2374 State Enterprise Zone: Los Angeles ZI-2488 Redevelopment Project Area: Hollywood ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium II Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	None
Subarea	None
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Historic Preservation Review	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Other Historic Survey Information	None
Mills Act Contract	None
CDO: Community Design Overlay	None
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay	None
Subarea	None
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up	None
HCR: Hillside Construction Regulation	No
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
RFA: Residential Floor Area District	None
RIO: River Implementation Overlay	No
SN: Sign District	No



Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area
Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	
Residential Market Area	Medium-High
Non-Residential Market Area	High
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Tier 3
RPA: Redevelopment Project Area	Hollywood
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None
500 Ft School Zone	Active: Hollywood Senior High Active: Hollywood Senior High (New Media Magnet) Active: Hollywood Senior High (Performing Arts Magnet)
500 Ft Park Zone	No
<b>Assessor Information</b>	
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5547022007
Ownership (Assessor)	
Owner1	KAHANA,TAL TR TAL KAHANA TRUST AND
Owner2	STARK,PAZ K TR PAZ K STARK TRUST
Address	1929 N CURSON AVE LOS ANGELES CA 90046
Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records)	
Owner	KAHANA, TAL (TRUSTEE) TAL KAHANA 2007 REVOCABLE INTER VIVOS TRUST (ET AL)
Address	6000 TEMPLE HILL DR LOS ANGELES CA 90068
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0.164 (ac)
Use Code	0100 - Residential - Single Family Residence
Assessed Land Val.	\$1,092,162
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$280,812
Last Owner Change	05/09/2017
Last Sale Amount	\$9
Tax Rate Area	200
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	916927 590863-4 2363875 1894467 1290707 1083562 0-288
Building 1	
Year Built	1910
Number of Units	2
Number of Bedrooms	6
Number of Bathrooms	6
Building Square Footage	3,263.0 (sq ft)
Building 2	No data for building 2
Building 3	No data for building 3
Building 4	No data for building 4
Building 5	No data for building 5
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No [APN: 5547022007]
<b>Additional Information</b>	
Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	None
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES

This report is subject to the terms and conditions as set forth on the website. For more details, please refer to the terms and conditions at [zimas.lacity.org](https://zimas.lacity.org)  
 (\*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	Outside Flood Zone
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No
Methane Hazard Site	None
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Wells	None

#### Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	0.97084896
Nearest Fault (Name)	Hollywood Fault
Region	Transverse Ranges and Los Angeles Basin
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	1.00000000
Slip Geometry	Left Lateral - Reverse - Oblique
Slip Type	Poorly Constrained
Down Dip Width (km)	14.00000000
Rupture Top	0.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	70.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	6.40000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	No
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No

#### Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Hubzone	None
Opportunity Zone	Yes
Promise Zone	None
State Enterprise Zone	LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE

#### Housing

Direct all Inquiries to	Los Angeles Housing Department
Telephone	(866) 557-7368
Website	<a href="https://housing.lacity.org">https://housing.lacity.org</a>
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No [APN: 5547022007]
Ellis Act Property	No
AB 1482: Tenant Protection Act	See Notes
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5547022007
Address	1428 N MCCADDEN PL
Year Built	1910
Use Code	0100 - Residential - Single Family Residence
Notes	The property is subject to AB 1482 only if the owner is a corporation, limited liability company, or a real estate investment trust.

#### Public Safety

Police Information	
Bureau	West
Division / Station	Hollywood
Reporting District	646
Fire Information	
Bureau	West

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Batallion	5
District / Fire Station	27
Red Flag Restricted Parking	No

## CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for case summaries is retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) database.

Case Number:	CPC-2018-6005-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER THE LAND USE AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DESIGNATED LOCAL AUTHORITY (CRA/LA-DLA) TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND CODE AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEXPIRED REDEVELOPMENT PLANS AND UPDATE OTHER RELEVANT CODE PROVISIONS IN THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF LAND USE AUTHORITY FROM THE CRA/LA-DLA TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.
Case Number:	CPC-2016-1450-CPU
Required Action(s):	CPU-COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
Project Descriptions(s):	UPDATE TO THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY PLAN
Case Number:	CPC-2013-3169
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	THE PROPOSED PROJECT CONSISTS OF: (1) A TECHNICAL MODIFICATION TO SECTIONS 12.03, 12.04, 12.21, 12.22, 12.24, 13.11, 14.5, 16.05 AND 16.11 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC) TO REMOVE OR AMEND REFERENCES TO THE FORMER COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA); (2) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO CLARIFY EXISTING REGULATIONS IN THE LAMC THAT ARE IMPACTED BY THE TRANSFER OF LAND USE AUTHORITY; AND (3) A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT ALL LAND USE RELATED PLANS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CRA/LA BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
Case Number:	CPC-2003-2115-CRA
Required Action(s):	CRA-COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Project Descriptions(s):	First Amendment to the Hollywood Redevelopment Plan
Case Number:	CPC-2002-1128-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1999-324-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1999-2293-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE.
Case Number:	CPC-1986-835-GPC
Required Action(s):	GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Descriptions(s):	PLAN AMENDMENTS AND ZONE CHANGES FOR THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY PLAN REVISION/ZONING CONSISTENCY PROGRAM
Case Number:	ZA-19XX-18293
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	ENV-2019-4121-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER THE LAND USE AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DESIGNATED LOCAL AUTHORITY (CRA/LA-DLA) TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND CODE AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEXPIRED REDEVELOPMENT PLANS AND UPDATE OTHER RELEVANT CODE PROVISIONS IN THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF LAND USE AUTHORITY FROM THE CRA/LA-DLA TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.
Case Number:	ENV-2018-6006-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER THE LAND USE AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DESIGNATED LOCAL AUTHORITY (CRA/LA-DLA) TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND CODE AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEXPIRED REDEVELOPMENT PLANS AND UPDATE OTHER RELEVANT CODE PROVISIONS IN THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF LAND USE AUTHORITY FROM THE CRA/LA-DLA TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.
Case Number:	ENV-2016-1451-EIR
Required Action(s):	EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Project Descriptions(s):	UPDATE TO THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY PLAN
Case Number:	ENV-2013-3170-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

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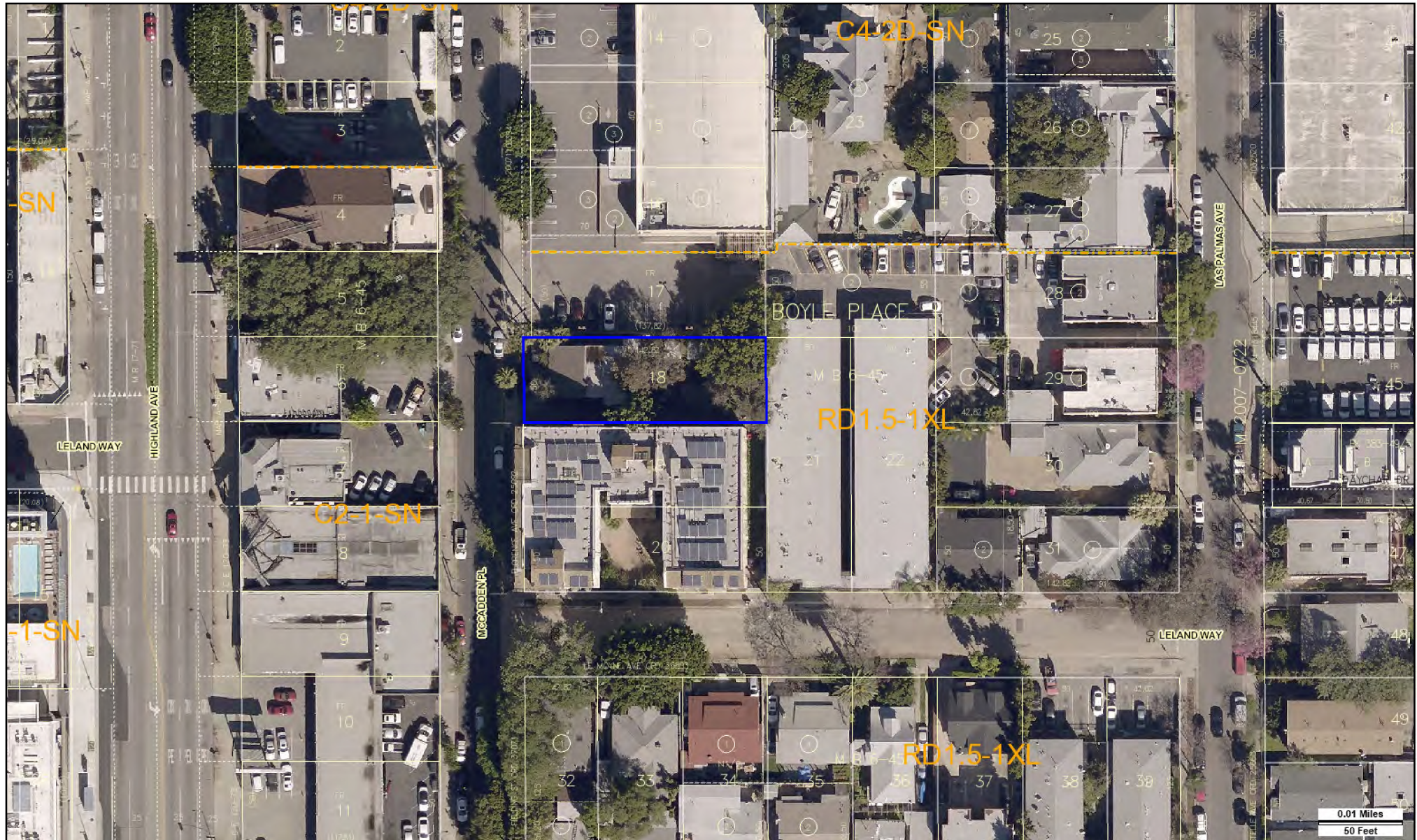


Project Descriptions(s):	THE PROPOSED PROJECT CONSISTS OF: (1) A TECHNICAL MODIFICATION TO SECTIONS 12.03, 12.04, 12.21, 12.22, 12.24, 13.11, 14.5, 16.05 AND 16.11 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC) TO REMOVE OR AMEND REFERENCES TO THE FORMER COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA); (2) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO CLARIFY EXISTING REGULATIONS IN THE LAMC THAT ARE IMPACTED BY THE TRANSFER OF LAND USE AUTHORITY; AND (3) A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT ALL LAND USE RELATED PLANS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CRA/LA BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
Case Number:	ENV-2002-1131-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	ENV-2002-1130-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

- ORD-175038
- ORD-173562
- ORD-165658-SA130
- BZA-1667





Address: 1430 N MCCADDEN PL

APN: 5547022007

PIN #: 147A185 156

Tract: BOYLE PLACE

Block: None

Lot: 18

Arb: None

Zoning: RD1.5-1XL

General Plan: Low Medium II Residential

