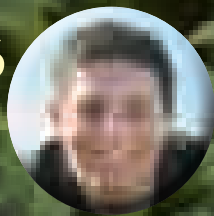
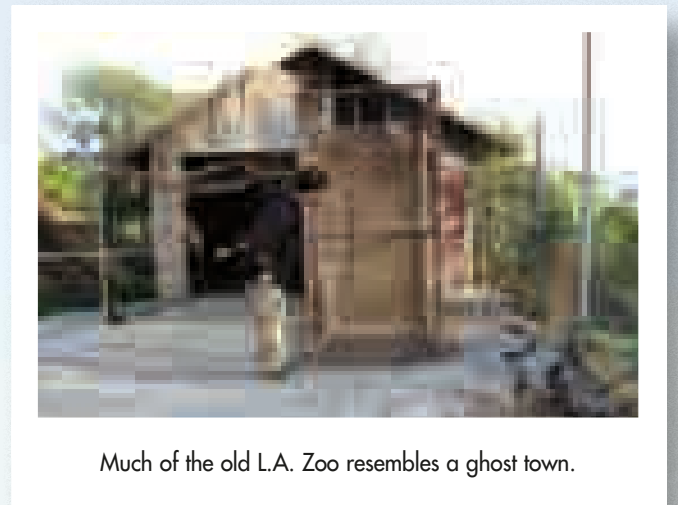


# Angel's Be Alive!



Angel Gomez,  
Member Services  
Manager



Much of the old L.A. Zoo resembles a ghost town.

## Visiting the Old L.A. Zoo



There's plenty of room to relax at the old L.A. Zoo grounds.

### Hello again!

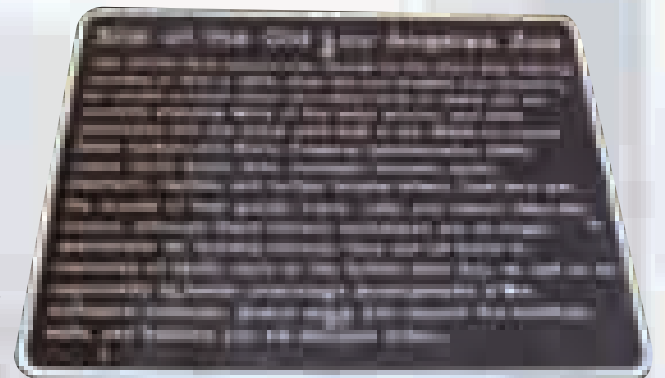
This month, we will take you on a brief historic tour of Griffith Park's original zoo.

What? I hear you saying. You can walk around the old zoo? Yep, you sure can. And you can picnic there ... and just kick back. So this month, it's not about hiking, it's about exploring and enjoying a relic of old Los Angeles in Griffith Park.

The Los Angeles Zoo came to Griffith Park in 1913. The City moved its small animal collection from Eastlake (now Lincoln) Park to a ravine near where the merry-go-round stands today. At the time, the Los Angeles Examiner hoped that Griffith Park's more natural setting would result in "healthier and more attrac-

tive" zoo animals. But there were problems right from the start. The plan was to raise \$10,000, but the zoo had to be built with only \$2,000. Even in 1913 you couldn't do very much with \$2,000. The zoo was started and it didn't even have cages for the animals; they used stockades. Various livestock, wolves, monkeys and even some cats were in stockades. A few years later, an aviary, bear pits and assorted cages (you can still see some of these today) were built.

The zoo had its share of problems; Lions were found to have glanders, a highly contagious disease. Moreover, the zoo did not have a veterinarian on site, and in February 1916 the zoo was almost closed. The Health Department found the zoo's sewage was draining into the Los Angeles River.



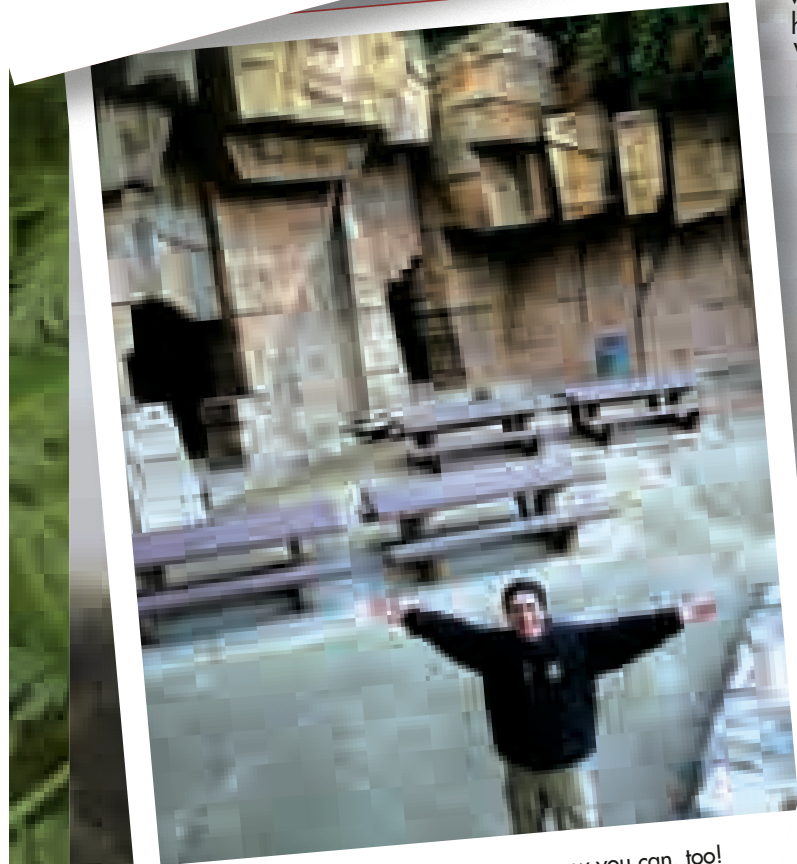
During World War I, the City Council withdrew authorization to feed beef to the zoo's meat-eating animals. Because of this, the animals were put up for sale, but no one would buy them. So, they were fed horsemeat as a substitute for beef. The results were devastating — many of the meat-eating animals, and almost all the cats, died. Yet, with all these setbacks, the zoo carried on.

By the 1950s, zoo-bashing became the norm, with politicians trying to win votes. The Los Angeles Daily News called the zoo in Griffith Park an "inadequate, ugly, poorly designed and under-financed collection of beat-up cages." Apparently, the voters agreed. In May 1958 local voters overwhelmingly approved an \$8 million bond issue to build a new zoo.

There is a lot of history in the remains of what was once the original L.A. Zoo. Take the family and enjoy a relic!

Special thanks to Michael J. Watkins, Park Maintenance Supervisor.

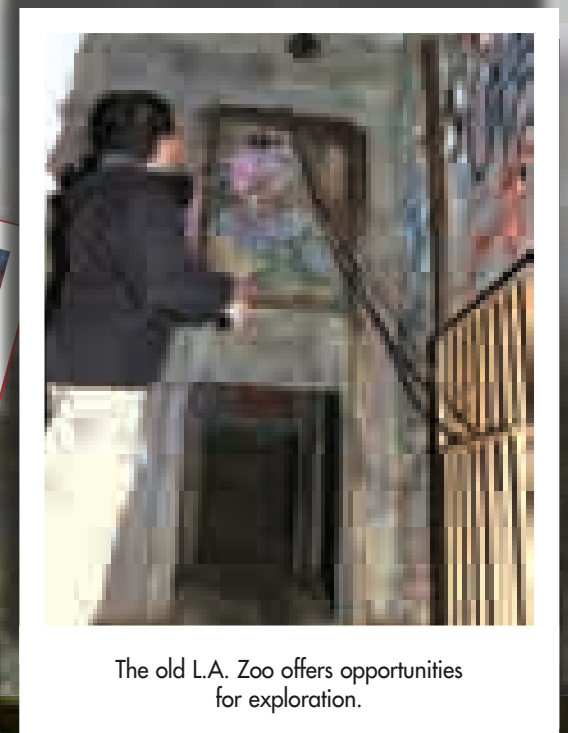
**Until next time, Be Alive! and have fun!**



Where ferocious animals once ate ... now you can, too!



Where mortals fear to tread ... Angel goes!



The old L.A. Zoo offers opportunities for exploration.





Please don't feed the Angels.



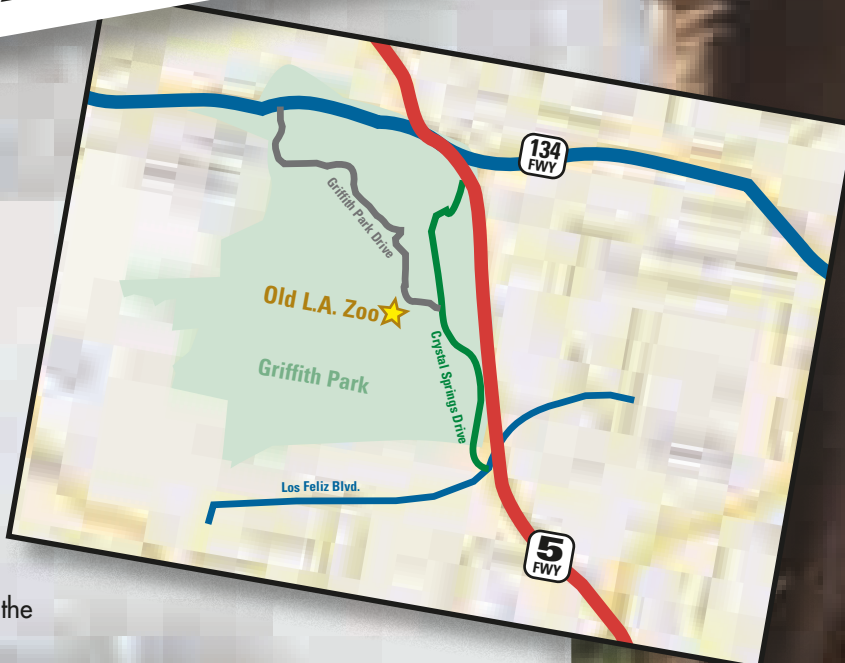
Zoological standards have come a long way since these confining cages were built.



The old L.A. Zoo is situated in the middle of beautiful Griffith Park.



Exploring the old L.A. Zoo is as haunting as it is fun.



## Directions:

- Take the 5 Freeway north.
- Exit the 5 freeway at Los Feliz; turn left and follow the road until you reach Crystal Springs Drive.
- Turn right on Crystal Springs Drive; you will pass the Park Rangers headquarters on the right.
- Pass the stop sign, and turn left on Griffith Park Drive. Then you will see the Old Zoo Picnic Area sign.
- You can park in the first set of parking spaces or continue forward, and there will be another parking site straight ahead. At this point you will see the path or the stairs that leads right up the old bear cages.
- Bring a lunch and enjoy the old zoo.

## April Events

### Earth Day at Cabrillo

- APRIL 19

Celebrate our "ocean planet" at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Saturday, April 19, with a day of free programs, including a beach cleanup, speakers, information and activities. Participation options include joining the beach cleanup, sharing information, grunion egg hatching, guided walks to the salt marsh, and more.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is at 3720 Stephen M. White Dr. in San Pedro, and is a Rec and Parks facility. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or go to: [www.cabrilloaq.org](http://www.cabrilloaq.org)

### Hollyhock House Tours

- ALL MONTH

Hollyhock House, built between 1919 and 1921 on the crown of Olive Hill, was Frank Lloyd Wright's first Los Angeles commission. Aline Barnsdall, an oil heiress, hired the famous architect to design a home for herself and her daughter that would be the center of an arts complex. Tours are available Wednesdays through Sundays at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m. General admission: \$7. Seniors and students: \$3. Free for 12 and under.

- Information: (323) 662-8139.

### Warner Grand Theatre

- ALL MONTH

Have you been to the revived Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro? The theatre, which retains its atmosphere and décor from the day when it was built, in 1931, is managed by Cultural Affairs and presents a lively schedule of film festivals (both classic Hollywood and foreign), live performances from area entertainers and theatre companies, and is the launch location for area walking tours and preservation tours. It is truly one of the City's gems.

- Information: [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org)

### Lineman's Rodeo

- MAY 17

City Employees are given a special invitation to watch the DWP lineman doing their thing during the annual DWP Lineman's Rodeo. The event is not open to the general public.

The event is set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May, 17, at the DWP Truesdale Facility, 11760 Truesdale St. in Sun Valley.

- Information: [www.lalinenanrodeo.com](http://www.lalinenanrodeo.com)

## Ticket Guy Recommends:



"Take the family to Adventure City. It's 'America's Little Theme Park.' The kids will love it!"

