

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

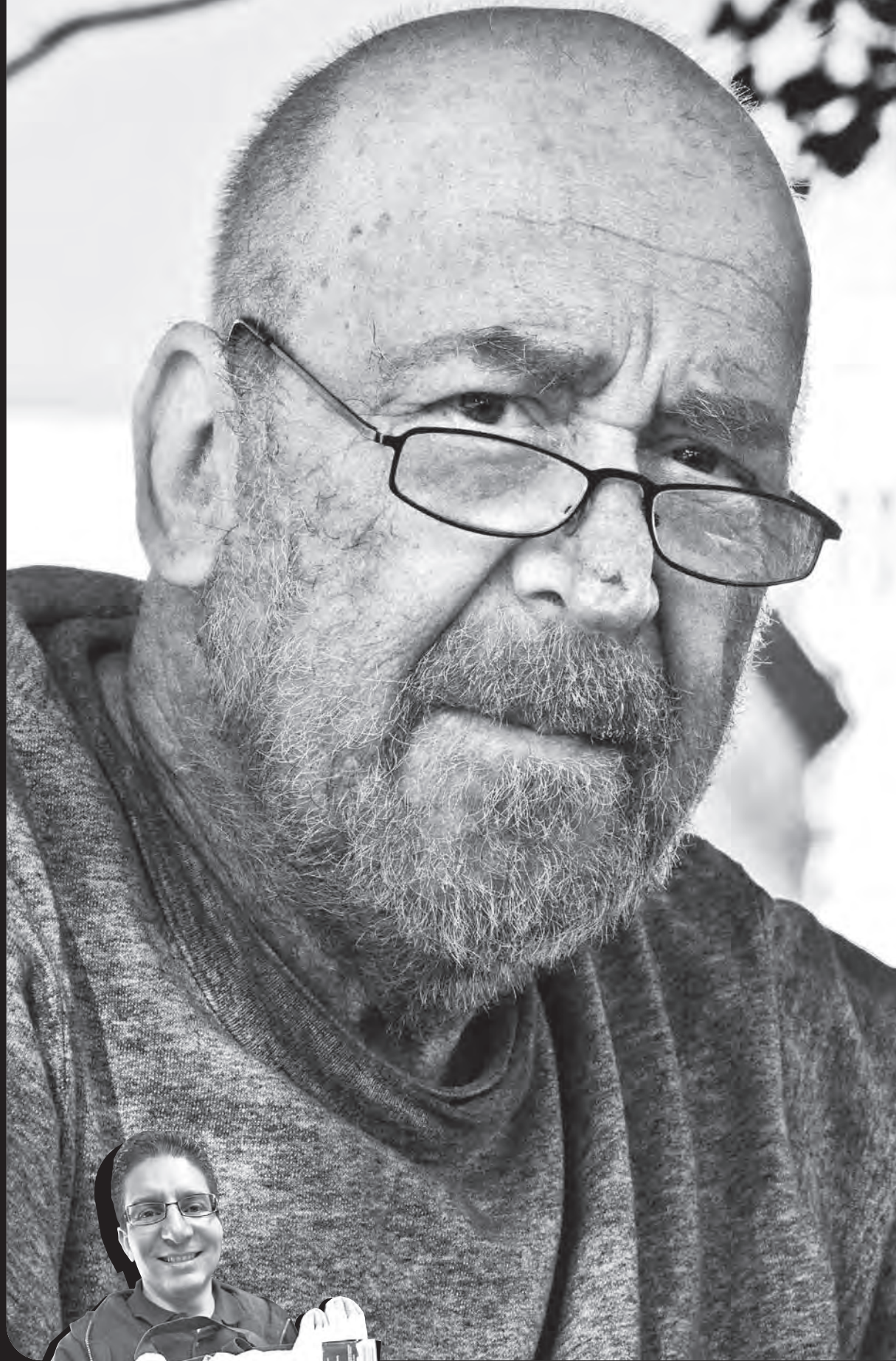
No. 35 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Bill Holt.



AGE: "I'm 67."

BIRTHPLACE: "I was born in Washington D.C. but grew up in Lock Haven, Pa. and in parts of New York."

MARITAL STATUS: "I was married, but I have been divorced for 40 years now."

FAMILY: "I have one half brother and two foster brothers."

MILITARY SERVICE: "No."

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "In 1956, when I was in seventh grade. I came here to live with my stepmother."

EDUCATION: "I went to Beverly Hills High."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "Growing up on the family farm in Pennsylvania."



AWARDS OR MEDALS: "I won one track race once, but I smoked at 15 [years old] so I wasn't good at competing. I was best at the hurdles 'cause that required technique more than stamina."

RELIGION: "I am spiritual, but organized religion? No. I believe in good and evil and mostly follow the Buddhist ideal."

POLITICAL STANCE: "None, just cynical."

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS? "Yes. I have a couple of friends that live here, under the tree with me."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "Right here, under this tree."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I don't really have one anymore. I guess under this tree because I like to feed the birds."

WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I had two businesses – an attorney service and a gardening service."

FAVORITE SPORT: "I ran track and played football and baseball. I was too short for basketball."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "John Wayne and Morgan Freeman."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "A Bronx Tale."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Reese's Peanut Butter Cups."

FAVORITE FOOD: "Egg noodles with a little garlic, olive oil and tomatoes."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Oldies, standards and the blues."

WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "The last book I read was a Stephen King novel, *Dolores Claiborne*. I love to read. In fact I just bought four books from a bookstore down the street. It's called the Last Book Store, and these books here were just a dollar each. After reading these I'll be able to teach the first and second semester of a college course."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Pay your rent on time, keep a roof over your head, keep your mouth shut, and don't yell at powerful people. No matter how bad things are, they can always get worse."

LAST THING EATEN: "A bologna and cheese sandwich."

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: "My Swiss Army Knife and my can of mace. The Swiss Army Knife is the Tinker model. I'm using the Phillips screwdriver feature all the time to tighten up my wheel chair."

WHO OR WHAT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU? "None of them."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"A home."

IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "Get a van and fix it up for living."

IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "Build houses and get rid of poverty."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS? "Right here or in jail."

The Club gave Bill shaving cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and some bottled water.

The interview took place Jan. 18 downtown and was conducted by Club staffer Noelle Kauffman.

Photos by Angel Gomez



How to Help

You can make a difference.

Donate items to "People We See," and the Club will deliver them to an upcoming subject. Great items include socks, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, toilet paper, hand wipes, shaving cream and razors. Just drop them off at the Club Store (120 W. 2nd Street, downtown Los Angeles), and we'll take it from there.

We want to thank Lorena De La Torre for providing socks.



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, Director of Member Services Angel Gomez and New Project Coordinator Noelle Kauffman, introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }