A History of the Bungalow Inn/Log Cabin Property

by CLAW Volunteer Jonathan Earl

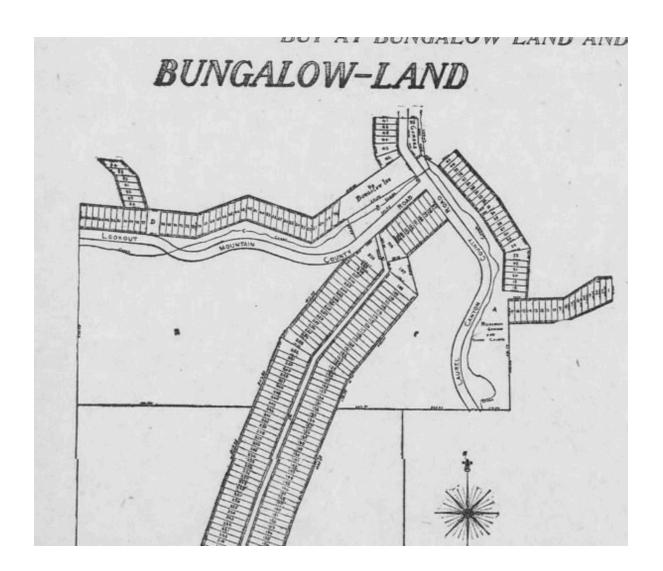
1897 "There are several ladies' bicycle clubs in town...Yesterday morning a party of ladies rode on their wheels to Laurel Canyon, returning in the afternoon with great quantities of wild snapdragon and larkspur, which grow abundantly in the canyon." [J.E. -I imagine they only made it into the bottom of the canyon, but I wanted to show what plants we had back then.] -Los Angeles Evening Express 5/7/1897



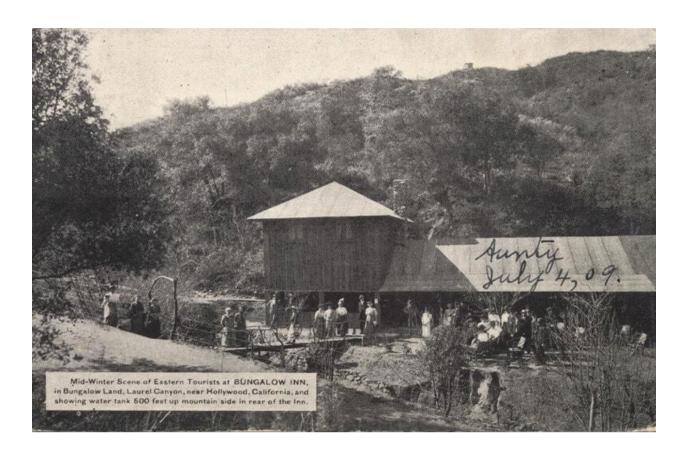
Charles Spencer Mann

1906 Charles Spencer Mann, a real estate developer and head of the Hollywood Water Company walks up Laurel Canyon (called "Laurel Canyon" at least since the 1870's) past the campgrounds and picnic sites at the bottom of the canyon, past the Stay-a-While Inn which was where the Canyon Store is now and continues up a steeper hike to a relatively flat piece of land next to a busy stream at what was soon to be called Laurel Canyon Road and Lookout Mountain Avenue. There's a lone small cabin on the property. A large Eucalyptus grows on the land; it probably grew from a seed planted or thrown there in the 1850's after being brought from Australia on a ship, one of many ships coming from Australia at that time for the California gold rush.

- **1907** "Laurel Canyon Project. The Laurel Canyon Improvement Company has incorporated with a capital of \$50,000, with C. S. Mann, Lloyd W. Moultrie, H. D. Canne, and George M. Warren as directors. The company has bought 280 acres in Laurel Canyon for a stated consideration of \$28,000 and proposes opening a mountain tract...A bungalow inn, stables, garage, tennis courts, bowling alleys, swings, refreshment stand, etc. are to be built at once. The sale of liquor is to be prohibited." -Los Angeles Times 3/30/1907
- Charles Spencer Mann proceeds to build the Bungalow Inn and improve the road coming up from the bottom of the canyon.
- "Home-like meals at Bungalow Inn. Mountains surrounding, pure air and water, close to city. Open all year." -Los Angeles Herald 9/15/1907
- "WANTED: Man experienced in handling mules and burros to take charge of a number of burros and operate a stage line in Laurel Canyon [J.E. -Charles S. Mann hadn't thought about the trackless trolley yet]. Must be sober, industrious, and honest. Prefer married man. —CHARLES S. MANN --Los Angeles Times 4/16/1908
- "Bungalowland is that favored region of the city where artistic and literary folk dwell in the classic shade of Laurel Canyon sycamores." -Los Angeles Herald 11/21/1908
- **1909** "Visit Bungalow Land. See the fine water plant, rest at Bungalow Inn..." [J.E.-This text was found on the map below. Note that the Lookout Mountain County Road is already established and you can see where the Lookout Mountain stream flowed.] -Los Angeles Herald 2/7/1909



In the following picture you can see the large streambed next to the Bungalow Inn. "Mid-Winter Scene of Eastern Tourists at Bungalow Inn, in Bungalow Land, Laurel Canyon near Hollywood, California and showing water tank 500 feet up mountain side in rear of the Inn." --Card dated: July 4, 1909

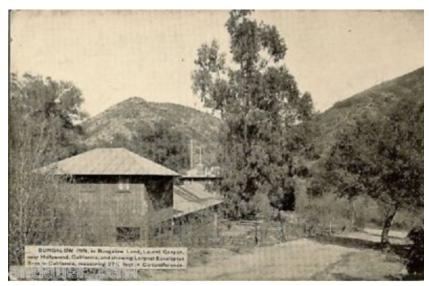


1910 "Rural Delivery: About four miles of territory in Laurel Canyon have been added to rural Route #10 by the order of Postmaster W.H. Harrison, and as a result, between fifty and seventy-five more families are enjoying the privileges of free delivery of mail." -Los Angeles Herald 4/2/1910

1910 Opening Day of the Trackless Trolley (the first commercial trackless Trolley in all of America). "After many tests, all was in readiness and the gala inaugural was set for September 11, 1910. And thus, on that pleasant summer day, as onlookers either professed wild enthusiasm for the strange hybrid, or voiced dire predictions as to its speedy demise on the steep gradients, Charles Mann's technicians gingerly raised the gawky wooden poles with their aluminum shoes to the overhead wires. After making it all the way up the hill through the sharp turns, Mann guided the guided the trolley to a safe halt opposite the Log House Inn at Lookout Mountain Drive. With sighs of relief (the deepest of which no doubt came from Mann himself) the hearty passengers disembarked and went inside to toast the new venture, and proclaim their undying confidence in it. Plenty of 'I told you so's' were voiced around the table as the inaugural party

basked in the glow of the rich food and wines for which the Log House was justly famed." -Richard Kunz

1910 "Ad: The Trackless Trolley. First in America. Bungalow Inn serves homelike chicken dinners and light refreshments at reasonable prices. Free picnic grounds with mountain brooks, fine old oak trees, benches, tables, and hammocks." -Los Angeles Times 10/22/1910



Bungalow Inn in Bungalow Land, Laurel Canyon, near Hollywood, California and showing largest Eucalyptus tree in California measuring 27 1/2 feet in circumference. (Lookout Mountain Avenue in lower right)

1913 "The Laurel Canyon Woman's Club met Thursday at Bungalow Inn with Mrs. Frank Paulson as leader. The subject of the afternoon was 'the Hawaiian Islands." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 5/9/1913

1913 "The street lighting along Laurel Canyon Bl. (from Sunset Blvd. to Lookout Mt. Ave.) has been completed. The lights were turned on for the first time on July1. The effect at night is charming and the lights add much to the attractiveness of the beautiful drive." -Los Angeles Evening Express 7/9/1913

1913 "A celebration which promises to be a grand affair is being planned by the Mountaineers Club and the Woman's Club of Laurel Canyon. In celebration of the turning on of the lights up the canyon road...An Illumination dance will be held at the Bungalow Inn and there will be good music." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 7/4/1913

1914 "The house was beautifully decorated with tiger lilies---one of the many beautiful wildflowers of which the canyon (Laurel Canyon) boasts." [J.E. This was a house near the Bungalow Inn] -Los Angeles Times 7/12/1914

1914? The photo below shows the trackless trolley in front of a Bungalow Inn that has much more vegetation than in 1909.



1915 "Call of the Wild Takes Redondoites to Canyon. Two automobile parties left the beach early Sunday morning and motored to Hollywood and up through poppy-carpeted Laurel Canyon for a day's outing, which included a picnic spread beside a clear mountain stream in a fern glen." -The Redondo Reflex 3/23/1915

1915 "The Laurel Canyon Woman's Club held its annual luncheon at the Bungalow Inn last Thursday. The ladies were seated at a table forming a hollow square, the center of which was filled with rustic baskets of ferns. From the ceiling were swung many cages of canaries and brown baskets of fairy fern. The success of the luncheon was largely due to the efforts of the general chairman,

- Mrs. C. S. Mann, and Mrs. F. J. Ephlin, Chairman of Decorations" -Los Angeles Times 6/27/1915
- **1916** "Laurel Canyon Woman's Club Active in Securing Laws for Protection of Child Life, by Mrs. J.A. Matthews: Situated as we are, in the very heart of nature, away from the seat of turmoil and business strife, we find time to enjoy a general friendliness among the members that is the greatest asset that any club may possess. Late in the year 1915, the Club rented the parlor at Bungalow Inn and furnished it complete for a permanent Club Home and installed a County Library therein which the Club supported for twelve months, and on turning it over to the County recently, the president of the Club was told that it ranks among the best county libraries in the State and in June will be visited by the State Library Association. -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 12/29/1916
- **1917** "Laurel Canyon Woman's Club Opens Season. (Programs planned for the year:) Mrs. F. T. Bicknell of the Audubon Society will bring the fascination of bird life at one of these evening affairs, with her wonderful stereopticon views and descriptive talk." -Los Angeles Evening Express 9/22/1917
- **1918** "Laurel Canyon Woman's Club has been active in Red Cross work this season, meeting twice a week to knit, sew, and make surgical dressings. At the last session the women voted to donate to the Victory War Fund for the building and equipping of furlough houses in France. These houses are just back of the battle front, where soldiers may have a period of recuperation." -Los Angeles Evening Express 4/18/1918
- **1918** "Moonlight Hike: Friday night the Christian Endeavor Society of Hollywood Christian Church, met at Laurel Canyon for a hike. They drove in machines as far as Bungalow Inn and hiked the rest of the way." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 5/31/1918
- **1919** "Dance at Bungalow Inn. Mrs. D.M. Small and Mrs. E. Clarke Comer gave a dance at the Bungalow Inn, in Laurel Canyon, Saturday night. (One of the dancers was silent film star Bessie Love)" -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 3/21/1919

1919 "Candles of the Lord (Yuccas).

On Laurel Canyon's rugged slopes they stand--The fairest yuccas, amber-plumed and white.
They sway when by the lightest zephyrs fanned.
And rise like ghostly fingers in the night.
These "Candles of the Lord" are bright in June,
And darken slowly in the summer's heat.
Go sense their beauty; they will wither soon,
The roughest ways are smooth to willing feet.
C.W.A.

The hills back of Hollywood are fast being stripped of this superb plant (yucca) which glorifies the chaparral belt of Southern California. They have been likened to 'tufted arrows dropped from the clouds.' "Visible from long distances," says Charles Francis Saunders, "They are a characteristic sight in June and July throughout Southern California and form one of the dramatic scenes in Western plant life." -Los Angeles Times 6/26/1919

1919 "At the opening session of Laurel Canyon Woman's Club, Mrs. J.A. Matthews, President, introduced her year's program with an art talk by A. Montgomery, who is known as the painter who farms and the farmer who paints, his pictures in oil of corn especially being famous the world over. Another pleasant feature of the program was the music recital by Mrs. Carl Earl (author's note: That was my grandmother) and accompanied on piano by Mrs. A.R. Gates (my great-grandmother)." -Holly Leaves October, 1919

1920 Image below shows Dingle and Collins ad in attempting to sell Laurel Canyon's "Laurel Springs Water." -Los Angeles Evening Express 7/14/1920



1920 "Whiskey and Romance Ruin Ferns. The plants, ferns, and shrubbery of imposing estates in Laurel Canyon are threatened with destruction by careless lovers, it appears from the affidavit of E.B. Latham, wealthy resident of the canyon...The Log Cabin, a canyon resort, is the magnet which draws men and women of romantic disposition into the exclusive environment, according to Latham's sworn statement. Latham relates that he has been closely watching the 'vicinity of his premises' located near the resort to prevent trespassing, the throwing of whiskey bottles into his yard and the destruction of plants, ferns, and shrubbery by men and women who use affiant's grounds as a secluded retreat in which to drink and embrace." -Los Angeles Evening Post-Record 7/29/1920



1920 "Laurel Canyon Homeowners in Arms Against Log Cabin. That his \$200,000 mountain home in Laurel Canyon has depreciated in value 50%, and that his friends will no longer visit his home as his guests because a notorious resort is being operated on adjoining property is one of the statements being made in a deposition filed by R.M. Walker in a complaint against the Log Cabin, a road house and dance hall. They pray for an injunction against Ervin Dingle and George Collins to restrain them from operating a road house in the canyon. Mrs. Aagard deposes that when she was recently visiting at Lake Tahoe she was mortified by the ridicule that greeted her statement that her home was in Laurel Canyon...Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Tully declare that formerly they and their daughter could walk to their neighbors' homes without fear of being molested...All of the complaints

make mention of 'loud and discordant jazz music," that continues until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. It is also charged that the only road up the canyon, which is narrow and full of curves, is made dangerous because drunken persons drive up and down at high speed." -Los Angeles Times 8/5/1920

1920 "Laurel Canyon Gets Water Supply Again. Laurel Canyon homeowners who have been deprived of water service for a fortnight, will again have an ample supply, for Judge Shenk yesterday sustained a motion for modification of an injunction obtained July 21 by Ervin Dingle, proprietor of a dance hall and road house, known as the Log Cabin, which has prevented the Laurel Canyon Land Company from pumping water from its wells. These wells are located on the two-acre site of the Log Cabin, which Dingle holds under lease." -Los Angeles Times 8/6/1920

1920 "Log Cabin's Closed and Case Ended." -Los Angeles Times 9/8/1920

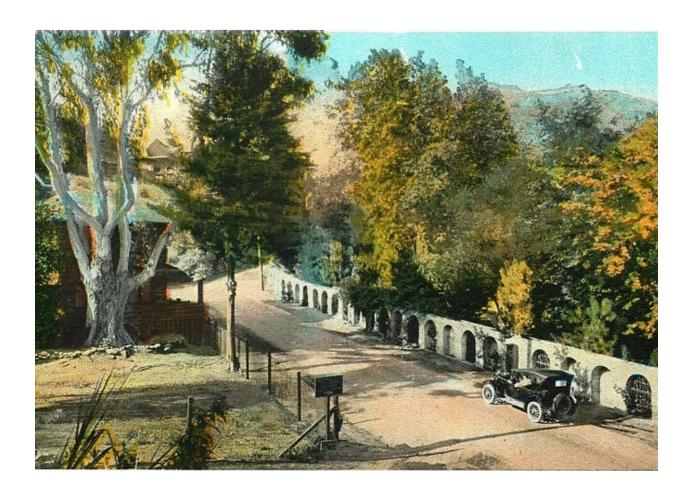
1920 "Log Cabin is Bought by Screen Actress. The Log Cabin in Laurel Canyon, which was quite recently the cause of considerable publicity through an effort to operate it as a café contrary to the desires of the residents of Laurel Canyon who succeeded in having it closed, has been sold by Charles S. Mann to Bessie Love, the little movie star. Miss Love has been for some time a resident of Laurel Canyon and has just recently sold her home there and has purchased the Log House, together with about four acres of land adjoining it...The grounds will be beautified and Miss Love has planned many unusual and attractive features in the matter of building construction and landscape effects." -Los Angeles Evening Express 9/29/1920



Bessie Love

1920 "Laurel Canyon Woman's Club found itself temporarily bereft of a home when the Log Cabin Inn became private property. The membership which assembled last week with Mrs. H.V. Platt...is now bending every effort toward housing the county library that lost its home with the Club when the Log Cabin was sold. It will be necessary to raise \$1,000 for the erection of a bungalow for the purpose of housing the books of the county library and the women are determined to make such a civic neighborhood center. From the pre-war period, the club carries a property list of a good piano, carpets, oak book cases, chairs, divans, reading lamps and other furnishings for such a center." -Los Angeles Evening Express 11/3/1920

1920? Postcard below (photo taken somewhere between 1920 and 1927) showing the Log Cabin referred to a "Shady Nook in Laurel Canyon."



"A wonderful rose garden of typical California profusion tells what Bessie Love has been doing in her spare time. A year ago, she bought a Laurel Canyon home and set about decorating the grounds. -Los Angeles Evening Express 6/18/1921

"The delegates and alternates of the club will be entertained by Mrs. Clark J. Milliron at her home 2401 Laurel Canyon Drive on April 26." -Los Angeles Evening Post-Record 4/26/1927



Daily News 7/8/1948

1927 -Philippine Club Picnic. The spacious home, the Log House of the President of the Philippine Club, Clark J. Milliron, was the scene of a delightful gathering of 200 people including members and their families, Saturday afternoon and evening at 2401 Laurel Canyon. Dancing and a Hawaiian orchestra were greatly enjoyed. A picnic supper was served at 5 o'clock and the three patios were made charming places to dine. Children enjoyed swimming in the private swimming pool and later drawing gifts from a fish pond.

The grounds are most romantic and on a hillside are grottoes with water trickling down affording both beauty and service.

1927 "American ex-residents of the Philippines will hold a reception in honor of Mayor (Miguel) Romauldez (Mayor of Manilla) today from 1 to 4pm. At the residence of Clark J. Milliron, Log Cabin, Laurel Canyon, under the auspices of the Philippine Society and it is anticipated that the entire society will be present. All American former residents of the Philippines are urged to attend, whether members of the Society or not." -Los Angeles Times 10/9/1927

1928



"Midnight in lonely Laurel Canyon...seven shots and a woman's scream (coming from East Horseshoe Canyon on the hill above the Log Cabin). Two men fighting. Then suddenly a 'mystery house,' which had cost its owner \$110,000 bursting into flames. These weird events were the things which owners and tenants of the great Milliron, Birkel, Walker and Faris estates, nestled on the hillsides of Lookout Mountain heard and saw at midnight on Tuesday.

Firemen set to work today clearing away the fire-eaten ruins of the former Henry E. White mansion, in the firm belief that at least some evidence will be found of what residents of Laurel Canyon are convinced was murder." -Los Angeles Evening Express 8/2/1928

1933 "Members of the Women's Club of Hollywood are busy with preparations for their spring party Friday, to be given as a garden affair at the home of Mrs. Clark J. Milliron, 2401 Laurel Canyon Road, the former home of Miss Bessie Love." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 4/25/1933

- **1933** "The Hooked Rug Club will sponsor a tea tomorrow from 2pm-5pm at the home of Mrs. Clark J. Milliron, 2401 Laurel Canyon Road. Rugs made by the members, will be exhibited and proceeds will go towards a fund for the Alhambra Home for the Aged." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 5/17/1933
- **1934** "Mr. and Mrs. Clark J. Milliron will be host and hostess in their Laurel Canyon home tomorrow evening honoring (actress) Miss Elissa Landi and Jack Glendower, concert manager.

The Milliron home often was the scene of motion picture colony gatherings when it was owned by Miss Bessie Love." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 5/9/1934

- **1939** "Jay W. Milliron and Miss Lowell Set Bridal Day. Prominence of the Milliron family here lends much interest locally to the marriage. The groom-to-be's father was for fifteen years in government service with the internal revenue department in the Philippines. Mrs. Milliron has given her interest and leadership to worthwhile community projects, has been active in club life, and has often opened the beautiful family residence in Laurel Canyon for enjoyable social events. -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 1/19/1939
- **1945** "Two Southland Navy Men Get High Awards...Maj. Jay W. Milliron of 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd recently won the Distinguished Flying Cross for 300 hours of operational flight on the Assam/China run." -Los Angeles Times 7/7/1945
- **1946** "Hollywood Area (Laurel Canyon) Had Trackless Trolleys in 1913. Log House, a popular inn of yesteryear, was sold to Bessie Love, the actress, and she later sold it to C.J. Milliron, president of the fifth street store. The Millirons still reside in it." -Los Angeles Times 7/1/1946



"They all were enjoying the fun at Betty Milliron's house in Laurel Canyon (2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd)."

In the picture below, Tom Milliron is the son of C.J. and Edith Milliron. The wedding took place at 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd. -Los Angeles Times 3/24/1952



1956 Interestingly, in 1956 Clark J. Milliron opens a construction company headquartered out of the 2401 Laurel Canyon address. "With the completion of rough grading, Hollywood's new LakeRidge Estates subdivision is now ready for construction, it was announced by Clark J. Milliron, president of LakeRidge Construction Company." -Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 1/20/1956

Unique, secluded hillcrest residential sites
..., now ready for construction

Beautiful, Exclusive

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Located east of Cahuenga Pass overlooking Lake Hollywood ... only minutes from downtown Los Angeles ... all utilities underground ... financing available from major insurance companies.

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OLdfield 4-0568

1957



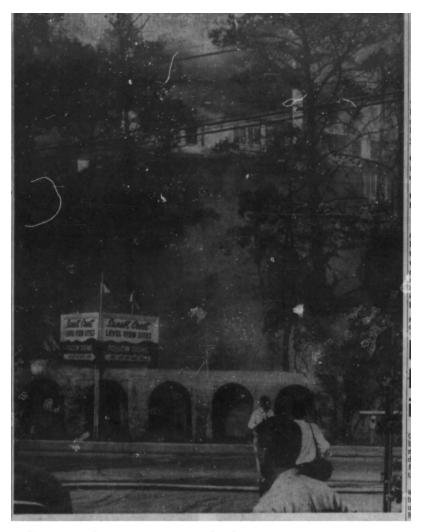
Los Angeles Evening Citizen News 7/22/1957

1959 "Funeral services for Mrs. Edith E. Milliron, 76, wife of Clark J. Milliron, former owner of Milliron's department store will be conducted by Pierce Brothers Mortuary. Mrs. Milliron was an invalid for 14 years. Born in England, Mrs. Milliron had lived in California 42 years and died at her home, 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd." -Los Angeles Times 2/10/1959

1959



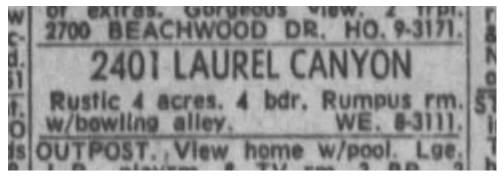
"Laurel Canyon fire rages; hundreds flee for lives...A white-haired couple, stood quietly by the side of the road. Firemen had ordered attorney C.J. Milliron and nurse Paula Wolfgram from the Milliron home at 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd. They stood waiting." - Los Angeles Times 7/11/1959



Scene of rescue. Roof of a mansion at 2400 Laurel Canyon Blvd ablaze. Two women were saved from the hillside home.

This was across the street from the Log Cabin.

1959



L.A. Times 6/8/1959

1959 "Fania Pearson buys the Log Cabin." -Los Angeles Times 11/2/1981

1966 "Eight Arrested on Marijuana Charge Here...Linda Sutliff 18, of 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd." -Van Nuys News and Valley Green Sheet 5/3/1966

1967 "We moved into…the Log Cabin in Laurel Canyon in late 1967. I had just returned from road-managing the Sir Douglas Quintet on tour. Kitty and I were joined there with my old friends from San Antonio, Bob Morehead, Charles F. Winans, Eddie Douglas, and Steve R. Hyman. The Log Cabin belonged to Fania Pearson who hired me as the manager of the estate in exchange for free rent. The Log Cabin was a cavernous three-level home that featured a 2,000 sq. ft. living room with a wide, rock fireplace so large you could put big logs into it. In the basement was a regulation size singlelane bowling alley…" -Richard Williams www.rwilliams.us/mix



Richard Williams says that this is a photo of the basement in Log Cabin after fire.

1968 "Gail's (Frank Zappa's wife) found a great house in Laurel Canyon. It's in the hills overlooking Hollywood. It has fourteen bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and caves underneath which we'll turn into a recording studio." [Frank Zappa speaking to Pauline Butcher] "It's the Log Cabin, 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd." [Gail speaking to Pauline at the airport] -"FREAK OUT! My Life with Frank Zappa" by Pauline Butcher

1968 "The road wound steadily up Laurel Canyon...Suddenly the taxi turned and slammed to a halt in a wooden carport big enough for four or five cars." - "FREAK OUT! My Life with Frank Zappa" by Pauline Butcher

1968 "The walls were made of roughly hewn wood." The "wallpaper curling and buckling at the edges." "One of the panes of glass, had a small splattered hole...it looked suspiciously like a bullet hole." It had a "torn and dirty floor in the kitchen, a cooker that apparently didn't work, and the dishwasher and garbage disposal both broken." "Christine was telling the latest visitors about a party the freaks (a group of people who dressed a certain way and had a certain lifestyle) held at the log cabin when seven hundred people had turned up. No wonder the place was a wreck." -"FREAK OUT! My Life with Frank Zappa" by Pauline Butcher

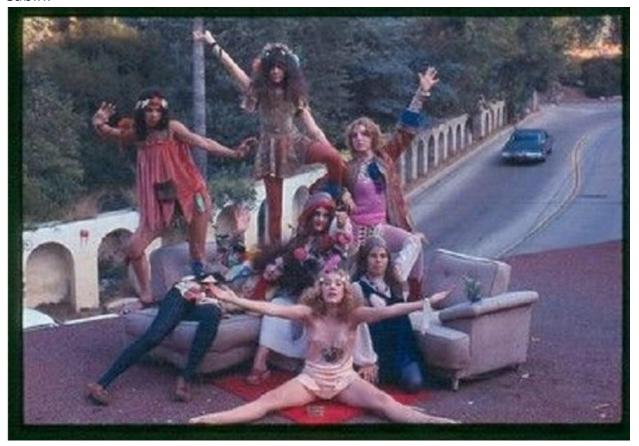
1968 "News that Frank Zappa had moved into the log cabin spread like a bush fire, and during those first few days as we settled in, the house filled with freaks, hippies, musicians, and groupies." - "FREAK OUT! My Life with Frank Zappa" by Pauline Butcher

1968 "A tall, thin figure, silhouetted against the sun in the front doorway looked in wistfully.

"Would Frank Zappa be here?...My name is Raven, I brought you a present." He handed Frank a see-through bag of red liquid. It could have been blood...Raven pulled out a steel revolver and...pointed the weapon at Frank's heart...with the quietest, calmest voice, Frank said "Put that thing down." ... "With the afternoon sun beating down, Frank directed Raven towards the pond's murky waters. ... "Put it in there and they'll (the police) never find it," he told Raven.

"Then he stiffened and I had another terrifying moment when he pulled the gun from his pocket. He seemed hypnotized and aped Frank's grand gesture, raising his arm straight and lobbing the gun into the water. It landed with a big 'plop' and sank immediately." - "FREAK OUT! My Life with Frank Zappa" by Pauline Butcher

1968 Picture below taken of the GTO's on the roof of the garage at the Log Cabin.



1981 "One person suffered minor injuries when an 18-room Log Cabin was destroyed by fire...Los Angeles City fire officials said it took 10 engines about 2 hours and 47 minutes to knock down the blaze at 2401 Laurel Canyon Blvd. The house has been owned by Fania Pearson, 67, since 1959." -Los Angeles Times 11/2/1981

1994 Los Angeles Times 2/2/1994

PEARSON, Fania M.
Visitation Tuesday, February 1
and Wednesday, February 2, from
4pm to 9pm, Services to be held
1pm, Thursday, February 3, 1994 at
the Church of the Hills, Forest
Lawn Hollywood Hills.
Forest Lawn Mortuary

2001 Los Angeles Times 4/30/2001

Garage/ Yard Sales 1489

Beverly Hills adj. moving to Europe sale, everything must go, TV's, VCR's stereos, clothing, Armani, Hugo Boss, Burbury rain coat, shoes, computer, books, plays, tools, kitchen ware, auto stuff, jewelry, golf clubs 2401 Laurel Canyon, 10-7, Sun. no earlybirds.

Gardena, 1608Marine@ Denkar.Sun.4/27.8a-?Huge.50vrs

2004 L.A. Times 8/1/2004

\$1,695,000 310-980-0376pp

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remdld rustic home, lush, fresh
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