

**WESTWOOD FIRST WARD
50TH ANNIVERSARY
AUGUST 6, 1989**



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

WESTWOOD FIRST WARD

50th

ANNIVERSARY

August 6, 1989

"Building for the Future"

Bishopric

C. Burton Stohl
Peter D. Olson
Peter T. Watkins

10740 Ohio Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024

WESTWOOD FIRST WARD

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrated August 12-13, 1989

Events

Saturday, August 12 at 7:00 PM

Concert
Visiting Old Friends
Delectable Dessert
Memorabilia

Sunday, August 13 at 11:00 AM

50th Anniversary Sacrament Services
with Former Leaders

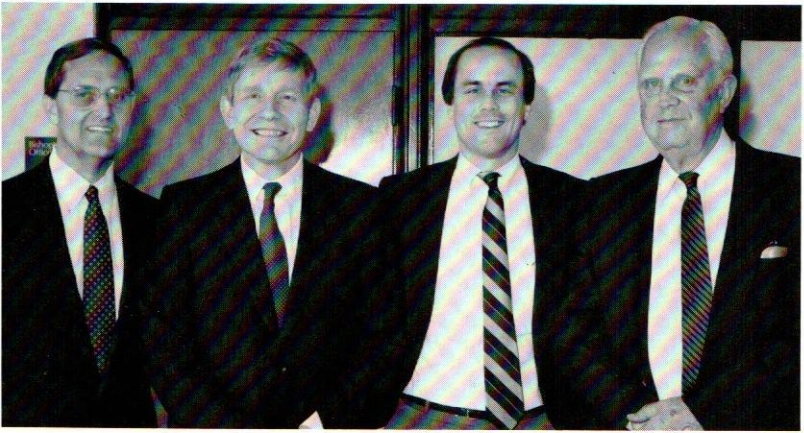
Organizing Committee

Chairperson Janice Hamilton, R. Glen Brewer, C. Dean Olson, Midene Anderson, Janell Warner, Dorothy Bradshaw, Linda Horwinski, Leona Mattoni, Arthur Wallace, Elna Wallace, and bishopric.

50th Anniversary Booklet

Arthur Wallace, Elna Wallace, Garn A. Wallace.

Some of the photographs are courtesy of John R. Davis of the Westwood Second Ward.



Bishopric of the Westwood First Ward as of May 1989. Left to right; Peter D. Olson, 1st Counselor; Bishop C. Burton Stohl; Peter T. Watkins, 2nd Counselor; and Frank W. Hull, executive secretary.

Welcome to the 50th anniversary celebration of the Westwood First Ward!

Those of us who are presently the members of this great ward feel a wonderful sense of excitement as we look forward to greeting our former members, both those we have known personally and those we have known by reputation. We want to meet you all and celebrate together.

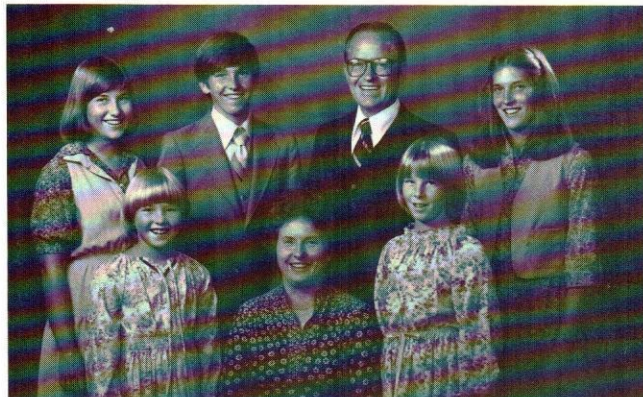
Some of us were members of the Westwood Ward at the time of its founding a half century ago. Through these members and so many who have been with us and then moved on, we have all developed a deep sense of appreciation for the rich tradition of fellowship and worship which have blessed all who have been with us through the years. We know that the members of this ward have shared a great love for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a love and concern for each other and a willingness to do everything possible to strengthen the Church in this area. Each time we walk into this fine chapel we feel an appreciation for those whose hands built this building and whose work and prayers established this congregation.

Marilyn and I have often remarked that during our 22 years in Westwood we have seen continuous examples of our ward members reaching out with a hand of fellowship to all, but especially to those having a special need for the warmth and comfort of the Gospel.

It is appropriate that we pay tribute to all of those noble saints who have made this Westwood Ward all that it has been through these past 50 years. We honor you and congratulate you on the lives you have lived and continue to live.

I would also like to thank Patriarch and Sister Arthur Wallace and Garn Wallace for their many efforts in the preparation of this booklet and Sister Janice Hamilton for so ably organizing this thrilling event. Again, our warmest welcome and greetings!

Bishop C. Burton Stohl, August 1, 1989



The
John K. Carmack
Family
1978

In biblical language, it could be said that Beverly Hills Ward begat Westwood Ward which begat Westwood First, Westwood Second and UCLA Wards, and UCLA Ward begat Los Angeles First Ward. We now take a moment to look backward.

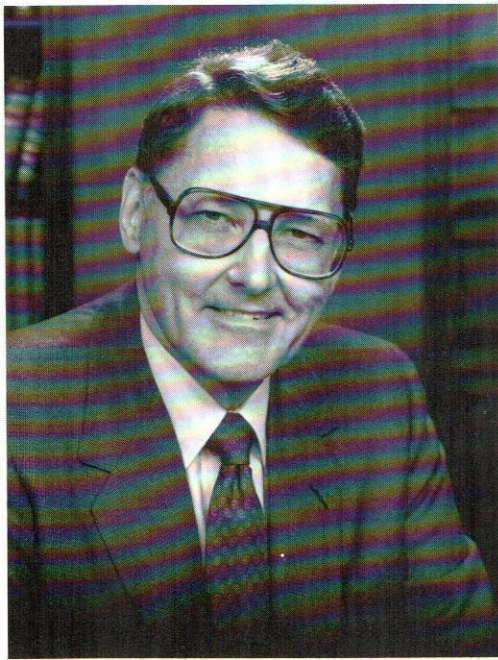
If I may be personal, even a bit nostalgic, I recall vividly walking into Westwood First Ward for the first time with my brother Robert and experiencing the strange feeling that somehow I had come home. It is a feeling which has never left me. Here I found Shirley and raised my family; my life intertwined with all the wards mentioned above.

We have watched the greying of Westwood Ward as if it were a reflection in our own mirror. The words from "Fiddler on the Roof" seem apropos--"Sunrise, sunset, Sunrise sunset, Swiftly go the years; One season following another, Laden with happiness and tears."

During these fifty years we have experienced a world war, the building of a sacred temple and a companion chapel, and growth resulting in divisions from the ward. Will we during the next fifty endure yet another world conflict and rejuvenation of Westwood's membership in such a dynamic fashion that a stake of Zion will result? It is likely.

On this beautiful occasion our thoughts turn towards home and our roots. There hangs in our family room a watercolor by Al Rounds painted from the Beverly Hills side of the temple. In the foreground is a lovely Spanish-style home with a red tile roof so typical of the area. The temple is etched against the evening sky among the green trees. In the background are the high rise buildings along Wilshire Boulevard and beyond that the UCLA Medical Center. The hills and mountains are yet further. The scene is tranquil, reminiscent of my 1957 arrival as a member of the ward.

The memories stirred by the painting are precious, and even as we indulge ourselves a brief moment to remember, we face a challenging and bright future. May we enjoy this moment, yet gird up our loins with fresh courage for the opportunities beyond the tranquil scene painted for us during this reunion.



President Howard B. Anderson of the Los Angeles California Stake (1988 to Present). Pres. Anderson was president of the California Mission (1962-1965), was regional representative (1966 to 1976), Bishop of the Westwood First Ward (1977-1984), counselor in the LA Stake presidency (1984-1988).

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA STAKE

May 2, 1989

The "graduates" of the Westwood Ward are legion and are scattered throughout the world. Many of them look to the Westwood Ward still as their "home". To others it was a stopping off place while they were in the process of education or on a short business assignment. Regardless of the length of their stay, there is a common experience that all of them had. The thing they remember most was the warmth, friendliness and the love that they felt in the Westwood Ward. Some who may have only been here for one meeting have commented that there was a special spirit that they felt.

Members of the ward who have moved away, have often expressed their appreciation for a priesthood leader, a Relief Society teacher, a Primary or Sunday School teacher who particularly touched their lives or the life of a member of their family at a critical point or time of need.

All of this has given the Westwood Ward a quality that will endure through the next 50 years. It is a tradition of Christ-like love that builds the lives of individual members and all those who are fortunate enough to come into contact with the people of the Westwood Wards.

Howard Anderson

Ward Officers, 1989

Bishop	C. Burton Stohl
First Counselor	Peter D. Olson
Second Counselor	Peter T. Watkins
Executive Secretary	Frank W. Hull
Ward Clerk	Craig A. Sheranian
Assistant Clerk	David E. Park
Assistant Clerk	Jason Michas
Assistant Clerk	Jeff Crane
Secretary	Grace Rose
Ward Mission Leader	Laurent Hechmati
High Priest Group Leader	Richard E. Sheranian
Elders Quorum President	Willard S. Rose
Relief Society President	Janell Warner
Primary President	Christine Hazy
Young Men President	Peter T. Watkins
Young Women President	Michele Park
Sunday School President	Robert S. Bennion
Scoutmaster	David J. Hart
Den Leader	Carol Beckstead
Den Leader	Diane Bragg
Webelos Leader	John R. Davis
Activities Chairman	Linda Horwinski
Athletic Director	Frank C. Saunders
Single Adults	Beverly Shaw
Single Adults	Barbara Hull
Young Single Adults	Derek Jarvis
Young Single Adults	Julie Crow
Music Chairman	Marge Cheney
Choir Director	Stephen L. Prince
Choir President	Melvin A. Jensen
Magazine Rep.	Mary Ann Carlton
Newsletter Editor	Betty Brewer
Newsletter Editor	Judy Fletcher
Seminary Teacher	Janet Poulson
Meetinghouse Librarian	Sherry Wallace

ORGANIZATION OF THE BEVERLY HILLS WARD

For decades going back into the 1800s, the Church grew slowly in California with most of the membership being people who had come from Utah. On January 21, 1923, the first stake was finally organized in Southern California with George W. McCune as president. Church membership then started to increase fast in Southern California. On May 22, 1927, the four-year-old stake was divided with creation of a new Hollywood Stake with George W. McCune as president; the old Los Angeles Stake was presided over by Leo J. Muir who had been a counselor to President McCune.

Adams Ward was the parent ward in the Los Angeles Stake, and on May 22, 1927, the Adams Ward was divided with west of Vermont Avenue as a new Wilshire Ward and east of Vermont remaining as the Adams Ward. The new ward included Beverly Hills. Wilshire Ward, with over 1000 members, was in the Hollywood Stake and Adams Ward was in the Los Angeles Stake.

A stake was organized in San Bernardino on February 3, 1935. Then on April 19, 1936, the Hollywood Stake was involved in additional division in that the three stakes became five stakes and Pasadena and Long Beach Stakes were added. Interestingly enough, the Hollywood Ward went to the new Pasadena Stake where it remained for three years. The new Pasadena Stake sustained David H. Cannon as president; he had been serving as president of the Hollywood Stake. Wilford G. Edling became president of the Hollywood Stake. Adams Ward was "kidnapped" into the Hollywood Stake at this time, and there was considerable rivalry between the Adams and Wilshire Wards. All of the stakes were growing rapidly at this time with many migrations due to the great depression.

It was three years later in a high council meeting in July of 1939 when President Edling presided over the deliberations to organize a Beverly Hills Ward from the west portions of the Wilshire and Hollywood Wards. That was effected with the first meeting on August 6, 1939 of the new ward. Hollywood Ward, however, was not returned to the Hollywood Stake until two months later when on November 26, 1939, the Inglewood Stake was organized. A few days later a new Pasadena Stake was organized, and the old former Pasadena Stake became the San Fernando Stake. In the process, some of the Hollywood Ward members became members of the new Beverly Hills Ward. There were some stake name changes that month also--the Hollywood Stake became the Los Angeles Stake (today called the Los Angeles California Stake) and the Los Angeles Stake became the South Los Angeles Stake.

In 1989 there are more than eighty stakes in Southern California. Considerable early history of the Church in California is discussed in "More Faith than Fear-The Los Angeles Stake Story", by Chad M. Orton, Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, 1987.



The first bishop of the Beverly Hills Ward, A. Eldon Rex (1939-1944) with his wife Mary and children, Kathy and Richard. Picture taken about 1950.

"Latter-day Saints are becoming more curious about the histories of their own wards and stakes. They are starting to ask: 'Who were the first members in our city? Where was the first meeting held? How many were in attendance? When did we become a branch and then a stake? What day is our Pioneer Day?'"

Carrie P. Jenkins, *BYU Today*, May, 1989

If the Westwood First Ward has its own Pioneer Day, it should be August 6, the date of the organization of the ward with A. Eldon Rex as Bishop.

Next page: The members of the new Beverly Hills Ward in late August of 1939 at the Women's Club. Bishop Rex and counselor William F. Jackson are in front. Many familiar faces after 50 years can be seen.



LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA STAKE PRESIDENTS

George W. McCune	- January 21, 1923
LeGrand Richards	- April 26, 1931
David H. Cannon	- January 21, 1934
Wilford G. Edling	- April 19, 1936
John M. Russon	- January 16, 1949
Arvo Van Alstyne	- June 24, 1962
Winfield Q. Cannon	- June 27, 1965
Merlin W. Sant	- June 16, 1968
John K. Carmack	- June 18, 1972
Rodney H. Brady	- June 12, 1977
William W. Tanner	- July 30, 1978
Howard B. Anderson	- June 12, 1988



The Los Angeles Stake presidency in 1968. Left to right, Charles T. Attwooll of Westwood First Ward as stake clerk; John K. Carmack of Westwood Second Ward, later Westwood First Ward, as first counselor; President Merlin W. Sant; William W. Tanner of Westwood Second Ward, later Westwood First Ward, as second counselor; Roy W. Kellogg, a long time member of the Westwood Wards, assistant stake clerk.

WESTWOOD FIRST WARD -- FIFTY YEARS

(1939 - 1989)

On August 6, 1989 Westwood First Ward began its second 50 years. The name was changed twice during the first 50 years; the original name was Beverly Hills Ward because it met there. When the meeting location was changed to Westwood, it was called the Westwood Ward and, after the division into two wards, the parent ward became the Westwood First Ward.

Westwood First Ward has served many noble purposes in its 50 years. In it, members have found warm friendly relationships born of love of God and fellowmen. Being a member of Westwood First Ward has been a happy experience for those now here and for many hundreds who have found it necessary to move elsewhere or who have departed from this life. The spirituality of Westwood First Ward has remained high through the years.

What is a ward? It may be best described as a group of LDS Church members presided over by a Bishop and which forms one of the units, usually from six to ten, that comprise an LDS stake. A ward is not a building; it is a group of people. In contrast, a temple is a building. Westwood First Ward is one of the nine units presently in the Los Angeles California Stake. In the not too far distant past, wards and stakes had precise geographical boundaries. In general, they still do, but now there is some overlap. Within the boundaries of the Los Angeles California Stake are members of another stake--a Spanish-speaking stake with three of its wards within our stake boundaries. Within Westwood First Ward boundaries are a number of single adults who are members of the Los Angeles First Ward. The members living in the Temple Patrons Apartments are divided between the two Westwood Wards, even though the unit geographically is in the Westwood First Ward.

With these exceptions, the boundaries of the ward are as follows: Sepulveda Boulevard on the west, Mulholland Drive on the north, Wonderland Drive to Sunset Plaza on the east, and Santa Monica Boulevard on the south. The bishop of the Westwood First Ward theoretically is responsible for all the people--all 200,000 of them--within the ward boundaries. UCLA and USC students are excepted, because there are UCLA and USC Ward members and other students living within our ward boundaries also.

Fifty years as a ward covers almost one-third of the history of the Restored Church. The ward was organized when Heber J. Grant was president of the Church and when worldwide Church membership was almost 803,000 and the membership of the ward was about 500. Six year later, George Albert Smith became Church president, followed in six years by President David O. McKay who was president for 18 years. During his administration the ward was

divided into Westwood First and Westwood Second Wards. The ward membership was about 1,100 before the division; half that afterwards. Church membership worldwide at the beginning of Joseph Fielding Smith's presidency in 1970 was about 2.9 million. President Harold B. Lee became the next president in 1972, followed by President Spencer W. Kimball in 1973, and Ezra Taft Benson in 1985. Westwood First Ward has seen seven Church presidents and the general church membership increased from about 800,000 to almost seven million members in its 50 years.

Westwood First Ward started before World War II, actually about one month before Adolph Hitler marched into Poland which caused Europe to go to war. There was no public television then. Travel was generally by train and boat. Commercial air travel was extremely limited and that by slow propeller-driven planes. Jet travel was about 25 years in the future. When the ward started, Hollywood movie and radio industries next door to the ward were in their golden years in spite of the great American depression of the 1930s. The ward was in its sixth year when the first atom bomb was dropped on Japan.

Westwood First Ward has seen the post-war changes in the world, the prosperity of the 1950s, the Korean war, civil rights progression, the drug scene of the 1970s and the economic growth of the 1980s. Some famous murders occurred within the ward boundaries, but in spite of such neighbors, the ward continued to fulfill its destiny of building Zion within its jurisdiction.

When the ward first started in 1939 it was a challenge to the newly chosen ward leaders Bishop A. Eldon Rex and his counselors William F. Jackson and C. Dean Olson. Many of the ward members were "lost" Utahans who were trying to avoid the Church. Strong missionary work for many years was needed to build the present strength.

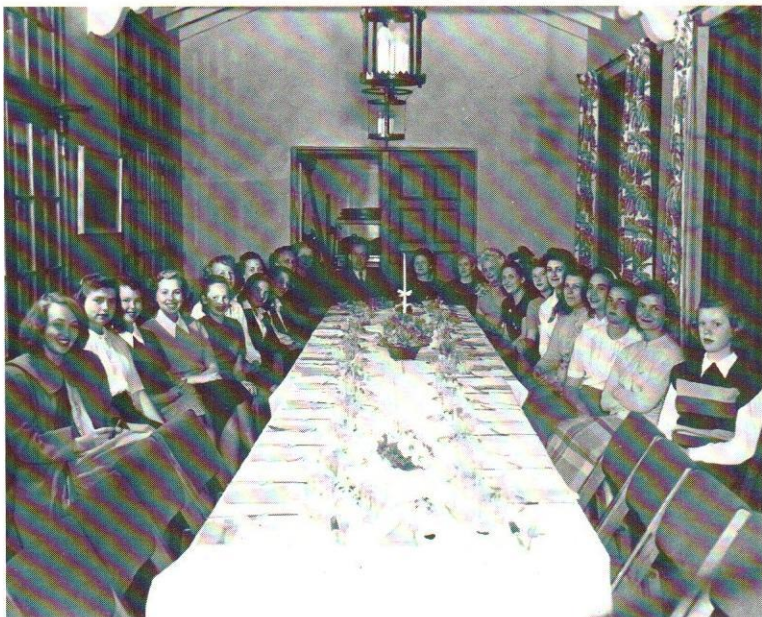
When the ward was organized in 1939, it was a ward out in the suburbs. It was first called the Beverly Hills Ward and met in the Beverly Hills Women's Club at 1700 Chevy Chase Drive. The university at UCLA was still in its infancy then and there were many bean fields within the ward boundaries.

In 1989 the ward is no longer suburban, but is in the inner city. The bean fields changed to homes, many of which changed to apartments, many of which changed to larger and larger apartments, and now many have changed into expensive high-rise condominiums. In 1989, the lowest price of a single dwelling home within ward boundaries was over half a million dollars, while in 1939 it was less than \$5,000. In 1989 UCLA had become a world-renowned research university and a major city itself within the ward boundaries with crowds and traffic congestion.

The construction of the major north-south (San Diego Freeway 405) and east-west (Santa Monica Freeway 10) freeways in the 1960s did much to change the demographics of the ward. Wilshire Boulevard became a combination of high-rise condominium corridor and a high-rise business district and is called the "Wall Street of the West" with a large number of banks. Just outside the ward boundaries, a major business city (Century City) arose on the property of the Twentieth Century-Fox movie studio, and Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills became a major financial center. The ward is now in an inner big city.

The twenty-five square miles within the boundaries of the Westwood First Ward are mostly residential, but residential to serve large corporations. Former president of the United States, Ronald Reagan, now resides within the ward boundaries. Bel Air and Beverly Hills areas in the ward in 1989 contain sizeable Jewish and Arab communities, some of the largest in the USA. These people are our friends and neighbors. There are some 200,000 persons residing within the boundaries of Westwood First Ward. The ward membership is about 450 and has been decreasing. The ratio (non-members to members) is over 400 to 1. Throughout the world the ratio is about 800 to 1. The ward is near world average. In California, however, the ratio is around 50 to 1. The unusual demographics of the ward result in a low percentage of Church membership. The ward does grow by baptisms and births, but the young families generally move to suburbia.

Westwood First Ward hasn't changed much in the past 20 years. True, many exciting things have happened--births, graduations, missions, marriages, callings, temple service, firesides, open houses--the schedule is always full--but the ward membership has become smaller and the average age of ward members has gone up. We ask, where will the ward be in the next 20 to 50 years? If the present trends continue, the ward could disappear--its members could become part of another ward or even another stake, or vice versa. If, however, just a small part of the trend throughout California in which two to three per cent of the general population becomes members of the LDS Church, the two Westwood Wards could grow and become a new stake. Look for that to happen in the next two or three decades. We need to baptize 50 to 100 people a year to make that possible. Bishop C. Dean Olson in his address at the dedication of the Westwood Ward chapel in 1953 did suggest the possibility of baptizing 50 persons a year in the one ward. We fully expect Westwood First Ward to not only have a centennial anniversary but also to be divided into other wards before then. Many of the recent convert baptisms in the ward have been persons of international origin. This is a most exciting trend and may indicate the future of the ward. The Church is fast becoming a world-wide church and Westwood First Ward may be an accurate picture of the whole Church.



A Gleaner Girl dinner party at the Beverly Hills Women's Club in 1948. Some of the special party guests were "Golden Gleaners." Left to right are Janice Vreeland, Marie Yancy, Barbara Anderson, Sister Openshaw, Sister Openshaw, Janet Saunders, Sue Crittenden, Deana Olson, Jo James, Teacher Frances Saunders, Avon Smart, Bishop Mervin L. Saunders, Mabel Parry, Edna Buehler, Carmen Kanaga, Phyllis Thain, Jane Russell, Evelyn Russell, unknown, Barbara Cannon, Carlan Smart, and Sister Van Cott.



Beverly Hills Women's Club, 1700 Chevy Chase Drive in Beverly Hills, was the home of the Beverly Hills Ward from 1939 to 1953. The building still stands in 1989. Another church now uses it on Sundays.

Three additional factors that have had a major influence on the ward stand out. These are the temple, the California Mission, and the university at UCLA. An example of how the mission has influenced the ward is that it brought the Howard B. Anderson family to the ward as mission president in 1962-1965.

THE LOS ANGELES TEMPLE

The site for the temple was obtained by the Church in 1937 with the able help of attorney Preston D. Richards, a long time member of the ward. The site was the home and estate of movie actor Harold Lloyd. Bishop Dean Olson and others helped negotiate two acres of the property for the ward building. During construction of the temple the ward was blessed with a number of the construction staff including Edward O. Anderson the architect, Soren Jacobsen the builder, and Edmund M. Evans who served in the ward bishopric. The temple brought the William Walsh family.

The Los Angeles Temple was dedicated 33 years ago in 1956. The temple has brought many temple workers to our ward. There is a cluster of LDS homes around the temple area. Westwood First Ward has been enriched beyond measure with the presence of members of the temple presidency and their wives in the ward for all these 33 years. Temple President Benjamin L. and Matron Leone Bowring began serving on March 11, 1956; President Myrthus W. Evans and Matron Mae Evans on March 8, 1970; President Richard C. Stratford and Matron Sally Stratford on February 9, 1975; President Robert L. Simpson and Matron Jelaire Simpson on January 20, 1980; President Allen C. Rozsa and Matron Dawna Rozsa on June 27, 1982; and Present Jack B. McEwan and Matron Betty McEwan on September 7, 1986.

Our own Wayne A. and Madge K. Reeves have been called to be the next Los Angeles Temple President and Matron beginning in September 1989. Sister Reeves, the daughter of the Daniel Kemps, with her family were ward members at the Beverly Hills Women's Club. Her acquaintance and marriage to Wayne resulted in his baptism and membership while the ward was at the Women's Club. They were away for many years while Wayne served as stake president in San Bernardino and later as the director of the Visitors Center at the Washington, D. C. LDS Temple. They served in the Los Angeles Temple presidency with both Presidents Allen C. Rozsa and Jack B. McEwan. The Reeves are faithful ward choir members, and Wayne often plays the organ for sacrament meeting and the piano for priesthood meeting.

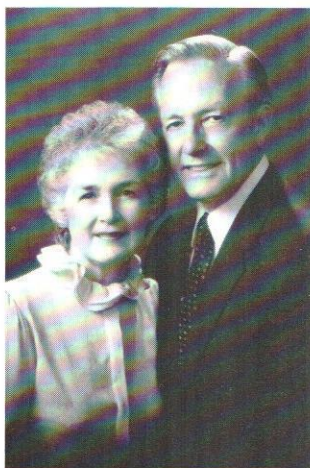
Many temple presidency counselors lived within our ward boundaries, such as Arthur Godfrey, Wayne Reeves and Glen Walker. Sealers Charles Attwooll and Grant Brazier have represented the ward as well as have many ordinance workers.



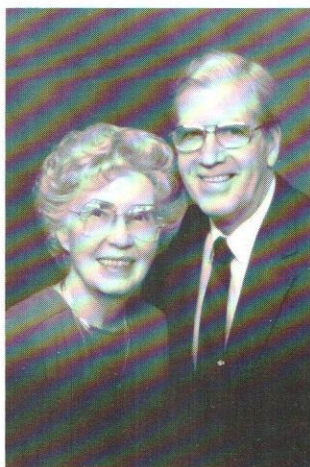
During a stake High Priest party in 1981 at Westwood Ward building which celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Los Angeles Temple this picture was taken. The Los Angeles Calif. Stake presidency, in rear of picture right to left Pres. William W. Tanner, Pres. David F. Youkstetter (2nd C.), and Pres. Robert H. Millard (1st C.), honored the Los Angeles Temple presidents and matrons. Pictured left to right are Robert L. Simpson and his wife Jelaire, Myrthus W. Evans and his wife Mae, and Richard C. Stratford and his wife Sally. Front right is regional representative John K. Carmack who is now a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy and who served as president of the Boise Idaho Mission. Pres. Millard is now the bishop of the Westwood Second Ward.

The Los Angeles Temple, 10777 Santa Monica Boulevard, in West Los Angeles. Ground breaking took place in 1951, and the building was dedicated in 1956. The temple is the House of the Lord. Sacred ordinances related to the eternal nature of the family and to life eternal are performed in this building.





First seven Los Angeles Temple presidents and matrons. Top, left to right, Benjamin Bowring and wife Leone (1956), Myrthus W. Evans and wife Mae (1970), Richard C. Stratford and wife Sally (1975). Center, Robert L. Simpson and wife Jelaire (1980), Allen C. Rozsa and wife Dawna (1982), Jack B. McEwan and wife Betty (1986). Bottom, Wayne A. Reeves and wife Madge (1989).



Los Angeles Temple Dedicatory Service

ADMIT C. Dean Olson

Westwood
WARD OR BRANCH

Los Angeles
STAKE OR MISSION

Arvo Vankalle
BISHOP OR BRANCH PRESIDENT

David O. McKay

Stephen Richards
J. Ruben Clark Jr.
First Presidency

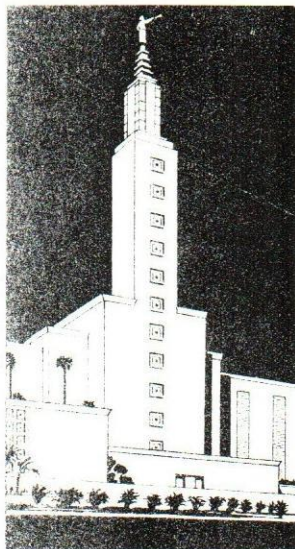
James C. Berkin
STAKE OR MISSION PRESIDENT

NON-TRANSFERABLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1956 — 9:30 A.M.

Doors Open 8:30 a.m.

Third Floor — Enter West Door



Almost completed
temple in 1955.



Junius H. Smart, seventh bishop (1959-1961) of the Westwood First Ward. He was a businessman and rancher. He and Bishop Luke added the east wing to the chapel.



THE CALIFORNIA MISSION

Westwood First Ward has had the privilege of having the headquarters of the California Mission right next door to the chapel since 1953. The ward is exposed to the missionary spirit. This blessing has given ward members an opportunity to know the mission presidents and their families which often included children, many missionaries, and occasional visiting General Authorities. The presidents we have known since 1953 are listed. As mentioned, Bishop and Stake President Howard B. Anderson came to the ward in 1962 as president of the California Mission.

The Visitors Center on the temple grounds is part of the California Mission. It has undergone many changes over the years, always for the better, and it is a delightful place to take our member and nonmember friends for a visit. Some of our ward members found the Church through the Visitors Center and its missionaries. It is said that recent convert Jeanie Kostetsky jogged by the center one morning when she just happened to ask a question of one of the lady missionaries.



California Missionaries serving in Westwood First Ward in May 1989 are Elder Steven Hoggan, Elder James Bennett, Sister Shirlene Goff, and Sister Kimberly Partridge.

PRESIDENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA MISSION

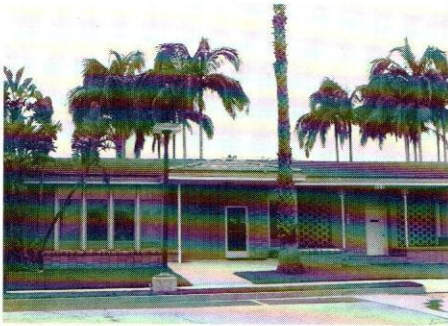
Samuel Brannan	- 1846 - 1849
Charles C. Rich	- 1849 - 1851
Parley P. Pratt	- 1851 - 1852
Amasa M. Lyman	- 1853 - 1854
Parley P. Pratt	- 1854 - 1855
George Q. Cannon	- 1856 - 1857
Mission Closed	- 1857 - 1892
Henry S. Tanner	- 1894 - 1896
Ephraim H. Nye	- 1896 - 1901
Joseph E. Robinson	- 1901 - 1919

In 1906, the mission headquarters were moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles because of disruptions from the San Francisco earthquake.

Joseph W. McMurrin	- 1919 - 1932
Alonzo A. Hinckley	- 1932 - 1935
Nicholas G. Smith	- 1935 - 1937
W. Aird MacDonald	- 1937 - 1941
Henry H. Blood	- 1941 - 1942
Rufus K. Hardy	- 1942
Elijah Allen	- 1942 - 1946
Oscar W. McConkie	- 1946 - 1950
David I. Stoddard	- 1950 - 1951

(Those following served from mission home on the temple grounds.)

Bryan L. Bunker	- 1951 - 1955
Henry D. Taylor	- 1955 - 1958
Jesse A. Udall	- 1958 - 1960
Bryan L. Bunker	- 1960 - 1962
Howard B. Anderson	- 1962 - 1965
Phil D. Jensen	- 1965 - 1966
Don H. Rasmussen	- 1966 - 1969
John K. Edmunds	- 1969 - 1972
DeWitt J. Paul	- 1972 - 1975
Joel E. Garrett	- 1975 - 1978
F. Briton McConkie	- 1978 - 1981
Harold W. Hoopes	- 1981 - 1984
Clarence R. Campbell	- 1984 - 1987
Elmo B. Shirts	- 1987 -



Top left, California Mission headquarters and home, 1591 East Temple Way, is located on the Los Angeles Temple grounds. The home was moved to this location in 1953.

Top right, the Visitors Center, 10777 Santa Monica Boulevard, is located on the Los Angeles Temple grounds. Partially seen in front is the S. Dilworth Young Memorial Garden which honors women. President Young, a member of the First Quorum of The Seventy, was with Sister Young director of the Visitors Center from 1979 to 1981. Sister Hulda Young has returned to the California Mission where she is currently serving as a missionary.

Bottom left, the Los Angeles Temple Genealogical Library is now called Family History Library. The library was started in 1964, and many individuals from both Westwood Wards serve as volunteers to help make a functional library. This is the third largest genealogical library in the LDS Church.

Bottom right, Temple Patrons Apartment on the Los Angeles grounds where many temple workers from both Westwood Wards reside.

UCLA

UCLA began its Westwood existence in 1929 (ten years before the ward was organized) when the campus of the new university was transferred from Vermont Avenue to its present location then "way out in the country" among the bean fields. Today it is the largest campus in number of students of the University of California system. UCLA is among the top ten in many categories in the U.S., and its high ranking in sports is relatively insignificant when compared to such items as its medical school and chemistry, engineering and other departments. Its medical school started in the early 1950s. Mayor-Bishop Dean Olson participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the medical school in 1950.

UCLA has had a strong influence upon Westwood First Ward, even though the students have had their own ward since 1956. Westwood First Ward also has influence on the university. One of the chancellors (Vern O. Knudson) was a member of the ward. A building (Acoustical Physics) at UCLA is named for him. Long-time professors O. Ray Lunt (Director of Laboratory of Biomedical and Environmental Sciences), Arthur Wallace (who takes soil science to the Middle East), Robert Rees (Dean of Extension Fine Arts), former Stake President and Bishop Arvo Van Alstyne (professor in the school of law) and others are or were members of the ward. A former member of the ward bishopric Donald Shields is a faculty member of the medical school.

Several ward members, such as former Elders Quorum President Donald D. Hales did residency at the UCLA medical school. Former tabernacle choir organist Alexander Schreiner was once organist at UCLA. His son John was at UCLA for a while. Janice Hamilton's husband Andrew was director of public relations and produced a monumental history book of the university. Janice is currently a director of the UCLA alumni association. Several ward members are among the over 10,000 non-teaching persons employed at UCLA. In the late 1940s following World War II and early 1950s, much of the ward strength came from UCLA students, such as (Bishop) John and Ramona Bernhart, (Stake President) John and Shirley Carmack, Lester and Marilyn Allen, Waldo and Lila Rogers, as well as Frank Gonzales and others.

Several of the ward medical doctors and dentists have had working relationships with schools at UCLA. The ward constantly has visitors who are short-time participants in UCLA activities. Mary Lee Scott, daughter of Quorum of Twelve member Richard C. Scott, recently completed her Ph.D. degree at UCLA. Garn Wallace also earned his Ph.D. at UCLA.

Among the athletic heroes at UCLA were Diane Bragg's All-American basketball husband, Don, and Kiki Vandeweghe, now a professional basketball player. Howard Hanson and Bruce Ballard played football in the 1950's.

The history of Westwood First Ward is deeply interwoven with that of UCLA.



Many of the facilities at UCLA were used for the 1984 Olympics which were held in Los Angeles. At that time were added several new rock block UCLA signs at the entrances and corners of the campus.

WESTWOOD FIRST WARD ALREADY IS AN INTERNATIONAL
WARD

Nations of Origin of Some of the Ward Members

Pirkko Angelikis - Finland

Ronald Anteau - India

Etsuko Asai - Japan

Jahan Assad - Iran

Charles & Gladys Attwooll -
Ireland

Daniel & Nicole Bald - France

Edward Barkett - Lebanon

Agnica Bjazevic - Yugoslavia

Amable Bragg - Costa Rica

Madeleine Bulbulian - France

Wan Nien Chien - China

David Chipman - Canada

Mehdi Daneshuari - Iran

Joseph Degoes - Brazil

Aziza Delcumeaux - Guatemala

Vincenza Frisella - Italy

Steven Hazy - Hungary

Laurent, Chantal and Marie

Hechmati - France

Sarah Hyde - Canada

Auta Jensen - Brazil

Thomas Kakadelas - Greece

Denise Kingert - France

Sione Mataele - Tonga

Angle Medina - Mexico

Rasheed Njoku - Nigeria

Linnie Peterson - Sweden

Steve Rahawi - Iraq

Xiomara Ramirez - Honduras

Luz Rocha - Mexico

Grace Rose - Scotland

Jose Ruilova - Ecuador

Homeira Saadat - Iran

Isa Sorenson - Denmark

Khosro Taheri - Japan

Marta Wallis - Argentina

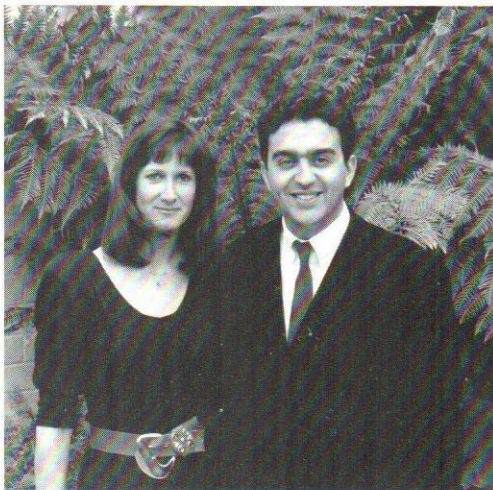
Lena, Phyllis & William

Youksetter - Ireland

Maria Zickbauer - Germany

Gladys Jenkins - South Africa

David Eum - Korea



Two of the stake missionaries in 1989 are Lynne Garfinkel and Laurent Hechmati. He is the ward mission leader. The international character of our stake missionaries through Laurent and Homeira Saadat helps find those who are anxious for the gospel.

SOME RED LETTER DAYS IN THE HISTORY OF THE
BEVERLY HILLS/WESTWOOD/WESTWOOD FIRST WARD

<u>Exact Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>August 6, 1939</u>	Under the direction of Stake President Wilford G. Edling, a new ward called the Beverly Hills Ward was created by division of the Hollywood and Wilshire Wards. A. Eldon Rex was called as the first bishop, and the ward met in the Beverly Hills Women's Club, 1700 Chevy Chase Drive.
<u>April 16, 1944</u>	Mervin L. Saunders was sustained as bishop of the Beverly Hills Ward.
<u>About 1948</u>	Sister Lou Jean Blood got her father (President David O. McKay of the Quorum of Twelve) to come down and speak in a sacrament meeting at the Beverly Hills Women's Club.
<u>February 27, 1949</u>	C. Dean Olson was sustained as bishop of the Beverly Hills Ward.
<u>Spring 1950</u>	The Beverly Hills Ward sponsored a production of LeRoy Robertson's Book of Mormon Oratorio featuring the King Sisters (Family) at the Scottish Rite Jewish Temple where Rabbi Magnin is located. Joy Prince was the organist.
<u>Fall 1950</u>	A ward boundary change was made, and the ward received about fifty members from the La Brea Ward.
<u>December 1950</u>	The Church sent out an official proclamation about ward boundaries. Prior to this, many of the ward members lived outside the ward boundaries, while many who lived within the ward boundaries had been attending other wards. There was a mass movement of membership records of members living in the area.
<u>January 13, 1951</u>	A ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new ward chapel to be built at 10740 Ohio Avenue in West Los Angeles at the north end of the temple property, with LeGrand Richards, Presiding Bishop, officiating.

CALIFORNIA INTER MOUNTAIN NEWS

Vol. 6—No. 13

LOS ANGELES 44, CALIFORNIA Friday, April 28, 1944

5c Per Copy, \$1 Per Year

Bishop Mervin Louis Saunders and his wife Frances (1944-1949).



Mervin Saunders Bishop Of Beverly Hills Ward.

Mervin L. Saunders, who for the past four years has been superintendent of the Los Angeles stake Y.M.M.I.A., was appointed bishop of Beverly Hills ward Sunday, April 16th. President Wilford G. Edling of Los Angeles stake announced the appointment to the ward members.

✦ Bishop Saunders succeeds A. Eldon Rex, who has been bishop of the ward since its organization in August of 1939. Released with Bishop Rex were his counselors, Bill Jackson and Dean Olson. Burton M. Oliver is continuing to serve as ward clerk.

Bishop Rex asked for his release because his employment currently demands much of his time, it was stated.

Counselors to Bishop Saunders are Dr. Joseph Cottam, former Sunday School Superintendent of the ward, and Ray Quist, who was a counselor in the Sunday School superintendency.

Bishop Saunders' church activities have been many and varied. Before his appointment as head of the stake Young Men's organization he served for a year as superintendent of the Sunday School in the newly created Beverly Hills ward. Prior to that, he had been a counselor in the Santa Monica ward bishopric for five years.

His wife, Frances, has served in the ward and in the stake M.I.A. They have four children.



Six of the thirteen (1989) bishops of the Beverly Hills/Westwood First Ward. Left to right Mervin L. Saunders (1944-1949), C. Dean Olson (1949-1953), Junius H. Smart (1959-1961), Richard C. Stratford (1961-1970), Rodney H. Brady (1970), and Clayton A. Prince (1970-1972).

September 22, 1951 Ground breaking took place for the Los Angeles Temple with all General Authorities in attendance. The ward Relief Society under the direction of Zabelle Sessions served a luncheon for them in the partially built ward chapel.

September 23, 1951 President David O. McKay and President of the Quorum of The Twelve Joseph Fielding Smith visited our Sunday School then being held in the El Rodeo Elementary School in Beverly Hills.

November 7, 1951 A critical accident occurred while building the chapel. Ward member Richard Hunter was permanently injured (see page 203 of the Los Angeles Stake Story book).

March 21, 1952 The Carthay Circle event was held featuring the University of Utah Male Chorus and comedian Danny Thomas to raise \$20,000 in funds for the chapel. Ward Relief Society President Zabelle Sessions was the leader of this event.

July 12, 1952 An open house reception was held to show ward members and the community the progress in the construction of the chapel.

July 13, 1952 Under the direction of Stake President John M. Russon, the name of the ward was changed from Beverly Hills to Westwood Ward. The new building was in Westwood rather than Beverly Hills.

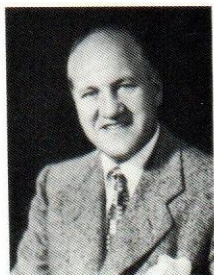
September 11, 1952 The Primary was the first ward organization to meet in the new building and met the first time in the Junior Sunday School room. In those days Primary was on Thursdays.

December 14, 1952 The first sacrament meeting held in the chapel was ward conference under the direction of Stake President John M. Russon with 590 persons in attendance.

March 26, 1953 The University of Utah Male Chorus returned to help celebrate in concert the completion of the building.

April 12, 1953 Elder Harold B. Lee of the Council of the Twelve dedicated the ward meetinghouse. Over 900 persons were in attendance.

WESTWOOD WARD BISHOPRIC



C. DEAN OLSON
Bishop

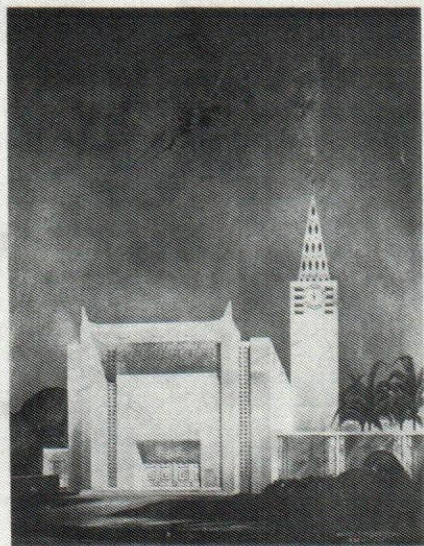
HEAL M. BALES
1st Counselor



ARTHUR WALLACE
2nd Counselor

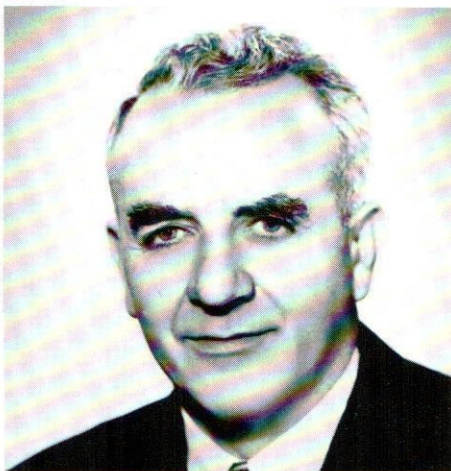


The bishopric that build the Westwood Ward chapel (1951-1953). These pictures were taken from the copy of the dedication program of April 12, 1953. Bishop Olson served from 1949 to 1953 when a new bishopric was called. Other ward officers at the time of dedication included Albert C. Johnson as financial clerk, William Vorkink as membership clerk, Glen Brewer as Sunday School superintendent, La Vorn Sparks as the YMMIA superintendent, Elinor Yancy as YWMIA president, Zatele Sessions as Relief Society president, Beth Call as the Primary President, Douglas Gourley as president of the Seventh Quorum of Elders, Harold Kanaga as group leader of the Seventy, Otto Buehler as group leader of High Priests, Val Eckholdt as Adult Aaronic Priesthood leader, Edmund Evans as Aaronic Priesthood leader, and William Ray Quist as the genealogical chairman.



BEVERLY HILLS WARD
presents an
EVENING AT CARTHAY CIRCLE

Architect version of the ward building. The event at Carthay Circle on Wilshire Boulevard was held on March 21, 1952.

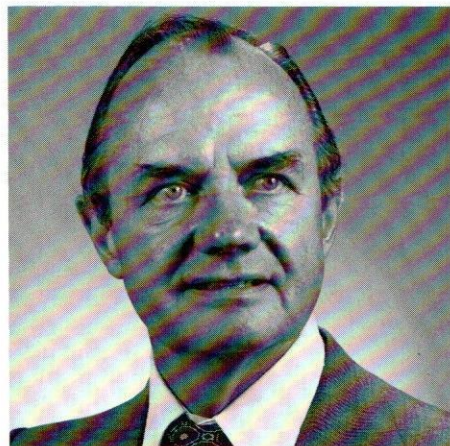


Top left. Bishop C. Dean Olson (1949-1953) and wife Alma May. Bishop Olson was mayor of Beverly Hills and president of Olson Farms while he was bishop and is still active in the poultry business.

Top right. Bishop William F. Jackson (1953-1955). He continued as bishop of the Westwood Second Ward after the ward was divided in 1955. Later he was president of the Los Angeles Spanish Branch.

Bottom left. Bishop Arvo Van Alstyne (1955-1958). Bishop of the UCLA Ward in 1959. Stake President in 1962. Went to University of Utah in 1965 where he became one of the vice presidents and later State Commissioner for Higher Education in Utah.

Bottom right. Bishop John and Ramona Bernhard (1958-1959). John was baptized here in the Beverly Hills Ward and served in many capacities. The story of his conversion is beautifully told in his book, "Journey Into Light", Deseret Book, 1960, with a foreword by Harold B. Lee of the Council of the Twelve. John was president of Western Michigan University. Ramona directed the Westwood Ward choir when the building was dedicated in 1953.





First meeting in the newly constructed Westwood Ward chapel was ward conference held on December 14, 1952.



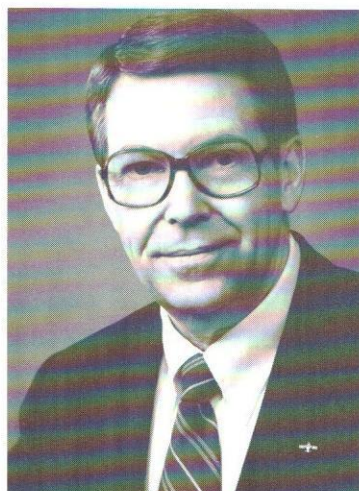
Westwood Ward chapel at time of dedication in 1953.



In 1989, high-rise buildings on Wilshire Boulevard tend to dwarf the Westwood Ward chapel.



On November 6, 1961, a brush fire driven by 50 to 70 miles per hour Santa Ana winds in 100° F, 6% relative humidity weather burned from the top of Beverly Glen Boulevard south and west to the ocean. By nightfall, 560 homes had been burned.



Top left. Bishop Richard C. Stratford (1961-1970) with his wife Sally. President Stratford had served in a stake presidency and as a mission president before coming to us. He was the first president of the Los Angeles First Branch, which became a ward, before he and Sally served as Temple President and Matron.

Top right. Bishop Rodney H. Brady (1970). Bishop Brady left to be an Undersecretary of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D. C. He returned before serving in the stake presidency as counselor and president. In 1977 he left to become president of Weber State College. Later he became president of the Church's Bonneville International communication network. He is a national scout leader.

Bottom left. Bishop Clayton A. Prince (1970-1972) with his wife Joy. They brought much music into the ward, and Dr. Prince was a dentist. They moved to Utah, to Maryland, and back to Utah.

Bottom right. Bishop Herbert W. Brown (1972-1977); earlier he was Director of the Los Angeles Temple Genealogical Library. He served many years in Boy Scout and MIA organizations.



1953 Under the direction of California Mission President Bryan L. Bunker, the California Mission home was moved to within the ward boundaries and was located between the temple and the ward chapel.

June 21, 1953 William F. Jackson was sustained as bishop of the Westwood Ward.

December 11, 1953 The cornerstone of the Los Angeles Temple was laid by Stephen L. Richards, first counselor to President McKay, who presided. The principal address was given by J. Reuben Clark Jr., second counselor. Again, the Ward Relief Society (Pres. Margaret Fox) served luncheon to the visiting authorities.

July 3, 1955 Westwood Ward was divided into Westwood First Ward with Arvo Van Alstyne as bishop and Westwood Second Ward with William F. Jackson as bishop.

December 19 through February 18, 1956 About 700,000 visitors toured the completed Los Angeles Temple. Ward members Ralph T. Rolapp with Shari Wilcox were in charge of the tours.

March 11, 1956 The Los Angeles Temple was dedicated by President David O. McKay. Eight sessions were held. All General Authorities were present at one or more of the sessions.

April 13, 1958 John T. Bernhard was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

January 11, 1959 The UCLA Ward was created with Arvo Van Alstyne of the Westwood First Ward as bishop.

May 24, 1959 Junius H. Smart was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

November 6, 1961 The Bel Air fire burned over 560 homes including those of ward members Stan Borgquist, La'ise Machado, Melvin Jensen, and Raymond Gillette.

December 10, 1961 Richard C. Stratford was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

1962 The Los Angeles Temple Patrons apartments were added to the ward.

June 20, 1963 The Los Angeles Temple Genealogical Library (later Family History Library) was dedicated by Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Quorum of the Twelve. Stake President Arvo Van Alstyne was the force in its organization and was assisted by Gwen Brown and high councilor Arthur Wallace.

January 25, 1970 Rodney H. Brady was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

November 22, 1970 Because of the assignment of Bishop Brady to be Undersecretary of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C., Clayton A. Prince was sustained as bishop of the ward.

September 17, 1972 Herbert W. Brown was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

January 27, 1974 The Los Angeles First Branch (Singles Branch) was created and began to share the Westwood building with the two Westwood Wards. Ward member, Richard C. Stratford was sustained as the branch president.

April 17, 1977 Howard B. Anderson, former California Mission President and regional representative, was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

July 1, 1981 Ward member and former stake president John K. Carmack was called as president of the Idaho Boise Mission.

April 7, 1984 John K. Carmack, ward member, was called to The First Quorum of The Seventy as a General Authority.

October 21, 1984 C. Burton Stohl was sustained as bishop of the Westwood First Ward.

November 16, 1984 A bi-ward Thanksgiving celebration was held under the direction of President William W. Tanner with the dedication by Bishop Fairclough of the Westwood Second Ward of the new Shoenstein organ. Participants from the Westwood First Ward included Holly Wallace, Clare Johnson, Midene Anderson, Gladys Attwooll with Bishop Howard Anderson conducting.

October 23-25, 1987 The sixtieth anniversary of the Los Angeles California Stake was observed in a three-day celebration under the direction of Stake President William W. Tanner. Events included a ballroom dance, a dinner, a concert by the Southern California Mormon Choir and a Sunday special conference. Allen C. Rozsa was chairman of the events. A book was published by Bookcraft about the stake, "The Los Angeles Stake Story," 1987 by Chad Orton.

March 5, 1989 In three different Sacrament Meetings for the three wards using the Westwood Ward Chapel, President Howard B. Anderson of the Los Angeles California Stake rededicated the building following its extensive remodeling in 1988.

May 22, 1989 Elder John K. Carmack of the First Quorum of The Seventy came from Salt Lake City to baptize and confirm David

Eum. David has been "active" for about 12 years. Ninety persons welcomed David to the Church at the services.

August 12-13, 1989 Fiftieth anniversary of the Westwood First Ward was observed with Saturday events and a special Sunday service.



Mission Home - 1953. The California Mission Home was occupied in 1953 when some of the other buildings on the temple grounds were merely excavated holes.

The Los Angeles Temple under construction looking towards Overland Avenue into territory which later became Westwood Second Ward. Century City was not built until later.



BEVERLY HILLS/WESTWOOD/WESTWOOD FIRST WARD
BISHOPS AND WIVES

A. Eldon Rex (Mary)	- August 6, 1939
Mervin L. Saunders (Frances)	- April 16, 1944
C. Dean Olson (Alma May)	- February 27, 1949
William F. Jackson (Ruth)	- June 21, 1953
Arvo Van Alstyne (Ruth)	- July 3, 1955
John T. Bernhard (Ramona)	- April 13, 1958
Junius H. Smart (Avon)	- May 24, 1959
Richard C. Stratford (Sally)	- December 10, 1961
Rodney H. Brady (Mitzi)	- January 25, 1970
Clayton A. Prince (Joy)	- November 22, 1970
Herbert W. Brown (Gwen)	- September 17, 1972
Howard B. Anderson (Midene)	- April 17, 1977
C. Burton Stohl (Marilyn)	- October 21, 1984

MEMBERS OF WESTWOOD FIRST WARD AND WIVES WHO HAVE
SERVED IN BISHOPRICS IN OTHER UNITS OF THE STAKE

Arvo Van Alstyne (Ruth)	- Bishop of UCLA Ward
Stanley R. Borquist (Betty)	- Counselor in UCLA Ward
Stanley R. Borquist (Betty)	- Bishop of UCLA Ward
Everard Call (Beth)	- Counselor in UCLA Ward
John H. Webster (Shirlene)	- Bishop of UCLA Ward
Gerald G. Bennett (Juanita)	- Counselor in UCLA Ward
David Fife (Mary)	- Counselor in UCLA Ward
Richard C. Stratford (Sally)	- President of LA 1st Branch
David F. Youksetter (Patricia)	- Counselor in LA 1st Branch
Ronald W. White (Barbara)	- Counselor in LA 1st Branch
James B. Jacobsen (Janice)	- President of LA 1st Branch
David F. Youksetter (Patricia)	- Bishop of the UCLA Ward
Richard E. Unander (Jayne)	- Counselor in the LA 1st Ward
Richard E. Sheranian (Jean)	- Bishop of USC Ward
O. Raynal Lunt (Helen)	- Bishop of UCLA Ward
Johnathan E. Johnson (Clare)	- Bishop of USC Ward
Richard Baker (Robin)	- Counselor in LA 1st Ward

Bishops of the Westwood Second Ward begat by Westwood First Ward were William F. Jackson (Ruth) (1955-1957), Val I. Eckholdt (Nina) (1957-1959), Pat H. Luke (Louise) (1959-1961), John W. Koer (Dorothy) (1961-1965), Arthur Wallace (Elna) (1965-1969), W. Harold Bousfield (Shirley) (1969-1973), Bert Scoll (Jane) (1973-1978), Royal E. Peterson (Lydia) (1978-1979), Brentnall P. Turley (Carol) (1979-1984), Michael J. Fairclough (Leigh) (1984-1988), Robert H. Millard (Carolyn) (1988-present). The first seven were associated with the parent ward at the time of division.

BEVERLY HILLS/WESTWOOD/WESTWOOD FIRST WARD
RELIEF SOCIETY PRESIDENTS
(Dates Approximate)

Estelle Dalton - 1939
Frances Willardson - 1942
Helen Cottam - 1943
Zatelle Sessions - 1944
Louise Luke - 1946
Zatelle Sessions - 1949
Margaret Fox - 1953
Beth Thain - 1954
May Brown - 1955
Melva Wright - 1956
Florence Skouras - 1958

Audrey Snow - 1960
Beth Call - 1962
Lettie Hale - 1965
Marilyn Roberts - 1968
Thelma Thompson - 1971
Ann Nebeker - 1975
Lynne Johnston - 1976
Carol Larson - 1979
Louie Keeney - 1982
Clare Johnson - 1984
Leona Mattoni - 1985
Janell Warner - 1989

Some of the Westwood First Ward Relief Society sisters on May 14, 1989, left to right, Aziza Delcumeaux, Betty Brewer, Gladys Attwooll, Louie Keeney(stake president of Relief Society), Stella Sambursky, Jean Sheranian, Renee Sheranian, Leona Mattoni (released as president May 21, 1989), Jayne Unander, Marta Wallis, Janice Hamilton, Eula Barlow, Xiomara Ramirez, Pat Christiansen, Linda Horwinski, and Maryann Carlton. Several of the sisters worked on the committee to organize the fiftieth anniversary events.



OTHER

WESTWOOD FIRST WARD LEADERS--

FIRST 50 YEARS

BISHOPRIC COUNSELORS: William F. Jackson, C. Dean Olson, Joseph M. Cottam, William Ray Quist, John W. Koer, Lowell E. Turner, A. Lester Allen, Arthur Wallace, Hial M. Hales, Edmund M. Evans, John T. Bernhard, J. Grant Brazier, J. Wallace Frame, La Vorn G. Sparks, O. Raynal Lunt, Herbert W. Brown, Harold L. Snow, Clayton A. Prince, Stanley R. Borgquist, Charles T. Attwooll, Jonathan E. Johnson, Rodney H. Brady, Paul M. Weenig, Timothy T. Brosnahan, Richard E. Sheranian, C. Burton Stohl, Michael E. Lee, Hal Arnell, Jan W. Dalton, Frank W. Keeney, Martin Slater, John B. Cahoon, W. Donald Shields, Peter D. Olson, Garn A. Wallace, and Peter T. Watkins.

WARD CLERK: Burton M. Oliver, William S. Youkstetter, Albert Johnson, Jack D. Gooding, R. Lynn Mathews, Philip Despain, Gary R. Stenquist, Calton C. Kammerman, Richard E. Sheranian, Richard Stratford, Daniel H. Bald, Hal Arnell, Richard Gruver, Ronald A. Clark, William M. Sessions, and Craig A. Sheranian.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (1970): John R. Evans , Don P. Christiansen, J. Grant Brazier, Frank W. Keeney, and Frank W. Hull.

HIGH PRIEST GROUP LEADER: Orlaf K. Farr, R. Glen Brewer, William G. Brown, Nad A. Peterson, Stanley R. Borgquist, J. Grant Brazier, Charles T. Attwooll, and Richard E. Sheranian.

SEVENTIES GROUP LEADER MISSION LEADER: Howard D. Hanson, Jack D. Gooding, Foy L. Swain, Robert Grazer, Creed M. Evans, Robert A. Rees, Zendell W. Hale, Carl B. Bradshaw, Robert W. Routsong, Melvin A. Jensen, Calvin L. Olson, D. John Brown, Craig A. Decker, Michel M. Grilikhes, and Frank W. Keeney.

ELDERS PRESIDENT: Harold F. Kanaga, Keath L. Bills, G. Douglas Gourley, Arvo Van Alstyne, M. Charles Faux, Leslie G. Saunders, R. Noel Hatch, J. Earl Smith, R. Zena Hyde, Paul M. Weenig, Richard Stratford, Michael E. Lee, Pat E. Placey, Alfred B. Dautre, W. Donald Shields, Donald D. Hales, and Willard S. Rose.

PRIMARY: Beth Thain, Isabelle Broadbeck, Elinor Yancey, Helen Cottam, Pauline Clark, Beth Call, La'ise Machado, Donna Faux, Dorothy Bradshaw, Maerene Bills, Beatrice Sparks, Jean Sheranian, Midene Anderson, Marilyn Stohl, Alison Decker, Louie Keeney, Ann Dautre, Lynne Johnston, Jan Jarvis, Suzanne Olsen, and Christine Hazy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Mervin L. Saunders, Norman S. Fjeldsted, Lowell E. Turner, Clayton A. Prince, Joseph F. Elder, Eddie H. Clarke, R. Glen Brewer, Clayton A. Prince, J. Grant Brazier, Keath L. Bills, F. L. "Slim" Swain, Carl R. Bradshaw, R. Zena Hyde, Junius H. Smart, Michel M. Grilikhes, Don P. Christiansen, Wilford J. Merrill, Craig Decker, Henry S. Kesler, Jan W. Dalton, Egeo Gabasa, William Hollist, Robert L. Bricker, and Robert S. Bennion.

YMMIA: Roger W. Cannon, Ralph T. Rolapp, La Drue Willardson, Hugh Yancey, Edgar T. Rolapp, Roger W. Cannon, La Vorn G. Sparks, Walter Sayner, Bruce G. McGregor, O. Raynal Lunt, Richard J. Anderson, Everard C. Call, Richard E. Sheranian, James Baker, O. Raynal Lunt, Jack Roberts, David F. Youkstetter, Willis McComas, Don P. Christiansen, Harold Swanson, O. Raynal Lunt, Pat E. Placey, Edward L. Barkett, Raymond B. Corob, Chris Christiansen, Steven Hazy, C. Burton Stohl, David F. Youkstetter, Michael Jolly, Pat E. Placey, and Norman J. Salter

YWMIA: Nell Frame, Lou Jean Blood, Hazel Gruewell, Avon Smart, Judith Cannon, Melva Wright, Ruby Clark, Elinor Yancey, La'ise Machado, Marjorie Stevens, Beth Call, Sally Stratford, Shirlene Webster, Sylvia Wilcox, Marjorie Stevens, Eloise Nielson, Audrey Udall, Katherine Pulley, Marilyn Roberts, Sandra Brazier, Jan Jarvis, Jean Sheranian, Janet Poulson, Patricia Youkstetter, Lisa Jolly, Kerrie Salter, Michele Park.

Left, Zabelle Sessions, age 95, in May 1989. She has served in many capacities, especially Relief Society, and is one of many who have lived in each of the Westwood Wards. She helped pioneer the Fort Moore Memorial in Los Angeles which memorializes the raising of the American flag over the city by the Mormon Battalion in 1848.



Right, picnic, May 30, 1950, of a group of UCLA married students and staff who were members of the Beverly Hills Ward.

THEY ALSO SERVE
(In Addition to those on page 6)
1989

Relief Society Faculty: Midene Anderson, Elizabeth Sheranian, Suzanne Olsen, Dorothy Bradshaw, Phyllis Yousketter, Karen Yaghoubi, Dana Watkins, Colleen Land, Beverly Shaw, Luana Lagerson, Janice Hamilton, Diane Bragg, Barbara Hull, Xiomara Ramirez, Mary Walker, Helen Bagley, Marguerite Simmons, Betty Brewer, Marie France Hechmati, Shirley Sycamore, and Carolyn Mayer.

Aaronic Priesthood and Young Men Leaders (In addition to the bishopric): Milan Smith III, Adam Johnson, Rufus Johnson, Carlo Mattoni, Douglas Jarvis, Michael Wallace, Joey Newman, David Hart, and Mark Bragg.

Melchizedek Priesthood Leaders: Todd Erickson, Ron Kasper, Michael Fehmel, Glen Brewer, Melvin Jensen, Carl Bradshaw, Robert Bricker, Frank Saunders.

Primary: Jamie Rasmussen, Yvonne Bragg, Cathleen Field, Barbara Barber, Bonnie Hart, Stephen Prince, Chantal Hechmati, Marie Woolf, Steven Hazy, Madie Smith, Allison Keeney, Janet Larsen, Marjorie Stevens, and Becky Stevens.

Sunday School Faculty: Scott Wallace, Agnica Bjazevic, Lisa Wilson, Derek Jarvis, Jan Warner, Milan Smith Jr. and I. David Fife.

Ward Library: Sherry Wallace, Jean Smith, Eula Barlow, Etsuko Asai, and Auta Jensen.

Young Women: Merry Ann Prince, Shelia Erickson, Laura Wallace, and Kristi Raleigh.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts: Pat Placey, John Davis, Carol Beckstead, Diane Bragg, Craig Oakford, and David Hart.

Activities: Linda Horwinski, Frank Saunders, and Shirley Sycamore.

Stake Missionaries: Lynne Garfinkel, Homeira Saadat, and Laurent Hechmati.

Seminary Teacher: Janet Poulson.

Others: Charles Carlton (Liason to Deseret Industries), Mary Ann Carlton (Magazine Representative), and Grace Rose (Secretary to Bishop).

Stake and Regional Assignments (other than those listed elsewhere): Jan Jarvis (Primary), Pat Christiansen (Relief Society), Jean Sheranian (Primary), Louie Keeney (Relief Society), Michael Fletcher (High Council), Michel Grilikhes (High Council), Garn Wallace (High Council), Jeff Crane (Stake Clerk), David Fife (Stake Data Entry), Marge Cheney (Regional Representative Secretary), Frank Keeney (Executive Secretary to Regional Representative), Janice Jacobson (Genealogy), Eula Barlow (Secretary for Patriarch), and Elna Wallace (Secretary for Patriarch).

Temple Workers: Charles Attwooll (sealer), Jan Warner, Jose Ruilova, Edmund Barlow, Eula Barlow, Mary Walker, Laraine Grilikhes, Michel Grilikhes, Carl Bradshaw, Robert Bricker, Bonita Odum, Jeanette Redd, Jean Smith, Lila Steele, Lynne Steele, Richard Stratford, Sally Stratford, and Linda Horwinski. Many others have served over the years.

Westwood First Ward High Priest Group - 1981



WESTWOOD WARD CHAPEL
CALLED HOME OF THE WARD

Westwood First Ward shares the building at 10740 Ohio Avenue with the Westwood Second and the Los Angeles First (Singles) Wards. The building was completed in 1953. Its beginning was delayed at least two years while the brethren were deciding the future role of the ward (then Beverly Hills Ward) in relationship with the Los Angeles and adjoining stakes. The decisions were that the ward would remain part of the Los Angeles Stake and that the building would not be a stake center.

During the administration of Bishop Mervin L. Saunders, the two-acre portion of the Los Angeles Temple lot facing 10740 Ohio Avenue was approved for a chapel. The Church had acquired the property ten years earlier. Harold W Burton, who had designed many notable Church structures including beautiful temples in Cardston Canada, Hawaii and Oakland and several chapels and who was a member of the Beverly Hills Ward, was selected with his son Douglas to be the architects.

Under Bishop C. Dean Olson, many fund-raising projects were conducted as ward members needed to raise more than half of the cost of the building. Fund-raising events consisted of country fairs, carnivals, musical programs, dinners and play readings, and an outstanding theater event held at Carthay Circle Theater in which the University of Utah male chorus and the well-known comedian Danny Thomas participated. Rod O'Connor, movie actor and husband of ward member Sylvia Cannon O'Connor, was master of ceremonies.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on the chapel site on January 13, 1951, with Presiding Bishop LeGrand Richards officiating. Many important civic and local Church leaders were in attendance.

General construction of the chapel was under the direct supervision of ward member Rulon E. Murphy, and to him personally must be credited much of the beautiful workmanship in the building. The facilities of Jackson Brothers Contractors, which involved ward members William F. Jackson and Roger W Cannon, materially aided the construction of the building.

The building is constructed of concrete and reinforced concrete blocks with quality materials, while the workmanship throughout included fine wood paneling designed for enduring and lasting beauty. The chapel woodwork was under the loving hand of craftsman Andre Liardet, a ward member from the Old World. The building was a modern design that conveniently incorporated facilities needed for ward activities and the original simple dignity and architectural beauty was a credit to the community. The

hardwood pews are comfortable and beautiful, and the acoustics in the chapel were outstanding. The chapel's walls were painted a pale green while the ceiling was an earthtone brown, making a restful combination.

Ward and stake members donated many hours of labor in the construction of the building. In those years it was standard procedure that many of the contributions of the ward members could be in the form of labor.

The building designed is described in the manuscript biography of Harold W. Burton and written by Paul L. Anderson:

"The exotic feeling of Burton's buildings in Hawaii and Tahiti also appeared in the design for several Latter-day Saint church buildings slightly later in California. The most exotic of Burton's ward buildings for the mainland was the Beverly Hills Ward (later Westwood Ward and dedicated in 1953) at 10740 Ohio Avenue, near the site for the Los Angeles Temple. As in some of the earlier California churches, the plan included a long chapel which was entered from the street through a foyer, a recreation hall which opened off the side of the chapel, and an enclosed courtyard. These elements had some unique features, however. The chapel had shallow transepts on each side and a raised alcove for the choir in front. The courtyard, depressed a few steps from the colonnade which surrounded it, was beautifully landscaped with tropical plants. As in the Papeete, Tahiti building, the walls were built of concrete block and the parapet of the chapel was perforated in a decorative pattern. In addition, the main facade of the chapel had a shallow entrance porch which was a simplified version of the building at Papeete. The name of the church appeared along the top of the porch just as in the earlier Tahiti building, but the columns were removed and the corner finials replaced with smaller acroteria. The large wall area around the front door was covered in a checkerboard pattern of gold and light green glazed ceramic tile. The tower was located at the side of the chapel, a simple rectangular element with a perforated pointed spire. Decorative grills inside the chapel also recalled the pierced screens at Papeete.

"The detailing at the top of the tower with its perforated spire was to reappear in Burton's last great work, the Oakland Temple of 1964. The Westwood chapel has been enlarged and remodeled several times; but despite changes in the architect's color scheme for the building, much of the beautiful exterior detailing

and the basic integrity of the design has been retained." (The Los Angeles Stake Story by Chad Orton 1987, Bookcraft, pages 335-336).

The original color scheme in the building was pleasing, with pale green as the featured color. Ceiling, walls, paneling with green tinting, green tweed carpets, wood-colored pews with green tints were all blended under the supervision of Ralph T. Rolapp and the architect. Arvid Brink of Arlington Ward was the original painter.

The light oak pews or benches in the chapel were not standard LDS pews, but were especially made by American Seating Company of Ohio. The backs consisted of seven layers of laminated plywood molded to fit the human body with comfort. Bishop C. Dean Olson reported that they should last 100 years.

The original front doors of the chapel were hand carved of hardwood oak, and have since been replaced by glass doors. The benches in the Primary chapel were all handmade by ward member Rulon E. Murphy who was foreman of the construction of the building. His work was a labor of love, and the benches were his joy. The cement work in the original windows was largely the handwork of ward member Henry Rolwing; his devotion was inspired.

Much of the labor for the construction of the building did come from the ward members, and often help came from other wards in the stake. One of the assignments done with some glee by ward members was grouting of the walls. The cinder block walls are full of cement poured by ward members. Some ward members deeply involved in the construction of the building were Ralph T. Rolapp, Roger and Bill Cannon, Otto Buehler (his funeral was the first one conducted in the new building), John Grant, and James Leishman.

On the 4th of July in 1952, Dexter Smith helped Arthur Wallace dig the trench for the east wall. Dexter was not yet a member of the Church at that time, but later served as a member of the Westwood Second Ward bishopric. Guy C. Fullmer of the Hollywood Ward and Arthur Wallace of the bishopric supervised the original landscaping and lawn plantings. One of the undulatum trees donated by a ward member still remains on the south side of the building. Eight ficus trees that were at the front of the building were given to the temple by Arthur Wallace when Bishop William F. Jackson said he didn't like them, and they are still on the temple grounds on the south side of the reflection pool. There have been three major changes in landscaping since then, the last supervised by Garn Wallace of the stake high council.

There was some early criticism of the "rabbit ears" that architect Harold W. Burton placed on the front of the building (see architect sketch of building) and which have since been removed. Harold Burton did cut their size by 50 per cent to please the critics. He told Arthur Wallace at one time that his building was Egyptian and the projections were Egyptian. One will notice that the tower is a pyramid which idea is reinforced by the Egyptian lotus flowers associated on it. Arthur Wallace reported that he has never seen the building projections or "rabbit ears" in Egypt, but has seen many of them in southwest Saudi Arabia. The top horizontal lines of the buildings were all painted white in Saudi Arabia which made them truly beautiful.



Eternal Companions - Towers of Strength - Builders of Temples
Harold W. Burton, the architect and his lovely wife, Evelyn, seen here in front of one of his many beautiful creations, The Oakland Temple.

Harold W. Burton and his wife Evelyn. He was the original architect of the Westwood Ward chapel. They were ward members.

CHANGES IN THE WESTWOOD WARD CHAPEL
SINCE ORIGINAL COMPLETION

1953. Bishop William F. Jackson removed the concrete blocks (dichondra grass was planted in between the blocks) from the front patio and replaced them with terrazo so that the "young people could dance."

1959-1960. Bishops Junius Smart and Pat Luke of the two wards added the east wing in the area that was a sunken garden to add classrooms, an office for one ward, and the new outdoor patio on the east side of the building.

About 1960. The Junior Sunday School/Primary patio was removed to create classrooms and later two libraries.

1966-67. Bishops Richard C. Stratford and Arthur Wallace of the two wards closed the Boy Scout patio with its fireplace on the south side of the building and made the seminary room and a storage room to house tables, chairs, tools, and supplies. They also enclosed the open arcade on the south forming the current lounge area and moved the Westwood Second Ward office to its present location. The lounge was finished and furnished with comfortable sofas and chairs for members waiting to talk to their bishop. The bishops also added paneling to the cultural hall.

About 1975. The clock face on the tower was removed. The clock had never been installed. A permit for the chimes in the tower could not be obtained.

About 1980. The storage room gave way to the present library. Storage is now a problem again.

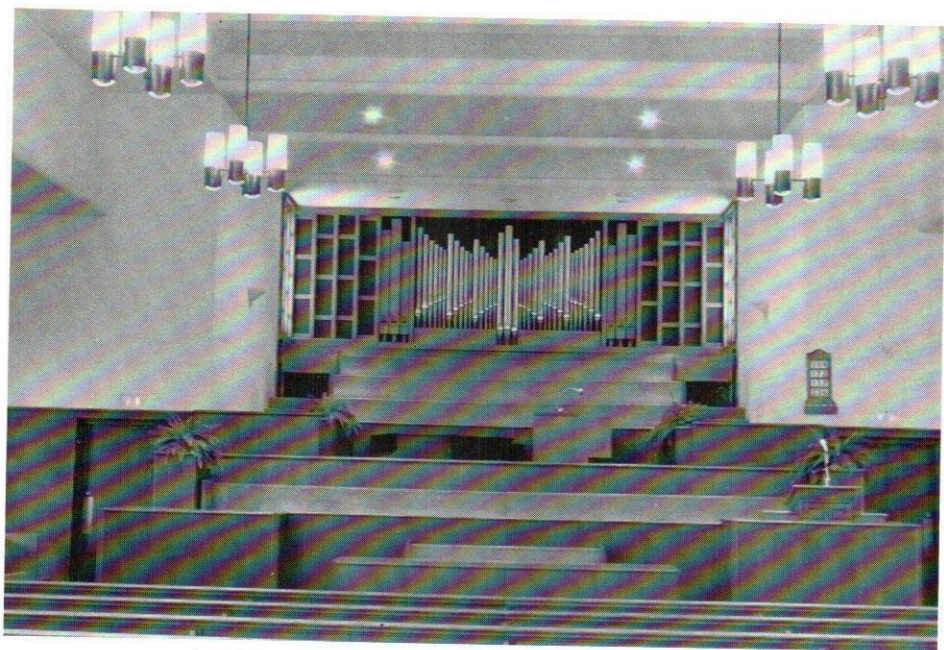
About 1980. Architect Don Peart removed the "rabbit ear" projections from the top and front of the building. Harold W. Burton was no longer living and was not here to defend his "Middle Eastern" ideas. The resulting box-shaped building causes some to call the building "industrial looking."

1984. The Shoenstein pipe organ was installed under the direction of stake president William W. Tanner.

1986. The stake removed the four palm trees in the north patio and planted the smaller Rapheioleptus "Majestic Beauty" trees so that it would be easier to cover the patio for parties and the ward reunions. There is a loss of beauty to the building as seen from Ohio Avenue. The palm trees were cracking the patio floor and several had decayed trunks.

1988. With extensive remodeling of the building, chandeliers were added to the chapel as well as air conditioning to the chapel, Relief Society room, and priesthood room. The light oak benches in the chapel were refinished and stained a darker shade. The original clock in the chapel, handmade by ward member and medical doctor Kenneth D. Wright, was replaced; it remained on the rear chapel wall for about 30 years. Asbestos was removed from the ceilings.

1989. The chapel will get a new clock.



A pipe organ was added to the chapel in 1984 and the chandeliers in 1988.

SOME TRADITIONS IN WESTWOOD FIRST WARD

The character of any L.D.S ward depends upon its traditions; Westwood First Ward has several.

Each December during the week of the annual ward conference, the ward combines its ward reunion with a Christmas party. The ward Christmas parties bring out the best in us. Recent chairpersons of the event include Louie Keeney, Jean Sheranian, Jayne Unander, Chris Hazy, Midene Anderson, Carol Larson, Linda Horwinski, Ron Kasper and Janice Hamilton. The building undergoes a major decoration for the whole month of December, the patio gets a roof and some extra heaters, the ward choir does the season, Primary children do a Christmas show. Sometimes there is a bit of Hollywood, sometimes there is dancing, in recent years there is a "bring a gift" program for the underprivileged.

Each Easter or on a Sunday close to it, the sacrament meeting is patterned after a slogan of Stake President (former bishop) Howard B. Anderson called "better music and more of it and better speaking and less of it." On this day the ward choir and those with instruments honor the resurrected Savior with musical testimony.

Sometimes in the month of December whenever possible, Christie Bradshaw comes to sing "Mary's Lullaby" in sacrament meeting.

The wards that use the Westwood Ward building join together for an annual Pioneer Day Celebration near the 24th of July and on a Saturday afternoon. The 24th of July is the anniversary of the entrance of the Mormon Pioneers into the Great Salt Lake valley in 1947. In Utah, July 24 is a legal holiday, but not in California, so this event is held on a Saturday. This is a day for games, parades, picnics, dances like those conducted by Dick and Jayne Unander, our professional dance directors who do parties all over the Southwest.

Barbara and Don Barber's home is a tradition at Christmas time, especially for the ward Primary. On the hill overlooking the ward, the temple and the city in a setting of Christmas lights and trees, the Barbers put on parties for the children. Santa Claus even comes. Barbara has loved and taught several generations of Primary Sunbeams.

The ward has several unofficial goodwill ambassadors who provide hospitality--Nancy and Henry Kessler (Henry was a movie producer before retiring), David and Mary Fife (David was Gospel Doctrine Class President for 26 years), Richard and Sally Stratford, Richard and Jean Sheranian, Dean and Alma May Olson and others.

Westwood First Ward has many fun potluck dinners.

The ward publishes a monthly newsletter "Westwood One" which goes to all the homes in the ward. It keeps us up on what is happening. It has a regular message from the ward bishopric. Present editors are Betty Brewer and Judy Fletcher.

"Mothers Day" is now "Women's Day" in the ward. The sisters are honored, and the ward has in the past obtained orchid leis from Hawaii for the occasion. All sisters in the ward are honored--both married and single.

Zatelle Sessions is a tradition and almost 95 years of age. She brings regular testimony to fast meeting. Her family represents four generations in the ward.

Ward choir in Westwood First Ward has always been excellent. In the past are efforts of Phyllis and William Youkstetter, Charles and Gladys Attwooll, Clayton and Joy Prince, Ramona and John Bernhard, Lola Brimley, Stephen Prince, Midene and Howard Anderson and hundreds of others.

Westwood First has always had a long list of capable organists--Mary Rex, Ellie Pugmire, Harry Erickson, Joy Prince, Marge Cheney, Wayne Reeves, Gladys Attwooll, Clare Johnson, John Schreiner and others.

The movie tradition in the ward is carried on through Michel and Loraine (Day) Grilikhes. She has many credits in the performing arts. The Grilikheses are faithful. When he was stake mission president, over 2,000 people were baptized. The ward has had other movie notables.

Ward members excel in gardening. Sally Stratford, Louie Keeney and Beth Call are garden club leaders. Each Sunday, Dorothy Bradshaw brings an arrangement of flowers from her garden to decorate the ward chapel.

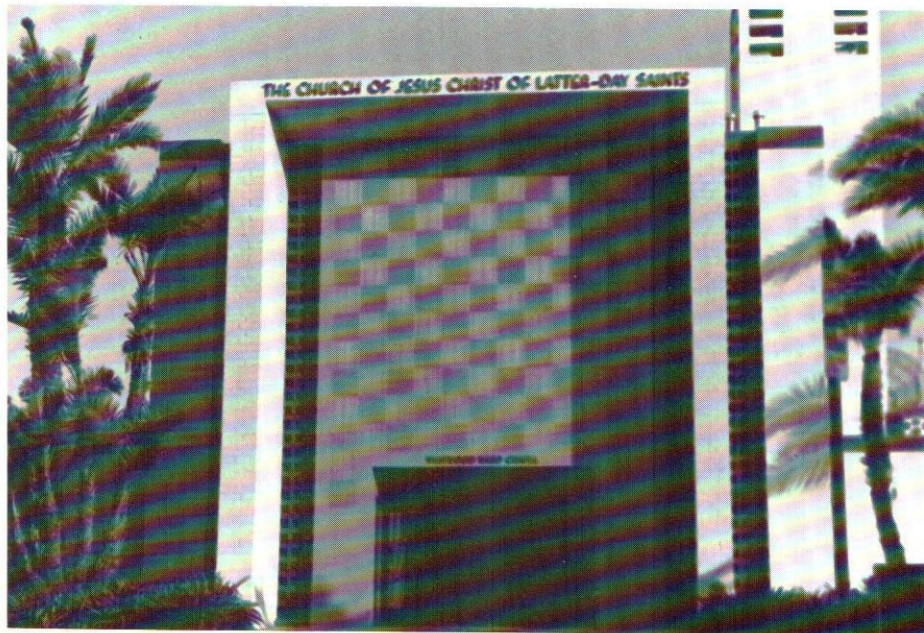
Due to the sparsity of Aaronic Priesthood in recent years, the Elders Quorum volunteered to bless and pass the sacrament on each Fast Sunday. The service is commendable but the highest our spirits were raised where those many times when Ray Corob, who has since moved from the ward, blessed either the bread or the water. Ray was a convert of around 20 years ago.

The large majority of Aaronic Priesthood youth members of the ward eventually serve full-time missions. Some present and recent ward missionaries include Benjamin Johnson, John Johnson, John Raach, Daniel Sheranian, Michael Fletcher, Katie Anderson Laurent Hechmati and Rebecca Waterhouse.

Priesthood members of the ward are often called to the UCLA Medical Center to give blessings to Church members there who have come from afar for medical help. New friendships develop.

Music has a place in homes of ward members. Many of the children in both Westwood Wards take piano lessons and participate in recitals. A number of organists rotate playing for Sunday services. Renee Sheranian was a professional harpist. String instruments often accompany the choir. Music students at UCLA and USC have been ward members. In the 1950s a ward teenager, Glen Larson, organized the famous Four Preps ("Twenty-Six Miles Across the Sea"). Today he writes television show programs.

Westwood First Ward is a friendly, generous, compassionate, devoted group of people. Several ward members support missionaries from other stakes and other lands. The ward members have given over 10,000 copies to the Family-to-Family Book of Mormon project.



DEDICATION PROGRAM



Building for the Future

WESTWOOD WARD CHAPEL • *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



GOD builds no churches! By His plan
That labor has been left to *man*.
No spires miraculously arise,
No little mission from the skies
Falls on a bleak and barren place
To be a source of strength and grace.
The humblest church demands its price
In human toil and sacrifice.

The humblest spire in mortal ken,
Where God abides, was built by *men*.
And if the Church is still to grow,
Is still the light of hope to throw
Across the valleys of despair,
Men still must build God's house of prayer.
God sends no churches from the skies,
Out of *our hearts* must they arise.

— *Edgar A. Guest* —



APRIL 12, 1953

10740 OHIO AVENUE

• LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

EXCERPTS FROM THE SERMON AND THE DEDICATORY PRAYER
GIVEN BY ELDER HAROLD B. LEE,
MEMBER QUORUM OF TWELVE APOSTLES,
AT THE WESTWOOD WARD CHAPEL DEDICATION PROGRAM
SUNDAY EVENING, 12 APRIL 1953
(over 900 were in attendance)

It's been a delight to me to find myself in full harmony with all that's been said and climaxed, as it has been, by the outpouring of a great heart and a marvelous testimony of faith by one of the great leaders in Zion, your own Bishop Dean Olson. Now, if the Spirit is willing I should like to follow along where it has led us, perhaps to be introduced by a text from one of the revelations of the Lord which has been forcing itself into my mind ever since I came here tonight.

I have thrilled tonight at the announced text for this service; "Building for the Future". What future? How much does the future hold? Bishop Olson has made an allusion to the most terrifying prospect that modern times bring, called the Atomic Age.

We used to sing about the security up in the tops of the mountains; but with the coming of planes, tanks, and long-range guns and guided missiles and all the rest of it, security is not to be found in the man-made things and we must look elsewhere. That was what the Lord was thinking about when He said, "Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; her borders must be enlarged, her stakes must be strengthened; . . . Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments." (D&C 82:14)

He said it in another passage in these words. "And, now, behold, if Zion do these things she shall prosper, and spread herself and become very glorious, very great, and very terrible. And the nations of the earth shall honor her, and shall say: Surely Zion is the city of our God, and surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place, for God is there, and the hand of the Lord is there: And He hath sworn by the power of His might to be her salvation and her high tower. Therefore, verily, thus saith the Lord, let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion - THE PURE IN HEART; therefore, let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn. For behold, and lo, vengeance cometh speedily upon the ungodly as the whirlwind; and who shall escape it? The Lord's scourge shall pass over by night and by day, and the report thereof shall vex all people; yea, it shall not be stayed until the Lord come; For the indignation of the Lord is kindled against their abominations and all their wicked works. Nevertheless, Zion shall escape if she observe to do whatsoever I have commanded her. But if she observe not to do whatsoever I have commanded her, I will visit her according to all her works, with sore affliction, with pestilence, with plague, with sword, with vengeance, with devouring fire. Nevertheless, let it be read this once to her ears, that I, the Lord, have accepted of

PRE-DEDICATION PROGRAM

SUNDAY MORNING — 10:00 A.M.

APRIL 12, 1953

PRELUDE.....*Harry E. Erickson, Organist*

GREETINGS.....*Bishop C. Dean Olson*

OPENING SONG—"How Firm A Foundation".....*Congregation*

INVOCATION.....*James C. Perkins*

REMARKS.....*Ralph Rolapp, Chairman Finance Committee*

REMARKS.....*William F. Jackson, Chairman Building Committee*

REMARKS.....*Rulon E. Murphy, Contractor*

REMARKS.....*Harold W. Burton, Architect*

SONG—"Lift Up Your Heads".....*Choir*

REMARKS.....*A. Calder Mackay, Ward Member*

REMARKS.....*Zabelle F. Sessions, Relief Society President*

REMARKS.....*A. Eldon Rex, First Bishop of Westwood Ward*

REMARKS.....*Mervin L. Saunders, Second Bishop of Westwood Ward*

BENEDICTION.....*Lowell Turner*

SONG—"We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet".....*Congregation*

INVOCATION.....*John W. Koer*

BLESSINGS AND CONFIRMATIONS

SONG—"How Great The Wisdom".....*Congregation*

SACRAMENT SERVICE.....*Aaronic Priesthood*

TESTIMONIES

SONG—"Let The Mountains Shout for Joy".....*Choir*

BENEDICTION.....*Joseph M. Cottam*

POSTLUDE.....*Harry E. Erickson, Organist*

DEDICATION PROGRAM

SUNDAY EVENING — 6:30 P.M.

APRIL 12, 1953

PRELUDE.....*Joy Prince, Organist*

GREETINGS.....*Bishop C. Dean Olson*

OPENING SONG—"Come, Come, Ye Saints".....*Congregation*

INVOCATION.....*Orson Haynie*

REMARKS.....*John M. Russon, President of Los Angeles Stake*

REMARKS.....*Hial M. Hales, First Counselor*

REMARKS.....*Arthur Wallace, Second Counselor*

REMARKS.....*Linda Olson, First Child Blessed in Ward*

REMARKS.....*John Frame, First Boy Confirmed in Ward*

SONG—"Bless This House".....*Choir*

REMARKS.....*C. Dean Olson, Bishop of Westwood Ward*

SERMON AND DEDICATORY PRAYER.....*Elder Harold B. Lee, Member Quorum of Twelve Apostles*

SONG—"Hosannah Anthem".....*Choir and Congregation*

BENEDICTION.....*William Ray Quist*

POSTLUDE.....*Joy Prince*

CHOIR DIRECTOR.....*Ramona Bernhard*

GUEST ORGANIST.....*Mary Rex*

her offering; and if she sin no more none of these things shall come upon her; And I will bless her with blessings, and multiply a multiplicity of blessings upon her, and upon her generations forever and ever, said the Lord your God." (D & C 97:18-28)

Where is security in the world today? The only security there is to be found in the future for which we are building is in the security that comes from keeping the commandments of the living God.

I might sum it all up by repeating what the King of England said when war was announced and he gave a worldwide broadcast to which I listened. I was down here at that time and I listened on the radio, to the fateful beginnings of the last world war. This was what he said, "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the day, 'Give me a light that I might tread safely into the unknown.' And the man who stood at the gate said to me, 'Go out and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light. And safer than the known way.'"

I know the safety of that way. I know the direction of that light. As one of the humblest among you tonight, and with a heart filled with the recollection of the experiences that have brought near things divine, I have felt the power of Him in Whose service I am, Who is drawn so close when I needed Him most, Who has sat down beside my bed where I was sleeping and counseled with me and directed me and guided my steps. I know that Jesus was the Redeemer of the world. I know that He went through the experiences and the trials of a crucifixion, suffering that He might become worthy to become the noble Son of a Heavenly Father who had sent Him here to suffer, to bleed and die for us. I saw that.

Just after I was called into the council, when in a study that I was making for a talk on the Easter message, (that was twelve years ago, about this Sunday night) I sat reading the words contained in the holy scripture, I found that something was happening beyond just my study. I seemed to be feeling and seeing as I had never felt and seen before. And that Sunday night as I delivered my brief message I closed it with the humble testimony that I too, was a witness of the reality of the resurrection of the Lord and of His mission as the Savior of mankind. I was speaking from out of a full heart. I know that God lives, that Jesus is the Redeemer of the world and I bear you that humble testimony, more precious than life itself. Oh, How I love Him. Oh, how I have leaned upon His ample arm. I praise God that I shall not fail neither you nor Him in the great responsibilities that have been placed upon me. That testimony, that humble prayer, I ask humbly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.

DEDICATORY PRAYER

Oh, God our Eternal Father, we bow our heads before Thee, this Sabbath eve, and return our thanks unto Thee for the proceedings of this day, for the outpourings of Thy spirit which have been in evidence and the witness that has been born anew in our souls as to the truthfulness of Thy work, of the divinity of the mission of Thy son.

We thank Thee Father that we live in this day when the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness has been restored to the earth through the instrumentality of a humble boy prophet whom Thou didst raise up, even whom Thou didst call before this world was created and appointed to the glorious mission to which he was later called, even the Prophet Joseph Smith. We thank Thee that through him thou didst reveal the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ as contained in the pages of the Book of Mormon out of which a new witness has been born, to protect the Bible in its truths from the decimation of those who would destroy it through faithless interpretations or revisions or translations so called, that we have in that witness the certainty of the things of the Bible which are true. We thank Thee that through him Thou didst reveal the authority of the holy Priesthood through Peter, James, and John; through Elijah Thou didst give us the keys by which we might aid in the work of saving our kindred dead. We thank thee that by its powers each of us may receive for himself a divine testimony and a certainty of the things of which we speak.

We thank Thee for the organization of Thy Church and all its details, the priesthood quorums, the auxiliary organizations, the helps and government. We thank Thee that Thou hast put means into the hands of Thy people that they have been able to build such places of worship as we are in tonight and temples where we can perform holy ordinances so Thy work can be completed. We thank Thee for prophets whom Thou hast raised up to preside among us this day and that Thou hast given to them the revelations of Thy mind and will so that we have not been left alone, in so far as we do not fail to heed their counsel. We stand in awe of the warning Thou didst say that the time would come that if we would not listen to the prophets and apostles we would be cut off from among Thy people. Holy Father, keep us always sensitive to the direction of the spirit. When the prophets speak, give us the witness in our hearts that what they speak is Thy mind and Thy will and therefore, scripture just as much as the things written in the books we call the Standard Church Works.

We thank Thee our Father for him, that noble one, who presides as the president of Thy Church, President David O. McKay. Bless him, in his advanced years, that he may be crowned with the glory of revelation, as was in evidence when he presided over the last general conference. Hedge him round about from the power of

the adversary. Make his ears dull to the whisperings of insidious voices who would try to influence him in unholy channels. But make him keenly alive to the pipeline of inspiration which Thou wouldst give to him, that he may continue to bear testimony as he has to us, that though him Thou hast spoken again and again. We thank Thee for his noble counselors, President Stephen L. Richards and President J. Rueben Clark, Jr.

Bless President Stephen L. Richards particularly, Father, he has not been well. He needs strength in his body. If it is that his mission has not been fully concluded, then raise him up with sufficient energy and strength to fill that to Thine own satisfaction. These three men we bear up in our prayers, that Thou wilt magnify them, of all men, as our leaders. Strengthen them and bless Thy people, that they may give listening ears to all that come through the channels of Thy holy apostleship and leaders in the presidency of Thy church.

Bless all who are associated with them in the general councils of Thy church. Bless those throughout the stakes and missions and our boys who are in military service. Those are the ones we have concern about tonight, Father, away from their homes, in the pitfalls of the adversary, war, hatred, bloodshed. Father if it needs be that sacrifice of their life be required, take them home to Thee clean. But if their lives would be spared, as we pray humbly they might be, bring them back to us without the taints, without the scars that jeopardize them for future great service. We pray for our boys and girls in the mission fields, lead them to the doors of the honest in heart. Hasten the day when the gospel will have been preached to all people preparatory to the coming of Thy Son, which we pray Thee, Father may not be long delayed, to cut short, with the reign of righteousness by His coming, the wickedness that well neigh seems to engulf the world.

Now Father, from the outpourings of Thy spirit, we thus express our gratitude and ask Thee now that thou wilt bless us as we present this building unto Thee, that thou wilt accept it as a holy worshipping place, that herein Thy children might be taught the truth, that Thou wilt stay the voice, the influence of him who would try to disturb or to try to spread error or apostate doctrine to try to confuse this people. Bring to naught the efforts of all such. May this edifice be the place of instruction by those of faith, that this pulpit may never be graced by one except he have a testimony and bear it fervently. Bless the teachers who teach in the classrooms that they might be mindful to so teach the little ones that their little feet might be planted on the firm, rock-bottom testimony of the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, that as they grow up flowers of sobriety, may virtue, honor, and integrity blossom out because of that prime testimony which is in their little souls.

We pray Father that Thou wilt cause that if there be laughter and dancing it may be unto Thee, that all such events may be opened with prayer and closed with prayer. And when the shadows of life come and those who have passed away from this life shall be brought here for a memorial, may those who come be comforted and strengthened in their faith and not grow weary or fall by the wayside because of the stern realities and the tests of life.

Holy Father, with these thoughts welling up in us, we pray, wilt Thou take this building unto Thee. For by the authority of the holy priesthood we dedicate it from its foundation, the ground on which it stands up to the topmost rafters, its walls, its doors, its windows, all the appointments, the furniture, the decorations, all things that are in this building, every part thereof. We dedicate it, we consecrate it that it might be hallowed and made an acceptable place for Thy holy worship and that those who come here might be taught and those of Thy other children who are not now members of Thy church. As they come to us, Father, let them feel as they enter the portals of this building, a spirit which cannot be felt except in places that have been dedicated as holy places of worship. By the authority of the holy priesthood that is in Thy servant, therefore, we present this building unto Thee and dedicate it unto Thy Holy Name, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.



Harold B. Lee

ELDER HAROLD B. LEE
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Photo taken from copy of dedication program.
He was president of the Church, 1972 - 1973.

SOME PRESENT AND FORMER CHURCH LEADERS WITH ROOTS
IN
BEVERLY HILLS/WESTWOOD/WESTWOOD FIRST WARD
(Our Apologies to Those Who Are Missed)

TEMPLE PRESIDENTS

Benjamin L. Bowring (1955)
Myrthus W. Evans (1970)
Richard C. Stratford (1975)
Robert L. Simpson (1980)
Allen C. Rozsa (1982)
Egeo A. Gabasa (Argentina)
Wayne A. Reeves (1989)

MISSION PRESIDENTS

Robert L. Simpson
Richard C. Stratford
Edmund G. Barlow
Allen C. Rozsa
John K. Carmack
William J. Attwooll
John W. Frame, Jr.
William L. Walsh

STAKE PRESIDENTS

Arvo Van Alstyne
John K. Carmack
Rodney H. Brady
William W. Tanner
Howard B. Anderson
Bruce G. Mcgreggor
William J. Attwooll
Frank Gonzales
Edmund G. Barlow
Robert J. Matthews

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Howard B. Anderson
John K. Carmack (also General
Authority)
James B. Jacobson
Albert Choules Jr. (also General
Authority)

TEMPLE ARCHITECTS

Harold W. Burton (Hawaii,
Alberta, Oakland)
Edward O. Anderson (Los
Angeles)

STATE COMMISSIONER OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

Arvo Van Alstyne (Utah)

BONNEVILLE INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT

Rodney H. Brady

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PRESIDENT

Rodney H. Brady (Cub Scouts)

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

Vern O. Knudsen (UCLA)
John T. Bernhard (Western
Michigan)
Rodney H. Brady (Weber
State)
Jae R. Ballif (Vice Pres. BYU)

PATRIARCHS

Edmund G. Barlow
Egeo A. Gabasa
Keith Baker
Wallace Frame
G. Lynn Hoggan
Guy B. Rose
Arthur Wallace
Robert J. Matthews

CALIFORNIA MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Sally Stratford
Gwen Brown
Marie Sheranian

JUDGES

Robert Stevens

FORMER MAYOR

C. Dean Olson (Beverly Hills)
Also President of Olson
Farms, huge egg producer, and
Pacific Coast Egg Producers
Association.

FORMER MISS AMERICA

Colleen Hutchins Vandeweghe

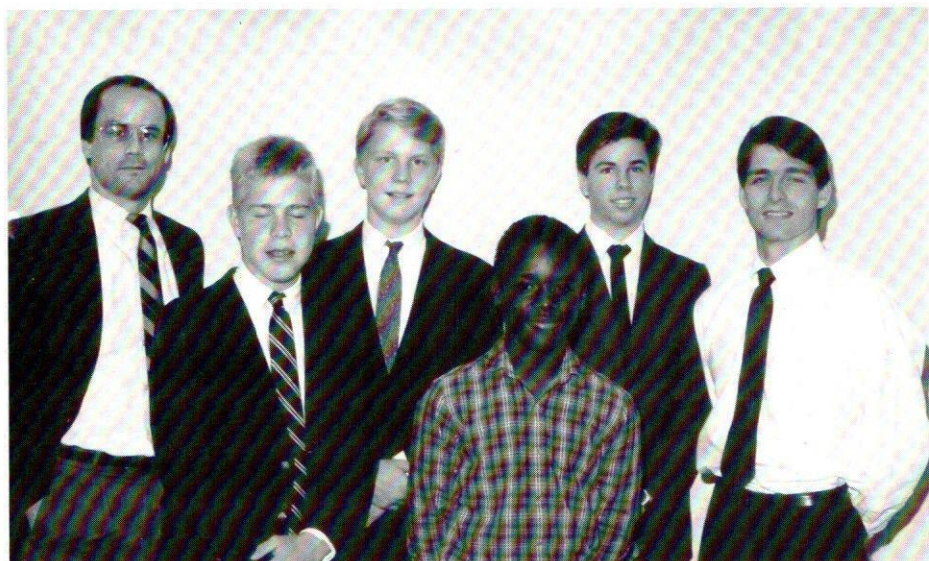
Some of the young adults in Westwood First Ward in 1989 are, left to right, Laurent Hechmati, Steve Thomas, Chris Pailey, Steven Sheranian, Lisa Wilson, Nicole Land, Lynne Garfinkel, David Stohl, Katie Anderson, Jason Michas, Derek Jarvis, Rebecca Waterhouse, John Raach, Jodie Watley, Brad, Marillee Foote, and Christi Foote.





Young women in Westwood First Ward in 1989 with their leaders. Left to right, leader Merry Ann Prince, Tiffany Fletcher, Kristi Raleigh, Laura Wallace, Pamela Fletcher, Sara Stevens, and leader Michele Park.

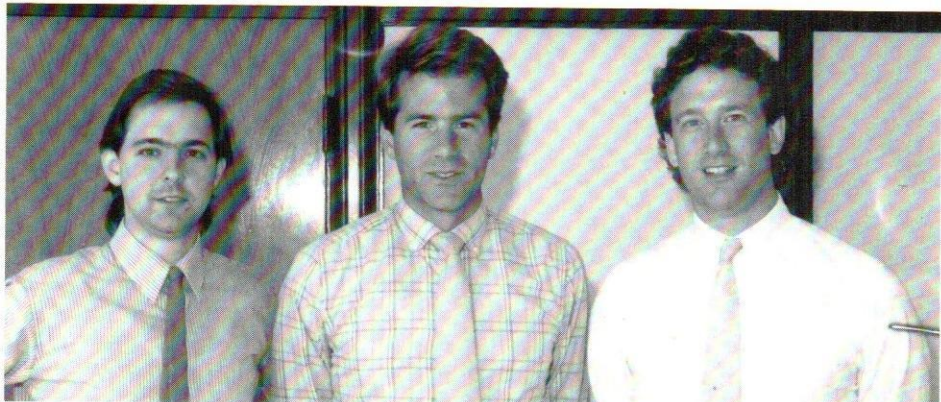
Young men in the Westwood First Ward in 1989 with leaders. Left of right, Peter Watkins of the bishopric, Rufus Johnson, Adam Johnson, Abdulla Njoku, Michael Wallace with David Hart as the acting Young Men's President and instructor.

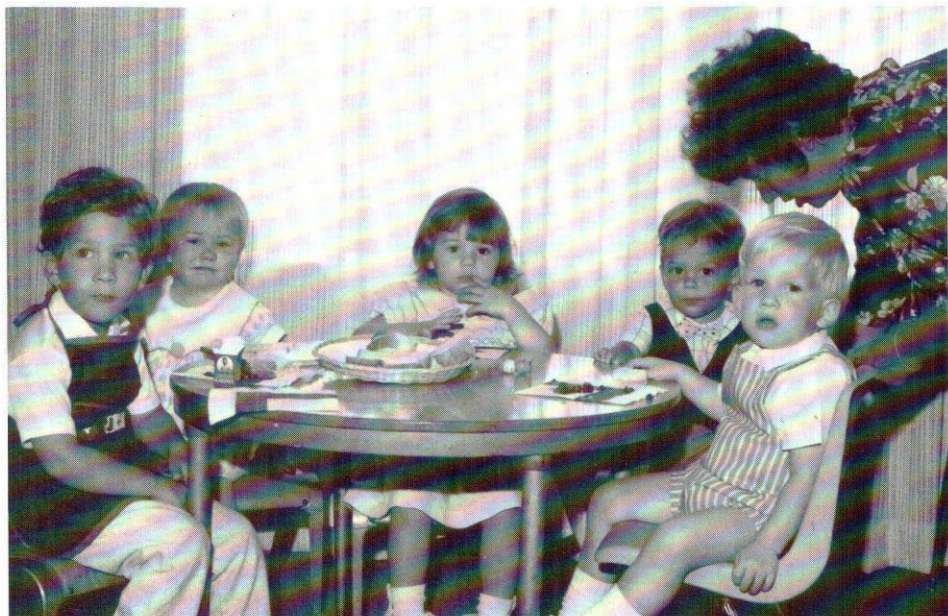




Westwood First Ward Primary in May 1989 with leaders and teachers. Front row left to right - Catherine Bennion, Karissa Hazy, Sarah Sheranian, Roger Johnson, and Elizabeth Wallace. Second row - Chantal Hechmati, Peter Placey, Mishal Njoku, Mariam Njoku, and Rahma Njoku. Third row - Katie Anderson, Christina Bragg, Steven Hazy, Tiffany Wilson, and Daniel Bragg. Fourth row - Steven Hazy, Christian Placey, John Wallace, Bradford Johnson, and Allison Keeney. Fifth row - Chris Hazy (president), Yvonne Bragg, Elizabeth Sheranian, Cathleen Field, Bonnie Hart with baby Kathryn Hart, Stephen Prince. Absent was long-time Sunbeam teacher Barbara Barber.

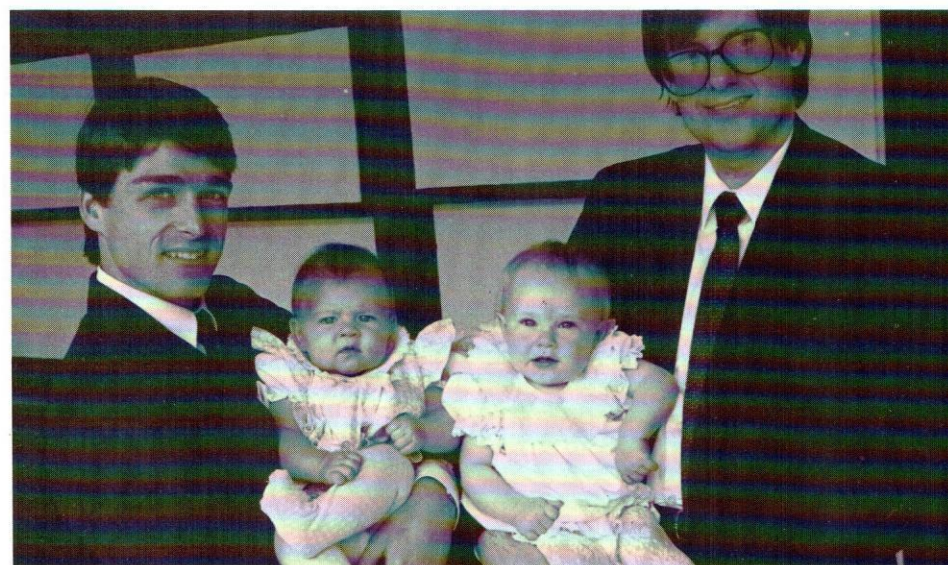
Westwood First Ward Clerks in 1989. Left to right, assistant clerk Jason Michas, clerk Craig Sheranian, and assistant clerk David Park.





Our hope for the future. Ward nursery class in 1989. These members represent the next fifty years. Left to right are Nicholas Park, Rebecca Wallace, KaRynn Sheranian, Austin Prince, Trenton Hazy with Becky Stevens as their leader.

More hope for the future. Two of the six babies in the ward in May 1989 under one year of age. These are Kathryn Hart and father David on left, Robin Wallace and father Scott on right. Kathryn is the great-granddaughter of Zatelle Sessions.



SOME OF THE WARD ALUMNI WHO ADD MUCH TO OUR
HERITAGE (IN ADDITION TO MANY ALREADY MENTIONED AND
MANY NOT MENTIONED)

Rose Marie Reid--Founder and owner of a famous swim suit company; authored materials for the Los Angeles California Jewish Mission. Emma Jensen--Youth leader of our former ward leaders. Mildred Tanner Pettit--Coauthor of the song, "I am a Child of God." Marie Sheranian--California Mother of the Year. Herond Sheranian--Eye doctor, president of stake high priest quorum, father of many we still have. Gwendolyn Brown--California Mother of the Year, instrumental in organization of genealogy library. Ralph T. Rolapp--Counselor in Stake Presideny, did much of the original chapel interior decorating, chief organizer of pre-dedication tours of temple. Shari Wilcox--Organized many of the stake fund-raising drives at theaters, handled temple dedication tours. Wallace Frame--Member of bishopric, Stake Patriarch elsewhere. Nell Frame--Hospitality in years gone by.

Keith Baker--Grew up in ward, became bishop in another stake and then youngest Stake Patriarch in Church. Beulah McAllister--Leader of Daughters of Utah pioneers. LaVerne J. Stallings--Drama specialist, author of many stake MIA presentations. Preston D. Richards--Attorney who arranged purchase of Harold Lloyd estate in 1930s on which, the temple, the ward chapel, mission home and other buildings were constructed, early stake high councilor. Barbara Richards--Wife of Preston D., mother of Ruth Jackson and Barbara Rolapp. Leland J. Anderson--Director of the special Los Angeles California Jewish Mission of the 1950s. La'ise Machado--Inspirational ward member who lived with cancer for about 30 years. Audrey Snow--Gleaner leader, Stake M.I.A. president, organizer of many events. Shirley A. Carmack--Stake Relief Society president, mission mother, wife of General Authority. Charles Smart--Grew up in ward and become medical doctor and cancer specialist.

Avon Smart--One who would do special extra assignments. Ted Pettit--Did thousands of temple ordinances while a member of the ward. Ted King--Quietly did many of the ward's assignments without fanfare. He and his wife, Melva, represented the ward as full-time missionaries. Other ward couples who served in the mission field are the William Hollists and the Andre Liardets. A. Lester Allen--Member of bishopric while a student at UCLA; many years a dean of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at B.Y.U. Robert Brunner--Music and composer for Disney and others; several compositions have been done by Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir. Margaret Browning--Metropolitan opera soprano solist. Florence Skouras--Relief Society President. Her husband, Charles P. Skouras of Fox West movie family and the Greek Orthodox group, provided the Carthay Circle theater to the ward and faithfully supported his wife's Church activities. A. Calder Mackay--Tax attorney, defender of constitution, major contributor to construction of the ward chapel. Jay Quealy--

Director of Visitors Center. Kenneth D. Wright--Maternity medical doctor for the Hollywood/Bel Air/Santa Monica communities.

Richard Hunter--Received permanent injury during chapel construction, overcame disability to become successful father and businessman. Egeo Gabasa--Patriarch and President of Argentina Temple. Claribel Gabasa: Matron of Argentina Temple. Hazel Vorkink--Teacher, lecturer, family relations. Osmond Family--Musical Family who lived in the ward, many young ladies joined the Church because of the Osmonds some of whom were in our ward. Beth Thain--Woman's leader and organizer. Dorothy Koer--Stake Relief Society and primary leader. La Vorn Sparks--Business; he and his wife travelled to promote the Book of Mormon family-to-family project; leader of youth. Beatrice Sparks--author, primary president, lecturer. Dr. Ralph Cloward--Ward philosopher. John Koer--served on the High Council for many years.

Ramona Byers--Pianist. Florence Schiess Williams--Artist. Samuel Elviras Sessions--Husband of Zabelle; he and she were full-time missionaries in England. Donna Turner--Pianist. Nell Walt McDowell--Hospitality in years gone by. Orla Furby--Husband of Jessie Furby, who is one of the original members of the ward. He supported the ward all those years but only joined the church recently and was a stalwart. She spreads good will and sunshine. Waldo Rogers--Helped computerize the temple records of the Church. Movie persons--Terry Moore, Rhonda Fleming, Samuel Melville, Luke Cosgrave, Moroni Olsen.

Dr. Hernond Sheranian and his wife Marie. There have been Sheranians in the ward all fifty of its years and may be for the next fifty years also. Dr. Sheranian was president of the Los Angeles Stake High Priests Quorum for over twenty years. Sister Sheranian was California Mother of the Year with a family of nine children. Picture was taken on their 25th wedding anniversary.



EPILOGUE

Sister Zabelle Sessions recalls that at the very first meeting of the new Beverly Hills Ward at the Beverly Hills Women's Club one of the prayers was given by Hial M. Hales, a prominent dentist in Westwood Village and who later served as a counselor to Bishop C. Dean Olson. Zabelle reports that in the prayer Brother Hales said, "And bless us out here in this neck of the woods." Ward members probably thought that they had been sent a great distance out into the country away from their beloved Wilshire Ward, and many of them felt like orphans. Wilshire Ward had built a beautiful chapel and stake center which was really a monument to the Church. The new Beverly Hills Ward is now fifty years old, and the Lord has blessed us out here in this "neck of the woods" which of course is no longer out in the woods. He will continue to bless the people of the ward as we serve with love, kindness, humility, and diligence. Many more future church and civic leaders can come from several Westwood wards in years to come.

"And remember the truth that once was spoken, to love another person is to see the face of God."

from the musical, Les Miserables

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

Thanks are given to all who helped in anyway to make this booklet possible. Apologies are given for errors and omissions.

