

# The Elysian Park Dig.

by **RIAH BUCHANAN** and **LAUREN MACKLER**  
on loan from **THE MUSEUM OF PUBLIC FICTION, LOS ANGELES**



**1** Gentleline Parker, with her twin daughters, **MARION**, left, and Mariotte; this photo was distributed to newspapers by the Parker family after Marion's disappearance | Los Angeles Times, date unknown

**2** Article announcing the death of **WILLIAM HICKMAN** on the day he was hung | Los Angeles Times, October 19 1928

**3** Girl with a parrot is part of crowd of hippies at the **LOVE-IN**, UCLA Library Dept. of Special Collections, Ed Garner March 27 1967

**4** Parrot of newspaper containing the remains of **MARION PARKER** | Los Angeles Times, date unknown

**5** The process of nuking a **CHUMASH** kelp fetish | Braun Research Library, Gerold Cassidy 1912

**6** Superintendent of Schools **SUSAN DORSEY** speaking at **William E. Hickman's** trial | Los Angeles Times, date unknown

**7** Bob Baker, 36, works his caterpillar 200 ft. up the side of the **MOVING MOUNTAIN**, L.A. River shown in background | USC Digital Library Olmo 1958

**8** Mortuary deposits at **TONGVA** archaeological site in Tijuana, CA | Braun Research Library, Clarence Elsworth 1945

**9** Remains of two **TONGVA**, Catalina Island. Buried carefully on their side, with tools and necklaces of pierced shell | Braun Research Library, unknown 1926

**10** **MARION PARKER** | Los Angeles Times, December 17 1927

**11** German cigarette card of Olympian **HEINZ HAX** in fine form | EBAY, photographer unknown, 1932



On December 17th 1927, Marion Parker, the 12-year-old daughter of a rich Los Angeles Banker, was brutally murdered by William Hickman. Hickman - nicknamed "the Fox" - kidnapped her from her school and held her captive while sending ransom notes for the amount of \$1500. Mr Parker paid the ransom in full but when it was time to retrieve his daughter he discovered she had been

## Parker's DISMEMBERMENT.

### 1927 \* THE SAD CASE OF Marion

The Tongva were the original inhabitants of present-day LA; they ran a trading center near where the civic center stands today. There they traded with mountain-dwelling Chumash and their Catalina Island counterparts. Island-ers provided inlanders with whalebone, steatite for carving, and shells that were traded like money. Whale vertebrae were used as stools, and abalone shells were plugged with La Brea tar to create sealed bowls. Tar was also used to coat woven drinking vessels that were a Tongva specialty, sought by other tribes.

When the Spanish arrived in 1769, they informed the 'Gabrielinos,' as they called them, that their god Chengüichnegch was actually a false prophet. Their shamans were probably servants of satan himself. As they were pushed onto newly erected missions to till the land they had previously harvested as-is, the Tongva at first tried to continue sacred ceremonies such as the rite of the eagle. They searched for an eagle's nest, waited for a chick to grow strong and then quietly stole it away to be raised by the tribe. Once mature the eagle was prepared and sacrificed at the beginning of a three day event, after which the feathers of the eagle were affixed to the skirt of the shaman for his dance enacting his crossover into the afterworld and communion with the supernatural. Only the shaman had the power to straddle the world of the living and that of the dead through the songs given to him by Chengüichnegch. Along with most of the tribe, the trans-

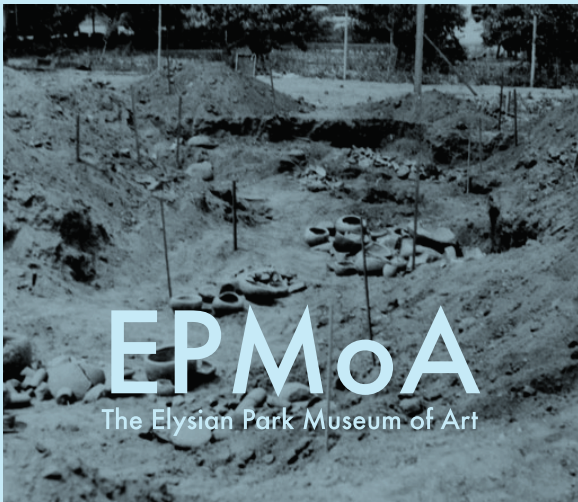
### 1500-1771 \* Yang-na VILLAGE.

# The Elysian Park *Dig*.

An archeological dig conducted **10/15/2010**  
In Elysian Park’s Buena Vista Peak.  
**34°4'56"N 118°14'19"W**

*The Dig* was conducted by **RIAH BUCHANAN** and **LAUREN MACKLER** in an attempt to excavate some of the park’s history. The resulting stories capture a cross section in time, each layer united by a lingering sense of desperation.

These artifacts are on loan from  
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There that day was Heinz Hax, who made the best of things, winning the silver medal in rapid-fire pistol shooting. This likely satisfied his father, Georg, an Olympian himself, and at that time the president of the German Olympic swim team. A year later Georg used his position to enact the 'Aryan Paragraph', a rule which excluded Jews from participation in Germany's Olympic swim team. Heinz went back to the army. Thirteen years later Heinz surrendered to American troops and was subsequently imprisoned in a Russian work camp. His sentence was 25 years of hard labor. In year 8 of his sentence, Georg died. Two years later Heinz's release was negotiated, like-ly due in part to his well-aimed bullets in Elysian Park and of course on the battlefield. He returned to the army and retired a major general. Heinz died two years after the love-in of 1967, which he regrettrably did not attend.

Turnout for the 1932 Olympics was lackluster due to the Great Depression. Many athletes simply could not afford to make the trip out west. The shooting event was held in Elysian Park, with both rifle and pistol competitions. The target shooters found themselves in a sorry state when the line of targets was not set up properly parallel to the line of shooters. In addition the distance was found to be lacking the full required 50 meters. To fix this oversight the participants rehung the targets in a makeshift fashion approximating the correct distance.

## 1932 \* THE Olympic rifle & pistol event.

murdered, dismembered by pocket knife and pieced back together to deceive him during the transaction. Hickman had gone to cruel lengths to make the child look alive: he had sewn her eyes open, combed her hair, powdered her face and stacked her body into a believable pile. The murder escaped and piece of Marion were found wrapped in newspaper and scattered in Elysian Park. Hickman was on the run for a week and the police set a large reward for his capture. Once caught, The Fox was trialed and was one of the first to plea temporary insanity in California. It didn't take and he was hung on October 19 1928. The upsetting circumstances of Marion Parker's death lead to a series of cautionary folk songs about her murder.

**ON NOVEMBER 14TH AT 1PM WE WILL PERFORM A REVERSE DIG ON BUENA VISTA PEAK.** Please bring an object to be buried. This can be anything you choose to leave for future generations to find.

# A *reverse* Dig.

**DIRECTIONS:** Just google “Elysian Park Drive & North Broadway” - this is the entrance you want. Proceed up Elysian Park Drive. You will see a playground on your left marked Buena Vista Meadows, turn into this parking lot and turn off your engine. We will be waiting.



\*\*\*\*\*  
**WHAT TO LOOK FOR!**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
~THE MURDERER of Marian Parker is 5 feet, 8 inches in height; 150 pounds; slender build; thin features; smooth shaven; medium complexion; dark brown hair, wavy and has the appearance of being waxed; he is an American apparently well educated. When last seen was wearing a brownish-gray herringbone overcoat and dark gray hat.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
THE MONEY in the possession of the murderer is seventy-five \$20 United States gold certificates, serial numbers K68016901 to K68016975 inclusive. These new bills were given to the murderer when he delivered the body of the child to the father. All persons are requested to carry a memorandum of these serial numbers and if any of the bills are presented notify METropolitan 6100, police detective bureau, immediately.  
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During the Easter weekend of 1967 a large gathering of people performed the Elysian Park Love-In, in what would now be considered the Buena Vista Meadows. The Love-In consisted of politically like-minded people (also called hippies) coming together with gentle intentions, to listen to music, to dance, to talk and to linger. Though the accounts of this day are hazy, The Elysian Park Love-in seems to have been a success. Carol King may have performed, or maybe not. Earlier gatherings that year had been interrupted by police brutality and arrests, leaving a psychological scar which contributed to rising tensions in a variety of neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

*it was surveilled by nax on the hill talking to paper bags ...i was there w/green power feeding the freex... do you recall a fellow dressed as julius caesar mounts the stage which was a flabed truck to dance during the moodys set...the lapd were a bunch of crazy rednecks shades of george putnam!!! — piezman (hipforum.com)*

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In the late nineteen thirties, as Los Angeles developed multiple booming industries (obviously film, but also the new garment industry), land that had been pushed to the limit gave way to its precarious undertow. Fears of the ground moving began to surface in newspapers. A large mass of land contained within Elysian Park was threatening to cover-up the wealthy industrial sector directly below it. This mass of land, also known a Buena Vista Peak, was pushing forward 1,500,000 tons of rocks at vertiginous speeds. Some claimed to have witnessed the mountain move as fast as 3 inches in twenty four hours. This was accompanied by grave rumblings and epic sounds of thunder. When it finally collapsed on November 27 1937 thousands came to witness the post-apocalyptic sight. Earth and rocks filled the dry bed of the LA river. This perhaps held a bit of irony since scientists concluded the river itself may have been responsible for this monstrous behavior on the part of the rock. This horror story had a sequel in 1954 when the growling was heard once again .

## 1937 \* THE INCREDIBLE Moving Mountain.

### 1500-1771 \* Yang-na VILLAGE.

### 1927 \* THE SAD CASE OF Marion

## Parker's DISMEMBERMENT.

### 1932 \* THE Olympic rifle & pistol event.

## 1937 \* THE INCREDIBLE Moving Mountain.

### 1967 \* THE ELYSIAN PARK Love In.

## 2010 \* THE ELYSIAN PARK Dig.

Contemporary materials were also uncovered. Hypodermic needles and condom wrappers allowed us to hypothesize on the current uses of Buena Vista Peak.