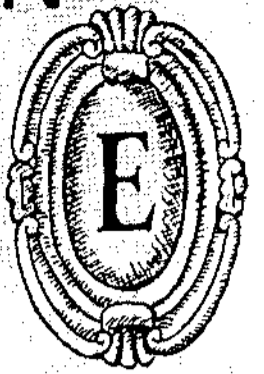


SPECIAL *Centennial* EDITION

# The Ebell of Los Angeles



1894 - 1994

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

4400 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90005

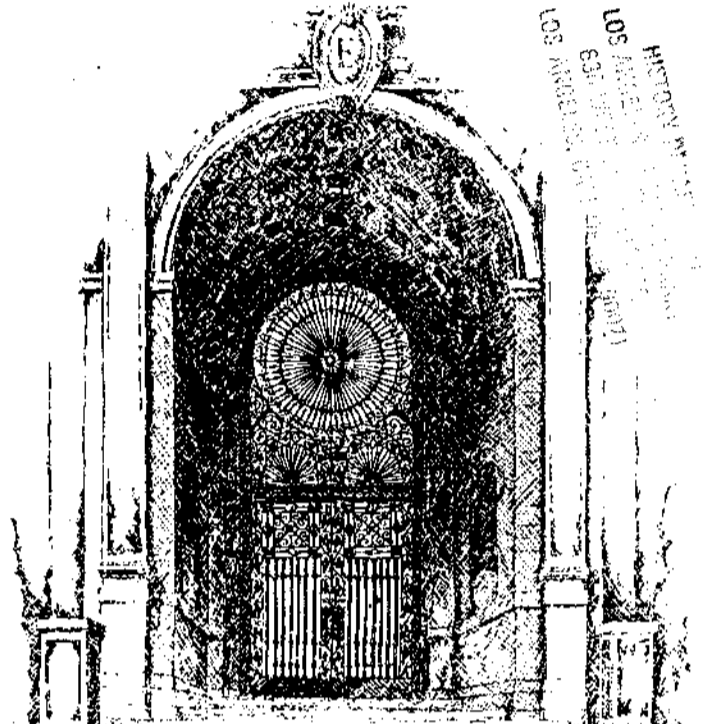
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JUNE 1994

## Celebrations Mark Ebell's 100th Anniversary

WOMEN--SOCIETIES & CLUBS--LOS ANGELES  
WILSHIRE EBELL

California Vertical File



THE EBELL OF LOS ANGELES clubhouse was erected at 4400 Wilshire Boulevard in 1927. The main entrance features a wrought iron door designed by John Chard and incorporates 2,000 separate pieces of wrought iron reflecting the dignity of the entire building. The left door has in its center the letter "E" and the door on the right features the letter "C."

### Ebell's History Is Rich in Culture, Philanthropy

It is significant that through the years, The Ebell of Los Angeles has maintained the purpose and primary goals set forth at the turn of the century by Dr. Adrian Ebell, who became a pioneer in widening the scope of women's education by organizing a number of women's societies. These groups were the inspiration for the organization of The Ebell of Los Angeles in 1894, which then evolved into the largest women's cultural club in the world.

The earliest club location was in the parlor of the Misses Emmie H. and Alice Parsons. At the charter meeting on a Saturday morning in October 1894, Mrs. H.W.R. Strong of Whittier, acting chairman, read papers which gave a short biography of Professor Ebell and presented the objectives and benefits of the society.

According to the minutes of this first meeting, the stated goals of The Ebell were "to interest women in the study of all branches of literature, art and science and the advancement of women in every branch of culture."

The members appointed a ByLaws committee, heard a short business address and made their first contributions to the new club: \$1 initiation fee, \$2 dues. Each member was asked to bring a cup and saucer as a gift to the new

club and then the ladies were entertained by piano solos before adjourning.

For 100 years, the objectives of The Ebell have continued to be the advancement of cultural, social and educational interests, plus various philanthropies. Today these include the Scholarship Fund, with \$9 million donated since 1920 to worthy students for their higher education, and, since 1918, the Rest Cottage Association, which has nurtured over 7,000 women in recuperative care.

The Ebell motto is "I will find a way or make one—I serve."

#### Ebell Centennial Merchandise Marks 100th Anniversary

Wine glasses, T-shirts, aprons and calendars are some of the special Centennial items available to commemorate the Ebell 100th anniversary. These include:

- Wine glasses with the Ebell "E" logo in gold, \$4.00;
- 1994-1995 desk or wall calendar, \$7.00;
- 1994-1995 purse calendar, \$4.00;
- Apron with Ebell "E" logo, bib top, pockets, \$12.00;
- T-shirt with logo, \$12.00;

#### Ebell Clubhouse Reflects History of Excellence

The Ebell's first building was near Broadway and Seventh St. The *Los Angeles Times* described it as "a modified Greek Temple."

By 1902 there was a need for a larger meeting place. In 1905 The Ebell Board voted to purchase property on South Figueroa St. to build a clubhouse.

To design this new building they retained the services of architect Sumner P. Hunt, who was the husband of a former president of The Ebell. The members occupied the new clubhouse from 1905 to 1927. Architect Hunt next de-  
(Continued on page 4)

Many milestones have been achieved during the 100-year celebration of The Ebell of Los Angeles:

Mrs. Rudy Droguett, Centennial Chairman, announced that 100 scholarship recipients were honored in February during the special Scholarship Day celebration;

The Ebell Club headquarters building has been designated as City of Los Angeles Monument #250 and is now listed in the State of California and National Register of Historic Places because of the club's historic associations and the architectural significance of its building;

A Centennial logo was designed and is being used on special commemorative items such as glasses, T-shirts and aprons;

A time capsule was dedicated in February to update the one placed behind the cornerstone during the dedication of the present Ebell building in 1927.

On Sunday, June 12 The Ebell will host a gala celebration for members and their guests with officials from the California State Assembly and the City of Los Angeles on hand to salute the club's 100th anniversary.

The event will be followed by a special program in the Wilshire Ebell Theatre with silent film excerpts accompanied by organist Bob Ralston. Soloists, duets and a choir will perform music from 1894 to the present. The program is open to the public at \$10 per person from 3 to 5 p.m. For information call 213-939-1128.

### One Hundred College Students Benefit from Ebell Scholarship Program in 1994

The Ebell of Los Angeles, in celebration of its 100th Anniversary in 1994, is giving 100 scholarships this year to worthy students from 23 colleges through its Scholarship Fund. The students receiving the awards demonstrate scholastic ability, good citizenship and a genuine need for assistance.

They attend such schools as California School of Technology, USC, UCLA, Whittier, Pitzer, Sci-Arc, SMCC and many others. Career courses include: Medicine, Health, Law, Accounting and various fields in Business Administration, Science, Engineering, Music and Art, Journalism, Broadcasting, English, Teaching.

The annual Scholarship Day reception and luncheon was held in The Ebell Clubhouse on February 28. It was a double celebration for the historic Ebell, because the members dedicated a Time Capsule containing historic and current memorabilia, and it will be placed in the ground at the Centennial Gala event on June 12.

The ceremony took place in the Wilshire Ebell Theater where present and past recipients took part in the program. Financial aid officers from many Los Angeles educational institutions and advisors also attended.

**Scholarship Committee**  
The generous Ebell Scholarship program is administered by a dedicated committee. They are: Mrs. Gloria Carroll, Chairman,

Mrs. Daniel Bloxson, Jr., Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Nelson, Mrs. Rudy Droguett, Mrs. Joel Bennett, Mrs. Charles Ruzek, Jr. and Mrs. Norman Murdock.

The committee members choose and monitor each recipient with great care. The results speak well of the selections made. Numerous letters of application and appreciation arrive daily.

Mrs. Gloria Carroll, Scholarship Chairman said, "The Scholarship Fund is one of the main philanthropies administered by The Ebell and, since 1920, has granted over \$9 million in scholarships to young men and women.

In 1894 the Scholarship Department was established to assist elementary school children with food, clothing and books at the beginning of each school year. By the 1920s, \$10,000 was raised for the Scholarship Endowment Fund and the organization was established as it is known today.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Flint gave \$40,000 to the Scholarship Fund in 1927. This fund established a portfolio of stocks and bonds

#### Membership Goal Reached

The Ebell of Los Angeles goal of adding 100 new members during its Centennial Year has been surpassed. The club has added more than 100 members in less than six months.

with the dividends to be given for student scholars.

During the past three years The Ebell Scholarship Fund has received over \$780,000 from bequests given by Ebell members and their estates.

The income from interest, dividends and donations for the fiscal year totaled \$228,000. Auditors evaluated the worth of the combined holdings of the Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Flint Endowment Fund and the Ebell Endowment Scholarship Fund at \$3 million for this 1993-94 fiscal year.

#### Applications Reviewed

Approximately 120-140 applications are received each year, and after review by the seven-member Scholarship Committee, potential students from Los Angeles County are interviewed and when selected receive \$2,000 assistance a year for three years.

The Scholarship Committee members are endeavoring to locate past recipients of Ebell scholarships from 1920 to 1990 to invite them to attend and be honored as alumni at The Ebell Centennial Celebration Reunion in June, 1994.

Alumni or members of their family are requested to contact Mrs. Gloria Carroll at The Ebell of Los Angeles and provide current addresses. Please write to The Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, California, 90005, or call 213-931-1277.

## CLUB PRESIDENTS

Former attorney Betty Jean (Mrs. Robert) Shea will be installed on June 13 as President of The Ebell of Los Angeles Board of Directors, and will serve until 1996.

A graduate of Wellesley College and a Harvard Law School classmate of Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Mrs. Shea was Assistant Vice President and Assistant Counsel of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for 10 years.

From 1971-1989 she was affiliated with Wells Fargo Bank as Vice President and Assistant Chief Counsel and Chief Legal Officer in the Los Angeles division of the bank's legal department.

Members of The Ebell of Los Angeles have applauded Mrs. Robert M. Parker (Ivada) for her splendid three years of leadership as President. It has been a very busy three years for her and her Board of Directors who have all participated on committees and planning for the Ebell Centennial Celebrations. She filled an unexpired one year term of a deceased President and was elected by the membership to serve as President from June 1992 to June 1994. Mrs. Parker, in the past, has held various positions at The Ebell including Curator and House Chairman and numerous other Board positions.

## GOALS OF EBELL

Cinematographers, artists, historians and musicians are among the guest speakers who have enriched the programs in The Ebell departments. In its 100-year history these departments have included creative writing, poetry, French, Shakespeare and tourism.

Weekly programs enjoyed by members include Armchair Travel, Art Appreciation, Beads and Crafts, Bible, Literature, Chorale, Garden, History and Public Affairs.

The Art Appreciation department sponsors exhibits of paintings by members of various Los Angeles area art clubs. Beads and Crafts sells its whimsical and practical creations at Club functions. The Choral Department members practice weekly and present two concerts for members and the public each year, in the spring and at Christmas.

Other departments present speakers addressing issues of interest both historical and current. The Garden Department offers classes on flower arranging and talks on all aspects of gardening.

A luncheon card party is held on Fridays once a month, and the club also schedules a monthly formal Assembly Dinner preceded by a social hour and followed by a program of interest including music and talks by local personalities.

The Ebell of Los Angeles has been highly commended for its numerous contributions to the civic life of the City and County of Los Angeles, and on February 28, 1994 the County and City of Los Angeles both issued proclamations designating "The Ebell of Los Angeles Day" in celebration of its Centennial Year. The proclamations were issued by County Supervisor Ed Edelman and Mayor Richard Riordan and L. A. City Council members.

The proclamations stated: "The Ebell of Los Angeles has maintained the purpose and goals set forth at the turn of the century by Dr. Adrian Ebell, a pioneer in widening the scope of women's societies which became the inspiration for this organization, founded on October 27, 1894 and then evolved into the largest women's cultural club in the world.

"The objectives of The Ebell have always been the advancement of cultural, social and educational interests, plus various philanthropies.

"The Ebell was instrumental in the organization of the City of Los Angeles, when in 1923 they were one of 14 organizations chosen by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce to elect representatives to the Board of Freeholders, who drafted the new Los Angeles Charter, which



COUNCILMAN NATE HOLDEN of the 10th District is shown presenting a proclamation in Council Chambers to Ebell members from left, Mrs. Robert Parker, President; Mrs. Ronald Balue; Rudy O. Droguett, Centennial Chairman; Mrs. Robert S. President-elect; Mrs. Charles Ruzek Jr. and Mrs. Roger Freb.

subsequently was approved by the electorate.


"Since its founding, The Ebell of Los Angeles has played a leadership role in the community by serving tirelessly during the war effort and peacetime, and the Wilshire Ebell Theater in the heart of the Wilshire District has staged world premieres, national and local productions.

"The Ebell of Los Angeles, an Italian Renaissance style building, was designed by

Sumner P. Hunt, A.I.A., cornerstone laid on February 28, 1927, and the building was declared a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument on December 1982."

In February 1994 building was added to State and National Register of Historic Places.

War Bond Record Members of The Ebell more War Bonds than other women's clubs during World War II.



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Best Wishes  
to  
The Ebell Club  
for another successful 100 years.  
Officers and Members  
of the  
Boards of the Episcopal Home

## Wilshire Ebell Theatre Is Scene of Premier Musical, Theatre Events

The Wilshire Ebell Theatre was first opened to the public on Thursday, December 29, 1927 when it was chosen for the world premiere performance of Sigmund Romberg's musical "The Desert Song."

The theatre, in the heart of the Wilshire District, with its 1,294 seating capacity, is known for its fine stage and superior acoustics, and houses a three-manual, 13-rank, Barton Pipe Organ and a concert grand piano.

Restoration of the theatre to bring it up to current standards was begun in 1989. In the past five years the seats have been recovered, all the floors recarpeted, the drapes redesigned and the rest rooms modernized.

The stage has been refitted with new rigging and curtains, and a new sound and lighting system will be installed. The Wilshire Ebell Theatre is considered one of the area's premiere locations and many prestigious musical and theatrical programs have been presented there. It has also been used for many movie and television productions.

## Adrians, Juniors Assist in Furthering Ebell Programs

The Adrians, named after Dr. Adrian Ebell, is a support group for the Club President.

Adrians hold various offices including President and other Board of Directors' positions; they also act as curators of several departments within the Club.

The lavish Christmas Ball is an annual event which is often sponsored by the Adrians or the Ebell Juniors.

Organized in 1921, the Ebell Juniors originally consisted of the daughters and granddaughters of Ebell members who were between the ages of 18 and 25. Currently members are women of all ages who share the common aims of the Juniors. Meeting once a month, the

Juniors hold luncheons with various speakers, organize fundraising projects, and have events just for fun.

They host a very successful Spring Benefit for the club once a year.

### Star Discovered

Frances Gumm first auditioned on the Wilshire Ebell Theatre stage, and was selected by an MGM talent scout for a screen test. She was hired and changed her name to Judy Garland.

### Earhart's Last Speech

Amelia Earhart's last public speech before she went on her ill-fated flight around the world was given at The Ebell in 1937.

## Program Fulfills Goal of Care for Women

In 1918, 24 years after The Ebell of Los Angeles was founded, the Rest Cottage Association was organized by a group of Ebell members to provide a convalescent home, "a place of rest for women who, because of their physical condition, need rest and quiet for a period of time to enable them to resume their former occupation," as the charter describes.

Beginning with a small cottage on West 95th St., the gift of a member, the Rest Cottage Association has fulfilled its founders' purpose of helping women. A larger property at 135 N. Park View St. was acquired, and a building, designed by Julia Morgan, the architect of San Simeon, was constructed in 1924.

Members of Ebell, who became members of the Rest Cottage Association by contributing \$1.00 or more annually, maintained the actual cottage by donating their time and services, spending time with the residents, grocery shopping, and giving teas to raise money for its endowment.

By 1980, after more than 50 years of usefulness, the cottage was no longer being used by convalescent women. The decision was made to sell the cottage. The money from the sale was invested prudently to provide funds for the continuation of the original purposes of the founders.



PRESENTING A REST COTTAGE GRANT to Patt Garland of the Episcopal Home, right, are, left, Mrs. Daniel Bloxson Jr. (Rest Cottage Chairman) and Mrs. Robert M. Parker (Ebell President).

The Association has also received legacies and substantial contributions. From 1993 to July, 1994, the following gifts will have been made by The Ebell:

**The Ebell Managed Respite Care Program** at The Hospital of the Good Samaritan helps women who have been hospitalized by providing home maker services when they return home.

**The Episcopal Home** enables women who have had a medical problem to return to independent living at the Episcopal Home.

**The Ebell Kingsley Care Program** at Kingsley Manor assists women who have had a medical problem to return to independent living at Kingsley Manor.

**Haven Hills Shelter;**

**Haven House Shelter; Women and Children's Crisis Shelter;**

**Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women.**

These four services help abused or homeless women who need a safe shelter and provide re-education and out-reach.

This fiscal year donations will have totaled \$120,000.

The ByLaws call for the Rest Cottage Association to use its income "for charitable purposes designed to benefit females who, for whatever reason, are in need of loving care and helpful assistance of a charitable nature." By carrying out this mandate, Ebell members have been able to make a difference for good in the world.

<p>We would like to Congratulate <b>The Ebell</b> on its 100th Anniversary The Dumont Family</p>	<p><b>CONGRATULATIONS</b> <i>To The Members of The Ebell of Los Angeles from the Partners &amp; Staff of</i> <b>Jacobs, Balmuth &amp; Abramson</b> <i>Certified Public Accountants</i></p> <p>(818) 981-0200 (213) 872-3302</p> <p>17547 VENTURA BLVD. SUITE 204 ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91316</p>	<p><b>Congratulations</b> <i>To</i> <b>The Ebell of Los Angeles</b> <i>for</i> <b>100 Years of Service</b></p> <p>Thank you for making part of your home our home <i>More Than A Mouthful Catering</i> <b>213-937-6345</b></p>
<p><b>Congratulations</b> to <b>The Ebell</b> <i>of Los Angeles</i> <i>on the first One Hundred Years</i> Roger &amp; Virginia Freberg</p>	<p><b>CONGRATULATIONS</b> TO <b>EBELL OF LOS ANGELES</b> <b>ON ONE HUNDRED YEARS:</b> <b>LOOKING FORWARD TO ONE HUNDRED YEARS MORE</b> <b>MR. &amp; MRS. ROBERT M. SHEA</b></p>	
<p><b>Happy 100th Birthday</b> to the <b>Ebell of Los Angeles</b> <i>A Touch of Thai</i> G &amp; G Catering Ed Guenoun (310) 289-9737</p>	<p>STAGE MANAGER (213) 934-3301 TICKET INFORMATION (213) 939-1128</p> <p><b>WILSHIRE EBELL THEATRE</b> 4401 W. 8TH ST., L.A., CA 90005-3853</p> <p><b>MICHAEL KIRKWOOD</b> EXECUTIVE MANAGER (213) 939-0126</p>	<p><i>With Deep Appreciation to</i> <b>MRS. ROBERT M. PARKER, President</b> for her splendid 2 years of leadership and her excellent Board of Directors who graciously contributed to a <b>PROUD EBELL CENTENNIAL YEAR</b></p>
<p><i>Our Service Salutes</i> <b>The Ebell's</b> <i>Centennial of Service</i> <b>MAHAN ELECTRIC</b> EARL &amp; JIM MAHAN (716) 997-8760</p>	<p><b>Best Wishes to the Board of Directors and Ebell Members on your Centennial</b></p>	<p>Mrs. Wheelwright J. Gerry; Mrs. Joseph P. Langlois; Mrs. Ronald M. Balue; Mrs. Russell L. Johnson; Mrs. Robert M. Shea; Miss Virginia C. Sunderland; Mrs. C. R. Freberg; Mrs. Orvil Franzen; Mrs. Paul S. Bilgore; Mrs. Rene Dumont; Mrs. John Wasilczyk; Mrs. Daniel Bloxson, Jr.; Mrs. Gloria Carroll; and <b>Mrs. Rudy O. Droguett, Centennial Chairman</b></p>



## Company Offers Catering at Ebell for All Occasions

More Than a Mouthful, Inc., (MTAM) is the exclusive caterer and event planner for The Ebell of Los Angeles.

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MTAM is renowned for delicious and original cuisine, elegant presentation, striking floral design, flawless service and the ability to create any ambiance from its own prop studio.

The three principals of MTAM (Barry Colman, President, Marketing Director and Co-owner, Fred Schwartz, Executive Chef and Co-owner; Billy Ray, Operations Manager and Maitre d') are all graduates of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, with 60 years of collective experience.



The clubhouse was designed by architect Sumner Hunt.

## Clubhouse Reflects History

(Continued from page 1)  
signed the Italian Renaissance structure which is the club's present home at Wilshire and Lucerne Boulevards.

The cornerstone and a time capsule containing historic information about The Ebell of Los Angeles were laid on February 28, 1927.

In her remarks at the dedication of the new clubhouse in 1927, the club president Mrs. William Read, told her audience "Let us dedicate this building...to the most satisfying form of friendship...which comes from

thinking, planning and working together."

Incorporated throughout the design of the Ebell Clubhouse are symbols indicating the club's areas of interest. The masks of comedy and tragedy, painters' palettes and a literary scroll are motifs incorporated into the wrought iron entry doors by William Chard and the gold-leafed ceiling of the main lounge. Artist Julian Ellsworth Garnsey also included the lamp of learning, the lyre for music, a globe and the clasped hands of friendship in his ceiling design.

There are fine paintings and period pieces of furniture in the majestic rooms of The Ebell, complete with five grand pianos and a 35,000 volume collection in the library, with many rare books dating back to 1704.

In celebration of The Ebell's centenary, members authorized the refurbishment and restoration of the clubhouse and furnishings, which, thus far, has taken more than five years.

## Restoration Committee Returns Building to Original Elegance

On September 1989 a group of Ebell members began what was to be a five-year task, that of restoring The Ebell of Los Angeles building to its original elegance. A Centennial Restoration Committee, headed by Mrs. Rudy Droguett, was formed.

Mrs. Paul Bilgore, a talented interior designer and committee member, provided her guidance and expertise in choosing wall paint colors and fabric for draperies and furniture. The huge main dining room, also known as the Concert Hall, was the first room to be refurbished, with the Galleria and Art Salon following. Walls were repainted in soft pastels which complemented the Persian rugs. Exquisite new silk damask wallcoverings were hung by the same draper who had installed the original draperies 27 years previously. Adjustable track lighting was installed in the Art Salon to enhance the ever-changing paintings exhibited by various Los Angeles area art clubs.



Gloria Droguett, the original draperies 27 years previously. Adjustable track lighting was installed in the Art Salon to enhance the ever-changing paintings exhibited by various Los Angeles area art clubs. In the elegant Grand Salon/Lounge, the most impressive room in the building, all of the lovely antique sofas and chairs were restored and reupholstered with fabrics to enhance the glorious painted ceiling. Other additions are the new teal draperies and the three huge hand-woven rugs designed especially for The Ebell and created in China. Due to a generous bequest by Minnie Hapke, a late Ebell member, it was possible to repaint the entire building complex.

The Ebell membership gratefully thanks the unstinting efforts of the Centennial Restoration Committee: Mrs. Rudy Droguett, chair; Mrs. Ronald Balue, Mrs. Paul Bilgore, Mrs. Frank Burke, Mrs. Arthur Cecil, Mrs. Fred Doan, Mrs. Donald Dupree, Mrs. Harold Henneberry and Mrs. Russell Johnson.

The Ebell Choral  
congratulates  
the members of  
The Ebell of Los Angeles  
on their 100 years  
of service.

CONGRATULATIONS  
to the  
Ebell of Los Angeles  
from the Ebell Juniors

Best Wishes  
to  
Ebell  
From  
The Balue

I am proud to be working with  
The Board of Directors  
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and Ebell Members  
planning the Public Relations  
and Special Events  
for the Centennial Year.  
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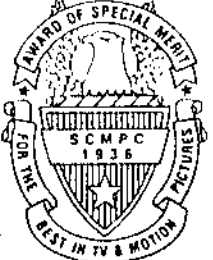
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to the members of  
Ebell of Los Angeles  
on its Centennial  
Geraldine Healy

Adrians of Ebell  
congratulate the members of  
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for 100 Years of Service  
and for their Advancement of  
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