

**SOUTH PASADENA LOCAL HISTORY
SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY MATERIALS
SUBJECT: RESTAURANTS**

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Pasadena Raymond Restaurant The Phantom on Raymond Hill

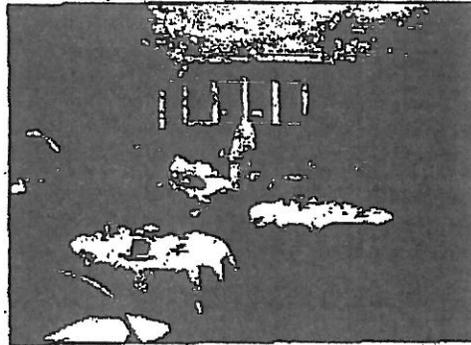
Few people remain who remember the days of the celebrated Raymond Hotel but THE RAYMOND RESTAURANT in Pasadena offers a nostalgic link with Pasadena's colorful past. The restaurant is located in the turn-of-the-century hotel caretaker's cottage and features fairy tale craftsmanship complete

During the following decades, apartments sprang up where acres of elegant flower gardens had once bloomed in the hotel gardens. "It's really a phantom hotel," owner and executive chef Suzanne Bourg says wistfully, "From time to time someone will relate a personal experience or a faint memory of the hotel and I'm reminded that the "spirit" of the hotel very much

Cuisine Corner

with hardwood floors, secluded booths, leaded glass, and candlelit patios, all in a wooded setting.

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Thankfully, the cottage remained, but by the late 1970's the building was a shambles. When restoration specialist, Roger Whipple bought the property, his careful remodeling brought back the magic. His partner, Ken Carreiro, opened the cottage as a restaurant in 1978. Suzanne and her husband bought the res-

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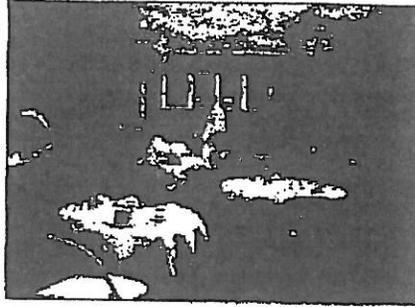
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In 1886 Walter Raymond, a native of Boston, built the hotel especially for snow bound Easterners. Situated on Bacon Hill, The Raymond Hotel became the most imposing structure yet built in the area, and gave a panoramic view of the orange groves and vineyards of the beautiful San Gabriel Valley. Often called "The Royal Raymond", the dining room was considered the most sophisticated and elegant place to eat in the Pasadena area. Waitresses memorized orders and stood stiffly at attention, ready to comply with their guest's slightest whim.

On Easter Sunday in 1895, sparks from a chimney ignited the roof and a strong west wind did the rest: the hotel burned spectacularly, and totally to the ground in 40 minutes.

Undaunted, Raymond built an even grander hotel with 300 rooms. The new establishment opened in December of 1901. He built the present RAYMOND RESTAURANT bungalow at the same time, living there and sometimes renting it to special guests who desired both elegance and seclusion.

Unfortunately, the Great Depression felled the second Raymond Hotel. A mortgaging bunk shut down the hotel in 1931 but Raymond and his wife were allowed to live in the cottage until his death in 1934.

taurant from them after falling in love with the unique ambiance.

Bourg sees to it that the service and cuisine at THE RAYMOND RESTAURANT is as fine as it was in the original hotel. The food isn't fancy, compared to today's standards, it is refreshingly homespun, the kind restaurants served before the gourmet revolution. The menu changes weekly with a choice of medallions of beef, veal, pork, breast of chicken and three different seafood entrees. Choosing a dessert can be a problem. At the end of the meal a waiter appears with a big tray of desserts, all of which are baked at The Raymond. The favorites are an old-fashioned cheesecake and a raspberry tart with a crust of crumbled chocolate cookies and a dollop of unsweetened whipped cream.

The allure of the cottage today is its quality food, but customers also come back for the intimacy and elegance of bygone times.

818-441-3136

1250 So. Fair Oaks, Pasadena

At the corner of Columbia St. and Fair Oaks at the border of Pasadena and South Pasadena.

Hours:

Lunch, Tue - Fri 11:30 to 2:30 pm.

Afternoon Tea, everyday

except Monday 12:00 - 2:30 pm.

Brunch, Sat 11:00 am. - 2:30 pm.

Sun 10:00 - 2:30 pm.

Dinner, Tue - Thurs 6:00 - 9:30 pm.

Fri and Sat 5:45 pm. - 10:00 pm.

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Dinner, Tue - Thurs 6:00 - 9:30 pm.

Fri and Sat 5:45 pm. - 10:00 pm.

Sun 4:30 - 8:00 pm.

Soda FOUNTAIN

(circa 1915)



A Bit of History

Fair Oaks Pharmacy & Soda Fountain has been South Pasadena's friendly corner drug store since 1915. When Michael and Meredith Miller purchased Fair Oaks in 1989, they became enchanted with the idea of restoring the pharmacy to its original turn-of-the-century style, complete with a soda fountain and lunch counter.

Their quest eventually led them to the circa 1900s McGee Pharmacy in Joplin, Missouri. There they located a complete set of pharmacy fixtures and an original soda fountain. This treasured find also included antique stained glass cabinetry, marble-topped counters, heavy chrome bar stools and original Hamilton Beach malt mixers. Pharmacy owner, Grace McGee, agreed to sell her heirloom fixtures to the Millers only after they promised to maintain them as a complete set and to use them in an actual pharmacy.

The Millers have added to this collection other authentic soda fountain and apothecary memorabilia which combine to create Fair Oaks Pharmacy and Soda Fountain's delightful vintage atmosphere. Whether it's a banana split, old fashioned milk shake, or frothy phosphate, the soda fountain specialties are sure to arouse the senses of the young-at-heart wishing to relive the "good old days."

For hungry travelers on Historic Route 66, lunch menu items such as the "Vintage Vegetarian" or the "Roadside Special" offer a chance to refuel and relax. We also feature fresh salads and gourmet coffee.

Fair Oaks Pharmacy and Soda Fountain also features an array of unique, one-of-a-kind gifts, greeting cards, toys and decorative accessories reflecting the era of the original store as well as various classic collections from vintage film and television eras. So browse, eat, enjoy and return.

One of the best stops on Route 66.

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Fri - Sat 9 AM - 11 PM

Sunday 11 AM - 9 PM

Lunch hours

Mon - Sun 11 AM - 5 PM

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Two Local Restaurants Serve Up A Taste Of History

BY LEAH PISANO MCCRARY

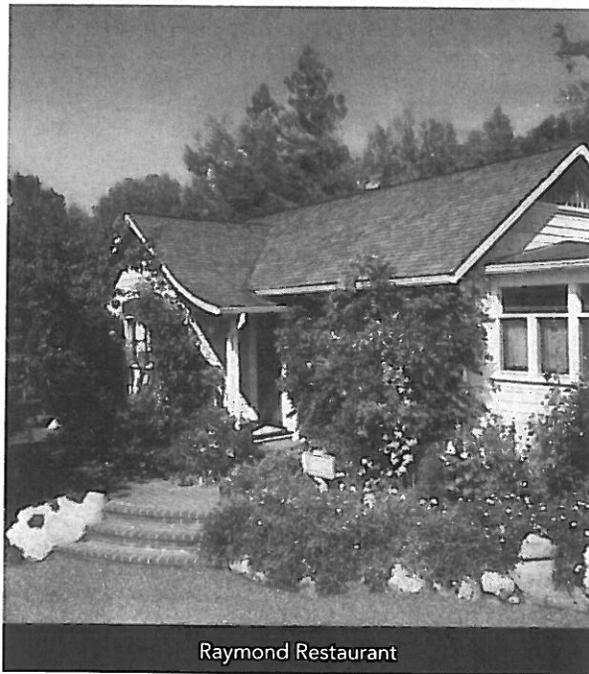
Comparing The Raymond Restaurant in Pasadena and the Colonial Kitchen in San Marino may seem like comparing apples to oranges. Yet, like apples and oranges, they are each deliciously unique. As restaurants they each offer different dining experiences, from prices to ambiance. Although each establishment is uniquely its own place, they share a significant similarity: both are as much local historical landmarks as they are restaurants. There are two primary reasons for this distinction. First, both buildings have been around for many decades and they both remind us of another time; and second, both restaurants hold special places in the hearts of their customers.

The Raymond Restaurant in Pasadena was originally the caretaker's cottage to the Royal Raymond Hotel. The hotel was the first luxury resort in the west, and a train station was built at the base of the hill upon which the hotel sat in order to conveniently deposit wealthy vacationers from the east to their tropical destination.

Built in 1901, the cottage was occupied by the hotel's founder, Walter Raymond, until his death in 1934. Slightly more than four decades later, two of its neighbors bought the property, renovated it, and turned it into a restaurant. Roger Whipple, a restoration specialist, and Ken Correia bought the property in 1977 and opened the cottage as a restaurant



Colonial Kitchen



Raymond Restaurant

in 1978. Whipple's careful reconstruction and painstaking attention to detail in modeling the chairs and tables after original craftsman pieces invite guests to take a nostalgic trip into the past, to the days of charming elegance at the Raymond Hotel.

During restoration, the only addition to the original structure was the kitchen. It is hard to believe that this small kitchen, designed to maintain the integrity of the bungalow, produces the amount and qual-

ity of the food it does. In the early decades of the twentieth century the original kitchen used a fireplace for cooking. During reconstruction that room was converted into a charming dining room anchored by the antique fireplace.

A little known fact of geography gives The Raymond a unique quirk. It is a restaurant that can claim residency in both Pasadena and South Pasadena. In 1901, the year the cottage was built, South Pasadena had been a city for only 13 years. The dividing line that distinguishes the neighboring cities cuts through the restaurant in the room where the bar is located. When the restaurant was undergoing renovation in 1977, a headline in the *South Pasadena Review* read, "Have A Drink in South Pasadena and Dinner in Pasadena."

Like virtually every visitor to The Raymond, Suzanne Bourg and her husband Michael Burlingham fell in love with its charming ambiance. At that time, the restaurant was for sale; they bought it and learned how to manage a restaurant. Their success can be measured not only by the growth of the restaurant since they took over, but for maintaining the very special and elegant atmosphere they continue to foster in their enchanting cottage.

This restaurant has been the site of many engagements, anniversary and birthday celebrations. For those reasons, The

Raymond holds a special place in the hearts of those who dine there. My own first visit to The Raymond was on a first date in high school. I don't know whether the restaurant was chosen for its romantic ambiance or to impress me, but whatever the reason, it was a good choice because several years later I married him.

As much as The Raymond is connected to the memories of those who celebrate there, the Colonial Kitchen is tied to the memories of the everyday life and traditions of its patrons. It represents community for the San Marino and Pasadena residents who have eaten there for generations. The restaurant itself was built in the American Colonial revival style of the early 1930s. The original building was smaller and easier to see on Huntington Drive. As the restaurant grew, so did the trees and other buildings, making the Colonial Kitchen easy to miss if you didn't know it was there.

This is a restaurant that loves its community as much as its community loves it. The owner, Dulcie Covington, knows her regulars and what they like to eat, and she displays gifts from longtime patrons in glass cases in the foyer. Additionally, the Colonial Kitchen supports various community groups: the San Marino Women's Club, the police and fire departments in a variety of ways.

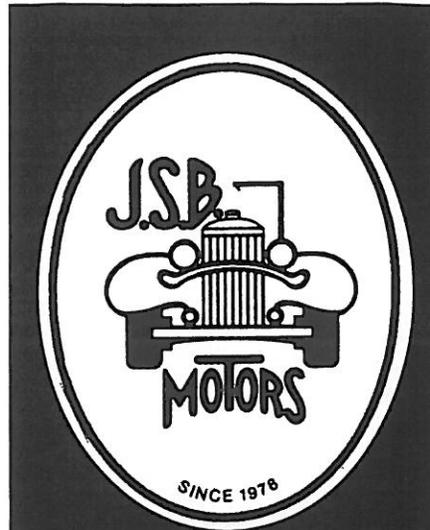
The Colonial Kitchen has been an independently owned and run family restaurant for 60+ years. In those 60 years, this restaurant has become somewhat of an institution, a landmark in San Marino. When I asked Mrs. Covington what keeps them going, her response came immediately: loyalty. People have grown up with them, and now they bring

their own children. She tells the story of a baby boy, the son of a local couple who came into the restaurant often. She used to hold the baby and walk around the restaurant so his parents could eat. That little baby is now a grown man, 6'3", who still comes to the Colonial Kitchen. She recalls many Easter brunches when her husband dressed up in a bunny suit and handed out chocolate eggs sent from London by her brother. The bunny suit now hangs in a closet, but the candy egg tradition lives on. So does Elvis Presley; the Elvis plates and other Elvis memorabilia that decorate the foyer and parts of the restaurant were gifts from The King's photographer and some band members who live in the area and still frequent the Colonial Kitchen.

The warmth of the Colonial Kitchen was evident while I was there recently. A mother with her young daughter came in for breakfast and Mrs. Covington was up in a flash, bringing the mother a mug of hot tea and asking if they were going to share their country breakfast that morning. The Colonial Kitchen is a throwback to another time, a family restaurant with a simple menu, a place where everyone knows your name. What a sense of comfort and belonging.

The Colonial Kitchen and The Raymond are local historical landmarks because they have been part of the cultural fabric of the San Gabriel Valley for many decades. They have each created a lasting imprint on the community they serve and remind us of our roots.

The Colonial Kitchen is located at 1110 Huntington Drive in San Marino. The Raymond Restaurant is located at 1250 South Fair Oaks Avenue at Columbia Street, Pasadena. 



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THE RAYMOND RESTAURANT

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HISTORY

The Raymond Restaurant is a living example of Pasadena's colorful past and carries on the city's great traditions of craftsman architecture and unparalleled hospitality.

In 1886, Walter Raymond, a Boston native, came to Pasadena and built The Raymond Hotel - a fabulous sunny destination for Easterners looking to escape harsh winter weather. On Easter Sunday in 1895, sparks from a chimney ignited the roof and the entire hotel burned to the ground in only 40 minutes.

Undaunted, Mr. Raymond built an even grander hotel with 300 rooms, along with a charming caretaker's cottage. In the early years, Walter and his wife often stayed in the cottage when it wasn't occupied by special guests. Gracious hosts, the Raymonds entertained celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin, Tom Mix, and Buster Keaton, who visited and filmed in Pasadena in the roaring 1920s.

Sadly, in 1931, the Raymond Hotel was toppled by the Great Depression and the party was over. The hotel was razed to make room for residential development, and Walter and his wife moved into the cottage, where they lived until 1934.

The caretaker's cottage is now The Raymond Restaurant, and the timeless charm and spirit of this lovely space can be enjoyed by all.

RESERVE

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