



WELCOME TO ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S FINEST RENDITIONS OF SPANISH REVIVAL

2403 Hill Drive Eagle Rock, California

This home is well known throughout the United States Schools of Architecture for being one of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial Revival. The Architect Builder was Godfrey Edwards of Edwards, Wildey and Dixon.

This firm, it is reported, worked with and/or consulted with many of California's premier architects including: William Rust (1863 – 1958), Donald Parkinson of Parkinson and Parkinson, Myron Hunt. Godfrey Edwards designed and built many well-known and iconic buildings during a growing California renaissance. Mr. Edwards and his firm were known to create art with building materials. It was often the case that he would consult and hire artists to embellish his buildings. When he built the Fine Arts Building, a downtown Los Angeles landmark, he commissioned a sculpture by artist Burt William Johnston. Mr. Johnston's statues grace the sides of the iconic building. Godfrey Edwards also used steel beams instead of wood to build the Edwards Wildey and Dixon Building (now known as the Milano Lofts) in an effort to emphasize an early technique of fire proof building.

This firm is known for constructing monuments rather than "buildings". Many of his buildings have been awarded historical status due to their unique facades. Some of the landmarks that Godfrey Edwards guided in building were The Shrine Civic Auditorium, The Los Angeles Colosseum, The Los Angeles Transportation Building, and the Los Angeles Financial Building just to name a few. In the San Diego area, Mr. Edwards built the national City Tower, the first high rise in the area. He also was commissioned by sugar magnet and industrialist, John D. Spreckels to build the Home Federal Savings and Loan Building.

Locally in the Eagle Rock Glendale area Mr. Edwards built the Women's 20th Century Club, The Oakmont Country Club and the corner of Eagle Rock Boulevard at 2160 Colorado Blvd. (now Swork Coffee) where his offices were located on the top floor. Later, Mr. James Duffy, of Eagle Rock purchased that building. Mr. Duffy's motivation was, as a child of 15, his father met an untimely death from pneumonia leaving Mr. Duffy to care for his mother Mary and his two siblings, Catherine and William. Mr. Duffy took over the family blacksmith shop on Eagle Rock Blvd and began saving his money. Upon the death of his father, he went to the Bank at the opposite corner from the Edwards Wildey building and asked for a loan to buy a bike so he could sell newspapers to help support his family. The bank said no because he was a poor risk. Mr. Duffy told the Manager that not only would he repay the bank but that someday he

would own the Edwards Wildey Building. Intrigued the Banker made him a personal loan and so began Mr. Duffy's real estate buying spree. He paid back the loan in half the time and needless to say the Bank found him to be a credible risk for many of his future endeavors.

Mr. Duffy purchased numerous homes and commercial properties which included the entire triangular block of property beginning at 1030 Colorado Blvd. the large property bordered by Figueroa Blvd. (once Duffy's Super Club) now is developed by the anchor store, Vons Market. Mr. Duffy also purchased the Edwards Wildey Building and all the adjacent buildings. Mr. Duffy built a fine arts and dancing school for his wife Eleanor Duffy, called the Eagle Rock Fine Arts Academy located in a building adjacent to the Edwards Wildey Building. For over 40 years the academy trained many of the area's children in dance, voice and acting. Many of the students went on to work in the TV and motion pictures.

On a bright Sunny day around 1960, Mr. Duffy drove down Hill Drive and stopped in front of the home located at 2403. He had great affection for the home since he accompanied his father, James D. Duffy, as a very young child, to the house. His father was an artist who worked in iron. Little James watched his father install the custom-made ornamental iron which was incorporated into the home. Mr. Duffy walked up to the door and knocked. Mr. Moore the then owner of the home opened the front door and a youthful Mr. James Duffy asked if he wanted to sell. Mr. and Mrs. Moore said yes, and the deal was done right then and there on a handshake.

This home has been owned by Mr. Wm. Christian the original owner, who was a sugar and grain magnate from the east coast. Mr. Christian had plantations in South America and would go on to use the home at 2403 Hill Drive as his winter retreat. Mr. and Mrs. Moore bought the home from Mr. Christian and would raise their lovely family there among the trees, breezes and unblocked vistas of Los Angeles. Mr. and Mrs. James Duffy bought the home from the Moores and raised four children. Mr. and Mrs. Duffy would become well known for their many social and philanthropic engagements and gatherings at the Hill Drive home. Mrs. Eleanor Duffy, who was often referred to as Eagle Rocks Rock, was a staple at the Los Angeles City Hall. Mrs. Duffy was appointed to many official City Commissions including the Los Angeles Greek Theater and the Cultural Commission. She was a well-known socialite and philanthropist. The Duffy's were early supporters of medical education in the State of California being one of the earliest supporters of what is now Western University of Health Sciences, located in Pomona California.

WELCOME to 2403 Hill Drive, one of the many masterpieces built by Godfrey Edwards, a man of many talents and a well-known American Builder who was a wonderful developer of historical artful buildings. His legacy has enriched many lives and families by providing creative and inspiring homes and commercial spaces that have withstood the test of time.

