



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, No. 4
Fall 2018

An Unexpected Culver History Lesson, Part 2

By Hope M. Parrish

During my visit to Milford last spring I continued to learn more about the Culvers.

In 1884, a philanthropist from Omaha, Mrs. Francis Clark began crusading to change the age of consent for girls from the age of 12 to 18. She petitioned the Nebraska legislature to establish an "Industrial Home" for unwed mothers. As legislatures do, they compromised, and set the age of consent to 15. The term "industrial" as it related to industrial schools, enabled "needy children to learn a trade, and home industries are taught."

When Jacob H. Culver, Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard, entered the conversation, he convinced the city of Milford to donate 40 acres of land a mile east of the city, just south of the railroad.

In 1887, \$15,000 was approved by the State

Legislature to establish an institution for 50 "penitent girls who have no specific disease... who have met with misfortune... and thus prevent crime." Two three-story, 25-room dormitories were built to house the mothers, and included steam baths and a library, along with a powerhouse, cattle barn, and laundry. Doors opened May 1, 1889. Newspapers noted that it was "the only state-supported maternity home in the nation."

The Industrial Home operated until

1943. Governor Dwight P. Griswold suggested that the Industrial Home be abolished, and services transferred to the University Hospital in Omaha, leaving the land for auction.

Jacob H. Culver was also largely responsible for the Sailors & Soldiers home built in 1889 at Milford. It operated until 1939. Today the brick and stone building is the location of Southeast Community College.

Here are some quotes I want to share with you about Jacob. "He is one of the most widely known of our citizens, and is wonderfully active in pushing public enterprises of his town and country." "He is fond of home, loves peace, even if he has to fight for it." "Milford owes very much to him for her prosperity."

Stayed tuned for the finale in our winter newsletter!



Industrial School for Girls, c.1912 (Nebraska State Historical Society)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17, 2018 – General Meeting and Program Early Culver City Movie Locations Then and Now Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM

From the early days of filmmaking, Culver City was at the epicenter. We can spot Culver City locations in recent movies and TV shows with ease. But it takes a lot more time and effort to identify locations from silent films and early talkies.

Chris Bungo was born and raised in New Jersey, but he can spot Culver City and other Los Angeles locations from 1920s and 30s movies like a native. He then photographs what is there now, and dissolves in and out from the past to the present in his popular *Then and Now* videos on YouTube. He will present some of these videos, focusing on Culver City locations, at our program.

Hal Roach expert Richard Bann, co-author of *Our Gang: The Life and Times of the Little Rascals* and contributor to the book *Laurel & Hardy* and the home video release *Laurel & Hardy: The Essential Collection*, will also present a brief history of Culver City's Roach Studios, which produced many comedy shorts on the streets of The Heart of Screenland. The public is invited to this free program. The entrance to the ARC is from the back parking lot.



Hal E. Roach Studios, 1921
(Culver City Historical Society)

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Dear Members and Friends,

Here comes fall, and I am glad it is finally cooling off! We spent June cleaning up around the ARC — (re)organizing storage sections of the collection, recording objects into the database, and installing new exhibits for you to enjoy. Check out some of the photos!

You, our Historical Society members, know that our museum is a special place. What you may not know is there are two other museums that are just as special in walking distance

from the ARC. Thanks to help from the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation, the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum, the Wende Museum and the Culver City Historical Society Archives & Resource Center (ARC) will form the first ever Culver City Cultural Corridor! On Friday, November 9, all three museums will be open to the public for an exciting day. See the enclosed flyer for more information, and join us as we walk the Cultural Corridor together for the first time.

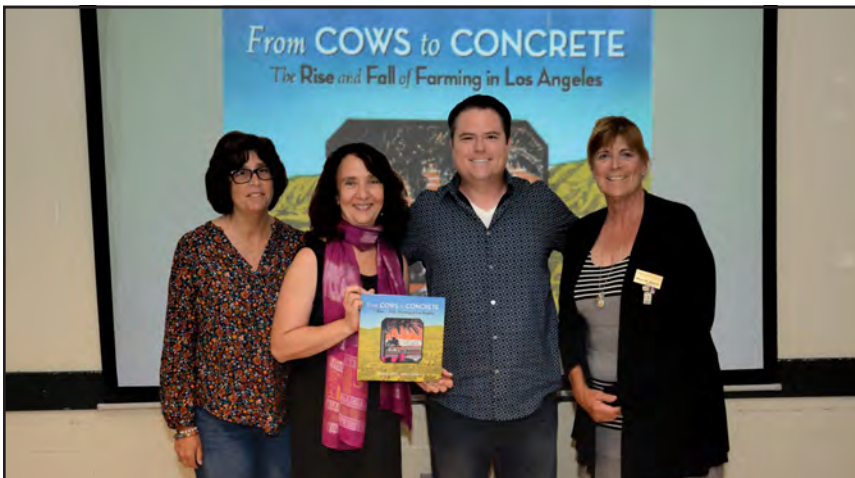
We have a new addition to our volunteers: David Voncannon is our new video editor! With his help and keen skills, we are quickly adding more videos of our recent programs to our YouTube channel.

There are also ways for YOU to get involved! We are looking for a new Government Affairs Liaison, Vice President of the Museum and Archives, and Communications Chair. Every week we receive emails and calls with questions about Culver City history, which are always fun to research and answer. We need more researchers to help answer the influx. We need docents and volunteers for our open hours and tours that come through the Archives. We will train you! These are enriching opportunities to work with your Society and help us continue to grow. I am happy to talk to you about any of these positions. Please email me: hope@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org.

Lastly, if you buy from Amazon or Ralphs, please visit our website. By using our links, Amazon and Ralphs will automatically donate a percentage of your total purchase to the Society. At no additional cost to you, these are easy ways that go to support our work.

We can't do this without you!

Hope



Historical Society VP, Programs Ryan Vincent and President Hope Parrish with Judith Gerber and Rachel Surls, co-authors of *From Cows to Concrete: The Rise and Fall of Farming in Los Angeles* after their presentation at the July 18, 2018 General Meeting. (Kevin Lachoff)

OUR MISSION

The Culver City Historical Society was created for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and exhibiting the history, cultural, and civic accomplishments of Culver City and its environs.

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STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
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MEMBERSHIP

The Culver City Historical Society exists because of the involvement and generosity of people like you. Please help strengthen our voice for preserving Culver City's architectural and cultural heritage by becoming a member.

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership

Welcome Our New Members

Terrence Conner
Rick Hodges Family
Jill Vesci
Cathy Wait



Living History

Each year, Fiesta La Ballona reminds me of memories that spelled “fun.” I remember how hard our mother worked to outfit my brother, cousin, and me as “Early Settlers.” I liked the “señorita” dresses and learning about my ancestors, except one year when I had to wear a mustache (itchy!), and pull my little brother and

cousin in a wagon-based “float”! Little did I know that learning our history then was setting the stage to teach it forward.

In 2017, our society helped to bring historic sites and people to the forefront for Culver City’s Centennial Celebration. Walking tours, bus tours, and classroom visits for Career Days broadened the story of our city for locals, especially children. Michelle Bernardin and Denice Renteria designed coloring sheets for the students, who learn about local history in third grade.

As Culver City students have just begun the new school year, we look forward to increasing our participation in the area of youth education. Before summer break, our volunteer docents (Fred Alexander, Michael Laase, Michele Lachoff, Denice, and myself) led La Ballona third-graders past many historic sites like Tellefson Park, (former Rollerdrome), on land that was known as Rancho La Ballona. Many were impressed when they

learned that our city founder, Harry H. Culver, flew his plane out of the Culver City Airport! El Marino School also participated in their annual bus visit to City Hall and scavenger walk.

Working with our schools is not new. Over the years we have enjoyed taking “Living History” skits into third grade classes, in partnership with AVPA high school students. Watching the high school students take the parts of Machado family members claiming rights to land on “horseback” certainly held their attention! Other skits helped the students learn about Harry Culver, his plans, and his family.

Last year, we renewed our docent-led bus tours. In one day, 200 riders took our tour on the Centennial Culver CityBus. Their “tour” continued after they disembarked and made their way to the ARC for a special visit, which took them past a wonderful piece of public art, *Filmstrip USA* by Natalie Kroll, in front of the Veterans Memorial Building. They also walked through the building to see some historic movie photos rescued by our society. Their last stop was our Culver City Historical Society Archives and Resource Center, where they were intrigued by Culver Family items and much more! Many were surprised when we pointed out the nearby Mayme Clayton Library and Wende Museum, also located in the Cultural Corridor in our city.

From youngsters to adults, history can be painless education!



Third grade students from La Ballona on a 2018 walking tour. They asked to pose for a photo in front of the Rainbow sculpture at Sony Pictures, part of the Public Art program in Culver City! (Julie Lugo Cerra)



La Ballona Students in the ARC (Michele Cerra Lachoff)



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 17 – General Meeting and Program
 Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

October 20 – 13th annual LA as Subject Archives Bazaar
 Doheny Memorial Library, USC, 9AM-5PM

October 21 – Conversations are back at the ARC!
 Robin Turner will discuss the 2006 Fox Hills Archeological dig. 1PM

November 9 – Museum Day along Culver City’s Cultural Corridor
 Historical Society, Wendé Museum, and Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum will be open together! Free admission to all three venues.
 10AM-6PM 6PM: Reception at Wendé Museum

ARC OPEN DATES

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM

Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan. 6

Business Member Roster

These fine Culver City area businesses support our work to preserve Culver City history for future generations. Please show your support by your patronage of their services and products.

Supporting Benefactor Sponsor

The Culver Studios Steve Auer (310) 202-5579

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Please Renew or Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!

Join others in preserving the history of the “Heart of Screenland” and support the Culver City Historical Society Archives and Resource Center (ARC). We can’t preserve local history without you!

- Benefactor (\$1,000)
- Corporate Sponsor (\$500)
- Family Lifetime Member (\$500)
- Individual Lifetime Member (\$300)
- Patron Member (\$100)
- Business Member (\$50)
- Family Member (\$30)
- Individual Member (\$20)
- Non Profit Organization (\$15)
- New Member Renewal

Name/Company _____

Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Voluntary Contribution to Museum Fund \$ _____

Please check type of membership and enclose your check payable to:
 The Culver City Historical Society, P.O. Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428

Tax Deductible 501 (c)(3) #95-4188800

09 NOVEMBER

10AM-6PM

THE MAYME CLAYTON LIBRARY & MUSEUM
CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE WENDE MUSEUM

PRESENT

FREE EVENT

CULTURAL
CONNECTION

1960 Painting By: Bozhii, Mikhail Mikhailovich (1911-1990)
Title: Woman in White-Red Dress

(circa 1960) Photograph: Huey P. Newton
Black Panther Party Spokesman

(circa 1910)
Photograph of: Harry H. Culver
Founder of Culver City

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CULVER CITY CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP TOURS
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SAVE THE DATE

EXPERIENCE CULTURE IN CULVER CITY

3 INSTITUTIONS (1 DAY)

THE WENDE (COLD WAR MUSEUM), MCLM (AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY), CC HISTORICAL SOCIETY (HISTORY & ARCHIVES)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CC.CULTURALCORRIDOR@GMAIL.COM

(424) 209-7782

SPONSORED BY ADVOCATES OF THE CULVER CITY CULTURAL CORRIDOR



& THE CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION

[Moving around] History is fun [and dusty]!

All photos by Hope M. Parrish



Dennis Parrish, Stephen Connell, Allison Fekrat, Tami Eskridge, Jeanne Conklin, Nick Garcia, and Willy Parrish – and A LOT of bottles from the 2006 archeological dig in Fox Hills.



Our collection of newspapers are nicely stacked.



Jeanne, Hope, and Michael Laase organized MANY bottles!



Denice Renteria and Cliff Leblanc built the shelves for the costumes' new home.



We are entrusted with storing and caring for over 70 costumes!