



# NEWS

Volume 37, No. 3. Summer 2016

## The City Seal is 80 Years Old

You've seen it all over town. On buildings, municipal vehicles, City Council Chambers, official city documents, city flags, and even on the stainless steel sculpture "Filmstrip U.S.A." in front of the Veterans Memorial Building. But did you know that this seal has been used for 80 years?

On August 3, 1936, by Ordinance No. 453, the City adopted the current official city seal. The ordinance required that "the imprint thereof shall hereafter be impressed upon all official documents in place of the Seal heretofore used, and an enlarged copy of said Seal shall be placed on all motor equipment owned and operated by the City of Culver City." This ordinance also stated: "Around the outer edge shall appear the words, City of Culver City, Incorporated 1917, and in the center thereof shall appear the inscription 'Heart of Screenland,' which inscription shall run through the center of a Shield; in the upper left hand corner shall be depicted motion picture camera equipment indicative of the present major industry in the City of Culver City; in the lower left hand corner of said Shield, shall be depicted a representation of the Golden Bear, emblematic of the State of California; in the upper right hand corner a representation of the rising sun; and in the lower right hand corner shall be depicted a sprig of lantana, the official flower of the City of Culver City."



That ordinance cited above, signed by Mayor Frank H. Dobson, also included a further description of the seal. It called for unequal sized sections of the shield, with the upper left and lower right being about double the size of the others. It even specified that "the motion picture camera equipment in the upper left hand quarter includes a cameraman upon a wheeled camera dolly, a klieg light turned on, and a reflector screen. The stylized sun in the upper right hand quarter is about 2/3 risen above ground level, and displays seven rays." The colors are also defined, calling for the upper left illustration "in powder blue and white with the linework in black." The golden sun is to be upon a "dark blue field." The city flower, the lantana, was to be illustrated in red with green leaves.

Our seal serves as more than a civic identifier, but also as a communal unifier. That it celebrates 80 years this year is a testament to our city's tradition and history that we hold close.



Virgie and Earl Eskridge on their wedding day in 1946.

## July 20 General Meeting and Program Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7 pm Exploring Culver City Families and Their Businesses

### The Tinger-Eskridges and Culver City Flowers

As we approach our city's 100th year, it is only fitting to share with you the story of another of our longtime family-owned businesses, Culver City Flowers. Earl and Virgie (Tinger) Eskridge's family has a long history of flower shops in Culver City, beginning in 1934. Earl and Virgie have together and individually been members and given countless hours to the Soroptimists, the Exchange Club, the Elks, and the Historical Society. Earl continues to work with his son, Mike, member of the Lions Club, at Culver Flowers to brighten our community with beautiful flowers and a friendly smile. They raised three sons in Culver City and continue to be a supportive presence.

Join us on July 20, 2016, to explore the history of this family through a PowerPoint presentation, learn about their dedication, and how they are woven into the fabric of this city.

All are welcome to enjoy this free program. Entry is through the Archives and Resource Center from the parking area in the back of the building.

## 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.

### Newsletter Editor

Joy Jacobs

### OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Michelle Bernardin, President  
Stu Freeman, Immediate Past President  
Janet Chabola, VP, Development  
Ellen & Arthur Litman, VP, Museum/ARC  
Hope Parrish, VP, Programs  
Tami Eskridge, Treasurer  
Adrienne Bernardin, Secretary  
Ryan Vincent, Communications Chair  
Denice Renteria, Costumes Chair  
Julie Lugo Cerra, Historic Sites Chair  
Jeanne Conklin, Membership Chair  
Steven J. Rose, Government Liaison  
Kevin Lachoff, Photographer

### HOW TO CONTACT US

T (310) 253-6941, leave a message  
F (310) 253-6942  
info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org  
P.O. Box 3428  
Culver City, CA 90231-3428

### STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org  
facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety  
twitter.com/histofculvrcity  
instagram.com/culvercityhistoricalsociety

### 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

## In Memoriam

Richard Ross Brundo  
Margaret Gottschalk



## Your President's Message

By Michelle Bernardin

Dear Members and Friends,

Many of you know "Uncle Syd" Kronenthal passed away last October. His contributions to this city and our Historical Society were vast, and his legacy will continue beyond his physical presence. The Historical Society was among a handful of organizations that Syd designated in his will as testamentary beneficiaries. This transformative gift will go far to continue our work that Syd was integral in helping to build.

If scorching temps over previous summers have shown, we will be the coolest place to hang out at Fiesta La Ballona, literally and figuratively. The Archives and Resource Center will be open during the Fiesta from 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday (August 27) and Sunday (August 28).

As you may remember, last year we moved our annual picnic to September to coincide with the anniversary of the city's incorporation. Mark your calendar for Sunday afternoon, September 18 for our FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC! This will be our way to kick off the city's celebration of our centennial year (begins on September 20), so bring your family and join us in celebrating! The ARC will be open for everyone to explore our city's first 100 years.

I encourage you to follow us on the various social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), as we start to share plans for partnerships, events, and programs that will celebrate Culver City and its rich history over the coming year. If you are not on social media, we understand. Keep us updated with your email address so we can update you! (We will not share it with others.)

As always, thank you for supporting your Historical Society!



### Welcome Our New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Goldstein  
Bonnie Flamer and Family  
John Flynn  
The Daryl Lazar Family  
Mark Okuno

### A Look Back At Culver City History

(Photo above) Culver City's fireworks stands became a memory by the late 1980s. Although fireworks are illegal to set off in city neighborhoods today, the Exchange Club still sponsors a Community Fireworks Show the evening of the 4th of July, this year to be held at West Los Angeles College.



## Notes From Your City Historian

By Julie Lugo Cerra

### Think Fabric! Think Conservation!

There is no doubt that Culver City has an interesting history! We receive inquiries continuously asking about people, places, and things. Did you know that one of the most appreciated areas of our collection is often made of fabric? Yes, first, you probably think of the MGM costume collection for which we are caretaker---but the subject is limitless.

Sharon Shore, who just completed her term as our Costumes Chair, and continues to serve on the committee, offers a broader perspective on the reality that many of our fondest possessions as well as memories involve fabric. This could take the form of a quilt made by someone special, a piece of clothing created for an occasion, a unique pillow made from a grandpa's ties, an apron constructed to be beautiful and utilitarian, and so much more!

We look for fabrics and patterns to suit our taste, for our draperies, bedspreads, furniture, carpets, and beyond. We make time to visit museums like LACMA, the Getty, the Huntington, or Hearst Castle, whose collections make us delight in artfully constructed tapestries, costumes, and historic clothing.

Sharon Shore, Director and Conservator of Caring for Textiles, a laboratory for textile conservation, maintains her private practice in Culver City. She is an amazing resource to our Culver City Historical Society. We benefit from her skills and mentorship. Sharon recently completed the book of research information on our costume collection. In addition, because of public interest, she and other members of her team constructed a book of the 60+ MGM costumes. It contains photos with descriptions of each costume for public view. It is readily available for research and general interest in the Archives.

Watch for an opportunity in the near future to talk to Sharon in one of our "Conversations" series on special interests, like Costumes and Fabric Conservation!

*Here are a few quotes to reiterate the importance of "fabric":*

"If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place."  
(Margaret Mead)

"Counsel woven into the fabric of real life is wisdom."  
(Walter Benjamin)

"When the fabric of the universe becomes unknown, it is the duty of the university to produce weavers."  
(Gordon Gee)

"If I want to calm down, I'll buy some fabric, get a pattern, shut myself in a room, and stay there for days, really happy. And at the end of it, you get a bedspread or some curtains or something to wear - it's lovely."  
(Twiggy)

Many of Culver City's historic sites are featured on our fabric "throw" available through our onsite and online shops.



L-R Our textile experts Denice Renteria, Costume Chair, and Sharon Shore, former Costume Chair prepare mannequins in costumes from the MGM collection. The striped jacket was worn by Gene Kelly in "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

## Mark Your Calendar

July 20: General Meeting and Program  
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

Aug. 27 and 28: Fiesta La Ballona  
ARC open 12noon-4PM

Sept. 18: Founder's Day Picnic  
Vets Park, 12noon

Oct. 19: General Meeting and Program  
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM



PO Box 3428  
Culver City, CA 90231-3428

## ARC OPEN DATES

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM

July 3	Sept. 4
July 17	Sept. 18
August 7	Oct. 2
August 21	Oct. 16

\*Conversations Program: TBA

---



Currently on display in the ARC is this two-piece pajama ensemble worn by Marie McDonald in "Living in a Big Way" (1947). The film starred McDonald and Gene Kelly as a couple who marry before really getting to know each other.



Our April 20 General Meeting and Program featured Craig Hodgetts, FAIA, of Hodgetts + Fung and the interior renovations of Robert Frost Auditorium. From left: Dana Nichols of H+F, CCUSD school board member Sue Robins, Hodgetts, Historical Society VP of Programs Hope Parrish, Cultural Affairs Commission chair Regina Klein, and Historical Society President Michelle Bernardin.



In May, the Society accepted a proclamation from the Culver City Council in recognition of Historic Preservation Month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's theme this year is "This Place Matters," and given that Culver City is about to celebrate our centennial year, we couldn't agree more!