



NEWS

Volume 36, No. 2. Spring 2015

A Great Loss: Our Sol and Martha Sigall

Martha Sigall passed away in December 2014, preceded by her Sol.

Martha Sigall, an energetic longtime CC resident began her career in animation in 1936 as an apprentice painter with Leon Schlesinger Productions, which was located at Warner Bros. on Sunset Boulevard. She took part in the development of characters like *Daffy Duck*, *Bugs Bunny*, *Elmer Fudd* and *Tweety*. Martha went from "journeyman painter" to "inker," tracing cartoon characters. From 1943 to the end of WWII, she worked at Graphic Films as a camera assistant on U.S. Navy training films. She met Sol in 1944.



At the end of the war, they married and Martha worked locally at MGM in the Cartoon Unit on Overland Avenue, while Sol attended UCLA on the G.I. Bill. Martha continued inking cartoons like *Tom and Jerry* for Hanna-Barbera. Martha and Sol moved to Culver City in 1949 and Martha took a "hiatus" to raise their babies, then arranged to freelance from home while the boys were young. Bob and Lee attended Culver City Schools.

Martha's lifetime commitment to "the industry" included serving with Sol as docents in their retirement at Warner Bros. Martha received the prestigious Annie Award in 2004. She wrote her book, *Living Life Inside the Lines: Tales From The Golden Age of Animation*, and of course the Sigalls gave freely as CC Historical Society members, serving as co-chairs most recently of the Museum/Archives. Martha loved children, so contributing to the Farragut Elementary School Art Program was a joy for her. She and Sol spent days working to identify hundreds of movie photos for the society using production numbers. We know we were very lucky to enjoy Martha and Sol and benefit from their generosity. To remember Sol and Martha, we have the Sigalls' Comcast interview scheduled to air in the Society Archives on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 1:30 PM.



April 15 General Meeting The Sorrento Market and the Story of Albert Vera Presented by Albert Vera, Jr.

Albert Vera, Jr. will tell the story of his father, Albert Vera, the founder of the Sorrento Market, at the general meeting of the Culver City Historical Society, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Memorial Building at 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City.

Albert Vera, an immigrant who came to America to pursue the American Dream created the famous market on Sepulveda Boulevard and the Vera Family holdings. He served time in the military, raised his family in Culver City and eventually became a member of the Culver City Council and Mayor of the city. Albert Jr. will present a power point presentation and discussion of the family's history with other members of the Vera family. Door prizes will be offered and there will be a drawing for Julie Lugo Cerra's cookbook *Fire Burn and Cauldon Bubble*. The public is invited to enjoy this free program and students are encouraged to attend. Entry is through the archives and resource center in the back parking lot.

For information call (310) 253-6941 or send an email message to info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.

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.

Acting Newsletter Editor

Joy Jacobs

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STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
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Welcome to Our New Members

Marianne Afifi
Steve Buscaino
Justine Giles
Eric and Susan Katcher Green
Linda Heisen
Doris Levy
Dave and Patrice Marquez
Susan Osborne - Autism Unites
Nan Williams



Your President's Message

By Michelle Bernardin

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! Your Historical Society volunteers have been making great use of the "cold" months. Sharon Shore and Mo de Koff have completed the gargantuan task of digitally cataloging the collection's costumes. One of Harry Culver's grandsons, Chris Wilde, was a guest speaker at our January 18 open Sunday. We had a great crowd, who laughed at Chris' stories and enjoyed the memorabilia he brought to share.

A few volunteers took up my call for help in the last newsletter issue and have been retyping articles from past newsletters, so that we continue to build our own history on our website. (Thanks to master typists Joan Jakubowski and Adrienne Bernardin! There's still more to do, so email me if you would like to join the fun from the luxury of your home computer!) By the way, have you checked out the website recently? I think you should! We just completed a thorough section on our marked historic sites (including Google maps, so that you can find them), and moved the online store as part of our site.

I called the first meeting of a Centennial subcommittee to explore the ways we can, as the Historical Society, participate in this once-in-a-lifetime, year-long celebration. Many great ideas were brought up and there's room for more. If you have any thoughts for events or projects that would be appropriate for us, please email me (michelle@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org).

Please note that the Archives will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 5, and will be open again on Sunday, April 19. Chris Wilde's talk was only the beginning – check out the calendar on the back page for our next open Sunday guest speaker!

Thank you for supporting YOUR Historical Society! As you just read with Martha and Sol Sigall, and for countless others, it makes a difference!

HELP WANTED

We are looking for a Newsletter Editor to manage this publication! Duties include wrangling writers (and their words), editing said words, managing layout, and working with our local printer. If interested, please email michelle@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org.

In Memorium

Tammie Battle
Ken Ruben

Time to Renew!

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2015, the enclosed envelope will make it convenient for you to send back your membership renewal, which was due in January. You can also renew online at www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org. Click on the word Membership in the left-hand column. There, you will be able to pay instantly with a credit card and save a stamp!

Your continued support is always greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Notes From Your City Historian

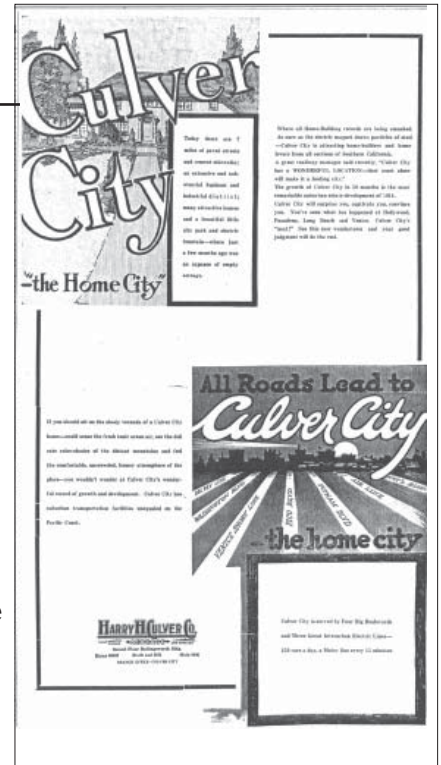
By Julie Lugo Cerra

Culver City's upcoming Centennial (2017) offers a little time to delve back into our city history. We are fortunate to have access to some incredible documents, ads, and family history on Harry H. Culver, our city founder. Culver, who was born in Milford, Nebraska in 1880, took a circuitous route to

California in 1910. The Society regularly displays local memorabilia, including a book of Culver's original ads dating back to 1913 and pages from the 1929 scrapbook of his active travels across the USA as president of the National Real Estate Association. These are amazing glimpses back into time!

Culver's study of the land pointed to the advantages of this chosen location, destined to become Culver City. He referred to it as "The Home City." The early "Culverites" had housing choices, with work opportunities – an early Culver "economic development" tool. In the ad pictured, the home (upper left) was actually a sketch of Culver's first house for his little family- he and his wife, Lillian, and their daughter, Patricia. The house was originally built on Delmas Terrace, a street in Culver City's downtown area, named for Delphin Delmas, one of Culver's business associates.

A young architect, Wallace Neff, was Culver's choice to design his Cheviot Hills mansion. Harry Culver had their Delmas Terrace home moved



Culver House on Delmas Terrace in 2002 visited by Harry Culver's grandson John Battle and family. We are saddened to learn of the death of Tammie Battle, John's wife, pictured next to John.

to the new location, to oversee the construction of their new 1928 residence. Neff convinced Culver to build a Spanish style home, which is featured in books on Neff. Neff, destined to become a famous architect, went on to design for many familiar names, like Darryl Zanuck, Harpo Marx, King Vidor, and Groucho Marx.

Our historical society has amassed a wealth of Culver information from many sources, starting with Pat Culver Battle, the Culvers' only child, through her two sons, John and Chris and grandson, Robert, who has become the family historian/ genealogist. Please stop in to enjoy our remarkable collection.



The Delmas Terrace home is still standing, but the Neff-designed Culver mansion is no longer in place.

Mark Your Calendar

Apr. 15: General Meeting and Program
Multi-Purpose Room, VMB, 7PM

May is Historic Preservation Month

July 15: General Meeting and Program
Multi-Purpose Room, VMB, 7PM

ARC OPEN DATES

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM

April 5 - ARC CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAY

April 19 *

May 3 **

May 17

June 7

June 21

July 5

July 19

*April 19 1:30PM George Jones will speak on the history of our local railroads. He will be available after for questions.

** Airing of Martha and Sol Sigall's Comcast interview at 1:30 PM.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20: Founders' Day Picnic (formerly known as our Annual "Picnic in the Park")



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On January 21, renowned historian Marc Wanamaker gave a "behind the scenes" presentation on the making of *Gone With The Wind* to celebrate the film's 75th anniversary to a packed meeting room of eager listeners.



Chris Wilde, one of Harry Culver's grandsons, was our guest speaker in the Archives and Resource Center on January 18 when he revealed interesting new accounts about his family.



The monthly "Walk With a Doc" on December 20, 2014, took a route around the city designed and narrated by City Historian Julie Lugo Cerra, which gave walkers a special history lesson. The next walk will be in Downtown Culver City on April 18th.