

Historical Highlights

Volume 35 No. 3 Published by the Culver City Historical Society Summer 2014

CULVER CITY CELEBRATES SUMMER!

MARK YOUR 2014 CALENDAR

JUL. 16: GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM:
THE CREATION OF CULVER CITY HIGH SCHOOL (VMB – 7 PM)

JUL. 27: ANNUAL "PICNIC IN THE PARK"
(VETS PARK 1 – 4PM)

AUG. 22-24: FIESTA LA BALLONA

SEP. 17: CULVER CITY'S ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

SEP. 21: HISTORICAL SOCIETY CAR RALLY TOUR / SCAVENGER HUNT

OCT. 15: GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM: TBA (VMB – 7 PM)

2014 ARC Open Dates

Call to confirm dates: (310) 253-6941

► 1st & 3rd Sundays, 1-3 pm ◀

Jul. 6 Jul. 20

Aug. 3 Aug. 17 Aug. 23-24 (Fiesta)

Sep. 7 Sep. 21 Oct. 5

Oct. 19 Nov. 2 Nov. 16

Dec. 7 Dec. 21

(Also by appointment)

To contact the Society visit:
info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
or Tel: (310) 253-6941, or visit our web:
www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.

M-G-M STUDIOS REMEMBERED



L-R: Co-VP, Programs, Hope Parrish; Oscar-winning cinematographer, Fred Koenekamp; Co-Author of M-G-M: Hollywood's Greatest Backlot, Stephen Sylvester; and Co-VP, Programs, Dennis Parrish.

Stephen Sylvester, co-author of *M-G-M: Hollywood's Greatest Backlot*, and Oscar-winning cinematographer Fred Koenekamp shared the spotlight at the Society's April 16 general meeting – to a standing-room only crowd.

Sylvester presented a short film and a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the history of the sound-stages and outdoor sets where Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced many of the world's most famous films, including many that Mr. Koenekamp worked on. It brought back memories for young and old alike.

~ JULY 16 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~

Special Program: "Creation of Culver City High and Its First Graduating Class '53"

Can it be 60 plus years since the first class graduated from Culver City High School in 1953? Yes, the class often called "the first class in and the first class out" is the topic for the next general meeting of the Culver City Historical Society on **Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Ave. in Culver City.**

The program will recall the beginnings of the Culver City High School and elaborate on its illustrious history, laying the foundations for the current extraordinary Culver City Unified School System. A trip down memory lane to the early 1950s in a PowerPoint presentation will illustrate the creation of Culver City High School and how the course was set for it to become one of the foremost schools in the area. There also will be a panel featuring former teachers and administrators from those early times, which will be moderated by Drayton Marsh '53, who will also describe the beginning of the sports program.

(cont'd on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Michelle Bernardin



Dear Members,

Summer is here (not that we had much of a winter)!

I look forward to seeing you at BOTH of our July events – the July 16 General Meeting and the Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 27! This is the first time that we are having the picnic separately on a Sunday, so that

our members can bring their families and don't have to fight traffic to get to the park! In August, we will be the coolest place to hang out at Fiesta La Ballona, figuratively and literally, if past scorching temperatures have shown. The ARC will be open during the Fiesta from 12noon-4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. And in September, get your scavenger team together because we are bringing back the Car Rally!

While we have an incredible amount of fun coming up, I would also like to encourage you to consider volunteering one hour a month on one of our working committees. The Museum or Costumes committees are great ways to work with the collection up close. If you are interested in interacting with school groups or putting your typing skills to good use, we have ways that you can help us. If you have attended our fundraisers over the last few years and like what we have done, our Development committee has very open ears for new ideas of fundraisers or merchandise.

This group only thrives and succeeds because of its volunteers. Your time is very valuable – we won't waste it!

As always, thank you for supporting your Culver City Historical Society!

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

Dennis Parrish, Co-Vice President, Programs for the Society, will explain how earlier classes were required to go to Hamilton High as there was no high school in Culver City. The Culver Junior High school class of 1949 went on to create the senior high school one grade at a time until it became the first graduating class in 1953.

Alums and former teachers from that era have been invited to attend and add comments.

The public is invited to enjoy the free program and students are encouraged to attend. The CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) will be briefly opened following the meeting. For more information, please call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or email us at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org. Also, visit our website: www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org for updates.



*Early construction of the
Culver City High School.*

Historical Highlights

Web: www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org

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The Culver City Historical Society, founded in 1980, is a non-profit membership organization created for the purpose of collecting, preserving and exhibiting the history of Culver City and its cultural and civic accomplishments.

The Society Newsletter is published quarterly.
Editor Judy Stangler

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Editor's Column

In addition to our annual Picnic in the Park, we will be staging a citywide Culver City Car Rally Tour / Fundraiser on Sunday, September 21. We held a similar event a few years back and it was a great success – it may just become an annual event! More information to come.

Culver City's Centennial is in 2017 and the Society is looking forward to making plans to participate and celebrate.

Remember, it's YOUR Historical Society—we can't succeed without YOU!

IN MEMORIAM

The Society sends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of George Petrelli.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Laura Boccaletti
Jessica Buchanan
Maureen Kluck
Fred Koenekamp
Chris Paine
Joan Pohas
Rocio Renteria
Debra Ziegler
Zip Realty/ Noel Boix

An ARC Update

by Julie Lugo Cerra
VP, Museum/ARC and
City Historian



WE REALLY ARE HISTORIC!

Let's talk about Oral History. Founding member and past president Lupe Smith started our oral history program when portable tape recorders were "the technology!" We also have interviews on file in VHS, Beta, DVD and paper format... Well, we were really TRYING to get into this century. And then something wonderful happened—Santa Monica College!

FITTING FOR MEMORIAL DAY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH!

Last year's participation in the **LA as Subject Archives Fair** brought us some wonderful connections. One was a professor at Santa Monica College, Sang Chi, who instituted an oral history class. We became a partner. This new class has netted us two interviews in the last month.

Our first student interviewer, Andrea Banda, who volunteered a day a week at the VA during her high school years, chose to tape two Culver City veterans, for eventual viewing online.

Fred Machado was the first. Fred, one of our members, and a descendant of Agustín Machado, (one of the founders of Rancho La Ballona), served in WWII and in Korea, in two branches of the armed services.



L-R: Oral History interviewer Andrea Banda with Veteran Fred Machado and SMC Oral History instructor Sang Chi, Ph.D.

Culver City resident Frank Perez, decorated for his service, grew up nearby, near the Hal Roach backlot, (off Robertson Blvd.), where he saw "Petey" (the "Our Gang" dog) roaming about. Watch our website for information on these special heroes and their insights.



Veteran Fred Perez with his niece, Josie, after oral history interview.

TOURS

Stop by the ARC to see the progress on our winged units. Pages now contain Jim Robertson's map, pages on the Native Americans, Early Settlers, and Harry H. Culver in addition to Bill Barnett's Railway pages. These are especially helpful with student tours, which began in early June. We are working on pages to illustrate Downtown Culver City, Historic Buildings and Sites and the movie studios. Onward and upward!



Above: Six groups of third-graders from the El Marino Language School visited the ARC to learn about Culver City history.

We are also opening for a Claremont tour in August, when we will provide a docent on their bus, to see a little more of CC after a Sony tour, with the last stop at the ARC.

In April, the ARC was the site of interviews by a Spanish reporter as she researched the Old Spanish Trail. Two local Californio descendants were interviewed. Other inquiries included research help for Cal State LA MSW students, with their last stop at the ARC. Thanks to Steve Rose and Carol Schwab for their added expertise.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCEPTS HONOR

The Culver City Historical Society accepted a proclamation from the Culver City Council in recognition of May being Historic Preservation month. Society President Michelle Bernardin (7th from the right) displayed the proclamation as members of the City Council and the Society looked on.



COMING UP:

Watch for timely displays on the filming of *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz* in the "Heart of Screenland." This year marks the 75th anniversary of the releases of these classic movies. Come visit! We will show off photos of some of our visiting "little people," especially Jerry Maren, the last of the "Munchkins," who has been so supportive!

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

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and supporting the Culver City Historical Society Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

We can't do it without YOU!

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

_____ Individual Member (\$20)
_____ Family Member (\$30)
_____ Youth Member (\$10)

_____ Individual Lifetime Member (\$300)
_____ Family Lifetime Member (\$500)
_____ Patron Member (\$100)
_____ Benefactor (\$1000)

_____ Organization (\$15)
_____ Business Member (\$50)
_____ Corporate Sponsor (\$500)

Name/Company: _____ Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State/Zip) _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to **Culver City Historical Society** and mail to

P.O. Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428. For further information, call (310) 253-6941 or email: info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.

Contributions of both historic & social significance as well as monetary donations are encouraged, and the CCHS IRS tax exempt status may make such contributions tax deductible.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES & RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)

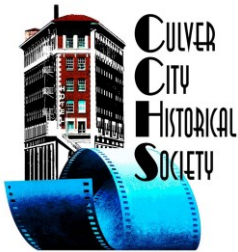
Veterans Memorial Building • 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA

- ▶ The 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3 pm, and by appointment.
- ▶ Free admission. (Enter from parking lot behind the VMB.)

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