

## “Walk with a Doc”.....December 20, 2014 jp/jlc

**Start:** Veterans Memorial Building (VMB) 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City

### **Walking Route:**

- **Start on Culver**, at the park area, as usual(Point out ARC for later visit )
- **Turn left on Coombs**,

(Note the Wende Museum site- former Armory across the street- Wende is a Cold War Museum, already in Fox Hills.)

- **Head to Coombs Park**

(Coombs.....name of an early family of CC. Dan Coombs was on the first board of trustees- his family home on Duquesne is recognized with Landmark status from the City. Coombs was a building contractor, and his brother was a city employee). Coombs descendants are still living in CC.

- **Cross Farragut- head right**; past Farragut Elementary School
- **Veer behind the school**, through parking lot **to the bridge** over Ballona Creek
- **Cross bridge.**

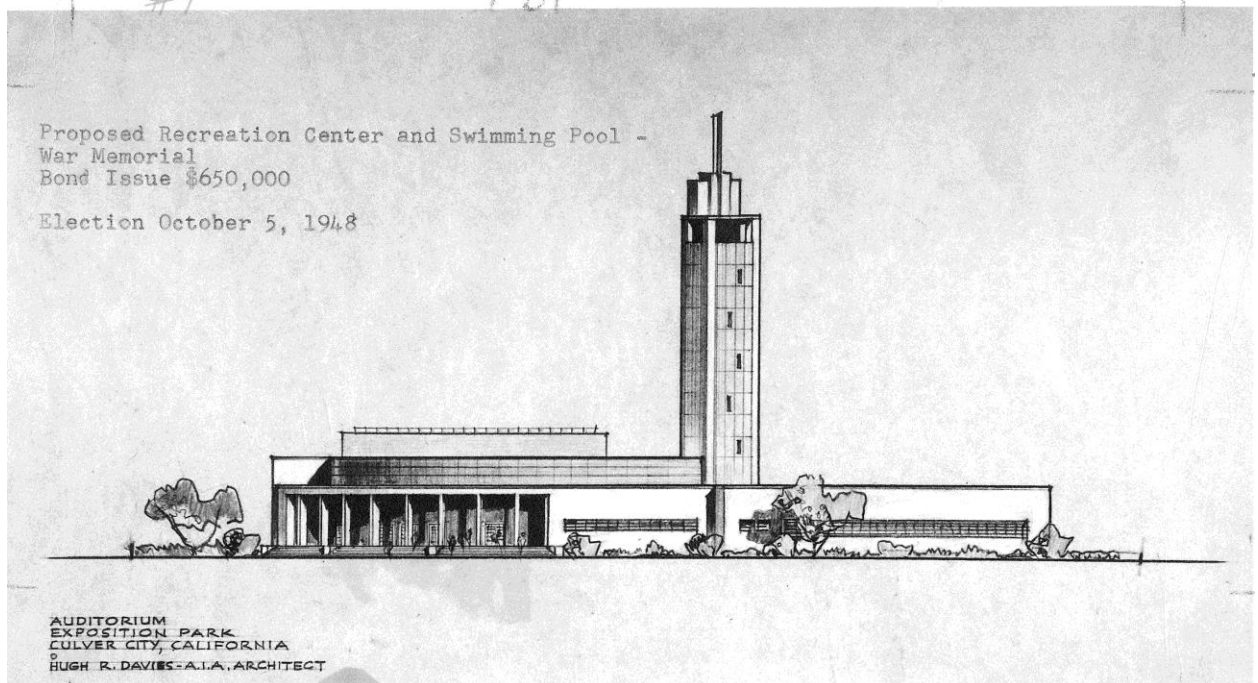
(Ballona Creek was named for Rancho La Ballona, the 14,000 acre rancho established by the Machado and Talamantes families circa 1819, under California's Spanish rule. Culver City was carved from two ranchos, La Ballona and Rincón de los Bueyes (Cattle Corner); the Army Corps of Engineers concreted the sides of the creek in the 1930s,( to keep it from meandering.)

- The **first bridge** over the creek at this location was built through an assessment district in the 1950s to facilitate a safe journey for our children to get to school. It has since been replaced- **Note the marker.**
- **Look for Dick Van Dyke Blvd.** marker in concrete as move onto sidewalk- it was a surprise/hoax played on Mr. Van Dyke.....who was bussed in for the fun.
- **Turn right onto Ocean**, cross at corner of Rhoda Way, across from park.
- Note **Lindberg Park on the right**
- **Lindberg Park** began as 2 acres dedicated by the Title and Guarantee Trust Co., accepted by the city in 1927. The city received six added lots at no cost, extending the park to Cota St. in 1938. The reasons for the naming is unclear, and although Charles Lindbergh did visit Culver City, it is spelled differently- but over the years the spelling has been written bothways, with and without the “h” at the end. Research is ongoing.....
- Behind the hut, there was an underground shooting range, which has been dismantled in this century. The rock/concrete work is attributed to a WPA project. This park's history began just after Victory (now Carlson) Park became the first city park. There is a marker in the park to memorialize a greatly loved local resident, Woody Tolkien.

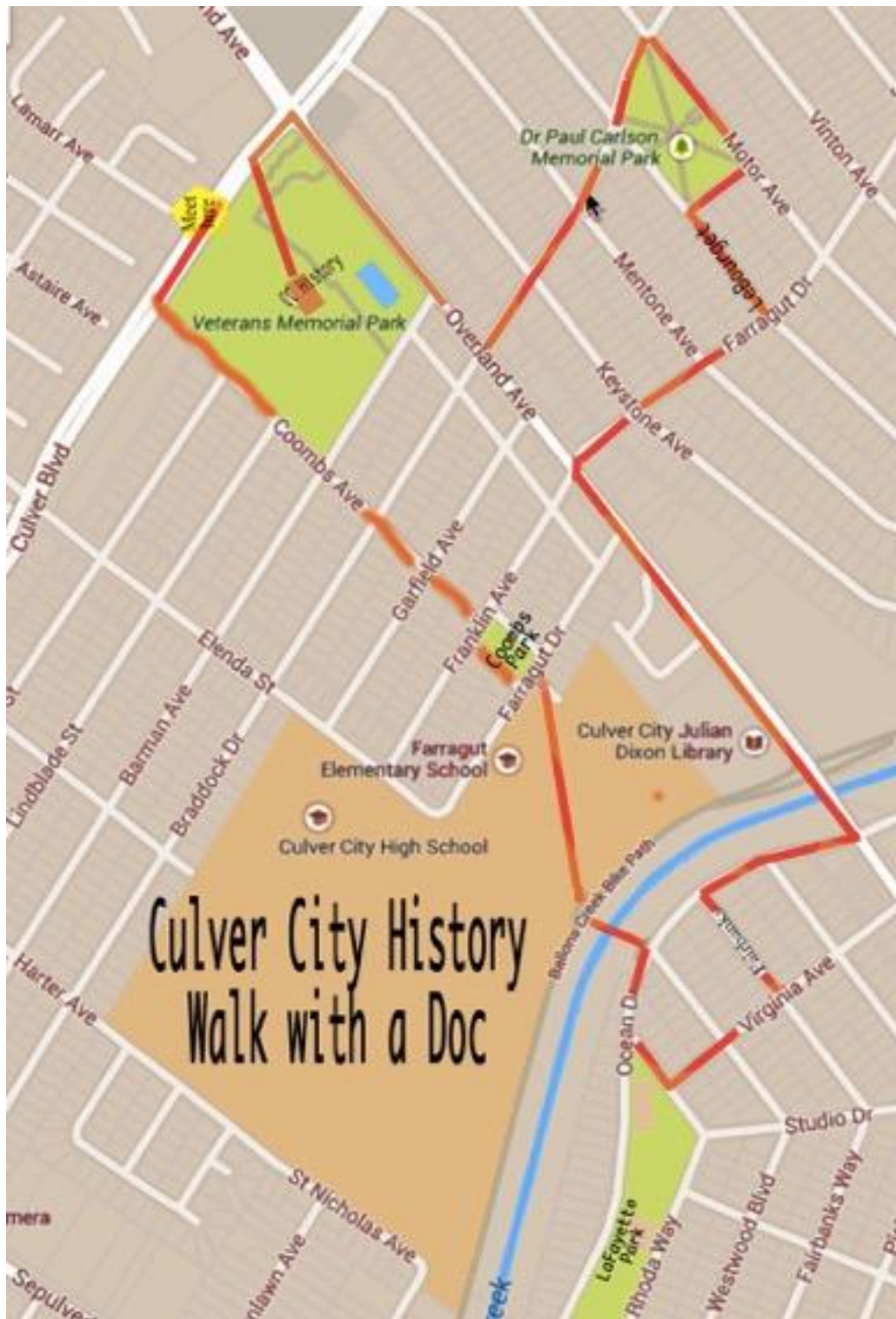


- **Walk straight to Virginia, make a left**
- **Walk to Fairbanks, head left** back to creek
- **Turn Right on Ocean to Overland;** note this area housed a Civil War campsite, named **Camp Latham-** the marker is located on the corner of the Rotary Plaza, across Overland at Virginia.
- **Cross Ocean**
- **Walk north, passing the Culver City Julian Dixon Library;** note Japanese Meditation Garden- a gift from Kaizuka, our sister city in Japan (our second sister city relationship, which began in 1965). The library was moved from its location north on Overland (now the Teen Center) in 1972. The meditation garden was designed in Kaizuka, and the hardscape was shipped to us. It was assembled with the help of a local Japanese gardeners association. The garden was dedicated in 1974. This became the CC Julian Dixon Library after the passing of Congressman Dixon. The Library will close soon for a scheduled re-design.
- **Continue past CC Adult School Offices,** once a County Assessor's office, in front of condos which are on the site of early baseball fields, which were moved to Culver City Park (Bill Botts Field); **continue to Franklin/Farragut**
- **Cross Overland, heading east**
- **Turn left at Le Bourget**
- **Turn Right onto Park Avenue,** crossing to **Dr. Paul Carlson Park** walk to Marker commemorating our early families (Chamber of Commerce plaque, 1963), to Motor Avenue along park (or through walkway) heading west to **Dr. Paul Carlson sign on Braddock** (note marker below, CCHS Historic Site #12, which tells the history, from open space, traversed by our Native Americans (Gabrielinos), to Spanish ranch land to a horse racing track in the early 1920s, to the "**Speedway**" racetrack that was moved from Beverly Hills), which became **Victory Park**, the first park in Culver City. It was renamed for Dr. Paul Carlson, a medical missionary who lost his life in the Congo in the 1960s. Mrs. Carlson attended the dedication of the marker.

- Early homes began to spring up in the “Carlson Park area” in the 1930s.
- **Walk west on Braddock to Overland**, cross and head north, noting the 1950 plunge on the left, (not the first swimming pool in the city!), and **former library** which became first **CC Senior Center, now Teen Center**.
- Note the bronze markers on the 1950 **Veterans Memorial Building** in honor of our Veterans of many wars, as well as the monument to the **Western Hemisphere Marathon**, which began in the 1940s.
- The Veterans Memorial Building opened in 1950, concurrently with the swimming pool. This was the most recent marking by your Historical Society. It is Historic Site Number 13 by the Culver City Historical Society. The marker is located in the planter- please read. Huell Howser did an episode on Culver City and it featured this building- he even went up the elevator to the top of the tower, and visited the Historical Society Archives where this tour ends today. You may enter at the back of the Vets Building, off the parking lot. The Culver City Historical Society, a non-profit, established in 1980, operates the Archives – with all volunteers. There is currently a case devoted to our city founder Harry H. Culver, another with **Wizard of Oz** “Munchkins” who have returned often to Culver City. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the making of the movie.



- A sketch for the Veterans Memorial Building which was intended to offer a community space, and a tower to look over into the MGM Lot#1 (Sony Pictures today) and Lot #2 ( where the new Senior Center, Studio Estates and other housing is today.)



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