



# NEWS

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## Barbecue Sauce Lost by Ryan Vincent

With Labor Day having signaled the unofficial end of barbeque season, we wanted to take a look back at much loved and much missed Stern's Famous Barbecue.

Located at 12658 West Washington Blvd., Stern's attracted fans from far and wide. Opened in 1922 by Isidor Stern, a Texas butcher, Stern's eventually included a 32-room motel as part of the operation. Isidor's nephew, Hal, was the last owner before a 1983 fire led to the restaurant's closure. Though the restaurant could have been rebuilt, their kitchen setup was grandfathered in, and updated fire codes meant the recipes couldn't be replicated. Hal Stern moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, where he became a real estate broker and horseman.

Stern's barbecue sauce is the legend that lingers, which many recall as being brown-orange instead of the usual red color, served hot with meaty bits. Many have speculated that the sauce contained XLNT chili con carne. Or maybe there was Coca-Cola? Possibly mustard?

Users of roadfood.com were able to contact Hal Stern in an attempt to get the recipe. The secret, according to Hal, were drippings and trimmings from the meat that were ground up and added to the sauce. He was reluctant to divulge the list of other ingredients, but also stated that, since their barbecued meat was included in the sauce, it is impossible to replicate in any case.

While Stern's Famous Barbecue is long gone, Culver City's barbecue tradition lives on. Outdoor Grill, celebrating its twentieth year in operation, opened just down Washington Blvd. from where Stern's was located, Santa Maria Barbecue has been going strong for over a decade, and over the past year both Holy Cow BBQ and Maple Block Meat Co. opened on Sepulveda Blvd. And for those who wish to continue the sauce search, there is even a Facebook group (facebook.com/sternsfamousbbq) started by Isidor's great-grandson Jeff Mudrick, who longs for the days of "Hickory Smoked Meats for a Robust Treat," along with everyone else in the know.



Sam Stern is pictured on the right. Do you recognize the other two men from the early days at Stern's?



Denice Renteria



Sharon Shore



Louise Coffey-Webb

## October 19, 2016 General Meeting and Program Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM

### Costumes Galore...MGM and More

The Culver City Historical Society will present a special multi-faceted program featuring the care and display of Culver City's MGM costume collection by Denice Renteria, Costumes Chair, and Sharon Shore, past Costumes Chair, plus a presentation by Louise Coffey-Webb, former Society President.

Renteria, a prop master for Knott's Berry Farm, and Shore, an internationally and nationally known conservator of textiles, will begin with a visual presentation and discussion about the costume collection held in the Archives and Resource Center (ARC), and will show several costumes. Coffey-Webb, Costume Historian Project Manager for the James G. Gallanos Foundation, and author of *Managing Costume Collections: An Essential Primer*, will give a lively illustrated introduction to the joys and trials of costume collections of all shapes and sizes.

Coffey-Webb will be selling her book at a special price and will sign them.

The ARC will be open after the meeting where additional costumes will be on display.

Members and the public are invited to enjoy this free program. Entry is through the ARC from the back parking lot.

## 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  
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Ellen & Arthur Litman, VP, Museum/ARC  
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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  
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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

## In Memoriam

Richard Kemmer  
Charles Rozaire, Ph.D.



## Your President's Message

By Michelle Bernardin

Dear Members and Friends,

The year-long celebration of our city's centennial has commenced! The Historical Society has no intention of overlooking this auspicious marker in our city's history. We can't wait to share activities with you as we roll them out over the course of the next year! If you are interested in joining the working group and participating in any of the subcommittees for the various activities, please reach out!

The next time we blink, it will be 2017. This organization will enter its 37th year, poised with excitement for this milestone in our city's history. As a member, you are always invited to attend a general meeting. Your opinions (and your help) are invaluable to the longevity and continued purpose of this organization.

As the temperatures start to "dip," it's also not too early to think about your holiday gift giving! Consider the Historical Society as your one-stop shopping destination. Visit the gift shop at the Archives or online at [www.CCHSstore.com](http://www.CCHSstore.com). Also, if you shop on Amazon anytime through our dedicated link (it's on our website – look for the Amazon logo), a percentage of your purchase comes to the Society. Shop and support!

I encourage you to follow us on the various social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), as we share plans for partnerships, events, and programs that will celebrate Culver City and its rich history. 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.)

I look forward to seeing you at our October 19 General Meeting and Program. As always, thank you for supporting your Historical Society!

## Hot Off the Presses!

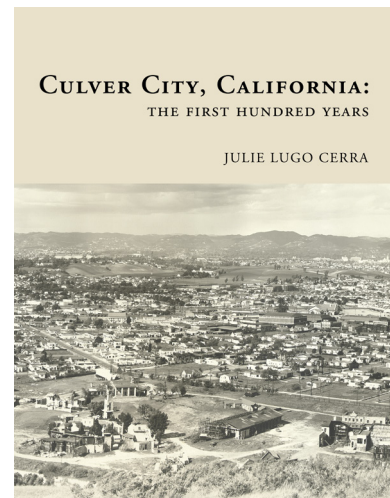
*Culver City, California: The First Hundred Years*

Beautifully written by Julie Lugo Cerra, City Historian.

Sold by the Culver City Chamber of Commerce and the Culver City Historical Society \$49.95 plus tax.

Look for a book signing during our holiday shopping day on Sunday, December 4!

With thanks to the Culver City Chamber of Commerce.



## Welcome Our New Members

Annie Castaneda  
Hillside Memorial Park  
and Mortuary





## Notes From Your City Historian

By Julie Lugo Cerra

### Walk with a Doc

As you may be aware, "Walk with a Doc" started in Columbus, Ohio, and we are privileged to have an active program in Culver City thanks to Vice Mayor Jeff Cooper, Jeffrey Penso, MD, Sarah Carpenter, MD, and Grace Elliot. The walks have traditionally taken place on the third Saturday of the month, from Veterans Memorial Park. After a warm-up with Brandon Webb, and pertinent info from one of the "Docs," participants enjoy the suggested route at their own pace.

The Culver City Historical Society's first partnering with this program was designed to thank organizer Grace, and ended with a tour of the Historical Society Archives. "Doc" Penso, a member of the Historical Society, has encouraged partnerships with other walks (expanded walks that focused on local points along the local route from Veterans Park, and others through Downtown Culver City, The Culver Studios, and the Helms District). In honor of our Centennial, our Culver City Historical Society will partner again to offer a unique historic perspective to selected tours during this celebratory year.

October 15, 2016, at 8:45AM, Downtown Culver City will be the first of these informative exercises! As your city historian and founding member of the Society, I am pleased to act as your tour guide. We will begin this Centennial walk from City Hall through Downtown. (Complimentary parking is available under City Hall). Culver City Historical Society docents will be stationed along the route to offer insight into some of the historic sites along the way. For example, past president Stu Freeman will be stationed at the Akasha restaurant entrance of the Hull Building.



The first city hall, and police and fire department station was located on Van Buren Street.



Hull Building

Stu will offer the Freeman family perspective, ownership that dates back to his grandfather's purchase of the historic structure. If you would like to be a docent in front of another historic site, please call the Historical Society office (310-253-6941 or email [info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org) with your contact information). To get more information about being a walker in Walk with a Doc, check their website or Facebook page ([facebook.com/wwadcc](https://facebook.com/wwadcc))!

## Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 15: Walk With a Doc  
Meet at City Hall, 8:45AM

L.A. as Subject Archives Bazaar  
Doheny Memorial Library, USC, 9AM-5PM

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

Dec. 4: Do your holiday shopping with us!  
(Wrapping and shipping available that day)  
Archives and Resource Center, 1-3PM

Jan. 18: 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

Oct. 2	Dec. 4
Oct. 16	Dec. 18
Nov. 6	Jan. 1 (CLOSED for New Year's)
Nov. 20	Jan. 15

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(Below) This photo does not do justice to these dresses from *Les Girls* (MGM, 1957). *Les Girls* won the Academy Award for Best Costume Design for Orry-Kelly. On display now through the beginning of December.



(Right) A Rosalie Utterback original made in 1951 in Los Angeles. This is one of five princess dresses made for the first Fiesta La Ballona. This was displayed during Fiesta weekend.



(Below) July 20 General Meeting & Program featured Earl & Virgie Eskridge & Culver City Flowers. Pictured, from left: Mike, Patty, Tami, Chuck, Virgie & Earl Eskridge, Hope Parrish (VP, Programs), Bill & Stan Eskridge, & Dennis Parrish.

