



Culver City Historical Society Newsletter



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From Our Archives: Looking Back (2006)

By Julie Lugo Cerra



When we are young we often ask questions about the past, or what my little brother used to call "the Olden Days?". We want to know what life was like before us. And in Culver City, a lot happened to make this a city – before us.

After Harry Culver garnered support for the town destined to carry his name, things needed to be done! In 1913, Culver filed "Main Street" (formerly a part of Rancho La Ballona) with the offices of the Los Angeles County Recorder. The next year, the people in Palms voted to become a part of Los Angeles, while Culver City remained independent, just as Culver planned. In 1915, filmmaker Thomas Ince, in a deal with Harry Culver, built the colonnade as the entry to Triangle Studios (now Sony Pictures), a venture with Mack Sennett and D.W. Griffith. In 1916, Culver City Grammar School opened with six rooms, and Mrs. Dan Coombs was

elected president of its newly formed PTA.

On August 13th, 1917, the Board of Supervisors ordered an election to be held on September 8th. The question was whether this should be a city, and if that passed, the winners for elected office could take their oaths. The first elected Board of Trustees numbered five. They were R.P. Davidson, Dan F. Coombs, Walter Edwards, V.R. Day, and B.J. Higuera. The other two elected officials were City Clerk Chas. F. Shillito, and City Treasurer C. N. Rosenthal. And the work of the city really began!

The Trustees (later known as the city council) adopted their first city resolution to provide for the appointment for a city attorney at \$50/month. It did not take long before the need for city offices became clear. Resolution #4 leased the "upper floor without the projection room" of the "Culver Theatre", from Fannie A. Henderson to do the business of the city. The building was located on the

site of what is now the landmark Culver Hotel. The rate was \$15 per month, which was published in the Culver City Call newspaper. The theatre photo appears in Charles A. Midgely's scrapbook, found in Washington State. It tells of his family's trip to California circa 1920. The page begins, "This is Thos. Ince's little theatre where the actors go to see themselves in their new production. It is located near the studio and has a seating capacity of nearly 300.



1917, Culver City's first city office

Note the billboards on either side of the lobby. We leave Culver City for Santa Monica and the little city of Inceville where Mr. Ince first started out in the field of picture producing."

The studio referenced appears to be the Thomas H. Ince Studios, now The Culver Studios. Inceville was located where Sunset Boulevard meets Pacific Coast Highway today. The photo is courtesy of Todd Spielberg who had carried it in Culver City, now the Heart of Screenland!

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting and Program:

ADRIAN: AMERICAN DESIGNER - HOLLYWOOD ORIGINAL

Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, Tuesday, July 18th at 7PM



Adrian and one of his starlets.

In the early days of Motion Pictures, films were known for their beautiful and elaborate costumes. They would often set the fashion trend for the era and the public would try to imitate their favorite stars by dressing in their style. Film Costume Designers became as famous as the stars they dressed. Some designers were so famous they went by only one name. On July 18th, the Culver City Historical Society will honor one of those famous and talented Costume Designers, ADRIAN. Richard Adkins, former curator of The Hollywood Heritage Museum will present a pictorial look into the designer whose MGM credit was "Gowns by ADRIAN". During his tenure at MGM from 1925-1942, ADRIAN designed costumes for all the top studio stars, Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer, Jean Harlow and many others. He is best known for *The Wizard of Oz* and over two hundred other MGM films. Following his time designing for film, he turned to commercial fashion and became known as the third most successful American designer of His era. Richard Adkins will give us a glimpse into the life and career of ADRIAN starting with his time at MGM in Culver City and beyond. Please be our guest for this free, don't miss program.

President's Message



Greetings to All,

After the last printing, our friend, mentor, and honorary City Historian, Julie Lugo Cerra, passed away on March 27. This has been a very difficult time for us all. Our continued prayers go out to Julie's family and our community. It was suggested that we create a scholarship fund in Julie's memory which has been well received. We made it just under the wire this year. I am pleased to announce that with your contributions and our collaboration with the Culver City Community Scholarships, we

presented our first scholarship of \$1000 to Josie Peinemann, class of 2023. We hope to continue this scholarship fund for many years to come.

Our program in April was standing room only. I know Julie would have been as excited as we were to see all of your faces in person again! Dennis is thrilled that this program has had over 600 views on YouTube to date! Please join us on July 18th, for our look into the life of ADRIAN.

In May, Historic Preservation Month, your Society was recognized by our City Council, Christine Byers, and our Cultural Affairs Commission for our work in the historic preservation of our city.

Our internship program with Culver City High School is thriving. We had four amazing students join us this year! Taj Neufeld graduated this year, and we wish him a bright future and we hope he will come back and visit us from time to time.

We are grateful to so many of you, who continue to donate cherished items to our Society. From watercolor paintings, photos, yearbooks, menus to matchbooks, these donations are vital in telling your Culver City story. Your financial contributions will help us with the supplies needed to preserve them!

It takes a village!

Hope M. Parrish

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.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

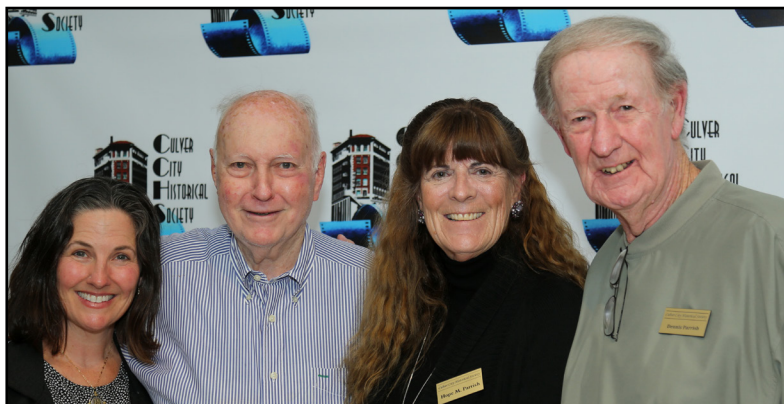
Brant Vickers

IN MEMORIAM

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Jerry Dealey
Carmen Lucero
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STAY CONNECTED

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facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety
twitter @histofculvrcity
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Fathers and daughters of Culver City Historical Society!
Heather Coombs, Ronald Coombs (grandson of Dan Coombs, early developer and City Trustee of CC), Hope M. Parrish, and Dennis Parrish

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE



We depend on your membership and donations to keep the archives running. If you are a Ralphs shopper and have an online account you can designate the Culver City Historical Society as your "Community Contribution." Every dollar counts!

This is a great way to help your Society without any extra cost to you.

Historical Highlights



Full house at the General Meeting and Event Program hosted by Dennis Parrish.



Thank you to all our volunteers including Jack Bommarito and Mareen Fleming.



Janet Hoult, Emerita Poet Laureate, gives her signed poetry book to the lucky raffle winner!



Madisen Matsuura, Valerie Meyer, Margie Hodges, and Mara Bommarito, CCHS volunteers and Culver High grads!



CCHS receives Proclamation at the May Historic Preservation Month.



Michele Cerra Lachoff (daughter of Julie Lugo Cerra) and Hope M. Parrish present Josie Peinemann with the JLC Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Volunteers Needed: If you are a resident with spare time on your hands, we could use your help identifying people in photos that we have in the Museum's collection. We would love your help! Please contact me directly at hope@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org.



P.O. Box 1356 Culver City, CA 90232 • info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org • (310) 253-6941

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ARC OPEN DATES: 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1–3PM

July 2 and 16, Aug. 6 and 20, Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 8 and 15

July 18th: General Meeting and Program

Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

Aug. 25th-27th: "Fiesta La Ballona"

Veterans Memorial Park

Sept. 20th: Culver City's 106th Birthday

Oct. 17th: General Meeting and Program

Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

Oct. 28th: "LA as Subject"

Doheny Memorial Library, 10AM

Supporting Sponsors, Donors and Business Members

These fine Culver City area businesses support our work to preserve Culver City history for future generations.
Show your support by your patronage of their services and products.

Benefactor

The Culver Studios Ryan Smith (310) 473-8900
Denice Renteria Denice Renteria
Meghan Sahli-Wells and Karim Sahli The Sahli Family

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Culver City Exchange Club Dr. Bob Montgomery (310) 499-4840
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Business Members

Anne Tower Productions, Inc. Anne Tower (310) 699-9261
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Tower Insurance Associates Janice Beighey (310) 837-6101
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Jeff Cooper (310) 344-8033
The Wende Museum Justin Jampol (310) 216-1600

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

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and support the Culver City Historical Society Archives and Resource Center (ARC). We can't preserve local history without you!

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

☐ Benefactor (\$1,000 +)

☐ Corporate Sponsor (\$500)

☐ Family Lifetime Member (\$500)

☐ Individual Lifetime Member (\$300)

☐ Patron Member (\$100)

☐ Business Member (\$50)

☐ Family Member (\$35)

☐ Individual Member (\$25)

☐ Non Profit Organization (\$15)

Name/Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Voluntary Contribution to Museum Fund \$ _____

Voluntary Contribution to Julie Lugo Cerra Memorial Fund \$ _____

Please check type of membership and enclose your check payable to:
The Culver City Historical Society, P.O. Box 1356, Culver City, CA 90232

Tax Deductible 501(c)(3) #95-4188800

Or join online at CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership