



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Close Encounters of the Elvis Kind

By Maureen (Miller) Fleming

Growing up in the Heart of Screenland has its perks. Like getting to watch Elvis Presley at work. Elvis was on the Culver City lots a few times. For scenes from *Jailhouse Rock*, *It Happened at the World's Fair*, *Viva Las Vegas*, *Harum Scarum*, *The Trouble with Girls*, and rehearsals at MGM Studios in 1970 for *That's the Way It Is* before performing the special live in Las Vegas.

Jo Anne Lillie Fogarty recounts: "The most fun experience I had working at MGM was being stuck in a stage with my workmate. They suddenly closed the doors and said 'Lights!' From a corner we watched Elvis perform the opening song to *It Happened at the World's Fair*. It was one-take, and all applauded the King. When the doors opened we were able

to escape without getting in trouble for being on a closed set.

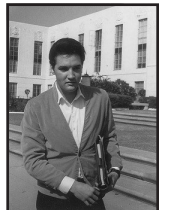
My sister Beverly was one of the lucky teens to eyewitness the scene pictured below from *Viva Las Vegas*, being filmed at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, from a door just to the left of the stage. She describes them rehearsing the scene over and over and they let her and a small group watch. Afterwards, Elvis came outside and spoke to them. Beverly fondly remembers, "He was so nice and handsome."



Joy Agnew warmly recalls: "It was 1963. We were 13 and waiting for a bus at Overland and Washington when we saw Elvis lean out the window of his limo and say 'HI GIRLS!'"

You can see the Culver City stages and backlots in some of Elvis' films. He swam in Esther Williams' swimming pool in *Jailhouse Rock* on MGM Lot 2 and ran all over 40-acres in *Harum Scarum*, forever linking him to the city's history. A small town embraced Elvis, was impacted by his visits, his genuine kind and playful nature and enjoyed his marvelous talent.

Thank you, Elvis.
Thank you very much.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 – Installation, Annual Meeting, and Program



Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM

Did you know that at one time the government almost destroyed 16mm military training films spanning decades? Luckily they were not lost to history thanks to Nick Spark, President of Periscope Film, who will discuss how the company was formed, how the films were preserved, and show clips from its holdings.

The name of the company is rooted in the fact that their first acquisition was a set of films related to the United States Submarine Service. Since then, the company has saved thousands of films and made dozens available on DVD. Besides providing stock footage to companies including Disney, BBC, The History Channel, Discovery, and PBS, it has also given veterans a chance to reconnect with their past.

Please join us for this program which promises to be fascinating and entertaining.

Please note: this program is on Tuesday, January 17, 7PM.

Before the program begins, we will have a short Installation of Officers ceremony for the 2023-25 board.

The public is invited to this free program. Regardless of vaccination status, L.A. County Public Health recommends that people continue to wear masks that fit and filter well in all indoor public places.



Nick Spark

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Happy New Year to our Members,
Sponsors, and Friends,

Reflecting, We had a wonderful year. We gained, members, volunteers, partnerships, and many new acquisitions. One partnership was with Hackman Capital Partners – The Culver Studios. Some may remember the movie set pieces hidden away on the Culver Studios lot for nine decades. We are happy to report the “Gone with the Wind” finale window has found a new home.

Continuing our partnership with Culver High School's internship program, we thank Adrienne Madrid. Our docent Madisen Matsuura came to us through this program and is now an active part of our Costume team and downtown tours!

Speaking of tours, we want to thank Denice Renteria, VP Development, for introducing us to Jim Shanman, CC Walk & Rollers. We have collaborated on a few tours, even one on bikes!

2023 was about the yearbook. Member Sue (Scott) Richards delivered a collection of yearbooks from the CC Alumni organization. Cindy (Sandersier) Tress, daughter of Tom “Coach” Sandersier, donated her father's Culver Junior High year books from his teaching days. On top of that, Roberta (Bobbi) March Class of '54, wife to Drayton March first class of 1953, whose father, Dr. Drayton E. March, our first principal of Culver Junior High (1949-1969), donated his yearbooks and personal collection. Thank you!

Special thanks to our Board of Directors and team of volunteers, for their dedication to the Society. Clare Denk and Mark Morris presented four great programs this year, which can be viewed on YouTube. Valerie Meyer and Madisen Matsuura displayed seasonal costumes to enjoy. Tami Eskridge and Jeanne Conklin continue to diligently put our acquisitions into the database.

We look forward to our open Sundays and programs, sharing with you our new displays!

Happy New Year!

– Hope



Jeanne Conklin and Tami Eskridge at the Culver City Chamber of Commerce EXPO, September 14, 2022 (Hope 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.

Newsletter Editors

Michelle Bernardin, Ryan Vincent

Newsletter Design

Sue Slutzky

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hope M. Parrish, President
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INTERNS

Abigail Cregor, Madisen Matsuura

HOW TO CONTACT US

T (310) 253-6941, leave a message
F (310) 253-6942
info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
P.O. Box 1356, Culver City, CA 90232

STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety
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instagram.com/culvercityhistoricalsociety

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

Welcome Our New Members

Bruce Sheldon
Annette Toussounian
Linda Wehbi

RECENT EVENTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Photos courtesy of Denice Renteria, Clare Denk, and Hope Parrish

Come visit our new *The Wizard of Oz* display before January 17!



Engineer Fernando Benitez and Firefighter Kelly Cisneros, October General Meeting



L-R Marty Greenberger, Captain Daniel Dobbs, Jim Forte, October General Meeting

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The envelope in this newsletter will make it convenient for you to send back your membership renewal, which is due in January 2023. You can also do this online! Please go to our website at CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership. There, you will be able to pay instantly with your credit card and save a stamp! You don't need to renew if you are a Lifetime member, but please consider making a donation. We count on the support of our members to be able to maintain the Archives, and to continue the promotion and preservation of Culver City history.

Your continued support is always greatly appreciated.



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 17 – Installation, Annual Meeting, and Program
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

April 18 – General Meeting and Program
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

ARC OPEN DATES – 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1–3PM
Jan 15 (closed Jan. 1), Feb. 5 and 19, March 5 and 19,
April 2 and 16



Support (at no extra cost to you!)



We depend on your membership and donations to keep the archives running. You can also build on your support in two small ways that don't cost extra. If you are a Ralphs shopper and have an online account you can designate the Culver City Historical Society as your "Community Contribution." If you are an Amazon shopper, go to smile.amazon.com and login to your account. Under "Your Account," go to "AmazonSmile." From there, you can designate Culver City Historical Society as your charity. Every dollar counts! Both programs are a great way to help your Society without any extra cost to you.

Business Member Roster

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

Benefactor

The Culver Studios Ryan Smith (310) 473-8900

Supporting Corporate and Non Profit Sponsors

Culver City Exchange Club Dr. Bob Montgomery (310) 499-4840
History For Hire Pam and Jim Elyea (818) 765-7767
Sony Pictures Entertainment Kristin Cavanaugh (310) 244-5368

Supporting Business Members

Cavanaugh Realtors Dannie Cavanaugh (310) 837-7161
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Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Jeff Cooper (310) 606-9479
The Wende Museum Justin Jampol (310) 216-1600
Law Offices of Ronald K. Ziff Ronald K. Ziff (310) 342-2819

Please 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!

- ☐ 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)
☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name/Company _____

Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Voluntary Contribution to Museum 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

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