



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No. 4
Fall 2019

Marking #14

By Julie Lugo Cerra, Historic Sites Chair

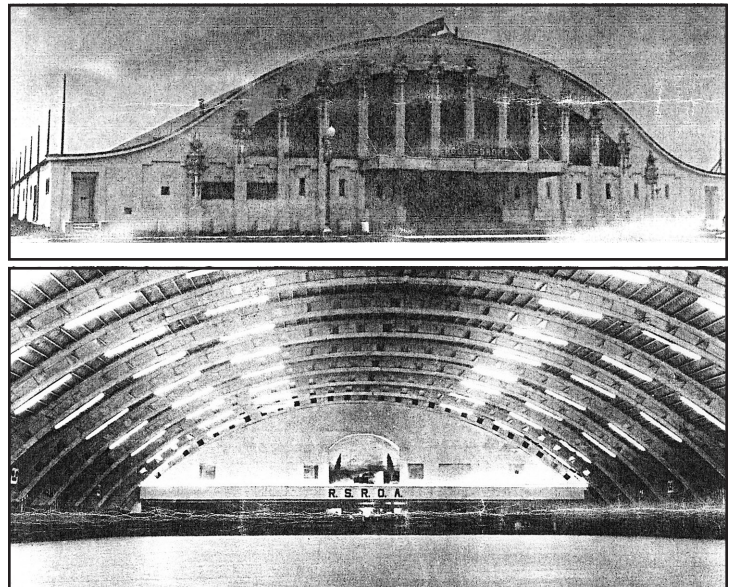
As a founding member of our Culver City Historical Society, it is hard to express the depth of my great pride as we plan the marking of Historic Site #14, the Rollerdrome.

The Rollerdrome opened in 1928 on land annexed to Culver City in 1924, first inhabited by Tongva Native Americans. It could accommodate more than 200 people and became an important fixture in our social scene. The site of the Rollerdrome became Tellefson Park, built and named during the U.S. Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Michael Tellefson served Culver City as city attorney, mayor, and chief administrative officer. If you lived on Irving Place, you might have known the Tellefsons.

As a researcher, I can honestly say that residents and visitors who spent time at the Rollerdrome always have wonderful stories to tell—from the dress code (no jeans), to their birthday parties and skating competitions! We have gathered detailed information and memories from notable residents like Virgie Eskridge, Ethel Ashby, Jean Barker, and many others—like the Rollerdrome's organ, which became a reality in 1929, a few years after it opened. Most even remember the name of Mr. Osterloh, the organist who played music for "Couples Skate," "Singles Skate," and "All Skate."

A kind donor parted with his sister's skates, an amazing gift to our society, still housed in the original case! The skates bring back memories to the delight of many visitors! We will make sure it is on display again as we mark the site.

We have been working with our wonderful city staff, headed by City Manager John Nachbar, and our Parks and Recreation staff, headed by Corey Lakin and Patrick Reynolds. We look forward to unveiling the marker before the year's end (before some planned upgrades to the playground) and hope you join us for the celebration. Check our website and on social media for the big announcement!



Rollerdrome, exterior and interior (Culver City Historical Society)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16, 2019 – General Meeting and Program The Animation History of MGM Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM

The MGM Cartoon Department brought the world Tom & Jerry, Droopy, Barney Bear and many more characters loved the world over.

Legends of hand-drawn animation including Hanna and Barbera, Tex Avery, and Chuck Jones were responsible for hours of animated shorts, some of which were filmed in 3-strip Technicolor, some produced in CinemaScope, and some won the Academy Award for Best Animated Shorts.

Join us as animation historian Jerry Beck gives a talk and video presentation on the animation history of MGM, including a tribute to beloved painter, inker, and Society member Martha Sigall.

Jerry Beck is a writer, animation producer, college professor, and author of more than 15 books on animation history. He is a former studio executive with Nickelodeon Movies and Disney, and has written for *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Variety*. He has curated cartoon home video compilations and has lent his expertise to dozens of special feature documentaries and audio commentaries. Beck is currently on the faculty of Cal Arts, teaching animation history.

The public is invited to this free program. The entrance to the ARC is from the back parking lot.



(Jerry Beck)

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Dear Members and Friends:

My very best wishes to all of you as we approach fall and 2020! We have had a great year!

As the Society continues to grow, we are involved with local and citywide events, requiring volunteers. Life is busy, and I know this firsthand. But for the Society to continue to be viable, we need you! I know many of you would consider this opportunity but think, "I don't know our city's history. How can I be of any help?" Well, it's simple –

you start by showing up, and we promise to share our knowledge about our city so you can pass it on to others. If you love Culver City as much as we do, I encourage you to join us.

This is also election time for our 2020-2022 Board. We have a few openings that are vital to our Society:

VP, Development: Manages merchandise sold online and in our Archives store, and develops ideas for events and fundraising, including the Founder's Day Picnic. This is a voting position.

VP, Museum and Archives: Works with the collection and displays in the museum and manages the open hours each month. This is a voting position.

VP, Programs: Selects program topics that are presented at the quarterly General Meetings. This is a voting position.

Communications Chair: Keeps the Historical Society's good name out in the press through releases and our quarterly print newsletter. (Social media and InDesign knowledge are NOT a requirement.) This is a non-voting position.

Volunteering: Choose your own adventure! We participate in about six events each year that require a friendly face handing out swag.

These positions are exciting and can be shaped by you. I have personally found my time volunteering to be rewarding, as have our current and previous board members. As the Society's president, I am asking you to consider these positions. If the Historical Society is to continue to grow and operate in the years to come, we need you!

Please feel free to call me if you would like to know more.

Thank you!

Hope cell: (310) 880-6335



Mark Morris and author Karen Maness at the July 17 General Meeting and Program.
(Kevin Lachoff)

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.

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Newsletter Design

Sue Slutzky

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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

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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

Jim Gibson

Maureen Lee Kluck

Welcome Our New Members

Lise and Dave Friedman

Rosalind LaBriola

Don Mann

The Evolution of Girls Basketball in Culver City Through a Player's Eyes

By Maureen (Miller) Fleming, Culver City High School '78

When I was growing up, the mandatory school dress code for girls was dresses. It was hard to play sports in a dress and patent leather shoes on the playground blacktop. But where there was a will, there was a way.

My friends, Marisa and Tami, and I would spend our recess watching the boys play basketball from the sidelines, itching for the chance to catch a stray ball and pass it back. Sure, foursquare and tetherball were fun, but basketball looked amazing!

Our classmate, Tito, offered to teach us some pointers on shooting and defense at recess. As we showed ability, the boys started letting us play with them.

Since girls were sporting jammed fingers and skinned knees, one of the teachers ruled that "Girls could not play basketball at recess anymore." Back to the sidelines. My mother, a feminist for the time, called the school, put her foot down, and we were back on the court!

The next year, there was a meeting after school for girls interested in playing basketball for Culver City Parks and Recreation—the first year it would be offered to girls! A courageous gal named Marilyn, with no experience whatsoever, volunteered to coach us.

In 1972, maybe in response to Title IX, they added flag football. Marisa,

Tami, and I played for La Ballona. We lost our first game to Vets, so Marilyn enlisted the help of Marisa's older brother. He taught us three plays. He would secretly call plays out from the sidelines in Japanese. "*Ich!*" "*Ni!*" "*San!*" And we would execute them perfectly. We won every game after that with those three organized plays and a lot of determination. Apparently, girls playing football was big news because our picture was in the *Los Angeles Times*!

Basketball was offered in Phys Ed at Culver Junior High; however, some teachers made the girls play using the "3 Bounce Rule." You could dribble the ball three times and then you had to shoot or pass, even if you had a clear path to the basket. This was frustrating! While we never expected to play on a boys team, we felt that we could play with the same rules (and if Ms. Huerta was your PE teacher, you did). I have always maintained that the "3 Bounce Rule" partially contributed to modern-day feminism!

When we entered high school, CCHS was forming their first Girls Basketball team! Excerpts from a 1976 *Centaurian* newspaper article stated that girls basketball has proven to be a ground breaker in women's athletics. We made it to CIF but not into the *Olympian*. We

would have to wait for our senior year in 1978 to get a picture in the yearbook.

Since then, girls basketball at Culver City High School and all over the world has soared in popularity, coaching, and ability. As an adult, I coached girls' athletics through Parks and Rec. We've come a long way! Thank goodness for all the Titos and boys on the schoolyard, big brothers, dads, all pioneer coaches, and our moms for sticking up for us all those years ago.

Girls' Blast First Three Opponents

by Joe Lyau

Nancy Katayama took control and scored 26 points to lead the varsity girls basketball team to a 58-14 win over Aviation.

The team breezed to their third straight league victory in what appeared before the game to be a test for the Centaurs. They played the entire game without their second and third leading scorers. Marisa Furuto missed the game with a sprained ankle and Mereja Connolly came down with the flu.

Maureen Miller started in place of Furuto and grabbed eight rebounds and six points. Nancy Guerrero and Linda White each scored nine in between assists to Katayama.

The competition in girls' basketball is very unpredictable. The sport has expanded in many schools and is now beginning to receive media coverage at the college level. The Culver teams have caught on quickly with the help of fine coaching and school support.

Centennial felt the effect of the coaching and support in the second league game. Culver dominated the whole game all the way, building a 41-3 lead at halftime, and finishing off at a 70-18 beating.

Four players made double digits in what turned out to be a very successful team effort. Katayama had 16 points and was the leading scorer for the fifth time in eight games. The centers combined for 28 points; 15 for White and 13 for Karen Shishino. Connolly had 10 points and 14 rebounds.

In the first league game against Lennox, the Centaurs showed that they meant business by beating the Lancers 68-14.

Connolly led the scoring with 17. Katayama was next with 15. Kathleen Brown passed off for seven assists and had six steals on defense.

So far this season, the team has outscored their opponents 501-257. This means more time for the substitutes. All the subs have shown an impressive ability to score, steal, and shoot the basketball.

Girls' basketball has proven to be a groundbreaker in women's athletics. Attendance at the games is steadily rising. This marks a point that if you have not seen a girls' basketball game, you just might be missing something. Stop by the next game at West Torrance on Tues., Feb. 28 at 3:00.

Article from CC High School's newspaper, *Centaurian*. (Maureen Fleming)



Los Angeles Times article on Culver City's "powder puff" girls football, November 1972. (Maureen Fleming)



Girls basketball photo from CC High School yearbook. (Maureen Fleming)



P.O. Box 3428
Culver City, CA 90231-3428

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
(310) 253-6941

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 12 – 14th Annual L.A. as Subject Archives Bazaar
Doheny Memorial Library, USC, 9AM - 5PM

October 16 – General Meeting and Program
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

December 1 and 15 – Do your holiday shopping with us!
Wrapping and shipping available!
Archives and Resource Center, 1PM - 3PM

January 15 – General Meeting and Installation of Officers
TBA, 7PM

ARC OPEN DATES – 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM
Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15, Jan. 5

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.

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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)
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