

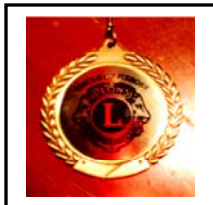
CC Historical Society Finds a Permanent Home CCHS HISTORIC SITE #11: CAMP LATHAM

LIONS CLUB "CIRCLE OF HEROES" AWARD GIVEN TO CCHS VP ROBIN TURNER

FIRST PRESENTATION OF AWARD

"Uncelebrated and little noticed, they work behind the scenes to better our community," stated Mike Cohen, President of the CC Lions Club.

Selected by local service clubs, civic groups and fraternal organizations, the first "Circle of Heroes" took center stage at this year's Fiesta La Ballona grand opening social on August 25th in the Beer & Wine Garden conducted by the Culver City Lions.



L: Robin Turner
Above: The "Circle of Heroes" Award

In celebration of the tremendous amount of volunteerism that the residents of Culver City give to these various groups, the "Circle of Heroes" Award was created to reconnect our community and to bring us back together to what unites us all: to improve the community in a variety of meaningful and valuable ways.

(cont'd. pg. 7)

CCHS & CITY AGREE TO VETS COMPLEX SITE

Museum to become a reality!

The Culver City Council voted 5-0 to enter into a long term lease with the Culver City Historical Society for museum/archival space in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. As soon as we agree to an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), work can begin! Thank you all for your comments and correspondence in support of this Society's and the Cultural Plan goal for a historic museum in our city.

Join us at our October meeting to hear more!

CAMP LATHAM TO BE CCHS HISTORIC SITE #11

by Sam Cerra, Historic Sites Chairman

CAMP LATHAM - RESEARCH IS COMPLETE!

With the help of our researchers, Julie Lugo Cerra and Lynn Baril, we have assembled the needed information to mark Historic Site #11, Civil War Union Camp Latham. The process has been long, but it has paid off. After the original research I assembled was stolen, we have revisited and augmented the original information. Neil Rubenstein, through Cathy Zermeno, put us in touch with Commander Glen Roosevelt, a veteran who is active in a Civil War Union group.

The committee felt that Rotary Plaza was the best spot to place the marker, because Camp Latham was located in the area which is now bordered by Jefferson Blvd. and Overland Ave., on the south side of the creek – with adjustments for the meandering of the creek before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lined it with concrete. We felt this location would allow it to be seen, appreciated, and protected. We have worked with Jim Machado, Rotary President, and Lynn Caron, who heads the Rotary Plaza Board.

(cont'd. pg. 7)

~ OCTOBER 18TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~

Special Guest Speaker: ROBIN TURNER

The Culver City Historical Society's Fall General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at 7:00 pm in the Lethbridge Garden Room at the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue.

The special guest speaker will be our own Museum VP, Robin Turner who will discuss "Sifting Through Culver Sands" – sharing her archeological findings in and around our town (see *related story, above*). Be sure to come and bring your friends for an enjoyable and informative evening.

The public is invited to enjoy the free program and students are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served following the program. For more information, please call Marty Nicholson at (310) 253-6662 or email at Martynic99@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Cathy Zermeno



While I had originally started my column by talking about summer events and our Annual Picnic (which was a huge success!) the BIG NEWS for the Society is the confirmation of a permanent site for our long-awaited Culver City Heritage Museum!

On Monday, Sept. 25th, the City Council passed Agenda Item A-2 and entered into a long-term agreement with the Society for a site in the Veterans Memorial complex that we will immediately begin to make plans for not only the Museum, but for a variety of activities, programs,

etc. that we have been working on for so many years.

As the Founding President of the CC Historical Society, it is especially sweet to have this come during my second term as Society President. I pledge to you that we will all take this wonderful opportunity and start along our "yellow brick road" to firmly establish the Society's importance and contributions to the city and to the community. I also want to thank everyone who were able to attend the meeting and sent emails on behalf of the Society to help pass A-2. Congratulations to us all – we did it!

I do hope everyone had a great summer and had the chance to attend this year's Fiesta La Ballona and some of the concerts held at the City Hall's patio. It was a hot summer, but lots of fun things were happening!

Finally, I am also very proud to have been able to nominate our own Museum VP, Robin Turner as a Lions Club "Unsung Hero" as she is very deserving of this award. (See Pg. 1 story.) Her professional status as a respected archeologist, has brought a new dimension to our "history gathering" and she will tell us more about this when she speaks on "Sifting Through Culver Sands" at the Fall General Meeting on Wednesday, October 18th. See you there!

Best,

Cathy Zermeno

Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra



HAPPY 89TH CULVER CITY!

By the time you get this, Culver City will be 89 years old ... and still in a "flourishing" mode! That's a lot of candles. Just another reason the city seems to be shining these days!

The exact date that the incorporation papers were recorded was September 20, 1917. And if you want to see if Harry Culver's vision became reality, just stop by the bronze sculpture in front of the Culver Hotel and read his 1913 speech (on the inside of his newspaper).

And speaking of the sculpture, did you see the photo of "A Moment in Time" in the LA Times recently? It was great to see that Harry Culver and his family "with company" reading on the bronze bench next to Harry! And very nice to get some well-deserved national coverage.

INCE FAMILY ATTENDS PICNIC

With family still in mind, I just want to mention how nice it was for the Society to have Thomas Ince's granddaughter, Susan Ince Bice, attend our annual

ANNUAL CCHS PICNIC: Susan Ince Bice with members of the "Screenland As."



picnic. Susan and her husband Dick Bice came all the way from Yucaipa just for the day. They have been very supportive, and I cannot thank them enough for helping us to learn more about the founder of our first two – and only standing – studios in CC. (More on that to come!)

CITY'S HISTORY CONTINUES TO INTEREST THE PUBLIC

I am continually amazed and pleased to see the interest in local history. One of the latest requests came from the San Francisco area, asking for information on the RollerDrome, a happy memory of youth from a former southlander.

A production company, taping a television show at La Cienega and Washington Blvds., called to get some information on the King's Tropical Inn restaurant which was once a famed fixture at that site. With our help and that of the Cultural Affairs Department, they are using photos and short sound-bites to enhance the show. They've promised us a DVD

Culver Historical Highlights

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The Culver City Historical Society, founded in 1980, is a non-profit membership organization created for the purpose of collecting, preserving and exhibiting the history of Culver City and its cultural and civic accomplishments.

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Anita Shapiro Sunshine

Editor's Column

On behalf of entire Culver City Historical Society, a great big "THANK YOU!" to one and all who attended the Sept. 25th Council meeting and/or sent emails or telephoned. You helped the City Council to make the decision to join with the Society for a site for our long-dreamed-of Culver City Heritage Museum!

The wheels of progress are beginning to move and, with Museum VP Robin Turner at the helm, we're sure to be up and running very soon.....

Note: The City's website is chuck full of vital information as well as current events and upcoming activities. Be sure to check it out: <http://www.culvercity.org/>

Remember, it's YOUR Historical Society—we can't succeed without YOU!

copy for our archives after the show airs.

Still another call came from a writer who is doing an article on downtown Culver City for the L.A. Times' West magazine. Interest in our city seems to be growing exponentially and our rich history only enhances their story. Just one more reason we need to get our archives up and running again!

Fiesta Thanks: to Robin Turner and Steve Rose who "walked the walk" with me on our Downtown Culver City historic walking tour during this year's Fiesta La Ballona. We took a group of 25 interested folks, and made it back in time to enjoy the concert. Sharing the tour process with talented colleagues who offer varied areas of expertise is indeed an optimum experience!!!

REEL



CULVER CITY

by Marc Wanamaker

THE CULVER CITY - PALMS PACIFIC ELECTRIC STATION

Rail transportation was one of the major factors in the rapid growth of Culver City since 1915.

The Pacific Electric's depot on Venice Blvd. was just west of Bagley Avenue (which becomes Culver City's Main Street on the south side of Venice). It was the transit stop for the Venice Short Line, the Redondo Line, the Santa Monica Air Line and the Playa Del Rey Line.

The station itself was situated at the intersection at the fork in the rail system in Culver City – splitting off the Redondo Line which ran down Culver Blvd. and the Venice Short Line which ran down Venice Blvd.

ADJACENT TO MEDIA PARK

Located at 9013 Venice Boulevard, the station was adjacent to Media Park where the Ivy Substation is currently located. By the 1930s, the



THE CULVER CITY-PALMS PACIFIC ELECTRIC SOUTHERN PACIFIC STATION, 1938.
(Facing west: The Culver Hotel can be seen in the background below the "Limit" sign.)

station was known as the *Culver City-Palms Pacific Electric Southern Pacific Station*.

There were only two major stations in the area: the Culver City Station and the Palms Station nearby at Featherstone Avenue (later to become Exposition Blvd.). Both Stations were used by the studios as film locations and serviced the area until the 1960s when all rail service was discontinued.

IVY SUBSTATION – AN HISTORICAL LANDMARK

All that is left of the station's legacy is the Ivy Substation which was behind the depot and originally just called the "Ivy." It became an historical landmark along with Media Park in the 1990s. Thanks to railroad preservationist David Cameron, who put the Ivy Substation on the National Register of Historic places, the legacy of the Culver City Pacific Electric Station is kept alive as a part of Culver City's history.

THE ANNUAL CCHS PICNIC WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Over 60 of our Members and Friends came out to enjoy a real summer get-together! Some of our special guests attending: CC studio pioneer Thomas Ince's granddaughter Susan Ince Bice and her husband Dick Bice (in from Yucaipa); CC City Manager Jerry Fulwood; Bill La Point, Director of Parks, Rec. & Community Services; Councilman & past CCHS Pres. Steve Rose; and a Founding Member and longtime CC local, Ed Little, among the large group. And Barbara & Chuck Hand (both CC High grads) came in from Encino. Definitely, a good time was had by all as the photos show!



Clockwise from above:

- 1) The brief Summer General Meeting led to a g-o-o-d food!
- 2) Chuck & Barbara Hand with Sunshine Chair Anita Shapiro (center).
- 3) The Weiss Family – the "younger set" had fun as well!
- 4) Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra (front left) entertains a table of guests.
- 5) Susan Ince Bice & "Screenland As" Steve Newton & Dick Bice.
- 6) The Bice Family meeting "Culverites" at the picnic.



“Meralta Theatre Memories”

by Julie Lugo Cerra

What could be more important in “The Heart of Screenland” than a theatre??

The Meralta Theatre was located at 6310 Putnam according to a 1925 local directory. (Putnam was changed to Culver Blvd., by the way.) Later, when numbering and the street name changed, the Meralta was in the 9600 block of Culver Boulevard. It shared the block with Western Union, Southern California Water Co., Pulone's "Sweet Shop," (*where my mother met my father*), the Edison Co., Holland's Draperies, attorney R. H. Coombs, Mayo D. Wright Insurance and the Blaine-Walker Building which housed the early courthouse.

Legend has it that Will Rogers acted as the Master of Ceremonies to open the new theater while Thomas Ince provided the movie, *The Galloping Fish* for viewing. Newspapers reported 'star sightings' of early actors like Rogers, Tom Mix and Harold Lloyd.

NAMED FOR ITS TWO OWNERS

The name "Meralta" was derived from owners' Pearl Merrill and Laura Peralta's surnames. They lived above their plush theater, but they could open the drapes of their "bay" window to view the movies.

During World War II, the Meralta Theater caught fire. There was a wartime moratorium on building, so the city allowed the theater to relocate temporarily to the second floor auditorium of the city hall (at the corner of Culver Blvd. and Duquesne Ave.). The projection booth remained until the city hall was demolished to make way for the current structure, which opened in 1995.

The rebuilt Meralta Theater operated for many years. In 1983, The Meralta Plaza was constructed on the site of the old Meralta Theatre as a redevelopment project.

THE MERALTA MAY BE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

We had a great response to our request for memories:

Mary Stangler (who was a classmate of Brian Bumpas and whose father, William B. Zomar had been Harry Culver's best salesman until he started his own Zomar Realty on Venice Blvd. in 1922 – which lasted until the late 1960s!) has a special memory: "It was wartime and before I got married in 1942, my future husband, Rudy, was stationed at Camp Roberts near San Louis Obispo. He had called to let me know that he wouldn't be able to make it down for the weekend, so I decided to go to the movies at the Meralta by myself.

Suddenly, in the dark, I could see a lone soldier walking up and down the aisles and then realized that it was Rudy, who had indeed gotten a weekend pass, and had come looking for me! Well, as might be imagined, we left and I didn't see the rest of the movie....!

Virgie Eskridge, another longtime resident and Society member, responded cheerfully: "I think one of the best memories was seeing Walt Disney's *Three Little Pigs* cartoon when it first came out in the early '30s. We also went most



The Meralta Theatre in 1957 screening *Omar Kayyam & The Seventh Sin* –from the Stu Freeman Collection

Meralta Theatre
Culver and Washington Blvds. CULVER CITY
GEO. G. KIRSTEIN, Mgr. Culver City 3432
Adults 35c Children under 12, 15c Loges 50c
Family Bargain Night Every Monday
Your Family Admitted for 50c

Western Electric
SOUND VOICE ACTION SYSTEM

Sunday & Monday, Jan. 19-20
Sunday Continuous 2:45-11 P. M.
JOAN CRAWFORD in
"UNTAMED"
NOTE: Starting Monday, January 20, Family
limit. One 50c ticket admits two adults and
your children under 14 years of age.

Tues and Wed. Jan. 21-22
THE DUNCAN SISTERS in
"It's a Great Life"

Thurs., Fri. & Sat., Jan. 23-24-25
"FLIGHT"
The Supreme All-Talking Drama of the Air with
JACK HOLT, RALPH GRAVES, LILA LEE

1930 Meralta Theatre ad

Saturday afternoons to see the "matinee," but especially to see each week's episode of *Flash Gordon* or *Chandu the Magician*, among great serials. Candy was not sold in the lobby. You went next door to the "Sweet Shop" to buy a 5-cent candy treat." Virgie also remembered "question and answer" sessions after the Saturday matinees, especially the time she answered one correctly and won 10 candy bars – "boy, did I have a lot of friends all of a sudden!"

One memory that stands out among the rest started on August 12, 1949. She said, "that day I had gone to the doctor and he told me it would be at least another week before my expected baby would arrive. So my husband Earl and I went to the Meralta that

night (probably a Western for Earl!). I was so restless and uncomfortable that I went into the lobby and rested on the couch. After we went home and Earl fell asleep, I woke him to say I think we need to go to the hospital." They dropped their son Bill off with his grandmother, and went on to Santa Monica Hospital, where they welcomed little Mike Eskridge at 5:09 am!

"Shiloh" **Danni Eldridge** (whose father was CC Police Chief, Cecil T. Truschel) sent a note from Tombstone, AZ, remembering going "to the Meralta all the time when I was little. We went to the Saturday matinees and it cost a quarter. There was a main movie, a cartoon, a *Flash Gordon* or *Commander Cody* episode and a short newsreel. Depending on whether or not we liked the movie, we would sit there eating popcorn or candy and yell 'yea' or 'boo' at the screen! If we didn't like it, we would crawl thru the aisles playing games and laughing. When I got older, a lot of us would go to the Halloween midnight shows – and, once in awhile, we would catch a movie!"

Bette Sallus offered a later memory. "In December of 1978 (we had recently moved to Culver City from Anaheim) our daughter and her roommate were spending Winter break from UCSB with us. We decided to go to a local movie theater, which was the Meralta, in its final days. I can't remember the movie, but the place was crowded and we were fortunate to find 4 seats together. We filed into the row, and as Gerry & I sat down, the girls sunk out of sight. Their seats were broken and *down* they went, all the way to the floor! Amidst shrieks and giggles we found other seats, all the while the girls kept giggling and asking us "Can you smell it?" I had no idea what they were talking about ... turns out (you could smoke in the movies in '78) it was pot, not Lucky Strike!"

Later yet, **Victor Villegas** related, "I remember seeing *Flash Gordon* at the Meralta around 1980. The film was a cheesy remake and the Meralta was a discount theatre at the time. I believe admission was only 49-cents. So I'm sure that must have been after the theatre's heyday."

And CC native **Margo Reese** offers a "working" memory of the Meralta (see *adjoining story*). It speaks for itself....

} RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MERALTA THEATRE {

by Margo Reese

I worked at the Meralta Theatre, 9632 Culver Blvd., from 1964 through 1967, during my last two years at Culver City High School and my first year at Santa Monica College. It was my first job and, in hindsight, it was a great job, where camaraderie was high and stress was low.

The manager's name was Mr. Robbins. He was a retired military man in his 50s, starting on a new career. He had very high standards for his employees and taught us the basics of efficiency, honor, salesmanship, courtesy, and customer service.

I started behind the candy counter and was shortly promoted to cashier, a job that entailed manning the charming little booth in the courtyard of the theatre, which had only enough room to accommodate one person. The advantage of this position was that it was a sit-down job, as opposed to the constant standing behind the candy counter. It also kept me away from the temptations of the candy counter and the open tub of warm popcorn, which was addictive.

As cashier, I rose as high as I could in that particular job. The manager assured me I was qualified to be the assistant manager, but in those days it was unheard of for a female to serve in such a responsible position, so that job went to a male friend from high school that I had recruited to work at the theatre. I was happy for him, of course, but more than a little outraged at the injustice of it – my first reflection on the growing idea of women's rights and equality.

THE MARQUEES MUST BE CHANGED!

The Meralta itself was a little run down by that time, and had seen better days. The other employees and I sometimes felt inferior to our friends who worked at the Culver Theatre down the street, now the Kirk Douglas Theatre. That was the first-run house, and we got the *leftovers* or second or third-run pictures most of the time, often as part of a double-feature.

I made \$1.05 per hour, and the theatre charged the bargain admission of thirty-five cents for children and ninety cents for adults. We cashiers had to do the math in our heads, and it was at the Meralta that I finally learned my times tables for the "nines." We had a machine that dispensed the old fashioned tickets, and we took inventory every night, by hand.

The head usher also changed the marquee by hand every Tuesday night, employing a very tall ladder and much courage and balance to take down the old titles, one letter at a time and replace them with the new – always under the watchful eye of the manager, who stood on the sidewalk and would point to this or that to have the usher on the ladder adjust the letters until they were centered just right.

Even rainy nights, I remember, did not stop this necessary task. During one of those years, I recall sitting alone in the box office and watched, amazed, as it rained more than I have ever seen, before or since, in Culver City. The rain filled the intersection of Washington and Culver Blvds., overflowed the curbs and climbed about a foot up the brick planter in front of the bank across the street. We practically had to swim through it to reach the night depository!

One unique feature of the Meralta Theatre could only be seen from inside the auditorium. On the back wall, above the windows to the projection booth, was a very large viewing window, which I understood let the inhabitants of the apartment above the theatre have a fine view of the movies. I also believe they had speakers.

My recollection is that the apartment belonged to one of the sisters for whom the Meralta was named – I believe their last name was Peralta, and the name "Meralta" was a combination of the names of the two sisters. I can't be positive, but that was the legend among the employees.

SPECIAL PERSONAL MEMORIES

I remember two highlights of my time at the Meralta. The first was when we were going to show a horror film and I was tapped to perform a bloodcurdling scream on our telephone message to create more interest. I could hardly scream because I was laughing so hard after I tried it out the first time!

The other memory is indelible. Normally, the Meralta was a pretty quiet place where the auditorium was never full. But, for some reason, we got to show the new Beatles film, *HELP*, right at the beginning of its release. Everybody my age was so excited and looking forward to this event.

That week, for the first and only time that I can remember, the Meralta was packed! Show after show, the theatre buzzed with the excitement of teenagers filling the house, yelling and shouting and singing along with the film. A premiere in Westwood with klieg lights and stars could not have been more exciting to us! I must have seen *HELP* dozens of times on my days off. That was a real red-letter week for the Meralta Theatre!

Although I saw almost all the films that came to the Meralta over almost three years, the one I remember most was the re-release of *The Wizard of Oz*, which was the first time I was ever able to see that marvelous treasure on the big screen. To that point, I had seen it only on its annual television outing, and to see it so vividly was an amazing experience. I noticed details I had never seen on TV, and the sound was gorgeous. It was totally compelling, and, being born and raised in Culver City, I could not help but appreciate that this whole marvelous concoction was made in my home town, not six blocks from where I was watching it with new insight. It made a real impression on me, and is still my favorite film to this day.....

THE CCHS HISTORICAL COSTUMES COLLECTION

by Louise Coffey-Webb
Costume Committee Chair

OVER 70 FILM COSTUMES

The Culver City Historical Society is guardian of a unique collection of over 70 film costumes, acquired from the famous 1970 auction at MGM Studios (now Sony Pictures Entertainment). Many of the outfits were worn by stars such as Lucille Ball, Doris Day, Grace Kelly, Ann Sothern, Lana Turner and Esther Williams among others.

The collection has long been housed in various city properties, but sadly without the resources to keep them in a climate-controlled museum-quality environment. Happily this will soon change, as the Society has now found a permanent home for the long-awaited Culver City Heritage Museum in the Veterans Memorial Building complex (see related Page 1 story).

(It is rather poignant that the Hollywood Entertainment Museum closed this summer, leaving Los Angeles with no permanent venue for film costume history. There have been many attempts to create museums honoring the film industry in Los Angeles, but none have yet succeeded. Even famed actress Debbie Reynolds' superb collection, the basis of which was formed from the same 1970 MGM auction, has now found a home out of the state – in Tennessee!)

PROPER CARE & CONSERVATION

The proper care of costumes is very labor-intensive, and displaying them requires customized mannequins, correct support garments, conservation and research. It is also challenging because one must guard against light fading, and therefore it is never recommended to display them for longer than six months.

FIESTA COSTUMES

The Society has another special costume collection – the group of Spanish-style Queen and Princesses costumes created for the city's annual Fiesta La Ballona, dating from the early days. They were all designed and made by Professor Rosalie Utterbach.

Professor Utterbach was a long-time Fashion Design Department head at Woodbury University, which is now located in Burbank. This year, at their



Clockwise from above left:
Gene Kelly costume, Barbara Stanwyk costume, Heddy Lamarr costume & Jimmy Durante clown costume.



122nd Founders' Day celebration to be held on Saturday, October 7th, Dr. Utterbach will be posthumously inducted into the Faculty Hall of Fame. As the CCHS Costume Committee Chair, it will be my pleasure to attend this event as I've had the pleasure of working with Dr. Utterbach and have great admiration and respect for her accomplishments.

One of her significant contributions was the establishment of a Fashion Study Collection in the 1970s. Interestingly, the holdings include a number of film costumes, some of which also came from the 1970 MGM auction.



Fiesta "Princess" costume.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL MEMBERSHIP

- A hearty congratulations to CCHS member Pat Bumpas who has worked for over 25 years to realize her dream of receiving her Pys.D in Psychology. She and daughter, Pam Ragan, celebrated by traveling to an International School of Psychology Assoc. colloquium in China!

Pat has worked with famed designer Edith Head and has offered to help with the MGM costumes as soon as our new location is up and ready.

Again, "Congratulations," Pat!

- "Congratulations" to member Lorraine Henderson who also received the CC Lions Club "Circle of Heroes" Award on behalf of the Culver City Women's Club.

• "THANK YOU" to new members:

- GLORIA CRAWFORD
- BOB HATTEM
- PAMELA HISERODT
- JEFF HISERODT
- CHARLES ROZAIRE
- STEPHEN FRY & FRANCES TALBOTT-WHITE
- FRED YGLASIAS

• "THANK YOU" for donations:

- "In Memory of William Tarn" by Cathy & George Zermeno
- Meralta Theatre 1930 ad by Lorraine Henderson

- And sending rays of sunshine to our members who have had losses or are not feeling up to par: Jeannette Block, Syd Kronenthal, Fred Machado, Eloise McNernry, Jack Newton, Reba Yudess and Marc Wanamaker.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCT. 7: MACHADO FAMILY REUNION
Chevron Park, El Segundo

OCT. 18: CCHS GENERAL MEETING

OCT. 24: CITY HISTORIAN JULIE LUGO CERRA WILL SPEAK TO THE BALLONA CREEK RENAISSANCE (7 PM)
Garden Room, Vets. Mem. Bldg.
Info: Jim Lamm: 310-839-6896

Nov. 12: HISTORIC SITE #11: CAMP LATHAM DEDICATION (2pm)

Museum Notes

by Robin Turner, Museum Chair

A NEW DAY FOR THE SOCIETY!

We are currently seeing history-in-the making regarding our Historical Society. As you read on the front page, the Culver City City Council has given us the opportunity, through a long term lease, to use the Multi-Purpose "overflow room" at the Veterans Memorial Building to become our long-awaited museum. This opportunity now gives us a permanent place to work on our collection of historic materials.

Though it may not be well-known, the Society (notably City Historian Julie Lugo Cerra) receives calls and requests, almost on a weekly basis, from people that want information from our archives or conduct research on our city's history. We also receive items from people all over the United States giving us historic memorabilia or photos that they feel should be with the Culver City Historical Society.

We now finally have a home where we can work on these items, cataloguing our archives, allowing research to be done, and will be able to accept donations from many diverse sources. For example, in the last newsletter, I wrote about the computer company Symantec deeding us the historic items that my company found while digging footings for their new buildings. Our new museum space will allow us to accept these types of gifts.

Our new home is ADA accessible, has plenty of parking, and will give us the chance to grow and thrive. Before we are able to move in, we have some construction to make the site more secure, since we will be sharing the building with others. Hopefully, by the next newsletter, we will be asking for volunteers to come in and help with the much needed cataloging and recording of our collections!

I want to thank all of our members that attended this historic Council Meeting for their added support in our request for a permanent home, and to the Council itself for the vision of using our organization to help preserve and record Culver City's history. I would especially like to thank our new City Manager, Jerry Fulwood and Bill La Pointe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, for their

*Please join us for the
Marking of the
Culver City Historical Society's*

**HISTORIC SITE #11
CIVIL WAR UNION
CAMP LATHAM**

at

**ROTARY PLAZA
5100 Overland Avenue
Culver City, California**

(SW corner at Overland & Virginia Aves.)

**Sunday, November 12, 2006
2:00 pm**

NOTE: There is NO parking on site.

"Camp Latham" (cont'd.)

Please join us for the marking of Historic Site #11, on Sunday, November 12th at 2:00 PM. The program will be informative and colorful. The Union Soldiers group will present the colors and dress for the occasion, so it will be a festive marking.

I want to thank the Historic Sites Committee which I have had the pleasure of chairing: Lynn Baril, Steve Rose, Robin Turner, Neil Rubenstein, Harold Hanslmair, Julie Lugo Cerra, and Cathy Zermeno. And special thanks to Commander Glen Roosevelt, the Culver City Rotary Club and the Rotary Plaza Board. ###

Culver City Rotary Plaza (looking east)



support and wisdom.

At the next General Meeting I will be talking about archaeology and paleontology and some of the projects that I worked on in our city. I will be bringing some of the artifacts and fossils that have been recently unearthed. Together we will be "Sifting through the Culver Sands"...

See you at the meeting on October 18th!

~ Robin

"Lions Club Award" (cont'd.)

"This communication by these individuals always creates a circle and connects us back to ourselves," said "Heroes" founder Jill Hesselstine.

When asked to submit a representative from the CC Historical Society, Pres. Cathy Zermeno recommended Museum VP Robin Turner for "her dedication and tireless efforts working in many different arenas:" securing "pieces" of our city's history that are uncovered in a wide variety of places "around the neighborhood;" helping with city historic issues; actively pursuing health and safety measures throughout the city; and mentoring students by providing college scholarships, among a whole host of civic activities.

ROBIN TURNER GIVES A LOT BACK – GRATIS!

When asked about her many projects and activities, Robin says, "I volunteered my time and services to provide free archaeological services to the making of the new dog park; I will assess archaeological remains on any private property without charge (such as with George Marsh and his Civil War artifacts); and happy to be a liaison to the city regarding archaeological and paleontological materials free of charge.

I give to several community scholarships and am proud to say that I created one of my own: a science scholarship to help kids with their college costs (even though I do not have children of my own). I am a life member of several community groups and believe that we all need to be part of the community we live in because it is more important to be part of the solution than part of the problem. *Act local but think global* is my motto.

I own my own archaeology and paleontology business and employ 28 individuals. We've just finished working at LACMA where we uncovered 23 new "tar pits" that are part of the La Brea Tar Pits site, and were interviewed and did articles for National Geographic, National Public Radio, and the BBC. We uncovered a Native American cemetery last year and, with the help of DNA, found that there was a 100% match from a 1000 year old individual to a currently living woman! This helped the tribe become federally recognized. It is the first time ever where DNA has made such a match."

Early on, Robin became involved in the community and politics. She helped spearhead the Height Initiative, two-term limits for council, two-term limits for commissioners, green waste charges for the residents at a cheaper cost than trash disposal charges, made major safety changes for Palm Court, and multiple other things that have made a difference in our community. She was a wonderful choice for the "Circle of Heroes" award! ###

"A winner's strongest muscle is her heart."
~ Cassie Campbell, Olympic Gold medalist

Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and the efforts to create the Culver City Heritage Museum. We can't do it without you!

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Please make checks payable to **The Culver City Historical Society** and mail to
P.O. Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428. For further information, call (310) 287-3850 or email: cchistorical@pacbell.com.
*Contributions of both historic & social significance as well as monetary donations are encouraged,
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Culver City Historical Society

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