

Culver City Historical Society

Post Office Box 3428 • Culver City, CA • 90231-3428

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Hal Horne, Society President

May, 1995

Carolyn Cole, Newsletter Editor

QUARTERLY PROGRAM MEETING

When: Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Where: Garden (Lethbridge) Room/Veterans' Memorial Building
(Corner of Culver Blvd. and Overland Ave.)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

All Aboard! **David Ashcraft, Culver City's Director of Transportation**, will speak about California's oldest all-bus municipal transit system and official carrier for the Fiesta La Ballona Historical City Tours -- **Culver CityBus**. Come along for the ride that began in 1924 and see the future of transportation, today!

Dave began his transportation career in 1963, and has been in Culver City since 1984. He is active in state and national transit associations, and is the current chair of the California Transit Association. He will bring along historical pictures to share. Join us!

Mark Your Calendars:

- And, don't forget our Annual Picnic-In-The-Park on August 23rd at LINDBERG PARK from 6:00 p.m. to dusk. Fun for the whole family.
- And, coming in November: "Hooray for Culver City." The first 50 people receive a surprise gift!

FIESTA

May 20-21 is Culver City's Annual Fiesta La Ballona. Once again we are proud to sponsor, with the generous assistance of Culver CityBus, our popular **Historic City Tours**. On Saturday only, buses will leave every half-hour from the Barman Avenue side of Vet's Park beginning at 11 a.m. with the last bus at 5 p.m. - a total of 13 tours! **The tour is free, but you must have a ticket obtainable from the Historical Society booth.**

Visit our booth and see Fred Machado and Jim Robertson's Historic Photo Display (from which you can order reprints), and movie memorabilia from Sony Pictures' *Hook*, *A League of Their Own* & *Gandhi*.

And, a very special letter for you to sign.

The President's Notes...by Hal Horne

SMILE: During Fiesta La Ballona, our own Ross Hawkins and Mark Morris will be taping for a half-hour show about the Historical Society we are producing for Continental Cable Television. Among the events to be video taped are highlights of the Historic City Tour and interviews of Society founding members. If you have any ideas or suggestions, call Ross at 839-5725.

ELECTION '95: Though the BIG election is a year away, ours is this November when new officers for the Historical Society are chosen. If you've always wanted to contribute to the future and help the Society set its direction, here's your opportunity. The time commitment is minimal, but the rewards are great.

The elected positions are President, V.P. Programs, V.P. Museum, V.P. Ways & Means, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you're ready to throw your hat into the ring, call Parliamentarian Esther Tarn, at 839-8454, by August 31st.

DUES INCREASE: With costs of printing and postage on the rise, the Board of Directors voted in April to present a Dues Increase Proposal to the membership at the May General Meeting.

The proposal would, effective September 1, 1995, increase Individual and Service Group Memberships to \$15 and \$20, respectively; and create a Family Lifetime Membership at \$250. If you haven't paid your 1995 dues, now might be the time.

WILL IT COMPUTE: We recently received hard-bound copies of the Citizen (1926-51) from Roy Donovan. Fred Machado and Jim Robertson are presently cataloguing the features onto index cards, but we surely could use some "automated" help. If any member has a data base system they'd like to donate to this important effort, please call me at 202-6197.

MOVIE, MOVIE: The Los Angeles Conservancy will present in June their "Last Remaining Seats" series of classic motion pictures each Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. The films to be screened are June 7th, "*The General*" with Buster Keaton at the Orpheum Theater; June 14th, "*His Girl Friday*" with Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell at the Palace Theater; June 21st, Laurel & Hardy's "*Sons of the Desert*" at the Los Angeles Theater; and, June 28th, the original screen print of "*Vertigo*" at the State Theater.

Advance Tickets are \$12 each or \$40 for the series. Call the Conservancy at (213) 896-9114 for more information.

1994-96 Board of Directors **Officers and Committee Chairs**

President	Hal Horne	*	Parliamentarian	Esther Tarn
First Vice President	Lupe Smith	*	Membership	Linda Edell
Second Vice President	Connie Horne	*	Newsletter	Carolyn Cole
Third Vice President	Bonnie Walsh	*	Publicity	Ross Hawkins
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Treasurer	David Henderson	*	Government Affairs	Todd Tipton

REEL LIFE UPDATE

by Ross Hawkins

We are still getting documentary footage on Culver City's exciting past as "The Heart of Screenland." In November, 1994, we interviewed **Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.** who remembered that his father appeared in his first starring role in 1915 at Triangle Films, which was owned by Thomas Ince (Triangle became MGM in 1924). He also talked about his work on "*Gunga Din*," "*The Prisoner of Zenda*," and "*Young at Heart*" which were filmed in part at RKO Pathe and Selznick International in Culver City.

In February, 1995, we taped a two-hour interview with **Syd Kronenthal**, the "Godfather" of our magnificent park system. Syd told us about working with John Ford during World War II teaching Marlon Brando how to be believable in a wheelchair for his film debut in "*The Men*," and working in 1946 on a blue ribbon panel which included Ronald Reagan to pass a bond measure for the Culver City Park System. Syd also has made available prints of 16mm films stored at Vet's Auditorium of historical events.

In May, 1995, we interviewed **Tom Ray**, an animator since 1917. Tom worked at MGM in the 1940s and '50s, on such characters as "Tom and Jerry." Now at Warner Brothers in Burbank, we interviewed Tom there about his 50 years in the business. Our special thanks to **Cathy Cruse**, Director of Publicity for Warner's Domestic Television Distribution, for her generous assistance in allowing us to interview Tom at their studio.

Look for the Red Dot on your Address Label!

If you find a red dot on the address label of this newsletter, it means it's time to RENEW your membership in the Culver City Historical Society.

We've included a handy tear-off...just fill it out and mail it along with your check and you'll be up-to-date....then we can keep you up-to-date! **We can't do it without you!**

☐ I am a new member.

☐ I wish to renew my membership.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Type of membership:

☐ Patron Member \$100.00

☐ Business Member \$50.00

☐ Service Group \$15.00

☐ Individual Member \$10.00

☐ Individual Lifetime Member \$250.00

☐ Please contact me to work on a committee.

Checks are payable to:

The Culver City Historical Society

P.O. Box 3428

Culver City, California 90231-3428

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.

Alliance Bank	Curtis S. Reis	410-9281
Ames Stores	David Oliver	836-2637
Aunt Iris Antiques	Ted Hanf	838-5349
Cavanaugh Realtors	Esther Tarn	837-7161
Culver Center Flowers, Inc.	Earl Eskridge	839-2344
Culver City Import Group	Larry E. Miller	559-4200
Craig Ferre Portrait Design	Craig Ferre	398-9802
Desktop Publishing & Graphic Design	Roslyn Wilkins	839-2591
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel	Pierre Joujon-Roche	641-7740
Edward D. Jones & Co.	Terry Stone	815-8666
JW Party Pictures/Photo Lab	Jeff Wilson	915-1640
Maguire Thomas Partners	Douglas Gardner	822-0074
Prudential California Realty	Mary Ellen Fernandez	559-9020
John Riordan Plumbing, Inc.	John Riordan	838-4656
Robert E. Sapien & Associates, Inc.	Robert Sapien	836-3901
Spartan Supply Company	Rick Betts	837-5351

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*The Citizen Building
Historic Site Number 4*

TAYL750 902303054 1495 05/17/95
NOTIFY SENDER OF NEW ADDRESS
TAYLOR
7565 E PEAKVIEW AVE APT 634
ENGLEWOOD CO 80111-6766

