MACHADO FAMILY HISTORY IS THE HISTORY OF EARLY CULVER CITY

REMINDER: 2009 CCHS MEMBERSHIPS DUE

COLUMN ONE

OLVERA STREET TOURS OFFERED TO CCHS MEMBERS

CCHS Secretary Jeanne Conklin just glows when she talks about taking school children on tours of Olvera Street. She has been a “Los Angelitas Tour Guide” for 17 years, and still loves it!

Las Angelitas began giving tours of the pueblo in 1969. They bring Olvera Street to life for people from all over the world, and they take special delight in students of California history.

This is the birthplace of the City of Los Angeles, otherwise known as El Pueblo Historic Monument – it was the 1781 founding of the pueblo that set local history in motion. The colorful village features 27 historic buildings with a traditional Mexican style plaza area. (cont’d. pg 7)

“EARLY SETTLERS” HISTORY OF THE MACHADO FAMILY CONTINUES THROUGH ITS DESCENDANTS

by Julie Lugo Cerra

THE BEGINNINGS OF A FAMILY DYNASTY

Machado Road reminds us of our local heritage. Many of us went to school with Machados. Some of us worked with Machados. Others dressed in early Fiestas as Machados. And you might be surprised how many of us are actually Machado descendants!

Culver City elementary school children are taught “Early Settlers” history. They learn that Agustín Machado and his brother, Ygnacio, were struggling to keep the family afloat after their father, José Manuel Machado died in 1810.

However, there was a six-month wait before they married as muleteers apparently had a reputation for having a “girl in every stop!” Therefore, the church investigated his background before marrying the young couple. With promised supplies, the newlyweds then traveled to Alta California in 1781. (cont’d. pg 5)

José Agustín Antonio Machado

CCHS LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

In the CC Historical Society’s Living History Program, school children learn that José Manuel Machado, a poor muleteer, saw the opportunity to become a soldado de cuera (“leather jacket soldier”) to travel to this land of opportunity. To maximize his benefits, he married María de la Luz Valenzuela y Avilas in Los Alamos.

~ APRIL 15, 2009: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~

Special Guest: Ralph Cantos
Los Angeles Transit and Pacific Electric Historian

The Culver City Historical Society’s Spring General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue. Please park and enter from the rear of the building, and a brief tour of the CCHS ARC will be offered following the meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Ralph Cantos whose lifelong interest in the streetcars and trolleys of Los Angeles has led him to assemble an extensive collection of transit and railway memorabilia as well as owning many historic motor coaches. He is an expert on the electric railway history in Southern California, and welcomes questions and memories from our members – and our invited guests, the Venice Historical Society.

The public is invited to enjoy the free program and students are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served following the program (remember: no food allowed in the ARC). For more information, please call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or email us at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.
A special tribute to WWII veterans.

I would like to personally invite you and your friends to come to our Spring General Meeting on Wednesday, April 15th to hear railroad historian Ralph Cantos give a presentation on the Pacific Electric Red Car Line. Ralph is very knowledgeable and welcomes your questions and your memories. It should be a great evening.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of two of the most popular movies of all time – both made here in Culver City – *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone With the Wind*. Be sure to drop by regularly to see our displays of memorabilia from these two great classics along with many of our other film artifacts in our ever-growing archives.

Come see and learn that old memories are new again at your Culver City Historical Society Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

Sincerely,

\[signature\]

Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra

2009 CELEBRATES 70th ANNIVERSARY OF 1939 FILM CLASSICS

This year brings great opportunities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the classic movies of 1939. Remember the sold-out “Celebration of the Movies” event the Society put together in 1989? We are currently exploring a number of options, and events are in the planning stages.

Michael Sragow’s biography, *Victor Fleming: An American Movie Master*, is now out in the bookstores. Michael will be in town in May, and we are planning to host a book-signing of this fine profile of the director of the *Wizard of Oz* at the ARC on Saturday, May 16th from 1-3pm – and perhaps add in a “family picnic” to the mix! (*Note:* The city is also planning a special “Made in Culver City” event on September 12th as their 1939 film tribute.)

**LINDBERG PARK RESEARCH CONTINUES**

Culver City’s ongoing history always offers a little intrigue…… As you know, we are working on the research to clearly define the naming of Lindberg Park. CCHS member Hope Parrish found substantiating information that names it as one of the first three parks in the first “Parks Master Plan” from the late 1920s.

Also, “legend has it” that a police practice shooting range existed at Lindberg, though as the daughter of a former CC Police Captain, I had never seen it personally. When the outside play yard behind the park’s “Stone house” was being cleaned up recently, workers hit concrete, and caverns below became visible. The Culver City Fire Department was summoned to take a look.

*Firefighters had to check out the underground police shooting range at Lindberg Park before work could be completed in the play yard. Carlos Lugo, Sr. Building Inspector, on the right.*
CULVER CITY WAS HOST TO BELGIUM ROYALTY

During World War I all of Hollywood was involved with helping President Woodrow Wilson in the war effort -- from selling War Bonds to making motion pictures focusing on the morale of the American people, the armed forces and the Allies.

At the beginning of the war, many Hollywood leaders went to Washington to meet with President Wilson to frame a strategy for “Victory.” A government committee was formed and named The Committee on Public Information. Some of the more prominent celebrities and leaders of this effort were Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Chaplin, William S. Hart and Thomas H. Ince of Culver City.

THOMAS INCE BUILDS 2ND STUDIO & SUPPORTS WAR EFFORT

Since 1915, Thomas Ince and Harry Culver were instrumental in creating a motion picture industry in the newly-established development of Culver City. The Triangle/Thomas Ince Studios built on Washington Boulevard was the first in the new town creating an economic base that helped Culver City become a “factory town” of moviemakers to this day.

With the break-up of the Triangle Company in 1918, Ince with Harry Culver’s help and support, built another studio plant just a ¼ mile east of the old Triangle studio, also on Washington Blvd. It was named the “Thomas H. Ince Studios” and opened in late 1918, just as the United States was entering the European conflict. Almost immediately, Ince began to make films in support of the war effort.

BELGIUM ROYALTY GRATEFUL TO U.S.

One of the allied countries that suffered the most during the war was Belgium. By 1914, Belgium was decimated and almost ceased to exist but due to the help of Britain and the United States.

On June 28, 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed ending the war and shortly thereafter, the Royal Family of Belgium embarked on a mission of thanks to the people of the United States for their sacrifices helping Belgium survive the war.

The King and Queen, accompanied by their eldest son Leopold III and government officials, first visited Washington as the guest of President Wilson, then continued on to Southern California, arriving here in October, 1919.

OCTOBER 17, 1919 ROYAL VISIT

Leopold III was always interested in moviemaking and wanted very much to visit the American Studios in Santa Barbara, CA. King Albert I and Queen Elisabeth agreed that after the war, Belgium should have its own film industry and visits to the Thomas Ince Studio in Culver City and the American Studios in Santa Barbara were arranged.

While in Los Angeles, the King and Queen met with Mayor Meredith Pinxton Snyder who had lost his son during the war. In honor of his lost son, King Albert and Queen Elisabeth awarded Snyder a medal of the order of Leopold II.

On October 17, 1919, Thomas Ince hosted the Royal Visit to Culver City. The Motion Picture News marked the event with an article entitled, “Belgian Royalty See Pictures In The Making on the Ince Lot.” Here is an excerpt:

“When King Albert and Queen Elisabeth of Belgium visited Southern California last week, one of their principle desires was to see motion pictures made, and they spent a great portion of the time they were in Los Angeles at the Thomas H. Ince Studios at Culver City, where a special program had been arranged for the entertainment of the royalty, under the personal supervision of Mr. Ince, who was in charge of the royal party from the time they arrived at the studio until they left. The King and Queen saw Charles Ray make a number of scenes, under the direction of Jerome Storm, in an old-fashioned country barn erected at the studio; and watched Hobart Bosworth under the direction of Irvin Willat, do several dives for the second Ince special release, “Below The Surface,” in a big tank at the studio along the edge of which a partially wrecked submarine had been constructed.”

CULVER CITY’S INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

At the end of the Royal visit, Thomas Ince presented Queen Elisabeth a jeweled make-up compact made by Brock & Company Jewelers of Los Angeles and engraved with an autographed sentiment saying, “To Elizabeth Queen of the Belgians in Commemoration of a visit to my studio” and signed, “Thomas H. Ince 17 October 1919.”

The Royal visit was indeed the hallmark of Thomas Ince’s prominence and highstanding as one of the more influential film studios in Los Angeles and brought Culver City international publicity that would rival Hollywood.

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THE FRED PARRISH COLLECTION

By the time the Gone With The Wind completed production, its behind-the-scenes photography had been given the most extensive coverage ever devoted to a film. More than 10,000 photos were shot.

The photographer was Fred A. Parrish, David Selznick's still photographer from 1936 until 1940.

Parrish was responsible for taking still photographs to document the production of A Star Is Born (1937), The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938), and Gone With The Wind (1939).

On the set of Gone With The Wind, Parrish was usually given only about five minutes to shoot his color and black-&-white photographs of each scene. The set lighting was left on only long enough to get the shot with the actors staying on their marks and assuming the expressions that the scene required. Selznick demanded that each day's prints be on his desk the following morning.

Producer David O. Selznick allowed Parrish to keep his collection of behind-the-scenes photographs. After Parrish's death in 1980, photographer and photo retouching artist Rodney Gottlieb began working on restoring the Parrish Collection and has put many of them on exhibit in Atlanta and in Hollywood.

[Note: The CC Historical Society displayed many of these photos at their 1989 "Celebration of the Movies" held at the Culver Studios.]

Gottlieb has the original negatives for most of the photos in the collection and has catalogued them in the order they and the Selznick classic film were shot for an upcoming documentary, "Behind The Scenes of "Gone With The Wind." Several of these photos were taken of the extras who appeared in Gone With The Wind – and many of them were citizens of Culver City.

“Extra, Extra - If You Want to Work”

Former Culver City Deputy Fire Chief Ray Moselle recalled that "they swept the streets clean" in Culver City, looking for extras for the most expensive film made up to that period.

In December of 1938, Moselle was a young fireman on duty at the Selznick lot during the huge Atlanta fire sequence, the first sequence to be shot on the film. Moselle remembered that it was his duty to keep the fire from jumping to the old sets of King Kong, King of Kings and Last of the Mohicans to the Tara set.

Do You Know Who This Man Is?

The photograph above was taken sometime in 1939, during the production of Gone With The Wind, on the backlot of the Selznick Studio in Culver City.

If anyone recognizes the man in the above Fred Parrish photo and can positively identify him, that person will receive two passes to the Backlot Film Festival, which will be held at Veterans Memorial Building from October 7-10, 2009.

The winner can redeem their prize by calling The Backlot Film Festival at 310.204.6920 or emailing them at rjhculvercity@aol.com. The winner will also receive one free year-long membership in the Culver City Historical Society.

Several of the Fred Parrish Collection Photos will be on exhibit at the Culver City Historical Society ARC at Veterans Memorial Building during the festival.

~ by Ross Hawkins, Director & Founder, The Backlot Film Festival
MACHADO FAMILY HISTORY (cont’d.)

FAMILY MOVES TO THE LOS ANGELES PUEBLO

After retiring as a soldier of Spain, José Manuel Machado, his wife and their many children, moved to the Pueblo of Los Angeles. With the patriarch’s death, and several unsuccessful attempts to claim land near the pueblo, two of José Manuel’s sons, Agustín and Ygnacio Machado, joined with Felipe and Tomás Talamantes (father and son) to claim grazing rights in the westward direction.

RANCHO LA BALLONA

Legend from those “olden days,” tells us that one could ride “from dawn until dusk” on your fastest steed and claim all the land you could cover. Agustín was chosen to ride, and that he did – from the foot of del Rey hills to the Baldwin Hills, to the area which became Main Street in Culver City, up to what is now Pico Blvd. and over to the ocean. He claimed the 14,000 acres that became Rancho La Ballona, also known as Paso de las Carretas (“wagon pass”).

Agustín Machado took the lead in managing this undivided rancho. The first adobe built was washed away by flood waters. Agustín married Maria Petra Buelna in 1824, but she died giving birth to their first child, Juan Bautista. In 1827, he married Ramona Sepulveda, from the rancho just north of Ballona, and she gave him 14 more children. Agustín Machado became a well-known ranchero and he achieved notoriety for many successes including his white wines.

Ygnacio Machado married Estefana Palomares in 1826, and they moved to what is now Inglewood and the area of the Centinela Adobe, which he built in 1834. It is still standing, and is the home of one of our sister historical societies, the Centinela Valley Historical Society. Ygnacio Machado later moved his family to the plaza in downtown Los Angeles.

AN ANNUAL MACHADO FAMILY REUNION

In early October each year, there is a Machado Family Reunion. It is quite an event where Machados come from great distances and celebrate family ties! This year, there will be fewer Machados in attendance. We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Oscar Machado. Oscar, who worked for the city, was the son of José de la Luz Machado, the youngest child of Agustín Machado.

Our longtime society member, Fred Machado, lost his wife, Mildred, the same week. Fred’s Machado line is through Juan Bautista Machado, Agustín’s first child.

Oscar Machado (below) lived in Culver City, worked for the city’s public works department and raised a family here. He moved only after retiring. (photo c. 1950s)

In front of the CCPD, entry on Duquesne, Carlo Machado, right, son of Jose de la Luz Machado, along with cousin/co-worker Charles Lugo (left). Can you help us identify the center figure?

One of the few photos of Ygnacio Machado (seated), brother of Agustín, with one of his sons. Our own Christina Machado Essex, who has donated Machado items, is a descendant of Ygnacio.
NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR . . .

by Louise Coffey-Webb
Costume Committee Chair

THE ARC TO CELEBRATE THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF 1939 FILMS

This issue’s column will be a bit abbreviated as I’m off for what I’m sure will be an extraordinary trip to China with another professor from Woodbury University and two lucky fashion students. The Maxine Frankel Foundation is making it possible for us to visit Beijing and Shanghai where we plan to visit fashion designers, museums, colleges and hopefully bring back some new ideas—which I’ll share in the next newsletter!

Just before leaving, I was able to change out one of the costume display cases in celebration of the 70th anniversary of what many consider to be the greatest year in all filmdom: 1939.

Though we do not currently have any costumes from the most famous film of 1939 (and most of the years since!) Gone With The Wind, (we’re always looking and keeping our fingers crossed to find one) I found a gown circa 1860 (think Civil War) from the MGM musical hit, The Pirate, starring Judy Garland and Gene Kelly. This gown was worn by Marion Murray as Eloise (see photo below). The costume designer was Tom Keogh and the costume supervisor was the famed Irene, with wardrobe construction by Karinska. Its construction, like most of these period pieces, is outstanding. Please drop by and see it in person.

More on my return……..

~ LC-W

“Olvera Street” (cont’d.)

Jeanne has offered to set up a tour just for the CCHS. Please check your calendar. The first tour is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th. To make reservations, call Jeanne at 310 398-0269 or email her at patches150@Verizon.net before April 20th. There will be a weekend tour offered next quarter. Check your next newsletter for the date to be announced.

Tours are limited to 15 people. Jeanne will arrange for more tour guides if we have enough for other tours. The tour is free. There is a charge for parking, however, so carpooling is encouraged. And there are plenty of places to take yourself out to lunch afterward! ##

ABOVE: Golondrina Café – one of many de-licious restaurants to chose from.

BELOW: A view of the many unique stalls & shops along Olvera Street

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APR. 15: CCHS SPRING GENERAL MEETING
MAY: NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH
May 16: MICHAEL Sragow at the ARC: BOOK-SIGNING (1-3P)
JUL. 15: CCHS SUMMER “PICNIC IN THE PARK” & GENERAL MEETING
AUG. 28-30: FIESTA LA BALLONA
Sep. 12: “Made in Culver City”- Tribute to Films of 1939 (see box below)

2009 ARC Volunteer Dates
1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm
Call to confirm dates: 310.253.6941

“Made in Culver City” Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009

The Culver City Redevelopment presents the third annual Made in Culver City film screening on Saturday, September 12 at 7:30pm in Culver City City Hall Courtyard.

Made in Culver City is a free event that celebrates the golden classics that were produced in “The Heart of Screenland” and the 2009 event will feature another, soon-to-be-announced, MGM classic film. More information will be available by calling the Cultural Affairs Hotline at 310.253.5716 or visiting the City’s website at www.culvercity.org

DO SOMETHING HISTORIC IN 2009!

Would you like to be part of our walking tours? Docent? Living History Program? Organizer? Please let Julie Lugo Cerra know: Tel: (310) 558-3818
Email: julie@CerraEnterprises.com

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REMEMBER: 2009 CCHS Membership renewals were due in January. If you haven’t already renewed your membership, do it today!

Thank You for your membership:
Individual Life Member
Anne Johnson
Milly O’Shea

Family Member
Marilyn & Harvey Schneider
The Andersen/Miller Family
Willy & Dennis Parrish

Individual Member
Lance Watsky

For more information on any of these events, please contact the CCHS: info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org or Tel: 310.253.6941.
**Guest Speakers Profile:**

**RALPH CANTOS**

My good friend, Ralph Cantos, is a native Californian, born and raised in Los Angeles, and a lifelong rail and transit fan.

He grew up in the City Terrace area of East Los Angeles and, as a child, became fascinated in the streetcars and trolley buses of Los Angeles Transit Lines and the suburban and interurban cars of the Pacific Electric, both predecessor companies of the current MTA (METRO).

Over the years, he became an expert on the “PCC” type of streetcars and suburban cars used on both Los Angeles Transit Lines and Pacific Electric. Like many of us, he was saddened to see them discontinued as transport vehicles for transit riders in Southern California.

Although not a bus fan per se, Ralph owns many historic motor coaches which have been used occasionally in movies and TV commercials. He is also a member of the Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California and the Pacific Bus Museum. He has an extensive railroadiana and transit historical collection, and is pleased to share his historical knowledge of electric railway history in Southern California.

~ Ken Ruben

**CCHS Volunteer Profile:**

**LANCE WATSKY**

Lance Watsky has a terrific background in the field of archive and preservation work. He has been helping museums, libraries, archives and corporations preserve and digitize their motion picture and sound recording collections for nearly fifteen years. He holds the distinction of receiving the first Masters of Arts degree in the Preservation and Restoration of Motion Pictures and Recorded Sound, awarded in 1995 at the California State University, Chico.

Lance is an active member of the Association of Moving Image Archivists and the Society of California Archivists. He has written several winning grant proposals and has served as a Peer Reviewer for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Since 2006, Lance has served as the Program Coordinator for UCLA’s Moving Image Archive Studies program, a graduate program for students that want to learn how to archive and preserve motion picture materials.

Recently he entered into an agreement with the Post Start 2 Finish family of companies to serve as a consultant for “non-entertainment” clients that need help with the long-term preservation and digitization of their motion picture and sound recording collections. The clients that he seeks to help are made up of museums, libraries, archives, corporations, individuals, government agencies and universities.

Lance can be contacted directly at (323) 467-5020, or lwatsky@novastarpost.com

**An ARC Update ……**

by Martha & Sol Sigall

Vice President, Archives

**ORAL HISTORIES ARE BEING TRANSCRIPTIONED**

We’ve enjoyed a lot of activity in the ARC recently!

CCHS Life Member Steve Fry has agreed to take over the duties associated with Oral Histories. He is transcribing some great tapes that tell the history of our community from many personal stories we’ve had in the archives. He also taped the January General Meeting which featured the Parrish Family – four generations of Property Masters – as our guest speakers. Thank you, Steve!

**THE WENDE MUSEUM**

One of the visiting groups we hosted recently came from the Wende (pronounced Vende) Museum – “a museum and archive of the Cold War.” Justin Jampol brought staff and interns to learn about the community in which they are located. It was a pleasure to give them an overview of our local history, which was very well-received.

The Wende, a little-known but fascinating historic resource, is tucked away in Fox Hills at 6741 Buckingham Parkway. Their entry boasts the largest intact piece of the Berlin Wall. They are open to the public on Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm. We are glad to have the Wende join us in Culver City – a great addition to our cultural resources. We've enjoyed a lot of activity in the ARC recently!

**ARC Visits and Exhibits**

Former Culverite Milly O’ Shea, who visited the ARC when she was in town with her sister last year, came back and brought her husband, Dennis. Vacationing at the historic Culver Hotel, Milly took Dennis on a personal tour around her home town. They enjoyed our new exhibits, and we are delighted they are also new members of the Society.

CC Councilman Andy Weissman stopped by and had a few hours looking through the many historical documents and artifacts that we’re now able to display. A great big THANKS to Andy who donated our shelves which are coming in handy!

Make sure you stop by to take a look at the vintage newspapers on display. We are currently featuring one from July, 1928, and the pages will be turned often, reflecting our city’s history from 90 years ago!

Our exhibits are changed with new events, anniversaries and, sometimes, just the seasons! Costume Chair Louise Coffey-Webb has displayed a Civil War costume in keeping with our celebration of the classic 1939 movies like Gone With The Wind.

We look forward to seeing you soon – and, if you have some time to give, we need volunteers to sort and catalog our many treasures.

~ Martha & Sol

**ARC displays.**

● CCHS members Andy Weissman and Carlos Lugo fondly reminiscing about Laurel and Hardy as they enjoyed the Gragg display at the ARC.

● A recent ARC Saturday Volunteer Party – with CCHS Board members pitching in, working on some delicate items in preparation for future ARC displays.

“Who has more fun than us?!”

**CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC)**

Veterans Memorial Building • 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA

Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm, and by appointment

Free admission. (Enter from parking lot behind the VMB.)

Mail: PO Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428

Tel: 310.253.6941 • Email: info@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org

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Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!

Join others in preserving the history of the “Heart of Screenland” and to support the Culver City Historical Society Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

We can’t do it without YOU!

**TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- ____ Benefactor ($1000)
- ____ Organization ($15)
- ____ Family Member ($25)
- ____ Individual Lifetime Member ($250)
- ____ Youth Member ($5)
- ____ Corporate Sponsor ($500)
- ____ Business Member ($50)
- ____ Individual Member ($15)
- ____ Family Lifetime Member ($500)

Name/Company: ____________________________  Contact Person: ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________  (City) ____________________________  (State/Zip) _________________

Telephone: ____________________________  Fax: ____________________________  Email: ____________________________

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) 253-6941 or email: info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.

Contributions of both historic & social significance as well as monetary donations are encouraged, and the CCHS IRS tax exempt status may make such contributions tax deductible.

**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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