"A Native American Gathering"
Celebrates the Gabrielino/Tongva Heritage

GABRIELINO/TONGVA FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT MUSEUM CAMPAIGN
by Lupe Smith

The colorful history of the Gabrielino/Tongva Indians – the original inhabitants of Culver City and neighboring areas – will be celebrated through their music, dance, arts and crafts, and storytelling.

On Sunday, July 23, 2000, the Society will present "A Native American Gathering" at the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Ave., from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This will be an extraordinary opportunity to experience firsthand the culture of the Tongva tribe who were renamed "Gabrielinos" by the Spanish, who forced them to work at the San Gabriel Mission in the 1700s. Disease was introduced to these gentle people and half of their population was wiped out. Those who survived and remained in the area have maintained close ties, continuing to meet and celebrate their culture regularly since the 1850s.

A NATIVE AMERICAN BLESSING

The festivities will begin with a typical blessing of the event by our spiritual leader, Jimi Castillo. There will be performances by the Tongva Nation Dancers and Hilda Contreras' group of Aztec dancers, as well as Native American music.

Highlights include storytelling sessions which are an integral part of the Native (Cont'd on page 4)

GABRIELINO/TONGVAS IN 2000
by Lupe Smith

My previous articles have been about the past, but I'm happy to be able to write one about the present.

This seems to be the year of the Gabrielino/Tongva. Positive things have been happening and we seem to be getting much deserved and long overdue recognition.

MEMORIAL SITE DEDICATED AT LMU

On April 28, Loyola Marymount University dedicated a memorial to the Gabrielino/Tongvas in the form of a medallion. I had the privilege of serving on the planning committee headed by Dr. G. Edward Evans, University Librarian and archivist, along with three other Tongvas, two staff members and three students. Dr. Evans was asked to form this committee by Thomas O'Malley, S.J., former President of LMU, in recognition of the fact that the sites I had written about earlier did, in fact, exist on the campus.

We worked on it for three years and are very proud of the end result. The central medallion was designed by one of us, Matthew Dorame. It depicts dolphins – which we believe are sacred – swimming around a map of the area where the Tongva lived.

The memorial is located on a cliff overlooking Playa del Rey and the Pacific Ocean. I encourage those of you who have an interest in our area's earliest history to visit the site. There is construction of new housing going on now, but when it is finished and access is possible, I will make it known.

In addition, the committee is working on a display case to contain artifacts, history and photographs which is being constructed in the University's Von der Ahe Library. It is planned to be unveiled in September when classes resume.

(Cont’d on page 4)

Annual "Picnic in the Park"

It's time for the annual Culver City Historical Society's "Picnic in the Park" and we hope you will join us in celebrating our 20th year!

The first Society Picnic was held on the Culver Studio's front lawn in front of the big white "Selznick" building at 9336 Washington Blvd. in the summer of 1980. It was a huge community turnout and we look forward to this year to duplicate it. So come out and renew friendships, meet new people and make new friends, and enjoy delicious food and drink and a summer's evening for a great "get-together."

This year's picnic will again be held at Carlson Park on Tuesday, July 18, 2000 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm with dinner served at 6:00 pm. The picnic is potluck and members are asked to bring a main dish, salad or dessert for six people plus themselves. Plates, utensils and soft drinks will be provided by the Society.

The public is invited and members are encouraged to bring family and friends. For more information and to let us know what you'll be bringing, or if you would like to help with the picnic planning, please call Cathy Zermano at (310) 839-7688.
In my first message, I announced that there were three primary goals I (we) could concentrate on this term: membership in the Society, a firm foundation for the development of the Culver City Heritage Society, and to bring more public attention to the City’s remarkable history.

With the hard work of Membership Chairman, Carolyn Cole, and her committee, efforts and results have increased by almost 10%. Great work, Carolyn!

(A Native American Gathering) will showcase our earliest residents, the Gabrielse/Tongva Indians. Their rich and relatively unknown history will be revealed through music and dance performances, arts and craft displays, and a petition that we are offering this wonderful event for young and old alike to discover another integral part of our City’s extraordinary history, and I encourage you all to attend – and bring with you potential new members!

Events such as “A Gathering of Native Americans” are the foundation of our chief goal: to create a long-awaited Museum. By attending this and future Society events, you will help us move steps closer to our collective dream.

We can’t do it without you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Culver Historical Highlights
PO BOX 3428 • CULVER CITY, CA • 90231-3428 (310) 838-1073

The Culver City Historical Society, founded in 1981, is a non-profit membership organization created for the purpose of collecting, preserving and exhibiting the history of Culver City and its environs. Our goal is to make this history accessible to the public. The CCHS Newsletter is published quarterly.

Published by... Editor: Judy Sajdak Contributing Writers: Luna Lugo-Cerra, Sandy Burton, Carolyn Cole, Sarah Smith, Ross Hawkins
Printed by: B & B Printing

Officers and Committee Chairs


EDITOR’S COLUMN

A welcome back, our Culver City CAO, Mark Winograd, asked that we include more memorabilia in our city history column. This month, this issue should be a real treat for you: Our resident artist for our Gabrielse/Tongva Indians, Lupo Smith, has written about the recent dedication of a memorial statue to Vision, a Native American student at our University campus, in honor of an ancient Indian village which once stood there. She is also the prime force behind the new CCHS/Ways & Means: Reba Yudics, and Program VP, Kathi Zemro, has written about the upcoming Native American Gathering. Mark your calendars – this one is worth the wait!

We also received a number of items for inclusion, and offer deep congratulations to Edna Larkin on her being named Woman of the Year by the Sertolopatricia. Edna has a long and dedicated history in Culver City community service, serving as a member of the Culver City Library, Education, the Planning Commission, the PTA and the Dahi Hindustan’s Guidance Clinic among others. You are invited to attend her retirement ceremony, and we salute you!

Your Board is feverishly working on an exciting fall event: “Streak Preview” of the planned Culver City High School football season. We are scheduled for November 17th & 18th. This two-day fundraiser will feature the school’s band and chorus and memorabilia of historic markers which will be a part of our upcoming Native American Gathering. Look for details in the next newsletter.

CALENDAR DATES:

(L-R) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Ross Hawkins & Marvin Paige

(L-R) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. made his first film for Triangle Pictures in 1915 and it enabled Thomas Ince to build the studio that still stands on Washington Blvd. today as the Sony Pictures Entertainment. Douglas Fairbanks later starred in Gunga Din, Young at Heart, The Prisoner of Zenda and Sinaloa the Sailor, which were filmed in part at the Culver Studios.

Though he only made one film at MGM – the silent Weman of Affairs with Greta Garbo and John Gilbert in 1928 – he went to school with Irene Mayer, daughter of MGM mogul, Louis B. Mayer. Doug lays claim to having been the first person to meet Garbo, ‘wasn’t terribly fond of him…terrified of him like everybody else, I suppose.’

Of legendary producer David O. Selzick, he said, “I think he was one of the two or three best producers I ever worked with, so I’m prejudiced, but his record stands.” Selzick even had Doug join the role of Bert Butler in Gone With The Wind. “My father, Edward Ashley, thought I’d be good in the part so I was considered for a very brief moment – not brief enough!”

I was privileged to attend his memori al service April 28th at St. Paul’s Church. Edward was remembered as a ‘gallant man in an ungentlellant era’. He was entombed with his famous father at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Edward Ashley

Though not as famous as Fairbanks, actor Edward Ashley had a long and distinguished film and stage career as well.

Born Edward Ashley Cooper in Sydney, Australia on August 12, 1906, he was signed to a personal contract by L.B. Mayer in 1940 who ordered him to grow a moustache “and never to come on the lot without it.” He made his American motion picture debut in the 1940 MGM classic, Pride and Prejudice, starring Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier.

For more than sixty-five years Edward appeared in films, television, radio, and film as well as stage, playing memorable roles in classic films including Gone with the Wind and background documents for this extraordinary film history.

Please contact Ross Hawkins for more information or leads at (310) 839-5725.

CCHS Loo king for HELP

Do you have or know people with memorabilia, photos or treasures which may be sitting in garages or attics? The CCHS and Reel Life in Culver City are searching for film memorabilia for their background documents for this extraordinary film history.

Please contact Ross Hawkins for more information or leads at (310) 839-5725.

Greta Garbo and John Gilbert in 1928 – he went to school with Irene Mayer, daughter of MGM mogul, Louis B. Mayer. Doug lays claim to having been the first person to meet Garbo, ‘wasn’t terribly fond of him…terrified of him like everybody else, I suppose.’

Of legendary producer David O. Selzick, he said, “I think he was one of the two or three best producers I ever worked with, so I’m prejudiced, but his record stands.” Selzick even had Doug join the role of Bert Butler in Gone With The Wind. “My father, Edward Ashley, thought I’d be good in the part so I was considered for a very brief moment – not brief enough!”

I was privileged to attend his memori al service April 28th at St. Paul’s Church. Edward was remembered as a ‘gallant man in an ungentlellant era’. He was entombed with his famous father at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Edward Ashley

Though not as famous as Fairbanks, actor Edward Ashley had a long and distinguished film and stage career as well.

Born Edward Ashley Cooper in Sydney, Australia on August 12, 1906, he was signed to a personal contract by L.B. Mayer in 1940 who ordered him to grow a moustache “and never to come on the lot without it.” He made his American motion picture debut in the 1940 MGM classic, Pride and Prejudice, starring Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier.

For more than sixty-five years Edward appeared in films, television, radio, and film as well as stage, playing memorable roles in classic films including Gone with the Wind and background documents for this extraordinary film history.

Please contact Ross Hawkins for more information or leads at (310) 839-5725.

CCHS Loo king for HELP

Do you have or know people with memorabilia, photos or treasures which may be sitting in garages or attics? The CCHS and Reel Life in Culver City are searching for film memorabilia for their background documents for this extraordinary film history.

Please contact Ross Hawkins for more information or leads at (310) 839-5725.
GABRIELINO/TONGVA SITES IN THE CULVER CITY AREA
by Lupe Smith

Tongva Memorial
Blessing Ceremony
28 April 2000
Loyola Marymount University

There is documented proof in the Fowler Museum of Cultural History Archeological Collection Facility of Gabrielson/Tongva villages in the Culver City area.

Most of these sites were along Ballona Creek, as the creek meandered freely in those early days. Evidence of sites at the present day Lindberg Park, Raintree Plaza, the City Yard, Vinton Avenue, the Hayden Industrial Tract, and Culver High School, to name a few, is available. Data shows that villages dotted Blair Hills -- also called Indian Hill -- as well as Indian Hill--as well as Indian Hill -- are among several sites.

Documented proof exists of two villages on the present day Loyola Marymount University site. One of these villages has been scientifically dated to have existed about 1,000 AD, the other, 1,000 BC. Both universities have extensive collections of human remains and funerary objects as well as midden (fragments of bones, shells, kitchenware) in their possession and/or control. (These materials will be turned over to the Gabrielson/Tongva when they can provide a repository for them). There are also 20 village sites in the Marina area.

This data substantiates what I have long believed and often stated that the Gabrielsons usually established their villages near water. It is heartening to have such archeological information established, for it promotes continuing investigations and research.

Learn More About It

To learn more about the Gabrielsons, there are a variety of sources nearby. First, our City Hall at 9770 Culver Blvd., has a public art installation by May Sun which honors the Gabrielsons. Visit the Paige Museum and La Brea Tar Pits on Wilshire Blvd.

The Southwest Museum is a wonderful resource about our Native American cultures. For a real hands-on approach, look to the Gabrielson Tongva Springs Foundation (www.mitoskin.com/gabrielino), which is restoring University Springs at (University High School) and offers programs for school children and celebrations, open to the public.

-Julie Lugo Cerra

The Legend of Torovim

A Tongva Chieftain being pursued by an enemy tribe, somewhere in Topanga - 'where the mountains meet the sea.' He came to a cliff. Rather than submit to his captors, he dove into the sea. As he fell, he was changed into the Dolphin, or Torovim, our brother of the ocean.

He now swims around the world, staying ever vigilant and alert to ensure the safety of our people. His duty as caretaker of the ocean. And, when Torovim is no more, our people will also cease to be.

View from the Memorial

Gabrielino/Tongva Project

As I said, this seems to be the year of the Gabrielsons. I have recently been interviewed on video by a student at LMU for a paper on the Gabrielsons, and by another young person from UC Irvine, for the same purpose.

I'm currently serving on a Task Force to oversee the spending of $250,000.00 for the preservation of Karunzangna, the Gabrielson Village site at University High School. We also intend to build a Cultural Center there to be used for educational purposes. I encourage you to visit this site on the first Saturday of each month for a history tour. For information, call (310) 390-4758.

In addition, I've been attending planning meetings with the Playa Vista people as they intend to build a Gabrielson Cultural Center and a Ballona Interpretive Center. The prospects are very exciting!

Memorial Centerpiece & designer
Matthew Dorame

Lupe Smith's three generations of Tongvas: (L-R) Glenn Smith, Lupe, grandson Jerry Maldonado, daughter Gloria Beverly & John Lasso

Gabrielino 2000
Other Gabrielino Projects

Close-up of one of the plaques set around the Memorial Garden

Timeline Plaques

1842 - First contact is made by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo to the Spanish, La Santa Cruz
1850 - Land is surveyed and the city of Los Angeles is named
1874 - Gas lighting and fire pump arrive with Pacific Gas & Electric
1876 - Gas lighting and fire pump arrive with Pacific Gas & Electric
1892 - Los Angeles is incorporated
1894 - Gas lighting and fire pump arrive with Pacific Gas & Electric
1895 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1901 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1907 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1920 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1930 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1940 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1950 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1960 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1970 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1980 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
1990 - First Los Angeles water touch arrives during the building of the 300 Water Tower in Bel Air
"RIVERS of the WORLD" MURAL DEDICATED
by Jim Lamm

Sponsored by the City of Culver City and La Ballona Creek Restoration Program in cooperation with the Culver City Unified School District, the newly completed "Rivers of the World" mural was dedicated on June 12, 2000.

Situated along the Duquesne Avenue entrance to the Ballona Creek bike path, the colorful tile and acrylic mural—a water-themed mural with scenes and symbols from the Amazon, the Nile, and other "Rivers of the World"—was hailed by Mayor David Hauptman as part of the city’s commitment to help transform the creek environment into a positive community asset.

Mayor David Hauptman commends the mural of La Ballona Creek. (Photo by David Fannington, artist)

The project was funded by the Los Angeles County Graffiti Prevention Competitive Grant Program of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996. Local businesses donors included Albertson’s, Apple/Balloon Market, D’Water Fountain, Matshu Taste, Pacific Rim Printing, Ralph’s, San Gennaro Cafe, Sorrento Italian Market, Steffas Hardware, Staples, and Trader Joe’s.

Suppliers included Nava Color, Aardvark, Graphixs, Staples, Kinko’s, Culver City Hardware, Ceramic Tile Center, Daltile, Eagle Hardware, and Lakeshore.

For more information about Ballona Creek, call Jim Lamm at (310) 839-6896 or e-mail at JLLamm@aol.com.

A PAST PRESIDENT REMEMBERS…
by Hal Horne
(Photograph by Jim Lamm, 1994-1998)

The period from 1994-1998 was very exciting for the Historical Society as we moved onto new ground to increase our exposure to the community and beyond. In 1993, the Society’s officers approved the initial funding of our video documentary project, Culver City The Reel Hollywood. Over the next six years producer Ron Hawkins would tape over 100 hours of interviews and make contacts with major players in the entertainment industry, many of whom have given us their strong support. We consistently received positive comments and press coverage on our efforts.

This hard work culminated in the 1996 premiere of the first installment, "Visions of Grandeur," and the honoring of Roger L. Mayer of Turner Entertainment Co. with the Society’s first “Star of Screendom” Award. But even before the first episode was completed, we had finished a half hour video history entitled Historic Culver City, which aired on the local cable channel—and further heightened public awareness of the Historical Society and our efforts to secure a museum.

We introduced the “Heart of Screendom” license plate frames which can be seen all over town—incorporating all the CC Department’s vehicles. We also continued our participation at the City’s annual Fiesta Ballona and, under the guidance of Julie Lugo Cerrra, we expanded our popular bus tours of the City. These tours have become a highlight of the Fiesta.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment during my watch was the settling of the Society’s status as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. This allowed us to continue our work, but our finances were taxed as of 1980 protected not just past donations made, but will enable the Society to weather the current and future challenges.

There were many people who served on the Executive Boards during this time. They worked very hard to accommodate patients from the upper story into the operating room in which the stretchers were wheeled. The incline was used in place of steps.

Dr. Hall installed a complete line of equipment for cost of $250,000, and a new operating room for cost of $50,000. In all, the Culver City Daily News reported that Dr. Hall invested nearly $150,000 his hospital. The value to the community was many more times the amount he invested.

The Hal building was sold to Louis Freeman in the early 1930s for use as a furniture store. Later, about 1980, it was gutted and rebuilt inside to bring it up to earthquake standards. It has also been the home of Sunset Drug, the Bank of Culver City, Rieckard’s Restaurant, and Bella Pasta. Today, it is the home of San Gennaro Restaurant.

* * *

The Historical Society has the opportunity to improve the identity and promote the Cultural Complex as marks of worthly public recognition. Its criteria is twofold: the site must be at least 50 years old and it must be deemed to be of historic significance.”

The second criteria was specifically designed to show a certain amount of money spent on the site, i.e., a certain amount of $10,000 as reported by the Culver City Business Membership 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:

Albertson Oldsmobile ....................... Bruce Albertson (310) 398-5721
Alliance Bank ....................... Curtis Reis (310) 410-5281
Byco ................................................................. John Byers (949) 645-2221
Cavanaugh Realtors ....................... Esther Tan (310) 837-7161
Robert L. Duitsman, Atty. At Law ... Robert L. Duitsman (310) 645-6223
Fiannan Farms ............................... Patty Fiannan (310) 836-8437
Francon Properties .................... Stuart Freeman (310) 839-7593
Hanard, DDS ................................. Ken Hanard, DDS (310) 837-5121
Agnes Huff Communications Group .................... Agnes Huff (310) 836-7137
JPW Party Pictures/Photo Lab .................... Jeff Wilson (310) 216-2820
Jake & Joan Jakubowski .................. (310) 397-5612
Newton Plumbing ...................... Jack & Winnell Newton (310) 839-1132
Playa Vista ................................................. (310) 448-4626
Spartan Supply Co. ...................... Rick Betts (310) 837-5351
The Antique Guild ...................... (310) 838-9113

REMEMBER: Come visit the Helms Bakery memorabilia display at The Antique Guild in the historic Helms Building at 3225 Helms Ave. between Venice & Washington Blvds.

REQUEST BENEFITS MUSEUM ENDOWMENT
Consider remembering the Historical Society in your will or trust with a bequest of monies and/or memorabilia. Your gifts will help us to build the Culver City Heritage Museum and secure its future and the legacy of our City. For more information on how you can help, call the Society at (310) 838-1073.

Close-up of “Rivers of the World” Mural

Business Membership Roster

Daily News (November 24, 1925). Its architecture is in the Neo-Classical Style, constructed of tan- and rose-colored brick.

The hospital was set up to treat patients who were injured in automobile accidents as well as patients suffering from industrial accidents. It could accommodate 15 patients plus 8 private rooms. The two types of operating rooms at the hospital were the surgical room and the Turkish baths. In the electrical room, ultra violet rays were used to cure tuberculosis, bronchiectasis and boils. In addition to the operating room, there was an x-ray department. The second floor was used as a kitchen where meals were prepared.

An incline was made in order to...
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!

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

____ Benefactor ($1000)  ____ Corporate Sponsor ($500)
____ Family Lifetime Member ($500)  ____ Individual Lifetime Member ($250)
____ Patron Member ($100)  ____ Business Member ($50)
____ Family Member ($25)  ____ Organization ($15)
____ Individual Member ($15)  ____ Student Member ($5)

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) 838-1073.

Name/Company: ____________________________________________________________

Contact Person: __________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________________ Fax: __________________ Email: __________________

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

Culver City Historical Society

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