COMMUNITY TURNS OUT FOR MAY 22 OPEN HOUSE

by Don Rogers

On Tuesday May 22 the Culver City Historical Society held its “Open House” to officially celebrate the grand opening of its new office at the West Los Angeles College.

Joining in the celebration of the “opening” of the new Society home in Bungalow B1 - Room 101 at the north side of the campus were WLAC President Frank Quiambao and members of his staff along with CC Vice Mayor Carol Gross and Councilmember Steve Rose.

Also attending were President Elaine Alexander and Regina Barton from the Venice Historical Society, and WLAC representatives Mario Purugganan, Vice President of Administrative Services, and Lee Felthoven, Facilities Manager, among others.

Guests were given an informal tour of the site which will house the Society’s extensive collection of artifacts and memorabilia, while providing a location for archival, research and preservation efforts as well as viewing in specific display areas.

While thoroughly enjoying the delicious spread catered by Victor Jr.’s, all shared in the excitement of now having a specific location to meet and work together on the many projects and programs the Society oversees and presents.

The Culver City Historical Society was founded in 1980 to preserve the history of the area. Members have actively worked over the past two decades to collect and catalog memorabilia, photos and printed material. It also sponsors historic tours, lectures, documentaries, and has marked nine historic sites to date.

Now we turn to the major task of sorting and cataloguing all of the material that we have accumulated. To start, “office hours” will be from 1-4 pm on Fridays and 9 am -1 pm on Saturdays beginning September 7.

***

CCHS ANNUAL “PICNIC IN THE PARK”
JULY 17TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Summer Time! Picnic Time! It’s time for the annual Culver City Historical Society’s “Picnic in the Park” – 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 community get-together.

This year’s picnic will again be held at Carlson Park (corner of Braddock & Le Bourget) on Tuesday, July 17, 2001 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 Zermeno at (310) 839-7688.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
by Don Rogers
May 22, 2001, is a date Society members will long remember as the grand opening of the new Historical Society office site at West Los Angeles College. With a location from which to work and meet, we now must begin to sort and catalogue all of the wonderful items we have accumulated over the past 20 years. If you would like to volunteer or have items that you would like to add to the Society’s collection, please call Ross Hawkins, Vice President Museum at (310) 204-6920.

We had a very successful booth at the Fiesta in May, raising additional funds for the Society. Thanks to all who helped staff the booth, and to those who conducted the Historical Society bus tours on Saturday. A special thanks to Julie Lugo Cerra for her efforts in creating the narrative for the tours.

Ongoing discussions for the development of a permanent Culver City Heritage Museum site in the basement of the Culver City Julian Dixon Library continue. More information will be presented at the next General Meeting which will be held at our annual pet luck picnic at Carlson Park on July 17 (see page one).

Your Board of Directors has been working very hard on a number of projects this year, and is very excited about the progress the Society is making. We hope you are as well and encourage you to get involved.

See you at the picnic in July!

Notes from Your City Historian
by Julie Lugo Cerra
IT’S A SIGN!

On Tuesday evening, June 26th, a box began shining again from the historic Beacon Laundry Building. The neon lights alternately started flashing Beacon’s and Helms, under a sitting beacon above. The structure’s reinstallation by Walter N. Marks Inc. is scheduled for completion in September. It will become a part of the Helms Furniture District. I would not be surprised if Wally has plans for the Helms sign renovation next.

Special thanks to Jim Quirarte, who helped rescue volumes of bound Evening Star News newspapers that are being donated by Bob Thompson of the Hal Thompson Co. (Industrial Relics). These will be archived in the Society’s WLAC facility in the near future.

For those who have an interest in the Culver City Airline, I hope you might enjoy this unusual photo. We knew that Harry Culver flew his plane out of the Culver City Airport, but did you know the Goodyear Blimp flew in and out, too? Photo is courtesy of “cuz” Fred Machado.

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

The Culver City Historical Society, founded in 1978, 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. The CCHS Newsletter is published quarterly. Publisher: Lee Bider Editor: Judy Stangler Associate Editor: Ross Hawkins Contributing Writers: Sandy Burton, Julie Lugo Cerra, Kinky Knode Printed by: Kinky’s Office

Officers and Committee Chairs
Donald R. Rogers, President/Cathy Zermeno, 1st VP, Program Ross Hawkins, 2nd VP, Museum Reba Yudess, 3rd VP, Ways & Means Lupe Smith, Secretary, Vice Chair; Community Relations Julia Lugo Cerra, Treasurer; Public Relations Lee Bider, Membership; Public Relations Sandy Burton, Membership; Webmaster Jim Lamm, Government Relations Eleise McNerney, Sunshine Editors’ Column

It was a momentous event: the dedication of the new Culver City Historical Society office at West Los Angeles College! On May 22, 2001, Society’s Board welcomed the community and sister historical societies to our new base of operations and it was truly a “grand opening!”

Now the real work begins… and we need your support more than ever. Mark your calendars for September 7 and plan on joining with others who will be working to sort and catalogue the many wonderful society has the collection of over the past 20 years in preparation for the Culver City Heritage Museum.

This is a wonderful first step toward making the dream of a museum a reality… and WE NEED YOU!

REEL LIFE IN CULVER CITY
by Ross Hawkins

FIESTA LA BALLONA 2001
A GREAT SUCCESS!

Once again the Culver City community came out to enjoy our city’s heritage at the annual Fiesta La Ballona on the May 19-20 weekend at Veterans Memorial Park. The CCHS’s booth was well attended, earning the Society more than $800 during the two-day event!

Special thanks go to Sandy and Chuck Burton for helping to set up; Julie Lugo Cerra for overseeing the very popular city tours, and to Stu Frerichs for obtaining such great raffle prizes.

We are truly indebted to those who provided the raffle prizes: Jackie McCandless (strawberry cream cake & other tasty treats), Martha and Sol Sigal (a cartoon cell of "Bugs Bunny"), Charlie Halstead and the Sagaheuck Cartoon (a tablecloth depicting the history of Culver City), Julie Lugo Cerra (her recently published cookbook, "Fire Barn and Culver Bubbles"), and Ralph Larkin (his buds, "The Last Ride of the Pacific Electric," a short documentary on the closing of the Pacific Electric Rail Line in 1960).

SOL & MARTHA SIGAL & "BUGS BUNNY"

As Vice President, Museum, I am especially pleased to have our new on-site WLAC and it is definitely the first major step toward preserving the archives of "The Heart of Screenland." I’d like to add my personal thanks to those who worked hard to make our “open house” such a success: Pres.

Frank Quiambao, Mario Purugganan and Lee Felthoven of WLAC; Victor Mannana, owner of Victor’s Bar and Grill, who supplied the wonderful buffet; Pres. Elaine Alexander and Regina Barton of the Venice Historical Society who were kind enough to provide the photos of the occasion shown in the newsletter; and to the more than 100 well-wishers who came out in support of the Society.

Beginning Friday, September 7, the office will be open for workshop/study sessions. The schedule: Fridays from 1-4 pm and Saturdays 9am – 1pm. Members are encouraged to sign up to help catalog memorabilia, photos and printed materials that have been donated and collected over the last twenty-one years. One of the first items to receive attention will be Harry Culver’s personal scrapbook that he created after flying across the United States in 1929 (see photo). The Society is currently seeking donations of the following items for its new office: a computer and an answering machine. Anyone who may be able to supply these items as well as those wishing to sign up for the workshop/study sessions are invited to all or fax me at (310) 204-6920.

SOL & MARTHA SIGAL & "BUGS BUNNY"

Historical Society
by Sandy Burton

HISTORICAL SITE #4 AND "THE LAST RIDER" AT 9335 CULVER BLVD.

The Citizens Publishing and Printing Company, established in 1923 by Eugene Donovan, was the oldest independent family owned publishing company in the Crescent Bay District. The site on which the Citizen Building was erected in 1929 is a portion of the original Rancho San Spanish land grant.

Eugene and Catherine Donovan, known to their many friends as Gene and Kitty, had a dream. They, with their son, Roy, would someday create one of the most modern up-to-date publishing and printing establishments in the Crescent Bay area which would be housed in an architecturally beautiful building of stone, steel, concrete and brick that would represent their faith in the future of their adoptive home, Culver City.

Their last step in 1927 was to purchase land at 9335 Culver Blvd. and to employ Orville E. Clark to design the building. Mr. Clark turned his plans from ideas and designs submitted by Kitty “to whom is given full credit for its successful accomplishment.”

In 1928, O’Hanlon & Flarsburg was selected to begin the construction of the building. Executions before work began was that whenever possible, all materials, supplies and labor would be obtained from local sources in Culver City.

When construction was finished in 1929, the News Publishing Company saw the building and has been established in 1923 under the management of his son, Roy Donovan, and the Western Citizen, founded by Gene Donovan, was consolidated into the CITIZEN, Publishers-Printers.

On Friday, December 6, 1929, the first "newspaper" was printed in the new building. On Saturday, January 1, 1930, the public was cordially invited to attend the public opening. More than 2,000 people attended the opening.

The dream was complete and Gene and Kitty numbered among their many accounts such names as Thomas Ince, Hal Roach, Charlie Chaplin, DeMille, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and R.K.O. Pathé.

The Citizen Building was dedicated as the CCHS Historical Site #4 on Thursday, October 18, 1984.

The Citizen Building with Harry Culver scrapbook

Goodyear blimp at CC airport

Sol & Martha Sigal & "Bugs Bunny"
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)
- Family Lifetime Member ($500)
- Patron Member ($100)
- Family Member ($25)
- Individual Member ($15)
- Corporate Sponsor ($500)
- Individual Lifetime Member ($250)
- Business Member ($50)
- Organization ($15)
- Student Member ($5)

Name/Company. __________________________ Telephone: __________________________
Contact Person: __________________________ Fax: __________________________
Mailing Address: __________________________ 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) 838-1073.

Contributions of both historic and social significance as well as monetary donations are encouraged, and the CCHS IRS 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albertson Oldsmobile</td>
<td>Bruce Albertson</td>
<td>(310) 398-5721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance Bank</td>
<td>Curteis Reis</td>
<td>(310) 410-9281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brundo Interiors</td>
<td>Richard Brundo</td>
<td>(310) 391-1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byco</td>
<td>John Byers</td>
<td>(949) 645-2251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantalini's Salerno Restaurant</td>
<td>Lisa Schwab</td>
<td>(310) 821-0018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavanaugh Realtors</td>
<td>Esther Tarn</td>
<td>(310) 837-7161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Duitsman, Atty. At Law</td>
<td>Robert L. Duitsman</td>
<td>(310) 645-6223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flanigan Farms</td>
<td>Patsy Flanigan</td>
<td>(310) 836-8437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeman Properties</td>
<td>Stuart Freeman</td>
<td>(310) 839-7593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Harada, DDS</td>
<td>Ken Harada</td>
<td>(310) 837-5121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Huff Communications Group</td>
<td>Agnes Huff</td>
<td>(310) 838-7137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JW Party Pictures/Photo Lab</td>
<td>Jeff Wilson</td>
<td>(310) 216-2820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake &amp; Joan Jakubowski</td>
<td></td>
<td>(310) 397-5812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter N. Marks</td>
<td></td>
<td>(310) 204-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack &amp; Winnell Newton</td>
<td></td>
<td>(310) 839-1132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playa Vista</td>
<td></td>
<td>(310) 448-4626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartan Supply Co.</td>
<td>Rick Betts</td>
<td>(310) 837-5351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Antique Guild</td>
<td></td>
<td>(310) 838-3131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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