

Culver Historical Highlights

Volume 26 No. 3

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Summer 2005

LIVING HISTORY IN CULVER CITY: 2005

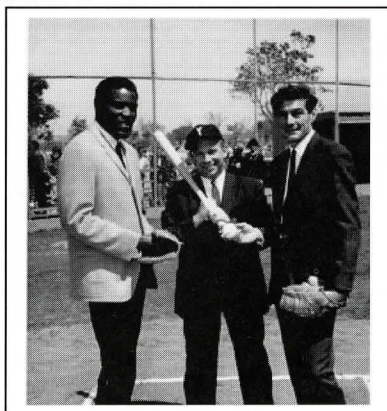
"THE BOYS OF SUMMER" ~ CULVER CITY STYLE

"THE BOYS OF SUMMER" ~ CULVER CITY STYLE

by Steve Newton

"HERE TODAY-GONE TOMORROW?"

In celebration of Historical Society's 25th Anniversary, we all should applaud the small group of Culver City-ians who had the insight to create an organization to protect and preserve our City's rich History. How many "here today - gone tomorrows" would there be if not for this organization's persistence and dedication?



L-R: Rafer Johnson, Syd Kronenthal & Alan Idhe on "Opening Day."

Too often we celebrate the "now" and not the "yesterday" which preceded and led to

(cont'd on page 4)

STUDENTS BRING "LIVING HISTORY" ALIVE

by Julie Lugo Cerra

SOCIETY & CCUSD FORM PARTNERSHIP

Can the words "history" and "interesting" appear in the same sentence and not be a contradiction in terms? We thought so, and that was the intent as the Culver City Historical Society embarked on a "Living History Project" three years ago.

To this end, a partnership between the Society and the Culver City Unified School District was formed in an effort to make local history meaningful for students. For most of us, our remembrances of learning history probably included the words dull or dry, but with direction from CCHS President Steve Rose to work with our local schools, Society members set to work on a plan to change that.

The partnership idea was well received by Supt. Dr. Laura McGaughey and then Assistant Supt./ Educational Services, Dr. Tom Dase. Two obvious opportunities were in third grade, where the students first study community, and fourth grade, when state-mandated curriculum covers California and the Missions.



At the April CCHS General Membership Meeting, President Steve Rose enjoyed presenting a copy of Julie Lugo Cerra's new book, *Images of America: Culver City*, as a "thank you" gift to four of the eight Culver High student volunteers who participated in this year's Living History Project.

L-R: Ashley Guerrero, Rezwan Kabir, Alexandria Richardson, Pres. Rose and Andrea Santos. [Not shown: Jasmyne Gholar, Rhea Jenkins, Samantha Silberman and Ali Sieke.]

1ST SCRIPT: CULVER'S 1913 SPEECH

Scripts were crafted to make local historic characters come alive. The first revolved around Harry Culver's speech in 1913 in which he announced his plans for his proposed new city. He gave it at the California Club in Downtown Los Angeles.

This speech, which I was able to unearth in its entirety,

(cont'd on page 6)



CCHS "ANNUAL PICNIC"

• JULY 20TH ~ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING •



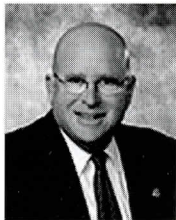
It's Summer Time -- and the annual Culver City Historical Society's Picnic! This year we're going to have an old-fashion "Bar-B-Q," so come out and enjoy delicious food and drink on a summer evening for a great community get-together!

We'll be meeting at Veterans Park (NW corner of the park off Culver Blvd. at the B-B-Q pit area) on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 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 Anita Shapiro at (310) 837-7853.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steven J. Rose



It's *Summertime* and the Society has a lot of activities planned for your involvement!

Our annual potluck dinner will be "Bar-B-Q-style" and is scheduled for July 20, the traditional third Wednesday in July. Just come on down and bring some of your fine cooking to share with six other friends. The friendship

with ocean breezes makes the summer potluck picnic a fun evening for everyone.

The Society will also have a booth at the Fiesta La Ballona, selling many different Culver City items that you'll want to buy as gifts for friends and families – for birthday or anniversary gifts. Please stop by and consider doing your holiday shopping early!

While we're making the whole of 2005 our 25th Anniversary, this Fall, we will be officially celebrating with a special event soon to be announced. Twenty-five years of preserving and teaching our community history is *OUR* history! Help us to celebrate and to continue our work to preserve the uniquely fascinating history of our town so that new generations will know how Culver City evolved over the years.

Knowing and understanding our history is one of the great legacies we can leave to our future citizens to help guide them into making Culver City an even better place for all to live and work. Get involved and become a Society member!

Best regards,

Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra



A "25TH BIRTHDAY" GIFT

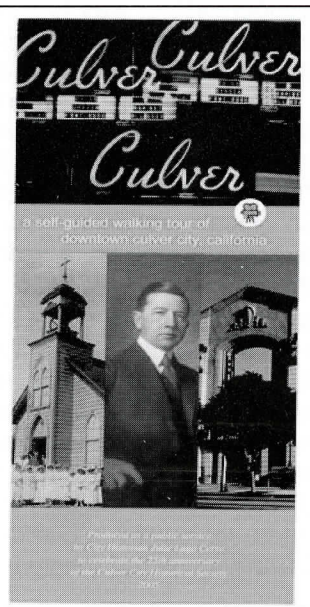
It hardly seems possible that our Society is "25" this year! As a gift, I produced a free self-guided walking tour of Downtown CC with the design help of Geoff Maleman of Maleman Ink. It is available at several locations, including the Chamber of Commerce, CC Library, Culver Hotel, Ivy Substation, Stellar Hardware, Summer Sunset Concert series (Downtown Business Association table), the Jackson Market and through the Society directly.

We will be using it for the walking tour during the Fiesta la Ballona on Tuesday night, August 23rd, starting at 6:00 pm. The tour begins in front of the Culver Hotel.

FIRST CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

It was a great honor for me to serve on the first Cultural Affairs Commission in Culver City. In less than four years we were able to get enough public input to get a Community Cultural Plan and policy

adopted and see progress particularly in the area of the historic.



New Self-Guided Walking Tour of Downtown Culver City

As your City Historian, I know there is great interest in the story of our small city, however, I cannot keep up with all the questions on my own. Let's focus on working together to make progress on cataloging and scanning the Society's collection for the benefit of all who thirst for accurate information. With the technology available today, let's fulfill the commitment we have made to preserve the history of the area!

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.

The CCHS Newsletter is published quarterly.

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Contributing Writers Julie Lugo Cerra
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Editor's Column

Steve Newton's personal childhood memory of wonderful baseball games past evolved into an amazing exploration of the early days of the CC Little League & Pony League. With the help of Jerry Klein, Paul Klein, Bob Padgett and Barbara Hand, more and more information was uncovered, though deadlines didn't allow us to fully cover it in this issue.

I encourage everyone to look into their old scrapbooks, etc. and maybe we can do a fuller piece on this very special period of our collective childhoods!

Our new "Remembering" column is generating some great responses and we encourage the whole community to share their special memories for future issues as well.

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

◀ SPECIAL THANKS ▶

Thank you for your donations:

* DON GALLOWAY:

A beautiful reproduction of a Nov. 12, 1922 Christmas postcard sent from Japan from the "Culvers" [Harry & Lillian] to "Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Roberts, Culver City, Calif." (all the address that was needed!)

The Society sends its best wishes to members Mark Morris and Jackie McCandless & Ross Hawkins on their recent losses. Our thoughts are with you.

REEL LIFE

IN CULVER CITY



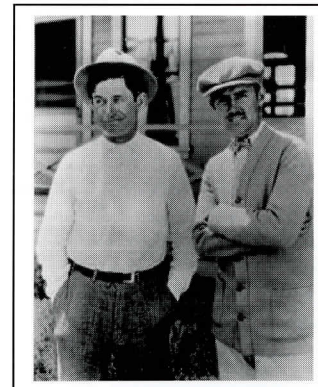
by Ross Hawkins

WILL ROGERS – A FORGOTTEN AMERICAN ICON

As the Historical Society marks its 25th Anniversary, another anniversary comes to mind. 2005 also marks the 70th anniversary of the death of humorist - actor - cowboy- philosopher and an American icon, Will Rogers.

Rogers is almost all but forgotten now, but his untimely death in an airplane crash in Alaska in 1935 with aviator Wiley Post had the same impact on the American public as the death of Franklin Roosevelt and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. A grief-stricken nation mourned as Charles Lindbergh, "the Lone Eagle," flew to Alaska to bring back Rogers' remains.

"It was the only time I ever saw my father cry," recalled Peggy Ahern, who Rogers discovered in the early 1920s and talked Hal Roach into putting her and her sister, Lassie Lu Ahern, into films.



L-R:
Rogers &
popular
comedian
Charlie
Chase at
the Hal
Roach
Studios
c.1930.

UNCLE WAS IN THE "MOVIES"

He was born William Penn Adair Rogers on November 4, 1879 in the Oklahoma territory. His uncle, Walter Cameron, was a real lawman there but found immortality playing the sheriff in the first western ever made, *The Great Train Robbery*.

Cameron came to Culver City in the 1920s and established the "Ben Hur Riding Stables" where he rented horses, stagecoaches and wagons to the movie studios. The site of the stables is now the Raintree Plaza shopping center (Ralph's Market & Denny's Restaurant)

Fiesta La Ballona

SAVE THE DATE!

Fiesta La Ballona 2005 is scheduled for the week of August 22-28 and as always, the Culver City Historical Society will play an important role in this traditional event.

On Tuesday evening, August 23, beginning at 6:00 p.m., the CCHS will be conducting walking tours of the downtown neighborhood. This is always a popular part of Fiesta week and has been well attended every time it is offered. If you can't make the tours, a pamphlet is available (courtesy of Julie Lugo Cerra) so you can participate in a self-guided walk through the same area.

On Saturday and Sunday, August 27 & 28, the CCHS will be participating in the "Culver City Store" booth, offering both of Julie's books (Culver City ~The Heart of Screenland and Images of America: Culver City), pictorial note cards and the ever-popular throws for sale. Back by popular request will be the "Heart of Screenland" license plate holders. The Store will also provide merchandise from various city departments – CCPD, CCFD, Transportation, Public Works, along with items sold by the Fiesta committee.

on the southwest corner of Overland Ave. & Jefferson Blvd.

GOLDWYN BRINGS HIM OUT WEST

Having found fame in the Ziegfeld Follies after WWI, doing rope tricks and ad-libbing remarks about current events, Rogers was brought to Culver City by producer Samuel Goldwyn in 1919 where he starred in 13 films in just two years. Goldwyn even had a barn built on the studio lot so that Rogers could ride up in Blair Hills after work each day. Ben Pitti, the father of Carl and Paul Pitti ("The Culver City Cowboys"), worked on Rogers' ranch/home in Pacific Palisades and the Pitti boys learned to ride and rope there.

When Goldwyn wouldn't give him a raise in 1921, Rogers left the studio and made films for Hal Roach. Though his silent films weren't that popular, when sound was ushered in, he became the most popular film actor in America.

ROGERS' SELF-WRITTEN OBITUARY:

"When I die my epitaph or whatever you

REMEMBERING...

"SEPULVEDA/JEFFERSON"

PART 2

by Steve Rose

The Southern California Nursery was an institution on Sepulveda Blvd. for over 50 years, serving homeowners in and around Culver City. The Shinmoto Family – three brothers: Tony, Min, and Herky, along with their wives and in some cases, their children – gave everyone the personal service that is difficult to find in today's market place.

The Shinmoto's started their business on Sepulveda Blvd. after World War II. They had served in our military while their family members had been sent to detainment camps set up by our government out of fear. Looking back, we can see that this was unfounded and should never have happened.

The three brothers ran the family business and were involved in the community through the old Sepulveda/Slauson Business Association, the Culver City Chamber of Commerce and their religious and community groups, while donating to many charitable organizations throughout our city.

One of their lasting contributions to our city is a memorial garden at the NE corner of Sepulveda Blvd. and Centinela Ave. under the "Culver City" sign. The garden was donated to the city after the death of Kiyoto "Herky" Shinmoto.

Southern California Nursery was one of those family-owned businesses that made Culver City a better place to live and do business with. The family spirit and business ethics that they delivered in both service and products are what made Sepulveda Blvd. a thriving commercial section of Culver City.

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[Ed. Note: "Remembering" is an occasional series of personal recollections by Culver City locals. We welcome yours!]

call those signs on gravestones is going to read, 'I joked about every prominent man of my time, but *I never met a man I didn't like.*' I am proud of that. I can hardly wait to die so it can be carved. And when you come around to my grave, you'll probably find me sitting there proudly reading it." ###



## The Culver Boys of Summer .....

(cont'd.) today and the tomorrows. I was reminded of this a few weeks ago with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginnings of the Culver City Little Leagues and Pony League (which are now played on top of the hill at Bill Botts Field in Culver City Park, named for the 1960s two-term Councilmember, Bill Botts, who fought for the space for the Little League Fields).

### THE MALONE FAMILY

It was in 1955 that the Malone family donated a large piece of land to be used for Little League and Pony League fields on Overland Ave., across the street from the old Machado farm. All the Who's Who in Culver City at the time got involved in the construction of two Little League fields and one Pony League field. And the local businesses bought advertisement fence panels in the outfield fences to help with the cost of material for construction.

While the fields were being finished, the kids were going through sign-ups, try-outs, and then chosen to form teams. Managers and coaches helped to find businesses to sponsor and pay for uniforms and equipment.

### "OPENING DAY"

It started with the complete shut-down of Overland Ave. for a community parade. Most of the car dealerships in town donated convertibles for celebrities and dignitaries to ride in. The new baseball teams marched in their new uniforms. The Culver City Police, Fire, and most of the city's service clubs joined in, even the tank and jeeps from the National Guard Armory rolled down Overland Ave. to the ball fields.

When we reached the fields, the color guards raised our first flag and we proceeded with the fields' first flag salute. Then came the speeches, one after another and another. There were a lot of people to thank and then the teams were introduced, and finally, those famous words us kids thought

would never come, "PLAY-BALL!" What a great time we had!!!

### THE "GUYS" ARE STILL AROUND

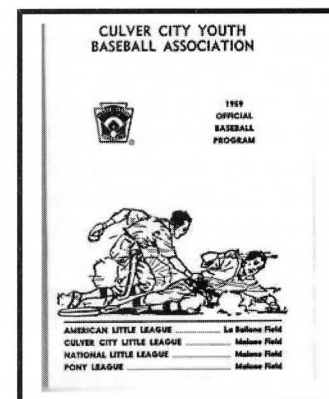
Some of the players of those days are still involved "up on the hill" today – Rick Hudson, Gene Tilman, Dwight Oiler and John Bishop are just a few. I was given an old copy of the Culver City Youth Baseball Association's 1959 program. All the long-ago names of all the managers, coaches, sponsors, players, league officer and officials, etc. show the commitment of almost all the Culver City's "Who's/Who" in support of youth baseball.

I've found that a good many of the "Boys of Summer" of Culver City are still around and their memories are as crisp and happy as if it all happened just last summer....

[Judy Stangler contributed to this article.]

### LITTLE LEAGUE PLEDGE

*I trust in God  
I love my country  
and will respect its laws  
I will play fair  
and strive to win  
but win or lose  
I will always do my best*



The 1959 CCYBA Official Baseball Program



FIRST ALL-STAR TEAM  
MALONE FIELD, 1958.

(Steve Newton: Would you believe 2<sup>nd</sup> row standing, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right?!)



P-O-N-Y LEAGUE, 1958.

"The Giants" sponsored by A & D Jewelers

See Related Article on CC "P-O-N-Y LEAGUE on pg. 6

## The SCREENLAND A's of CULVER CITY

Hey, have you noticed a lot of Model A Fords around Culver City lately? That's because there is a new club, based in our famous movie-making town, but this is not just a car club. The following letter to the City Council may serve as an introduction and explains what we are all about:

Jan. 2005

Mr. Mayor & Council Members:

The "MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA" (MAFCA) is 50 years old, and has over 16,000 current members in 24 countries.

The "SCREENLAND A's of CULVER CITY" is the 78<sup>th</sup> Chapter in California. We are the Historical Society for the preservation of the Model A Ford, which was produced from 1928 through 1931. This automobile carried our nation through the Great Depression and WWII. Known as the car that almost anyone could afford and the fact that they where made to last a lifetime, is why there are so many Model A's still on the road today. 74 to 77 years old and they are still getting around pretty good!!

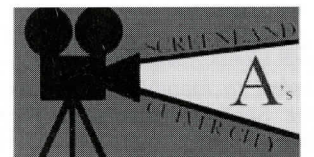
One of MAFCA's main goals is youth participation. There are Scholarship Programs, Youth Restoration Awards, and the X-Cup Program, which sponsors high school auto shop teams to build and compete in the "Great American Race" (this year's race is from Washington, D.C. to Tacoma, WA, from June 25 - July 9. GOOD LUCK KIDS!

The SCREENLAND A's of CULVER CITY supports these goals while extending an invitation not only to Model A owners, but to anyone that is still in love with "Henry's Lady," the Model A Ford! We are proud to use the name Screenland A's and, in doing so, we hope to enhance the public's knowledge of our city's great movie history throughout our nation and the other 23 countries involved in our hobby.

Wish us luck!

Steve Newton

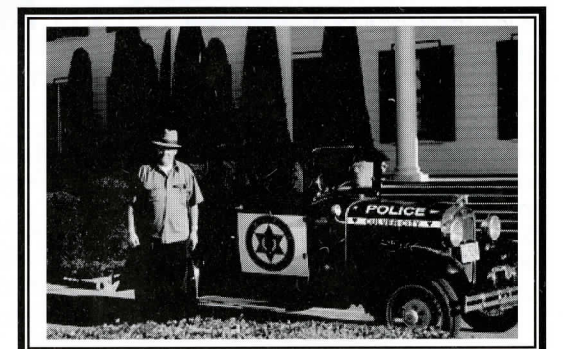
Secretary, SCREENLAND A's of CULVER CITY



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

- 1) Taken in front of the Culver Studios, which was built in 1919, these great vintage cars fit right in! Member Bill Hahn's classic is the first car.
- 2) The members of the "Screenland A's of Culver City."
- 3) One of the founders of the club, our own CCHS member, Steve Newton, with his 1930 Model A Ford Coupe.

(Photos courtesy of Jim Green)





## BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS ...

by Martha Gunther

There is a world outside of Culver City and what follows are items of historical interest in the surrounding neighborhoods.

### Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County

2458 South St. Andrews Place - #417  
Los Angeles, CA 90018-2042

July 9-10: **Lotus Festival in Echo Park**  
Asian-themed exhibits, events, food  
(213) 485-8745

July 9-28: **Museum Leadership Institute**  
Getty Center  
[www.getty.edu/leadership/mli.html](http://www.getty.edu/leadership/mli.html)

Sept. 18: **Hist. Soc. of Centinela Valley Fiesta!**  
Centinela Adobe  
7634 Midfield  
Westchester, CA 90045

Sept. 29- Oct. 2 **Western Museums Assoc. Conference**  
[www.westmuse.org](http://www.westmuse.org)  
(follow link to 2005 Annual Meeting)

### Santa Monica Hist. Soc. Museum

Of special interest to members who spent any time in the Santa Monica/Ocean Park area in years past.  
1539 Euclid Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
(310) 395-2290  
<http://www.santamonicahistory.org>

### Los Angeles Conservancy

Walking tours of the downtown Los Angeles area are conducted by the Conservancy. Tours of the surrounding area are available as well. They include the Broadway Historic Theater District, Art Deco, Union Station, Little Tokyo, USC. Schedule varies according to date and destination; check the website for details and fees.  
523 West Sixth Street, Suite 826  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
(213) 623-2489  
[www.laconservancy.org](http://www.laconservancy.org)

### THE WEST ADAMS HERITAGE ASSOC.

An important force for neighborhood revitalization since its founding in 1983. It ties together many local block clubs that tend a few square blocks of West Adams and provides a strong voice for the entire area before the City Council and many city departments.

#### Annual 4th of July Picnic

2515 4th Avenue  
(Between Adams & 25th St., W. of Arlington)  
[www.westadamsheritage.com](http://www.westadamsheritage.com)

## Museum Notes

by Robin Turner, Museum Chair

### THE WOODCARVINGS OF ROBERT GRAGG

Further to my column in the last issue, here is more information on artist Robert Gragg and our exhibit in the CCHS display case at the eastside of the new downtown Pacific Culver Stadium 12 cinema complex.

In 1926, Robert Gragg began working at the Hal Roach Studios on Washington Blvd. in Culver City. He worked as a carpenter and a layout man. During these studio years, Gragg and his wife raised their five children in their home on Lincoln Avenue.

Born in Little Rock, AR in 1896, Gragg was raised in Minnesota, and lived in Virginia during his later years. However, he never forgot his early years in Culver City, and, upon his death in 1984, his charming woodcarvings were donated to the City of Culver City.

These carvings, known as the Robert Fenelley Gragg Collection, represent a broad spectrum of life, with such titles as "Cutting Down a Tree" and "Saturday Night Bath," along with many movie-related themes.

He had built life-size sets for the movies and, because of his love and artistry for carving, even in his spare time, Gragg was rarely far from a piece of wood. He characterized himself as a "carver of memories."



The Culver City Historical Society is L-R: Member Alan Corlin, Museum Chair Robin Turner & Pres. Steve Rose installing Gragg woodcarvings.

pleased to offer this changing exhibit in honor of the Robert Gragg legacy in wood, appropriately beginning with Historic Preservation Month, May 2005.

## MORE ABOUT P-O-N-Y LEAGUE

The following are excerpts from the "Culver City P-O-N-Y League News," Season 1958.

**P-O-N-Y** (Protect Our Nation's Youth) League in Culver City was organized in the fall of 1956.

As in Little League, P-O-N-Y League team members are selected strictly on merit. A tryout is held before the beginning of each season for new boys at which team managers observe the "rookies" as they perform in various phases of ball playing maneuvers.

Malone Field, home of Culver City P-O-N-Y League, was built and financed entirely by volunteer workers during the first few months of 1957. Grateful acknowledgement is given to those parents and friends of the League who made the diamond possible. Special thanks is given to the Malones who are providing the grounds for the field at no cost to the League.

President Allan Curr said, "We are proud of the parents who are working for the League and the fine boys who make up our teams."

### BASIC PLAYING RULES

P-O-N-Y League playing rules are identical with regulation baseball except the following: 1. Games shall be seven (7) inning duration. 2. Field as described elsewhere. 3. The ball must not weigh less than 5 or more than 5 ½ ounces and measure not less than 9 and not more than 9 ½ inches in circumference. 4. The bat shall be round and made entirely of wood and not more than 34 inches in length and not more than 2 ½ inches in diameter at its largest part.

As in regulation baseball a runner may take a lead off base and steal at his own risk from any base.

Balks will be counted on the pitcher as in regulation baseball.

### CODE OF CONTACT FOR SPECTATORS

The P-O-N-Y League ages are 13 and 14, they can and will make errors. Managers and coaches are volunteers and may also err.

We sincerely hope that spectators will not resort to booing on misplays or bad calls by umpires or managers.

Let's teach the boys good sportsmanship by setting a good example as parents and spectators.

(We thank Barbara Hand for providing a copy of this wonderful piece of history.)

Researching information on film director **Victor Fleming**. Any assistance would be appreciated. Please call Julie Lugo Cerra at (310) 558-3818.

## "Living History" (cont'd.)

offers insight into Culver's thinking and what he was trying to achieve. He made it clear that his city would be situated on main transportation routes, halfway between the growing city of Los Angeles and Abbot Kinney's resort of Venice, with the benefit of a temperate climate. It was location, location, location!!!

### COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT GIVEN

The first year, CCHS principal Franca Dell'Olio not only embraced the program, but she suggested offering Community Service Credit to the students. There were so many volunteers that the creative principal suggested four students dress as Culver and they rotated throughout the speech, each taking a part.

Dell'Olio was an active participant, and the Society paid for the clothes that Susan Deen and I found at a local Goodwill Store, along with furnishing handmade collars typical of the period for each "Harry." The students performed at each of the five elementary schools.

The speech is still so relevant that when Steve Rose dressed to do the part for the Fiesta tours, even though the podium outside City Hall read "California Club, Los Angeles, 1913," passers-by stopped to listen and ask questions!

### HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICANS & PAT CULVER BATTLE ADDED

Last year, the Cerra-Jakubowski team took two scripts into the classrooms, one dealing with the Native Americans and the other offering insight into Harry Culver through his daughter's eyes. This year, Dr. Diane Fiello, the new Assistant Supt./ Educational Services, suggested broadening the program by including fourth graders. With the help of CCHS teacher, Drew Seymour, eight students teamed to rehearse and make the scripts their own. The Society supported the student changes as long as they "did not change history."

Perhaps this was most evident in the presentation on the Gabrielinos, in which Joan Jakubowski creatively wrote about two students talking about their boyfriends, focusing on comments from their parents that transitioned into a discussion of "arranged marriages" and other traditions observed in by our predecessors, "like the Gabrielinos." Student Rezwan Kabir used it as an effective tool to talk about this practice

being the mode still in India, the home of his parents. This made the young audience listen more carefully since it was relevant, while they continued to get a bigger picture of life "back then."

The second script includes two students, one playing Patricia Culver Battle, the city founder's daughter, and a student interviewer. I had the pleasure of knowing Pat, who often represented the Culver family at civic events until her death just a few years ago. When I wrote the script, I tried to make it sound like her. I had taken many notes from our talks and she had even penned a poem about her famed father, which I included.

### THE MACHADOS & RANCHO LA BALLONA

The addition this year was the "Machado Brothers." The two students who represented Ygnacio and Agustín Machado, two of the founders of Rancho La Ballona, wore black suits, tied their hair back as the brothers would have, and had a playful rapport that really appealed to the fourth graders. The young audience learned about life on the old ranchos, and the personality of Agustín Machado, the most famous of the Machado family.



Standing L-R: **Culver City High School students Alexandria Richardson and Andrea Santos performed as "Agustin and Ygnacio Machado" for the April CCHS General Membership meeting. They were also invited to perform for the Board of Education to celebrate Historic Preservation Month in May.**

One story tells of Machado traveling with his "carretas" (carts) to San Pedro to purchase luxury items from the ships in the harbor. When a new supercargo worker asked for a guarantee from the well-known ranchero, he was "put off" a bit, and responded by pulling a hair from his beard for the young man to take to his superior. Then, a man's word (especially Agustín Machado's) was guarantee enough – and they got the goods!

## A Win-Win Proposition

As the scriptwriters, we tried to make history relate to the students of today, but the final test clearly lies in the presentations.

The eight volunteers this year were energetic tenth graders, most of them students in the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts at Culver High. They not only presented to all of the third and fourth graders in the district, some also took their show on the road in May to both the CCHS General Membership meeting and the Board of Education.

The Society also provided information boards for the younger students to view what these characters really looked like. It is a win-win proposition. Everyone learned about life in "the olden days," and the students learned that community service can be fun. Was there a way to measure the effectiveness? Oh, maybe by the professional acting and then watching the little ones ask for their high school mentors' autographs!!!

Next year, we will be looking for more volunteers to help. Joan Jakubowski is already working on another script. Think about being a part of the "Living History Project."

~ ~ ~

(This year, the high school participants were Alexandria Richardson and Andrea Santos as "The Machado Brothers," Samantha Silberman and Ali Sleke presented "Pat Culver Battle," while two teams, Rezwan Kabir and Ashley Guerrero and Jasmyne Gholar and Rhea Jenkins presented the "Gabrielino" story. The scripts were written by two Society members who are also former school board members, Joan Jakubowski and Julie Lugo Cerra). ###

### DO SOMETHING HISTORIC IN 2005!

Would you like to be part of our walking tours? Docent? Living History presenter? Organizer? Please let Julie Lugo Cerra know:

Tel: (310) 558-3818  
Email: [julie@CerraEnterprises.com](mailto:julie@CerraEnterprises.com).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JULY 20: CCHS ANNUAL PICNIC**

**AUG. 22-28: FIESTA LA BALLONA**

**AUG. 23: CCHS FIESTA DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS**

**Oct. 20: CCHS General Meeting**



~ Robin



## 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)  
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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](mailto:cchistorical@pacbell.com).

*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.*

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## Culver City Historical Society

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