CCHS WALKING TOURS OF DOWNTOWN CULVER CITY HIGHLIGHT "HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH"

CCHS TO HOST CONFERENCE FOR ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF L.A. COUNTY

On Saturday, July 12, 2008, the Culver City Historical Society will host a conference for the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County, of which the CCHS is a member.

CCHS President Stu Freeman will be on hand to welcome the group to our new Archives & Research Center (ARC) where the meeting will take place.

City Historian Julie Lugo Cerra will give a presentation of Culver City's unique and colorful history, and Archive VPs, Martha and Sol Sigall will host a tour of the ARC's facilities.

The AHSFLAC traditionally asks its member organizations to send a representative to this annual meeting. Danny Munoz, who is a Life member of CCHS, is the current president.

DOWNTOWN CULVER CITY SHINES WITH HISTORIC SITES & CARS!

Saturday, May 10th was a busy day in Downtown Culver City!

The Fifth Annual George Barris "Cruisin' Back to the 50s" Car Show filled Culver and Washington Boulevards, from Duquesne to Canfield, with hot rods, custom cars and legendary cars from films and TV including the "Herbie" VW Bug from The Love Bug – and the Helms Bakery Coach.

CCHS member Ed Firth is President of the "Screenland A" and they made their annual appearance to the delight of so many who appreciate those great old classic Model A Fords.

Sponsored by the Culver City Exchange Club, the proceeds from the show go to benefit local charities for kids.

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

The Historical Society had a real presence as well. With our very popular walking tours, many locals and visitors had a wonderful time seeing the landmark buildings and sites of "old" Culver City while enjoying the remarkable renewal that the downtown area is undergoing.

With a host of new restaurants and art galleries, Culver City is experiencing a renaissance that has been written up in newspapers and magazines across the country.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

In 2004, Culver City joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation and communities throughout the United States in celebrating historic preservation during the month of May.

This year's theme is "This Place Matters" and is intended to encourage preservationists from across the country to share photos of places that matter to them. Once again, The City Council has bestowed upon the Culver City Historical Society a Proclamation citing its many preservation accomplishments in cooperation with the City and the Cultural Affairs Commission.

We are proud that the CC Historical Society serves the city and the surrounding area with its personalized telling of the unique and fascinating (cont'd, pg. 9)

CCHS Annual "Picnic in the Park"

- JULY 16TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING -

It's Summer Time – and the annual Culver City Historical Society's "Picnic in the Park." Come join friends and neighbors to relax and enjoy delicious food and drink and a summer's evening for a great community get-together. Updates on the exciting new developments and happenings of the CCHS ARC will be highlighted along with brief visits of the new facility after dining (remember: no food allowed).

We'll be meeting at Veterans Park (NW corner of the park off Culver Blvd. at the B-B-Q picnic area) on Wednesday, July 16, 2007 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.

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 Co-Chairperson Cathy Zermeño at (310) 839-1413 or leave a message for VP, Programs Fred Iglesias at (310) 253-6941.
Happy summer!

On Friday, May 22nd, the Society had a party at the Culver Hotel to kick off "Historic Preservation Month." Many old friends attended and we made many new ones as well. Among the new friends who joined in the celebration was a bright, inquisitive 3rd grader from Linwood Howe Elementary School named Logan Castellan who came with his father, Mike.

Logan was full of enthusiasm for our displays and he asked a lot of questions. One question turned out to be very significant: Could his teacher, Coco Kipa, come to the ARC museum to see what he had seen? I gave him my phone number to give to his teacher and the following week she called and we scheduled tours of the Archives for four 3rd grade classes. Two on May 27th and two on May 30th.

The format was simple but great fun for all. Julie Lugo Cerra, our City Historian, put on a "history" program inside the ARC with one class, while Carole Gustin, Cathy Zermeno and I took the other class outside the Vets for a different program. These children did rubbings on some of the exterior plaques and drew pictures of the fountain, etc. Then the classes were rotated.

It was a wonderful experience that was the result of a simple question by 3rd grader, Logan Castellan. Thank you Logan! (See related story in the "ARC" column on pg. 7.)

I invite everyone to come share the City's history in our beautiful new Archives at the rear of the Vets Auditorium Complex (formerly, the Teen Center). Visiting is open on the first and third Saturday of the month, from 1-3 pm, and by appointment. And we hope you'll join us at our July 16th "Picnic in the Park" for lots of community fun – and the opportunity to see the ARC.

Sincerely,

Stu Freeman

Notes from Your City Historian
by Julie Lugo Cerra

WHO HAS MORE FUN THAN US?

SPRING HAS BEEN BLOOMING WITH TOURS....

Special thanks to Jeanne Conklin and Tami Esksride who were amazingly lucid at 7am for the Downtown "training tours" – as was a USC grad student who came to learn with them! The Barris Car Show in May drew a few locals to tour with us, along with some 1960s Culver High grads who came in to walk around their old high school.

CCHS members Chuck and Barbara Hand brought their grandchildren who had a great time (see photos on pg. 5). And although the cars were fun, the nostalgia award would probably go to the Helms Church!

Walking tours for El Marino third graders completed Historic Preservation month. Thanks to the city administrative office, we were able to start in the City Council Chambers. Jeanne Conklin and Karen Coyle helped our team offer a special look at community affairs from the "inside" for the third graders. They were like sponges – and they know how to address their council, too!

Upcoming: We will tour visitors from our sister city in Canada, Lethbridge, on July 5.

EXPANDED PROGRAMS FOR THE KIDS!

Between the walking tours of Downtown CC and tours of our Archives, we have been working on creating expanded programs for our children. Archive VPs Sol and Martha Sigall are in the thick of it, with other volunteers, like Carole Gustin, Cathy Zermeno, Jeanne Conklin, Joy Jacobs, Pres. Stu Freeman and yours truly. It's been great, enjoying the kids and trying to find ways to make history fun; it can be – even when you are only in third grade! And we are very happy to see interest in new members, too, like Dean Gebroe. (see photos on pg. 3)

UPDATING "WALL" OF CITY OFFICIALS

Just to make things interesting, I have been working with the city administrative and clerk's offices to put together a list of elected officials so our Society can update the wall of trustees/council-members in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers. In the process, I am learning a lot: Did you know that two councilmembers were recalled from office in 1945?

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.
Editor & Publisher: Judy Stangler
Contributing Writers: Julie Lugo Cerra
Marc Warnakama, Steve Newton
Printed by: Premier Print & Design

Officers and Committee Chairs
Stu Freeman * President
Cathy Zermeno * Immediate Past President
Fred Ygleias * VP Programs
Martha & Sol Sigall * VP Archives
Doug Newton * VP, Ways & Means
Jeanne Conklin * Secretary
Tami Esksride * Treasurer
Karen Coyle * Parliamentarian
Lydia Spiegelman * Membership
Joy Jacobs * Public Relations
Judy Stangler * Newsletter
Julie Lugo Cerra * Historic Sites
Steven J. Rose * Government Liaison
Louise Coffey-Webb * Costumes

Editor's Column

The past months have really shown the mettle of the Culver City Historical Society and spotlighted many of its goals and achievements, here at home and well beyond our city limits.

Our downtown walking tours have been a big hit with residents and visitors alike, and the ARC has attracted historians and sister historical societies, teachers and students from all ages and backgrounds — all bringing with them one overriding interest: to learn about the history of Culver City.

The diversity of our heritage — from the native Gabrielleino Indian period to the early Rancho days, through the beginnings of the "Heart of Sosroeland" and our great film studio heritage, continuing on with the growth of business and commerce — has made our relatively "small town" an extraordinary place in every sense.

Many of us who have been raised in the outstanding CC school system and who grew up with an abundance of parks and recreation opportunities have felt this hometown pride and want to share it with the world. The CC Historical Society is now truly on the map! Onward & forward!

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

HAMILTON HIGH ALUMS — GOOD PARTNERS

Hamilton High which, along with Venice High, served CC before Culver High was built, has a very active Alumni Association. They asked for a history of our Society, which will appear in their Yankee Bugle soon — good to spread the word! (And our Prez is a proud Hami alumni, too!)


The Roymane Studios of Culver City
(c. early 1920s.)

"Notes" (cont’d.)

Below Right: CCHS Pres. Stu Freeman with Linwood Howe School students learning to preserve history by taking a "rubbing" of the historic marathon marker with crayon on freezer paper.

Below: "A Moment in Time" always draws our young students as you see in last year’s tour for El Marino Language School.

A Reminder: It’s Not Too Late to Renew CCHS Memberships!

by Lydia Spiegelman, Membership Chair

As you know the CCHS Membership renewals are due at the beginning of the year, but it isn’t too late to send in your new memberships and renewals. This is a great Historical Society, wonderful things are happening and we want you all to be a part of it!

Your membership dues support the Society’s diverse efforts to keep Culver City’s unique history alive for future generations. This is a very exciting year with our new Archives & Resource Center (ARC) finally in operation. You will also be supporting such community outreach programs as the very popular "Living History Project" for Culver City students.

Please consider becoming a Patron, a Lifetime Member, a Corporate Sponsor or a Benefactor. Being a member of the Culver City Historical Society is more important and rewarding than ever before. (See form on pg. 8.)
A Fond Look Back at a Culver City Landmark:

Stellar Hardware on Main Street

by Julie Lugo Cerra

Didn’t you just love to walk to Main Street when you were a kid? For so many of us, it was just our size – we knew all the stores, many of the owners, and our parents were comfortable sending us to shop. This year, we sadly lost the last of the old-time stores.

Until 2008, the longest standing retailer on Main Street was established in 1923 as Stellar Bros. & Skoog. The original owners were Adolph W. and Herman A. Steller and John L. Skoog. Adolph Steller presided over the Chamber of Commerce during the development of the Hayden Tract, the first industrial tract in Culver City. Steller pro-actively marketed it in the mid-1940s, which explains the street carrying his name.

The original addresses on Main Street were numbered in the 7000s, with the early Stellar Bros. & Skoog listed at 7024. As Culver City developed, it was laid out south of Venice Boulevard, but in many locations the boundaries are mid-block. Main Street is one of those streets and the early store was just “across the alley,” north of their current location. That store actually had a Bagley address in Los Angeles!

After World War II, then store bookkeeper, Caryll Wild, and Jim Bohn purchased the store. The name changed to “Stellar” Hardware. Caryll Wild and his wife, Marguerite, continued the tradition of active participation in the community. In 1968, a young Navy pilot, Rob Barber, married their daughter Jan, and in 1972, her sister, Charlyn, married youthful high school shop teacher, Jack Barton. In 1973, Rob and Jack, the brothers-in-law, bought the hardware store and continued to foster the casual home-town hardware store atmosphere.

Rob and Jack both cite their most memorable day in business as one in 1994, when they came to work after the Northridge earthquake. They found the windows broken out and two thirds of their stock on the floor. That day, many of their long time customers showed up in overalls to help. Others were so thankful they were open, they arrived with turkey and ham to feed the employees! Rob called it “the most gratifying day ever.”

In keeping with our “Heart of Screenland” history, Rob and Jack fought their first impulse to paint Marilyn Monroe on the back of the store. Greatly loved Laurel and Hardy won out and the huge mural was painted with Stan and Ollie – in overalls, of course!

When prompted, Jack told me their most unusual sale was a request from Larry Flynt Publications, which needed eight 5-gallon barrels/cans immediately. The store had no empties, so Jack and Rob stuck a sign in the window offering free paint thinner and kerosene if you brought your own container. They emptied the cans for happy customers and Larry Flynt got his barrels for a pontoon-type boat to float a lady in a photo shoot......!

“The boys in bermuda shorts” – Lion Jack and Rotarian Rob – closed their doors, but vowed to remain a presence in Culver City. So, stop and say "hi" if you see them learning to sit and drink coffee!
history of our city that remains beneath its newly-acquired fame. The vision of “a balanced residential/commercial community” that founder Harry Culver first introduced in 1915 has been realized in many forms and fashions.

The Society’s outreach programs underscore its commitment to “collect, preserve and exhibit the history of Culver City and its cultural and civic accomplishments.” The walking tours that we gave on May 10 are a prime example of this commitment and the response from old and young, local residents and long-distance visitors alike encourage the CCHS members and the entire community to support these aims.

Photos by Dan Bloom & Chuck Hand

City Historian and CCHS Tour Guide, Julie Lugo Cerra (third from left) begins a downtown tour at the corner of Main St. & Culver Blvd.

The tour begins at Main Street: Everyone remembers the old Helms Coach! (Pictured: Jack & Connor & Brendan Hand, grandmother Barbara Hand, Dan Bloom, CCHS Sec. Jeanne Conklin, unidentified guest, Gary Warburton & Mary Lou Brown-Schatan.)

(L-R) Culver Grad Gary Warburton with past CCHS Pres. & former CC Mayor Steve Rose as “Harry Culver” in Town Plaza.

CCHS Pres. Stu Freeman shares some of the history of the Hull Bldg. with CC High grad Mary Lou Brown-Schatan.

CCHS member & Culver High grad Chuck Hand reminisces about the Helms Coach with grandsons.

“Harry Culver” shares 1917 newspaper With Brendan Hand (above): Brendan with brothers Connor and Jack (behind newspaper) at left.
**NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR...**

by Louise Coffey-Webb
Costume Committee Chair

**OUR INTERN KARLA CONTRERAS GRADUATES!**

Our Woodbury University intern, Karla Contreras, graduated with a BFA in Fashion Design last month. She is hoping to find a position in the field of costume design, beginning in a costume rental shop for the industry. She is working through her final internship hours on the MGM costumes in the ARC with me, making excellent use of our vacation days!

**CITY HELPS WITH ARCHIVAL MATERIALS**

The City kindly provided new archival boxes and tissue to re-pack the costumes. So, along with checking for any pests or mold, writing descriptions of the costumes and their condition, Karla and I are integrating all previously gathered information of the 70-odd costumes to create the most comprehensive catalogue to date. The up-to-date records and packing methods will help ensure the continued longevity of the costumes.

We are in the process of changing out the costume display cases which will be ready for our public program at the July picnic.

[Note: We have identified a wonderful "Bo Peep" costume worn by actress Jean Dean in the MGM film, The Bride Goes Wild, from 1948 which was designed by the great Helen Rose. You won't want to miss it!]

I want to take this opportunity to thank Karla for her hard work and wish her all the very best for a successful and fulfilling future in her chosen field.

**MGM CATALOGUE FROM 1970**

Among our wonderful collection of memorabilia and reference materials is a rare catalogue from the 1970 auction of MGM items from its long and star-studded history. It was truly the end of an era of a film studio that was such an integral part of Culver City's own history.

This catalogue is from the famous MGM auction, 38 years ago. This was the public auction from which the costume collection came which is now housed at the ARC.

It was also the auction that "rediscovered" Dorothy's ruby slippers from The Wizard of Oz, amongst other treasures, and was held over a number of days in various stages on the lot which is now the home of SONY Pictures Entertainment.

The catalog stated "The net proceeds from the sale of this catalogue will be donated to the Motion Picture and Television Relief Fund for support of its work."

~ LC-W

**CALENDAR NOTE**

The LA City Historical Society sponsors "The Marie Northrop Lecture Series" on Sundays at the LA Public Library. This year's theme is "Treasures of LA." Sunday, July 13: Hynda Rudder will speak on the "LA City Archives."


Parking is free on Sundays after 1pm and the lectures begin at 2pm. For more information: http://www.lasthistory.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**JULY 16TH:** CCHS SUMMER GENERAL MEETING & "PICNIC"

Vets Park: 5:30-8:00 pm

**OCT. 15TH:** CCHS FALL GENERAL MEETING

**ARC Volunteer Dates**

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm

Call to confirm dates: 310.253.6941

July 5  Sept. 6  Nov. 15
July 12  Sept. 20  Nov. 1
July 19  Oct. 4  Dec. 6
Aug. 2   Oct. 18  Dec. 20
Aug. 16  Nov. 1

Above: Jake Jakubowski is "wrapped up" in history with our new shipment of the popular CCHS "throws" — now in cranberry! Order now for holiday gifts at $40 each. Support the Society by also purchasing other CCHS items: Notecards ($5/pkg, $3/$10), "Heart of Screenland" license plate holders ($8 ea/$15 for two) and postcards @ 50¢.

The CC Historical Society is bringing more "history" to you with this fun umbrella with scenes of historic Culver City sites. At $40 each, these will make wonderful holiday gifts — and, if you place your order by the July 16th Picnic, you will receive the discount price of $35 each! Call (310) 253-6941 to pre-order this delightful umbrella and be among the first to be "singin' in the rain!"
An ARC Update .....
by Martha & Sol Sigall
Vice President, Archives

O UR "ARC" IS UP & RUNNING!

While it continues to make progress, we are now open to our members and the community on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 1 pm to 3 pm, and also by appointment. So, please come by.

April's CCHS General Meeting featured Leith Adams, Chief Archivist at the Warner Bros. Museum, as our guest speaker. His presentation on "The Art of Archiving" was so very interesting and informative.

Leith Adams

Leith spoke of being a "bone collector" — collecting everything while trying to throw the "crap" away! And it's not always easy to know what historians and archivists may need in the future, though he tries to reassess the collection every five years.

Leith first came in contact with the Warner Bros. "documented" history while attending USC where he was hired in the cataloging of the WB Collection (documents & photos). The collection was donated to the School of Cinema-Television at USC in 1977.

While he personally collects movie posters, the Warner Bros. collection he oversees includes all kinds of memorabilia, including movie sets, marketing programs, written and acting scripts, and other ancillary items relating to all the arts of filmmaking.

The archives are meant to bring the process of making a film and the people involved to life for today's audiences. He cited such items as letters from Ronald Reagan and Bette Davis to Jack Warner as wonderful "stories" of their times.

After a lively question-and-answer session, the ARC was opened for all in attendance to visit — and we received many positive comments.

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

The Society sends its best wishes to members George Zermeno, the family of Jo Ellen Weaver, the Eskridge Family and the Newton Family on their recent losses.

Our thoughts are with you.
Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!
Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and support the Culver City Historical Society Archives & Resource Center (ARC).
We can't do it without YOU!

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Name/Company: ____________________________ Contact Person: ____________________________
Mailing Address: (Street) ____________________ (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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Roll n Rye Restaurant ......................... Rina Zide (310) 390-3497
Santa Maria Barbecue Co. ..................... James Rodrigues (310) 842-8169
Carol Schwab, CC City Attorney ............... (310) 253-5560
Sony Pictures Entertainment ..Kristin Cavanaugh (310) 244-4000

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