

Culver Historical Highlights

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Winter 2007

“HAPPY NEW YEAR” ~ 2007!

CCHS HISTORIC SITE #11: “CAMP LATHAM” IS MARKED WITH CEREMONY

JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

by Reba Yudess, Membership Chair

January is Membership Renewal Month – and with the many new and exciting things coming up in the new year, being a member of the Culver City Historical Society is more important and rewarding than ever.

Your membership dues support the Society's diverse efforts to keep Culver City's wonderful history alive for future generations, as well as preserving memorabilia and maintaining our research archives.

The Society serves the community in many ways, including such outreach programs as the very popular “Living History Project” in which Culver City students at various grade levels learn to appreciate and better understand their community's past and present. Fiesta La Ballona's city bus tours conducted by Society volunteers are always a top attraction.

So please send in your membership renewal and consider becoming a Patron, a Lifetime Member, a Corporate Sponsor or a Benefactor. And, remember, a CC Historical Society membership makes a wonderful gift – especially for Culver-ites in distant areas!

(see form on pg.8)

UNVEILING THE MARKER AT CAMP LATHAM

November 12th was a beautiful sunny Sunday – an ideal day to mark the Culver City Historical Society's eleventh Historic Site: “Camp Latham.”

Many Culver City residents, including Mayor Gary Silbiger, City Council Member Alan Corlin, as well as members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, attended the dedication of the commemorative plaque at the northwest corner of Rotary Plaza at 5100 Overland Ave. at Virginia Ave.

The official program began with a welcome from City Historian and emcee, Julie Lugo Cerra, followed by an invocation by CC Rotarian Allan Goldman and a fabulous Color Guard presented by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Combined Camps 2, 17 and 21, complete with a drum and rifle salute. CC Rotary President Jim Machado led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CCHS President Cathy Zermeno introduced Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra along with his tireless committee: Stan Abrams, Lynn Baril,

Julie Lugo Cerra, Harold Hanslmair, Steven Rose, Neil Rubenstein and Robin Turner. Also introduced were Lyn Caron, Rotary Plaza Board President and other local officials.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Cathy Zermeno



My very best wishes to you all for a very Happy New Year – may all your days be happy ones in 2007!

We had a wonderful 2006:

- The City granted us a space to house our memorabilia, to organize the archives, and to work on a great many research projects! It's been a longtime coming and we are most grateful to the City to work with us to save the history of our very unique community. It is the Society's task to secure the past and present for future generations yet to come. Soon, we will be putting out the word for volunteers to help us in this mission.

- Our annual picnic was a great success! Special guests Susan Ince Bice (granddaughter of film pioneer Thomas Ince) and her husband Dick, City Manager Jerry Fulwood, Director of Parks, Rec. & Community Services Bill La Pointe, along with City Councilman & Past Society President Steve Rose and longtime friend Ed Little, all joined in this annual gathering to share not only some very fine food, but to also have a lot of fun!

- CCHS Historic Site #11— "Camp Latham" – was marked with much fanfare on November 12 at the Rotary Plaza. Kudos go the Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra and his committee which worked so hard on researching the history of Camp Latham. (See Page 1 and the Centerfold for more coverage of this wonderful occasion.) Special thanks to Commander Glen Roosevelt and his dedicated Civil War Union group, to Rotary President Jim Machado, to Lynn Caron who prepared a lovely reception following the unveiling of the marker, and to our wonderful emcee, Julie Lugo Cerra.

All in all, we have had a very exciting and busy year, and I look forward to 2007 with lots more exciting events and programs. Again, "Happy New Year" to everyone and I hope to see you at the January 17, 2007 General Membership Meeting!

Best,

Cathy Zermeno

Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra



copy of Sister Wittenberg's remarks to *Los Californianos* in 1991 on the Machado Family. She is the author of the definitive work on the Rancho La Ballona and the Machado family genealogy.



PACIFIC MILITARY ACADEMY (PMA), 1937

PACIFIC MILITARY ACADEMY

Robert Pennock, a 1937 graduate of the Pacific Military Academy (PMA), called from his home in Washington state, and then sent a folder from his personal memorabilia from the PMA. We now have a 1937 Commencement invitation with the PMA on the cover with photos of the cadets drilling, their uniforms and the radio tower on the property in the background.

PMA BADGE



A NEW YEAR TO CELEBRATE!

January always begins with a celebration of a fresh new year, but this year, we really have something to celebrate! This is the year that the CC Historical Society turns the corner. Soon we will be in our new "digs" – appropriately headed by our resident archeologist/paleontologist and Museum Chair, Robin Turner.

In the last 26 years, we have gathered a lot, catalogued some, and now we especially need to work hard to pull it all together. Bring your ideas, your expertise, your interest and join the fun.

As always, I want to acknowledge some special folks who contribute to and enhance our ongoing historical research – and now it has become even more exciting, since we will have display space to share with the public.

MACHADO FAMILY GENEALOGY

New member Bob Hattem is a wealth of information and great researcher. Bob has been writing a lot and sharing his work. He recently found and forwarded a

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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Sam Cerra Historic Sites

Julie Lugo Cerra Governmental Liaison

Anita Shapiro Sunshine

Editor's Column

As we look forward to a great 2007, please take a moment to pat yourselves on the back for all the hard work and support you've shown this past year. We have so much to be grateful for, not the least of course is the securing of our new "home" in the Veterans Memorial Building -- in the heart of the city!

The "Living History Project" continues to be a huge success as does our involvement at the annual Fiesta La Ballona. With a permanent seat of operations, we will be able to do more outreach programs and answer many more requests for historic research, etc. (giving our fabulous City Historian, Ms. Julie, much less stress!).

Museum VP Robin Turner is straining at the bit to get at our many treasures, collected over the past 25 years, and will soon be setting up volunteer dates which we hope to see many of you attending and bringing friends as well. What fun we'll have!

It's always our pleasure to note the City's website, full of vital information as well as current events and upcoming activities. Be sure to check it out: <http://www.culvercity.org/>

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

The PMA was established by Harry Culver in honor of his father, and although it was located in Culver City for a very short time, it moved nearby and is certainly a part of our history. It is the location Harry Culver taught his daughter, Patricia, to ride side-saddle, and the site of that often-used photo of Harry Culver on horseback. ###



by Marc Wanamaker

THOMAS INCE FIRE PREVENTION FILM BRINGS ATTENTION TO CULVER CITY

Culver City film pioneer Thomas H. Ince was made an honorary Coast Fire Chief by the City of Los Angeles. Ince received this distinction by producing a fire prevention film at the Thomas Ince Studios and received a special badge for his efforts.

Ince had been honored over the years for his fire prevention efforts on behalf of the motion picture industry in the Los Angeles area. As early as 1913, Ince had personally led a brigade of actors and studio employees to fight a fire around Santa Ynez Canyon which was then a part of Inceville, Ince's then studio, at what is now Sunset Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway. The Mayor of Santa Monica personally commended his efforts.

CULVER CITY STUDIO HAS FIRE-FIGHTING FACILITIES

When Ince opened his new studio on Washington Boulevard in 1919 – complete with a visit by the King and Queen of Belgium – he was already proudly showing off the fire-fighting equipment installed at the studio. A small swimming pool built behind the



Colonial administration building also doubled as a water reservoir for fire-fighting. In cooperation with the Culver City Fire Department, the Ince Studio was considered a satellite fire station in the eastern portion of Culver City.

PRESS APPLAUDS INCE STUDIOS

The *Moving Picture World* magazine in its January 17, 1920 issue, profiled the Ince Fire Prevention film and the honorary ceremony, with the headline: "Ince Fire Prevention Film Wins Him Honor of Chief." It further stated: "Motion pictures have been a source of entertainment for a number of years, but it is only recently that they have come into their own in a practical way, for the benefit of all, and a great stride forward along this line was made by Thomas H. Ince, when he produced a picture depicting methods of fire prevention."

Mr. Ince turned the studio equipment to the task of turning out this film, and then presented it to the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Pacific, which has shown it all over the west, before Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Boy Scouts, schools, women's clubs and other organizations.

INCE HONORED BY CHIEFS ASSOC.

The ceremony was held in January of 1920 on the steps of the new Thomas H. Ince Studios' administration building with Los Angeles and Culver City Fire Department officers in attendance. The Mayor of Los Angeles Snyder presented Tom Ince with the Chief badge making him an honorary Coast Fire Chief on behalf of the Pacific Coast Fire Chiefs Association." ###

RECENTLY SPOTTED ON EBAY:

BELOW LEFT: PRINTED TABLECLOTH WITH "CULVER CITY" & "MGM STUDIOS" NOTED IN CORNER (C. 1930s)

BELOW RIGHT: A SMALL WOODEN BANK – "PACK YOUR COINS FOR A TRIP TO CULVER CITY, CA" (C. 1940s)



"THANK YOU" TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- PATRICIA FOUNTAIN
- MARLA OSBAND
- Thank you to DAVID STARKMAN for his donation of *Culver City, California – Calendar of Events* from 1939.
- Thank you to BOB HATTEM for his donation of a copy of Sister Wittenburg's 1991 Los Californianos speech on the Machado Family.
- And sending best wishes for happier health to our CCHS Pres. Cathy Zermeno and her dear George, and to Syd Kronenthal and his Bunny.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- JAN. 9: CC CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMM. MEETING – COME & DISCUSS IMPORTANT HISTORIC PRESERVATION ISSUES
- JAN. 17: CCHS GENERAL MEETING

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ ~ ~

“CAMP LATHAM”

Over 15,000 California men volunteered to serve in the Union army during the Civil War.

Almost all of those men were from the San Francisco-Sacramento and Gold Country region; and all of the 8 infantry regiments, 2 cavalry regiments, the battalion of Mountaineers, and 2 companies of the Native Cavalry were raised in northern California. Only part of Captain Moore's Cavalry Company and two companies of the Native Cavalry were organized in southern California. The Los Angeles area did prove to be, however, the staging ground for the most aggressive undertaking of the volunteers of the Golden State. Part of this organization and training ground would find its place on the lands of the Rancho La Ballona.

~ **Glen L. Roosevelt**, Commander, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Camp 17

NAMED FOR 6TH CA GOVERNOR

Camp Latham, which existed from 1861-1862, was established by the First California Infantry, under Col. James H. Carleton and the First California Cavalry, under Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Davis. Named for U.S. Senator Milton S. Latham (pictured) who also served as California's sixth governor, this Union tent encampment was California's initial southern staging area for the Civil War.

In early 1861, there was rising concern that California, which just became a state in 1850, might fall to "Southern sentiment." It was to curb this spirit in 1861, that a Union camp was established in southern California. The soldiers, all volunteers, came primarily from middle or northern California. Sent by ship, they disembarked at San Pedro, walked a full day – 18 miles – to establish a tent camp. Camp Latham was located on the south side of Ballona Creek on land that had been claimed by the Machado and Talamantes families in 1819 as their Rancho La Ballona.

Although references existed in some material, like Title Insurance's 1939 publication, "Culver City – A Calendar of Events," the exact location of this camp was difficult to define. The Culver City Historical Society hosted a re-enactment program in 1982 by a Civil War Association from Fort Tejon, which sparked interest.

Pin-pointing the exact location was complicated by the meandering of La Ballona Creek before it was straightened and reinforced by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1935. With advances in technology today, access to added materials validated Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra's early research on the location of Camp Latham near what we know today as Jefferson Blvd. and Overland Ave.



U.S. SENATOR & CALIFORNIA'S 6TH GOVERNOR, MILTON S. LATHAM

The Society is delighted to place the bronze marker at Rotary Plaza. It appears that more than 1500 volunteers were stationed at Camp Latham in its short existence. Artifacts from their onsite brick over bakery and other items have surfaced nearby. Camp Kellogg, a smaller camp, was located across the creek to the north.

~ Julie Lugo Cerra, City Historian



L-R: CC ROTARY PRES. JIM MACHADO, EMCEE JULIE LUGO CERRA, AND SUCVW CMDR. GLEN ROOSEVELT (5TH FROM LEFT)



ABOVE & BELOW: PRESENTATION OF COLORS BY THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR (SUCVW) COMBINED CAMPS 2, 17, 21.



BELOW: THE SUCVW IN FRONT OF THE "CAMP LATHAM" MARKER



~ ~ ~ CELEBRATING MORE THAN 25 YEARS !"



L-R: MAYOR GARY SILBIGER & CMDR. GLEN ROOSEVELT ADDRESS CROWD



REPRESENTATIVES OF DRUM BARRACKS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM & WOMEN'S CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RELIEF (CIVILIAN CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTORS)



L-R: THE SUVCW DEMONSTRATES CIVIL WAR MILITARY FORM



Historic Site #11 Civil War Union Camp Latham (1861-1862)

The First California Infantry, under Col. James H. Carleton, and First California Cavalry, under Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Davis, marched from the port of San Pedro, 18 miles, a day's journey, to lay out Camp Latham. Named for U.S. Sen. Milton S. Latham, who also served as California's 6th governor, the purpose of the camp was to curb Southern sentiment. This Civil War tent encampment, California's initial southern staging area for the war, was located on the south side of Ballona Creek, in this area (now Jefferson and Overland), on a portion of Rancho La Ballona that became Culver City. Union Camp Kellogg existed nearby, north of Ballona Creek.

Culver City Historical Society
Marked: November, 2006

*L: HISTORIC SITE CHAIR SAM CERRA (CENTER) PROUDLY LOOKS AT MARKER
R: "CAMP LATHAM" MARKER*

THE CC HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRATEFULLY THANKS KEVIN LACHOFF AND MICHELE CERRA LACHOFF FOR THEIR WONDERFUL PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF THE CAMP LATHAM COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HISTORIC SITES

- # 1: **City Hall**
 - 1928/ 1995 - 9770 Culver Blvd.
 - Marked on June 17, 1995
- # 2: **The Hull Building**
 - 1925 - 9543 Culver Blvd.
 - Marked on January 26, 1983
- # 3: **St. Augustine's Church**
 - 1887 - NE corner Jasmine & Washington
 - Marked on December 4, 1983
- # 4: **The Citizen Building**
 - 1929 - 9355 Culver Blvd.
 - Marked on October 18, 1984
- # 5: **The Legion Building**
 - 1925 - Hughes, so. of Venice Blvd.
 - Marked on February 27, 1985
- # 6: **Main Street**
 - 1913
 - Marked on December 4, 1983
- # 7: **The Culver Studios**
 - 1919 - 9336 Washington Blvd.
 - Marked on December 4, 1983
- # 8: **The Lugo Ranch**
 - Prior to the turn of 20th century – SE corner of Cota & Jefferson
 - Marked on September 27, 1992.
- # 9: **The Helms Building**
 - 1930 - Washington Blvd. at Helms
 - Marked on September 20, 1997
- # 10: **La Ballona School**
 - 1865-present
 - Washington Blvd. at Elenda
 - Marked on November 27, 2001
- # 11: **Camp Latham**
 - Rotary Plaza
 - Overland/ & Virginia Aves.
 - Marked on November 12, 2006

For more information on CCHS Historic Sites, go to:
http://www.culvercity.org/cityinfo/history/hist_sites.html

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING & PARK: A CULVER CITY LANDMARK

by Julie Lugo Cerra & Judy Stangler

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY'S NEW HOME

With the new agreement about to be finalized with the City for the CC Historical Society's use of designated space at the Veterans Memorial Building to house and display our many wonderful artifacts and memorabilia, as well as furthering our outreach programs, it is appropriate to review a brief history of this venerable Culver City landmark.

HISTORY BEGINS IN 1938

The City of Culver City acquired the major portion of land for this park on January 10, 1938, according to city records. The purchase was made from Security-First National Bank. Formerly known as "Exposition Park," it was officially designated as Veterans Memorial Park on August 8, 1949. It encompassed 10.95 acres, exclusive of the Library Building (which is currently the Teen Center).

Bond financing of \$550,000 guaranteed the construction of the Veterans Memorial Building, at the northwest corner (where Overland Ave. crosses Culver Blvd.). The original plans promised a "recreational building with a stage, restaurant, film museum, playroom, and large gymnasium."

CORNERSTONE LAID IN 1950

The Citizen, a local newspaper of the time, reported on April 14, 1950, that the City Fathers were to lay the cornerstone the next day at 3 o'clock in the afternoon (which was April 15, 1950). They planned to place a complete history of Culver City and highlights of various civic activities throughout the year in the cornerstone of the \$450,000 structure. Anticipated attendance at the event included the Council and the Park Commission.

The building offered auditorium seating for 2,000. The unique "tower" architecture was referred to as a "tourist tower" of 122 feet, where visitors could view "the interior of practically every movie set in the city." It promised a lobby with valuable movie studio curios. The article also mentioned that the council in the past year had authorized, by ordinance, slant oil drilling to help defray the costs of the auditorium. The

firm of James I. Barnes was named as submitting the low bid of \$478,000, complete.

The municipal pool (aka "The Plunge"), was tentatively scheduled to open the following month.



THE VETS "TOURIST TOWER" VIEWED
FROM OVERLAND AVENUE (C. 1950s)

STATE & LOCAL OFFICIALS AT DEDICATION

Locals got their first preview of the Veterans Auditorium on February 2, 1951, at the Chamber of Commerce annual Installation. Four hundred civic and community leaders attended the dinner at which Firley Cleveland replaced outgoing president Charles Milliken. The Chamber office was located in the Rotunda Room of the building during its early history.

Goodwin Knight, Lt. Governor at the time, attended the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on March 9, 1951, and the Gold Star Mothers were the guests of honor. The Citizen mentioned the swimming pool as recently completed at that date.

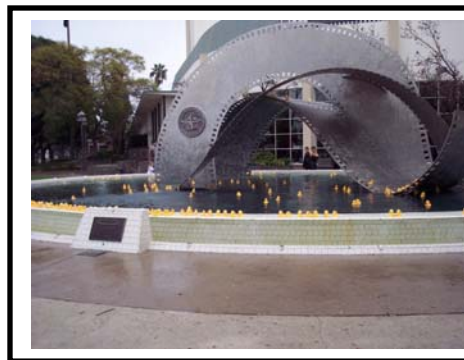
In other news articles, it was reported that the armory would be dedicated at about the same time, a facility at the western edge of the park, which was a cooperative effort between the city and state, on city property.

RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS

The often-used Veterans Memorial Building was renovated in 1980. At that time, a number of changes occurred, including the rounding of the Garden Room (formerly the Tower Restaurant) wall for a mural and installation of glass to view the adjacent patio.

Most notable from the outside was the placement of a sculpture on the Overland Ave./Culver Blvd. corner, in full view from the Rotunda Room. It is a huge and wonderful representation of "The Heart of Screenland" stainless steel work by artist

Natalie Krol, which was financed mostly by public donations. It was dedicated in 1981. If you look at the reflection pool around Krol's "Filmstrip U.S.A.," you will note the names of families and businesses that contributed to the effort.



IN 2005, SOMEONE'S SENSE OF HUMOR WAS
SHOWING A HUGE "GAGGLE" OF DUCKS
"SWIMMING" IN THE NATALIE KROL FOUNTAIN

~ PHOTO BY MARTY NICHOLSON

The facility's entry proudly exhibits a number of markers, placed to remember those veterans who fought for our freedom. Rooms within have been renamed to honor our sister cities. There are plans to also place a monument to all Veterans on the site.

In front of the Veterans Memorial Building, the City installed a permanent monument to commemorate the Western Hemisphere Marathon – which ran from 1948 – 2001, having been the second longest-running marathon in the United States after the Boston Marathon. The start/finish line marked on the street is noticeable across Overland Avenue.

The Society is proud and delighted to be adding its part to the history of the Veterans Memorial Building. We hope our contributions will be long-lasting and help to preserve the history of the City of Culver City and its place in the La Ballona Valley. ###

"Camp Latham Marking" (ont'd.)

the Civil War – Tent 88; Kathy Ralston, Board of Directors Chairperson – Drum Barracks, Civil War Museum; and Mrs. Lynn Johsz, of the Women's Central Association of Relief (civilian Civil War re-enactors).

After a brief history of the site of Camp Latham and surrounding areas by Commander Roosevelt, the marker was unveiled with the help of Jim Machado, Lyn Caron and Commander Roosevelt to the cheers of everyone!

Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra made the closing remarks and one and all were treated to refreshments (courtesy of Rotary Plaza) and a special historical display immediately following in the Rotary Plaza Meeting Room.

It was a day to remember and to feel another sense of the multi-layered history of our very special Culver City! ###

Museum Notes

by Robin Turner, Museum Chair

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

What a great way to start the New Year. In December, the Museum Committee got together to work on the final wording of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and the building lease agreement between the Culver City Historical Society and the City of Culver City. Once the final bugs are worked out, we will be able to start our limited construction on the inside of our new museum space.

Since we will be doing so much more than just housing our museum collection at our new digs, we are working on an appropriate name to call this space – something such as “The Culver City Historical Society's Cultural Resource & Archives Repository.” The Board is working to come up with a suitable name which will ensure that not only do we work as a museum but also as a community learning and outreach center as well.

After the contracts are signed we will soon begin the construction process. We need to build a wall to secure the space from the rest of the building, add an access door, and then put in a security alarm system. It's a great feeling to know that every day we are getting closer to making this dream a reality!

As your Museum Chair, I want to tell you how very busy and committed the Museum Committee has been in the last few months. As can be imagined, many drafts of the contracts have been reviewed and discussed with the city staff and the city attorney. *Everyone* has been working together to help us get into our new space.

After the contracts are signed, and the construction complete, we will be able to start moving in. This will take a few months, so by the next newsletter, we should be ready to move in and start working on organizing our collection. I hope many of you will join with us as volunteers to make this new venture a huge success!

~ ~ ~

On another front, in late November, I put together a new exhibit in our display window at the downtown Pacific Theater

Complex. The new display is made of some of the Gragg sculptures that depict a scene from the Laurel and Hardy movie *Babes in Toyland*. If you get a chance, please take a look at Mr. Gragg's work.

I might add that display exhibits are not really my thing, and I would LOVE for anyone who has the drive and imagination to help me with these window displays. Archaeologists uncover old things. We aren't particularly good at constructing them into displays. So, if you are creative, I certainly would appreciate your help!

Keep these thoughts in mind when we meet together at the next general meeting on January 17th.

~ Robin

“HAPPY NEW YEAR” AROUND THE WORLD!

Shubho Nobobosho (*Benghali*)

Gung Hay Fat Choy (*Chinese Cantonese*)

Xin Nian Yu Kuai (*Chinese Mandarin*)

Godt Nyttar (*Danish*)

Gelukkige Nieuwjaar (*Dutch*)

Shoma Mobarak Bashad (*Farsi*)

Hyyuää Uutta Vuotta (*Finnish*)

Bonne Année (*French*)

Aith-bhlaiin Fe Nhaise Dhuit (*Gaelic*)

Gutes Neues Jahr (*German*)

Eutychemenos Ho (*Greek*)

Hauoli Makahiki Hou (*Hawaiian*)

Shanah Tovah (*Hebrew*)

Naya Saal Mubaarak (*Hindi*)

Nyob Zoo Xyoo Tshiab (*Hmong*)

Boldog Ujévet (*Hungarian*)

Buon Capo d'Anno (*Italian*)

Akemashite Omedetou Kainourgios Chronos

(*Japanese*)

Sehe Bokmanee Bateuseyo (*Korean*)

Godt Nytt Ar (*Norwegian*)

Maligayang Bagong Taon (*Pilipino Tagalog*)

Szczesliwego Nowego Roku (*Polish*)

Feliz Ano Novo (*Portugese*)

La Multi Ani (*Romanian*)

S Novym Godom (*Russian*)

Feliz Ano Nuevo (*Spanish*)

Nakutakia Heri Ya Mwaka Mpya (*Swahili*)

Gott Nytt Ar (*Swedish*)

Mutlu (or Hos) Yilbasi (*Turkish*)

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda (*Welsh*)

Ngikufisela Unyaka Omusha Omuhle (*Zulu*)

An Appreciation:

Lee Bixler

(1946 – 2005)

A little more than a year ago, the Historical Society lost a very dear friend. Lee Bixler had been the Publisher of *Culver Historical Highlights* for more than eight years, and was instrumental in changing the entire face and format of this newsletter.



Lee was born in Bakersfield, CA and had one sister, Alice. His father worked in the oil fields and his mom maintained the happy home.

He demonstrated artistic talents early on, winning awards up to national levels for his art work in high school –

and he remained lifelong friends with his high school art teacher.

A few years later, Lee was accepted to the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and was justly proud of this and of the honors he earned there.

For many years, Lee worked in display for major department stores in the Bakersfield area and later after moving to Los Angeles. He was recognized for his talent and creativity, always relied upon to take something ordinary and give it something special.

For twenty-five years, Lee worked with The Antique Guild, housed in the historic Helms Building, starting as a visual merchandise manager, and finally becoming the proud owner of the renowned establishment. He was never afraid to dream and to work hard to make his dreams a reality. He came to learn a great deal about so many different types of antiques and especially loved his travels to Europe to search out new items for the store, always increasing his knowledge and appreciation of different histories and cultures.

After the closing of The Antique Guild, Lee and wife Jodi moved to the mountain area near Yosemite National Park. He was happy to live a quieter life, enjoying his free time to explore the local areas, fishing and camping in and near the majestic Yosemite park.

Lee's contributions to the Society are many as the numerous compliments we receive from our sister historical societies attest. His enjoyment of “putting the paper to bed” was a testament to his dedication and support to helping to make the Culver City Historical Society a respected and valued organization in the field of historic preservation. He also provided both display and storage space for many of the Society's memorabilia in his “Helms Bakery Museum.”

A loving husband, son, and brother, and a most generous friend, Lee Bixler will be truly missed but never forgotten.

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)	_____ Patron Member (\$100)
_____ Organization (\$15)	_____ Business Member (\$50)	_____ Individual Member (\$15)
_____ Family Member (\$25)	_____ Individual Lifetime Member (\$250)	_____ Family Lifetime Member (\$500)
	_____ Youth 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) 287-3850 or email: cchistorical@pacbell.com.
*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.

Alliance BankCurtis Reis (310) 410-9281	Harold Hanslmair Ins Agcy, Inc (310) 837-8144
Byco, Inc.John Byers (949) 645-2251	Ken Harada, DDS(310) 837-5121
Cantalini's Salerno Beach Rest. ... Lisa Schwab (310) 821-0018	Walter N. Marks Realty.....(310) 204-1865
Cavanaugh Realtors Dannie Cavanaugh (310) 837-7161	Martin B. Retting, Inc. Robert Retting (310) 837-2412
Culver Center Flowers Mike Eskridge (310) 839-2344	Netzel Associates Paul & Diane Netzel (310) 836-7624
Culver Hotel, The(310) 838-7963	Jeffrey S. Penso, M.D.(310) 204-6897
Culver Studios, The (310) 202-1234	Petrelli's Restaurant.....George Petrelli (310) 398-9777
Dave Blair Plumbing (310) 397-9493	Roll 'n Rye Restaurant Rita Zide (310) 390-3497
Robert L Duitsman, Attorney At Law (310) 645-6223	Santa Maria Barbecue Co. James Rodrigues (310) 842-8169
Flanigan Farms Patsy Flanigan (310) 836-8437	Carol Schwab, CC City Attorney (310) 253-5660
Fox Hills Mall (310) 390-5073	Sony Pictures Entertainment.....April Dmytrenko (310) 244-4000
Freeman Properties Stuart Freeman (310) 839-7593	Spartan Supply Co Rick Betts (310) 837-5351
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