

Culver Historical Highlights

Volume 31 No. 1

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Winter 2010

“HAPPY NEW YEAR” ~ 2010!

CC HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEGINS 30TH YEAR

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Enthusiastically led by community leader Frank McCann, the interest in local Culver City history was formalized at our first meeting in the home of former fire chief, John Kearney and his wife, Mildred. Lupe Smith, one of the attendees at that 1979 meeting, called it the “germ meeting” (*germination*)!

Those of us who went to the first public committee meeting at the Veterans Building, remember an earnest Frank McCann though in ill-health. Catherine Zermeno accepted the reins as the first President of the new “Culver City Historical Society.” Clarita Young, our “madrina” (godmother), included Ann Wiedel, from the Associated Historical Societies.

Parliamentary experts Edna Larkin, Esther Tarn and Rusty Kostick participated in spirited By-Laws discussions, and CC Councilmember Paul Jacobs took care of incorporation matters.

On April 7, 1980, Charlie Lugo installed Cathy as President, Rusty Kostick as Vice President, Lupe Smith as Secretary and Marti Diviak as Treasurer. Other early supporters who helped make this happen were CC CAO Dale Jones, Judy Potik and Jimmy and Bessie Freiden.

STU FREEMAN RE-ELECTED AS CCHS PRESIDENT FOR 2ND TERM

At the Fall General Meeting on October 21, 2009, elections were held to confirm the CCHS Board for the coming two-year term. The membership re-elected current President Stu Freeman to continue his outstanding leadership as the Society moves into its 30th year. The full Board confirmed includes:

President:	Stu Freeman
VP, Programs:	Stephen M. Fry
VP, Museum/Archives:	Winston Gieseke
VP, Ways & Means:	Doug Newton
Secretary:	Jeanne Conklin
Treasurer:	Tamela Eskridge



The 150 who joined the Society by June, 1980, became “Founding Members.” Early programs to preserve local history Sites, with City Hall as HS #1.

President-elect Freeman appointed the current Chairmanships, adding three additional Chair positions to work directly with the VP, Museum/Archives: Production Photos, Projects Research and Photographer (*more on these new additions will follow in later newsletters*). The new slate of Chairs will be:

Parliamentarian:	Karen Coyle
Membership:	Lydia Spiegelman
Public Relations:	Joy Jacobs
Newsletter:	Judy Stangler
Historic Sites:	Julie Lugo Cerra
Government Liaison:	Steven J. Rose
Costumes:	Louise Coffey-Webb
Production Photos:	Martha & Sol Sigall
Projects Research:	Hope Parrish
Photographer:	Fred Yglesias

In addition to the elections, a wonderfully lively program was presented by VP, Programs-elect, Stephen M. Fry. His overview of the “Music in Culver City” was sub-titled, “Not So Looney Tunes: A Century of Live Musical Entertainment in Culver City.” With an extensive background in music, including performance, academic and authorship, Steve, with his wonderful jazz group, the Melody Masters, recently performed at the September 20th “Celebration of the Movies II” at The Culver Studios.

(more on the new CCHS Board on pg. 5)

JANUARY 20, 2010: ANNUAL MEETING ~ INSTALLATION of OFFICERS ~

The Culver City Historical Society’s Winter General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue. Please park and enter from the rear of the building.

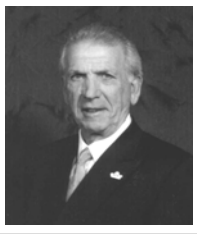
This will be the Installation of Officers and Chairs for the coming two-year term. The Installing Officer will be Jozelle Smith, CCHS member and former Mayor of Culver City. A special historical retrospective of the Society’s past 30 years will be presented by Julie Lugo Cerra and Steve Fry following the Installation.

The public is invited and students are encouraged to attend. The CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) will be briefly opened following the meeting. Light refreshments will be served following the program (but remember: NO FOOD in the ARC!).

For more information, please call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or email us at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org. See you there!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Stu Freeman



2009 has rapidly come to an end and what a great year it was for your Historical Society.

The programs at our quarterly General Meetings saw overflow attendance, bringing a good deal of history to life with wonderful speakers and presentations. The September 20th "Celebration of the Movies II" was a huge success, allowing our guests the rare opportunity of visiting the historic Culver Studios lot. Please know that the continued support of our members and the community is sincerely appreciated.

I want to thank our CCHS Board Members and Committee Chairs for their hard work and commitment to keep Culver City history alive for you and for future generations. I am also very pleased to have the confidence of the Society to continue as your CCHS President for a second term – along with the current Board Members and Committee Chairs who will remain in office for another two years, though some with different titles and duties. It is gratifying to be able to continue working on the many projects and programs that have been started during my first term. Working together, I know we will accomplish even more in the future.

As we begin 2010, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very "Happy & Healthy New Year" and a joyous Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra



"Officers to be Hosts at Xmas event." It went on to read "preparations are now underway for a huge Christmas party to be given to children 12 years of age and under, by members of the Culver City Police Department on Saturday, December 22 at 7pm."

The source was given as Police Chief Cecil T. Truschel. It continued to state that more than 1,000 stockings had been stuffed for distribution for the event staged at "The Christmas Shoe" at Washington Boulevard and Delmas Terrace. Further, "a huge Santa Claus will stand inside the shoe and personally distribute the gifts."

In the following day's issue, the Evening Star News continued with added information that the Christmas "shoe" had been landscaped and the shoe's windows "have panes of green and red cellophane in keeping with the spirit of the holidays." The city planned to keep the shoe lighted until after the first of the year.

LAUREL & HARDY & "BABES IN TOYLAND"

OK, this is the "Heart of Screenland" and we all remember a few nursery rhymes – so one must be "the old woman who lived in a shoe." The old woman's "shoe" became a set for the

Some time ago, CCHS member Bill Hahn shared a special holiday memory from his youth. He remembered a big "shoe" in downtown Culver City in the mid-1930s, where kids got a "sock full of candy" handed out by Santa. He even recalled riding with "neighbors in their 1934 new Chevy car," on a foggy night, and that the program was at 7:00 pm.

Other than a headline he found, he was a little unsure of the details. So, recently, Bill came into the ARC, put on a pair of white cotton gloves, and went through some bound copies of 1934 issues of the Evening Star News. Bill caused quite a flurry of excitement as he found articles to substantiate this wonderful childhood memory.

On December 17, 1934, a front page article was headlined with

Culver Historical Highlights

PO Box 3428 • Culver City, CA • 90231-3428

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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 Wanamaker, Steve Newton

Printed by.....Premier Print & Design

Officers and Committee Chairs

Stu Freeman President

Cathy Zermeno Immediate Past President

Fred Yglesias VP, Programs

Martha & Sol Sigall VP, Museum/ARC

Doug Newton.....VP, Ways & Means

Jeanne Conklin..... Secretary

Tami Eskridge 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

A new year always brings the hope of new beginnings and 2010 will be no different.

2009 has been a most successful year for the Society. We've had many wonderful and dedicated volunteers of different generations come to work and do research in the ARC, most with varying historical interests which is the goal and life blood of the organization.

Broadening our profile in the community and amongst our sister historical groups (such as our participation in "LA as Subject") has been an important and vital accomplishment, and one we dedicate ourselves to continue into the future.

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

Laurel and Hardy movie, *Babes in Toyland*, made right here in Culver City at the Hal Roach Studios. Later, the movie was also referred to as *The March of the Wooden Soldiers*.

(cont'd. on page 3)



Unpacking the "Babes in Toyland" Grogg woodcarvings.

REEL



CULVER CITY

by Marc Wanamaker

"ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT" SHOT IN PART IN CULVER CITY

CECIL B. DEMILLE CREATES "40 ACRES" BACKLOT/RANCH

Recently, I have been researching the history of the RKO-Pathé "40 Acres" backlot in Culver City for a new website: "40 Acres: The Lost Studio and Backlot of Movie & Television Fame."

The "40 Acres" lot [which is a bit of a misnomer as it was only 29 acres] was created by Cecil B. DeMille to build outdoor sets for his first independent films – such as *The Volga Boatman* in 1926 – shortly after DeMille took over the Thomas Ince Studios in 1925, after the death of his friend, producer-director Thomas Ince.

From 1926 on, sets for such films as *The King Of Kings* (1927), *King Kong* (1933) and *Gone With The Wind* (1939) were built on the "40 Acres" backlot/ranch that was located off of Ince Boulevard, Lucerne Avenue and Higuera Street. The backlot continued to act as a setting for the "world" and world history in many films over the years.

With the succession of various companies owning the studio, the famed lot hosted many different styles of film sets. The many companies which owned the studio property built by Ince in 1918 on Washington Boulevard and the "40 Acres" included: Thomas Ince Studios (1918-1924), Cecil B. DeMille/Pathé Studios (1925-1929), Pathé Studios (1929-1931), RKO-Pathé (1931-1957), Selznick International Pictures (1935-1957-leased), Desilu Culver Studios (1957-1967), Paramount (1967-1968), and Culver City Studios (1968-1979).

"Historian" (cont'd.)

Poor "Little Bo Peep" was going to marry that evil "Silas Barnaby" to keep "Mother Peep" from being evicted from her shoe. Of course, "Stannie Dum and Ollie Dee" would never have won out if the wooden soldiers had not come to the rescue.

For a little added interest, you may remember that our city received some woodcarvings by Robert Gragg, a local studio worker, and the collection, which the Society has shown in part, included a "Babes in Toyland" setup. (see photo pg. 2)

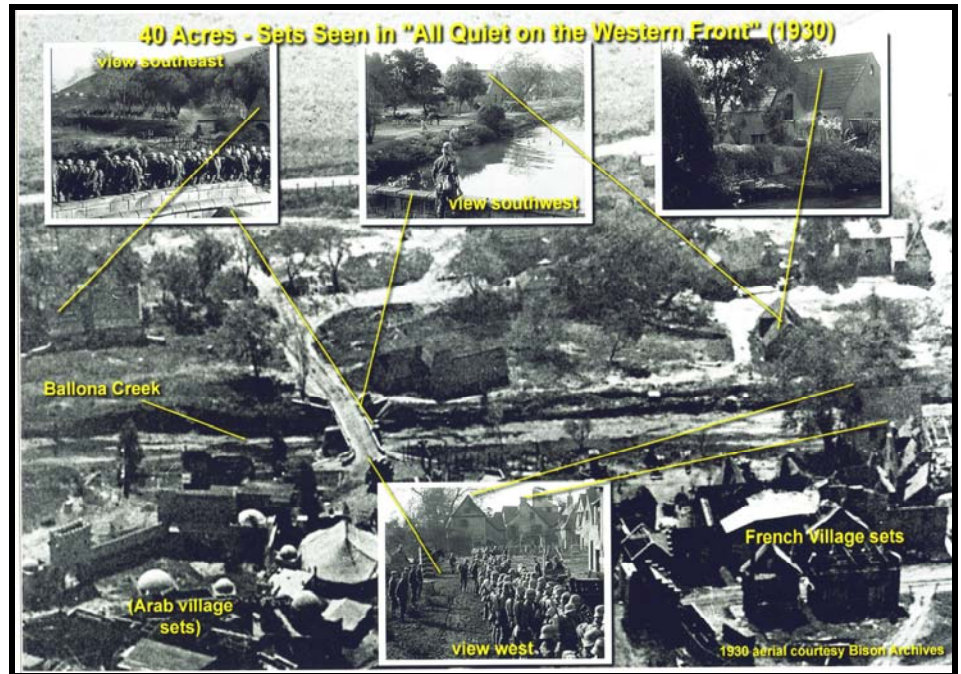
FILM WON "BEST FILM" OF 1930

While researching the more unknown sets used on the old "40 Acres" lot, my colleagues and I discovered that important scenes from Universal's *All Quiet on the Western Front* (which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1930) were filmed on "French village" sets on the "40 Acres" backlot! All the experts on the film's history were unaware that Universal shot some of its key scenes in Culver City. Most of the film was either shot on the backlot of Universal Studios or on location in Irvine California. This was a major discovery as related to an important classic silent-era film.

directing a scene in which 250 soldiers were marching past a church when it was blown up. The air for a hundred yards was filled with flying debris following the blast, and one jagged two-by-four board hit the director's head. A German war helmet he was wearing saved Milestone from serious injury, but a splinter from the board tore a gash across his face."

The sets used on the "40 Acres" lot/ranch included the "French village" that was built on both sides of Ballona Creek connected with a stone bridge. Jefferson Boulevard – which was just a small dirt road at the time –

(cont'd. on pg. 7)



DIRECTOR MILESTONE INJURED ON SET

During the filming on the "40 Acres" lot, there was an incident that injured its director, Lewis Milestone. In a small article in the Los Angeles Times on June 7, 1930, a headline announced: "FILM DIRECTOR'S FACE INJURED IN EXPLOSION SCENE."

The story continued: "Dynamited debris yesterday injured Lewis Milestone, director, during the filming of Universal's production of *All Quiet on the Western Front* at the Pathé Studios in Culver City. Milestone was

DO SOMETHING HISTORIC!

Take an active role in the Culver City Historical Society: Become a CCHS Docent, conduct a downtown walking tour, be a "Living History" presenter. If you're good at organizing or filing, help at the ARC.

BECOME A CCHS VOLUNTEER!

For a special holiday treat, note the Meralta Theatre Xmas Party photo – hope you are having as much fun during these holidays!

Look back to 1924....the Meralta Theatre, and enjoy the spirit of the holidays. Bebe Peralta Cowan shared this photo when she was interviewed this year. Her aunt, Laura Peralta, is pictured lower right, sitting. Standing behind Laura, is Pearl Merrill. Peralta and Merrill, who once played as a vaudeville act, owned the Meralta Theatre. And yes, the name of the theatre was derived from their last names!



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ ~ ~

2009 ~ A YEAR IN REVIEW

2009 began the third year of the CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) – what a great accomplishment!

The January General Meeting hosted a wonderful discussion with CCHS members and longtime residents: “The Parrish Family: Three Generations of Film Property Masters and Culver City Neighbors.” Tales of early filmmaking and Culver City were shared (and a great story about Clark Gable!)

The April newsletter highlighted the extraordinary legacy of the Machado Family and the earliest days of the La Ballona Valley. The Spring General Meeting had Ralph Cantos as its special guest speaker. Ralph, an expert on the electric railway history in Southern California. We invited the Venice Historical Society to be our guests.

The annual CCHS Picnic was again well-attended and fun for families to relax and enjoy some wonderful homemade food!

A highlight of the year was the September 20th “Celebration of the Movies II” fundraiser which gave our guests the rare opportunity of visiting the Culver Studios not open to the public. With celebrities Margaret O’Brien, Patrick Curtis and Margaret “Tinker Bell” Kerry, helping to judge the *Gone With The Wind* characters look-alike contest, it was quite the day!

On October 17th, once again the CCHS participated in the city-wide “LA as Subject” conference at the USC campus with the many varied and specialized historical societies in and around Southern California. It’s always great to meet with your fellow history buffs!

And now, we begin a new year – what will 2010 bring??!!



L-R: Dennis, Willy & Hope Parrish



Fiesta La Ballona gave CCHS members Sol & Martha Sigall the opportunity to show off the new CCHS historic umbrella.



CCHS Membership Chair Lydia Spiegelman (far right) tours the ARC with her daughter, granddaughter and friend.

Below: “Celebration of the Movies II” brought out the crowds!



~ ~ ~ CELEBRATING ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY !”

MEET YOUR NEW CCHS BOARD

STU FREEMAN: PRESIDENT

A third generation Culver City businessman, President-elect Stu Freeman is committed to continuing and enhancing the programs and outreach of the CC Historical Society which he has strongly supported and enlarged during his first term in office.

Stu's personal legacy with Culver City began when his grandparents first came to Culver City in the mid-1920s from the Pittsburg, PA area and soon opened Freeman's Market at 9715 Washington Blvd. (now occupied by Alandale's Mens Clothing store). In 1939, the year Stu was born, his parents purchased the market and ran it until 1950. In 1951, they started Freeman Furniture at 9543 Culver Blvd. (the Hull Building, CCHS Historic Site #2) – now the site of the very popular and critically-acclaimed Akasha restaurant. Stu has been very active with the Downtown Business Assoc. and many civic programs.

STEPHEN M. FRY: VP, PROGRAMS

Steve Fry has lived in Culver City since 1975 with his wife, Frances Talbott-White. In 2001, he retired from UCLA, where he served as head of the Music Library and as a music reference and collection development librarian. He has contributed articles for many journals, encyclopedias and anthologies.

For many years, Steve wrote a column on music for the Culver City News. His writing interests range from film music, women in music, jazz and art music, to music philately and music biography. He is also a pianist who performs in several jazz ensembles and as a solo artist. Steve is currently completing a book on the songs and dances published in The Gentleman's Magazine, an 18th Century English periodical.

Steve has already begun to put together an outline of many fascinating and interesting programs of historic interest which he'll unveil as the year progresses.

WINSTON GIESEKE: VP, MUSEUM/ARCHIVES

Born and raised in Normal, Illinois, Winston Gieseke's passion for creative expression led to Los Angeles and a writing degree from CSU Northridge. His interest in all things historical led to a three-year stint in the 20th Century Fox archives, where he designed an electronic database and personally catalogued & photographed over 6,000 movie props for the studio's collection. He has also enjoyed a brief career writing episodes for television shows like the ABC Family Channel's "Wildfire" and "Hollywood Off-Ramp" for E! Entertainment. He now works as a Managing Editor for Regent Media.

Winston worked diligently as a CCHS volunteer to design and set up the ARC's cataloging template – and he now looks forward to making the CCHS Archives and Resource Center (ARC) a pre-eminent institution among historical societies everywhere.

DOUG NEWTON: VP, WAYS & MEANS

Doug Newton was raised in Culver City and happily claims fame to being part of the Newton Plumbing "clan" – one of many of the Newton family who are CCHS members. Currently, Doug is the General Manager of the historic Culver Hotel and has been instrumental in several of the co-sponsorships of the CC Historical Society and the hotel, notably, the "Celebration of the Movies II" on September 20, 2009.

JEANNE CONKLIN: SECRETARY

Jeanne Conklin, has lived in Culver City since 1974 with her husband Ken. She has worked in various positions as secretary, administrative assistant and chiropractic assistant. For many years, Jeanne has served on the board of directors of a support group for a facility for the developmentally disabled in Glendale where her own daughter lived happily until her passing in 2000. Jeanne is also a volunteer docent for Las Angelitas del Pueblo, giving tours at El Pueblo Historical Monument (Olvera Street) – and has given CCHS members her own personal tours!

TAMELA "TAMI" ESKRIDGE: TREASURER

Tami Eskridge married her husband Chuck and became part of the Culver City "Eskridges" 32 years ago. She spent 30 years working at Eastman Kodak in Hollywood, starting in film splicing, moving to payroll and accounting, and becoming a field sales rep. Chuck's work compliments hers as he has been a motion picture set and sign painter for the past 40 years. And, for the last 11 years, Tami, along with her best pal, Jeanne Conklin, has competed in the LA Marathon among others.

THE SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS LIFE MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

Carol Ball
Brian Bumpas
Sandy Burton
Julie Lugo Cerra
Louise Coffey-Webb
Flora Collins
Susan Deen
Shiloh Eldridge
Virgie Eskridge
Stephen M. Fry
Esmerelda Fucci
Carol Gross
Joan Jakubowski
Marla Koosed
Syd Kronenthal
Jin Kwak
Michael Landau
Kenneth W Lock
Alicia Millikan
Daniel T. Munoz
Morgan Dene Oliver
Milly O' Shea
John Riordan
Steven Rose
Robin Turner
K.R. Weber
Rita Zide

FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. David
Hauptman
Mr. & Mrs. Ed
Wolkowitz
Catherine & George
Zermeno

**Below: A page from a
1925 CC telephone book –
come see it in full size!**



NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR . . .

by Louise Coffey-Webb
Costume Committee Chair

A BUSY & PRODUCTIVE 2009!

This has been a busy, full and very productive year for the ARC and the costume collections we have been able to display for the public.

We began the year with a display of the "candy cane" jacket that the great Gene Kelly wore in the musical, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, directed by Busby Berkeley in 1949. It was designed by Valles (full name: J. Arlington Valles, who worked for MGM for two decades). It brought back lots of happy memories for many locals!

In March, before I had the incredible opportunity to take a trip to China (made possible by the Maxine Frankel Foundation) I had just enough time to change out a costume display to highlight the 70th celebration of what many consider to be the greatest year in all film: 1939. Though we do not yet have a costume from the classic *Gone With The Wind*, we were able to find a gown (c. 1860 and the Civil War) from the wonderful film, *The Pirate*, starring Judy Garland and Gene Kelly.

The trip to China included visits to Chinese Vogue, Image consultants, couture designers and the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology. It is an extraordinary time for Chinese fashion right now – they are integrating their incredible history with their enormous appetite for new fashions and styles, resulting in a unique sensibility.

This Fall, and continuing into 2010, we will continue the dedicated work to finish cataloguing the MGM Costume Collection at the ARC. The final step in this process is to convert all the information onto our new computer database system – and our new VP, Museum/Archives Winston Gieseke, who is a computer wizard, will make it happen!

I wish you all a wonderful 2010!

~ LC-W

AVERY CLAYTON 1947 – 2009

Avery Clayton, who headed the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum located in Culver City, died on Thanksgiving Day at the age of 62.

His mother, Mayme A. Clayton, had spent a lifetime assembling a major collection of African-American artifacts – gathering a treasure trove of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, feature films and other ephemera. Several scholars have called the collection one of the most important of its kind in the country.



Avery Clayton with portrait of his mother, Mayme A. Clayton. (Photo courtesy of Gary Walker, Culver City News.)

After his mother's passing in 2006 at 83, Avery took over the mantle to create an appropriate source to house and display his mother's extraordinary collection. "Her part was to assemble the collection," Clayton often said. "I really believe my part is to bring it to the world."

The CCHS sends its condolences to the Clayton family and friends, and its best wishes to Cynthia Hudley, a UC Santa Barbara education professor, who has been named interim executive director of the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum. We look forward to continuing our friendship as sister Culver City historical organizations. ###

A Reminder:

RENEW CCHS MEMBERSHIPS!

by Lydia Spiegelman, Membership Chair

The CCHS Membership renewals are due at the beginning of the year. This is a great Historical Society, wonderful things are happening and we want you all to be a part of it!

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 Membership form insert)

MARK YOUR "2010" CALENDAR

JAN. 20: CCHS ANNUAL MEETING & INSTALLATION

JAN. 22: HARRY CULVER'S 130TH!

APR. 21: CCHS ANNUAL MEETING

JUL. 21: CCHS ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

OCT. 20: CCHS ANNUAL MEETING

• Watch for notice of marking of CCHS Historic Site #12 of the first park in Culver City: "Victory" Park (now Carlson Park).

For more information on any of these events, please contact the CCHS: info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org or Tel: 310.253.6941.

2010 ARC Volunteer Dates 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm

Call to confirm dates: 310.253.6941

Jan. 16 Feb. 6 Feb. 20

Mar. 6 Mar. 20 Apr. 3

Apr. 17 May 1 May 15

Jun. 5 Jun. 19 Jul. 10

Jul. 24 Aug. 7 Aug. 21

Sep. 4 Sep. 18 Oct. 2

Oct. 16 Nov. 6 Nov. 20

In Memoriam

The Culver City Historical Society sends our warmest condolences to the family and friends of two of our longtime members, Life Member **John Felix** and **Patsy Flanigan** of Flanigan Farms. Both supported and encouraged the Society for many years and they will be deeply missed.



This is the restored "El Camino Real" commemorative bell on Sepulveda Blvd. which was damaged in an auto accident. It was recently replaced by the Culver City Public Works Dept.

HISTORIC SITES UPDATE:

THE AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING

The Jewish Home for the Aging will be proposing a new project that will surround the historic American Legion Building, the Society's Historic Site #5, and a structure the city has recognized as a historic resource. Their preliminary plans show the structure intact, as a part of the project. They have engaged a historic consultant.



CCHS Historic Site #5

Sunshine thoughts go out to our good friends who are happily on the mend: Hope Parrish, Lorraine Henderson, and Paul Pitti.

- *Thank You for your membership:*
Margi & John Bertram
Betty Griffin
Charles Rozaire

"Reel CulverCity" (cont'd.)

which was just a small dirt road at the time – was the southern border of the ranch. The church that was blown up was located next to what became Jefferson Boulevard.

La Ballona Creek was also used for the swimming scenes before the ensuing battle began, so the film company dammed up the creek to create enough slow-moving water for the actors to swim in. After Universal finished using the ranch, the French village sets were re-used for many years and modified for a number of other films. A section of the Jefferson Boulevard side of the ranch was converted into a jungle set and also used for many years.

In 1976, the "40 Acres" backlot was demolished and the property converted into an industrial park that has been used in recent years as motion picture and television production facilities. ###

An ARC Update

*by Martha & Sol Sigall
Vice President, Museum/ARC*

2009: A VERY GOOD YEAR!

As the year 2009 comes to a close, we wish to thank all of our members who have added to the stature and growth of the CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

We have been so fortunate to have had many interesting visitors throughout the year, and we are grateful for the many donations of historic value that we have received for our Archives.

CCHS MEMBERS DONATE ITEMS TO THE ARC

Our longtime member, Maxine Mytar, whose career in Culver City movie studios spanned 47 years, has generously donated numerous items including a lovely scarf worn by Greta Garbo in a movie in which she starred. Maxine's son Randy painted a beautiful water color of the Culver Hotel, which he also donated for the city's 90th Anniversary. Look for both the scarf and the painting which are on display in the Archives.

Another member who has helped us tremendously is David Pelayo, who worked at MGM for many years.

David furnished us with production lists containing movie titles and film credits. These lists will be enormously helpful in identifying the many production photos in our collection.

The Hahn Family continues to contribute historical materials. Bill Hahn donated his recently completed work, *A History of Boy Scout Troop 61, from 1934-1941*.

Special thanks to Steve Rose and the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, for donating a very special lighted MGM lobby piece, and to CCHS President Stu Freeman, who was able to find someone to get it back in service!

And we are particularly grateful to third-year college student, Rita Lugo, who is writing a paper on the movie industry and Culver City, and who volunteered time at the ARC during her research. It's wonderful to have the next generations appreciate our work.

As you know, the ARC is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and by appointment. We look forward to seeing you soon – and, if you have some time to give, we need volunteers to sort and catalog our many treasures.

~ ~ ~

We wish all of you a "Happy New Year," and our hopes that you and your families and friends will continue to add to the success of the Culver City Historical Society Archives and Resource Center. And we are so happy to welcome the very talented and techno-savvy new Vice President, Museum/Archives: Winston Gieseke. He's sure to do some great things!

~ Martha & Sol



L-R: Steve Fry (newly-elected CCHS VP, Programs), student researcher Rita Lugo, CCHS Treasurer Tami Eskridge & CCHS Secretary Jeanne Conklin – with the fabulously restored MGM "lighted" lobby poster, donated by the CC Chamber of Commerce.

~ ~ ~

CCHS ARCHIVES & RESOURCE CENTER (ARC) **Veterans Memorial Building • 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA**

*Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm, and by appointment
Free admission. (Enter from parking lot behind the VMB.)
Mail: PO Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428
Tel: 310.253.6941 • Email: info@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org*

Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and to 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 (\$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: _____ 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.
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