



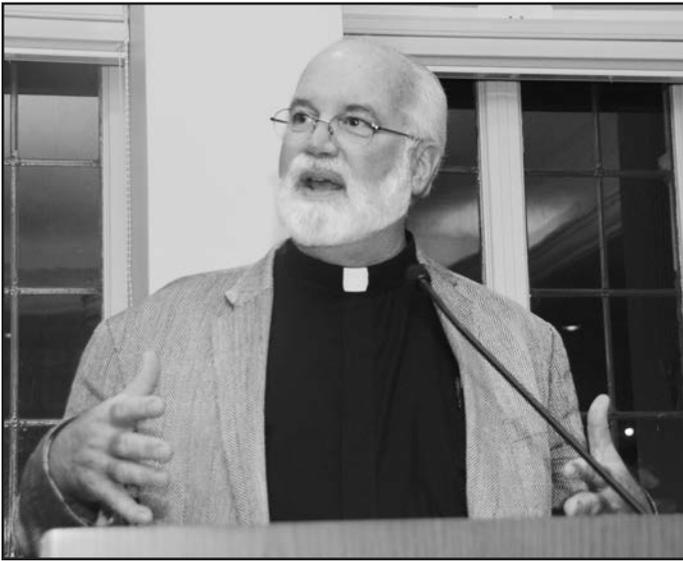
Los Angeles City HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XLV

ISSUE 1

February 2012

Annual Gala Big Success



Fr. Greg Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries

The December 13 Gala held at USC's Edward L. Doheny Jr Library drew a sell-out crowd, with everyone enjoying Father Greg Boyle's after-dinner speech. The topic of his presentation was "Tattoos of the Heart," which is the title of his book about the Homeboy Industries, which he founded.

It was a night rivaling the Oscar presentations, with several notable awards:

Councilman Tom LaBonge, Honorary Life Member, presented a beautiful Council Resolution to LACHS in honor of the 35th anniversary of our existence.

Todd Gaydowski, Society president, and Kathy Kolnick, secretary, gave the David G. Cameron Preservation Award to USC librarian, Dace Taube, for her extraordinary contribution to and organization of USC's Regional History Collection, that includes approximately 100 years of political, social, cultural and urban history of Southern California.

Anna Sklar, former board member, presented the Miriam Matthews Ethnic History Award to Michele Welsing of the Southern California Library for its unique collection of Los Angeles Latino, African-American and Asian-American political, social, and urban history collection of memorabilia, oral histories, books, and newspaper, founded with the assistance of Miriam Matthews in 1963.

Tom Sitton, former board member, had the pleasure of being the presenter of the Honorary Life Member Award to a co-author, William Deverell, for his many contributions to our understanding of Western history, and his directorial leadership of the Huntington Library-USC Institute on California and the West.

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UPCOMING

2012

Northrop Lectures
"Crafting the Image of Historic L.A.
– The Myth & the Reality"

February 11

"Promoting Paradise"
Tom Zimmerman

April 21

"L.A. – Land of Leisure"
Laurence Culver

June 2

"Creating the Myth of the
Automotive Metropolis"
Matthew Roth

**Los Angeles City
Historical Society
Founded 1976**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

I hope you and your families are all doing well. We wrapped up 2012 with our annual Gala, this year in the USC Doheny Memorial Library. We had a wonderful evening of cocktails, conversation, and awards presentations and Father Boyle nearly brought the audience to tears with his heart warming presentation as our featured speaker of the evening. I think a venerable Los Angeles academic institution such as the Doheny was an ideal setting for our gala.

This year we hope to bring you more exciting programs. We already have some in the works, in addition to our regular Marie Northrop Lecture Series. 2012 marks 20 years of the Marie Northrop Lecture Series. This year's lectures are on the theme "Crafting the Image of Historic Los Angeles - The Myth and the Reality." Our featured speakers are Tom Zimmerman speaking on "Promoting Paradise" on February 11th, Lawrence Culver speaking on "Los Angeles - Land of Leisure" on April 21st, and Mathew W. Roth speaking on "Creating the Myth of the Automotive Metropolis" on June 2nd.

I hope to see you all there. Until then please stay tuned for additional programs.

Thank You,

Todd Gaydowski

*Todd Gaydowski
President*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Sue Slutzk
Kathleen Tuttle
Sarah Sherman
David Ahern & Julie Kenney (Husband/Wife)

Editor's Note:

Articles without a listed author are written by your editor, Irene Tresun

20th Birthday NORTHROP LECTURES

In 1992, LACHS president Patricia Bowie and a board member, Rev. Michael Engh, were reflecting on how the Society could best promote greater interest in Los Angeles history among members and the general public. The two history professors at Loyola Marymount University settled on three yearly lectures by established authorities in their field, such as historians, writers and educators, with Pat as chair and Irene Tresun as vice-chair.

Shortly before then, a long-time Society member, Marie Northrop, had died after a long illness. Marie was a respected authority and writer in the field of genealogy, specializing in the early settlers of Los Angeles; it was decided to name the series in her honor.

Rev. Engh made available facilities at Loyola Marymount, and his time as liaison and coordinator. LACHS's long-time member and retired dean of UCLA's Library School, Raymund Wood, offered to underwrite the lectures through a \$500 yearly donation. Since Ray's regrettable death, Margaret Wood has continued to honor their commitment, and other members have contributed.

When Pat's term as president was up in 1994, Irene took over as chairman until the middle of 2011, when – due to health problems – she resigned the chairmanship and a committee member and a current board member, John Fisher, was appointed chairman.

Loyola Marymount was site of the lectures for the first four years, until Michael's promotion to Rector and his increased work load forced him to give up his role as coordinator, and nobody else could take over.

The late Jane Nowak, a board member and manager of Los Angeles Central Library's History Department, arranged to have use of the library's Mark Taper Auditorium. The Society has been fortunate to be able to continue to meet there, with the library's History Department acting as co-sponsor.

LACHS has also been fortunate in being able to obtain excellent speakers, such:

- Patt Morrison and Cecilia Rasmussen, *L.A. Times*
- Leonard Pitt, historian and author

- Tom Sitton, historian, author, head of Natural History Museum's History Dept., Ret.
- Jonathan Spaulding, director, Autry National Center, former head of above
- Tom LaBonge, L.A. Councilmember
- Abraham Hoffman, author, professor
- Huell Howser, TV personality
- Gloria Ricci Lothrop, historian, professor
- Matthew Roth, Auto Club's P.R. director, archivist
- (Late) Doyce Nunis, historian, author, professor
- Bruce Toor, vice-pres., Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, ret., historian
- Raul Rodriguez, winning Tournament of Roses float designer
- Marc Wanamaker, historian, author
- Wayne Wilson, vice-pres, LA84 Foundation
- Mark Langill, Dodger's historian
- Bill Dwyre, *L.A. Times*
- Tom Andrews, professor, former exec.dir., Historical Society of Southern California
- Hynda Rudd, ret. L.A. City Records Mgr.
- Geraldine Knatz, executive Director, Port of L.A.
- Rich Perelman, local Olympic Games Committee member
- John E. Fisher, assistant general manager, L.A. Department of Transportation
- Thomas Hines, author, historian, UCLA professor

The over-all title for the 2012 Northrop Lectures is "Crafting the Image of Historic Los Angeles – The Myth and the Reality." The February 11 lecture, by author-photographer, Tom Zimmerman, is on "Promoting Paradise." The April 21 lecture features author, professor Lawrence Culver, speaking on "Los Angeles – Land of Leisure." And on June 2, the presentation is by Matthew W. Roth of the Auto Club, on "Creating the Myth of the Automotive Metropolis."

Don't miss this outstanding program and the chance to meet the speakers during the reception following each lecture.

Annual Gala...



Tom LaBonge and Todd Gaydowski

Continued from page 1

The J. Thomas Owen History Award went to Paddy Calistro and Scott McCauley, publishers of Angel City Press, which since 1993 has published more than 100 notable books about the history of L.A. On behalf of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, Todd Gaydowski, with the assistance of former board member, Catherine Gudis, also gave them an award from the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

There were two Special Awards presented by Todd: One to Daniel T. Muñoz, currently president of the Associated Historical Societies, for his devotion as LACHS past president, and for his personal Repository/Depository of the Los Angeles Region, with an emphasis on Echo Park; and to Tom Learner of the Getty Foundation for its support and organization of “Pacific Standard Time,” an unprecedented collaboration of 60 cultural institutions across Southern California, coming together to celebrate the birth of the L.A. art scene encompassing every major L.A. art movement from 1945 to 1985.



Kathy Kolnick, Ron Weinstein, Diane Kanner

Paul Workman, director, introduced Father Greg Boyle as speaker.

A new policy was established for the Gala: Individuals and groups may now purchase “Silver Tables” for up to eight people each, at \$1,000. Two organizations took advantage of this, the Southern Public Service Employees Local 721, and LAPMA – Los Angeles Professional Managers Association, to which several board members/city employees belong.

One board member will always remember this dinner. After arriving home, Giao Baker and husband Dallas went to the hospital to greet their new son – and first baby!

Editor’s Note: All photos for this article were taken by Michael Locke.



Paddy Calistro, Scott McAuley, Todd Gaydowski, Catherine Gudis



Todd Gaydowski, Dace Taub, Kathy Kolnick

...Big Success



Southern California Library Michele Welsing, Anna Sklar, Todd Gaydowski



Hynda Rudd, Ron Weinstein (Diana Kanner's husband), Kathy Kolnick, Giao Luong Baker, John Jackson



Tom LaBonge, Fr. Greg Boyle



William Deverell, Tom Sitton



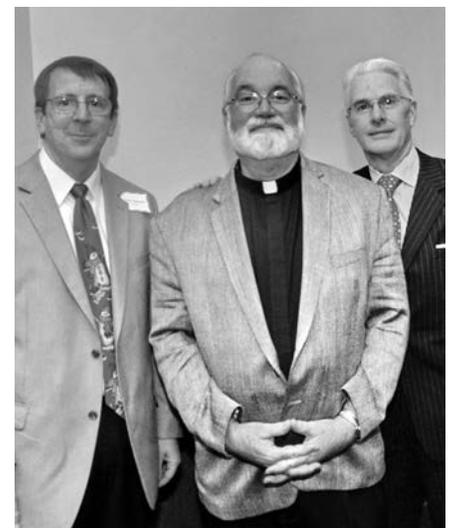
Tom Lerner, J. Paul Getty Trust



Daniel T. Mumoz



Greg Allison, Hynda Rudd, Susan Burnett



Todd Gaydowski, Fr. Greg Boyle, Paul Workman

WELL-HIDDEN SECRET: STONE ARCHITECTURE

Unknown to most Angelenos is a treasure trove of stone “castles.” They are located mostly in Sunland-Tujunga, areas that were annexed to Los Angeles in the ‘30s.



William Ellsworth Smythe discovered the area shortly after the turn of the 20th century, then called Los Torrenitos. He was a philosopher, irrigationist and organizer and decided that it was a good place to live here on an acre or two, and founded a movement called “Little Landers.”

Settlers started buying half-acre lots in 1913, with the first structure built that year being a meetinghouse. Using rocks from hillsides in the surrounding areas, were used to harmonize with the setting. It was first called “The Clubhouse,” but Smythe changed the name to Bolton Hall, in honor of a friend named Bolton Hall.



Bolton Hall

Many of the families who moved here did because they subscribed to Smythe’s philosophy or to escape the high cost of housing in L.A. and nearby communities, while others were drawn here by the unusual stone architecture that had was springing up.

The Little Landers movement died out due to such factors as WWI, economic Recession, and people’s disappointment with the movement, which did not bring the expected financial gains. By 1920, the “colony” had died out, but not the interest in living in a community of stone houses. In 1925 Tujunga was incorporated, and in 1932 was annexed to the city of Los Angeles.

People continued building small and medium-sized homes, while the City of Los Angeles purchased Bolton Hall eventually and transacted most of its business from there.

In 1923, John Steven McGroarty family built a residence on what was later named McGroarty Terrace. The area acquired the name Tujunga, a name McGroarty selected, according to his niece, Margaret McHale (who inherited the property after her uncle’s death) it means “an Indian mother’s smile.”



McGroarty Terrace

The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks purchased the home and about 12 acres surrounding it for \$30,000. Margaret McHale donated to the city many items that had belonged to her uncle from his many years as journalist with the *Los Angeles Times*, writer, playwright, world traveler, participant in the Tournament of Roses in 1922, a California state legislator, his years as Poet Laureate of the state, and book collector. McGroarty’s library has been restored.

While most of the homes in Sunland-Tujunga are not the size of the two buildings described here, the community has many interesting structures worth seeing.

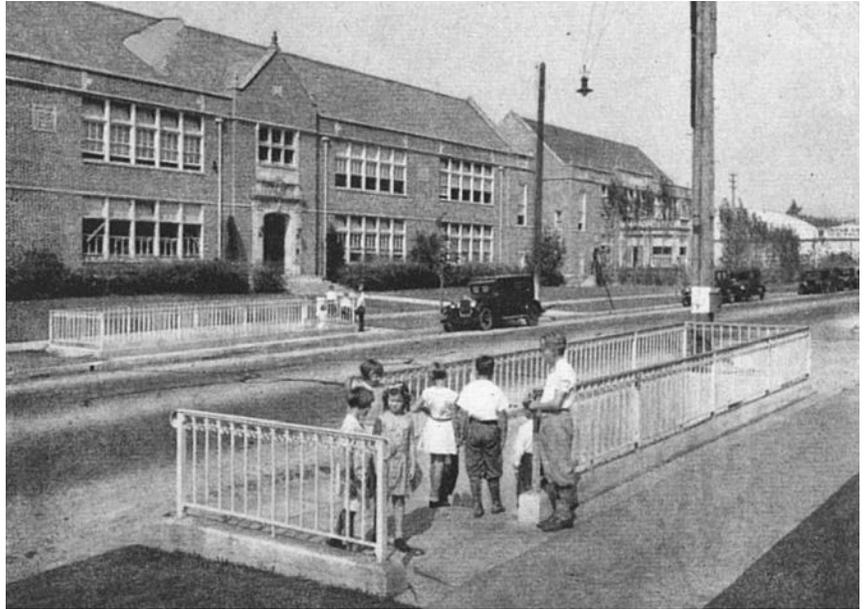


PEDESTRIAN TUNNELS

by John E. Fisher

Our civic leaders first addressed the problem of conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles by committing to a major infrastructure program of pedestrian tunnels. These tunnels were called subways and were built below major thoroughfares near schools. A few other cities built tunnels, as well.

The benefits of pedestrian subways became apparent soon after the initial installations. The first pedestrian subways, a pair, were constructed in 1918 in front of a large public school, and passed below an interurban (Red Car) railway and heavily traveled street. It became evident that the subways reduced the hazard to school children, relieved parental anxiety, and eliminated annoyance to motorists. A few years later in 1924, several small children were seriously injured in attempting to cross Sunset Boulevard at Micheltorena Avenue in front of an elementary school in the Silver Lake community of Los Angeles. In response to this tragedy, the City Council financed the construction of a pedestrian subway at this location. Officials soon realized that this subway not only successfully accomplished its objective, but also saved the salary of a police officer who had been stationed at the school.



Van Ness Avenue near Maplewood Avenue

The idea of the school pedestrian subway quickly became very popular and in the 1925 Spring election Los Angeles voters approved a \$350,000 bond issue to build school pedestrian subways. A total of 40 subways were financed from this bond. An additional 17 subways were constructed by assessment districts as part of arterial paving and widening projects. Sixteen were financed by the Board of Education, three by the federal government, one by the County of Los Angeles, and 15 by a combination of City, Board and federal sources. The California Division of Highways (now Caltrans) built the remainder as part of the construction of the Hollywood and Harbor Freeways. Over a 35-year period approximately 115 pedestrian subways were constructed, 87 of which were for safe school access.



Crescent Heights Boulevard pedestrian tunnel under Olympic Boulevard

The design of the subways soon became well standardized after experience was gained with the initial installations. All were characterized with ornamental iron railings and the small blue-on-white porcelain enamel sign, "Pedestrians Use Subway". The interior width was six feet and the height seven feet. For drainage purposes, floors had a 1½ inch crown at the center to that water would run along the sides and collect via a sump pump recessed in the side wall. The sumps were then connected to a storm drain. For graffiti prevention purposes, the

Continued on page 8

A Little-Remembered Anniversary

Two local anniversaries did not get much press a few weeks ago, but in their day, spoke volumes. One meant that Southern California had grown up. Most of the Pasadena Freeway (or Arroyo Seco Parkway), the first true freeway in the country if you put the stress on “free,” opened on December 30, 1940. On January 1, 1941, Stanford University beat University of Nebraska in Pasadena’s Rose Bowl.

The freeway was extended to Pasadena and the last leg opened on January 1, 1942. On that day, Oregon State University played Duke University in the annual Rose Bowl Game. Oregon State was the winner in Durham, North Carolina.

No, that is not a typographical error. The U.S. was at war and still worried about an air attack by Japan on the Pacific Coast, and the game had been moved to Durham as a precaution. It is the only Rose Bowl Game played outside Pasadena.

Heritage Square Museum

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT

On December 16, the Los Angeles City Council approved the Heritage Square Museum’s designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument. No number has been assigned as of this writing.

The formal designation of the facility at 3800 Homer Street, off the Arroyo Seco Parkway, will take place this year. At the same time, there will be new signage around the museum and in the surrounding area.

Some 40 years in the making, the museum is composed of eight historic homes of the Victorian period. Many volunteers have helped restore these structures, brought from various parts of the city, to show the development of L.A. in its first 100 years.

In addition to the honor of the recognition, Los Angeles historic-cultural monuments receive a certain amount of protection against changes to outside architectural features and demolition. There are currently – more than 1,000 such monuments.

NO COMPUTER? TRY RECREATION & PARKS

There is good news for anyone who doesn’t have online access at home. The Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department has a solution: A program completed a year ago has put computer labs in area centers throughout the city allowing anyone to use their computers. There are also 11 labs that provide training.

PEDESTRIAN TUNNELS

Continued from page 7

interior walls had a lumpy “spatter dash” mortar finish. Lights were recessed with a heavy wire mesh cover.

Although subways were far more expensive to build than overcrossings they were, nonetheless, the preferred facility. Only three overcrossings were built as contrasted with 115 subways. There were two primary reasons for this. First, the subways were less of a vertical obstacle than overcrossings – 9 feet versus 15 feet. The second reason is that the ascending stairways of overcrossings were perceived as unsightly fixed objects, and objectionable to nearby property owners.

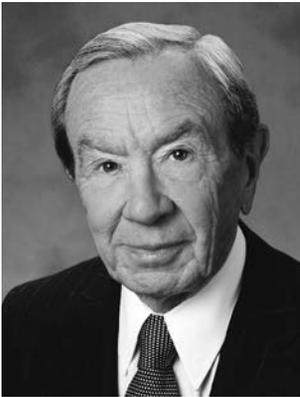
In time, the subways fell out of fashion. The proliferation of traffic signals near schools provided a less expensive, albeit somewhat less effective, response to school safety needs. But more importantly, the subways, which were intended to enhance the safety of school children, were becoming recognized as being detrimental to their welfare. The subways became more frequently misused by the lower elements of society who would render them dangerous and unsanitary. As a result, many of the subways were closed part time or on an all-day basis by the removal of the ornamental iron railings, and the installation of cyclone fencing with locked gates atop the stairway walls.

Los Angeles was unique in its commitment to infrastructure for school pedestrian grade separation. So, when you see these vintage structures near elementary schools in the older areas of the City, be reminded of a more genteel society, and the first major civic commitment to school pedestrian safety.

L.A. HIGH SCHOOL GRADS WHAT BECAME OF THEM?

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series on the futures of some Los Angeles high school graduates.

WARREN MINOR CHRISTOPHER



To cover in detail Warren Christopher's life and achievements takes several books. This article will just touch on the highlights of his work as lawyer, diplomat and politician on the local, national and world stages.

Christopher was born in Scranton, North Dakota, on October 27, 1925. His family moved to Los Angeles, where he became a true Angeleno, graduating from Hollywood High School and through much of his life had a home in the Southland. He began college at the University of Redlands, transferred to USC, from which he graduated *magna cum laude*; was in the U.S. Naval Reserve, serving in the Pacific during WWII. Next, he attended Stanford University Law School. He is the first graduate of that school to become a law clerk to a Supreme Court Justice, William O. Douglas, thus showing early that he was slated to have an outstanding career.

He joined the prestigious L.A. law firm of O'Melveny and Myers, his first connection with them lasting from 1950 to 1967, eventually rising to status of senior partner. During this time he was special counsel to Gov. Pat Brown. He returned to the firm several times between other assignments. The first of the latter was as U.S. Deputy Attorney General for two years. In 1977, he became Deputy Secretary of State. He was involved in negotiating the Algiers Accords, secured the release of 52 American hostages of Iran, spearheaded the Sino-American relations with China, helped ratify the Panama Canal treaties. In 1981, Pres. Jimmy Carter presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award.

Christopher went on to be Secretary of State for Pres. Bill Clinton during which time he helped expand NATO, establish peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Major events during this time in which he played major roles included the Oslo Accords, normalizing U.S.-Vietnam relations, the Rwandan Genocide, Operations to Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty, Dayton Agreement

Negotiating peace between presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia, and the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia. The Towers housed U.S. service men, among others, of whom 19 were killed along with one Saudi and 372 of nationalities injured.

Christopher was Deputy Attorney General for Pres. Lyndon Johnson and Pres. Jimmy Carter; represented Al Gore in supervising the contested Florida recount in 2000; was co-chair, with former Secretary of State James A. Baker of the National War Powers Commission; Chairman of the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department (Christopher Commission) to look into the Rodney King incident; from 2003 until his death in 2011 (in L.A.), taught a seminar at UCLA in the College Honors Program.

Among the honors he received: American Institute for Public Service's Greatest Public Service Performed by an Elected or Appointed Official; UCLA Medal; Thomas Jefferson Award in Law, University of Virginia Law School; Vice Chairman of the McCone Commission (dealing with the L.A. Watts Riots of 1965). His portrait hangs in the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City and in the U.S. Department of State. He belonged to numerous professional and honorary organizations, various legal and bar associations, boards of trustees of several universities, and some civic groups.

In short, Warren Christopher was a unique and remarkable person. His middle name did not reflect who he was.

The Los Angeles City Council and the Comics Caper

By Abraham Hoffman

On May 10, 1954, Los Angeles City Councilman Ernest E. Debs introduced a resolution at the City Council meeting proposing that the sale of crime and horror comic books be prohibited to anyone under the age of 18. First violations of the ordinance would result in a fine and/or imprisonment, with the revocation of business licenses if the vendor continued to sell such comic books to minors. Debs also proposed that vendors be protected from the practice of distributors who were requiring them to take crime and horror comic books along with “acceptable publications.” The City Council approved the resolution unanimously and referred it to the City Attorney to determine whether the resolution could be adopted as a city ordinance.

At the time no one expressed any concern regarding the possibility that such an ordinance might conflict with the First Amendment’s provision guaranteeing freedom of the press. For his part, Councilman Debs, in making his proposal, was clearly influenced by events in New York City just three weeks earlier. Estes Kefauver, United States Senator from Tennessee, had won national recognition for conducting Senate hearings investigating organized crime in America. At the same time, a House of Representatives Select Committee on Current Pornographic Materials had submitted a report that included certain comic books in its survey of pornography.

The connection between juvenile delinquency and comic books had for some time been the concern of Frederic Wertham, a psychiatrist who built his career on the dangers comic books presented in corrupting the youth of the nation. Kefauver’s committee retained Wertham as a consultant, and the psychiatrist created a survey circulated to probation officers, court psychiatrists, and various public officials, as well as comic book publishers and cartoonists. A majority of the respondents rejected the idea of a relationship between comic books and juvenile delinquency. Undaunted, Wertham went on to write *Seduction of the Innocent*, published in the spring of 1954, in time for Kefauver’s Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, which held public hearings in New York City on April 21-22, with a third hearing on June 4. Despite the arguments of critics who noted the many flaws in the research underlying *Seduction of the Innocent*, the subcommittee treated the book as a guide to the evils of comic books.

These highly publicized hearings did not bode well for the comic book industry. The very term “comic book,”

suggesting easy reading for children along the lines of *Walt Disney’s Comics and Stories*, or *Bugs Bunny*, was a misnomer, since they included westerns, war, crime, romance, horror, and other genres. The subcommittee picked New York for its hearings since the city was the center of the comic book publishing industry. Wertham testified as an expert on the connections between juvenile delinquency and comic books, his just-published book enhancing his credibility. The subcommittee treated him very respectfully and asked him soft questions that gave him the opportunity to attack Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and other superheroes along with story lines that were salacious and violent. These comic books, argued Wertham, lured impressionable young boys into homosexuality, committing crimes, and losing a sense of morality.

After Wertham testified, the subcommittee questioned William Gaines, publisher of *Entertaining Comics (EC)*, a line of eight comic books that included horror, war, crime, and science fiction, plus *Mad*, a satirical humor comic book. Gaines was supposed to testify in the morning, but the witnesses went on longer, and he was asked to appear in the afternoon. Unfortunately for Gaines, he was taking prescription pills to induce weight loss, and he became fatigued when their effect wore off. He said afterward that this made him tired and confused, and his answers to the questions, much sharper than the ones asked of Wertham, placed him and his publications in a bad light.

Of all the comics in the EC line, *Crime Suspense Stories* was arguably the weak link in his defense of his publications. Many of the stories involved adultery and murder rather than such felonies as robbery or fraud. By contrast, EC’s *Shock Suspense Stories* dealt with such themes as racial and religious prejudice, and *Frontline Combat* and *Two-Fisted Tales* did not glorify war. The highlight of the afternoon hearing on April 21—and a low point for Gaines—was the display of the cover of *Crime Suspense Stories* No.22, which depicted a close-up of a man holding a bloody ax in one hand and, by the hair, the head of a woman in the other hand, with a woman’s legs on the floor in the background. Kefauver asked Gaines, “This seems to be a man with a bloody ax holding a woman’s head up which has been severed from her body. Do you think that is in good taste?” Gaines lamely replied, “Yes, sir, I do, for the cover of a horror comic. A cover in bad taste, for example, might be defined as holding the head a little higher so that the neck

could be seen dripping blood from it and moving the body over a little further so that the neck of the body could be seen to be bloody.”

Kefauver: “You have blood coming out of her mouth.”

Gaines: “A little.”

Kefauver: “Here is blood on the ax. I think most adults are shocked by that.”

Gaines’s testimony continued downhill, his line of reasoning not helped by the *New York Times*’s front-page story about the hearings the next day. Comic book publishers feared their publications could be censored by a federal law.

Three weeks later, in Los Angeles, Debs introduced his proposal. On July 12 City Attorney Roger Arnebergh offered his opinion as to the legality of the resolution. To the question whether the City Council could adopt an ordinance prohibiting the sale of crime and horror comic books to minors, Arnebergh said, “Yes, to a limited extent.” He cited precedents where similar laws had been declared unconstitutional and therefore suggested a modified version of Debs’s resolution, specifying that “any illustrated crime or horror comic book, magazine, or other publication which deals in substantial part with crimes of force, violence, passion, lust, immorality or bloodshed, and which is designed in form to resemble closely those books, magazines, and other publications devoted to matters of humor or adventure published primarily for sale to children” be prohibited from being sold to anyone under age 18. Exceptions would be newspaper comic strips or the illustrations of written stories. Arnebergh dismissed the idea that the City Council had any power to persuade distributors not to compel vendors to take unwanted magazines. He failed, however, to note that such a law could very well ban many of Shakespeare’s plays or comic book versions of great literature as found in the series published by *Classic Comics*.

Debs’s proposal had been referred to the City Council’s Committee on Public Health and Welfare, chaired by Councilman Edward R. Roybal. The committee held a public hearing for the resolution on September 1, 1954. Eight boys and girls from Altadena—not a part of the City of Los Angeles—paraded into the Council chambers and urged the passage of an ordinance “to end these tactless 10-cent menaces.” Mrs. L.S. Baca of the 10th District PTA claimed that comic books played a major role in causing juvenile delinquency, a view supported by representatives of other women’s organizations and groups attending the hearing.

But there were those present who just as strongly opposed the resolution. A teenage boy noted, “In Hansel and Gretel a witch is pushed into an incinerator...If these comics are barred here, children will get them by subscribing,” a detail overlooked in the City Attorney’s opinion. Then Marcy B. Sapin, a *La Crescenta* magazine publisher and expert on the U.S. Constitution, took Councilman Debs to task. He pointed out that Boston, New York, and Memphis, cities where such laws had been passed, had the worst crime rates in the nation. He noted that in the “Dick Tracy” comic strip, exempt from the proposed ordinance, a story line featured a man running around with a dagger sticking out of his skull. “How can you clamp down on the [comic] books and give the newspapers a free hand?” demanded Sapin.

Sapin answered his own question by remarking that Wertham excluded newspaper comic strips from his research. He had done this, argued Sapin, because “he had a book for sale and he needed reviews. If he had attacked the papers you would never have heard of the book. Why does the councilman’s ordinance omit Los Angeles newspapers from regulation?” Interesting to note, in his book Wertham attacked the Superman comic book, but not the syndicated comic strip.

After the hearing Debs’s proposal died in committee, though the idea of prohibiting the sale of horror and crime comics to minors surfaced a few times over the next several years. By the early 1960s, however, the issue had become a dead letter. The U.S. Supreme Court restricted the legal definition of obscenity to hard-core pornography. However, the comic book industry had little to celebrate. To avoid the threat of federal censorship, the publishers created the Comics Code Authority, and member publishers had to agree to self-regulation in order to have an approval stamp on the covers of their publications. Without the stamp, distributors would not bring the comic books to the vendors. Horror and crime comics disappeared from newsstands. William Gaines discontinued his EC comics and, after a new series of approved comics proved unprofitable, converted *Mad* from a comic book to a magazine format. *Mad* continues to publish sarcasm and satire more than 50 years later.

Ironically, in the 1960s an underground “comix” movement produced publications glorifying drug use, sex, and other assorted sins, selling them in counterculture venues, protected by their First Amendment rights. Still later, graphic novels came into vogue, essentially comix aimed at adult readers. When it comes to the First Amendment, comic book publishing has been anything but funny.

Looking Back – BARNES CITY/CIRCUS

By Julie Lugo Cerra

A portion of Culver City, known as the Walnut Park Annexation, became a part of Culver City in 1925; next to Abbot Kinney's resort of Venice.

Over the years there have been several landmark businesses in that area. At Berryman, from Washington, south, the winter quarters of the Al G. Barnes Circus used that land when they returned from their travels around the country. Many residents in the area have found rings buried in their back yards, which were used to tie the animals. Some even remember the elephants!



The Al G. Barnes Circus wintered in the western portion of Culver City in the 1920s.

animals were brought in “on the rails down by Culver Boulevard for the Winter Quarters. Some stayed all year—perhaps they were sick or too old.”

The sign on the front of the building notes that it is the “Winter Home” of the “Al G. Barnes Circus.” The owner's full name was Alpheus George Barnes Stonehouse. Barnes claimed it was the home of “Tusko” the largest elephant in the world, and “Lotus,” billed as the “largest hippopotamus in the world.” According to the signage on the structure, it operated as a “Zoo” with daily hours from 10 AM to 11 PM. Their monkeys, opossum and baby elk were also part of their advertised draw.

In 2002, [Julie's] cousins Fred and Pat Machado pinpointed the circus headquarters as situated between Washington and Culver Boulevards at Berryman. Pat said it faced Washington. The circus was located in “Barnes City” early on. Although they had a council, and their city hall at Centinela and Louise, which was later Centinela Feed, they were legally in question and dissolved in 1927.

In 2002, “Venice Joe Lescoulie” recalled the “circus was housed in regular buildings, like a permanent camp.” He remembered it was open to the public and they charged admission. He had vivid recollections of hearing the lions roar, all the way to the Lescoulie Dairy, west on Glencoe (Ocean Park Avenue at that time). He shared that the

The circus, in which local resident Ben Pitti performed his rope and knife-throwing tricks, eventually folded into American Circus Corp., which then became a part of the Ringling Brothers Circus.

Editor's Note: This article is a portion of one written by Julie Lugo Cerra for publication in the Culver City News (9-2-10). Julie is the Council-appointed City Historian of Culver City, author of three books and hundreds of articles on local history (currently working on her fourth), and former member of LACHS Board of Directors. The article on Barnes City Hall, appearing in a recent issue of the Newsletter, was based on official City of Los Angeles records; Julie's article adds more information.

BARNES CITY HALL – What's That?

Editor's Note: Through oversight, the main part of this article was not printed in the November issue of the Newsletter. We apologize, and include it in this issue. It is the first article in a series on several municipal buildings to which local residents often refer to as “city halls,” and part of an unpublished book on Los Angeles City Halls by Irene Tresun.

Barnes City Hall is included as an interesting historical vignette. In 1910, Venice was looking for ways to attract tourists. Abbott Kinney, its founder, and Paul Shoup, an influential citizen, decided that this goal might be aided if the Al. G. Barnes Circus established permanent winter quarters in their town. The deal was struck, and the circus gave successful performances during the winter while quartered there, but residents started objecting to the noise and aromas emanating from Washington Boulevard between Culver City and Venice.

To avoid being ousted, Barnes and his brother, Albert T. Stonehouse, succeeded in incorporating about 4.5 square miles as the City of Barnes on February 1, 1926. The board of trustees met on occasion at a small building erected in 1924 at 4307 S. Centinela Ave., used primarily for feed storage. Residents of surrounding areas continued to object, and on September 14, 1926, a successful special election made the one-year-old City of Barnes part of Los Angeles on April 11, 1927. The council banned keeping circus animals within the city, and three years later the small company became part of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The “city hall,” which since then has been a feed store, a plumbing store and a pet-feed store, still existed a few years ago, but its civic life was very short-lived, since the City of Los Angeles never used it.

CALIFORNIA WINERIES



Agoston Haraszthy

Wine was produced in California during the Spanish and Mexican periods, but the man considered by most people as the father of California's wine industry is Count Agoston Haraszthy.

His family had immigrated from Hungary, first moving to Wisconsin, where he started a winery. It didn't work out, so he moved to San Diego in 1851, thinking that the weather there would be more conducive for growing grapes. It turned out to be too warm, and he moved again, this time to Sonoma County. Finally, he found success with the Buena Vista Winery, which he created in the late 1850s. It is regarded as the birthplace of the California wine industry.

Haraszthy may or may not have been a real count, though he claimed the title, but there is no dispute as to his contributions to this state's status in the world's wine industry to this day.

Interestingly enough, he had distant ties to Los Angeles, though his residencies in California were limited to San Diego and Sonoma County. One of his daughters, Ida, married Maj. John Hancock in 1863 while the latter was stationed at nearby Benicia Barracks. One of their sons was Capt. G. Alan Hancock, who eventually ran the part of Rancho La Brea that his father had acquired. He donated 17 acres of the Rancho to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, including the area of the La Brea Tar Pits, and later developed part of the property as the residential community of Hancock Park. Hancock spent the last 15 or more years of his life making a new life for himself in Santa Maria, not far from his grandfather's winery.

In 1861, the state legislature paid for Haraszthy trip to Europe to collect samples of the best vines to bring to California. He brought back nearly 200,000 vines which he distributed among other vintners in the state. He continued producing prize-winning wines, received a Medal of Excellence at the Paris Universal Exposition in 1867, then went on an adventurous trip to Nicaragua to establish a sugar plantation. He drowned there under unknown circumstances, leaving behind the Buena Vista Winery. At the time it was considered the largest vineyard in the world with almost half a million vines.

Buena Vista Winery came on hard times until a newspaper man, Frank Bartholomew, bought it in 1940 and brought it back to life, renaming it Buena Vista Carneros. It still exists, is a California Historic Landmark and a favored destination for wine-loving tourists.

While today most California wines come from the central regions of the state, Los Angeles County in 1851 contained more than 100 vineyards, with Jean Louis Vignes pioneering the local industry about 1833.

In 1917, when there were 92 wineries in the city of Los Angeles, San Antonio Winery was established by Santo Cambianica on La Marr Street near downtown Los Angeles, where it still exists. During the Prohibition, when many wineries in the U.S. had to shut their doors, San Antonio continued to flourish by selling grapes in mass to individuals, and producing altar wine for the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches.

When Prohibition ended in 1934, Cambianica's nephew, Steve Riboli Sr., joined the firm, which by 1950 became one of the largest properties in the state. The Riboli family continues to own the winery at the same location, now Los Angeles Cultural-Historical Monument #42. The winery continues to produce a great variety of wines, but uses grapes grown in places like Sonoma and Napa, bottled locally.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Many of us think of California as being among the last few states to join the Union. Actually, there were 19 that came later, in the order shown below. The last among the 48 contiguous states was Arizona, 1912, with Alaska and Hawaii in 1950.

Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii.

An important patent was issued one year after California's admittance in 1850: The Singer sewing machine.

TREATY OF CAHUENGA TURNS 165 YEARS OLD



The Treaty of Cahuenga, sometimes called the Capitulation of Cahuenga, ended hostilities in the Mexican-American War in Alta California between the *Californios* and Americans on January 13, 1847. Signed between Mexican Governor Andrés Pico and American Lt. Col. John C. Fremont, it became formalized by the later Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, ending the Spanish-American War for all factions involved.

The treaty called for the *Californios* to give up arms; for all prisoners of both sides to be freed; for those Mexicans willing to comply to be allowed to return to their homes peaceably. If they chose to stay in California, to have the same rights and privileges as American citizens.

The signing took place in an abandoned ranch house of what once was a part of Rancho Cahuenga (or Rancho Verdugo according to other information). The area had been taken over in 1810 by the San Fernando Mission to grow corn and squash.

The original adobe was razed in 1900, the City of Los Angeles bought the site in 1923, and eventually a replica was constructed of the building as it might have looked. There are decorative pavement marks to indicate the location of the original adobe. The structure, at 3919 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood is now a Department of Recreation and Parks facility and is Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument #29, California Historic Landmark #151, and is on the National Registry of Historic Places. There are many plaques and monuments dedicated to historic figures. It is considered by many as the cradle of California.

The building is now used by various organizations for an assortment of special events and regular meetings. The Campo de Cahuenga Historic Memorials Association holds a celebration every year to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the treaty. It is open to the public on a regular basis.

A REVITALIZED L.A. RIVER PROMISED BY WASHINGTON

At one time, the only source of fresh water in L.A. was the Sanja Madre (Mother Ditch), the aqueduct that brought water from the Los Angeles River. The river is mostly a trickle now, but the federal government has promised help via a federal, state and local partnership to bring back to life a 32-mile stretch of it by restoring and enlarging the North Atwater Creek Park, building a campground at the Hansen Dam Recreation area, and recreating a 3,000-foot greenway along the Tujunga Wash. to be completed by 2013.

The Glendale Narrows portion of the river is already being restored through the L.A. River Revitalization Master Plan by planting native vegetation and improving storm water filtration, with the park slated to open this spring.

How about LACHS scheduling a river cruise?

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Four sitting directors were elected for a second three-year term: Eddy Feldman, John Fisher, Diane Kanner and Giao Luong Baker. Director Catherine Gudis decided not to run; so the position was filled by Don Esacove, who has served before as director.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2012

Archives, Kathy Kolnick
Home, Paul Workman
Hospitality, Don Esacove
Membership, Diane Kanner
Merchandising, Giao Luong Baker
Newsletter, Irene Tresun
Marie Northrop Lecture Series, John Fisher
Programs, Kay Tornborg
Public Relations, Leslie Hakala
Website, John Jackson
Nominations, Hynda Rudd
Awards, Eddy Feldman
By-Laws, Charley Mims
Publications, Hynda Rudd
Friends of the City Archives, Hynda Rudd

CULTIVATING HEALTH:

Los Angeles Women and Public Health Reform

by Jennifer Lisa Koslow. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009. 206 pp. Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$49.95. Order from Rutgers University Press, 100 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8099; (800) 848-6224; www.rutgerspress.rutgers.edu.

The responsibility of government in providing universal health care has been one of the major issues of President Barack Obama's administration. A century ago, however, government at the local level provided minimal assistance to poor or disabled people, and the state and federal levels nothing at all. Nevertheless, the early 20th century was a time for reform, and the progressive movement encompassed a range of proposals for the general welfare of the people of Los Angeles. Many of the public health policies adopted in Los Angeles provided role models for other cities.

Jennifer Koslow examines the evolution of public health care from the efforts of private organizations to the creation of public agencies in Los Angeles. In matters of public health, Los Angeles in the early 1900s was a very different city from what it is today in matters of government responsibility. Koslow addresses public health nursing, housing, pure milk, the rivalry between midwives and doctors over childbirth, and venereal disease. All of these issues were debated, and not all of the reform proposals succeeded. The debates aside, the questions remained about caring for sick indigents, standards for fair housing, dealing with unscrupulous purveyors of tainted milk, infant mortality, and the spread of venereal disease.

In 1897 a group of civic-minded women led by Maude B. Foster formed the Los Angeles College Settlement Association to provide nurses who would visit homes, especially immigrant and poor people, and dispense basic medical care and advice. This modest nongovernmental program pressured the city health department to help underwrite its costs. Koslow examines the underlying politics involved in promoting this program. In fact, while no one wanted contagious diseases or filthy living conditions in the city, taking responsibility through government regulation and agencies was another matter. Inadequate and substandard housing could more easily be blamed on those who

lived in it than to address why such housing was all they could afford. On the issue of pure milk, opponents of laws enforcing pure milk standards argued that the cost of milk would rise and prevent poor children from access to milk of any quality. At issue was inspection of dairy cows for tuberculosis. Koslow notes that medical science in the modern sense was still in its infancy, and some authorities had yet to accept such practices as pasteurization. Reformers lost in the election of 1912 on a tuberculosis ordinance. It remained for a later time to create such regulatory health standards.

Midwives had been the primary facilitators for childbirth, and far more babies were born at home than in hospitals. Physicians successfully campaigned for licensing midwives, resulting in a dramatic decline in their number by the 1920s. The Progressive Era also saw local governments addressing the problem of the spread of venereal disease. Middle-class reformers laid the blame on prostitutes who infected men with gonorrhea and syphilis. They took little notice of the fact that it takes two to tango; it was the prostitute who was arrested, not the customer. The problem of venereal disease became especially acute during World War I. Controversy arose when convicted prostitutes refused to be subjected to examinations for disease. Authorities and reformers had assumed that to be a prostitute meant that the woman carried disease. In this case, government restricted the goals of reformers as judges took a limited view towards incarcerating prostitutes on the grounds of allegedly being infected.

Clearly, Koslow takes us back to an era when people viewed public health issues quite differently than they do today. What we now take for granted was hotly debated a century ago. And it may very well be that the current debates over government responsibility and authority on health care will be the subject of historical study a century from now.

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