

Camino's

Newsletter of the Arcadia Historical Society Summer 2016



AHS Installation, left to right: Carol Libby, Beverly Street, Jolene Cadenbach, Ed Andersen, Char Wong, Connie Russell and Karen Hou. Photo credit: Lauragene Swenson



Denny's Historic Windmill, George Fasching & Carol Libby
George is a Lifetime member of AHS. . . . Photo credit: Char Wong

Downtown Arcadia's Own Trifecta
Not only does Denny's sit on Route 66 (a landmark in itself), but the Thoroughbred Racing Walk of Champions begins just steps from Denny's front door with a bronze sidewalk plaque honoring Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin as a cornerstone champion.

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President's Message:

One Celebration After the Other

Summer brought on one exciting event after the other and the Arcadia Historical Society was there for each and every one. The kick-off event was AHS's own "Salute in Red & Black" Gala Fundraiser at the Arboretum on May 24th. Undeniably, everyone had the best time ever!

AHS also welcomed two new board members at the Annual Meeting and Installation on June 26th at Prince Erik Hall. Congratulations to Ed Andersen and Connie Russell.

And in spectacular fashion, the windmill atop Denny's at Huntington and Santa Anita is spinning once again. The last of the iconic Van de Kamp's Holland Dutch Bakery Windmills was built in 1967 and became Denny's in 1989. George Fasching related that he wrote a letter to Denny's CEO, John Miller, last December to get the windmill moving again. CEO Miller expressed that the company was excited to bring this landmark "back to life" and the Windmill, like Denny's, "will run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year." Following Mayor Pro Tem, Peter Amundson's declaration that June 29th was Denny's Historic Windmill Day in the city, Arcadians cheered as the Windmill was activated.

Onlookers are delighted with the view. The Windmill takes about ten seconds to make one full rotation as it spins counter clockwise. LED lighting illuminates the landmark at night.

The city's celebrations continued with the Patriotic Festival at the Arcadia Transit Center on Santa Clara Street on July 2nd. AHS along with the Arcadia Civic Youth Council entertained participants with a Patriotic History Challenge and children were able to construct red, white and blue patriotic buttons.

Cheers to a summer filled with new beginnings & good friends.
- Karen Hou



Left to right: Jacy Duan, Xinyu Fan & Kimberly Lo at the ACYC booth; Lee Shimmin & Joyce Saunders at the Walk of Champions booth. Joyce, in her Patriotic outfit, was so popular that she was asked to pose for photos. Photo credit: Cary Hou

“Growing Up In and Around the Arcadia Area”

The Arcadia Historical Society members had the privilege of listening to Jerry Selmer at the Annual General Membership Meeting on June 26 as he related his experiences of growing up in and around the Arcadia area. In fact, Jerry grew up two blocks from the Arcadia City line on Michillinda Avenue. He related that the name of that street came about when the Michigan Land and Water Company, who owned the land, took on two partners to develop the tract. The three gentlemen involved decided to name the street after the states that they had come from: Michigan, Illinois, & Indiana.

Jerry also shared that he and his friends would go to the Old Baldwin Ranch, and if they behaved themselves, they could watch “Tarzan” being filmed. He said that it was the only time he saw a herd of elephants in Arcadia. Jerry also remembers the old Pony Express Museum. It was a great place to go because Parker Lyon, the owner, encouraged the kids to climb the trains, ring the bell and make all kinds of noise. Mr. Lyon felt it would bring more customers into the museum.

Jerry was also around when Santa Anita was used as a Japanese Processing Center after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Barracks were built and leftover scrap lumber was discarded. Jerry’s father asked the workers there if he could take some of the lumber. They had no objection and, in fact, gave Jerry’s dad a keg of nails to go with the scrap lumber. At his presentation, Jerry pulled out a jar, half-filled with those nails, to show the audience what remained from that keg.

A third generation native born Californian, Jerry received his B.A. in Public Administration from UCLA before serving in the U.S. Army for two years of active duty and six years of Reserve duty. He attained the rank of Captain. Jerry served 31 years in administration and executive capacities with the City of Los Angeles, holding the position of Assistant City Administrative Officer for 12 years. After retirement, he served as Executive director of the Southwest Museum.

Jerry and his wife, Doris, have lived in Arcadia for over 50 years and raised two children here. Jerry is well known for his years of service as a Board member of the Arcadia Public Library Board of Trustees and for years as member and as President of the Friends of the Arcadia Public Library. His book reviews and musings have been favorite reading for readers of the Friends’ newsletter for a number of years.



An Importance Ordinance Passed in Arcadia

During the early 1930s when the Great Depression and Prohibition were haunting citizens of the United States, Arcadia residents were deeply absorbed with problems of their own: alcohol consumption and dancing in the city’s clubs and cafes. The Santa Anita Club (now the location of the Arcadia Elks Clubhouse) was accused of allowing disorderly conduct and dancing in the establishment.

In June, 1933, the Arcadia City Council passed an ordinance that: ... “requires every dance hall or club or any place where public dancing is allowed, whether conducted free or with paid admission, and holding dances more than once a month, must receive written permission from the city council. Permission can be revoked at any time if written charges showing illegal, improper, immoral, boisterous or disorderly conduct of the establishment. No alcoholic beverages may be taken into the public dance hall, nor may any drunk or disorderly person be permitted within. Notice of charges must be furnished and a public hearing held.”

A committee composed of unofficial representation of the Boy Scout Council, the Rotary Club, YMCA, Woman’s Club, City Planning Commission, directing school board, high school board, Community Church and Parent Teacher Association aided the Council in framing the ordinance, under the direction of Mayor Richard Krebs, Jr. – June 30, 1933 *The Arcadia Tribune*

----- 80 Years Ago -----

Arcadia’s 1936 News Reports

Taken from *The Arcadia Tribune*

January 29 1936: A tree house near the “Y” intersection has the entire Southland curious and wondering, civic and county officials included. It is said that the tree house is used by a news agency supplying results of the races to bookies all over the country. Powerful glasses are directed to the finish line for results. The tree house activity has tongues wagging. Some say the results are given to race fans who cannot support Doc Strub’s “palace of legalized gambling.”

July 1936: California White Wyandotte club will hold its annual free summer table show on Sunday, July 12th at 10 am at Forestdale Ranch, 1023 N. Golden West Avenue. Judge Stodell will give a talk on White Wyandottes and there will be a demo of washing chickens. Bring a picnic lunch. Coffee and doughnuts served free.

July 18, 1936: The Ye Derby Tavern opens at 233 East Huntington Drive in Arcadia.

August 5, 1936: Ten acres have been sold for the Angeles Forest Station in Arcadia.

August 12, 1936: The Fire Whistle will blow daily at 7 am. Several years ago the whistle was blown at 12 noon.

September 30, 1936: The *Los Angeles Times* reports that: “Arcadia, in the eyes of the leading Los Angeles real estate brokers, will become the exclusive home center of the well-to-do in Los Angeles county.”

A SALUTE IN RED & BLACK

Attendees arrived on a beautiful cool night for the long anticipated gala fundraiser for “The Walk of Champions” held May 24th on the lawn near the Queen Anne Cottage at the Arboretum. The event was aptly named “A Salute in Red & Black” in honor of Arcadia’s first mayor, E. J. “Lucky” Baldwin, whose racing silks were red and black. The evening was quite glamorous with red tablecloths, black napkins, centerpieces of red and white day lilies, carnations and twinkling lights, and participants choosing to wear red and black, all lending an air of fantasy to the al fresco evening.



Festivities & Queen Anne Cottage. Photo credit: Tracy Gantz.

Nearly 350 racing enthusiasts and history buffs were shuttled into the awards dinner and reception where they passed through the carriage barn for photos and down a path onto the lawn filled with dinner tables, chairs and excited attendees. All nine of the 2015-2016 bronze sidewalk plaques were ensconced on easels around the party perimeter. A video, narrated by Alan Balch of Santa Anita Racetrack fame, culminated the evening events hitting the highlights of all awardees, much to the delight of the audience who applauded with their approval over and over again. Bronze plaque awardees were: Zenyatta, Chris McCarron, Mel Stute, Ron McAnally, Lava Man, Joe Burnham, Gary Jones, Mike Mitchell, and Buddy Johnston’s Old English Rancho. Special recognition was paid to Triple Crown Winning Jockey, Victor Espinoza.

This highly successful evening included a beautifully designed printed program, a delicious dinner and dessert, a splendid garden setting, and silent auction resulting in fundraising that went well above all expectations. The event will provide funding for two years of future plaques and is a major accomplishment for a first time event.

Recognition was given to the event producing committee: Alan Balch, Cliff Goodrich, George Haines and Mary Forney; the Arcadia Historical Society’s President Karen Hou and 1st Vice President Carol Libby; and the Society’s Thoroughbred Racing Walk of Champions Committee: Beth Costanza, Gail Marshall, Lee Shimmin and Sandy Snider. Go to: www.arcadiachampions.org to learn more about the “Walk of Champions.”

- Beth Costanza



Members of the Arcadia Historical Society received a beautiful, one-of-a-kind scroll which read: “With sincere congratulations and best wishes, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles does hereby join in your celebration.”

Left to right: Sandy Snider, Gail Marshall, Carol Libby, Beth Costanza and Karen Hou. Photo credit: Tracy Gantz.



Jockey Mike Smith stands beside Zenyatta’s bronze plaque. Zenyatta & Smith won the 2008 Breeders’ Cup Ladies’ Classic at Santa Anita Park. Photo credit: Zoe Metz.

**2016 - 2017
Arcadia Historical Society
Board of Directors**

Karen Hou, *President*
Jolene Cadenbach, *1st Vice President, Programs*
Beverly Street, *2nd Vice President, Membership*
Gil Stromsoe, *Treasurer*
Char Wong, *Corresponding/Recording Secretary*
Gene Glasco, *Past President*
Carol Libby, *Historian*

Directors: Ed Andersen, Beth Costanza, Gail Marshall, Connie Russell and Lee Shimmin

Fabulous Friends & Fabulous Events

On March 11th, a very unique Historical Fashion Show, put on by the Friends of the Arcadia Historical Society and created & moderated by Carol Libby, was held in front of a sell-out crowd at the Arcadia Community Center. The fashions featured trends in the United States and Arcadia's history. The show began with Pocahontas and authentic hand-made clothes of Martha Washington and Renaissance dresses (created by Joyce Saunders), followed by styles from the Roaring Twenties, High Fashion of the 50's, 60's and 80's, and included a WWII Red Cross uniform and costumes from Disney Productions. The Friends who stepped in to model were Julie French, Carol Howard, Connie Russell, Joyce Saunders, Beverly Street and Char Wong.

The Eighth Annual Friends' Garden Party on May 15th was once again held in the enchanted garden of Carol Libby. Everyone had a lovely time and most left with gifts that were worth more than the price of the ticket to attend. Vintage Treasures of Arcadia contributed some beautiful items for the raffle. The Arcadia Police Explorers: Daniel Alcon, Steven Calderon, Olivia Daryaie, Dylan Morris and Shawn Zhang helped set up for the event and assisted guests to their tables. Members of the Arcadia Civic Youth Council greeted guests and served trays of delicious sandwiches and delectable desserts.

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, June 26th, the Friends presented the Lt. Edward Ostashay Scholarship to Dylan Morris. (The scholarship is in memory of Lt. Ostashay who modified a 1959 Ford Galaxie 500 car to be that of a police car of the 1950's.) Dylan has assisted the Friends for two years with their fundraising activities. He exemplifies the qualities needed to continue on as a Police Cadet.
- Beverly Street

Lt. Edward Ostashay Scholarship Recipient: Dylan Morris



Left to right: Grandparents Larry & Hank Sullivan, Dylan Morris, Lauren Swearenein, and Grandparents Rebecca & Cliff James Photo Credit: Char Wong



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