

Hollywood Heritage is a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of the historic built environment in Hollywood and to education about the early film industry and the role its pioneers played in shaping Hollywood's history.

Marian Dean Newman Gibbons 1921-2010

Hollywood Heritage co-founder and past president Marian Gibbons passed away on December 8th from lung cancer. She had been seriously ill since July. A memorial for Mrs. Gibbons was held on December 29th at the Hollywood Heritage Museum, and was attended by family, friends, Hollywood Heritage directors (past and present) and members.

Two of Marian's grandchildren, Marcy Newman of Lebanon, and Lucas Shane Knopf of Amherst, Massachusetts, spoke movingly of their love for their grandmother and the very great influence that she had on their lives.

Two themes were present among the speakers. One was her awe-inspiring leadership in public causes which included not only Hollywood Heritage but also the Watertown Plant Road Historical Society and the Elm Grove Playhouse, both of which she helped established in Elm Grove, Michigan before moving to Hollywood in 1978. Her first trip was a brief stay in Toluca Lake in 1949, a trip that



brought her to Hollywood for the first time and inspired her to want to live here. Co-founders Christy Johnson McAvoy and Fran

Offenhauser spoke of her as a "pied piper" regarding her ability to enlist everyone, from former Los Angeles County Supervisor John Anson Ford and former Mayor Tom Bradley through the most casual acquaintance, to volunteer and help save the "1913 Movie Studio." For many, Marian was the face of Hollywood Heritage and she spent endless amounts of time and personal resources to publicize and promote it, first as an idea and then as a working organization. Up until mid-2010, Marian was still on the Hollywood Heritage Board of Directors and took pride in the fact that the organization had endured and prospered over the past 30 years.

The second theme was Marian's humor, noted by a number of speakers, including Mrs. Janet Schoenecker of Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Marian loved to mangle the English language, and the attendees learned of her affection for doing so, which was the cause for periodic amusement and more than one embarrassing
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Hollywood's 10 Most Endangered Sites

A casual glance at the state of Hollywood's historic resources shows good signs and much progress toward determining the number and kind of extant resources. Two long awaited and thorough historic surveys of the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Area and the greater Hollywood Community Plan Area have identified scores of structures and broadened our understanding of the region's history and architectural heritage. The recent downturn in the economy has slowed demolitions of historic structures due to redevelopment, and a ban on supergraphics has largely halted the expansion of that physically and aesthetically damaging practice. However, there continue to be growing threats to many of Hollywood's most significant landmarks, which although they are

less imminent, are often more complex. In an effort to encourage good stewardship of Hollywood's irreplaceable historic resources and to inform our members of these issues, Hollywood Heritage has launched its list of Hollywood's 10 Most Endangered Sites.

1. **Hollywood Boulevard:** "Hollywood Boulevard is back!" or so conventional wisdom would have it. However, with the Boulevard's success has come a growing pressure on the resources of this nationally recognized historic commercial and entertainment district. The recent Hollywood Boulevard Urban Design Guidelines and Hollywood Community Plan Update propose changes to the underlying zoning, which encourage

radical redevelopment of the boulevard. Hollywood Heritage is currently working with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA/LA) and the Planning Department to mitigate these threats and encourage policies and development schemes that seek to preserve the character of Hollywood's most iconic street.

2. **Orchard Gables:** This somewhat forgotten manse from 1904, on the corner of Fountain Avenue and Wilcox Avenue, is one of the last survivors of the community of Colegrove founded by Senator Cornelius Cole, friend and confidant of Abraham Lincoln. Although there are rehabilitation plans by the Hollywood
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President's Message

Moving Assets: Brian Curran Moves To New Adventures

by Richard Adkins

Louis B. Mayer once said that movie making was the only business where every night, the greatest assets of the company walked out the door. This wry observation on the role of individuals within an



organization is equally true of a community organization like Hollywood Heritage.

During the past three years, we have been extremely fortunate to have historian, author and activist Brian Curran, Jr. on the board of Hollywood Heritage. For the last year and a half, Mr. Curran has been both Vice President of the organization and the Chair of the Preservation Issues Committee, one of the most active and productive groups within the organization. Following the significant loss of Robert Nudelman, Brian provided the organization with continuity and authority, demonstrating the highest level of professionalism as the face of Hollywood Heritage at meetings with community groups and city departments. Under Brian's stewardship, we were able to negotiate a successful restoration plan for the former CBS television studio on Sunset Boulevard, preserving its 1930s appearance and its use as an entertainment industry facility. In our working relationship with the Community Redevelopment Agency, Brian has been our representative on all issues regarding historic designations. With the participation and cooperation of his committee and the Hollywood Heritage Board of Directors, he has addressed ap-

plications for demolition and drafted our responses to the Sunset Boulevard and Hollywood Boulevard–Franklin Avenue proposals by CRA/LA. Brian has also been active in historic issues in West Hollywood and in the preservation efforts for the Fairfax Theatre.

Brian's personal life is taking him back to London, his residence before Los Angeles. We are grateful for the time he has dedicated to Hollywood Heritage and his considerable contribution to the preservation of Hollywood. We offer our thanks along with good wishes for his new endeavors. Brian will be greatly missed.

Bigger Than Life –

Hollywood's 1st 100 Years

This past fall, Werner Hanak-Lettner of the Jewish Museum Vienna visited the Hollywood Heritage Museum. Mr. Hanak was gathering information and reviewing resources for an exhibit he is curating at the museum in Vienna on the history of Hollywood, exploring the lives of the Jewish founders of the industry. The exhibit, titled *Bigger Than Life* opens in October of



2011 and will feature many artifacts loaned by American institutions, including The Hollywood Heritage Museum, which will loan artifacts from the first *Ten Commandments* and the costume Gloria Swanson wore in *Manhandled* when she did her first on-screen imitation of Charlie Chaplin. This is the first international exhibit in which we have participated. The exhibit will be at the Palais Eskeles, Dorotheergasse 11, Vienna, Austria, through April of 2012.



www.hollywoodheritage.org

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Endangered *Continued from page 1*

Community Housing Corporation, sadly the house sits empty and is deteriorating as it weathers the political storms between the CRA/LA and Sacramento, which threaten to strip it of over a million dollars in funding.

3. **Women's Club of Hollywood and Hollywood School for Girls:** Located at 1749 N. La Brea Avenue, this site contains a complex of historic structures including the 1904 Hollywood School For Girls hospitality house and the 1947 Hollywood Women's Clubhouse. The effects of years of deferred maintenance and mismanagement including the demolition of historic structures on the site, have been compounded by recent inter organizational struggles and legal action which has led to the neglect of the historic buildings. A recent grant from the National Trust to do much needed roof repairs on the clubhouse was put on hold and recent rains did further damage. The property is now in receivership and its fate remains an open question.

was one of the first model houses built on the Boulevard. From 1911 to 1926 it served as the Misses Janes School of Hollywood. The last Janes sister died in 1983, and the house has gone through several incarnations from the centerpiece of a shopping arcade to a trendy restaurant. Today the house is unoccupied with its future uncertain. Recent plans involve an upscale boutique hotel and there are reports of unauthorized work taking place at the house, which could potentially damage historic interior features.

5. **Wattles Mansion and Gardens:** Since the departure of Hollywood Heritage in 2009, the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks has managed the house and it has remained closed to the public. While the department has always had plans to reopen the house for weddings and parties and was even allocated Quimby Act funds towards the restoration of the gardens, no work other than the erection of more security fencing has occurred. Left unoccupied and unused, Wattles

this 1959 modern masterpiece of architect Howard Elwell, located at 7107 Hollywood Boulevard. With plans for the site unknown, Hollywood Heritage, alerted by the Modern Committee of LA Conservancy, is seeking information and monitoring the site closely. The uncertain fate of the Fifth Church of Christ also represents the wider issue of the preservation of modern architecture in Hollywood. While landmarks such as the Capital Records Building and the Cinerama Dome are widely celebrated and cared-for, other structures such as William Lescaze's early modern CBS Columbia Square and Millard Sheet's 1967 Home Savings & Loan Association of America at Sunset and Vine are somewhat neglected. Others such as Honnold, Reibsamens & Rex's 1963 Sunset and Vine Tower have been radically transformed.

7. **Warner Pacific Theater:** This grand Italianate Beaux Arts movie palace, designed by G. Albert Lansburgh, opened in 1928. It is the last of Hollywood's great movie theaters to remain underutilized and unrestored. Although its offices are still rented and an evangelical group uses the auditorium on Sundays, it has remained closed to movie and theater audiences since 1994 after suffering some damage during the Northridge Earthquake. While it is a Historic Cultural Landmark, plans of office towers rising in the lot behind the theater continue to circulate as its neglected façade casts a shadow over the Boulevard. Its issues are further highlighted by the fate and condition of other "lost" theaters along the boulevard, the Fox, the Vogue and the Hawaiian, which have all been radically or insensitively altered for new uses.

8. **Ennis House:** Frank Lloyd Wright's textile block masterpiece, the Ennis House, is among Hollywood's and the nation's greatest treasures. Years of deterioration compounded by Frank Lloyd Wright's experimental construction techniques, neglect and failed restoration attempts, were amplified by severe damage during the Northridge Earthquake and the collapse of retaining walls during heavy rains in 2005. These states of affairs lead to the reorganization of the Trust, which owns

future remains unclear.

6. **Fifth Church of Christ Scientist:** The dwindling congregation recently sold



The Hollywood School for Girls called this building the Shakespearean House. It is now called the Hospitality House by the Women's Club of Hollywood
Photo circa 2009 by Alan H. Simon

4. **Janes House:** Located at 6541 Hollywood Boulevard, the house is survivor of the era when Hollywood was an actual city. Built in 1903 the house

the house. The Trust was able to utilize FEMA funds to shore up the house, repair the roof and restore large sections of the damaged textile block. Opposition from neighbors and mounting costs of further restoration prevented the Trust from pursuing a public use for the property, and it has had to put the house up for sale. On the market since 2009, the house was originally listed at \$15 million and is now \$7.5 million. Without a buyer or alternative scheme the Ennis House remains in limbo.

9. **Historic Residential Neighborhoods:** The recent survey of central Hollywood's historic resources commissioned by the Hollywood Redevelopment Agency as a result of a lawsuit settlement with Hollywood Heritage, brought to light the existence of several intact historic neighborhoods representing various periods and forms of Hollywood's development. These small districts have been eroded over the decades and represent the last of Hollywood's residential communities dating from the first half of the twentieth century. To date, the new survey has not been approved by CRA/LA, nor are there any official boundaries or recognition of these communities by the Planning Department, increasing the risk of further incompatible infill and demolitions.

10. **5346 Virginia Ave./Hollywood Bungalows:** On November 22, 2010 Hollywood Heritage narrowly prevented the demolition of an intact 1905 vintage bungalow located next to the 101 Freeway. Owned by an absentee landlord who obtained an erroneously approved demolition permit, the house was listed on two historic resource surveys and did not have CRA/LA approval for demolition. Saved from the wrecking crew, the house is still neglected and unsecure, open to vagrants. This case highlights the plight of Hollywood's oldest and most common historic housing type, the bungalow, scores of which have been lost in recent decades. Protection of these resources through proper planning is essential for the preservation and rehabilitation of the remaining pockets of central Hollywood's single-family residential neighborhoods.

The Silent Society Of Hollywood Heritage Celebrates 25 Years!!!

Join the Silent Society as it celebrates 25 years of the silent film era with a day-long series of screenings on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Hollywood Heritage Museum, 2100 N. Highland Avenue. The films will feature some of the most popular **Leading Ladies of the silent era** in rarely screened performances. All films will be presented from good old-fashioned 16mm prints.

1:30pm – *The Innocence Of Ruth* (1916) – starring Viola Dana and Edward Earle, directed by John H. Collins and produced for the Edison Company. Miss Dana stars as an orphan who ends up torn between the man she loves and an unscrupulous businessman. Print courtesy of the Library of Congress.

2:30pm – *The Veiled Adventure* (1919) – starring Constance Talmadge and Harrison Ford, directed by Walter Edwards and produced for the Select Pictures Corp. Miss Talmadge and Ford star as a young couple whose attempts to get married are thwarted when she finds a gray veil in his overcoat, setting off a series of misadventures.

4:00pm – *The Forbidden City* (1918) – starring Norma Talmadge and Thomas Meighan, directed by Sidney Franklin and produced for Select Pictures Corp. Miss Talmadge stars in a dual role, as the daughter of a Chinese



Mandarin who secretly marries an American, and as their daughter who is later raised in the Emperor's harem.

Dinner Break

7:30pm – *A Dash Through The Clouds* (1912) – starring Mabel Normand and directed by Mack Sennett, this one-reel Biograph film served as a blueprint for the films they would later make at Keystone. Mabel is an aviation enthusiast who rescues her suitor from an angry mob with the help of an airplane.

7:45pm – *Ella Cinders* (1926) – starring Colleen Moore and Lloyd Hughes, directed by Alfred E. Green and produced for First National Pictures. Miss Moore stars as a young Hollywood hopeful who tries to become a movie star in an attempt to win her boyfriend's attention in this comedy based

on the comic strip "Ella Cinders."

All Day Pass, At The Door - \$15 for the general public and \$10 for members.

Individual Films, At The Door - \$10 for the general public and \$5 for members.

Advanced General Public Admission Tickets can now be purchased online with your credit card via Brown Paper Tickets. Cost includes a nominal service fee. Just go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/158085> for more information or call 1-800-838-3006 to reserve your tickets over the phone. It's that easy!

All films featuring live musical accompaniment by Michael Mortilla in a **Mortillathon!**

Gibbons *Continued from page 1*

moment when her use of a word was taken as the actual pronunciation!

At age 80, Marian decided she wanted to be an actress. As a child she had been a singer on the radio in her native Ohio. She felt it was time for a "return". Jim Hanks, the writer and producer of the short film "Wish" in which Marian starred as a woman able to fly(!), spoke of her professionalism and her willingness to perform whatever stunt was necessary to help tell the story of "Wish."

Keith Anderson, former director and treasurer for Hollywood Heritage, read a message from former Wattles Mansion manager Stephen Sylvester. Other messages were read from family members unable to attend: granddaughter Margaux de Concini of Maine, niece Constance Trainer of North Carolina, Julie Tiffany of North Carolina, and Louise Rauscher Mooney, former business associate of Marian and her daughter, Jane Gibbons.

Other speakers included Robert Birchard, Councilman Tom LaBonge, former Councilman Michael Woo, member Harry Major, and the current president of Hollywood Heritage, Richard Adkins. Thaddeus Smith of the Music Box Theatre provided chocolate treats (Marian's favorite food) and Marian's family distributed copies of her book "Hooray for Hollywood: Marian Gibbons and the Founding of Hollywood Heritage" to all those attending.

Following the memorial, Marian's ashes were interred at Hollywood Forever Cemetery along with those of her late husband, James J. Gibbons, and those of her two children, Jane Gibbons Knopf and James L. Gibbons.

The Essanay Film Manufacturing Co. Found Its Perfect Location in Niles

By Robert S. Birchard.

The Hollywood Heritage Museum hosted a special Evening @ the Barn on Saturday evening, January 15th, featuring representatives from the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, who were here to talk about the career of pioneer filmmaker Gilbert M. Anderson, better known to nickelodeon-era fans and to posterity as “Broncho Billy.” The Niles Museum’s manager and film historian, David Kiehn, conducted a discussion about Anderson’s efforts to find the “perfect” location to establish a Western satellite studio for the Chicago-based Essanay Film Manufacturing Company. Essanay is the phonetic rendering of the initials of the

revive filmmaking in the town; but the coming of sound made the Niles Essanay studio obsolete, and it was torn down to recover scrap lumber in 1933. However, ten bungalows built by Anderson to house his Essanay troupe still stand.

Joining David for the evening was Rena Dein, who handles public relations and publicity, as well as the Niles Museum store. Also attending was the Museum’s volunteer and newsletter editor, Michael Bonham. Rena talked about their museum operations, programming and the upcoming annual Broncho Billy Film Festival, which will take place June 24-26, 2011 in Niles. The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum is located in a former nickelodeon theater and is well worth a visit when you’re in the Bay Area.

David Kiehn is the author of the acclaimed book, *Broncho Billy and the Essanay Film Company* (available for sale in the Hollywood Heritage Museum store--with a 10% discount for Hollywood Heritage members). He recently appeared on the CBS Net-

work news magazine program *60 Minutes*, which highlighted the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and celebrated David’s detective work in dating the well-known film, *A Trip Down Market Street*, which was previously thought to have been shot in 1905, as having been shot only days before the April 1906 San Francisco earthquake (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGloeX1SpAU>).

The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum Evening @ the Barn was sponsored in part by the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel, with special thanks to Hollywood Heritage board member, Jeff Stutts.

For more information about the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum visit <http://www.nilesfilmmuseum.org>



Producers and Directors of the Niles Evening @ the Barn, left to right: Robert S Birchard, Michael Bonham, Claire Bradford, Valarie Yaros, Sue Slutzky, Richard Adkins, David Kiehn and Rena Dein.

last names of company principals George K. Spoor and G.M. Anderson. Anderson’s quest led the cowboy star and filmmaker first to such locations as Los Angeles, Pasadena, Los Gatos and Santa Monica before he finally settled in Niles, California in 1913. The former town of Niles is now part of the city of Fremont, about a half hour south of Oakland on today’s freeways (provided the traffic cooperates). David’s talk was illustrated with many rare behind-the-scenes photographs and scene stills of Anderson, his co-workers and their portable studio—which traveled with the company until they finally established a permanent facility in Niles. After the Essanay company shuttered their Niles studio in 1916, various attempts were made to

Coming to the Barn: The Immortal Charles Chaplin

Save the Date Wednesday, April 13th, 7:30 p.m. for a special Birthday Tribute to the Immortal Charles Chaplin

A rare screening of *The Gentleman Tramp* written and directed by Richard Patterson

In Person: Richard Patterson

In 1975, filmmaker Richard Patterson produced a documentary on Charles Chaplin which was the first such film that included scenes from later films including *City Lights*, *Modern Times*, *The Great Dictator*, *Monsieur Verdoux*, *Limelight*, etc. It also contains footage of Chaplin from several decades worth of newsreels and home movies taken of him at his home in Vevey, Switzerland in 1974. Richard is the only person who had full access to Charlie and his wife, Oona and was able to film them at their home. Walter Matthau, Laurence Olivier and Jack Lemmon provide various narration as well as some of the finest voice talents in Hollywood.

The Gentleman Tramp is one of the finest documentaries on Chaplin and is not a talking heads testimonial. Rather, it unfolds Charlie’s personal life in pictures and story through the use of transcripts, film sequences, news articles, and memorabilia, all in the space of seventy-eight minutes. Its visual style and swift pace makes it one of the best and most entertaining film documentaries you’re likely to see. Nominated for a Golden Globe, this is the first public screening in decades. Film archivist/historian and Hollywood Heritage board member Stan Taffel will be bringing a collection of posters and other Chaplin memorabilia plus unique film footage to add to this special birthday celebration for the Eternal Little Tramp. Also, a Big Surprise will be on hand for everyone in attendance, so be sure to mark your calendar for this wonderful and nostalgic evening.

General Admission Tickets can now be purchased online with your credit card via Brown Paper Tickets. Cost includes a nominal service fee. Just go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/158517> for more information or call 1-800-838-3006 to reserve your tickets over the phone. It’s that easy! Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the day of the event (pending availability).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In grateful recognition of their generous support, we sincerely thank the following renewing members who have made contributions at the \$100 level and above as of November 10, 2010. Category titles are names of historic Hollywood Studios.

Bison \$500+

Donelle Dadigan
Aaron & Anne Epstein

Kalem \$250+

Claire Bradford

Triangle \$100+

Bill Roschen & Christi Van Cleve
Paul Dusckett
Bob Birchard
Michael Berman
Susan Pinsky & David Starkman
Julieta Parr
Bruce Carroll
Jeffery Masino
Jaellayna Palmer
Jan Westman

Welcome New Members!

Fouzia Burfield
Ted Coffin, Jr.
Denise DeCarlo
Seann Dougherty
Meredith Drake
Mark Echeverria
Dana Escalante
Ziggy Kruse
David & Christina McAleer
Philip Mershon
Marcy Newman
Victor Omelzenko & Judson Feder
Victoria Shaun
Andrea Tiktin-Fanti
Ruth Walcott

Evenings @ the Barn

Tribute To Will Rogers

The Hollywood Heritage Museum hosted another installment of its popular *Evenings @ the Barn* series on December 8th, 2010 with a tribute to legendary humorist Will Rogers. The event commemorated the amazing life of Mr. Rogers, whose passing 75 years earlier sent shockwaves through the nation when his plane went down off the coast of Alaska during the summer of 1935.

The festivities began with an introduction of special guest Jennifer Rogers-Etcheverry, Will Rogers' great-granddaughter, who was on hand to share family stories and reminiscences of her famous relative. She was joined by Todd Vradenburg, Executive Director of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation and the Board President of the Will Rogers Ranch Foundation, and Larry Nemecek, one of the docents at the ranch.

Board member Stan Taffel offered several rare Will Rogers' films from his personal collection to which the crowd responded favorably. Also screened were a couple of short documentaries that were produced expressly for the DVD Collection of Rogers' films and presented courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment. The entertaining clips were followed by a Q&A with all of the guests, moderated by the evening's producers David Greim and Bryan Cooper.

Attendees also had the opportunity to purchase \$1 raffle tickets to win beautifully appointed gift baskets (graciously donated



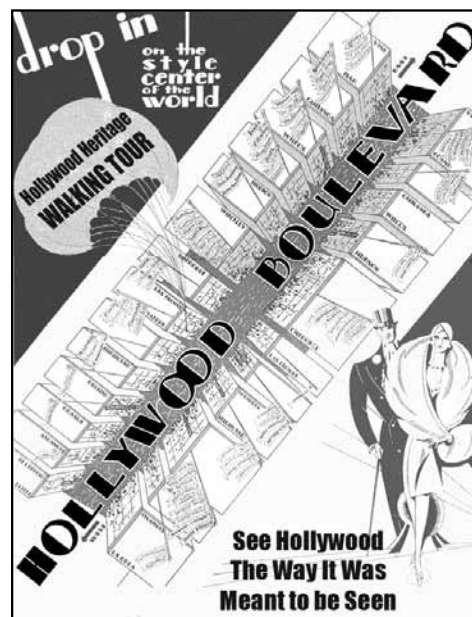
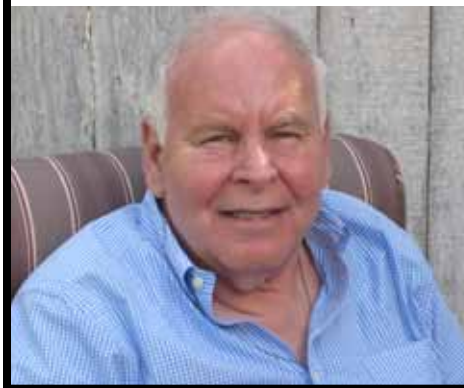
A Tribute to Will Rogers producers and presenters. (L to R)Larry Nemecek, Todd Vradenburg, Jennifer Rogers-Etcheverry, David Greim and Bryan Cooper. Photo by Alan H. Simon

by the Will Rogers Ranch Foundation), rare Will Rogers' books and DVD box sets. The evening was capped off by a book signing with Jennifer Rogers-Etcheverry as well as the sale of Rogers' own line of gourmet nuts (which were snapped up by everyone rather quickly, presumably as holiday gifts!) All in all it was a wonderful gathering and fitting tribute to one of America's most beloved national treasures.

John "Jack" Benedict Ryan

**April 25, 1943 –
March 3, 2011**

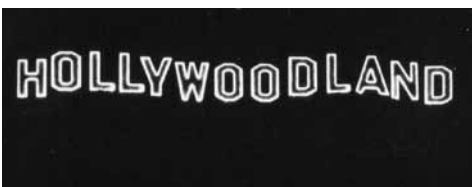
Jack Ryan, a long-time member of Hollywood Heritage, passed away in Bakersfield, California from heart complications. He was a native of Hollywood and devoted his time and money in support of Hollywood Heritage and its effort to protect the city he loved. In his later years, Jack drove from his Bakersfield home to the Hollywood Heritage Museum for almost every Evening @ the Barn. The announcement of his passing brought tears to the eyes of fellow Hollywood Heritage members who will miss his familiar face and warm greetings. His family has requested that donations be made in his name to Hollywood Heritage.



Call (323) 465-6716 to book your tour

“Hollywoodland” Sign Lights Up Sky

Built originally in 1923 merely as an enormous billboard for the Hollywoodland real estate development, the Hollywoodland Sign cost \$21,000 and was modeled after two similar but smaller signs. The original letters were 50 feet tall and 30 feet wide, composed of sheet metal squares which hung on a wooden scaffolding held together by telephone poles, pipes, and wire.



The sign lit up at night like a gigantic Christmas tree. It was covered with 4,000 20-watt bulbs spaced eight inches apart which operated in sequence to spell out the words “Holly,” “Wood,” and “Land”, “Hollywoodland.” A giant spotlight below it gave it extra illumination and acted as an attention grabber by day and night. Publicity claimed that the illuminated sign was visible up to 26 miles away.

With sales slowing in Hollywoodland by 1929, developer S. H. Woodruff examined schemes to increase the neighborhood’s visibility and publicity. He contacted the Angelus Sign Company for proposals to enhance the look of the sign. The company’s October 22, 1929 letter proposed what they called “neonizing” the sign, either adding neon inside or around the outside of the letters. Outlining the letters would cost an estimated \$12,500. Unfortunately, the collapse of the stock market, along with the failure of his Dana Point real estate tract, caused Woodruff to abandon the idea.

By 1939, replacement of the light bulbs and other maintenance ended. The sign went dark at night and remains so to this day.

Look for this and other interesting stories in Hollywood Heritage’s book *Hollywoodland* written by our board of directors member Mary Mallory and published by Arcadia Publishing Company, due out in mid-May.

Evenings @ the Barn

Parallel Language Films

February’s *Evening @ the Barn* was a presentation on a little-known topic, American films that were made in foreign languages by the American studios, but with completely foreign casts. Beth Werling, collections manager at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, and Daryl Maxwell, former archivist with Disney Animation and Universal Studios, presented a history of these films. They were generally made in French, Spanish and Italian at the same time their American counterparts were

perform in multiple versions of their American films. Mr. Taffel also shared scenes from his personal collection of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy films wherein the comedians performed in scenes in varying languages, skillfully accomplished by reading cue cards from off camera.

Mr. Maxwell wrapped up the program by providing commentary on select scenes from the Spanish-language version of *Dracula*, arguably the most critically praised of the parallel (or alternate) language films. The



Producers and participants in the *Parallel Language Films* program are from left to right: Richard S. Birchard, Beth Werling, Daryl Maxwell, Stan Taffel and Richard Adkins.
Photo by Alan H. Simon

being made, occupying the same sets, and often wearing the same costumes as the English speaking stars. Miss Werling gave the audience the background on these films, charting the reasons why the studios wanted to make them, and explaining why the system didn’t work well and was ultimately replaced by dialogue replacement or “dubbing” when that technology was perfected. Between 1928 and 1934, virtually all the American studios made foreign language versions of select popular films like *Anna Christie* and *Min and Bill*.

Hollywood Heritage director Stan Taffel helped illustrate the point by showing the first scene of both the American and German versions of *Anna Christie* with Greta Garbo in both versions, but with Marie Dressler being replaced by Salka Viertel. Garbo was among a select number of stars like Ramon Novarro and Jeanette MacDonald who could speak more than one language and were able to

English language version was directed by Tod Browning, director of *Freaks*, and the Spanish language version by George Melford, director of *The Sheik*. Mr. Maxwell chose clips showing the essential differences between the versions, including the performances of Bela Lugosi versus Carlos Villarias and Helen Chandler versus Lupita Tovar. The comparative clips were assembled by Hollywood Heritage director, Robert S. Birchard. Miss Tovar was unable to attend the screening due to ill health, but her introduction on the the DVD version of the Spanish *Dracula* was shown and her son, Pancho Tovar, was present at the event.

We took our cue in programming this event for Valentine’s Day from Universal, as the Bela Lugosi *Dracula* film was promoted as “The story of the strangest passion the world has ever known!”



P.O Box 2586
Hollywood, CA 90078

SAVE THESE DATES
Upcoming Hollywood Heritage Events

SATURDAY, April 2, 2011, Silent Society of Hollywood Heritage Celebrates 25 years with a day of screenings. Starts at 2:30 p.m. and into the evening hours. Dinner Break provided.

WEDNESDAY, April 13, 2011, 7:30 pm - Hollywood Heritage Museum - *Evening @ the Barn* A Birthday Tribute to Charlie Chaplin

WEDNESDAY, May 11, 2011, 7:30 pm - Hollywood Heritage Museum - *Evening @ the Barn*, Rudolph Valentino – The Silent Idol.

WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2011, 7:30 pm - Hollywood Heritage Museum - *Evening @ the Barn*, with Jane Withers.

NOTE: all *Evenings @ the Barn* programs begin at 7:30 pm. Seating is limited to 110 persons. Advance tickets are available at Brown Paper Tickets, 1-800-838-3006, or at www.BrownPaperTickets.com

PRESERVING OUR HOLLYWOOD HERITAGE FOR OVER 30 YEARS
• Hollywood Heritage Museum/Lasky-DeMille Barn •
• Silent Society: Motion Picture History and Preservation • Architectural Preservation, Advocacy, and Education •



Membership Application

Memberships may also be submitted online at www.HollywoodHeritage.org

YES! I would like to become a member of Hollywood Heritage, Inc.

- \$2,500 Majestic \$1,000 Keystone \$500 Bison
- \$250 Kalem \$100 Triangle** \$50 Household
- \$40 Individual \$25 Senior 65+/
Full Time Student

**Join at the \$100 Triangle level or above, and receive a 24"x36" collectable reproduction poster, *A Map of Hollywood from the Best Surveys of the Time* c. 1928.

Membership Benefits Include:

- Discounts to *Evenings @ the Barn* programs
- Free admission to the Hollywood Heritage Museum for two adults and two children.
- Ten percent discount at the Museum Store.
- Advance notification of special member programs.
- Discounts on Silent Society film programs at the Hollywood Heritage Museum, UCLA, and the Paramount Ranch.
- Quarterly **Hollywood Heritage Newsletter**.

Name: _____

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I wish to pay by:

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Please make checks payable to **Hollywood Heritage, Inc.**

Charge my: Visa MasterCard

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Clip and mail to: Hollywood Heritage, Inc., P.O. Box 2586, Hollywood, CA 90078