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the newsletter of the Burbank Historical Society



2019Q3004 / FALL EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings and welcome to the Fall and Holidays!

Here we go again....entering into another new season of 2019 with the Fall and holidays just around the corner. This is my favorite time of the year. Even though we live in California and the weather is pleasant most of the year, I still look forward to the day when you can feel that first snap of cold signifying that fall has arrived.

I know I'm always talking about and thanking all of our Docents, but I believe there's never enough recognition, and they really do a great job of bringing our history alive. Thank you again and again to our Docents!

I would also like to thank a couple of other important groups. One would be our Board Members who work tirelessly behind the scenes. A lot of whom not only work alongside the Docents during our open hours, but put in countless hours using their talents to help maintain the upkeep of our museum. I'm talking about those who coordinate and conduct school and special group tours; those who help recruit and train new docents; those working in the office taking care of all the administrative work; and those planning and maintaining displays. Our Board Members are always

willing to represent the museum at special event off-sites. And I can't forget to mention the members that make out our work schedules, and that write our amazing articles and keep up with communications and requests. And then there are those who have special mechanical talents, our "Jacks-of-all-trades" doing what it takes to maintain our building and our motorized displays. We have an AV specialist that keeps our event room up and running, and yes we have several people that work hard to bring together our newsletter and coordinate our programs.

It sounds like there are many people constantly working to complete all of these duties, but in actuality there are so many that wear several hats, changing them frequently depending on the need. Thank you so much Board Members!

The other group that I would like to recognize would be our members, our corporate donors and our benefactors. It is with your donations that we are able to continue preserving and sharing the history of Burbank with the public. Thank you to this very important and vital group of people!

If you want to help preserve our history, learn more about it, or help others learn more about Burbank's past, you can become a member, a donor or a volunteer. Come in and see us. Remember to preserve your family's history by naming and dating your photos.

Sincerely,
Dianna Briggs
President





FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

by Susan Hodgson

Have you noticed that a lot of old Burbank restaurants seem to be closing lately? Well, we've noticed and, to tell you the truth, it hurts. Buchanan Arms is no longer here, nor is Tony's Bella Vista or Full o' Life, to name a few. Luckily some old stalwart eateries have survived, so let's learn more about them here!



Burbank simply wouldn't be Burbank without the Smoke House. The world-famous Smoke House sits right across the street from Warner Brothers and is definitely a go-to spot in show biz. And it has been since 1946!

In 1946 the Smoke House opened at Pass Avenue and Riverside Drive. It was a small location but the restaurant's popularity caught on fast. It would only be three short years before the place had to expand and move into bigger quarters. That's where today's location comes into play.



The story is pure Hollywood: Once upon a time, entertainment legend Danny Kaye owned a building that he wanted to make into a restaurant. The Smoke House bought it and the restaurant remains there to this day. Today when you step into The Smoke House, it's like stepping back in time. It's dark, has red leather booths,

photos of cinema stars all over the walls and sells a lot of prime rib. But when it comes to food, nothing is better known than its neon orange garlic-cheese bread, a guilty pleasure if there ever was one. (Yes, even guiltier than secretly watching *The Bachelor!*)

Over the years, many a star has eaten here and they still do. George Clooney has spent so much time here that he named his own production company Smoke House Productions. Frank Sinatra ate here (in fact, there's a steak dish named for him), as did Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Jack Paar, Errol Flynn, Judy Garland, Cary Grant, Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor. The reception following Elizabeth Taylor's own funeral was held here – after all, the Smoke House isn't just minutes away from all the studios, it's also close to Forest Lawn!

Before they hit it big, the Captain and Tenille played at the Smoke House, and music continues to be a big draw to the very "old L.A."-like bar in the restaurant. Another room in the house – the restroom of all places – also has its place in Hollywood lore. Laugh-In's radio announcer Gary Owens was discovered there!

According to Laugh-In creator and producer George Schlatter, Schlatter was in the middle of casting his now-iconic television show while dining at the Smoke House one evening. While using the restroom, Gary Owens came in, stood beside George and said hello. According to Schlatter, "I said, 'That's wonderful!' He said, 'What's that?' I said, 'The sound of your voice!' He said, 'Yeah, the acoustics in here.' I said, 'That's what I want you to do!' He said, 'What do you mean? You want me to [urinate]?' I said, 'No! I want you to be our announcer! Put your thumb in your ear and say, 'Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome!' He said, 'You want me to [urinate] and put my thumb in my ear?!' 'No! Just talk!'" And a star was born.

So the next time you're dining at the Smoke House, gaze at all the photos on the wall, guess the celebrities and maybe one day you can be one too. Just be sure to use the restroom!



Everybody liked Huell Howser, right? He made television gold with his popular TV show "California Gold." In the show, Howser visited many quirky California locations and taught us all about them. One of those spots just happened to be a Burbank classic: a diner dating back to 1959 still owned and run by the same family – a place called Tallyrand.



In 1959, Al and Delores Thomas moved to Burbank from the Midwest and opened a modest coffee shop on Olive Avenue. They chose the name Tallyrand after going through cookbooks checking out recipes. One cookbook from San Francisco's well-known St. Francis hotel featured an old world soup named Tallyrand Soup. Tallyrand was a real person, although his name was misspelled either by the St. Francis cookbook or certainly by the coffee shop, and he was from the past. Maurice de Talleyrand had been an advisor to Napoleon and other French notables, famous for his crafty ways of practicing diplomacy. (Do you think the Thomases knew that?!)

Al and Delores' kids, Mark and Karen, run the Tallyrand today. It is famous for its fresh-daily turkey, its award winning breakfasts and hometown feeling. The restaurant's motto, "Family, Friends, Traditions" is very fitting. Most of the employees have been there for over twenty years and the customers even longer.

After the Huell Howser episode about the Tallyrand was first aired in 2010, diners flocked to the Burbank establishment. Sadly, after Howser died in 2013, attendance soared again. But everyday it's buzzing and every day is Thanksgiving in this legendary restaurant. (And its turkey is better than mine!)

There are, of course, plenty more old-time eateries in Burbank. Generations of Burbankers have consumed Martino's Bakery tea cakes since about 1926. Tinchorn Flats has been around since 1939. Chili Johns has been here since 1946. The Castaway first opened in 1963.

We have plenty of newer restaurants in Burbank nowadays and progress is (usually!) a good thing! Who knows? Maybe in 20 or 50 years our grandkids will be saying how great it is to have an old stand-by like The Yard House still around!

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PURCHASE A SPECIAL LEAF!
Price: \$250

See the tree leaves on the beautifully painted wall mural found in the Sence Room. The leaves are in remembrance of a loved one or to recognize a family member.

To purchase a leaf for the tree please ask one of our board members or docents for the Tree of Life form to fill out.



115 N Lomita St, Burbank, CA 91506

Open Saturdays & Sundays 1:00pm to 4:00pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Flickers from the Silver Scream

Mark your calendars! Galen Wilkes' 2019 Halloween show - **FLICKERS FROM THE SILVER SCREAM** - will include classic horror film clips and comedies from the 1900s to 1940s.

Saturday, October 19, 2019

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Cunningham Room

GORDON R. HOWARD MUSEUM

115 N Lomita St., Burbank

818.841.6333



MEMBER APPRECIATION!!

That means you...

Don't miss this event that revolves around each and everyone of you who continue to support our organization. Make sure to mark your calendars -- **Saturday, October 26**. Please respond to the attached insert.