



# West Adams Matters

## West Adams and the Movies

by Danny Miller

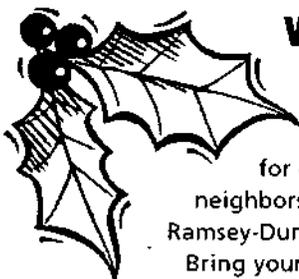
West Adams has had connections to the film industry since its earliest days—you could almost say the two grew up together. Just as one stately home after another was rising up on Adams Boulevard and the surrounding streets, the fledgling movie industry was making its first moves into Southern California. Leaving behind the inhospitable climates of Chicago and New York, the purveyors of this brand new medium were descending upon Los Angeles to set up their dream factories. As the Silent Film era reached its heyday, movie stars and film directors alike—including Buster Keaton, Rupert Hughes, W.C. Fields, Fatty Arbuckle, and the Talmadge sisters, Constance, Norma and Natalie—lived in mansions in and near the West Adams District.

Since this year's annual WAHA Holiday Tour, "A Tinseltown

(continued on page 8)



Buster Keaton makes a home movie with the Talmadge girls — Norma, Constance, his wife, Natalie, and their mother, Peg.



## WAHA Holiday Party

Sunday, December 11, 2-5 p.m.

Jingle bells are ringing in West Adams, and we are having a Holiday party for our members and all our Holiday Tour volunteers. Please join your friends and neighbors on Sunday afternoon, December 11, when we'll celebrate at the historic Ramsey-Durfee Mansion, 2425 South Western, in Kinney Heights. Everyone is invited.

Bring yourself, dress up, party while enjoying cocktails and an holiday elegant spread at WAHA's annual December affair. (This soiree is NOT a potluck.)

Our hosts are the Brothers of St. John of God. Please note: we will appreciate an RSVP by December 7 to [WAHAholiday@aol.com](mailto:WAHAholiday@aol.com). ●



## A Story of Affluence, Love and Loneliness

The History of the Ramsey-Durfee Mansion is Marked by Tragedy

We are delighted to have been invited to one of West Adams' most opulent estates for our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11. It also was home to one of Los Angeles' most famous tragic couples.

The Ramsey-Durfee Mansion at 2425 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles Cultural Historic Monument No. 230, was built in 1908 for William E. Ramsey, an Eastern lumber magnate who had retired to Southern California. Ramsey commissioned architect Frederick L. Roehrig to design a residence befitting a millionaire.

And indeed this Tudor Revival manor is considered to be one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture

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## Newsletter Staff

- Laura Meyers**, Editor and Layout, ph: 323-737-6146,  
 e-mail: Lauramink@aol.com
- Jean Frost**, Director of Publications, ph: 213-748-1656
- Hilary Lentini**, Art Director, ph: 323-766-8090, e-mail: hlentini@pobox.com
- Suzie Henderson**, Resources, ph: 323-731-3900,  
 e-mail westadamsgoddess@aol.com
- Tom Gracyk**, Circulation, ph: 323-731-0987
- Jean Cade**, Advertising Director, ph: 323-737-5034



## President's Message

by Jefferson Davis

### Shhhh....

"I've heard that neighborhood has really made a comeback." That is the line I hear a lot from people when I tell them I live in West Adams. But, nothing could be further from the truth.

In the eyes of many of the longtime and current West Adams District residents, our neighborhoods never went anywhere. Yes, many houses fell into disrepair. Yes, crime was more of a problem than other places in the city. Yes, this part of the city became the stepchild of city government while it was pouring money into the "Westside." (Funny, we were the original Westside of Los Angeles.)

But West Adams flourished as a community—a real community filled with hardworking Angelenos raising families, opening businesses, and establishing a true pride in where they lived. The diversity that so many people in other communities were deadly afraid of, thrived here. Our community of immigrants came here to live the American dream.

West Adams survived the earthquakes, the riots, and most importantly, people's apathy toward our history and cultural heritage. In the name of progress, a freeway split our neighborhood in half, and yet now travels slower than a city street. To fit the needs of a changing community, mansions were divided up to become rooming houses, businesses, and churches.

Still they remained standing for generations to enjoy.

Through it all, the community held together. We fought city hall, the building department, and numerous other government agencies that tried to destroy the soul of our neighborhood. The fight made us stronger and closer as a community—a family bond that is lacking in so many of Los Angeles' communities.

So, the next time you hear that line about "making a comeback," just smile—you know the best kept secret in the Southland.

*Jefferson Davis can be reached via e-mail,  
 jeffdavis@yahoo.com*

## Happy Holidays All Across Southern California

*This season, history and architecture buffs can celebrate all over town.*

### \* **Holiday Lights in West Adams**

Check out some great light displays in the neighborhood! The West Adams Avenues Association has completely decked out 7th Avenue just north of Adams with all manner of twinkling stars. And on Gramercy Place just north of Washington, follow the "beacon" -- a palm tree wrapped up top to bottom like a brightly lit candy cane.

### \* **Altadena's Christmas Tree Lane**

For more than 80 years, visitors traveling along Altadena's Santa Rosa Avenue have marveled at the stunning light displays ringing the roadside trees. Christmas Tree Lane, as it is known during the holidays, is a grove of nearly 150 imported Italian Deodar cedars. Planted by John Woodbury in the 19th century, the trees were donated to the town in 1920. Since the 1950s, the Christmas Tree Association has arranged the festive display every December. Tip: Visit on a weeknight to avoid the more substantial weekend crowds. Directions: Exit Fair Oaks off the 134 freeway and head north to Woodbury. Turn right on Woodbury and then left on Santa Rosa Avenue.

### \* **Candlelight Tours at the Banning Residence Museum**

December 10 and 11, 6-8 p.m.

401 East M Street, Wilmington

The Banning Residence's annual Living History "A Victorian Family Christmas" is a chance to see the Museum in candlelit elegance and holiday spirit. The Banning Residence Museum is the former residence of General Phineas Banning, who is known as the "Father of the Los Angeles Harbor." This home has been called the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in Southern California. It is a national, state, and local historic landmark. The event includes holiday refreshments and entertainment in the Photograph Gallery. Reservations are required. Members, \$15; Non-Members, \$20. Children are FREE and must be accompanied by an adult. Contact the Museum at 310-548-7777.

### \* **Edwardian-style Christmas at the Fenyes Mansion**

December 11, 1-4 p.m.

Pasadena Museum of History, 470 W. Walnut St., Pasadena

The Pasadena Museum of History's 33rd Annual Holiday Open House features the Fenyes Mansion decked out in its holiday finest and filled with live musical entertainment throughout the afternoon, children's storytime, crafts activities, and "Orange Blossom Time" exhibit in the History Center, special display throughout the Museum's gardens by Phoenix Design Co., of elements from last year's Rose Parade floats, showings of vintage Rose Parade films, holiday shopping in the Museum Store, "A Finnish Country Christmas" in the Finnish Folk Art Museum hosted by the Finlandia Foundation, and delicious home-baked treats and our special-recipe Eggnog. Free for children and Museum members; donation appreciated from non-members. For more information, call 626-577-1660 or visit [www.pasadenahistory.org](http://www.pasadenahistory.org)

### \* **Holiday Victorian Tea in the Rendezvous Court**

December 1 - December 25, 2-5 p.m.

Biltmore Hotel, 506 South Grand Avenue, Downtown

Share the spirit of the holiday season with family and friends at the Biltmore's daily Victorian Tea, with holiday music played Fridays through Sundays. Guests enjoy a choice of teas as well as a selection of tea sandwiches, holiday cookies, eggnog, exquisite miniature pastries, and freshly baked scones. Admission: \$26 for adults and \$15 for children, ages 4-11. 213-612-1562.

### \* **A Southern California Christmas**

December 11, 1-5 p.m.

Homestead Museum, 15415 East Don Julian Rd., City of Industry

Living history tours, food and music illustrate Christmas traditions from the 1840s, 1870s, and 1920s. Admission, free. 626-968-8492

### \* **Los Posadas Celebration**

December 17, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Casa de Adobe, 4605 N. Figueroa St., Highland Park

The Autry National Center serves up chocolate champurrado and pan dulce after the traditional procession of Mary and Joseph through Bethlehem to the manger. 323-667-2000. ●

# Around the House

## Ecological Renovation

by Jennifer Charnofsky

Are you renovating an old house? Or maintaining one? Do you care about your family's health? The environment? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then help has arrived. Livinggreen has arrived in Culver City, their second store after the first in Santa Barbara. The Los Angeles Times called it an ecological Home Depot, and that it is, and more.

Every product is non-toxic, and/or energy efficient, and/or recycled, and/or organic, and always sustainable. They sell flooring, coatings, tile, furniture, accessories, wall coverings, cleaning and maintenance products, solar items, lights, and books. All the research has been done for you. If only these products and this store had been available 17 years ago when we renovated our house, how much healthier for us, the workers, and the environment the process would have been!

The staff are trained professionals. The man we talked to has a degree in environmental engineering; this is not your typical Home Depot type staff! And they are available to come to your house and consult with you on your renovation or maintenance.

Want some examples?

1. Tile made from 100% recycled glass, available in 36 colors, the standard sizes, and various styles. It takes less than 1/2 the energy to produce than ceramic tile. In the brochure I see what would have been the perfect tile for my kitchen and bathroom!

2. Wood stains and finishes that are either low-or non-VOC (volatile organic compounds). This means little or no smell, which means little or no off-gassing, which means that the staining and finishing of your woodwork will not ruin your lungs. Or your kids' lungs. Or the lungs of anyone applying the stuff. Or the air. Now this I had found out about just in time for the last wood project in our house. The difference was amazing! I could stay in the house while the stain was applied instead of fleeing, and there was no bad smell that night at all.

3. Linoleum, a natural biodegradable floor covering, in many lovely colors and designs. If only it had been around 17 years ago...

4. Non VOC paints. The last time we painted we used a similar product and again, the difference was amazing.

5. Very low VOC polyurethane for wood floors. If only...

6. Insulation made from recycled jeans! If only...

7. Bamboo flooring and kitchen cabinets.

8. Non-toxic paint stripper, made from soy. I wrote about this before, and when it's used the results are the same as with chemical strippers and there is no smell, again which means no damage.

9. Organic mattresses and linens.

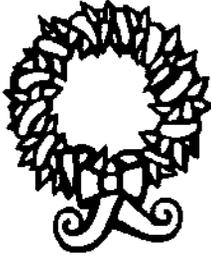
And on and on. It's convenient to go to Culver City to pick up these products, especially when you consider the expert advice you get. Livinggreen is located at 10000 Culver Blvd in Culver City. The phone is 310-838-8442. The website: [www.livinggreen.com](http://www.livinggreen.com). ●

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## Around the House

### DOES YOUR HOME HAVE GHOSTS?

Get paid for a new television show  
to investigate paranormal activity in  
your property.

If you think your home has  
paranormal activity, e-mail your  
experiences, what your house looks  
like (year built, interesting  
characteristics, etc), how long you've  
lived at the residence, who lives in the  
house, and any other pertinent  
information to the producer, Sammi  
Mendenhall,  
[paranormalshow@yahoo.com](mailto:paranormalshow@yahoo.com). Or call  
her at 323-965-0313.



## Ramsey-Durfee Mansion

*continued from page 1*

of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Los Angeles — and, luckily for visitors, the mansion is in mostly its original lavish state. This showplace estate has 42 rooms, including nine bedrooms and a third-floor ballroom. Its entry hall measures 20 by 30 feet, and its living room is 34 by 28 feet, including two immense bay windows. Both rooms are paneled in mahogany. The living room ceiling is crossed with beams, between designs are stenciled on the ceilings. The dining room, which can easily sit a dinner party of three dozen, retains much of its art-nouveau inspired elements.

Ramsey and his family did not remain long in the house. There were parties, but also quarrels, a shooting, and a suicide. The Ramseys left, leaving a grand piano in the ballroom. They leased the house to silent film director Rupert Hughes for three years. The place became a gathering point for the early movie crowd. In addition to the Hollywood parties, Hughes used the house — particularly the staircase — as a set for scenes in his movies.

In the early 1920s, the house was sold to William G. Durfee, a horse-racing devotee, and his wife, Nellie McGaughey Durfee, the daughter of a wealthy horse breeder, Elizabeth Gates McGaughey.

Lizzie McGaughey moved to California in 1876. Two decades later, she made an unlikely-sounding but ultimately successful marriage to Nicola Antonio Bonfilio, who was the owner of a laundry business. The Bonfilios began to purchase a large number of properties, while Nicola soon became prominent in Los Angeles financial circles and joined the Board of the Bank of Italy. Meanwhile McGaughey became the top breeder of harness racing horses in the West. Nellie McGaughey lived with them in a mansion on Figueroa.

In 1906, Lizzie hired a new horse trainer-driver, William George Durfee, whose remarkable winning record led to the Los Angeles Times declaring, "Born, bred, and raised with trotters and pacers, this driver has been a marked success from the time he first handed a pair of ribbons."

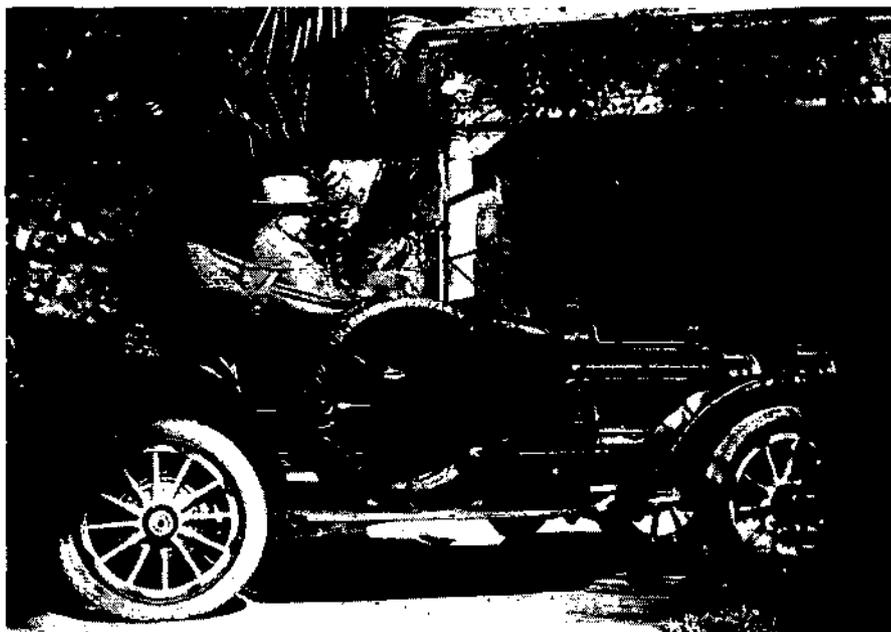
Within three years the McGaughey-Bonfilio stable boasted "the world's best pacer" and Durfee was listed as the chief attraction of the Los Angeles Driving Club's Thanksgiving matinee. Lizzie told the Times, "I would rather lose any horse in my possession than the services of such an expert."

Lizzie may have rued the day she hired Durfee.

In 1910, Durfee's courtship of Nellie and divorce from the mother of his two children was a scandal. In one headline after another, Durfee was being referred to as a "plunger" (that era's slang for gambler) and philanderer. Lizzie McGaughey Bonfilio disapproved the match and withheld her pursestrings, but when she died in 1911 Nellie and William were soon married.

In the early 1920s, after William quit horse racing for good, the Durfees

*William Durfee (below) and Nellie Durfee (right).*



paid \$105,000 for the Ramsey estate, which sat on three acres. They furnished the mansion with treasures from their many European trips, including paintings and Oriental rugs.

Then, in 1927, the Durfees took a fishing trip to the Columbia River, where William was taken ill and died. The funeral was attended by all the prominent racing people in Southern California, and William was buried at Rosedale Cemetery. Nellie Durfee was devastated, and tried to take her own life. Saved by prompt hospitalization, Nellie went home to her mansion, and closed up the residence to all but a few trusted staff. She retreated from the world, and slept with the key to William's room around her neck. The dining room was used only once during the next 50 years. Nellie changed nothing in the house, freezing a "portrait" of her 1927 life intact until the day she died, nearly half a century later, just before her 100th birthday in 1976.

Although the furnishings were mostly auctioned, the interior is almost exactly as it was in 1927. Ownership was passed to the Brothers of St. John of God, who renamed the property "Villa Maria" and who have maintained this treasure ever since. ●

*Silent Film Director Rupert Hughes lived in and shot scenes for his movies in the Ramsey Mansion.*



## Preservation Begins At Home



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**Adams Normandie Craftsman** -- 1616 West 25th St. -- Jane Harrington (Buyer's agent)

**Jefferson Park Bungalow** -- 2340 West 30th Street -- David Raposa (Buyer's agent). Welcome, Jim Nice and Jennifer Cook

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## West Adams and the Movies

*continued from page 1*

Holiday in West Adams," celebrates today's film production in the community, we thought it would be interesting to take a look back at West Adams' filming roots.

While a new development called Hollywood would soon beckon, the nerve center of the moving picture industry in 1910 was the Alexandria Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, close to the borders of West Adams. Movie star hopefuls lined up on the corner of Spring and Fifth for casting sessions in the Alexandria's opulent bar, and so many deals were struck in the lobby of the hotel that the ornate carpet became known as "the million dollar rug." The earliest film actors, used to a life in the theatre where they traveled constantly, stayed at the Alexandria or in nearby hotels. But with public interest in the movies increasing as fast as their salaries, the players began looking for places to establish roots in the new film capital.

The earliest residents of West Adams were not exactly welcoming to the up-and-coming actors. Despite their own questionable beginnings, the oil barons, mining lords, and bankers of West Adams turned up their noses at these theatrical vagabonds. As journalist Adela St. Johns wrote, "Nobody wanted to live near a motion picture actor. They kept different hours, they had a freer lifestyle, and they weren't the most conventional types you would care to run into or have anything to do with. A lot of the homes for sale in those days had signs on the front lawns in big letters: NO DOGS, NO ACTORS!"

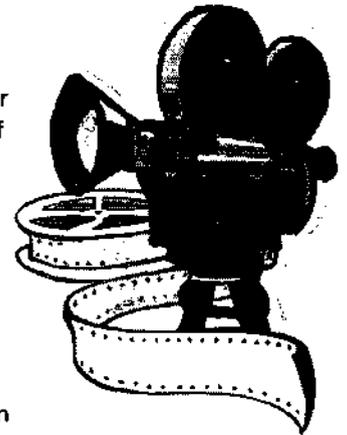
By the mid-teens, the movies had such a hold on American culture that even the toniest residents of West Adams had become secret fans. As the February 1917 edition of *Photoplay* magazine featuring Norma Talmadge on the cover was being ferreted into the West Adams living rooms under copies of the *Los Angeles Evening Herald*, one of filmdom's first superstars was moving into their midst.

Born Theodosia Goodman, the daughter of a Jewish tailor in Cincinnati, silent screen vamp Theda Bara was a bizarre creation of studio publicists. Bara's official biography detailed her illegitimate birth to a French artist and an Arabian princess. She was supposedly born in the shadows of the Pyramids and her name was an anagram for

"Arab Death." When Theda Bara moved into her home at 649 W. Adams, the house soon looked like one of her film sets: she packed the rooms with mummy cases, tiger skin rugs, crystal balls, and peacock feathers. Reporters were reluctant to visit her West Adams home alone for fear she would put them into a trance. The public couldn't get enough of the pale girl with her waist-length hair and haunting eyes. "Is She the Devil's Handmaiden?" screamed the fan magazines. But as World War I drew to a close, the fascination with screen vamps faded and Theda's star descended as quickly as it rose. In 1919 Bara sold her Tudor mansion to screen sensation Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle and the West Adams residents breathed huge sighs of relief. If only they knew what was coming.

By 1920, Fatty Arbuckle was the highest paid actor in the industry. He and his often estranged wife, actress Minta Durfee, went to work on the West Adams mansion, removing all traces of Theda Bara's ghoulish décor and sparing no expense. Sitting in the driveway of his home was his brand new \$25,000 custom-made Rolls Royce, complete with built-in toilet in the back seat!

Arbuckle loved to have as much fun off-screen as he did in the movies, and he gave many parties at his new home. The guest list included such luminaries as Mack Sennett, Charlie Chaplin, the Talmadge sisters, and Mabel Normand. Arbuckle and his close friend Buster Keaton played



*Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle (right) and his jokester pal, Buster Keaton.*

*Theda Bara was famed for her role as "Cleopatra."*



many practical jokes on the studio heads who'd visit the West Adams house. At one party, Roscoe had Keaton playing a clumsy butler serving dinner to Paramount boss Adolph Zukor. Before Zukor knew what hit him, the turkey was off the silver tray and on his lap. Keaton then proceeded to calmly pour a pitcher of ice water into the lap of Paramount star Bebe Daniels. Arbuckle's raucous parties could be heard down the street at the Doheny mansion on Chester Place and Edward Doheny himself would walk over and pound on Arbuckle's door in frustration. Doheny offered to buy Fatty's home at top dollar but Arbuckle had no intention of appeasing the oil magnate.

In 1921, a young actress named Virginia Rappe died after attending a Labor Day party Arbuckle gave at a San Francisco hotel. Some of Rappe's shady friends spread some incriminating stories about the party and on October 7, federal agents appeared at Roscoe's West Adams home to arrest him for the sexual assault they believed led to Rappe's death. After three sensational trials, Arbuckle was acquitted of all charges, but the damage to his reputation was done. Instead of fans flocking to the neighborhood to get a glimpse of their favorite star, they now pelted his windows with stones, yelling obscenities about how Virginia had died. Arbuckle moved to a smaller house on the 3400 block of West Adams and rented his palatial home to director Raoul Walsh and his wife, actress Miriam Cooper. The next residents were producer Joseph Schenk and Norma Talmadge. Finally, Edward Doheny got his way and purchased the home for his in-laws.

The following year another scandal rocked the film world when director William Desmond Taylor was murdered in his home on South Alvarado. Among the suspects were Arbuckle's former leading lady, Mabel Normand, and several other young actresses who had had dalliances with the director. Los Angeles County Sheriff William Traeger, who lived on Halldale in West Adams, left no stone unturned in his quest to find the killer but the shocking crime was never solved. Traeger made a name for himself in the scandal and later became a U.S. Congressman, but several movie careers were ruined in the process.

In addition to the movie stars that came in and out of West Adams, the area was home to dozens of people who were instrumental in the development of the film industry. Henry C. Jensen, a former brickmaker who owned much of the land that became Harvard Heights, loved the movies but did not enjoy the uncomfortable nickelodeons that showcased them in the early years. Beginning in 1912, Jensen built and operated a chain of movie theatres in southern California, from Jensen's Theatorium on Sunset Boulevard to the magnificent Raymond Theatre in Pasadena. At the Raymond's star-studded premiere on April 5, 1921, Jensen shared the stage with Wallace Reid, the handsome and immensely popular star of the opening night film. Reid's death from a drug overdose two years later cemented Hollywood's reputation as a den of sin and vice. Coming on the heels of the Arbuckle and Taylor scandals, the event ushered in a new era heavy censorship and studio control.

Soon West Adams had its own movie palaces. In the early 1920s, neighborhood residents could be found lining up at the beautifully appointed West Adams Theatre (later the Fox Adams) on Crenshaw and Adams to swoon over their favorite



*Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle being measured by his fiancée Addie McPhail.*

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## West Adams and the Movies

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movie stars. Famed architect Frank Tyler, who built many of the homes in the area and lived on Oxford Boulevard, brought his wife and young son Walter to many films. Walter couldn't get enough of the elaborate set pieces in popular epics by Cecil B. DeMille such as *Why Change Your Wife* starring Gloria Swanson or *The King of Kings* with H.B. Warner. Who knew that Walter himself would become one of the most celebrated art directors in the industry, working on films such as *Roman Holiday*, *Sabrina*, and *A Place in the Sun*. Tyler would eventually win an Oscar for his work on DeMille's *Samson and Delilah*.

Over at the lavish Arlington Theater on Washington Boulevard, 1920s patrons included screenwriter Helen Van Upp who lived in a lovely Craftsman bungalow on Arlington with her daughter Virginia. As a child star, Virginia Van Upp had acted opposite Rudolph Valentino and John Gilbert. By the time she was 17, she was an assistant director and later a screenwriter like her mother. Years later Harry Cohn would hire Van Upp as his second-in-command at Columbia, making her the most powerful female executive in Hollywood. Van Upp was responsible for catapulting the career of Rita Hayworth by having her perform the famous striptease scene in *Gilda*. Hayworth later complained to Van Upp: "It's all your fault! Every man I've known as fallen in love with Gilda and woken up with me!"



Virginia Van Upp on the set of *GILDA* with Rita Hayworth (left) and Glenn Ford.

Famed director and choreographer Busby Berkeley moved into the West Adams District in the 1930s.



The Boulevard Theater stood on Washington Boulevard near Vermont Avenue.



Another magnificent venue in West Adams was the Boulevard Theater on Washington near Vermont. Among the early patrons of this Spanish colonial palace was Charles Barton, an actor who would go on to direct popular war-time comedies such as *Reveille with Beverly* and *What's Buzzin', Cousin?* Barton would later become one of the most successful directors in the early years of television, helming such series as *Leave it to Beaver*, *McHale's Navy*, and *The Munsters*. Another local visitor to the Boulevard was sound pioneer Orlando Kellum. Partnering with D. W. Griffith in 1921, Kellum's "Photokinema" system was used to create a talking/singing prologue for Griffith's *Dream Street*, a full six years before Al Jolson sang from the screen in *The Jazz Singer*.

With all the scandals of the early 1920s, studio heads and actors seeking spiritual relief had only to stop in at the Harvard Heights home of Edgar Magnin, the rabbi of the newly built Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Magnin reigned as "rabbi to the stars" for over sixty years until his death in 1984. He was confidante to Hollywood personalities ranging from Irving Thalberg, Louis B. Mayer, Adolph Zukor, the Warner Brothers, Eddie Cantor, George Burns, Jack Benny, Milton Berle, and countless others.

As many of the movers and shakers began leaving West Adams for the greener pastures of Hancock Park and Beverly Hills, one major

player took up residence in the late 1930s. Director Busby Berkeley purchased the magnificent Guasti Villa at 3500 Adams Boulevard and moved into it with his mother and her large collection of antiques. "It looked more like a museum than a home," Berkeley said later, "but it made her happy and that's all I cared about." He

built a theatre in the basement so he could screen his films for his wheelchair-bound mother. On weekends, Berkeley hosted lavish parties at his estate and invited many of his stars to enjoy the stunning grounds. A typical party would find Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland serenading the likes of Jeannette MacDonald, Lew Ayres, Franchot Tone, and Hedy Lamarr. After a series of bad marriages and the death of his mother in the mid-1940s, Berkeley was forced to liquidate his assets and he sold his West Adams estate for a paltry \$35,000.

West Adams experienced one more movie-related boon. For most of West Adams' history, restrictive covenants were in place that prohibited homeowners from selling to African-Americans. In the early 1940s, actress Hattie McDaniel (who won an Oscar for *Gone With the Wind*) broke the color barrier and bought a beautiful home on the 2200 block of Harvard. In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that such segregationist covenants were unconstitutional, and more African-American stars,

*Hattie McDaniel (on left), who won an Oscar for her role as "Mammy" in GONE WITH THE WIND, and Ethel Waters, one of the most popular African American singers and actresses of the 1920s and 1930s, both purchased homes in West Adams Heights.*



from Ethel Waters to Louise Beavers, flocked to West Adams Heights, the area where First A.M.E. Church stands today. This neighborhood was later dubbed "Sugar Hill."

Following World War II, many of the grand homes in Historic West Adams were torn down or converted into boarding houses. The construction of the Santa Monica Freeway in the early 1960s divided the neighborhood in two and led to further neglect. Today, thanks to a revitalized preservation ethos, the area is experiencing a major resurgence and a filmmaking boon. The splendid homes, many painstakingly restored, are among the most sought after locations for filmmakers in southern California. With the ghosts of Theda Bara, Fatty Arbuckle, and Busby Berkeley drifting through the streets and boulevards, the magic of the early days of filmmaking has returned to the community. ●

## historic West Adams

OVER \$30,000,000 in sales so far in 2005!

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127 E. Gage \$275,000  
 973 Vernon \$590,000  
 3218 129th St. \$305,000  
 176 French \$439,000  
 119 W. 229th St. Gardena \$100,000  
 101 James \$519,000

### Available:

1752 E. 112th Duplex \$449,000  
 326 E. 90th St. \$359,000  
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 2033 Stockwell \$345,000  
 1592 W. Cameron St. \$400,000  
 Long Beach

### Packet Listings (call for details):

Lafayette Square 4+3 Tudor \$1,100,000  
 North University Park 4+2 3,000+ Sq. Ft. \$725,000  
 Bungalow District 3+1 1,000 Sq. Ft. \$569,000  
 Adams Hill 2+2 Dome/Views \$675,000  
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## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

**Best Lock and Safe Service** contact: David Kim  
2203 W. Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, 323-733-7716  
10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials

**Washington Dog & Cat Hospital**  
1692 W. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, 323-735-0291  
50% off office exams

**Meyers Roofing**  
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188  
10% discount

**Lighthouse Stained Glass**  
5155 Melrose, 323-465-4475  
20% discount off regular class prices with WAHA membership card

**Cafe Club Fais Do Do**  
5257 West Adams Blvd., 323-954-8080  
No cover charge at door, and 20% discount on all meals.

**Lady Effie's Tea Parlor**  
453 East Adams Boulevard, 213-749-2204  
10% discount on all food purchases

**Los Angeles Stripping & Finishing Center**  
1120 N. San Fernando Road, Los Angeles, 323-225-1073  
5% discount on any single service order over \$1000.00.  
No special discount on materials.

**Lucky Chimney Sweep** Contact: Susan and Alfredo Johnson  
11433 Ruggiero Ave., Sylmar, CA, 91342, 323-258-0828  
10% discount on: masonry repair and restoration, chimney cleaning

**Magic Care Termite Service**  
1840 W. 220th St., Suite 320, Torrance 90501, 310-548-6700  
15% discount

**Sherwin-Williams**  
1367 Venice Blvd. 213-365-2471  
20% off regular product price (you must have a special discount card)

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2771 West Pico Blvd. 323-737-2970  
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**Port Royal Antiques**  
1858 West Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-8704  
10% discount

**Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques**  
9939 Canoga Avenue, Chatsworth, 818-772-1721  
(hours: by appointment only)  
10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

**Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company**  
5086 W. Pico Boulevard, 323-938-2661  
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

**Wholesale Carpet Liquidators**  
1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles 90021, 213-747-7474  
Ask for Ali, or e-mail: wholesalecarpetla@yahoo.com.  
Discount of 5% on purchase of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring and/or vinyl floor covering

## A CALL TO MEMBERS

If you frequent a local business — retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. — ask them if they would offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they'd benefit from the increased exposure to local consumers, and be listed in the WAHA monthly newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them. — Steve Wallis

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# Membership Application

## Become a member (or renew)!

Membership through April 2007

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership classification (check one)

- Individual ..... \$ 25.00
- Household ..... \$ 35.00
- Business ..... \$ 50.00
- Patron ..... \$100.00
- Benefactor ..... \$250.00
- Senior/Student ..... \$ 17.00
- Newsletter only ..... \$ 17.00

Please make check payable to WAHA.

Return to: WAHA  
2263 S. Harvard Blvd  
Historic West Adams  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.



We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



2263 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Historic West Adams  
Los Angeles California 90018  
323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)  
www.WestAdamsHeritage.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jefferson Davis for location.

## ADVERTISE HERE!

To place a display ad, call Jean Cade 323-737-5034. WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. If you can, please e-mail your classified ad to lauramink@aol.com. Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Jean Cade by deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, the charge is \$ .25 per word.

## ADVERTISING RATES

### FOR DISPLAY ADS

This Newsletter is published 11 times a year

**Full Page:** \$175 monthly; \$1,800 annually

**Half Page:** \$90 monthly; \$950 annually

**1/4 Page (4 1/2 x 4 1/2):** \$48 monthly; \$500 annually

**Business Card (3 3/4 x 2 1/4):** \$25 monthly, \$260 annually

*The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.*

*Please Note: WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or items for sale that advertisers have listed in these pages.*

## WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

**Holiday gifts** - Lovely aromatic natural glycerine soaps and body powders made usually with essential oils and botanicals make wonderful gifts. Contact Judy Hawkins (she's just a few blocks away in Kinney Heights). Also, for the holiday she is carrying lovely beaded fringed shawls at reasonable prices. Call to stop by at 323-731-9277 or e-mail Judysoapsnstuff@sbcglobal.net.

**Kittens, kittens, kittens** - I'm up to my knees in a batch of rescued kittens! Four girls — two tortoise shells, one calico and one black — and one very butch orange boy. All cute as buttons. I'm holding out for indoor-only placements, if possible. They have their shots, and have passed their "tests," but not yet spayed/neutered. Call Laura, 323-737-6146.

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# Calendar ✓

## WAHA December Calendar

### Holiday Tour, Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4:

WAHA's Annual Holiday Tour, "A Tinseltown Holiday in West Adams," is sold out.

### WAHA Board Meeting (TBA):

Please contact Jefferson Davis.

### WAHA Holiday Party, Sunday, December 11, 2-5 p.m. See page 1.



### HOLD THE DATE!

### WAHA Holiday Party Sunday afternoon, December 11 2-5 p.m.

Jingle bells are ringing in West Adams, and that means WAHA is hosting our annual Holiday party. Please mark your calendar for Sunday afternoon, December 11, from 2 to 5 p.m., when we'll celebrate at the historic Ramsey-Durfee Mansion in Kinney Heights. All WAHA members – plus Holiday Tour volunteers – are invited.

Bring yourself, dress up, party! (This soiree is NOT a potluck.) Our hosts are the Brothers of St. John of God. See page 1 for more details. Please note: we will appreciate an RSVP by December 7 to [WAHAholiday@aol.com](mailto:WAHAholiday@aol.com)

The WAHA Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2005. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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