



Marina del Rey Historical Society



Volume 2, Issue 3 ~ September, October, November, December 2013

Historic Opening

Marina del Rey Historical Society Opens at Fisherman's Village

by Howard Wenger

Here is a saying, "The long journey begins with a single step." On a rainy afternoon in February of 1975, Marina del Rey resident and contract photographer, Greg Wenger, was meeting with a county official to discuss a photo shoot. He noticed some "banker" boxes on the floor that were a bit wet due to a leak in a storage closet and inquired, "what treasures might be in there?" "Old photos of the Marina, but I don't know if they could be restored" was the reply. However, "the original negatives and prints are stored downtown." Seizing the moment Greg asked, "May I have them for my files and collection?" "Sure, let me help you take them to your car!" And with that, it was considered a gift from the L.A. County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors. Fortunately, none of the photos were damaged, and so with the help of his wife Mimi, they sifted through hundreds of photos and documents -- cataloging each and every one. This was followed by, "OK, now what?" -- and so began the journey.

On September 10, 2007, the Marina del Rey Historical Society became an official non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

A board was formed soon after. They developed a mission statement and then a goal to share the history of the Marina.

We would tour our collection around Marina del Rey, Playa Vista and Playa del Rey at various events and farmer's markets. Some of our collection can be seen at The Marina Library, Burton Chace Park's Community Room, Tony P's and The Marina del Rey Hotel (when they re-open after remodeling).

In early 2013, talks began regarding a permanent home for our collection. Then on Sunday, December 1st, a warm, sunny day and with a band playing in the courtyard of Fisherman's Village, the dream became reality when the Historical Society officially opened its doors. Located just steps from the Fisherman's Village Lighthouse (at 13737 Fiji Way, #C-3, MdR,

90292), we offer a history of photos, books, magazines, DVDs and more, not only for viewing, but items that can be purchased as well.

To continue our growth, we rely on corporate donations, new memberships, annual dues and now sales from our gallery/store. Our volunteers have

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Marina del Rey Historical Society Store Front ~ Fisherman's Village



Marina del Rey Historical Society
P.O. Box 9550
Marina del Rey, CA 90295-1950

Stamp

Historical Society Opens...

worked tirelessly to help us in our transitions, but we can still use more help.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers who would like to write about the history of the Marina. Articles would appear in our newsletter, published three times a year. Also, if you have any historical information--dates, facts--regarding the Marina, let us know. We will also be writing a column, once a month, "On this Date in History" for *The Argonaut*.

Historic Photos/Artifacts Wanted

If you have historical photos or other historic items/artifacts, they can be donated, or given to us on loan and they will be returned to you. We are able to

scan original photos and, if you wish, we will return them to you. You and/or your organization would receive credit for anything we display.

The Marina del Rey Historical Society is also preparing for the Marina's 50th Anniversary in April of 2015.

For information about the Gallery or membership, please contact Howard Wenger at 310-701-1073 or email mdrhs07@att.net.

We hope you will stop by our Fisherman's Village location. Parking is free for 2 hours with validation.

With your support, we will continue to grow successfully as a member of the Marina del Rey community. ▲

"If we do not collect, preserve and digitize the history of Marina del Rey, much will be lost."

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Photos, B. Slavin



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