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in 2019.



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the newsletter of the Burbank Historical Society

2019Q1001 / WINTER EDITION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Greetings and Happy New Year.”

Here we are in 2019 and pushing 2018 into the history books.

We're already off to a great start with a brand new display in the Howard Room, right next to Kong's Garage. It's our new Burbank Road King's display with trophies, replica die cast cars, and much much more. We also have a sweet surprise – the beautifully restored Indian Motorcycle is back with a restoration you have to see to believe. Let's thank Ted Slaughter of Story Tavern for this wonderful piece of art. Keep an eye open for an upcoming program on the life of this infamous bike.

As you can see, we're making progress with new and fresh displays, and of course we're not finished yet. So please, come by and check out all the activity.

Just a reminder, February 23rd is our program on the History of Victorian Homes in the San Fernando Valley, presented by “Skeet” Wright a keen student and expert in this architecture. So join us at 2:00 p.m. and remember admission is free.

I know we talk a lot about our Docents, but they are the most informed and without their help, we could not provide the service or history the museum is known for. So thank the docents the next time you see them.

The museum operates solely on volunteer hours, so if you or someone you know is interested in getting involved, please reach out to us. We'd be happy to help you get started on a rewarding volunteer opportunity. As always, a big heart-felt thank you to all of our hard working volunteers.

One last time, come by and visit your museum and let us know how we're doing. Have a safe road home.

Last, but not least...Please remember to preserve your family's history by naming and dating your photos.



Sincerely,
Dianna Briggs
President



NEED A HANDBOOK FOR LIFE?

by Susan Hodgson

Do you think a guide might help you navigate life? Definitely. Burroughs had you covered!

With apologies to Burbank High alumni, students and staff, this article is about Burroughs. We realize we've lost half our audience already, but there is a reason. Our museum recently came in the possession of a fascinating document: The 1949-1950 Burroughs High School first Student Handbook.

But wait, Burroughs was built in the 1920s, you, as a true blue Indian, declare. And you would be right. But it was a junior high school then. (Note to any young'uns reading this: You'd say “middle school” nowadays.) With population shifts, Burroughs had to change and in September of 1948, it became a senior high school. When Burroughs made the big change, it found it important to set out the rules clearly for every high schooler.

Let's remember the times. This would be the late '40s – just four years after The War. Suburbia was building up, Dads were working, and Moms were staying home making Jello molds -- basically. Harry S. Truman was President. Earl Warren was Governor. The Best Picture was awarded to “All the King's Men,” a drama based on Louisiana's infamous politician, Huey P. Long. China

became a Communist country and Russia (then the Soviet Union, under Stalin) acquired The Bomb. John Belushi was born; so was Meryl Streep. The very first Volkswagen Beetle (Bug) was sold in the United States. George Orwell's epic novel "1984" was published and a skinny little singer (who made girls swoon) named Frank Sinatra starred in "On the Town."

And boys were supposed to be polite to girls. *Good girls*, that is. At least if you followed the John Burroughs Senior High School Student Handbook. Check out what Burroughs' students were instructed to do at school in 1949. Doesn't it just make you long for the good old days?

REGULATED DRESS

- Regulated Dress has proven to be a satisfactory way of making high school girls dress more democratically and appropriately. The sympathetic cooperation of the mothers and the loyal support of the girls have made it a success.
- Blouses must have a reasonable neckline.
- Sweaters of any style may be worn provided they are worn with a blouse or slip. A blouse must be worn with a V neck sweater.
- Miscellaneous: Slacks, peddle pushers and culottes must not be worn on the campus. With the exception of swimming season, bandannas may not be worn except on Fridays without special permission.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- I will applaud good plays made by either team.
- I will not "razz" players of either team or anyone officially connected with either team.
- I will not stir up unfriendly rivalry among the fans.
- Remember that one doesn't have to take part in a sport to be one.



DO'S



DON'TS

Do And Dont Illustration. Source: Oleksandr Hruts



John Burroughs High School (placeholder)/Source: Burbank Historical Society

SCHOOL CONDUCT

- Display of affection is out of place in public. Attending to details of personal appearance is out of place in public.
- Watch your posture when seated as well as when standing. Your teen years are growing years, and your sitting position has much to do with the shape your body attains.
- Private conversation during class time is an offense against the class.
- In the cafeteria, considerate people do not delay the cafeteria line while taking an excessive amount of time to select dishes.
- Table manners proclaim at once your social training. Check yourself on some of the simple rules of eating.

SOCIAL PRACTICE

- Frequent bathing is a duty to your fellow student as well as a matter of personal hygiene.
- The odor of tobacco about your person is repulsive to many people.
- Be clean in all things, including thoughts, actions, and habits.
- When men are introduced to each other, they shake hands. When a man is introduced to a woman, he shakes hands if the woman offers her hand. Women need not shake hands when introduced to each other.
- The customary acknowledgement of an introduction is "How do you do?"
- When you take your leave after an introduction, it is sufficient to say "Good-bye. I am very glad to have met you." Usually, the girl replies, "Thank you," or "Thank you, I hope so too."

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- Boys, when you ask a girl for a date, state your invitation in such a way that it will be equally easy for her to accept or refuse.
- Girls, be considerate of the boy's pocket-book.
- The first and last dances and the ones before and after an intermission should be with your escort.
- A girl never refuses to change partners. A boy does not "cut back" on the boy who takes his girl from him.
- A stag should dance with as many girls as possible.
- A girl should not refuse a dance with one boy and then give it to another.
- A boy sees that his partner is served refreshments.
- Never be conspicuous in dress.
- Conspicuous conduct on the dance floor is a sign of an ill-bred person.

Whether you're an Indian OR a Bulldog, you've got to admit -- they sure don't write them like that anymore!



MISTY WATER-COLORED MEMORIES: BURBANK'S OWN ENGINEER BILL

by Susan Hodgson

As the weather finally starts to cool down and the leaves turn orange and then drop altogether, it is easy to become nostalgic. There's something about driving down tree-lined streets, seeing holiday decorations and breathing clean, crisp air that makes even the "Scroogiest" of us reflect on our own childhood.

Which brings us to Engineer Bill. A resident of Burbank, he represents a very happy memory in many people's minds. Do you remember watching Engineer Bill on TV?

From 1954 to 1966, Engineer Bill hosted "Cartoon Express" at 6:30 pm on Channel 9. Engineer Bill, whose real name was Bill Stulla, played with trains with children, especially two very special kids chosen for each and every episode to act as Junior Engineers. They were almost like junior emcees to Engineer Bill and got to play the famous milk-drinking game featuring red light/green light.

Bill Stulla was born in New York City in 1911. As his father moved for work (he was a printer), so did the family and Bill grew up in Erie, Buffalo, and Cleveland. Bill originally went into the family business of printing, but his heart wasn't in it. Then he saw a billboard advertising college classes in radio broadcasting and he made a momentous decision. Six month later, he had his first radio job in Denver. By 1939, he was working for KFI radio in Los Angeles.

World War II arrived and Bill Stulla enlisted in the Army Signal Corps and was assigned to the Armed Forces Radio Services in the China-Burma theater. When the war ended, Stulla was able to return to KFI and in 1950, he transitioned over to television which was still a new medium. "Cartoon Express" was developed to compete with KTLA's highly-rated Sheriff John's "Lunch Brigade."



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UPCOMING EVENTS

PROGRAM

- ★ The History of Victorian Homes in the San Fernando Valley
- ★ Presented by "Skeet" Wright
- ★ February 23, 2019
- ★ 2:00 p.m.
- ★ Admission - free

EVENT

- ★ Fundraiser / Display unveiling
- ★ April TBD - More details to follow!

BURBANK'S OWN ENGINEER BILL (CONT'D)

Stulla was married to wife Ruth whom he met in radio. The couple had a young daughter, Kathy, when Cartoon Express was on the air. In fact, Stulla "stole" the red light/green light milk-drinking game from his wife as she played it with Kathy to get the child to drink her milk.

Engineer Bill was very popular with kids and he genuinely liked kids. Local Burbank historian Mike McDaniel, who with long-time pal Wes Clark has co-written three books on growing up as a baby boomer in Burbank, got to be one of Engineer Bill's Junior Engineers – something he has never forgotten.

In the 1950s, Engineer Bill lived right here in Burbank on Evergreen – a street that housed a few celebrities. Debbie Reynolds grew up on Evergreen and so did Tim Burton. We're told Engineer Bill also owned a vacuum cleaner store in Magnolia Park; and he was even named Honorary Mayor of Magnolia Park at the time. Engineer Bill also hung out a lot at Hobby Junction on Hollywood Way, where they featured train sets.

Years later, Bill and family lived in Sherman Oaks and eventually, when he retired, he moved to the upscale Westlake Village area. Bet you can't guess what profession Bill took up after leaving television. He was a stockbroker!

Bill Stulla died in his sleep when he was 97 years old. He'd lived a long, happy life with one wife and one daughter -- and lots and lots of fans! Numerous fan stories demonstrate he clearly had quite an impact on many people's lives – in the best way. And, as he would say to sign off (and, no, this is not a reference to alcohol) – "Happy highball, engineers!"



Bill Stulla with Walt Disney. Source: NEWS FROM ME