



What's News

Horace Heidt Estates

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HISTORY OF HORACE HEIDT ESTATES

By Horace Heidt Jr.

Ever since I graduated from college in 1969 and moved to the Valley and purchased my first home in Sherman Oaks, questions have arisen regarding the history of the Horace Heidt Estates. Both of my businesses, Horace Heidt Agency Company and Horace Heidt Productions have been practicing here in Sherman Oaks for more than fifty years. I thought it might be timely here at the beginning of 2010 to write a short history about the Horace Heidt Estates, especially now that I have completed a ten-year project of writing a book about the life and times of Horace Heidt. The book is entitled, "**Horace Heidt, Big Band Star-Maker.**"

In 1939 while the band (Horace Heidt and his Musical Knights) was entertaining in the Bowman Room of the Biltmore Hotel in New York City, my father received a phone call from Jimmy Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt was planning to produce a movie in Hollywood, based upon Horace Heidt, Sr.'s famous radio give-away program, **Pot o' Gold**. Jimmy wanted Horace to come to Hollywood right away, along with his world-famous thirty-piece band, to film the movie. Arriving in Los Angeles, Horace realized there was no place for the band to stay while they were here. The band's agent Jules Stein (who worked for MCA) recommended that Horace look into purchasing a small ten-acre ranch, which at that time was situated in Van Nuys, California. It is interesting to note that about this time, Lew Wasserman, also at MCA, purchased property in Woodland Hills, California, which is now the Motion Picture Home. Horace decided to purchase the property in Van Nuys to put up his band, and started filming **Pot o' Gold (The Golden Hour**, in the United Kingdom, and **Jimmy Steps Out**, alternative title in the U.S.A.), starring Jimmy Stewart and Paulette Goddard. Mr. Stewart had just received the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in **The Philadelphia Story**.

The Double H Ranch, which we now affectionately refer to as "The Ranch" was formerly a horse ranch owned by King Charney, President of Eastman-Kodak. Now, however, the ranch had been converted into an orange tree and grapefruit tree orchard. The band moved in, and since many were from the East Coast, like Art Carney, they received their first experience at California living. After the movie was released, the band continued to spend their summers at "The Ranch," putting together their shows that would tour the United States each fall and extended through the spring. As the band grew from thirty to sixty members, the number of buildings increased to accommodate the growing band. The Ranch was complete with a rehearsal hall, mess hall and furnished, I might add,

by a sponsor, Swift & Company, who gave them all the frankfurters, beef and poultry they could want.



In 1948, Horace wanted to go on tour with the first travelling televised talent show, The Original Youth Opportunity Program. Surprisingly similar to today's American Idol, the show went from city to city, gathering talent of all types and broadcasting each week from a different city. Many fine young performers got their starts on this show, i. e. Dick Contino, Al Hirt, Ken Berry, Dean Jones, Nino Tempo, Pete Fountain, Florence Henderson, Pat Boone, to name a few. All of them performed on The Original Youth Opportunity Program. In 1955, Horace decided to leave entertainment and develop his ten-acre property into a 160-unit, 10-house resort complete with an 18-hole, par-3 golf course, health club and spa, fourteen pools (each house has a pool) and over 150 palm trees. The Horace Heidt Estates had an aviary, seven waterfalls, a showroom where various shows were produced and held practically every holiday of the year. The list of famous entertainers who have lived here through the years is hard to itemize, but a few of them are: actor Richard Arlen; Academy-Award winner Ed Begley, Sr.; actor Ed Begley, Jr.; actor Bob Cummings; humorist Pat Buttram; actress Barbara Hale, her husband actor Bill Williams and son actor William Katt; actors Pat Hingle; Audrey Totter; Warren Stevens; actor/producer Sam Travolta (brother of John Travolta); singer Marilyn King; actors Ken Tobey; Charles Tyner; dancer/choreographer/actor Gene Nelson; dancer/actress/singer Joey Heatherton; talk-show host Wally George; TV and movie phenom Dick Van Patten and his family; big band singer Helen Forrest; big band vocalist Jack Leonard; TV/film/recording star Barbara McNair; country singer Tanya Tucker; studio musician Gus Bivona; recording star Roberta Sherwood; Lawrence Welk clarinetist Henry Cuesta; Lawrence Welk clarinetist Mahlon Clark; composer/arranger Nate Scott and Canadian-born singer Gisele MacKenzie. (*cont'd...*)

Always a supporter of music and musicians, Horace Heidt Estates is proud to announce that the Valley College Rehearsal Band now rehearses weekly at the Estates.

We are very proud that we've been able to carry on the traditions started by Horace Heidt back in 1955, and we can't believe we've been in business for over 50 years. None of this would be possible without the caring staff who work tirelessly everyday to see that the same service is provided to the members of our community in a professional manner. Although we are just a small part of what is known worldwide as the San Fernando Valley, we are very grateful that we still have the privilege of serving the public with their ongoing lifestyles. We are just one reason why the San Fernando Valley is one of the best places to live anywhere.



FEBRUARY AT HORACE HEIDT ESTATES

Well, football time is here again
 Super Bowl and all
 At the Aloha Room the 7th of Feb
 Darn, we have a ball!
 Reservations are required
 So call the office pretty quick
 Seeing the game on that giant screen
 Sure is neat and slick!
 Some food and refreshments,
 Relaxing in a chair
 Kick off time is here again
 I hope to see you there!



Valentine's is coming soon
 That's such a lovely day
 For that gorgeous lady of your heart
 Candy and a nice bouquet
 Maybe dinner and a movie
 But one thing you can't miss
 Is a hug of great affection
 Followed by a gentle kiss
 Well, once again a month has passed
 But one thing's always nice
 To wave hello and say hi to you
 The great people at Horace Heidt's!
Poem by Recie Compton

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to our following tenants with February birthdays:

- 4 - Dick Kerr
- 5 - Helen Haines
- 7 - Robert McMahon
- 10 - Alain Rogier
- 16 - Pat Walmisley
- 21 - Janet Stafford
- 22 - Alon Peled
- Robert Jones (No date)



YOU ARE INVITED!

SUPER BOWL

HORACE HEIDT ESTATES
 INVITES YOU TO THE
SUPER BOWL 2010
 Sunday, February 7th
ALOHA ROOM

Reservations Required
 call Doreen (818)784-8211
 1:00 PM Pre-Game 17-Piece BIG BAND
 3:00 PM Kick Off

Come watch the game on our
 100 inch screen!
FREE! ADMISSION... FREE! FOOD
 \$5.00 REFRESHMENTS

Join us at
 Horace Heidt Estates
 14155 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA

DOREEN'S DINER

GREEN CHILE, CHICKEN AND BEAN CHILI

This recipe is one that Vicki Nagel shared with Doreen Alexander



- 1 tablespoon olive or vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions, coarsely chopped (1 cup)
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)
- 2 lb boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 cans (15 to 16 oz each) great northern beans, drained, rinsed
- 2 cans (4.5 oz each) chopped green chiles, undrained
- 2 cups chicken broth
- Chopped fresh cilantro, if desired

1. In 4 1/2- to 5-quart Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onions and garlic; cook 4 to 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until onions are softened.
2. Stir in cumin, salt, red pepper and chicken. Cook 6 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until chicken is lightly browned.
3. Stir in beans, chiles and broth. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover; cook 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally, until chicken is no longer pink in center. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Prep Time: 30 min, total Time: 55 min
 Makes: 5 servings (1-1/2 cups each)

TENANT SPOTLIGHT

Sarah & David Ricard

David and Sarah Ricard met when David was playing guitar in the East Village, New York. He saw beautiful Sarah in the audience and that was it. Love at first sight. They dated for



a few years, and then they married three years ago. David and Sarah are both accomplished musicians, and David is a professional composer. He has

written music for numerous television cartoons such as "SuperNormal" and "Maya and Miguel." In fact, this talented composer was nominated for an Emmy award for his work on "Maya and Miguel" which was an educational multicultural children's show. Currently, this busy and in-demand composer and musician is working on the "Pink Panther and Pals" series for Cartoon network. The show debuts in the fall of this year.

Besides her musical talent as an alto saxophonist, Sarah has an extensive background in writing and digital media. She worked at the Sundance Channel and produced a web series that starred Isabella Rossellini. She also worked in their casting department on the television show "Iconoclasts."

The Ricards current collaboration is good fortune for Horace Heidt Estates and Haleakala. David and Sarah were playing in a Big Band at LA Valley College and the performances were suddenly cancelled. Instead of discouragement, they hand picked their best musicians, recruited their musically-inclined friends and created a New Big Band that will be rehearsing in the Aloha Room every Wednesday from 11:00am-1:00pm. They generously are welcoming and encouraging residents to listen to the band rehearse. So, bring your lunch, relax and enjoy the music. They will be playing their unique style and interpretation on various forms of music: Big Band, Classic Swing, Modern Jazz and compositions from David and other composers. Additionally, if any of the residents who are singers or musicians and are interested in rehearsing and performing with the Big Band, please speak with David.

The New Big Band's first gig is the fabulous and super Horace Heidt Estates Super Bowl party in the Aloha room scheduled on February 7, 2010 at 1:00pm. Furthermore, David has promised me that they will perform concerts for the residents a few times a year.

I asked David what his favorite part of performing live is. He said, "seeing the audience's reaction to the music being played."

To conclude, I asked both David and Sarah who are young musicians what advice would they give to other young and aspiring musicians and songwriters. David's response was, "Stay at it! Be persistent and develop your own high standards." Sarah said "Practice. You'll never get better unless you practice things that are actually hard."

By Hilary Von Gerlach



A Tribute to Yvonne King

January 20, 1920 –

December 13, 2009

Many of us grew up listening to the legendary King Sisters, the accomplished swing-era vocal group who starred with their extended family in a television variety show. Vonnie King as she was affectionately known as passed away from a fall when she was 89.

Vonnie's lifetime began in Ephraim, Utah; she was the sixth of eight children born to William King Driggs, a vocal trainer, and his wife, Pearl. Her father was an old-time vaudevillian who trained his children to sing.

With her sisters and a friend in the lineup, the vocal wonders billed themselves as the King Sisters. They first attracted attention in 1935 by performing with Horace Heidt, Sr.'s band and appearing on his radio show. Horace reduced the group to four when he took them on tour. They were well known for their tight four-part harmony.

This dynamic family's success led to their own weekly ABC television program called "The King Family Show." The King Sisters continued to perform into the 1980s and sang at Ronald Reagan's Presidential Inaugural Gala in 1985.

Vonnie had two daughters, Tina and Cathy, stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and especially Horace Heidt Estates long time resident and dear friend, her sister, Marilyn King. Vonnie's legacy will live forever through her family and her beautiful music.



Remembering Vicki Nagel

Velma Rose Nagel

July 3, 1930 –

December 6, 2009

Vicki Nagel was a long-time resident of Horace Heidt Estates and dear friend to many of us. She was a daughter, wife, teacher, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a well-known and admired educator in the field of Theater Arts. Many of her students became teachers themselves. She traveled the world and wherever she went she attended live theater in all of its venues.

Vicki filled her retirement years with friends and family she loved. With them, she shared books, bridge, volunteer work (reading and recording for the blind); movies, plays, travel, and spare moments were often filled crocheting for premature babies in the hospital through, "Stitches From the Heart."

Vicki has now joined her beloved husband Don, who passed away in 1996. Her daughter Toria, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends will remember how she enriched our lives and gave us the best of herself in everything she did. She has left us her legacy of love and friendship, a gift we may all cherish.



HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST
WINNERS

First Prize Winner: Apartment 341 Tracy Fisher
2nd Prize: Apartment 109 David Pearson
3rd Prize: Apartment 12 Pearl Healy

HVAC UNITS

We would like to thank our residents who had heating problems during the cold spells for their patience. Our maintenance staff worked hard getting their HVAC units up and running as quickly as possible. We kindly ask that if you have one of our portable heating units in your apartment to please return it or call the office and one of our maintenance employees will pick it up. **Thank you!**

DON'T TRASH THE PLACE!

Please, as a courtesy to all residents, place your rubbish in the designated trash receptacles, not behind or to the side of the receptacle. If a receptacle is full, we would appreciate it if you would take your rubbish to one that is not full. If your trash receptacle is at the front of our property for pick up, please take your rubbish to the dumpsters up front.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.



Happy Valentine's Day from the Horace Heidt Estates

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