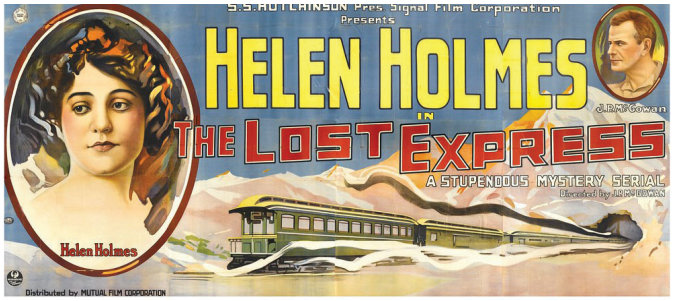
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Early Silent Movies Filmed in Oceanside

Animal Kingdom is a television drama on the TNT network in its 5th season. Many views of Oceanside are featured on the show including the pier, harbor, Strand and various businesses. Oceanside has been a common site for movie sets for over 100 years. Our locals appeared as extras and our beaches and hotels used as a getaway for movie stars in the early days of movies.

In 1914 the Laskey Feature Film Company stopped in town with the famous film director Cecile B. De Mille, who would later film the classic Ten Commandments. De Mille was a registered guest at the Oceanside Beach Hotel and it was announced that Director De Mille and the Laskey film company would soon start production of David Belasco's great drama, "The Rose of the Rancho" which would feature scenes from Pala, Oceanside and Mexico.



In 1917 the Signal Film Company used the San Luis Rey River Bridge for the scene of a "thrilling wreck". In a serial called "The Lost Express," the film company ran a Studebaker off the north approach to the old bridge which had been washed away in the 1916 flood. (*The bridge is pictured in newsletter header.*) According to the Blade Tribune, "When the car started it was occupied by Miss Helen Holmes and Eddie Hearn, and driven by a dummie chauffeur. In leaving the car, Eddie Hearn had a narrow squeak from taking a tumble himself. The auto jumped in the air then made two complete somersaults and landed on the wheels right side up, without puncturing a single tire. After the debacle, the wreck was given to R. Dodge, "Brownie" of the Oceanside Garage."

In 1923 Universal Pictures filmed scenes for "The Love Brand", on the Rancho Santa Margarita, featuring a cattle roundup and what was referred to as "real buckaroo work". Directed by Stuart Peyton it starred Roy Stewart, Margaret Landis and Marie Wells. When it was released later that year, it was shown at Oceanside's Elysium Theater with much excitement.

Over the years several movies and television series have filmed in Oceanside.

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NEW MEMBER

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Welcome and thank you
for your support!

Memberships are Due

At the beginning of the year, or each January, annual memberships become due. Please renew your memberships using the form on the back of this newsletter or renew online via our website:

www.OceansideHistoricalSociety.org

Does not apply to Life Memberships

Thank you for your continued support.

New History Book

Our new History of Oceanside book is still in the works and we hope will be completed and available to the public this coming summer.

This will be a LIMITED edition history of our City, with new stories and features, along with many new historic photos from our ever-growing photo collection. The history will be complete from Oceanside's earliest days through 2020.

This book is made possible by a grant from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, donations from Walmart Store #2245, Smart & Final, and Peter and Linda Weseloh.

We will have more information about the newest history book, which will be designed by members of popular "The Osider" magazine, coming soon.

Office Closed

Due to County and State COVID-19 restrictions, our Office remains closed until further notice.

Approximate location of hospital on Mission Ave.

The Fisher Hospital

One of Oceanside's earliest hospitals is the nearly forgotten Fisher Hospital. Began by Olivia Fisher, it operated from 1919 to the mid 1930's. Olivia acted as a nurse and midwife for Dr. Robert S. Reid. The hospital was located on the 1300 block of Mission Avenue (where Interstate 5 is now located); Fisher lived in a house next door. Both structures were moved to the 1800 block of South Broadway Street in South Oceanside and are still standing today.

Below is a history of the history of the hospital written by Francis Fisher Hubbert. She explained that the hospital grew out of need: Her mother needed work and Dr. Reid needed a place to care for maternity cases and medical emergenciees.

"We came back to Oceanside in September, 1916. At that time Oceanside had only two major job opportunities, Lima beans and "rocks". The lima beans grew where tanks now roar over the fields. The "rocks", smooth and round, were worked from two deposits on the beach. One below Carlsbad and the other below the Santa Margarita. These rocks were sorted by hand for size and shape and sent off by the carload to be used in ore reduction. Father went to work for the "rock pickers" at Santa Margarita Beach.

"Later he had a shoe repair shop. Mother helped in the shop until father had to give it up. Mother was at loose ends for work when Mrs. Detwiler asked mother to help out when her baby came. From there on Dr. Reid kept Mother working on maternity and pneumonia cases all over this part of the county, Green Valley, Vista, San Luis Rey, and Oceanside, Carlsbad. Mother went into homes helped with deliveries, cared for mothers and babies, did the cooking, laundry, cared for older children, twenty-four hours a day for two weeks, for which she received fifty dollars--twenty five of which she gave me for caring for the home and family. I was in high school.

"Dr. Reid came to mother and suggested she get father to put up a house where she could care for patients and be near her own children. The Doctor could more efficiently care of his patients.

"Camp Kearny was being dismantled and the wrecker was selling anything to anyone. Father purchased lumber, windows, doors, plumbing fixtures for the house--also some heavy timbers he used to build a loading ramp north of town for the rock pickers.

"After the building, the state inspector wanted some changes made before licensing. There was a sitting room, nursery, sterilizing room, and bathroom arranged around a wide hall. Mother could care for up to four adults at a time. Because there was no hospital from Santa Ana to La Jolla, mother was permitted to take emergency cases as well as maternity and for some time did. Later there were so many maternity cases there was no room for others.

"The cooking and laundry were done in our home next door, I did the cooking until I entered Pasadena Hospital School of Nursing. My younger brother and sister did some of the cooking after that. Mother usually did all work alone. Some 300 babies were born in the Hospital between 1919 and 1929. When we had all finished high school mother gave up the house as the enlarged population and more doctors demanded a more diversified hospital care. Mother continued to nurse in homes a number of years.

"Mother had no formal nursing training--she used to say she graduated from the "school of hard knocks". Dr. Reid said she was a "granny woman" which she resented. We all thought it very funny so took to calling her Grandma long before she was a grandma.

"Several nurses had tried to start "nursing" homes some even before mother, but they had only a few beds in their own homes and none of them took. So Grandma Fisher and her Hospital bridged a part of Oceanside development. She lived in the remodeled building until her death. We moved the house to South Oceanside and it's still in use as a rental." (Written Frances Fisher Hubbert in 1969)

Oceanside Historical Society
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Spring 2021 Newsletter

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Donations & memberships may be made through our PayPal account

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