

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

### CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2008-2708-HCM

**HEARING DATE:** September 18, 2008  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 3909 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Council District: 13  
Community Plan Area: Silver Lake-Echo Park-  
Elysian Valley  
Area Planning Commission: East Los Angeles  
Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake  
Legal Description: Lot FR1, Block 4, of Childs  
Heights

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the  
THE BLACK CAT

**REQUEST:** Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

**APPLICANT:** Wes Joe and Charles J. Fisher  
Friends of the Black Cat  
932 Maltman Avenue, #12  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

**OWNER:** ROCO Investment Holding LLC  
9903 Santa Monica Blvd., #1047  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
  
Nureet and David Cohen  
9899 Santa Monica Blvd., #647  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP  
Director of Planning  
**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:  
**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: June, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
ZIMAS Report

## **FINDINGS**

1. The property reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community” for its association with the civil rights movement of homosexuals.
2. The property is identified with “important events in the main currents of national, State or local history” for its association with one of the first documented civil rights demonstrations in the nation concerning the civil rights of homosexuals.

## **CRITERIA**

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

## **SUMMARY**

Built in 1939 and located in the Silver Lake area, this one-story commercial building exhibits character defining features of the Art Deco style. Located on Sunset Boulevard, the subject building is rectangular in plan with a flat roof. The exterior is smooth stucco. Glass and steel storefront windows and entrances are angled inwards. The four bay upper façade features a stylized slightly apexed parapet with fluted vertical projections and geometric motifs. This feature wraps the east elevation for one bay and includes a storefront window facing a parking lot. The side elevations feature unadorned smooth stucco punctuated by fluted vertical pilasters. A flag sign is located above the entry with a circular cat face in the upper portion and “Le Bar” inscribed in rectangular portion. The subject building is currently partitioned into two separate commercial units, one housing a laundromat and the other a night club bar.

The proposed Black Cat historic monument was built by architect Frank L. Stiff. The subject building was originally constructed as a Safeway Market but has been operated as a nightclub bar/laundromat since the early 1960s. In the late 1960s, the bar section was operating as “The Black Cat Bar,” and was recognized as an establishment serving a gay clientele. At a New Year’s Eve celebration on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1966, eight undercover officers of the Los Angeles Police Department raided the Black Cat at midnight when patrons exchanged embraces and kisses. After beating attendees and ending the celebration, LAPD officers arrested fourteen for assault and public lewdness. Another bar nearby (the “New Face”) was also raided resulting in two arrests.

With a burgeoning gay rights movement, 1960s youth counterculture, and the growth of alternative publications, groups of individuals reacted defiantly to the LAPD raid of the Black Cat, raids that had become commonplace for most of the 1950s-1960s. Two recently formed organizations, PRIDE (Personal Rights in Defense and Education) and SCCRH (Southern California Council on Religion and the Homophile) organized a protest on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1967. A crowd of 300-600 individuals gathered in front of the subject building and held a peaceful demonstration.

Of the two men arrested for lewd conduct (Charles Talley and Benny Baker), one was charged for kissing another male and the other charged for being dressed in women's clothing and kissing another male. They were convicted under California Penal Code Section 647 and required to register as sex offenders. With the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the two men pursued an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Their attorney, Herbert E. Selwyn, asserted the right of equal protection under the law for homosexual men to kiss in public and unlike previous cases before the court, did not deny the sexual orientation of his clients. On April 19, 1968, the Supreme Court voted not to accept the case for consideration.

The demonstration at the Black Cat occurred two and a half years earlier than the famed Stonewall Riots that transpired in New York City in 1969. The event at the subject property appears to be one of the earliest documented demonstrations asserting gay rights in the nation. The related court case stemming from the police raid appears to be groundbreaking in its legal defense of the civil rights of homosexuals.

Alterations to the subject building include the conversion of the building from its original use as supermarket to a bar and laundromat. The adjacent parking lot is part of the subject property.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Black Cat property successfully meets two of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: 1) reflects "the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community," and 2) is identified with "important events in the main currents of national, State or local history." As a commercial building reflective of the civil rights struggle of homosexuals, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

Events that took place in the subject building when it housed the Black Cat bar in the 1960s triggered significant events in the civil rights struggle for homosexuals in the United States. As a singular event, the 1967 demonstration that occurred in and around the subject property appears to be of national significance for occurring two years before the landmark Stonewall Riots that transpired in New York City. The occurrence of the events at the Black Cat are documented and confirmed by primary sources and rare photographs and are not speculative. The physical embodiment of the subject building is the only significant tangible link to the events that occurred.

While the subject building does not appear to exhibit an architectural design style that rises to the level of Monument criteria, it does retain significant architectural integrity, setting, and context to convey the events that occurred between 1966-1968.

## **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of July 17, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On August 7, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the subject property.

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

### CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2008-2708-HCM

**HEARING DATE:** July 17, 2008  
**TIME:** 11:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 3909 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Council District: 13  
Community Plan Area: Silver Lake-Echo Park-Elysian Valley  
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Friends of the Black Cat  
932 Maltman Avenue, #12  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

**OWNER:** Roco Investments, LLC  
c/o Nureet and David Cohen  
9903 Santa Monica Blvd, #1047  
Santa Monica, CA 90212

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

1. **Take the property under consideration** as a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 because the application and accompanying photo documentation suggest the submittal may warrant further investigation.
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP  
Director of Planning  
**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Janet Hansen, Deputy Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: June, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
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Alterations to the buildings include the conversion of the building from its original use as supermarket to a bar and laundromat.

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### **FINDINGS**

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property is significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TYPE OR PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

## IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT THE BLACK CAT
2. STREET ADDRESS 3909 W. SUNSET BOULEVARD  
CITY LOS ANGELES ZIP CODE 90029 COUNCIL DISTRICT 13  
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 5429-013-020
3. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT CHILDS HEIGHTS, AS PER MAP FILED IN BOOK 39, PAGE 97 OF MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY & PTN SUNSET BOULEVARD (ABANDONED)  
BLOCK 4 LOT(S) SE 100 FT OF LOTS 1, 2 AND 3 ARB. NO. N/A  
RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY 3901 THROUGH 3913 W. SUNSET BOULEVARD AND  
1101 THROUGH 1117 HYPERION AVENUE
4. PRESENT OWNER ROCO INVESTMENTS, LLC, C/O NUREET AND DAVID COHEN  
STREET ADDRESS 9903 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, No. 1047  
CITY BEVERLY HILLS STATE CA ZIP CODE 90212-1606 PHONE (310) UNKNOWN  
OWNER IS: PRIVATE X PUBLIC
5. PRESENT USE BAR AND LAUNDROMAT ORIGINAL USE GROCERY STORE

## DESCRIPTION

6. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE ART DECO
7. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (SEE OPTIONAL DESCRIPTION WORKSHEET)  
(SEE DESCRIPTION WORKSHEET)

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT THE BLACK CAT

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: FACTUAL 1939 ESTIMATED \_\_\_\_\_
11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER: FRANK L. STIFF
12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER: WILLIAM D. COFFEY
13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS APRIL 4, 2008 AND JUNE 8, 2008
14. CONDITION: ☐ EXCELLENT ☒ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE
15. ALTERATIONS: BUILDING WAS CONVERTED FROM A SAFEWAY MARKET TO A BAR AND LAUNDROMAT IN THE EARLY 1960S.  
THERE HAVE BEEN MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO SIGNAGE AND STOREFRONTS SINCE 1967. A SMALL STAGE WAS INSTALLED  
IN THE BAR IN 1984 AND A CANOPY WAS INSTALLED AT THE REAR OF THE BAR IN 2004.
16. THREATS TO SITE ☒ NONE KNOWN ☐ PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT ☐ VANDALISM ☐ PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT
17. IS THE STRUCTURE ☒ ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE ☐ MOVED ☐ UNKNOWN

## SIGNIFICANCE

BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE; INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE (SEE OPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE WORKSHEET) THIS STRUCTURE IS A ONE-STORY ART DECO FORMER SAFEWAY  
MARKET BUILDING, WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATED AS A BAR AND LAUNDROMAT SINCE THE EARLY 1960S. THE PERIOD OF  
SIGNIFICANCE DATES FROM JANUARY 1, 1967 TO FEBRUARY 11, 1967. IN THE EARLY MINUTES OF JANUARY 1, 1967  
THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED A RAID ON THE BLACK CAT BAR AT THIS ADDRESS. FOURTEEN  
PERSONS WERE ARRESTED, INCLUDING PATRONS AND EMPLOYEES. ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 11, 1967 WHAT MAY  
HAVE BEEN THE LARGEST PROTEST EVER TO BE HELD BY GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY UP TO THAT POINT OF  
TIME OCCURRED IN FRONT OF THE BAR AND ON ADJACENT STREET CORNERS. (SEE SIGNIFICANCE WORKSHEET FOR FULL  
REPORT)

18. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES) LOS ANGELES CITY BUILDING PERMITS PER  
ATTACHED. LA COUNTY ASSESSORS RECORDS, RECORDED DEEDS, SEE "SOURCES" IN SIGNIFICANCE WORKSHEET FOR SOURCES USED  
IN THAT DOCUMENT
19. DATE FORM PREPARED JUNE, 2008 PREPARER'S NAME WES JOE AND CHARLES J. FISHER  
ORGANIZATION FRIENDS OF THE BLACK CAT STREET ADDRESS 932 MALTMAN AVENUE, #12  
CITY LOS ANGELES STATE CA ZIP CODE 90026 PHONE (323) 662-5189  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: WESJOE@AOL.COM



# DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET

TYPE OR PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

THE THE BLACK CAT IS A 1 STORY,

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT NUMBER OF STORIES

ART DECO, RECTANGULAR PLAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8 ABOVE) PLAN SHAPE (SEE CHART) STRUCTURE USE (RESIDENCE, ETC)

WITH A SMOOTH STUCCO FINISH AND METAL TRIM.

MATERIAL (WOOD SIDING, WOOD SHINGLES, BRICK, STUCCO, ETC) MATERIAL (WOOD, METAL, ETC.)

ITS FLAT ROOF IS COVERED WITH ROLLED COMPOSITION GLASS AND STEEL,

ROOF SHAPE (SEE CHART)) MATERIAL (CLAY TILE, ASPHALT OR WOOD SHINGLES) WINDOW MATERIAL

FIXED PANE ARE PART OF THE DESIGN.

WINDOW TYPE [DOUBLE HUNG (SLIDES UP & DOWN), CASEMENT (OPENS OUT), HORIZONTAL SLIDING, ETC.]

THE ENTRY FEATURES A SIMPLE INWARD ANGLED STOREFRONT WITH A FLAT SURFACE.

DOOR LOCATION (RECESSED, CENTERED, OFF-CENTER, CORNER, ETC.)

WITH A FLAT DOUBLE ALUMINUM DOOR. ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

ENTRY DOOR STYLE (SEE CHART)

OF THE STRUCTURE ARE A DECORATIVE PARAPET ON FRONT AND PARKING LOT FACADES WITH A SIMPLE MODERNE

IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS PORCHES (SEE CHART); BALCONIES; NUMBER AND SHAPE OF DORMERS (SEE CHART);

STYLE PORCH COVERING THE TRIANGULAR INSET ENTRY. A FLAG SIGN IS LOCATED ABOVE THE BAR ENTRY WITH A CAT

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHIMNEYS; SHUTTERS; SECONDARY FINISH MATERIALS; PARAPETS; METAL TRIM; DECORATIVE TILE OR CAST STONE; ARCHES;

FACE IN THE UPPER CIRCULAR PORTION AND THE WORDS "LE BAR" INSCRIBED IN THE RECTANGULAR LOWER PORTION

ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK; SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY; CORNICES; FRIEZES; TOWERS OR TURRETS; BAY WINDOWS; HALFTIMBERING; HORIZONTALITY;

(THE SIGN ORIGINALLY SAID "THE BLACK CAT" WHEN IT WAS INSTALLED IN 1965). THE BAR STOREFRONT HAS NO

VERTICALITY; FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY; GARDEN WALLS, ETC.

WINDOWS, BUT THE LAUNDROMAT SECTION HAS FIXED PANE GLASS AND A GLASS ENTRY. VINTAGE LIGHTING FIXTURES

ADDITIONAL DEFINING ELEMENTS

ARE LOCATED ABOVE SIMPLE RECTANGULAR VENTS FACING THE PARKING LOT. THAT WALL ALSO DISPLAYS ART DECO PILASTERS

ADDITIONAL DEFINING ELEMENTS

AND A SIMPLE MODERNE DESIGN ON THE PARAPET BEHIND THE INITIAL MORE ELABORATE ART DECO PARAPET FACING THE PARKING

ADDITIONAL DEFINING ELEMENTS

LOT.

ADDITIONAL DEFINING ELEMENTS

ADDITIONAL DEFINING ELEMENTS

SECONDARY BUILDINGS CONSIST OF NONE

IDENTIFY GARAGE; GARDEN SHELTER, ETC.

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES INCLUDE THE BAR AREA IS A LARGE OPEN BOX WITH SUBDUED LIGHTING AND

IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS WOOD PANELING; MOLDINGS AND TRIM, SPECIAL GLASS WINDOWS,

VINTAGE CEILING FANS. A SQUARED U-SHAPED BAR IS LOCATED TO THE LEFT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE. EXPOSED

ORNATE CEILINGS; PLASTER MOLDINGS; LIGHT FIXTURES; PAINTED DECORATION; CERAMIC TILE; STAIR BALUSTRADES; BUILT-IN FURNITURE, ETC.

PIPING, WHICH APPEARS TO BE A LATER ADDITION, HANGS BELOW THE CEILING AS A DECORATIVE ELEMENT AND A

IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

SMALL STAGE (INSTALLED IN 1984) IS LOCATED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROOM TOWARD THE REAR.

IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES **SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET**

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

*Complete One or Both of the Upper and Lower Portions of This Page*

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE THE BLACK CAT IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT

## ART DECO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8)

## \_ARCHITECTURE

AND MEETS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ORDINANCE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF ITS DESIGN AND THE RETENTION OF ITS ORIGINAL FORM, DETAILING AND INTEGRITY.

**AND / OR**

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE THE BLACK CAT WAS BUILT IN 1939 AND CONVERTED TO A BAR IN 1964

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT YEAR BUILT

## THE BLACK CAT

NAME OF FIRST OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT OWNER

\_WAS IMPORTANT TO THE

DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REPORT ON HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE)

**The Black Cat Bar**

**3909 Sunset Boulevard**

**Historical Significance**

**Submitted by the Friends of the Black Cat**

**Prepared by Wes Joe**

**The nomination of the Black Cat is dedicated to Stuart Timmons,  
Silverlake resident and co-author of Gay L.A.**

## REPORT ON HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

### WAS THE BLACK CAT PROTEST ON FEBRUARY 11, 1967 A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENT?

YES IT WAS. QUITE DEFINITELY AT THE COMMUNITY AND CITYWIDE LEVEL. AND ARGUABLY THE ENERGY IT UNLEASHED HAD NATIONWIDE IMPACT.

#### BRIEFLY,

- BASED ON PRESS AND NEWSLETTER ACCOUNTS THE PROTEST, IN RESPONSE TO A POLICE RAID ON NEW YEAR'S MORNING, INVOLVED 400 – 500 PERSONS. THIS WAS POSSIBLY THE LARGEST GAY PROTEST TO BE HELD IN THIS COUNTRY UP TO THAT POINT IN TIME, AND VERY LIKELY THE LARGEST SUCH PROTEST TO BE HELD IN LOS ANGELES TO THAT TIME. IT WAS WIDELY NOTED AS BEING PRECEDENT SHATTERING. AN ANALYSIS OF GAY PROTESTS IN SIX MAJOR AMERICAN CITIES DURING THE MID-1960S DID NOT UNCOVER A LARGER PRIOR ACTION.
- IN 1967, GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE LIVED UNDER INTIMIDATION. THE SIX MEN CONVICTED OF EXCHANGING NEW YEAR'S KISSES IN THE BLACK CAT WERE LIABLE UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDERS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. ADD TO THIS THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE – WHICH HAD OCCURRED BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS DURING SUNSET STRIP PROTESTS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1966 AND WHICH WAS ALSO REPORTED AT THE RAID ON THE BLACK CAT. GIVEN THIS, THE LARGE TURNOUT WAS REMARKABLE.
- THE PROTEST MARKED A TURNING POINT IN THE LOCAL GAY AND LESBIAN MOVEMENT. EARLIER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, THOUGH PAVING THE WAY FOR LATER GROUPS, HAD BEEN SECRETIVE AND/OR NON-POLITICAL. THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT LED THE PROTEST AT THE BLACK CAT TOOK THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AS A MODEL, ADOPTING THE CONCEPTS OF SELF-EMPOWERMENT AND PRIDE. THEY WERE ASSERTIVE AND NON-ELITIST. THE BLACK CAT PROTEST WAS ALSO CLOSELY TIED TO THE COUNTER CULTURE MOVEMENT SWEEPING THE CITY AT THE TIME.
- THE PUBLIC LEWDNESS CONVICTION OF TWO MEN ARRESTED IN THE BLACK CAT RAID FOR KISSING OTHER MEN WAS APPEALED. IN A PETITION SEEKING CONSIDERATION BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, THEIR ATTORNEY BROKE LEGAL PRECEDENT BY ASSERTING FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT HOMOSEXUALS ARE ENTITLED TO EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.
- ARGUABLY, FEW HAD STOOD AS THE BLACK CAT PROTESTERS DID ON THAT FEBRUARY NIGHT IN 1967. THE UNPRECEDENTED NATURE OF THEIR ACTIONS, THEIR NUMBERS, THEIR COURAGE AND THEIR PERSONAL PRIDE - THIS CREATED TREMENDOUS MOMENTUM. IN THE ATTACHED CORRESPONDENCE AUTHOR MARK THOMPSON STATES, "THIS SILVER LAKE SITE IS IMPORTANT BOTH REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY, AS IT IS A PRIMARY PLACE WHERE THE MODERN GAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT BEGAN." AND AUTHOR LILLIAN FADERMAN, IN HER ATTACHED LETTER OF SUPPORT, NOTES THAT THE PROTESTS IN FRONT OF THE BLACK CAT WERE "THE CRUCIAL SPARK THAT IGNITED A WHOLE MOVEMENT."

TO UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BLACK CAT PROTEST, THE ACTION NEEDS TO BE PLACED IN CONTEXT. WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISM IN LOS ANGELES AT THE TIME? AND WHAT SORTS OF CONSTRAINTS DID GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE LIVE UNDER?

## **EARLY GAY & LESBIAN ACTIVISM IN LOS ANGELES**

BY 1967, LOS ANGELES HAD ALREADY BEEN THE SCENE OF A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN MOVEMENT. A 1964 LIFE MAGAZINE ARTICLE IDENTIFIED LOS ANGELES AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE NEW "HOMOPHILE" MOVEMENT. (GLA 136)

LOS ANGELES IS WHERE "VICE VERSA" WAS PUBLISHED OVER A NINE-MONTH SPAN STARTING IN 1947. CREATED BY LISA BEN, IT WAS THE FIRST KNOWN GAY OR LESBIAN MAGAZINE, TYPED MANUALLY AND WITH A "RUN" OF TWELVE COPIES PER ISSUE. (UNSP 1-2)

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED IN LOS ANGELES AROUND 1950, CITED BY FADERMAN & TIMMONS AS THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIONAL HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT. SIMPLY FOUNDING A GROUP FOR GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE WAS A RADICAL ACT. IN 1952, WITH THE HELP MATTACHINE, A MEMBER ARRESTED BY THE L.A. VICE SQUAD WON A COURT CASE, ARGUING ENTRAPMENT. MEMBERSHIP SOARED, HOWEVER THE ORGANIZATION REFLECTED ITS TIMES: "TO BE INVITED TO MATTACHINE YOU HAD TO BE WEARING A BROOKS BROTHERS THREE-PIECE SUIT..." AND BY MID 1953 MUCH MOMENTUM WAS LOST WHEN ITS FOUNDERS RESIGNED. (GLA 111-113)

BUT IN LATE 1952 ONE, INC. WAS FOUNDED BY A WEST HOLLYWOOD BRANCH OF MATTACHINE. ONE WAS THE FIRST NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED HOMOSEXUAL PUBLICATION. FROM THE START, IT'S GOAL WAS THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS. IT'S COVER STORIES INCLUDED "HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE" AND "HOMOSEXUAL SERVICEMEN" (UNSP 17, GLA 115-116) STREITMATTER NOTES THAT THE PUBLICATION OF ONE MARKED THE SIGNIFICANT TRANSITION FROM SECRET TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. (UNSP 17)

AN OCTOBER 1954 STORY ATTRACTED UNWANTED ATTENTION. IT WAS ABOUT A WOMAN WHO LEFT HER FIANCEE FOR ANOTHER WOMAN AND CONTAINED NO SEXUAL LANGUAGE. ONE WAS PROSECUTED UNDER OBSCENITY CHARGES. BUT IN 1958, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT REVERSED ONE'S CONVICTION AND RULED THAT HOMOPHILE PUBLICATIONS COULD BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE MAIL. (UNSP 35) AND IN 1956 THE ONE INSTITUTE BEGAN OFFERING CLASSES, THE FIRST GAY STUDIES PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY. (GLA 121)

THESE WERE IMPORTANT ACTS ON THE PART OF LOCAL RESIDENTS. BUT THEY WERE ALSO CAUTIOUS ACTS. MATTACHINE WAS ORGANIZED AS A SECRET SOCIETY IN A CELL-TYPE STRUCTURE "DESIGNED TO PROTECT MEMBERS FROM EXPOSURE AND RUIN." (GLA 111) ONE SOUGHT TO PROMOTE THINKING, NOT ACTION. (UNSP 20)

## **THERE WAS GOOD REASON FOR CAUTION.**

EVEN A TEPID LESBIAN-THEMED ROMANCE COULD TRIGGER ONE'S PROSECUTION. BUT ON MORE PERSONAL TERMS, HOMOSEXUALS FACED PUBLIC CENSURE, RIDICULE AND LEGAL PUNISHMENT.

A 1966 TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE CHARACTERIZED HOMOSEXUALITY AS "A PATHETIC LITTLE SECOND-RATE SUBSTITUTE FOR REALITY, A PITIABLE FLIGHT FROM LIFE. IT DESERVES NO ENCOURAGEMENT...AND ABOVE ALL, NO PRETENSE THAT IT IS ANYTHING BUT A PERNICIOUS SICKNESS." (LR 2)

IN 1967 THE U.S. SUPREME COURT SUPPORTED AN IMMIGRATION LAW THAT BARRED HOMOSEXUAL ALIENS FROM ENTRY AND ONCE IN RESIDENCE FROM CITIZENSHIP (LR 2)

IN THE 1960S, WHEN ONE MEMBER OF A GAY COUPLE WHO HAD BEEN TOGETHER FOR YEARS SPILLED BEER ON HIS SHIRT IN A GAY BAR ON HYPERION AVENUE, HIS PARTNER WAS ARRESTED AND CONVICTED FOR LEWD CONDUCT FOR TRYING TO BRUSH IT OFF. (AR)

IN THE MID-1960S, JACK NICHOLS (WHO WAS TO BECOME A WRITER FOR THE GAY PRESS) APPEARED ON A CBS TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY AND TALKED PUBLICLY ABOUT HIS HOMOSEXUALITY. THE DAY AFTER THE SEGMENT AIRED HE WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB. (UNSP 53)

ORAL AND ANAL SEX WERE FELONIES IN CALIFORNIA UNTIL 1975, WHEN THE STATE LEGISLATURE BECAME THE FIRST IN THE COUNTRY TO DECRIMINALIZE CONSENSUAL SEX ACTS. (LR 115)

DURING THE 1960S STEVE HODEL, A RETIRED LAPD HOMICIDE DETECTIVE RECOUNTED THE STORY OF A GAY MAN WHO HAD BEEN STABBED. DYING, HE CALLED THE LAPD. THE OFFICER WHO ANSWERED THE CALL CAN BE HEARD ON A RECORDING RIDICULING THE MAN'S VOCAL MANNERISMS AND MOCKING HIS DYING GASPS. THE OFFICER WAS NOT DISCIPLINED. (GLA 84)

### **BUT BY THE MID 1960S THE COUNTER CULTURE WAS CHANGING LOS ANGELES**

FADERMAN NOTES THAT BIRTH CONTROL USHERED IN A SEXUAL REVOLUTION, WHICH INCLUDED A DE-EMPHASIS ON PROCREATION. THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT WAS IN FULL SWING ACROSS THE NATION, AND THE WATTS RIOTS HAD OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1965. ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT ADDED TO A REVOLT AGAINST AUTHORITY. AND THE ANDROGYNY OF FLOWER CHILDREN — JEANS ON WOMEN, LONG HAIR ON MEN — BLURRED FORMERLY RIGID GENDER LINES. (LR 18) THE LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS WAS FOUNDED IN 1964 AND DID NOT SHY AWAY FROM STORIES WITH HOMOSEXUAL CONTENT (GLA 143)

GAY PEOPLE WERE PART AND PARCEL OF THE SCENE. TEAL NOTES THE CIRCLE OF LOVING COMPANIONS, FORMED IN LOS ANGELES AROUND 1966 BY HARRY HAY. MEMBERS DRESSED "IN THOROUGHLY HIPPIE FASHION, THEY RAPPED WITH BERKELEY RADICALS AND SUNSET BOULEVARD HIPPIES IN 1967 ABOUT GAY ISSUES..." (GM 45) MORRIS KIGHT, A LONG TERM GAY ACTIVIST, IS NOTED AS HANGING OUT WITH OPENLY GAY MEN WHO WERE "OUT FRONT IN EVERY PEACE ACTION HERE." INCLUDING A LARGE "POLICE RIOT" IN CENTURY CITY IN JUNE 1967. (GM 46)

THE DECEMBER 1966 COVER OF TANGENTS MAGAZINE (A 1965 ONE OFFSHOOT) FEATURED A SPREAD OF SEXUAL REVOLUTION PROTEST BUTTONS (ATTACHMENT 1). THE ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL NOTES:

*"...THE BUTTONS SAY FLATLY AND OPENLY THINGS THAT YESTERDAY'S YOUNGSTERS ONLY DARED WHISPER...THE BUTTONS WILL DOUBTLESS VANISH IN TIME, ALONG WITH PSYCHEDELIC LIGHT SHOWS AND BOB DYLAN...AND IT SEEMS TO US THAT A SOCIETY FORMED OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO, WHEN THEY WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, WORE BUTTONS LIKE THOSE ON OUR COVER, OR INSISTED UPON THE RIGHT OF THOSE WHO WANTED TO WEAR THEM — THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE GOING TO MAKE UP AN AMERICA A WHOLE LOT LESS HARROWING FOR HOMOSEXUALS TO LIVE IN."* (T1 1)

ALTERCATIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND FLOWER CHILDREN (OR "TEENYBOPPERS" — ANOTHER TERM IN USE) BEGAN ON THE SUNSET STRIP IN 1966. (RN 15) MIKE DAVIS RECOUNTS THAT OVER 3,000 ATTENDED A NOVEMBER 12, 1966 SPONTANEOUS "HAPPENING" WHICH TURNED UGLY AFTER A TIME. (RN 17-18)

DESCRIBING THE END OF A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 10, 1966, DAVIS CITES THE BLOODY BEATING OF A PROTESTER BY A GROUP OF OFFICERS AND THE "UNPROVOKED FURY OF THE LAPD'S ATTACK ON PANIC-STRICKEN AND FLEEING PROTESTORS." (RN, 6-7)

L.A. CITY COUNCILMAN PAUL LAMPORT DEMANDED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE HOLLYWOOD DIVISION CAPTAIN'S CHARGE THAT THE SUNSET STRIP PROTESTS WERE PART OF A SUBVERSIVE PLOT ADVOCATING "FREE LOVE, LEGALIZED MARIJUANA AND ABORTION." (RN 20-21)

AFTER THE DECEMBER EVENT, ORGANIZERS PUT THE DEMONSTRATIONS ON HOLD FOR THE HOLIDAYS. DURING THIS PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT RAIDED THE CATACOMBS ART GALLERY, ARRESTING 100 ON DRUG CHARGES. AND MINUTES INTO THE NEW YEAR "THE LAPD VICE-SQUAD RAMPAGED THROUGH THE GAY BARS IN THE SILVERLAKE DISTRICT, ROUGHING UP AND ARRESTING SCORES OF PATRONS." (RN 30)

## THE BLACK CAT & NEW FACES BARS, 3909 & 4001 SUNSET, DEC. 31, 1966 – JAN. 1, 1967

JIM HIGHLAND REPORTED ON NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS IN TWO GAY BARS ON SUNSET BOULEVARD IN THE SILVERLAKE AREA. THE NEW FACES BAR HELD A COSTUME CONTEST WHICH BROUGHT IN 15 – 20 MEN IN DRAG. DOWN THE STREET THE BLACK CAT FEATURED LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY THE RHYTHM QUEENS. (T2 4, FOR A DAYTIME PHOTO OF THE BLACK CAT, SEE ATTACHMENT 2)

*THE BAR LOOKED FESTIVE. COLORED BALLOONS COVERED THE CEILING. THERE WERE THREE GLITTERING CHRISTMAS TREES. THERE WERE ALSO POLICE OFFICERS. EIGHT OF THEM. INFORMALLY DRESSED. ONE IN A BRIGHT RED SWEATER. THEY DRANK BEER AT THE BAR. THEY PLAYED POOL. THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANYBODY. (T2 4-5)*

MIDNIGHT CAME. BALLOONS SHOWERED DOWN, THE RHYTHM QUEENS SANG "AULD LANG SYNE," AND TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S KISSES WERE EXCHANGED. (T2 5)

TRIGGERING A SUDDEN OUTBURST FROM THE OFFICERS PRESENT. THE FREE PRESS PUTS THE TIME OF THE RAID AT 12:05 AM. (LAFP1 13)) "WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES, THE OFFICERS FIRST BEGAN TO TEAR DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, AND THEN BEGAN TO MANHANDLE PATRONS AND EMPLOYEES ALIKE." (C4 3)

THE BAR'S COOK WAS SEIZED, A PATRON FELL, A BARTENDER WAS DRAGGED OVER AND ACROSS THE BAR THROUGH SPLINTERING GLASS. PEOPLE RAN IN PANIC AND FELL ON EACH OTHER. A CUSTOMER WAS SHOVED HEAD-FIRST AGAINST A JUKEBOX AND HANDCUFFED. ALL WERE TAKEN TO WAITING PATROL CARS IN THE PARKING LOT OFF HYPERION AVENUE. THIS WITHIN TEN MINUTES TIME. (T2 5)

TWO PATRONS HAD LEFT THE BAR JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT. AT THE ENTRANCE OF NEW FACES, THEY WERE TACKLED BY PLAINCLOTHES OFFICERS. THE FEMALE BAR CO-OWNER AND A BARTENDER ASKED THE POLICEMEN FOR IDENTIFICATION. THE OWNER, MISTAKEN BY POLICE FOR A MAN IN DRAG, WAS STRUCK WITH A GUN, BEATEN AND EVENTUALLY HOSPITALIZED. THE BARTENDER RECEIVED A BROKEN NOSE. (AR, T2 5-6)

A 120-POUND WAITER IN THE BACK OF THE BAR, ROBERT HAAS, EMERGED TO HELP. HE WAS DRAGGED ONTO THE SIDEWALK AND BEATEN SEVERELY. HIS JAW AND TEMPLE WERE CRACKED AND HE SUFFERED SEVERE BRUISING ALL OVER HIS BODY. HIS SPLEEN WAS RUPTURED AND LATER REMOVED. HAAS WAS BOOKED FOR FELONY ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO LA COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. (T2 6)

FOURTEEN WERE ARRESTED AT THE BLACK CAT, TWO AT NEW FACES. (T2 6)

INSPECTOR SID MILLS NOTED, "WE GET ASSAULTED EVERY DAY. IT'S ALL IN A DAY'S WORK. PUBLIC MORALS, DECENCY AND THE LAW MUST BE MAINTAINED." (P2B 5)

THESE ACCOUNTS ARE FROM THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS. THOMPSON HAS NOTED THE THEN "ALMOST NONEXISTENT COVERAGE OF GAY NEWS BY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES" (LR XIX), AS DO ALWOOD (SN 78), STREITMATTER (UNSP 69) AND ARMSTRONG & CRAGE (MM 734).

TANGENTS MAGAZINE ARRANGED FOR AN NBC INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT HAAS, THE BARTENDER AT NEW FACES. (T2 6) AND THE PRIDE NEWSLETTER NOTES THAT AS A RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM GAY ORGANIZATIONS, SEVERAL BROADCAST OUTLETS GAVE PRIME TIME COVERAGE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE RAID AND THE ARRESTS. (P2A 1)

THE EVENT WAS COVERED BY ONE OTHER SMALL NEWS OUTLET. ON JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, THE "COUNTY COURIER," PRINTED A TAVERN GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESS RELEASE ("TAVERN CHARGES POLICE BRUTALITY") ON ITS FRONT PAGE. ACCOMPANYING THIS IS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

*A COURIER REPORTER CALLED THE OFFICE OF MR. SMITH REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF THE TAVERN GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. IT WAS REVEALED THAT A GROUP OF OWNERS OF "GAY" BARS, SUCH AS THE BLACK CAT, HAD SET UP AN ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LEGAL AID TO THOSE WHO JOIN AS MEMBERS. OWNERSHIP OF A "GAY" TAVERN IS NOT THE SOLE REQUIREMENT. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO DEVIATES SEEKING THEIR SUPPORT. (CC)*

THE TAVERN GUILD RAISED \$3,400 FOR THE LEGAL DEFENSE OF THOSE ARRESTED. (T2 6)

## **REACTIONS TO THE RAIDS**

ACCORDING TO DON SLATER, EDITOR OF TANGENTS, THESE RAIDS SHATTERED A TWO YEAR "TRUCE" BETWEEN THE POLICE AND GAY BARS. HE CALLED THEM THE MOST VIOLENT IN YEARS. (LAFP1 1)

TO SOME, BOTH GAY BARS AND THEIR PATRONS REPRESENTED EASY TARGETS FOR THE POLICE. THE BARS WERE LICENSED BY THE STATE, WITH THOSE LICENSES SUBJECT TO REVOCATION. (P2A 1) PATRONS WERE A MEMBER OF A REVILED MINORITY, FOR WHOM IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO COUNT ON THE IMPARTIALITY OF JUDGES OR JURIES. THE EASY WAY WAS TO "COP OUT" TO A LESSER CHARGE. (C5 5) ARMSTRONG AND CRAGE GO SO FAR AS NOTING THE "SCRIPTED NATURE" OF BAR RAIDS. (MM 728)

BUT THE BLACK CAT RAID WAS DIFFERENT. IT CAME AT A TIME OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS ON THE SUNSET STRIP. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE TAVERN GUILD RAISED FUNDS FOR THOSE BRAVE ENOUGH TO FIGHT THEIR ARRESTS. THE MEDIA WAS CONTACTED ABOUT THE STORY. AND NEW SELF CONSCIOUSLY MILITANT GROUPS HAD FORMED WITHIN THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY.

SOME TIME AFTER THE RAID AND PROTEST, THE FREE PRESS PUBLISHED THE ARTICLE "POLICE OUTRAGES HELP CREATE L.A. HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS DRIVE." REVEREND ALEX SMITH OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOPHILE (SCCRH) IS INTERVIEWED. ACCORDING TO SMITH, MANY HOMOSEXUALS HAD BECOME DISSATISFIED WITH LEADING DOUBLE LIVES, KEEPING THEIR PRIVATE LIVES ENTIRELY UNDER COVER. SMITH ALSO NOTES SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE AFRICAN —AMERICAN AND HOMOSEXUAL CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS. (LAFP4 5)

AND IN 1966, STEVE GINSBERG HAD FOUNDED ANOTHER ORGANIZATION, PRIDE (PERSONAL RIGHTS IN DEFENSE AND EDUCATION). (GLA 155). UNLIKE PREVIOUS INTELLECTUALLY-ORIENTED HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS (CJ 144), PRIDE WAS A RADICAL, YOUTH-ORIENTED GAY ORGANIZATION. GINSBERG, 27, DREW A STRONG DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRIDE AND THE OLD-LINE L.A. ORGANIZATIONS:

PRIDE WAS ON OVERTLY MILITANT GROUP, WILLING TO PROTEST ON THE STREET. PRIDE MEMBERS WERE ALSO UNAPOLOGETIC ABOUT THEIR SEXUALITY. OPEN MEETINGS WERE HELD AT THE HUB BAR (WHICH MEMBERS REFERRED TO AS "PRIDE HALL"). (GLA 155)

THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT ANGER IN THE GAY COMMUNITY OVER THE BLACK CAT AND NEW FACES RAIDS.

WRITING IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF "CONCERN," SCRRH'S NEWSLETTER, JIM KEPNER ANNOUNCED: "BUT THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT IN LOS ANGELES WAS IN A VERY REAL SENSE CREATED ON NEW YEARS' EVE BY A COUPLE DOZEN OFFICERS OF THE NEW RAMPARTS ST. POLICE STATION." (C5 5)

THE ARTICLE NOTES OTHER BAR RAIDS THE SAME NIGHT AND IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING, (C5 3) AND IN REFERENCE TO THE FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> PROTEST ENDS WITH "WE WILL SEE WHO IS WILLING TO STAND UP FOR HIS RIGHTS, AND WHO IS STILL WILLING TO BE SHOVED AND BEATEN AND INSULTED." (C5 5)

THE FEBRUARY PRIDE NEWSLETTER ISSUED A CALL TO ACTION ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>. THIS EVENT WAS SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH OTHER PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE HARASSMENT BEING HELD THE SAME EVENING. (SEE LEAFLET, ATTACHMENT 3) THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD MADE A "RARE SHOW OF SPIRIT" (IN THE MEDIA CONTACTS AND TAVERN GUILD FUND) WAS NOTED. AND THE ARTICLE REFERS TO THE "ESTABLISHMENT WAR ON MINORITIES." (P2A 1)

## **THE BLACK CAT PROTEST, FEBRUARY 11, 1967**

PRIDE AND THE SCRRH WERE MAIN ORGANIZERS OF THE BLACK CAT PROTEST. (LAFP2 1)

AT 9:00 PM A CROWD OF 300 TO 600 PERSONS GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE BAR AND ON ADJOINING STREET CORNERS. (SEE NOTE 1 FOR DIFFERENT ESTIMATES OF THE CROWD SIZE AND ATTACHMENTS 4 - 6 FOR PICTURES OF THE PROTEST.)

REV. SMITH, JIM KEPNER (WHO HAD BEEN ACTIVE WITH MATTACHINE AND ONE IN THEIR EARLY DAYS (GLA 113, 117)), MIKE STEELE OF PRIDE, JERRY SCHWARTZ (OWNER OF THE STAGE DOOR BAR AND AN EX-VICE OFFICER) AND ATTORNEY THOMAS H. RUSSELL SPOKE AT THE EVENT. (P3 1) (THE STAGE



DOOR HAD BEEN RAIDED JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>)(LAFP1 13) THE TALKS FOCUSED ON “THE POLICE ABUSE OF THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF THE HOMOSEXUAL CITIZEN.” (P3 1)

GIVEN THE VIOLENT OUTCOME OF RECENT SUNSET STRIP DEMONSTRATIONS, THE BLACK CAT PROTESTERS MUST HAVE BEEN RELIEVED THAT THE EVENT WAS HELD WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE POLICE ARE DESCRIBED AS HAVING KEPT A DISCREET DISTANCE. (P2.5 1, LAFP3 6)

THE FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> PRIDE NEWSLETTER NOTED THAT THE EVENT WAS THE ORGANIZATION’S FIRST DEMONSTRATION, AND A SUCCESSFUL ONE. (P2.5 1) PRIDE WAS SO ENCOURAGED THAT IT BEGAN PLANNING FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE LAWS AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY. (LAFP3 6)

BUT AGAIN, MEDIA COVERAGE WAS LIMITED TO ALTERNATIVE OUTLETS. THE FREE PRESS NOTED, “WHAT WAS BILLED AS A CITYWIDE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ‘POLICE LAWLESSNESS’ LAST SATURDAY NIGHT (FEBRUARY 11) ENDED UP AS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROTEST ON THE SUNSET STRIP AND PROVIDED A STAGING GROUND FOR THE FIRST MILITANT HOMOSEXUAL MARCH AGAINST POLICE HARASSMENT (AND WAS IGNORED BY THE DAILY PRESS).” (LAFP3 1)

IN 1966 THE LA TIMES REPORTEDLY ADOPTED THE POSITION OF NOT SENDING ANYONE TO COVER A GAY EVENT HELD THAT YEAR “UNLESS SOMEONE WAS HURT.” (GLA 154) AS NOTED BELOW, THIS NEGLECT BY THE MAINSTREAM PRESS WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE REASONS FOR THE FOUNDING OF *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* NEWSPAPER IN SEPTEMBER 1967.

#### **HOW DOES THE BLACK CAT PROTEST COMPARE TO OTHER GAY PROTESTS OF THE TIME?**

THE STONEWALL RIOTS OCCURRED TWO AND A HALF YEARS LATER IN NEW YORK CITY, ON THE NIGHTS OF JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> AND JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> 1969. ACCORDING TO AN ACCOUNT IN *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE*, NEARLY A THOUSAND RIOTERS AND SEVERAL HUNDRED POLICE WERE INVOLVED THE FIRST NIGHT. THE FOLLOWING NIGHT AN ESTIMATED 2,000 TOOK PART IN FURTHER ACTIONS. (MM737 - 738) SINCE 1970 THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN COMMEMORATED IN GAY PRIDE CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

THE BLACK CAT PROTEST DOES NOT COMPARE TO STONEWALL IN SIZE OR IN INFLUENCE. BUT IT DID OCCUR AT A SIGNIFICANTLY EARLIER DATE. WERE THERE OTHER PRE-STONEWALL ACTIONS SIMILAR IN SCOPE TO THE BLACK CAT? GIVEN THE DISINTEREST OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA, THIS IS A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

IN “MOVEMENTS AND MEMORY,” A STUDY ON THE MECHANISM OF COMMEMORATION, ARMSTRONG & CRAGE RESEARCHED GAY AND LESBIAN PROTESTS THAT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1965 AND 1970. (MM 724) THEY SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY TIMES AND PLACES MOST LIKELY TO HAVE PRODUCED EVENTS SIMILAR TO STONEWALL WITH A METHODOLOGY THAT INCLUDED AN EXAMINATION OF HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, PHILADELPHIA, WASHINGTON, DC AND CHICAGO, STARTING WITH 1959. (MM 728)

THEY NOTE MOST HOMOPHILE ACTIVITY IN THE 1950S AND 1960S TOOK PLACE IN RESPONSE TO POLICE ACTIONS, WHICH TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT CONSISTED OF BAR RAIDS. THERE WAS A WELL-WORN PATTERN TO THOSE ACTIONS, ENDING IN WHAT A BLACK CAT ACTIVIST TERMED THE “COP-OUT.” PLEADING TO A LESSER CHARGE, PAYING UP TO KEEP YOUR NAME OUT OF THE PAPER. ARMSTRONG & CRAGE FOCUSED ON INCIDENTS IN WHICH HOMOSEXUALS CHALLENGED POLICE AUTHORITY. (MM 728, C4 3, C5 5)

THEY CONDUCTED A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES RELATED TO HOMOSEXUAL MOVEMENTS. IN THE END, FIVE EVENTS WERE CHOSEN FOR STUDY, WITH THE BLACK CAT PROTESTS CHRONOLOGICALLY THE THIRD (THE STONEWALL RIOTS BEING FOURTH). (MM 729)

AMONG THE FIVE, THE BLACK CAT PROTEST RANKS SECOND OR THIRD IN TERMS OF ATTENDANCE. THE STONEWALL RIOTS RANK FIRST, AND A 1970 RAID AT A NEW YORK CITY BAR, THE SNAKE PIT, INVOLVED APPROXIMATELY THE SAME NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AS THE BLACK CAT. (MM 739)

IN GAY L.A., FADERMAN & TIMMONS DESCRIBE THE BLACK CAT PROTEST AS WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST GAY PROTEST IN AMERICA TO ATTRACT SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS. (GLA 156 – 157)

TEAL, IN THE NEW YORK-CENTRIC GAY MILITANTS, IDENTIFIES THE STONEWALL RIOTS AS “THE FINAL GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT OF AN AWAKENING THAT WAS COMPARABLY THRILLING WHEN, IN 1957, ONE, INC. PUBLISHED THE WORDS ‘I’M GLAD I’M HOMOSEXUAL’ ON ITS MAGAZINE COVER AND MANY SUBSCRIBERS CANCELLED; OR WHEN ON FEBRUARY 11 A DECADE LATER SEVERAL LOS ANGELENO

HOMOSEXUAL ORGANIZATIONS COORDINATED THE BLACK CAT DEMONSTRATIONS WITH ACTIONS BY OTHER OPPRESSED MINORITIES IN L.A.” (GM 40)

TEAL ALSO INCLUDES EXCERPTS FROM JIM KEPNER’S SPEECH AT THE BLACK CAT PROTEST. (GM 41-42) THE ONLY OTHER GAY PROTESTS MENTIONED BY TEAL ARE TWO 1969 SAN FRANCISCO PICKETS AGAINST BUSINESSES THAT HAD SUMMARILY FIRED “OUT” GAY MEN. (GM 46-49)

#### **HOW DID THE EVENTS PLAY OUT IN THE SHORT TERM?**

THE BLACK CAT BROUGHT BAD LUCK TO MANY OF THOSE INVOLVED.

#### THE ARRESTEES:

OF THE SIXTEEN MEN ARRESTED (FOURTEEN AT THE BLACK CAT, TWO AT NEW FACES):

ROBERT HAAS, THE INJURED BARTENDER AT NEW FACES, WAS ACQUITTED.  
ONE DEFENDANT HIRED A NOTED ATTORNEY AND WAS ACQUITTED.  
THE LEWD CONDUCT CHARGE AGAINST A MARRIED BARTENDER WAS DISMISSED (C5 5)  
(ONE OF THE ARRESTS IS UNACCOUNTED FOR)  
THE TWO PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS CHARGES WERE DISMISSED  
FOUR MEN PLEADED *NO LO CONTENDERE*, PAID FINES AND DID NOT APPEAR IN COURT.  
(THE TRADITIONAL “COP-OUT”)  
SIX MEN WERE TRIED AND FOUND GUILTY OF LEWD CONDUCT. (T2 6)

A LEGAL PRECEDENT RESULTED FROM TWO OF THESE LEWD CONDUCT CONVICTIONS.

ON THE NIGHT OF THE RAID, CHARLES TALLEY WAS OBSERVED KISSING ANOTHER MAN ON THE MOUTH FOR 3 TO 5 SECONDS. BENNY BAKER, WEARING A WHITE DRESS, WAS WITNESSED KISSING 3 MEN FOR 2 TO 5 SECONDS. (CJ 144) THESE WERE THEIR CRIMES.

TO THE LAPD, THE CITY AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THESE BRIEF SAME-SEX NEW YEAR’S KISSES CONSTITUTED LEWD CONDUCT, AND THE MEN WERE ARRESTED AND CONVICTED. (CJ 143) UNDER CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 647 TALLEY AND BAKER WERE REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDERS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES (GLA 82)

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ACLU (ADV 1A 2), THEIR ATTORNEY, HERBERT E. SELWYN, PURSUED AN APPEAL TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT. HE BROKE GROUND BY ASSERTING THE RIGHT OF EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW FOR HOMOSEXUAL MEN TO KISS IN PUBLIC. AND UNLIKE PREVIOUS CASES BEFORE THE COURT HE DID NOT MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT HIS CLIENTS WERE NOT HOMOSEXUAL OR THAT THEY WERE VICTIMS OF ENTRAPMENT. (CJ 144) PER MURDOCH AND PRICE, “SELWYN WAS THE FIRST ATTORNEY TO MAKE A TOTALLY UNDEFENSIVE HOMOSEXUAL-RIGHTS ARGUMENT IN A CERT PETITION.” (CJ 146)

LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY ROGER ARNEBERGH ARGUED THAT TALLEY AND BAKER’S GENDER, MODE OF DRESS AND THE SITE ALL COMBINED TO TAKE THEIR ACTIONS “OUT OF THE REALM OF A NORMAL KISS.” THE CITY ARGUED THAT THIS WAS WHY THEY WERE GUILTY OF LEWD CONDUCT, NOT THEIR STATUS AS HOMOSEXUALS. (CJ 146)

BUT TO SELWYN THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY WAS THE ISSUE. HIS PETITION CONCLUDED, “IT TOOK ALMOST A CENTURY TO GRANT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF OUR ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. LET US HOPE THAT THE HOMOPHILE MINORITY WILL ACHIEVE ITS EQUAL RIGHTS WITH MORE DISPATCH.” (CJ 146) (AGAIN THE CONNECTION IS MADE TO THE LARGER CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.)

ON APRIL 19, 1968, THE COURT VOTED NOT TO ACCEPT TALLEY V. CALIFORNIA FOR CONSIDERATION.

#### THE BUSINESSES.

FOLLOWING THE RAID, UNIFORMED OFFICERS CONDUCTED FREQUENT CHECKS AT NEW FACES, INTIMIDATING EVEN REGULAR CUSTOMERS. THE BAR CLOSED WITHIN 20 DAYS. THE BLACK CAT’S ENTERTAINMENT AND LIQUOR LICENSES WERE SUSPENDED. IT CLOSED ITS DOORS ON MAY 21, 1967. (T2 7) AND SILVERLAKE BARS CONTINUED TO BE RAIDED FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. (ADV 1B)

PER THE JANUARY ISSUE OF CONCERN, “THE THREAT HAS BEEN WELL CIRCULATED THAT ANY ATTEMPTS TO PUBLICIZE OR PROSECUTE THIS CASE WILL RESULT IN THE CLOSING OF EVERY GAY BAR IN TOWN.” (C4 3) (A JUNE PRIDE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE INDICATES THAT THE POLICE WEREN’T LIMITING THEIR ATTENTION TO JUST BUSINESSES IN THE GAY COMMUNITY. SEE NOTE 2)

#### A PROTEST ORGANIZER:

PRIDE WAS A MAIN ORGANIZER OF THE BLACK CAT PROTEST. (GLA 156-157, LAFP2 1) WITHIN TWO MONTHS, POLICE FORCIBLY ENTERED A PRIDE SOCIAL EVENT, LOOKED AROUND AND LEFT. PRIDE CANCELED A MAY EVENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SAFETY OF PROSPECTIVE ATTENDEES. (P6 3).

IN JUNE, TWO DOORMEN AT A PRIDE SOCIAL EVENT WERE ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO ALLOW THE ENTRY OF POLICE OFFICERS ACTING AS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AGENTS. (P8 1) THE NOVEMBER 1967 EDITION OF THE *LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* REPORTED THEIR ACQUITTAL. (Adv2)

IN 1968, PRIDE DISBANDED AS A RESULT OF INTERNAL DISSENSION. (LR 4, UNSP 87) BUT NOT BEFORE RICHARD MITCH (AKA DICK MICHAELS), HAD PAID \$1 FOR THE RIGHTS TO THE NEWSLETTER (WHICH AS EDITOR HE HAD RENAMED THE *LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* IN SEPTEMBER 1967 – “LOS ANGELES” WAS DROPPED IN MAY 1970). (UNSP 87, SEE ATTACHMENT 7.)

SO OTHER THAN THE COURT CASE, THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE PROTEST WAS UNREMARKABLE.

**BUT LONG TERM, THE ACTION HAD AN PROFOUND EFFECT .**

WHAT WERE THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF THE PROTESTERS AT THE BLACK CAT? SOME MAY HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE, GIVEN HOW RECENT SUNSET STRIP DEMONSTRATIONS HAD ENDED. BUT COMPARED TO THE EARLIER ACTIONS ON THE STRIP, THE BLACK CAT PROTEST WAS DIFFERENT IN A FUNDAMENTAL WAY.

IT WAS A LARGE, PUBLIC PROTEST IN FRONT OF A GAY BAR. BEYOND YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM, SOME MUST HAVE SENSED THEY WERE SETTING A PRECEDENT. AND SOME MAY HAVE FELT THE SAME WAY AS EARLIER DEMONSTRATORS ON THE EAST COAST –

IN 1965, LESBIAN AND GAY ACTIVISTS ORGANIZED A SERIES OF SMALL PICKETS AT PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON, DC. TEAL RECOUNTS THE REACTIONS (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN “THE LADDER: A LESBIAN REVIEW”) OF PICKETERS IN PHILADELPHIA:

*“TODAY I LOST THE LAST BIT OF FEAR”; “TODAY IT WAS AS IF A WEIGHT DROPPED OFF MY SOUL”; “THIS IS THE PROUDEST DAY OF MY LIFE!”* (GM 40)

THOMPSON WRITES IN LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM THAT THE BLACK CAT RAID AND PROTEST HAD AN EFFECT ON LOS ANGELES THAT WAS SIMILAR TO THE GALVANIZING EFFECT THE STONEWALL RIOTS HAD ON NEW YORK. (LR XIX)

*THE ADVOCATE*

RICHARD MITCH JOINED PRIDE IN 1966, AFTER BEING ARRESTED IN A BAR RAID. “VICE COPS CAME IN AND ARRESTED TWELVE PEOPLE. I WAS ONE OF THOSE TAPPED ON THE BACK...THERE PROBABLY WOULDN’T BE ANY *ADVOCATE* IF NOT FOR THAT ONE TAP ON THE BACK.” (UNSP 87)

SPEAKING ON ABOUT THE BLACK CAT PROTEST, HE NOTED THAT, “IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE GAY COMMUNITY NEEDED SOMETHING MORE. IT NEEDED SOMETHING THAT HAD A CHANCE TO GROW INTO A REAL NEWSPAPER; IT NEEDED A PUBLICATION WITH WIDESPREAD CIRCULATION, SOME WAY TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING.” (LR XIX)

*THE ADVOCATE* HAS BEEN CALLED THE FIRST TRUE GAY NEWSPAPER. IT SPREAD INFORMATION, NEWS, AND IDEAS. IT COVERED EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE GONE UNNOTICED AND UNANNOUNCED. AND IT WAS AN UNAPOLOGETICALLY GAY ORGANIZATION. (UNSP 83, 96) *THE ADVOCATE* EVENTUALLY BECAME THE LARGEST PUBLICATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAY PRESS. (UNSP 83) BY SEPTEMBER 1968 ITS PRESS RUN WAS 5,500. AND IN SEPTEMBER 1969 23,000. (UNSP 88)

ARMSTRONG AND CRAGE NOTE THAT THE STONEWALL RIOTS WERE EXTENSIVELY COVERED IN *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* – IMPORTANT, SINCE NEW YORK’S GAY PRESS WAS NOT WELL DEVELOPED BEFORE STONEWALL. (MM 738)

THE YEAR AFTER *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* WAS FOUNDED, SEVERAL THREADS IN L.A.’S GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY CAME TOGETHER IN ANOTHER BAR RAID.

#### THE PATCH: THE COMEDIAN, THE EDITOR & THE MINISTER

ON AN AUGUST NIGHT IN 1968 POLICE WADED INTO THE CROWD AT THE PATCH BAR IN WILMINGTON. NOT A RAID IN THE USUAL SENSE—IDS WERE CHECKED AND PATRONS INTIMIDATED. TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED AND AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES THE CO-OWNER, COMEDIAN LEE GLAZE, GOT ONSTAGE. “‘IT’S NOT AGAINST THE LAW TO BE A HOMOSEXUAL,’ HE SAID, ‘AND IT’S NOT A CRIME TO BE IN A GAY BAR.’” (LR 6)

FINDING A FLORIST AMONG THOSE PRESENT, BLAZE LED A GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE TO THE HARBOR DIVISION POLICE STATION. THEY DESCENDED ON THE DESK SERGEANT CARRYING LARGE BOUQUETS. THE ARRESTEES, WHEN RELEASED, WERE COVERED WITH FLOWERS. AFTER THAT, THE CROWD DRIFTED OFF INTO THE NIGHT. (LR 6)

THE RAID WAS WELL COVERED IN *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE*. RICHARD MITCH HAD BEEN ONE OF THOSE IN THE CROWD AT THE BAR. (LR 6) ALSO PRESENT WAS A MANAGER IN THE YARDAGE DEPARTMENT AT SEARS, TROY PERRY. HIS DATE FOR THE NIGHT, TONY VALDEZ, WAS ONE OF THE TWO MEN ARRESTED. AFTERWARDS VALDEZ TOLD PERRY: “WE’RE JUST A BUNCH OF DIRTY QUEERS. GOD DOESN’T CARE.” PERRY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT AS A PERSONAL EPIPHANY, SPURRING HIM TO FOUND A CHURCH. (GLA 163)

IN THE FALL OF 1968 *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* PUBLISHED A SMALL ANNOUNCEMENT STATING THAT THE REVEREND TROY PERRY WAS PLANNING A GAY CHURCH SERVICE IN HIS HOME. THIS WAS THE BIRTH OF THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC). PERRY LATER REMARKED, “IF IT HADN’T BEEN FOR *THE ADVOCATE*, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO MCC.” (UNSP 206) AS OF 2005 THE MCC HAD GROWN TO 275 CONGREGATIONS IN TWENTY-THREE COUNTRIES. TIMMONS & FADERMAN SUGGEST THAT IT MAY BE THE WORLD’S LARGEST EMPLOYER OF GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE. (GLA 260)

#### POLITICS: THE 1969 CD13 ELECTION

IN 1969, L.A. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PAUL LAMPORT, REPRESENTING THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL DISTRICT, WAS UP FOR RE-ELECTION. THEN AS NOW, CD13 CONSISTED OF ECHO PARK, SILVERLAKE AND HOLLYWOOD, AN AREA WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE. ONE OF LAMPORT’S SELF-PROCLAIMED ACHIEVEMENTS WAS AN ANTI-LOITERING ORDINANCE DESIGNED TO CHASE GAY MEN, WHO LAMPORT REFERRED TO AS “MOLESTERS AND TROUBLEMAKERS,” OUT OF HOLLYWOOD. (GLA 165)

IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* BACKED AN OPENLY GAY CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVED 3,000 VOTES, BUT WHO DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE RUN-OFF. IN THE GENERAL ELECTION, ROBERT STEVENSON BEAT LAMPORT BY ROUGHLY 3,000 VOTES. (GM 68)

IN DEFEAT, LAMPORT ATTRIBUTED HIS LOSS TO GAY POWER. IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO REGAIN THE SEAT, LAMPORT ACTUALLY CAMPAIGNED IN GAY BARS IN SILVERLAKE IN 1973. (UNSP 108, GLA 166) SINCE THE 1969 ELECTION CD13 HAS BEEN REPRESENTED BY GAY-FRIENDLY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

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OF COURSE THE ABOVE REPRESENT JUST A SMALL SAMPLING OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN “POST BLACK CAT” GAY AND LESBIAN L.A. “GAY-INS” (A VERSION OF LOVE-INS) WERE HELD IN GRIFFITH PARK STARTING IN MARCH 1968 (LR 10). NINE HUNDRED SPECTATORS ATTENDED THE AUGUST 1969 *ADVOCATE* “GROOVY GUY” CONTEST. (LR 21)

FROM APRIL 1969 TO APRIL 1970 *THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE* DEVOTED A SERIES OF ARTICLES TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD EFLAND, A SLIGHT MALE NURSE, AT THE HANDS OF THE POLICE. THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HEFLAND’S DEATH WAS COMMEMORATED WITH A 120 PERSON RALLY AND MARCH TO THE LOCAL POLICE STATION. (MM 735, GLA 161)

IN 1970 CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST ORGANIZED THE FIRST LOS ANGELES GAY PRIDE PARADE. TROY PERRY NOTES THAT POLICE CHIEF ED DAVIS STATED AT A POLICE COMMISSION MEETING THAT “GRANTING A PARADE PERMIT TO A GROUP OF HOMOSEXUALS...WOULD BE THE SAME AS GIVING A PERMIT TO A GROUP OF THIEVES AND ROBBERS.” (CSW) BUT WITH THE HELP OF ACLU — SUPPLIED ATTORNEY HERBERT SELWYN, PARADE ORGANIZERS OBTAINED A WRIT OF MANDATE REQUIRING THE L.A.P.D. TO ISSUE A PARADE PERMIT WITHOUT PUTTING UP THE L.A.P.D.’S REQUESTED BOND OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS. (CSW, GM 333)

ON JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> AN ESTIMATED 1,000 PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN THE PARADE, WITH AN ADDITIONAL CROWD OF 15,000 – 20,000 SPECTATORS LINING THE ROUTE ALONG HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. (GM 333-4)

## CONCLUSION

THE BLACK CAT BAR RAID AND PROTEST WERE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN LOS ANGELES.

AS NOTED IN THE ATTACHED LETTER FROM AUTHOR MARK THOMPSON,

*THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THESE EARLY GAY ACTIVISTS WERE PRECEDENT SETTING. NOT ONLY DID THEY SEND OUT SIGNALS OF HOPE TO GAY PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION BUT THEY ALSO EMPOWERED OTHERS TO BEGIN SIMILAR ENDEAVORS. THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (NOW WITH CONGREGATIONS IN MANY COUNTRIES) AND THE ADVOCATE, THE NATIONAL GAY NEWSMAGAZINE, ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS THAT WERE INITIATED AND INSPIRED AS A RESULT OF THE BLACK CAT RAID DEMONSTRATIONS.*

THE BAR BUILDING AT 3909 SUNSET BOULEVARD REMAINS LARGELY UNCHANGED FROM 1967. IT CURRENTLY HOUSES A LATINO GAY BAR (LE BAR). WHEN A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BLACK CAT (THE GROUP THAT INITIATED THIS NOMINATION) STOPPED IN AND BEGAN RECOUNTING THE BAR'S HISTORY HE WAS STOPPED – THE BAR MANAGER HAD HEARD IT ALL BEFORE. WHAT HAPPENED THERE MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH.

ON NEW YEARS EVE 1966 IT MAY HAVE TAKEN SOME COURAGE TO APPEAR OPENLY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A GAY BAR. IN FEBRUARY OF 1967 IT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF COURAGE AND INSPIRATION TO DEMONSTRATE OPENLY AT PERHAPS THE LARGEST PUBLIC PROTEST BY GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE EVER TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS COUNTRY. IN THE ATTACHED LETTER, LILLIAN FADERMAN NOTES,

*...THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED AT THE BLACK CAT HELPED MARK LOS ANGELES AS A CITY THAT PIONEERED THE AMERICAN GAY MOVEMENT. THAT GAY MOVEMENT HAS, IN TURN, INFLUENCED MOVEMENTS FOR GAY RIGHTS ALL OVER THE WORLD...THE PROTESTS IN FRONT OF THE BLACK CAT, A RESPONSE TO A POLICE RAID AT THE BAR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE (1966/7), WERE THE CRUCIAL SPARK THAT IGNITED A WHOLE MOVEMENT.*

FOUR HUNDRED PEOPLE DO NOT JUST DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT. THEY RUN INTO EACH OTHER AT BARS AND SOCIAL EVENTS, AND MAYBE EVEN WHILE AT WORK OR OUT SHOPPING. THEY TALK WITH FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE. AND IF THE EVENT THAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER WAS INTENSE AND MEANINGFUL ENOUGH, THEY MIGHT CREATE INSTITUTIONS AND MAKE HISTORY.

## NOTES

### NOTE 1

THE LA FREE PRESS, 2/17/67, PAGE 1, ESTIMATED 500 –600

THE LA FREE PRESS, 3/10/67, PAGE 5, ESTIMATED 400

THE PRIDE NEWSLETTER, 2/27/67, PAGE 1, NOTED APPROXIMATELY 500

THE PRIDE NEWSLETTER, 3/67, PAGE 1, NOTED 500 – 600

TANGENTS MAGAZINE, 1/68, PAGE 7, DESCRIBES 400 DEMONSTRATORS

GAY MILITANTS, P.41, KEPNER NOTES 200 IN THE GAY CROWD, "WITH THIRTY OR FORTY MORE WATCHING FROM ACROSS THE STREET ON EACH CORNER, AND ABOUT FORTY PICKETS WALKING UP AND DOWN"

SEE THE "SOURCES" PAGE FOR FULL CREDITS.

### NOTE 2

FROM THE PRIDE NEWSLETTER; JUNE 1967; VOL. 2, NO. 6; PAGES 2 - 3

"COPS RAID-HAPPY, CONTINUE EPIDEMIC":

(DESCRIBING AN APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> POLICE RAID ON A PRIVATE PARTY: ONE OF THE VICE OFFICERS CONDUCTING THE RAID, LT. PETERSON, HAD ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE BLACK CAT RAID.)

"...OUT OF ABOUT 55 GUESTS, 25 WERE ARRESTED — THE HOST FOR SELLING BEER WITHOUT A LICENSE AND MOST OF THE OTHERS ON 647A (LEWD CONDUCT). WHILE THE ARRESTS WERE BEING MADE, A PROCESS THAT TOOK ALMOST TWO SILENT, HORRIFYING HOURS, ONE VICE OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT THE ARRESTEES SING SOME CIVIL RIGHTS SONG LIKE "WE SHALL OVERCOME." NOBODY SANG..."

## **BLACK CAT SOURCES & ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** THE COLLECTION OF ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES WAS CRUCIAL TO THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT, AS WAS THE ASSISTANCE OF ONE PROJECT ARCHIVIST MICHAEL C. OLIVEIRA, MLS.

### **SOURCES:**

#### **Books:**

CJ: MURDOCH, JOYCE AND PRICE, DEB, COURTING JUSTICE, GAY MEN AND LESBIANS V. THE SUPREME COURT, BASIC BOOKS, NEW YORK, 2001.

GLA: FADERMAN, LILLIAN AND TIMMONS, STUART, GAY L.A., A HISTORY OF SEXUAL OUTLAWS, POWER POLITICS, & LIPSTICK LESBIANS, BASIC BOOKS, NEW YORK, 2006.

GM: TEAL, DONN, THE GAY MILITANTS, STEIN AND DAY, NEW YORK, 1971.

LR: THOMPSON, MARK (EDITOR), LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM, THE ADVOCATE HISTORY OF THE GAY & LESBIAN MOVEMENT, ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, NEW YORK, 1994.

SN: ALWOOD, EDWARD, STRAIGHT NEWS, GAYS, LESBIANS AND THE NEWS MEDIA, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, NEW YORK, 1996.

UNSP: STREITMATTER, RODGER, UNSPEAKABLE, THE RISE OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS IN AMERICA, FABER AND FABER, BOSTON – LONDON, 1995.

#### **JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

MM: ARMSTRONG, ELIZABETH A. AND CRAGE, SUZANNA M., "MOVEMENTS AND MEMORY: THE MAKING OF THE STONEWALL MYTH," AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW; VOL. 71; OCTOBER 2006: 724-751.

RN: DAVIS, MIKE, "NOTES AND DOCUMENTS: RIOT NIGHTS ON SUNSET STRIP," LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL SPRING 2007 [HTTP://WWW.HISTORYCOOPERATIVE.ORG/JOURNALS/LLT/59/DAVIS.HTML](http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/llt/59/davis.html) (11 APR. 2008).

#### **"LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS" ARTICLES:**

LAFP1: SCHMID, JERRY, "FOUR POLICE RAIDS END 'TRUCE' WITH HOMOSEXUAL TAVERNS," JANUARY 13,

1967, PAGE 13.

LAFP2: BRYAN, JOHN, "MONSTER OF A PROTEST SET FOR SATURDAY," FEBRUARY 10, 1967, PAGES 1, 5.

LAFP3: STAFF, "THE ACTION ON THE STRIP AND IN SILVER LAKE," FEBRUARY 17, 1967, PAGES 1, 6.

LAFP4: BRYAN, JOHN, "POLICE OUTRAGES HELP CREATE L.A. HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS DRIVE," 03/10/67, PAGE 5

### ***INTERVIEW***

AR: ALEXEI ROMANOFF WAS A CO-OWNER OF THE NEW FACES BAR WHEN IT WAS RAIDED ON JANUARY 1, 1967. INTERVIEWED JUNE 8, 2008

### ***WEBSITE ARTICLE***

CSW: UNATTRIBUTED, "HISTORY: WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A PARADE," [HTTP://WWW.LAPRIDE.ORG](http://www.lapride.org) (2 JUNE 2008).

### ***NEWSLETTERS & ALTERNATIVE MAGAZINES***

ADV: "THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE" (THE PRIDE ORGANIZATION'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER)

ADV1A: STAFF, "COURT AFFIRMS BLACK CAT CONVICTIONS; HIGHER APPEAL SET," VOL. 1, NO. 1; SEPTEMBER 1967, PAGE 2.

ADV1B: STAFF, "VICE RAID SILVER LAKE BAR," VOL. 1, NO. 1; SEPTEMBER 1967, PAGE 3.

ADV2: STAFF, "PRIDE WINS!!" VOL. 1, NO.3, NOVEMBER 1967, PAGE 1.

C: "CONCERN," (NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOPHILE)

C4: STAFF, "RAID," ISSUE 4, JANUARY 1967, PAGE 3.

C5: KEPNER, JIM, "PROTEST POLICE BRUTALITY!" ISSUE 5, FEBRUARY 1967, PAGE 5.

CC: "COUNTY COURIER," UNATTRIBUTED, "TAVERN CHARGES POLICE BRUTALITY," VOL.2, NO.2; JANUARY 19, 1967, PAGE 1.

P: "PRIDE," NEWSLETTER OF PRIDE (PERSONAL RIGHTS IN DEFENSE AND EDUCATION)

P2A: STAFF, "PRIDE DEMONSTRATION," VOL. 2, NO. 2; FEBRUARY 1967, PAGES 1, 6.

P2B: POWELL, LARRY, "COPS START BAR BRAWL," VOL. 2, NO. 2; FEBRUARY 1967, PAGES 1, 5.

P2.5: STAFF, UNTITLED, VOL. 2, NO. 2-1 /2; FEBRUARY 27, 1967, PAGE 1.

P3: STAFF, "500 AT PROTEST DEMO," VOL. 2, NO. 3; MARCH 1967, PAGE 1.

P6: STAFF, "COPS RAID-HAPPY, CONTINUE EPIDEMIC," VOL. 2, NO. 6; JUNE 1967, PP. 2-3.

P8: STAFF, "PRIDE DOORMEN FACE TRIAL AS DEMURRER FAILS," VOL.2, NO. 8 AUGUST 1967, PAGES. 1, 10.

T: "TANGENTS MAGAZINE," ("TANGENTS WAS AN OFFSHOOT OF ONE, DATING FROM 1965)

T1: UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, DECEMBER 1966 ISSUE, PAGE 2.

T2: HIGHLAND, JIM, "RAID!" JANUARY 1968 ISSUE, PAGES 4-7.



#### **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS, CREDITS & LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

(ALL MATERIAL IS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

ATTACHMENT 1: "TANGENTS" MAGAZINE COVER, DECEMBER 1966.

ATTACHMENT 2: 1967 DAYTIME PHOTO OF THE BLACK CAT BAR, "COUNTY COURIER," JANUARY 19, 1967, PAGE 1.

ATTACHMENT 3: DEMONSTRATION LEAFLET, INSERT IN THE "PRIDE NEWSLETTER," FEBRUARY 1967.

ATTACHMENT 4: BLACK CAT PICKETER, FROM THE "LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS," FEBRUARY 17, 1967, PAGE 1.

ATTACHMENT 5: BLACK CAT PICKETS, FROM THE ONE BLACK CAT FILE.

ATTACHMENT 6: BLACK CAT PICKETS, FROM LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM, (SEE "SOURCES FOR FULL CITE), ACROSS FROM PAGE 1.

ATTACHMENT 7: COVER, "THE LOS ANGELES ADVOCATE," SEPTEMBER 1967, VOL. 1, NO. 1.

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#### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

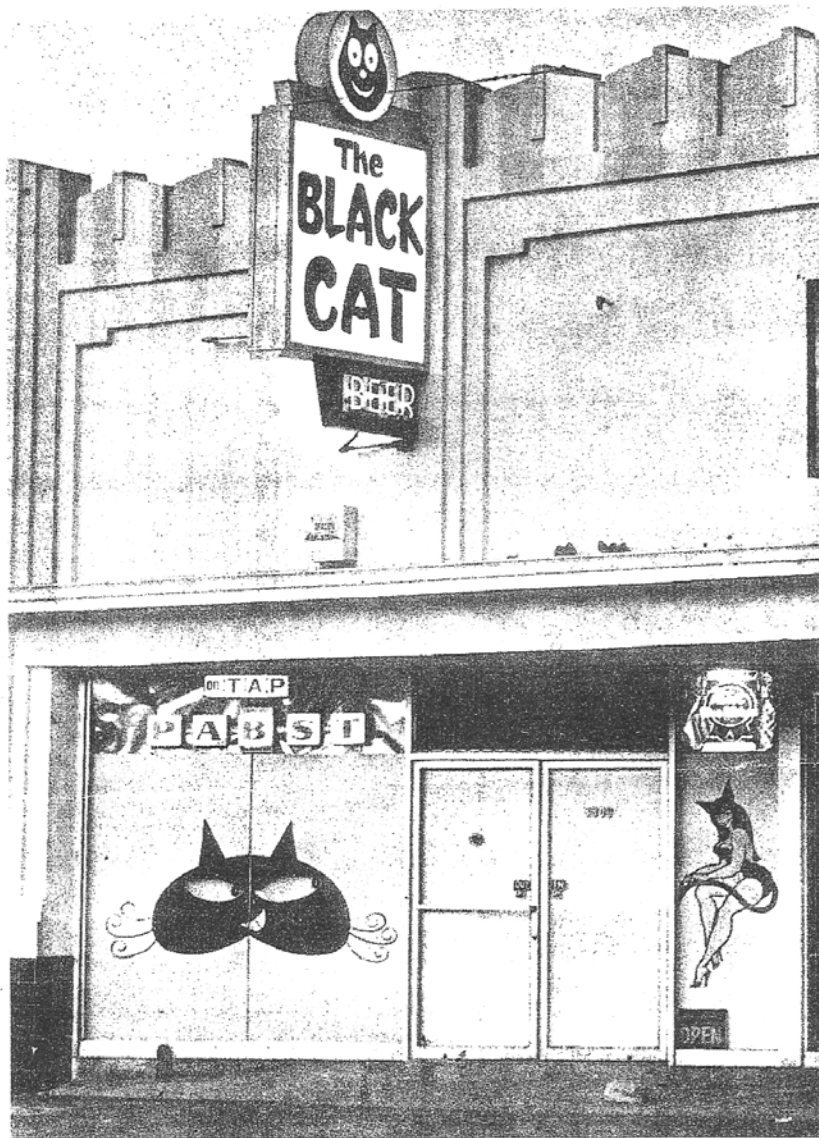
FROM AUTHOR MARK THOMPSON, DATED APRIL 27, 2008.

FROM AUTHOR LILLIAN FADERMAN, DATED MAY 5, 2008.

DECEMBER 1966 • 50 CENTS

# Tangents





Attachment 2

# CRISIS

FOR INFORMATION

CALL

666-5312

or

936-7809

**POLICE LAWLESSNESS MUST BE STOPPED!!**

HAVING ASKED FOR  
A BADGE NUMBER,  
A YOUTH IS HANDCUFFED  
AND BRUTALLY THROWN  
TO THE PAVEMENT.



THIS HAS HAPPENED IN  
COUNTLESS STREETS, BARS,  
AND RESTAURANTS IN ALL  
SECTIONS OF OUR CITY.

Because Police Lawlessness is not just a problem of the Sunset Strip  
but a problem that exists throughout the City of Los Angeles,  
there will be:

## SIMULTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS in **Silverlake**

**Sunset & Hyperion**

3900 Sunset Blvd.

**&**

**Sunset Strip   Watts   East L.A.   Pacoima   Venice**

**Arbitrary Arrests -  
Illegal Search & Seizure  
Police Perjury in Courts**

**ENTRAPMENT**

**ABUSE of OUR RIGHTS & DIGNITY**

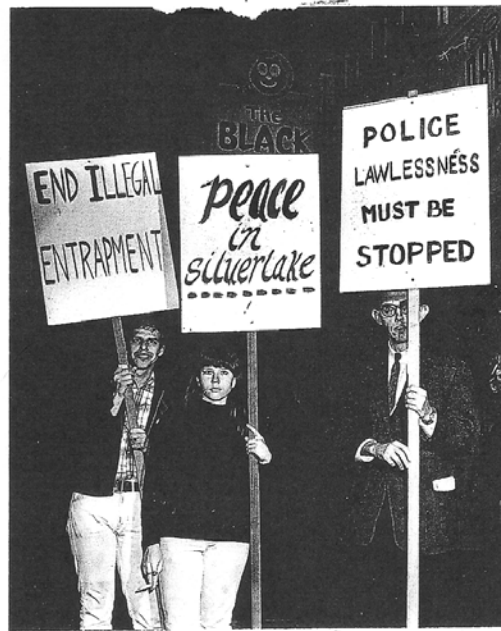
**must  
stop!**

**SATURDAY, FEB 11 9:00 P.M.**

Attachment 3



**Attachment 4**



Attachment 5



Attachment 6

The Los  
Angeles

ADVOCATE

25¢



VOL. 1 NO. 1

a PRIDE publication

September 1967

## U.S. Capital Turns On To Gay Power

### L.A. Homophile Leaders To Meet With Hollywood Vice Chief

As this issue goes to press, the leaders of LA's homophile organizations are scheduled to meet on Aug. 31 with Captain Crumley, head of the LAPD's Hollywood vice detail. The meeting, at the home of PRIDE president Jerry Joachim, aims to establish communications with the police and to discuss mutual problems. Unless the conversations are cloaked in secrecy, a complete account of what went on will appear in the October issue of the ADVOCATE. For remarks by Joachim on the meeting, see page 7

### Male Nudes Not Obscene; DSI Acquitted On 29 Charges

A U.S. Federal Court in Minneapolis has ruled that it is not illegal to produce and mail materials that depict the nude male figure. After a 13-day trial, the Court acquitted the owners of DSI Sales, Conrad Germain and Lloyd Spinar, who were charged by the government on 29 counts of producing and mailing obscene materials. If convicted on all counts, they faced a possible sentence of 145 years in prison and \$145,000 in fines.

During the trial, the government introduced nearly every item distributed by DSI, including promotional brochures and catalogs. According to DSI, the government argued that any materials designed to appeal to homosexuals are obscene because the average person does not tolerate homosexuality and considers homosexual behavior morbid and shameful. DSI's defense, presented by Attorney Ronald Meshbesh, included testimony by such experts as Dr. Wordell Pomeroy, former director of the University of Indiana Institute for Sex Research; Mrs. Sara Harris, sociologist and author; Rev. Robert T. McIlvenna, chairman of CRH; and Dr. Walter Alvarez, former consultant at the Mayo Clinic and writer of a daily newspaper column on medicine.

In a seven-page memorandum, the Court found that "the materials have no appeal to the prurient interests of the intended recipient deviant group exceed the limits of candor tolerated by ordinary national community; and are not redeeming social value." About homosexuality the Court stated, "The rights of minorities individually in sexual groups or otherwise respected. With increasing research and will in the future come to a better understanding of ourselves, sexual deviants, and others."

In passing out credit for its victory, generous portion to Hal Call, president of the San Francisco Mattachine Society, for securing the help of many of the people throughout the country who took part in the defense.

### Nation's Gay Groups Agree At Best Conference Yet

A big success! The most productive and beneficial of the three conferences held so far! These are the reactions of two of the Los Angeles delegates, Jerry Joachim of PRIDE and Jim Kepner of Pursuit and Symposium, on their return from the Third National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations held in Washington, D. C. on Aug. 17, 18, and 19.

In the opinion of Joachim, the conference opened the door to meaningful communication between "eastern ideology" and "western thinking" to such an extent that effective action can now be attained with a minimum of conflict. The conference appeared to start with disagreements as deep as at the previous ones, Kepner says, but the delegates came resolved to find some way to solve them. Both men have high praise for the conference chairman, Rev. Robert Cromy of San Francisco, for his deft and efficient handling of the meeting. Rev. Cromy was re-elected to preside over the 1968 conference slated for Chicago next summer.

The West was well represented at this year's meeting. Besides Joachim and Kepner, the Los Angeles group included Don Slater of Tangents and Eddie Casaus of the Southern California Council on Religion and the Homophile. From San Francisco came representatives of the Tavern Guild, National Legal Defense Fund, The Council on Religion and the Homosexual, and The Society for Individual Rights. Seventeen organizations from all over the U. S. were present at the start of the sessions, and a few more appeared later.

In addition to scheduling the 1968 conclave, the conference

- Prepared a statement of purpose.
- Passed by unanimous vote a set of guidelines for future conferences.
- Agreed to study the feasibility of a National Federation of Homophile Organizations.

The resolution on the purposes of the conference is, in the view of some delegates, the most interesting of those adopted. Among other things, the conference established itself as a continuing body whose aims are: to eliminate intergroup strife; to stimulate on of new homophile organizations; to encourage group projects; to promote the study of general; to expose the "sexual sickness" in our society and offer meaningful answers to the problems that homosexuals face.

With the resolution is apparently the end of the almost endless hassles that have almost destroyed previous meetings. It is a credentials committee composed of two delegates from each of the three regional conferences. Jim Kepner of Connecticut, who headed the last one, is also chairman of the new one. Each accredited organization at a conference will have five

See CONFERENCE on Page 4

### Attachment 7



27 April 2008

Cultural Heritage Commission  
City of Los Angeles

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the designation of the Black Cat Bar as a Los Angeles cultural monument. This Silver Lake site is important both regionally and nationally, as it is a primary place where the modern gay civil rights movement began.

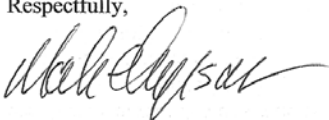
Sometime during the first hours of 1967, Los Angeles police officers swept into the bar and halted a New Year's Eve celebration. Sixteen people were arrested in the violent incident, which immediately set off wide scale public protests against police harassment and entrapment.

As documented in *Gay L.A.*, by historians Stuart Timmons and Lillian Faderman, as well as in many other books and journals, the city's police department had long conducted a hateful campaign against gay and lesbian people. Now, at last, the community resisted. A committee called PRIDE (Personal Rights in Defense and Education) was formed and a newsletter created. As a result of the intolerant raid on the Black Cat Bar that night, gay and lesbian people in Los Angeles began to politically organize themselves.

The actions taken by these early gay activists were precedent setting. Not only did they send out signals of hope to gay people across the nation but they also empowered others to begin similar endeavors. The Metropolitan Community Church (now with congregations in many countries) and *The Advocate*, the national gay newsmagazine, are just two examples of important institutions that were initiated and inspired as a result of the Black Cat raid demonstrations.

As a longtime Los Angeles resident, I feel that a historical marker on this site would be beneficial to the city's rich and varied cultural heritage. I am the author and editor of many books on gay history and culture, including *Long Road to Freedom*, which well documents the Black Cat raid and its aftermath. This designation is long overdue in my opinion. Truly, history was made at this location—a history that every citizen of Los Angeles should be rightly proud of.

Respectfully,



Mark Thompson

7639 N. Charles Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93711  
Email: [lillianf@csufresno.edu](mailto:lillianf@csufresno.edu)

May 5, 2008

To: City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to you in support of the proposal that the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission designate 3909 Sunset Boulevard, the site of the Black Cat bar, as a historic monument. Along with Stuart Timmons, I wrote the book *GAY L.A.: A HISTORY OF SEXUAL OUTLAWS, POWER POLITICS, AND LISPSTICK LESBIANS* (Basic Books, 2006). In the course of our voluminous research, Mr. Timmons and I discovered that the Black Cat was absolutely crucial to the development of gay history and politics in Los Angeles. Indeed, two-and-a half years before the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in New York (which has erroneously been dubbed the start of the gay revolution in America), the events that occurred at the Black Cat helped mark Los Angeles as a city that pioneered the American gay movement. That gay movement has, in turn, influenced movements for gay rights all over the world.

I believe you will be receiving detailed documentation that shows why the Black Cat should be designated a historic monument, so I will not reiterate all such details in this letter. But I wish to emphasize that the protests in front of the Black Cat, a response to a police raid at the bar on New Year's Eve (1966/67), were the crucial spark that ignited a whole movement. As the *LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS* recognized in a headline on March 10, 1967, "Police Outrages Help Create Los Angeles Homosexual Rights Drive" (p. 5). The homosexual community of Los Angeles was joined in its multi-night protests in front of the Black Cat by non-gay groups that understood the importance of a demonstration against police harassment of homosexuals, including the progressive Right to Assembly and Movement Committee. Thousands of fliers explaining the protests were distributed on these nights. As a result of the protests at the Black Cat, gay patrons of other Los Angeles bars began to demand their rights (again, long before the more-famous Stonewall Rebellion). For instance, in 1968, when the police raided The Patch, another Southern California gay bar, demonstrators marched on the local police station in protest. Such historical facts support the contention that the Black Cat was a major forerunner of Stonewall.

There have been other important effects of the historic protest that followed the police raid at the Black Cat bar. For instance, Herb Selwyn, a Los Angeles attorney, undertook to defend the men who were manhandled and arrested in the New Year's Eve police raid: He used in the men's defense the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment's "equal protection"

clause—the first time this Constitutional Amendment had ever been used in reference to gay rights. Selwyn's arguments were referred all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court (though the Court finally did not hear the case). In good part because of the attention given to such protests, Los Angeles gays became far more intrepid—for instance, they began to hold Gay-In's at Griffith Park in early 1968, which were later emulated all over the country.

I believe that if your Commission would designate the Black Cat as a historic site that act would help restore to the City its rightful place as the true pioneer in a gay rights movement that has positively affected millions of lives worldwide. I know that Mr. Timmons, who has been hospitalized with a stroke since March, would heartily endorse my support of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Lillian Faderman, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita, California State University, Fresno





SUNSET  
COIN-OP  
LAUNDRY

Coin-Op  
LaunderLand laundry

COIN  
LAUNDRY



LeBar

TO Santa Monica Bl  
SECOND LEFT



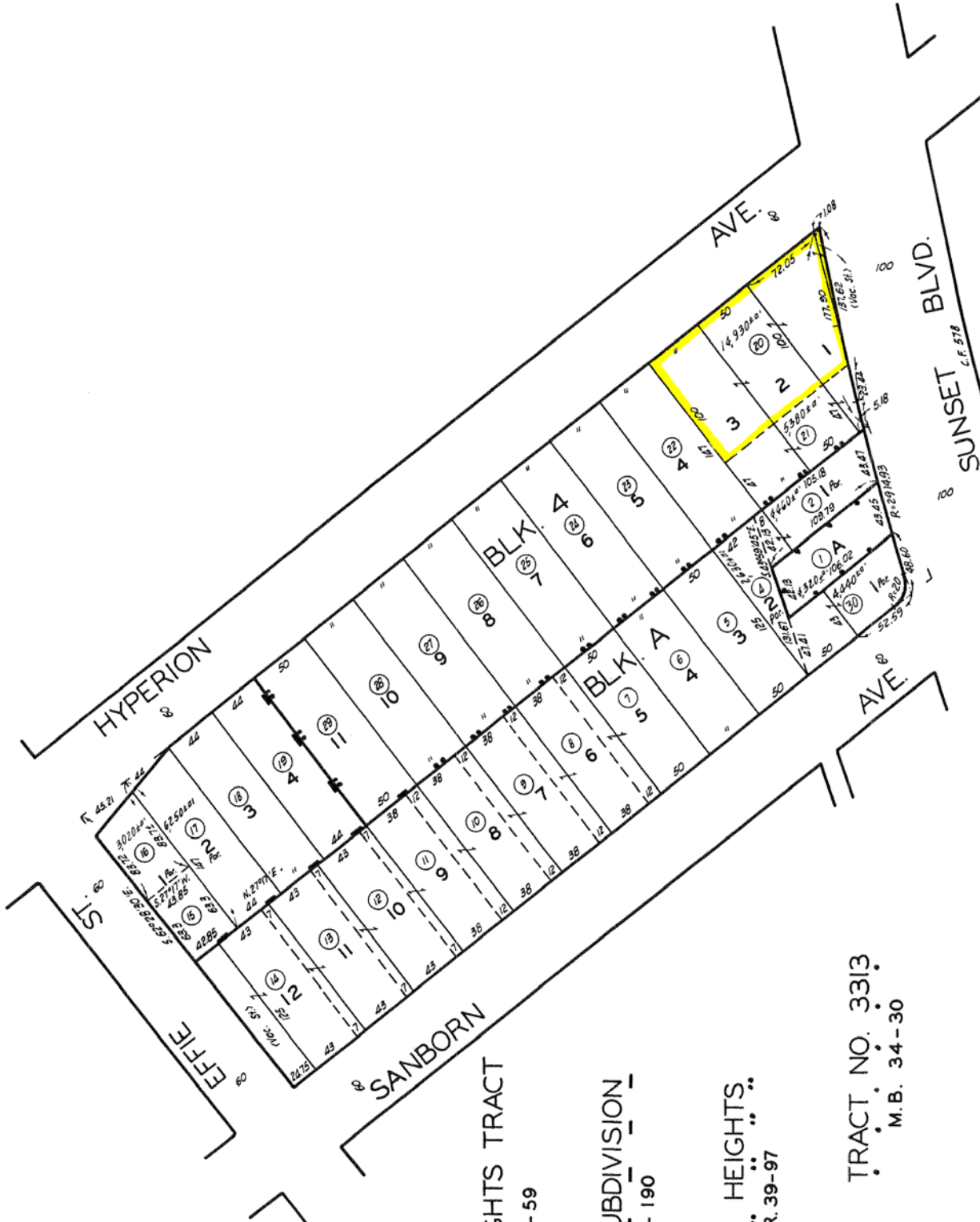
NEW CARDS

WINE

5429 13

SCALE 1" = 80'

REVISED  
680209  
840203817-8



MANZANITA HEIGHTS TRACT  
M. R. 19-59

O. L. BURNS SUBDIVISION  
M. B. 16-190

CHILDS HEIGHTS  
M. R. 39-97

TRACT NO. 3313  
M. B. 34-30

CODE  
13

FOR PREV. ASSMT. SEE: 38-217

ASSESSOR'S MAP  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.





## City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

05/27/2008

### PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

#### **PROPERTY ADDRESSES**

3915 W SUNSET BLVD  
3913 W SUNSET BLVD  
3911 W SUNSET BLVD  
3909 W SUNSET BLVD  
3901 W SUNSET BLVD  
3903 W SUNSET BLVD

#### **ZIP CODES**

90029

#### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

None

#### **CASE NUMBERS**

CPC-1995-357-CPU  
CPC-1986-255  
ORD-176825-SA26D  
ORD-165167-SA1530  
ZAI-1983-273

#### **Address/Legal Information**

PIN Number:	145-5A203 371
Area (Calculated):	4,919.0 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid:	PAGE 594 - GRID B5
Assessor Parcel Number:	5429013020
Tract:	CHILDS HEIGHTS
Map Reference:	M R 39-97
Block:	4
Lot:	FR 1
Arb (Lot Cut Reference):	None
Map Sheet:	145-5A203

#### **Jurisdictional Information**

Community Plan Area:	Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley
Area Planning Commission:	East Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council:	Silver Lake
Council District:	CD 13 - Eric Garcetti
Census Tract #:	1954.00
LADBS District Office:	Los Angeles Metro

#### **Planning and Zoning Information**

Special Notes:	None
Zoning:	[Q]C2-1VL
Zoning Information (ZI):	None
General Plan Land Use:	Neighborhood Commercial
Plan Footnote - Site Req.:	See Plan Footnotes
Additional Plan Footnotes:	Silver Lake
Specific Plan Area:	None
Design Review Board:	No
Historic Preservation Review:	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone:	None
Other Historic Designations:	None
Other Historic Survey Information:	None
Mills Act Contract:	None
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts:	None
CDO - Community Design Overlay:	None
Streetscape:	No
Sign District:	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area:	None
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency:	None
Central City Parking:	No
Downtown Parking:	No
Building Line:	None
500 Ft School Zone:	No
500 Ft Park Zone:	No

#### **Assessor Information**

Assessor Parcel Number:	5429013020
Parcel Area (Approximate):	21,910.7 (sq ft)
Use Code:	1100 - Stores
Assessed Land Val.:	\$1,114,268
Assessed Improvement Val.:	\$159,181
Last Owner Change:	04/26/05
Last Sale Amount:	\$1,200,012
Tax Rate Area:	13
Deed Reference No.:	2010912
Building 1:	
1. Year Built:	1939
1. Building Class:	CX

1. Number of Units:	0
1. Number of Bedrooms:	0
1. Number of Bathrooms:	0
1. Building Square Footage:	5,736.0 (sq ft)
Building 2:	
2. Year Built:	Not Available
2. Building Class:	Not Available
2. Number of Units:	0
2. Number of Bedrooms:	0
2. Number of Bathrooms:	0
2. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
Building 3:	
3. Year Built:	Not Available
3. Building Class:	Not Available
3. Number of Units:	0
3. Number of Bedrooms:	0
3. Number of Bathrooms:	0
3. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
Building 4:	
4. Year Built:	Not Available
4. Building Class:	Not Available
4. Number of Units:	0
4. Number of Bedrooms:	0
4. Number of Bathrooms:	0
4. Building Square Footage:	None
Building 5:	
5. Year Built:	Not Available
5. Building Class:	Not Available
5. Number of Units:	0
5. Number of Bedrooms:	0
5. Number of Bathrooms:	0
5. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)

#### **Additional Information**

Airport Hazard:	None
Coastal Zone:	None
Farmland:	Area not Mapped
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone:	No
Fire District No. 1:	No
Fire District No. 2:	Yes
Flood Zone:	None
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties:	No
Methane Hazard Site:	None
High Wind Velocity Areas:	No
Hillside Grading:	Yes
Oil Wells:	None
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone:	No
Distance to Nearest Fault:	2.44856 (km)
Landslide:	No
Liquefaction:	No

#### **Economic Development Areas**

Business Improvement District:	None
Federal Empowerment Zone:	None
Renewal Community:	No
Revitalization Zone:	None
State Enterprise Zone:	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative:	None

#### **Public Safety**

Police Information:	
Bureau:	Central
Division / Station:	Northeast
Report District:	1171
Fire Information:	
District / Fire Station:	35
Batallion:	5
Division:	1
Red Flag Restricted Parking:	No



## CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for Case Summaries is Retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) Database.

**Case Number:** CPC-1995-357-CPU

**Required Action(s):** CPU-COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

**Project Description(s):** SILVERLAKE/ECHO PARK COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE PROGRAM (CPU) - THE SILVERLAKE/ECHO PARK COMMUNITY PLAN IS ONE OF TEN COMMUNITY PLANS THAT ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE PROGRAM PHASE II (7-1-95 TO 12-31-96)

**Case Number:** CPC-1986-255

**Required Action(s):** Data Not Available

**Project Description(s):** AB-283 PROGRAM - GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONSISTENCY - SILVER LAKE AREA - COMMUNITY WIDE ZONE CHANGES AND COMMUNITY PLAN CHANGES TO BRING THE ZONING INTO CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMMUNITY PLAN. INCLUDES CHANGES OF HEIGHT AS NEEDED. REQUIRED BY COURT AS PART OF SETTLEMENT IN THE HILLSIDE FEDERATION LAWSUIT

CONTINUATION OF CPC-86-255. SEE GENERAL COMMENTS FOR CONTINUATION.

## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-176825-SA26D  
ORD-165167-SA1530  
ZAI-1983-273

**Building Permit History**  
**3903 & 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard**  
**Silver Lake**

- August 2, 1939: Building Permit No. 30145 to construct a 1-story 50' X 110' brick and concrete market building on part of Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Childs Heights.  
Owner: Safeway Stores, Inc.  
Architect: Frank L. Stiff  
Engineer: William D. Coffey  
Contractor: Harry W. Marshall  
Cost: \$10,000.00
- November 13, 1939: Building Permit No. 44489 to install crank type lateral arm roller awning to comply with City building ordinance.  
Owner: Safeway Stores, Inc.  
Architect: None  
Engineer: None  
Contractor: National Awning Co.  
Cost: \$125.00
- November 14, 1939: Building Permit No. 44561 to erect a 3' X 3' metal cooling tower on roof.  
Owner: Safeway Stores, Inc.  
Architect: None  
Engineer: None  
Contractor: Vernon Refrigeration and Electric Co.  
Cost: \$45.00
- March 29, 1946: Building Permit No. 9007 to repair existing concrete floors and paint the front.  
Owner: Safeway Stores, Inc.  
Architect: None  
Engineer: None  
Contractor: J. A. McNeil Co.  
Cost: \$1,000.00

## The Black Cat Photographs



*The Black Cat, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*





*The Black Cat, parapet, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, Bar sign still has original cat, 3909 W. Sunset Blvd, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, front entrance, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, interior viewed from front, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, June 8, 2008 (Wes Joe photo)*





*The Black Cat, interior viewed from rear, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, June 8, 2008 (Wes Joe photo)*



*50 The Black Cat, bar, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, June 8, 2008 (Wes Joe photo)*



*The Black Cat, parking lot wall , 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, parking lot light fixture, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



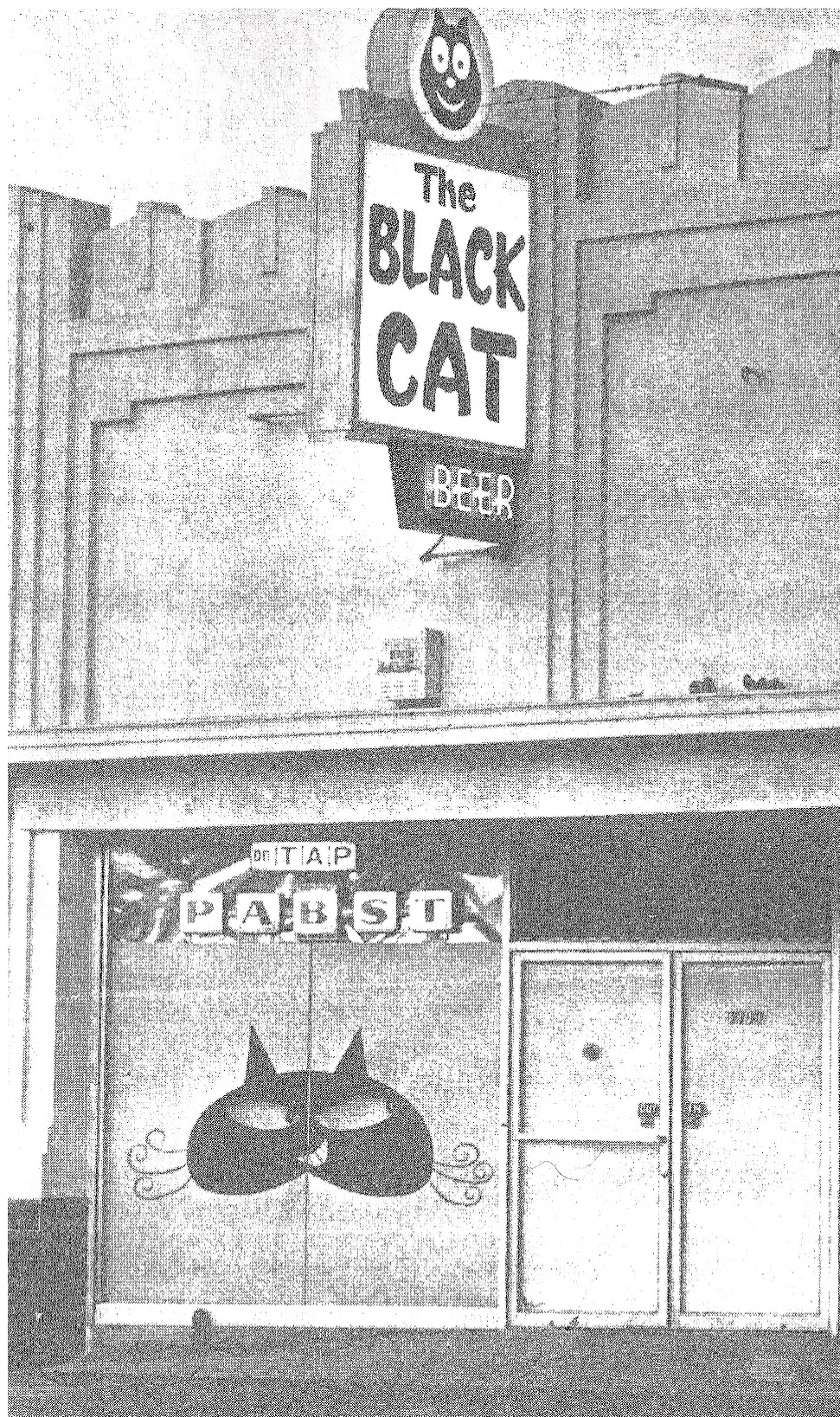


*The Black Cat, pilaster facing parking lot, 3909 W. Sunset Blvd., April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*



*The Black Cat, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard, April 4, 2008 (Charles J. Fisher photo)*





*The Black Cat as it appeared in 1967, 3909 W. Sunset Boulevard*