

BURBANK

66 Years of Progress



WARTIME LEGACY

In 1942, no one would have recognized Olive Park, except for the just-completed building that is today's Olive Recreation Center. Built with federal financing, the U.S.O.-type structure was used during World War II for entertaining servicemen and defense workers. Thirty-five years have greatly changed it and Olive Park.

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CHANGES ON MAGNOLIA

In 1919, Magnolia Boulevard was unpaved and lightly traveled as it crossed the Southern Pacific Main Line and ascended eastwards towards the Verdugo Mountains. Rows of trees then screened the southwest corner of Magnolia and Glenoaks Boulevards, where the new six-story California Federal Savings and Loan building now nears completion.



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GRACEFUL PAST

Spanish-style Burbank Public Library was built in 1935 on the north side of Olive Avenue just east of Glenoaks Boulevard. After serving the city for 28 years, it was torn down in 1963, when work was completed on the present Central Library. Last Fourth of July, a time capsule was installed in the park that marks the former library site.

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ON THE AIR

Besides pioneering motion pictures in Burbank, Warner Bros. also operated radio station KFVB, whose portable transmitter was installed in a Burbank-built Moreland bus. Now, Warner's is heavily into the recording business, and its attractive Warner Bros. Records, Inc. building stands on a former studio back lot at Warner Boulevard and California Street.



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CROSSROADS

The intersection of Magnolia Boulevard and Hollywood Way became the heart of Magnolia Park when it was subdivided in the early 1920's by developer Earl L. White. On the northeast corner, a drug store, food store and a pumpkin-shaped building that was long a city landmark have been displaced by an appliance store.

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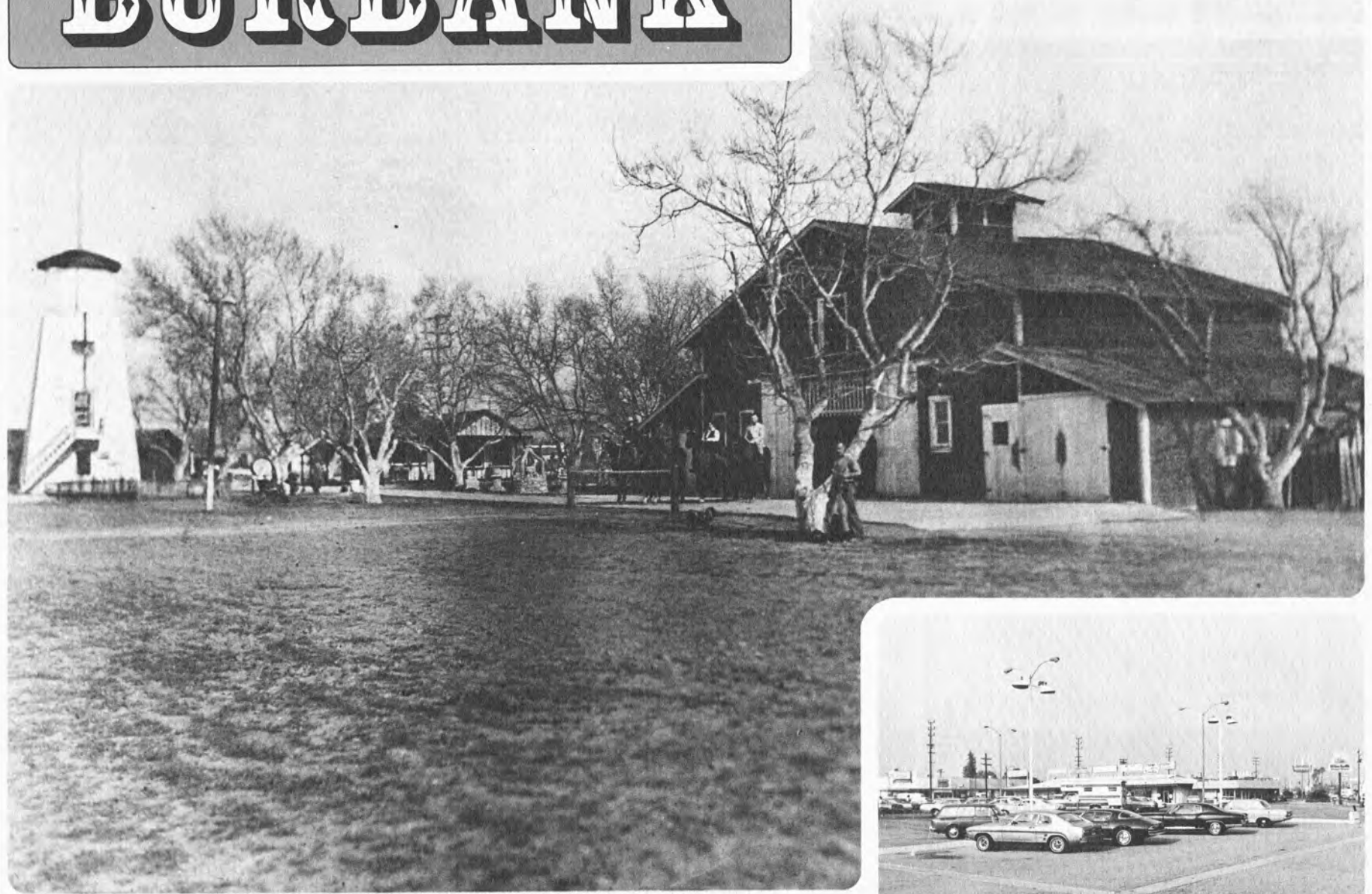
AERIAL CIRCUS

The opening of Burbank's United Airport on Memorial Day weekend of 1930 was a huge success, with thousands turning out to inspect the new facility and watch U.S. Army Air Corps fighters and bombers perform aerial feats. It remains as Hollywood-Burbank Airport, but the original airplanes and passenger terminal are many years gone.



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FAMILIAR SIGHT

Until the late 1930's, these buildings of the old Nancy Ellen Ranch were still standing near the center of town, in the triangle just west of the intersection of Olive and Verdugo Avenues, surrounded by apricot orchards and walnut groves. The area has since become a mini-shopping center, with a number of shops and restaurants.



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LANDMARK

This 14-room home of Burbank rancher Oliver J. Stough was located on the east side of Sixth Street, between what later became Cornell Drive and Bethany Road. Stough built the house after coming to Burbank in 1893 and putting together a 5,000-acre ranch. The two small palm trees in front have since grown tall and stately.

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BURBANK BOOSTERS

Members of the 1921 Burbank Chamber of Commerce pause for photograph after a gathering at the old Santa Rosa Hotel, located at present site of the downtown Post Office on Olive Avenue. Eventually incorporated in 1922, the Burbank Chamber and its staff have operated since 1951 from headquarters at Magnolia Boulevard and Lake Street.

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OUR OWN DISNEYLAND

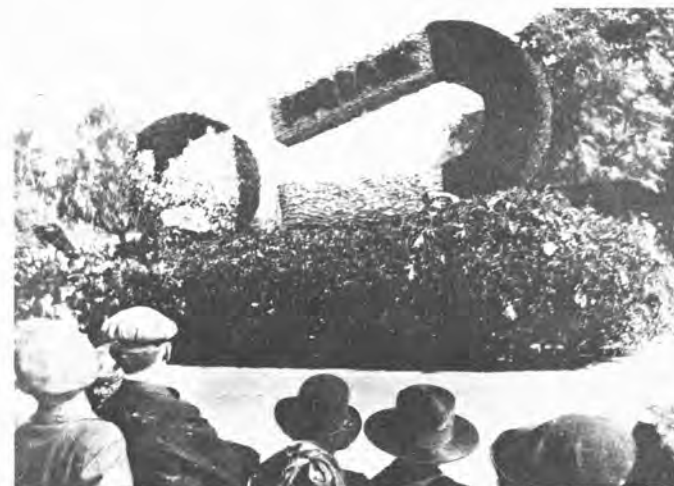
Early 1950's aerial view of Walt Disney Productions, at Alameda Avenue and Buena Vista Street, looks down onto sound stages, studios and seldom-seen back lot where many Disney cartoons and features were produced. St. Joseph Medical Center, at left, still awaited massive expansion. Mickey Avenue and Dopey Drive intersect inside Disney.



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BURBANK ON PARADE

Burbank has long participated and won trophies in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. Its 1914 entry was "Goddess of Plenty"; in 1921, a flowered magnet held the world in its force field; in 1939, Burbank's "Tally Ho — 1899" entry was an elaborate coach drawn by four flower-covered horses; and its 1977 choice, "High Adventure", featured floral balloons and balloonists bursting through the clouds.

HOUSING BOOM

Mid-century saw massive home construction in Burbank, as shown in this early 1951 view of Ben Mar Hills tract, at corner of Bel Aire Drive (left foreground) and Uclan Drive. Landscaping softened the harsh new look, and Bel Aire was later extended (lower right) to Cambridge Drive and eventually all the way up to Starlight Bowl.

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