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CELEBRITY HALL OF FAME (& SHAME) AT THE PIERPONT

The Pierpont opened its' doors on September 6, 1910. It immediately became a retreat (and refuge) for celebrities in the early days of Hollywood and beyond. The Inn also became a "hide-out" for celebrities involved in scandals that could jeopardize their careers - they would "disappear" from public eye until the scandal was past or cooled down. They could count on having their privacy protected and thus became loyal to the Inn. Even Fatty Arbuckle is rumored to have stayed here, briefly, during the scandal of his career.

The first recorded visit of a celebrity was that of Cecil B. DeMille. On April 20th of 1923, the Ventura Free Press noted that Mr. De Mille had "motored up" from Los Angeles and was a guest of the Inn during the shooting of his first version of "The Ten Commandments" with Claudette Colbert.

The 1920's & 30's

During the 1920's and 30's (the Golden Age of Hollywood, the Depression for the rest of the nation) the Inn saw many a famous visitor take a break from filming in LA. Delores Del Rio, Bette Davis, Edward G. Robinson, and Charlie Chaplin, to name a few, would quietly slip away from the bright lights to get ready for the next project.

Clark Gable and Carole Lombard were said to have eaten in the Inn's restaurant, as it was the "posh" place in town. They were frequent guests of Max Fleischmann (margarine heir) who owned the Olivas Adobe.

Earle Stanley Gardner was a local lawyer in the late 20's and began his "*Perry Mason*" novels in his office on California Street. He included the Inn as the opening setting of his first Perry Mason novel "*The Case of the Velvet Claws*". Mr. Gardner had a case-winning ritual. When he won, he would always come to The Pierpont Inn and eat his 'victory' dinner, a big steak, baked potato, and green salad. He had Mr. Mason do the same. In the early 30's, Mr. Gardner met his second wife, Jean Walter, when she was a hostess at The Pierpont. She became the prototype for the enduring Mason character, Della Street, played by Barbara Hale in the *Perry Mason* TV series of the 50's.

The 1940's

While the nation went to war, The Pierpont became a military bastion with actual searchlights by the cypress tree and gunnery battalions in the bluff below. Robert

Mitchum, Kirk Douglas and even Bob Hope have stopped here during that time. It is rumored that Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall used the Inn as a private place of escape during their famous love affair. In the late 40's (1949) future presidents would call the Inn home. The senior George Bush (along with Barbara and little George in tow) would live at the Inn for a year while Dad learned the oil business.

The 1950's & 60's

Gus & Mattie Gleichmann bought the Inn from the Pierponts in 1929. During post WWII prosperity, their son, Ted Gleichmann took over management of the Inn. Ted was a championship amateur PGA golfer. He was good friends with Bing Crosby and Fred Mac Murray. He even won the Bing Invitational Tournament (now the AT&T Pebble Beach PGA Golf Tournament) in 1963. He socialized with many celebrities and entertained them at the The Pierpont frequently.

From the 1970's to Today

From the 1970's to the present, the Inn has played host to the likes of Rod Steiger, George Segal, Ted Danson, Mary Steinburgen, John Travolta, Jane Fonda, Michael Douglas, James Garner, Peter Strauss, Claire Bloom and the list goes on. As in the beginning, the famous, infamous, and future famous come to the Inn to learn their lines, plan their projects, retreat into privacy, and hide from celebrity fame (and scandal).

The Present and the Future

A special relationship with celebrity, fame, and culture began in 1999 when The Pierpont became home to the actors of The Rubicon Theatre Company. By the Pierpont providing housing for outstanding talent (from not only Los Angeles, but the bright lights of Broadway), The Rubicon Theatre has exploded as THE "off Los Angeles" place for exquisite live theatre. Attracting name talent like Linda Purl, Stephanie Zimbalist, John Ritter, Richard Thomas, Susan Clark, Stacy Keach, Larry Hagman, etc; The Rubicon offers theatrical experiences such as "*Streetcar Named Desire*", "*The Little Foxes*", "*The Rainmaker*", "*The Glass Menagerie*", etc. The Pierpont Lounge is dedicated to the stars and craft of The Rubicon. These days, it is not uncommon to see a famous face across from your breakfast table at The Pierpont.

For further information please call Emily Raab of CMS at (805) 983-3495 or visit the Inn's website at www.pierpontinn.com