

## DAY 9 – Off to Hollywood

We all woke up in great shape and ready for another adventuresome day. We went back to The Club and had breakfast. Another great spread of food – and all included.

I can hardly believe it. I am going to Hollywood. I am sure Steve and Sharon think I am crazy. But this is a first for me. I am such a movie fanatic that my insides are jumping with excitement.

We did another walk around the hotel. I wanted a few more photos in the lobby. While Sharon and Annabelle checked out, Steve took me outside because he had a photo shoot for me.



The tallest building in LA, the US Bank Tower. Seven of the ten tallest buildings in California are located in Los Angeles. The Wiltshire Grand claims to be the tallest building, however Steve says that's because they include the flag pole on the top of the building as part of their height. So, we are going to give the tallest building award to the US Bank Tower.

It was then farewell to our night of sleeping where the stars have slept.

Now from the heights to the homes. Here is another building that I couldn't believe Steve would



think to take us there. Love it. The Cunningham house from Happy Days. "The Fonz"

Just have to mention that while we were waiting for Steve to go get the car, the Ghost Buster Vehicle pulled up. I managed to get a bit of a photo of it.



It was so cool. Certainly put a lot of smiles on the faces waiting in the parking area.



Finally, we were in our car and on our way. Steve gave me lots of information about the various places we pass by. My brother use to work for Capitol Records and it was rather nice to see that building.



Of course, there are the typical Hollywood Tours all over the place. They sure know how to do things down here. No half measures that's for sure and very competitive.



Steve also pointed out Charlie Chapman's Studio. The studio has changed hands many times. It was sold to N&M Studios (Al Hert and the Tijuana Brass also, home to the Muppets – Jim



Henson.



Steve tells me that these are the best hot dogs! It sure was a busy place. It was nothing to write home about as far as looks go and it was in a very iffy neighbourhood.



*Pink's has named several newer menu items after Hollywood [celebrities](#), some of whom can be seen at the restaurant.<sup>[8]</sup> There are many signed celebrity photographs hanging on the walls inside; some celebrities have signed more than one photo. The celebrity-named hot dogs are often versions actually ordered by the person in question. There is usually a long line of*

customers in front despite the lack of parking in the area. The often slow-moving line is viewed by some as part of the attraction at Pink's, especially on Friday and Saturday nights when the stand becomes packed with club and concert goers.

Steve turned a corner and told me to look straight ahead. OMG it was the Hollywood sign. Amazing! Talk about being excited.



Every time we turned a corner there was something else exciting to see. I just knew that there was no way I would be able to do justice in this blog about today.

Next, United Artists. The original site. The work place of stars like Howard Hughes, Mary Pickford (Some Like it Hot); Guys and Dolls; Dr. Phil; Gemini Man; the Terminator; Jack Ryan.

**United Artists Corporation (UA)**, currently doing business as **United Artists Digital Studios**, is an American television digital production company. Founded in 1919 by D. W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks, the studio was premised on allowing actors to control their own interests, rather than being dependent upon commercial studios.<sup>[2]</sup> UA was repeatedly bought, sold, and restructured over the ensuing century. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer acquired the studio in 1981 for a reported \$350 million (\$1 billion today).

I wish I could have cut down all those ugly power lines and get a really good photo of the building.





Many of the studios Steve told us have several gates of entry. The “rich” ones that the public always sees, and then the gate the workers (yes, even the famous actors and actresses) use.

The next one Steve showed us what Paramount Studios. Very impressive.



Then on to see the Disney Studios and the Raleigh Studios. Steve had all the information about who, what, where and why as far as these places went.



### ***A living piece of Hollywood history***

*With humble beginnings in 1915 when much of LA was still open farmland and big dreams, Raleigh Studios remains one of the longest continually-operating studios in the world. Run under the banners of the Famous Players Film Corp., Clune Studios,*

*California Studios among others, this 10-acre parcel of history has hosted some of Hollywood's biggest stars since the Golden Age of film. Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford have practiced their craft on these grounds. Two Academy Award winners for Best Picture (1946's "The Best Years of Our Lives" and 1967's "In The Heat of the Night") were filmed on this very lot.*



Steve then took us to the "Hollywood Forever Cemetery" the final resting place of Judy Garland. Not only was I named after her by my mother, but I had just been to see her Movie the week before I came to California. I was pleased he took me here.

**OS ANGELES (AP) — Judy Garland has been laid to rest in a mausoleum named for her at *Hollywood Forever Cemetery.***

*A spokeswoman for Garland's estate says her family and friends held a private memorial service for the actress on Saturday, which would have been Garland's 95th birthday. Jun 11, 2017*

It was a beautiful and peaceful spot for a great lady. Such a waste to lose her at such a young age, and to lose her talent.





We spent quite a bit of time walking around this lovely cemetery. There was actually some filming being done while we were there. Steve tried to see if he could find any of the actors but no luck. Many famous stars are buried here – The Voice of Woody Woodpecker The Old Lady from the “Golden Girls” Estelle Getty.



One very famous person buried there is “Toto” from the Wizard of Oz.

When I turned around to look at another headstone I could see the Paramount Water Tower which is a pretty famous landmark. One you always saw at the beginning of Paramount movies.

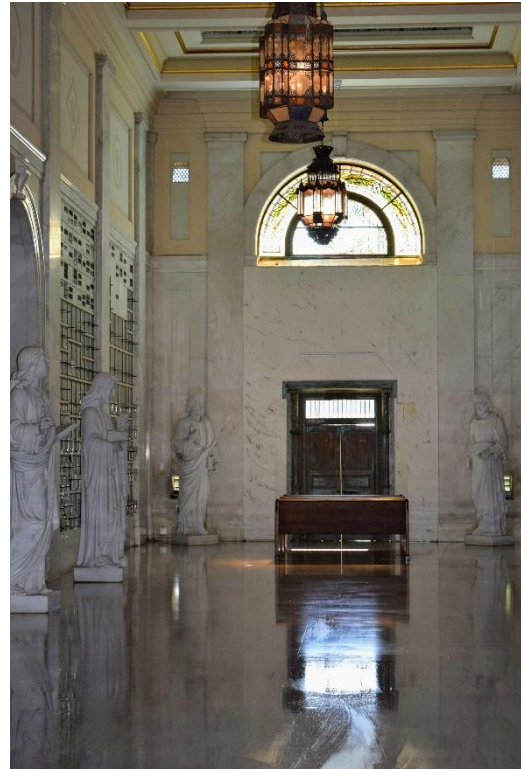


Actually it is just a memorial Steve said as before they could move him they built a freeway over his grave site. Guess he's not in Kansas any more.

We were planning on making one last stop to see Rudy Valentino's Mausoleum but they had just high gloss waxed the floors and we couldn't go in.

This place was all marble. Talk about a shine.

The rest of our day was spent in and around Hollywood. We did the walk of the stars and saw lots of "new" stars. They are marble and modern and Steve says that the agents actually pay to have these one put there.



The real walk of the stars is the area in front of the TCL Chinese theatre

*TCL Chinese Theatre is a movie palace on the historic Hollywood Walk of Fame. Originally named and still commonly known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, it was renamed Mann's Chinese Theatre in 1973; the name lasted until 2001, after which it reverted to its original name.*

I took lots of photos which you can see when you click on the Photo Link on our website. It was so exciting to be there. What I didn't like was this "religious" group of monks who were preaching salvation in very loud voices and actually being a nuisance as far as I was concerned. It did not add to the excitement of this historic spot at all.

My goal was to find Judy Garlands hands and I did. Very special experience. People do not treat the area very well. Chewing gum stuck into some of them. Too bad – it's just plain rudeness and destructiveness. Seeing so much of it.





I also had my photo taken on the "Oscar" red carpet. That was cool as well. A lot of footsteps have gone up that staircase.

We saw Madame Tousseands of Hollywood.



As Marilyn's sign says, it's more than just a wax museum.

Marilyn is still an icon in Hollywood. No one forgets her and there is still tons of touristy stuff around with her photo. There is also the Hollywood Museum that we were going to, but





we just ran out of time. It was going in there, or the Hollywood Hills and I really wanted to do the hills.

Steve drove us around to see more of the movie lots. Walt Disney, Paramount, Warner Brother Records. Lots of nice photos for you to look at.

We were a bit hungry so decided to grab some lunch at Mel's Diner. That was a lot of fun. An old fashioned soda type diner.

*Mel's Drive-In is an American restaurant chain founded in 1947. It is*

*closely associated with the film [American Graffiti](#) and with "Alice".*

When we finished lunch I was outside exploring a bit and saw an incredible mural on a building across the street from the diner.





Our drive up to the Hollywood Hills was quite the experience. So many cars and such a steep hill. There are a lot of beautiful homes in the area and the locals are not exactly thrilled with all the tourists who block the roads; park all over the place and create havoc. We could not get a place to park, so Steve pulled over and stayed in the car while we got the “famous” photo taken. WE REALLY WERE IN HOLLYWOOD!



We did a bit more driving around seeing lots of interesting things and Steve giving us such great information.

My memory bank is certainly full after these two very busy days. It will take me awhile to get over this trip I can tell you.

I really did like the look of the Disney Studio. The fence posts were Mickey Mouse. There



were hundreds of these fence posts.

If you looked carefully inside the fence you could see a building where the Seven Dwarfs were holding up the roof. Well done!

Someone had a great sense of humor.





As we were getting close to 5:00 and we had reservations at the Pantages Theatre at 7 we thought we better get something to eat. We went to George Clooney's Restaurant – The Smoke House. It was a lovely place, and the food was very good.



It looks very small, but it is extremely big inside and very busy. – all the time I understand. Regrettably George was not in the building.

After dinner we headed back to downtown Hollywood to the theatre.

I had to get a photo of the famous Hollywood and Vine sign. After all we were in Hollywood. Right?





As we were walking toward the theatre I saw a very interesting "car park".



I guess when you have no space to move outward you move up. We still had a bit of time before having to go into the theatre and Steve had gone to park the car so we went into the little bar right next door to the Pantages Theatre.

The Frolic Room. Now this was fun! I loved the story that we were told about the Frolic Room and wanted to share it. It's worth the read, and it's all true.



### ***The Frolic Room: A Hollywood Legend of Stars, Sleaze, Crime and Tragedy***

*Some people say there is nothing authentic or real about Hollywood anymore save the Frolic Room. The Frolic Room started its life as a speakeasy in 1930, while the country was still in the grips of prohibition. It opened as a legal bar in 1934 when prohibition ended. Howard Hughes bought the neighboring Pantages Theater in 1949 and from that year until 1954, the Pantages played host to the Academy Awards with the Frolic Room enjoying the after-party spill over.*

*Sinatra and Judy Garland were regulars, but the Frolic Room is also gruesomely remembered as the last place Elizabeth Short, aka the Black Dahlia, was seen alive before her 1947 murder.*

*Then murder came to the Frolic room. It was on April 10, 2010 that the Frolic Room transformed from being a location used in film noir to the scene of actual "noir." Though police never classified it as a murder, it's difficult to conceive it was anything else and it left the Hollywood nightlife community on edge.*

*Gerald Thomas Andersen was working the door enjoying conversation with customers outside for a smoke as was usual. He didn't really have his guard up. The Frolic Room didn't have a particularly rowdy or rough crowd. In fact they were far from it; seniors, tourists, and fans of the poet Charles Bukowski who was a regular and whose works are read at the bar each Monday evening.*

*He wasn't particularly concerned when a troublesome drunk quibbled over paying and he escorted him out of the bar. The last other employees saw was that Andersen turned his back on the man as he lead him out. The next time anyone saw Andersen he was unconscious in the cramped vestibule, blood pouring out his ears.*

*The police investigation never ruled it a homicide. The unnamed drunk patron was named as a "person of interest" but there were no witnesses and no way to prove the crime. Police said it was possible he lost his balance, fell and struck his head. However, doctors said it would have taken a fall from a height of at least 3 stories to produce a blow to the head with that much impact.*

*Andersen lived out the last ten days of his life in a coma. He was taken off of life support at his mothers request once she learned he may never regain consciousness and that if he did he would be in a nursing home the rest of his life unable to do even the simplest of things.*

*Despite the murder, the Frolic Room is one of the few venues on the walk of broken dreams (aka the Hollywood Walk of Fame) that doesn't have a ghost. However, that is more than made up for by the [three ghosts haunting the Pantages Theatre](#) that surrounds the bar.*

*We started this post to tell you to stop into one of the last "bars" in Hollywood, not of it's "dark side." We embarked to tell you that it is place to step back into authentic old Hollywood to for a beer or a shot served by a bartender wearing a suit (yes, a suit) that remembers your favorite drink when you come in. And despite that tragic night on April 5, 2010 it is still just that.*

*As for the celebrities that hung out in The Frolic Room, it shouldn't be said in the past tense. Several modern day celebrities hang out there from time to time. So when you are out on the Blvd and you need to wet your whistle, stop into the Frolic Room. You can't miss it. It's bright neon sign is right under the towering sign for the Pantages Theatre.*





Steve joined us in time to have a drink before we headed into the theatre. It was a great way to end our night in the “fast lanes” of Hollywood. Cheers



Our next stop the Pantages Theatre and the play Anastasia. The theatre was beautiful. The play was Ok, but very hard to make out the dialogue during the singing. A little disappointed, but not a lot. It was worth it just to go into the theatre itself.

At Intermission we had an Anastasia Cocktail. Whatever it takes to sell drinks. Of course we fell for it.



It was late when we got out of the theatre and we had the long drive back to Redlands. Poor Sharon. Wish we could have helped her with the driving. Steve came back to Redlands as well but he took his own car.

We were very tired when we got back to the house and we all went straight to bed. A wonderful two days and I am so grateful to Steve for showing me as much as he could of Hollywood. WOW!