

Turnvater Jahn would be proud:

Los Angeles Turners still growing strong

New concepts for the requirements of tomorrow

The Los Angeles Turners congratulate the German-American League on their 100th Anniversary. As Co-founders of the League the Turners are happy to be a part of this Organization again and we would like to help the German-American League grow and prosper in the coming 100 Years.

In 1871 the founders of the Los Angeles Turners started out with the teachings of Turnvater Jahn, who simply taught the early stages of gymnastics. Today's Turners – the name Turners derives from the German word "Turnen", which means gymnastics – are still active in some of the original Turners areas, in maintaining German culture and in fencing.

The Los Angeles Turners Singers got a boost in the recent years by their new choir director, Ollie Rasbury, who also works with legendary Performers like Della Reese. The athletics were

also revived by a new Turner's Fencing group. After several recent changes the Turners are adjusting and mapping out the new course.

Dennis Fredricks became President of the Los Angeles Turners in 1996 and ushered in the changes of a new generation. In the decade that followed, the proportion of younger members swelled to 20% for the first time in 30 years.

With a new fencing program Dennis reinstituted, in part, the Turners' athletic tradition. Relations were strengthened with the German and Austrian Consulates, the DAV and the Turners' sister organizations.

Contemporary media such as computers, fax, copiers, a stereo sound system and a big screen TV updated the organization's capital assets. New insignia pins and polo shirts became public badges of identity. The Turners' 125th and 130th anniversaries were celebrated at gala venues, joined by German and Austrian diplomats, public figures, community leaders and many other friends of the discus-thrower.



The Turner Singers had to say Good-bye to their Choir leader and Turners Vice President Lilly Layton and her husband, Turners CFO Ray (front right, sitting) who retired to Las Vegas in late 2004.

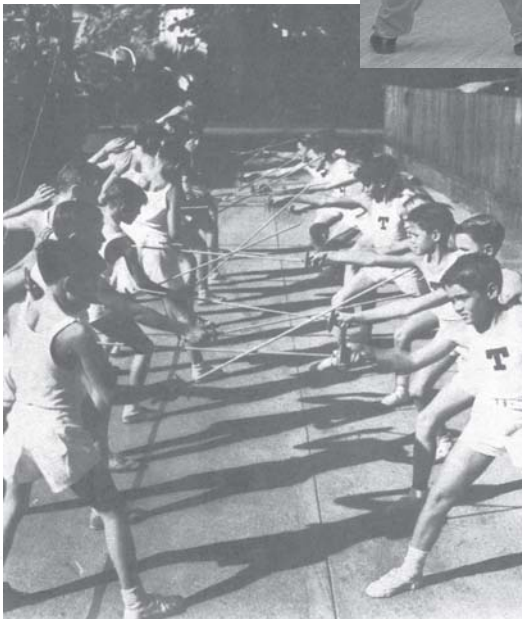
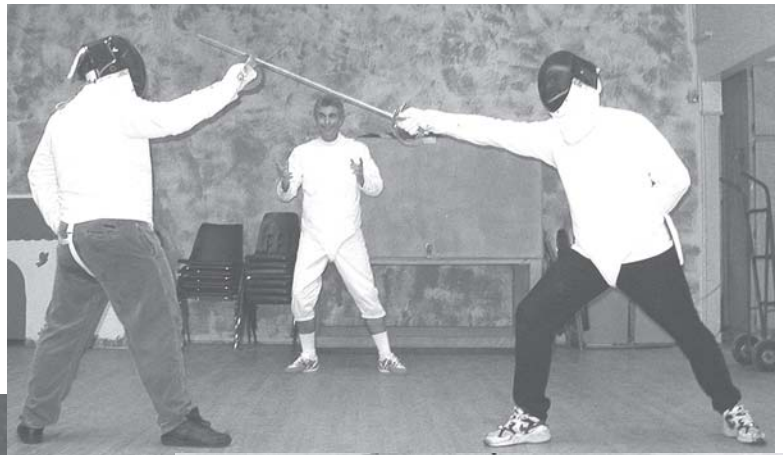


The late 1990's and the early 2000's were also a time of farewells to legendary Turners like Marianne Imendorf and Marie Ramsperger, both of whom passed away. Other pillars of the organization like Harry Herbert, and Ray and Lilly Layton, retired.

New leadership emerged and continues to be developed at the Turners. Dennis Fredricks brought in Alexander Hast, who developed the Turners' website and newsletter. Alexander sings with both the Turners Choir and his band, the Bluebirds, fences saber, and by 2004, rose to the Vice Presidency and the position of CFO of the Turners.

A number of the newer Turners are taking charge of various events and activities.

Third generation Turner Carl Schaefer stays on as Dean, assuring an abiding continuity with the founding principles of Turnerism.



Fencing has been a Turners Sport since the 1800's. Here the Turner youth at a fencing demonstration in 1935 (with Carl Schaefer as one of the fencers) and the Turners Fencens of today (picture top right)

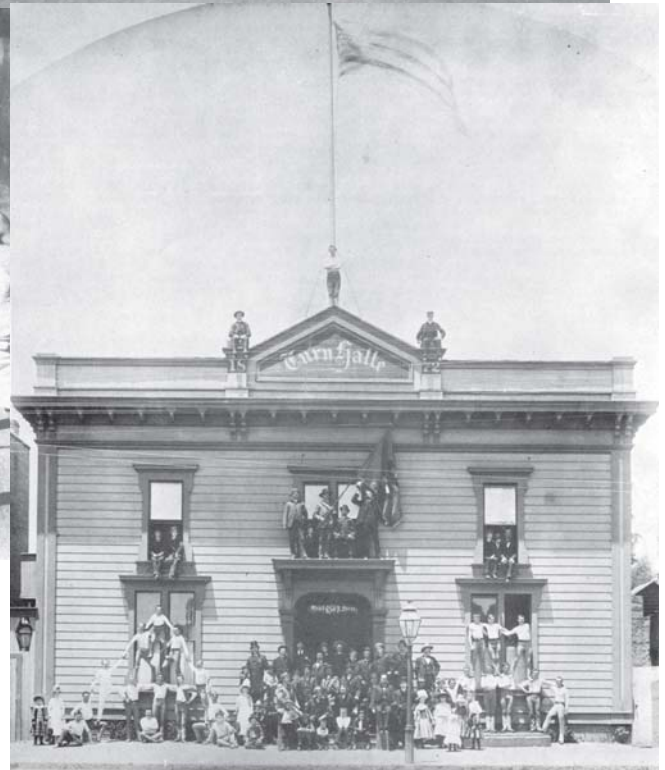
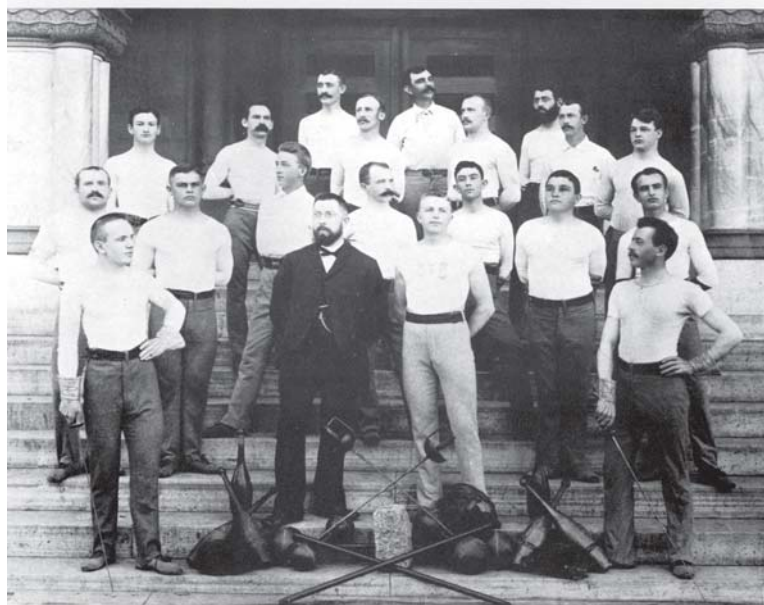


Photo above: Honorary Turners Member Eric Braeden with Director Angie Hegedus.

Right: The Turners Singers after a successful concert. President Dennis Fredricks thanks Choir Director Ollie Rasbury and Choir leader Lilly Layton.





B. Frankfeld H. Oser A. Brauer
H. Breer I. Tag H. Krohn C. J. Rhoda
C. Green E. Nollac E. Langer C. L. Rhoda
J. Jedofsky F. Langer H. Simon R. Krohn
C. Entenmann C. Wagner W. Breer
W. Goblet L. Nollac I. P. Krammel

Bits of History

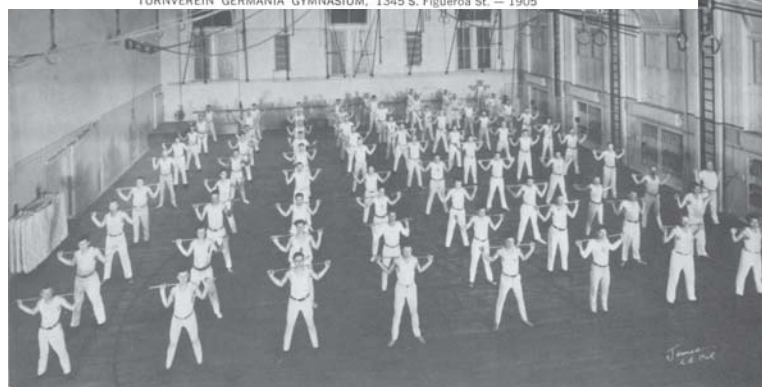
The year was 1870. Los Angeles was still a sleepy town with a population of less than 6000. Still no railroads and the few existing streets were not yet paved. In that year a circular was sent out by Messrs. Emil Harris and F. Morsch calling a meeting for the purpose of founding a Turnverein. Twelve men answered the summons. After the chairman had explained the purpose of the meeting, it was decided to hold another meeting. At this meeting the statutes were adopted wherein it was stipulated to require an initiation fee of \$5.00 and a monthly membership fee of \$1.00.

The society having now been fully organized under the name of Los Angeles Turnverein proceeded immediately to develop its activities. The Turners temporarily used a free space in Mother Wiebecke's garden. Here the purchased apparatus were set up. Meanwhile the Turners decided to purchase a plot of land on the west side of Spring Street, between Second and Third St., for \$1000.00. The money was raised through the sale of stocks among the Turners.

However a few months afterwards a number of Turners withdrew and founded the Concordia Turnverein, which a little later combined with the existing Teutonic Singing Society, which was founded in 1859. Since they performed their gymnastics in the Butcher Corral of Theo. Froehlinger they were nick-named the "Butcher Boys".

It was evident that three distinct German societies could not continue to exist. Therefore repeated attempts were made to bring about a union of

the three groups. The victories of the Germans over the French in 1871 led to a victory celebration in common. Upon this occasion the feeling of unity among all the Germans in Los Angeles was enhanced when Turner Levouvreux seized a German flag and in a stirring speech enjoined all the societies finally to become united. This act led to the amalgamation of the Los Angeles Turnverein and the Teutonia-Concordia at a meeting held in



common on June 10th, 1871. Upon the motion of Dr. Joseph Kurtz the society was called "Turn-Verein Germania". The incorporation of the society, decided upon on June 12th, was granted by the State on June 19th, 1871.

In 1876 the Rifle-Section of the T. V. G. was founded with Turner Henry Glass as the first captain of the marksmen. A number of the best marksmen on the coast belonged to this section.

After the first Turner Hall was built in 1871, the city experienced a great land boom in 1886 and 1887. Not only the population but also the number of societies grew like mushrooms. Thus suddenly the hall proved too small and therefore it was decided to erect an impressive new building. The old hall was moved to Third Street, between Broadway and Hill, remodeled into a hotel and as such has since been used for many a year.

In its place there was built a three story building which for years was an ornament to the then still small city. This building had everything requisite for a Turner Hall: a specious gym with showers and dressing rooms on the main floor, a large dance hall with stage and club rooms on the second floor, assembly hall and library together with manager's



LOS ANGELES TURNERS MALE CHORUS — 1971

1920 - 1964



BILL TOM EDDIE BENSON DICK BECKNER CHAS. SIMS JACK BECKNER
HARVEY DONALS

quarters on the third floor. Besides it contained a restaurant, quite a unique feature at that time.

In the fall of 1892 Instructor C. J. Rhode introduced the Turner system of physical education in the public schools of Los Angeles.

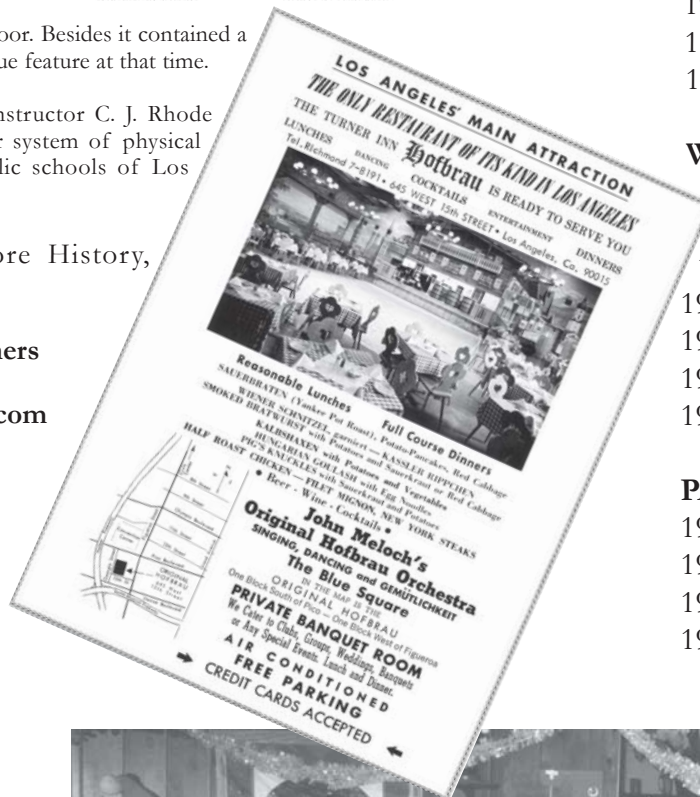
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Los Angeles Turners

Ph: 310.972.1861

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LOS ANGELES TURNERS ON: OLYMPIC TEAMS

1920 Antwerp	Paul Krempel
1928 Amsterdam	Paul Krempel
1952 Helsinki	Jack Beckner
1952 Helsinki	Charles Simms
1956 Melbourne	Jack Beckner
1956 Melbourne	Richard Beckner
1956 Melbourne	Charles Simms
1956 Melbourne	Bill Tom
1956 Melbourne	Armando Vega
1960 Rome	Jack Beckner
1960 Rome	Larry Banner
1964 Tokyo	Larry Banner
1964 Tokyo	Armando Vega
1964 Tokyo	Ron Barak
1964 Tokyo	Art Shurlock

WORLD GAMES

1954 Rome	Jack Beckner
1954 Rome	Charles Simms
1958 Moscow	Jack Beckner
1958 Moscow	Larry Banner
1958 Moscow	Armando Vega
1958 Moscow	Art Shurlock
1962 Prague	Larry Banner

PAN AMERICAN GAMES

1955 Mexico	Jack Beckner
1955 Mexico	Richard Beckner
1955 Mexico	Bill Roy
1959 Chicago	Jack Beckner

The 2004/2005
Los Angeles Turners'
Board of Directors
(left to right):
Alexander Hast,
Dennis Fredricks,
Gisela Heumann,
Angie Hegedus,
Doris Stöfler,
Eliane Ubassy,
Carl Schaefer
and
Marie Ramsperger.

