

**ACCELERATED REVIEW PROCESS - E**

Office of the City Engineer

Los Angeles, California

To the Honorable Council

Of the City of Los Angeles

Honorable Members:

APR 02 2007

C. D. No. 13 ✓

SUBJECT:

Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street - Walk of Fame Additional Name in Terrazzo Sidewalk –  
JAMES BACON

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. That the City Council designate the unnumbered location situated one sidewalk square westerly of and between numbered locations 19S and 20S as shown on Sheet 22 of Plan D-13788 for the Hollywood Walk of Fame for the installation of the name of James Bacon at 1637 Vine Street.
- B. Inform the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce of the Council's action on this matter.
- C. That this report be adopted prior to the date of the ceremony on April 6, 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

No General Fund Impact. All cost paid by permittee.

TRANSMITTALS:

- 1. Unnumbered communication dated March 22, 2007, from the Hollywood Historic Trust of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, biographical information and excerpts from the minutes of the Chamber's meeting with recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

The Walk of Fame Committee of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has submitted a request for insertion into the Hollywood Walk of Fame the name of James Bacon. The ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 6, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.

The communicant's request is in accordance with City Council action of October 18, 1978, under Council File No. 78-3949. Following the Council's action of approval, and upon proper application and payment of the required fee, an installation permit can be secured at 201 N. Figueroa Street, 3rd Floor, Counter "23".

Respectfully submitted,



For

Lemuel M. Paco, P.E.  
Central District Engineer  
Bureau of Engineering

sm: bacon.02  
(213)482-7055

cc: Construction Services Center, Counter "23"  
Bureau of Street Services  
Administration

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March 22, 2007

Mr. Gary Lee Moore  
Public Works Engineering  
Att: Lemuel Paco  
201 N. Figueroa St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, M.S. 503  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Fax 213 482-7007

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Walk of Fame Committee of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has approved the below listed name for insertion into the Hollywood Walk of Fame:

**JAMES BACON- (Category –MOTION PICTURES)-** Requested star location to be 1637 Vine Street, west side of the street. The star for **JAMES BACON** will be situated next to the stars of **FRANK SINATRA(19S)**, to the north and **CORNELL WILDE** which is numbered (20s) to the south. According to sheet # 22 plan 13788, **JAMES BACON'S** star is not numbered as it is in the second row closest to the building. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 6, at 11:30 a.m.

Thank you for your cooperation in this request. I look forward to a response from your office soon. If you have questions call me at (323) 468-1376.

The following materials are enclosed: **JAMES BACON's** bio, and the Board of Director's Minutes.

Sincerely,

Ana Martinez-Holler  
Vice President, Media Relations

cc:

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
Councilman Eric Garcetti  
Sally Castro  
Sgt. Mike Arminio  
Inspector Gladden  
Topher Best  
Pam Golum

Johnny Grant  
Ralph Pipes  
Leron Gubler  
Top End Constructors  
Sandra McClellan  
Carmine Goglia

Hollywood Chamber of Commerce  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Minutes 8/23/2000

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**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Dankberg, Edell, Grant, Joyner, Kaneko, Kleinick, Langer, Malagon, Neill, O'Rourke, Panatier, Rouze, Salamone, Smith, Spangler, Strabala, Taylor, Tronson, Van Cleve, Wenzlaff, Wood.

**HONORARY DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Adams, Lestz, Spero, Tynan.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Leron Gubler, Todd Lindgren, Anne Stearns, and Ana Martinez Holler and BJ French.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Arslanian, Cluff, Dohy, Druyen, Dudas, Greer, Hough, Mandernach, Minzer, Nadel, Papadaki, Rainwater, Ullman, Waller and Williams.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairman of the Board Michael-Jon Smith.

**II. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- A. Tronson reported that the Chamber is above budget for July membership income by \$3,700. July saw a net gain in membership of 5, for a total membership of 990. Tronson congratulated the staff on doing such great work. Kleinick, Salamone (MSP) to approve the membership report.
- B. Tronson asked for volunteers to call soon-to-be-dropped members. Langer volunteered to call Propaganda Films, Tronson will call King, King.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tronson, Salamone (MSP) to approve minutes with the addition of Christi Van Cleve to "Directors Present" for both June and July.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Hollywood Postmark & Walk of Fame Update**

Grant reported that there will be an unveiling of the postmark at a luncheon on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. where the new Postmaster will also be introduced. Chairman Smith thanked Johnny for his hard work with the post office.

Antonio Aguilar will get his star of the Walk of Fame on September 7<sup>th</sup>. New inductees for consideration of the Board to the Walk of Fame are: Whoopi Goldberg, James Bacon, and Sydney Skolsky. Grant, Joyner (MSP) to approve the inductees.

**B. Chamber Remodel Update**

**VII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by



Anne Stearns  
Director of Tourism & Special Events

## BIOGRAPHY

### JAMES BACON

James Bacon, dean of Hollywood columnists, caps one of the most colorful careers in journalism history on April 6 when he will be honored with his star unveiling on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In a career stretching back 70 years, Bacon, who turns 93 on May 12, has smoked cigars with Winston Churchill, bantered with presidents from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to John F. Kennedy and George Herbert Walker Bush and met the current president when he was a toddler.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower wanted a photo of his favorite entertainers, the singing Lennon Sisters, Bacon got him an autographed copy.

He first met the young Congressman John F. Kennedy when Kennedy visited his sisters Patricia and Eunice at Father Patrick Peyton's Hollywood radio headquarters of his popular Roman Catholic weekly show "Family Theater." Fr. Peyton had been a classmate of Bacon's at Notre Dame.

Bacon's friendship with JFK remained until his death in November, 1963. Two months earlier, Kennedy had debarked in Palm Springs, California, for a vacation stop at the desert resort, accompanied as usual by his dark-suited phalanx of White House reporters and Secret Service agents. Spotting Bacon on the tarmac wearing yellow shorts and a blue and white-checked sport shirt, Kennedy

2.

walked over and laughed:

“Only a Hollywood reporter would meet the President dressed like that.”

As a young Associated Press reporter in Chicago, Bacon dined nightly at Henrici's restaurant with members of the Capone gang and kept quiet about the secret upright lives their wives and children led under assumed names in Chicago suburban mansions.

Later, as a reporter-columnist for the AP and for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Bacon hung out in the wee small hours with Frank Sinatra, from the pyramids of Egypt to backstage Las Vegas, from Princess Grace's Monaco palace to the clamoring crowds of 200,000 fans singing along with Frank in Rio's Maracana soccer stadium.

With Bob Hope, he traveled the battlefields of Viet Nam, traded jokes in military helicopters over Alaskan glaciers and fudged on golf scores in the comedian's backyard course and at his famed Palm Springs pro-am.

Bacon became fast friends with Marilyn Monroe at the beginning of her career in 1949 and regretfully reported on her suicide in 1962.

His long friendship with Elizabeth Taylor began after he attended the first of her eight weddings, to Nicky Hilton. In later years, he would down Thanksgiving dinner in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, with her and soon to be fifth husband Richard

3.

Burton during filming of "Night Of the Iguana", when fourth husband Eddie Fisher refused a million dollar offer to give her a divorce . Reaching Fisher in Beverly Hills by ship-to-shore phone, Bacon asked Fisher why he wouldn't accept the million-dollar settlement.

"Because I'm still married to Elizabeth," replied Fisher, whom Bacon then advised, "Let me be the first to tell you that Richard Burton is down here having a helluva lot of fun with your wife."

A few years earlier , Bacon unwittingly cheated death when he refused to fly to New York on a stormy night with Elizabeth's third husband Mike Todd. He later had the regrettable task of telling her that Todd had died in the plane's crash over Grant's Pass, New Mexico.

John Wayne had him over for the christening of his youngest son, John Ethan and he and the "Duke" developed a friendship that extends to this day with Wayne's children and grandchildren.

Cary Grant once paid Bacon the ultimate compliment when he told him he wished he looked as good in a tux as Bacon did.

At times, master comics Bob Hope and Milton Berle asked for permission to use some of Bacon's jokes from his columns.

Bacon caught the Golden Age of Hollywood when the Associated Press

4.

transferred him from its Chicago bureau in 1948. His lively writing style had attracted the eye of AP executive editor Alan J. Gould. With the wit and drinking habits of his Irish forbears Bacon soon became an "honorary mouse" with the famed Holmby Hills Rat Pack of Sinatra, Judy Garland, Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, David Niven "Prince" Mike Romanoff, famed novelist John O'Hara, New Yorker cartoonist Charles Addams and presidential nominee Adlai Stevenson.

Bacon's solid reporting gained him the respect of aviation pioneer Howard Hughes who in the 1940's and 50's was escorting many of the most beautiful women in Hollywood. When Clifford Irving wrote his bogus biography of Hughes in the 1960's it was Bacon who with certainty identified Hughes' voice at a telephonic press conference denying the book's accuracy. Later, Bacon explained he knew it was the reclusive Hughes "because he used to telephone me all the time at my home and at the AP bureau."

James Richard Hughes Bacon made news from the day of his birth on May 12, 1914, in Buffalo, New York, to Margaret Hughes and Thomas Bacon. Thomas Bacon had been a reporter and printer for journalism titans Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst at the New York World and the New York Journal. At 15 pounds, baby Bacon became a front page story as "the biggest baby" his doctor

5.

had ever delivered.

He was a small town kid who grew up in the Pennsylvania towns of Jersey Shore (population 4,500) and Lock Haven (population 15,000 ). He began his fascination with movies at age six at the lone Jersey Shore movie house where the bill would change every night. Admission was six cents. "The first movie I saw was an Art Accord two-reeler Western directed by a young William Wyler, freshly arrived from Germany," Bacon recalls.

"About 35 years later, Wyler, by then a top Hollywood director, told me he not only had a shaky knowledge of English back then, but also had no idea what a Western was."

As a star quarterback on the Lock Haven High School football team, Bacon was recruited by legendary football coach Knute Rockne to play on the University of Notre Dame football team. But a summer job after his freshman year in a broiling Indiana steel mill caused Bacon to lose so much weight he lost his football scholarship. He nonetheless worked his way through Notre Dame and has remained a life-long Notre Dame fan.

Bacon's first newspaper job was as a summer intern during his junior year at Notre Dame with the South Bend (Indiana) News-Times.

After leaving college he became editor on the weekly Clinton County

6.

(Pennsylvania). Times, later returning to Indiana to report for the daily Laporte Indiana Herald Argus, from 1939 to 1942.

In 1942, he moved to the Syracuse (New York) Herald Journal as night city editor. He joined the Associated Press in Albany, New York, in 1943, as a general assignment reporter, also covering New York state politics under then Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. It was during that tenure that Bacon accompanied President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the historic train ride which carried them from Roosevelt's Hyde Park, N.Y. home to the Quebec (Canada) Conference on World War II strategy.

Bacon joined the U.S. Navy during World War II serving as an officer breaking Japanese codes. He rejoined the Associated Press after the war first in its Chicago bureau and then in Hollywood.

During his early years in Hollywood he befriended William Randolph Hearst's mistress actress Marion Davies who brought him to her Beverly Hills home to meet Hearst a year before he died. Although Hearst was wheel-chair bound, his memory of his powerhouse days 50 years earlier in New York was still sharp.

"Are you Tom Bacon's boy?" Hearst asked Jim when Marion introduced them.

"I hired your father from Pulitzer in Steve Broidy's saloon at double his salary," Hearst told Bacon. Later, Jim's 82-year-old father recalled that was just

7.

as it had happened.

Bacon left the Associated Press in 1966 for brief stints as a Hollywood press agent with publicity powerhouse Rogers and Cowan and as a columnist for the trade paper Hollywood Reporter. In 1968, he joined Hearst's Los Angeles Herald-Examiner for which he wrote a Hollywood column for 18 years.

He authored two books of memoirs in the 1970's , both best sellers, "Hollywood Is A Four-Letter Town" and "Made In Hollywood." He also is the author of the Jackie Gleason biography "How Sweet It Is," which he wrote at Gleason's request and with his cooperation. It, too, was a best seller.

He is still a practicing Hollywood columnist writing a weekly column for the glossy publication "Beverly Hills 213."

Bacon has been married for 41 years to former Associated Press reporter Doris Klein. His first marriage ended in divorce. He is the father of six children, grandfather of 14 and great grandfather of seven, almost all of whom will be with him at his Hollywood Walk of Fame star ceremony.

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March, 2007