

# Harvester Farms

## Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument 645

Designated March 5, 1997

Harvester Farms includes a 1920's style Barn and surrounding buildings as the cultural monument. The main house is a California Ranch style structure. The barn is described as a two-story barn complete with a hay loft, stables, ranch hand living quarters complete with rest room, showers and old telephones.



- Headquarters of the Palomino Horse Association of America
- Harvester was the father of Mr. Ed – the talking horse, a 1961-66 TV Series
- Located on Devonshire west of Topanga

- The Harvester was foaled in 1938, bred by James Fagan.
- Jim was a trainer for William Randolph Hearst at the Hearst Ranch in Hidden Valley, Camarillo / Thousand Oaks. Jim and Edna married around 1939 and moved to their own ranch in Agoura.
- Harvester was a golden Palomino that sired over 100 registered Palominos. These horses were most successful in Trick, Reined, Western Pleasure and Parade competitions.
- The Fagans moved to Reseda in 1943, and bred and trained Golden Palominos.
- In 1952 Jim died at the age of 70 in a horse accident in San Fernando. He is buried at Oakwood Memorial Park.



**THE HARVESTER 2359-14 P.H.A.**

"WORLD FAMOUS GOLDEN PALOMINO STALLION"

ROSE PARADE—PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

**JIM FAGAN**, Owner and Trainer of Parade, Stock and Pleasure Horses

SUNSET FARMS, 16301 Foothill Boulevard, San Fernando, California — Empire 1-5373

Photo — John H. Williamson, Pomona, Calif.

- In 1950 The Harvester starred in the movie "The Palomino" filmed in Chatsworth.
- The outdoor locations were in the rugged hills above Chatsworth Lake and on the ranch of Max Schonfeld, who at the time was the general manager of Devonshire Downs.
- Roy Rogers purchased Max Schonfeld's 130-acre ranch at the west end of Lassen in 1955

You can watch the 1950 movie ["The Palomino"](#) on YouTube



## FILMED IN VALLEY

# Jim Fagan and 'Harvester' Starring in Current Release

San Fernando Valley's thousands of horse owners and riders are particularly thrilled by Columbia's technicolor picture "The Palomino," shot on outdoor locations in the rugged hills above Chatsworth Lake and on the ranch of Max Schonfeld, general manager of the 51st District Agricultural Assn., and in which Jim Fagan's champion stallion, The Harvester, is starred.

Jerome Courtland, Beverly Tyler, Joseph Calleia and Roy Roberts are featured leads in the picture which unfolds thrilling action where huge boulders and twisting, tortuous paths mark that part of the Santa Susanna mountain range where but a few months ago more than a score of lives were lost in an airplane crash.

### Aids Drill Groups

A sequence of the picture there required 30 palomino mares to run wild.

Jim Fagan, who values The Harvester at more than \$100,000, has been a prominent member of the famed Golden Horse Quadrille that has carried the name of the San Fernando Valley to hundreds of shows where the spectacular quadrille on Palomino-mounted riders has been given.

and friend to the valley's other famed parade and drill groups such as the San Fernando Rangers, Western Rockettes, Shadowettes, Silver Glen Vaqueros, Valley Rangerettes and Valleyettes whose members are acclaiming the thrilling story of the golden "Palomino" now showing at La Reina Theatre in Sherman Oaks.

### Made For Part

"I took one look at The Harvester with his gleaming golden sheen and platinum blonde mane and tail, and knew he was made to order for technicolor cameras," says Robert Cohn, producer of "The Palomino."

The Harvester, 11 years old, is famed not only as a sire of many golden champions, but as a perfectly trained show horse.

1950-03-30 The  
Van Nuys News  
and Valley Green  
Sheet



- Edna moved to Harvester Farms in Chatsworth around 1953. In 1963 Harvester died in the barn.
- In 1971 Edna rode her horse Highland Harvest in the Rose Parade, her 28<sup>th</sup> year of participation. (LA Times)
- Alex Madonna, a good friend of Edna and owner of the Madonna Inn, told Dan Huffman that Edna rode in 36 consecutive Rose Parades.
- Edna died in 1988, 93 years old.

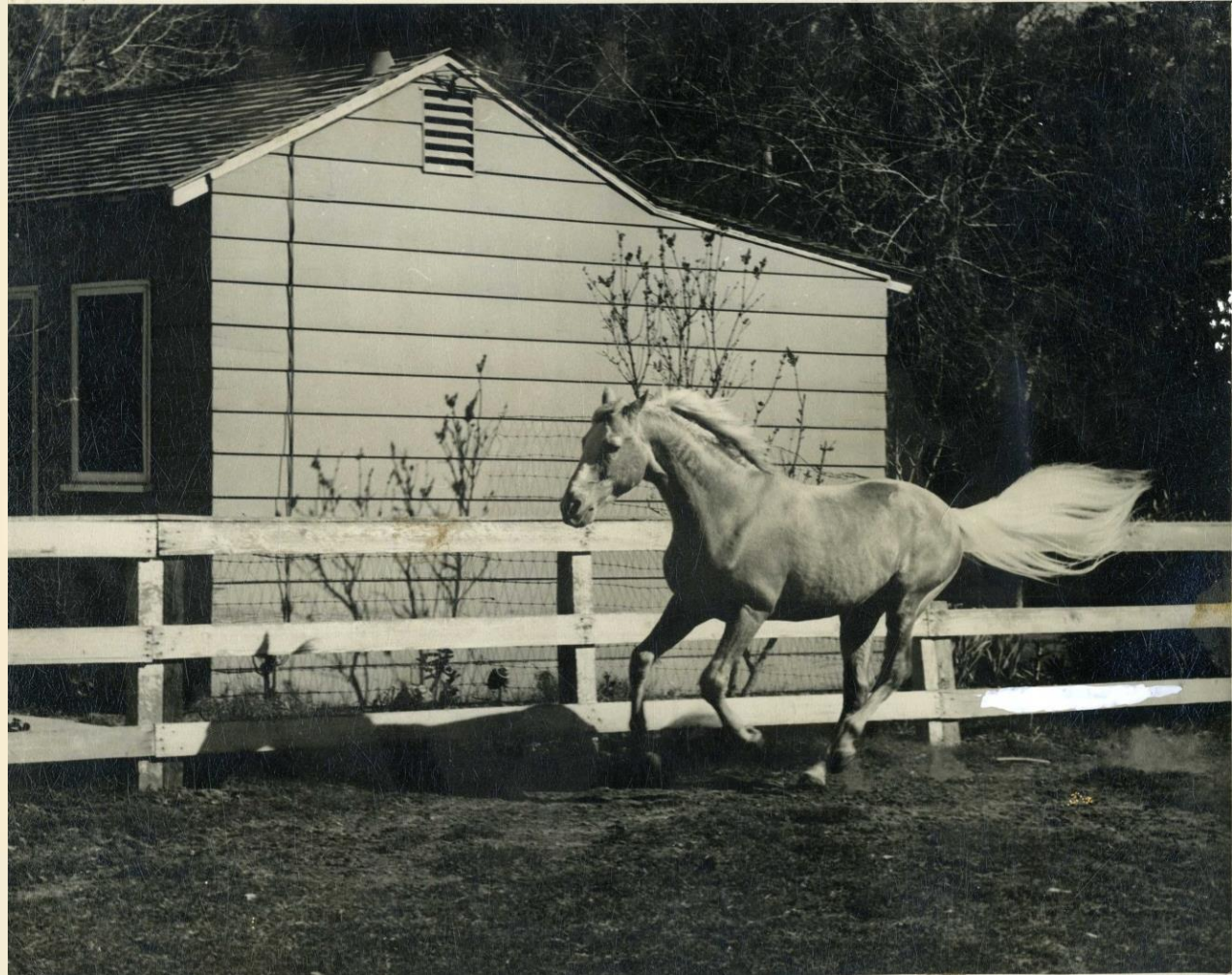
Edna Fagan shown with one of their many Harvester sired horses.



- This picture of Harvester was labeled “Edna’s favorite photo”, and was taken at Harvester Farms.

- Four Hollywood Movie Horses were registered with the Palomino Horse Association:

- Harvester
- Trigger
- Trigger Jr.
- Mr. Ed

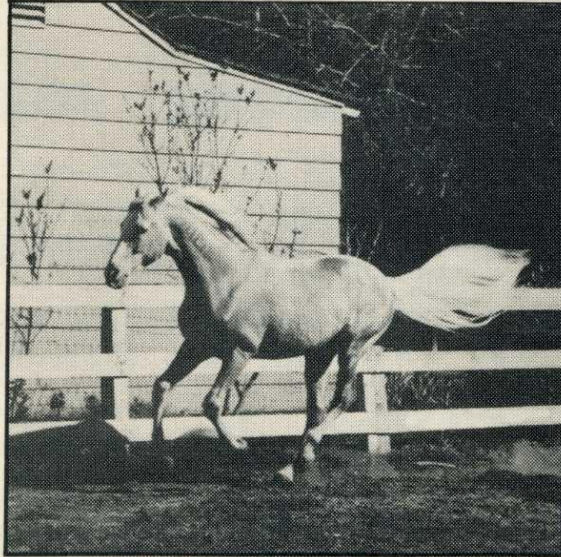




*The Piggin String*

APRIL 1963

40 CENTS



OUR COVER is a photograph that DANNY SANTELL took in February to honor the 25th Birthday of THE HARVESTER owned by Mrs. EDNA FAGAN of Chatsworth, California. THE HARVESTER was foaled on April 28th, 1938 out of Red Dawn by Exclamation Red Squirrel and sired by Revel's Cream of Wheat. He was purchased and trained by the late JIM FAGAN. As a four year old THE HARVESTER was retired from competition and was shown only in exhibition, as a trick and reined horse. Starting as a yearling, he was undefeated in breeding classes, and has sired more than 100 Palominos registered in The Palomino Horse Association, Inc. THE HARVESTER'S get have been most successful in breeding classes, in Western Pleasure and Parade classes, and in street parades. Our best wishes to the great Palomino stallion, THE HARVESTER that still stands at stud to approved mares.

The Piggin String

- Right: Edna and Jim Fagan presenting Roy Rogers and Trigger Jr. a certificate of registration in the Palomino Horse Association.
- Below: Trigger and Trigger Jr. with Roy and Jim





## Roy Rogers had three horses named Trigger: Trigger, Little Trigger and Trigger Jr.

- Golden Cloud, born 1932, was purchased from Hollywood Studios in 1938 and renamed “Trigger”. Trigger retired in 1957 and died in 1964.
- “Little Trigger” was purchased a few years after Golden Cloud, was smaller than Trigger, and was the “personal appearance” horse. He knew more than a hundred cues for tricks and dances, and was housebroken, a quality that allowed him to accompany Roy on his many appearances in hospitals to visit sick children.
- “Trigger Jr.”, born 1941 as Allen’s Gold Zephyr, took over for Little Trigger in the 1950’s.

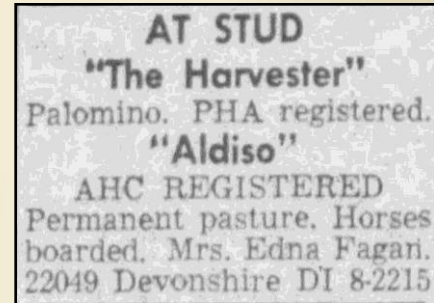


Trigger and Trigger Jr. were registered with the Palomino Horse Association



# Harvester Farms Property History (22049 Devonshire)

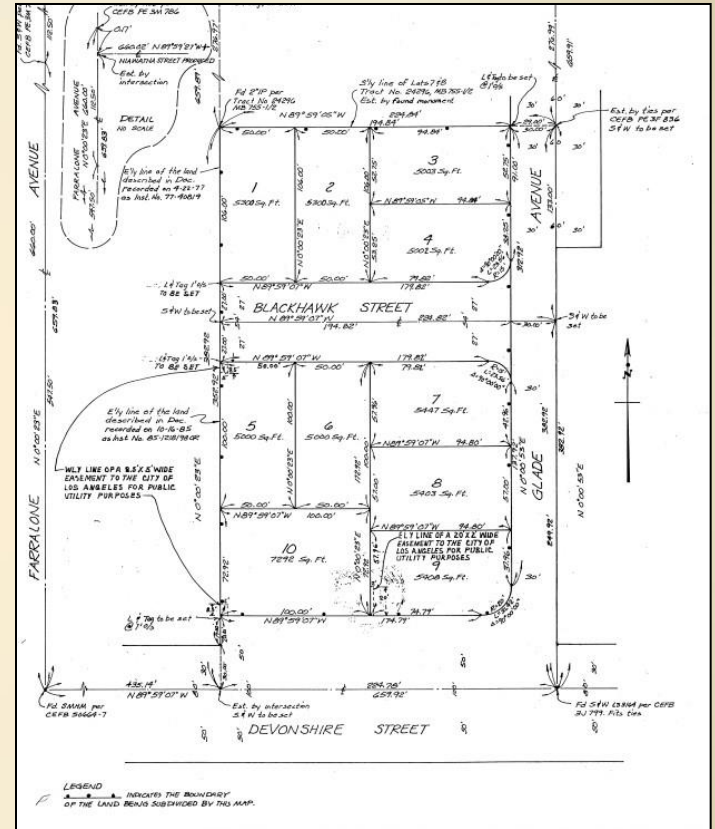
- In April 1937 a permit was issued to Ronald J. Houlihan for construction of a new \$3,700 residence at 22049 Devonshire. Source Van Nuys News, 1937 April 29.
- In May 1943 there was an advertisement for a registered Arabian Stallion, 3 Arabian mares, & 3 stud colts.
- In June 1944 the 11.5-acre parcel was purchased for production of Cattle and Horses, and named "Winterset Ranch". Fred Geis advertises it for sale in 1946.
- In July 1947 Winterset Ranch is advertising 9 acres with house, barn for \$40,000.
- Around 1948/1949 Monroe B. Lukather (1901-1977) owned the property. He added onto the house, and added chicken sheds on the property in 1952. His nephew was Paul Lukather (1926-2014). Paul was an actor, playing in western roles in the 50's-60's.
- In 1950, the Erlandson Family (Mrs. Flora Erlandson) lived there. And they advertised a 3yr old Palomino mare.
- Edna Fagan moved to Chatsworth around 1953. Alex Madonna, of Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, told Dan Huffman that he loaned Edna the money to purchase Harvester Farms.
- In 1956 the house was sold, and in 1957 Edna is advertising The Harvester at stud.
- In 1963 Harvester died in the barn at Harvester Farms.
- In May 1964 Tract No. 22294 was recorded, a 6.7-acre subdivision of 34 homes north of Harvester Farms, which included the creation of Glade Ave. north of Devonshire, and the creation of Hiawatha St. north of the Elementary School.



1957-03-19 Van Nuys News  
& Valley Green Sheet

# Harvester Farms Property History (22049 Devonshire)

- In November 1967, Parcel Map 401 connected Glade Ave. to Devonshire St., with two parcels to the west of Harvester Farms. The street width of Glade Ave. at that point was only 30', not the standard 60' wide for a subdivision.
- 30 years later, in August 1997, a subdivision of 18 homes west of Glade Ave. was approved, with the homes built in 1999 (Tracts 48826 and 49169).
- The pursuit of this subdivision by developers threatened the condemnation of a portion of Harvester Farms, as the requested widening of the street would have resulted in the destruction of the historic Harvester Barn.
- This development led to the letter writing campaign by Dan Huffman and others in December 1996, that resulted in the declaration of Harvester Farms as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument on March 5th, 1997.



1997-08-27 Tract 48826 TR1224-061



# Mr. Ed - The talking Horse, a 1961-1966 Television Series

- Bamboo Harvester was foaled in 1949 in El Monte, sired by The Harvester. He was a parade and show horse.
- His trainer was Les Hilton, who had apprenticed under Will Rogers and worked with the mules in the Francis the Talking Mule movies.
- The show ran for 143 episodes
- Allan Lane was the talking voice of Mr. Ed



Allan "Rocky"  
Lane  
1904-1973



Connie Hines, Mr. Ed (Bamboo  
Harvester), Alan Young

# Mr. Ed - The talking Horse, a 1961-1966 Television Series

- Guest Stars included Clint Eastwood, George Burns, Leo Durocher and Mae West
- To create the impression that Ed was talking, it was initially done by putting a piece of nylon thread in his mouth attached to the halter. Ed was trained to stop talking when the trainer touched his hoof with a crop. In fact, according to Alan Young, Ed eventually learned to start talking whenever he (Alan Young) stopped talking during a scene!

Ed was very smart....



A Scene from 1963, "Leo Durocher meets Mr. Ed"



# Mr. Ed - The talking Horse, a 1961-1966 Television Series

- In 1976, Mr. Ed was 27 years old and retired, living on Sparks St. in Burbank, CA with his trainer Lester Hilton.
- Mr. Ed was in distress and died of a tranquilizer for unknown reasons while a temporary caregiver was caring for him.
- Lester Hilton, his trainer, died a few months later on Oct 27, 1976
- Source: [Mr. Ed Wikipedia](#), and 1994 "Mr Ed & Me" by Alan Young, pgs 181-3)

At right, in 1962 Connie Hines on Mr. Ed in Chatsworth, Episode "Ol' Rocking Chair" s3-e15 aired Jan 10, 1963



# Sources/Acknowledgements

- Scrapbook and Photographs from Edna Parsons Fagan, donated by great-niece Cecilia Parsons
- Notes and documents supporting the Los Angeles Historical Cultural Monument designation, provided by Dan Huffman and Virginia Watson, Chatsworth Historical Society.
- “Hollywood Hoofbeats: Trails Blazed across the Silver Screen”, 2005, Bowtie Press
- Alan Young on how "Mister Ed" really talked – emmytvlegends.org YouTube video
- Facebook site “West San Fernando Valley Then and Now”, and associated researchers and contributors
- Many thanks to many Chatsworth residents, past and present, for their contributions to this presentation.
- A special thanks to Bea Berman for donating the Mr. Ed episodes that inspired this program.
- Prepared by Ann and Ray Vincent, Chatsworth Historical Society, January 2015, revised Oct 2023, Nov 2024.



# Mr. Ed - The talking Horse, a 1961-1966 Television Series

- **Showing Next:**

- Season 4, Episode 1, aired Sep 29, 1963
- “Leo Durocher Meets Mr. Ed”, 25 minutes
- Including Sandy Koufax, John Roseboro, Willie Davis, Bill "Moose" Skowrun, and Vin Scully....Announcer
- In all, there were a total of 143 episodes over 6 seasons, from 1961-1966
- Note: a 5-minute clip of "Leo Durocher Meets Mr. Ed" is available on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/B75FZ3UIHMY> &t=0

- The now famous Dodger baseball episode with Leo Durocher was filmed in 1963.
- “Leo Durocher Meets Mr. Ed”, 25 minutes
- In all, there were a total of 143 episodes over 6 seasons, from 1961-1966
- a 5-minute clip of Mr. Ed at Dodger Stadium is available on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/B75FZ3UIHMY>