

American Yesteryear

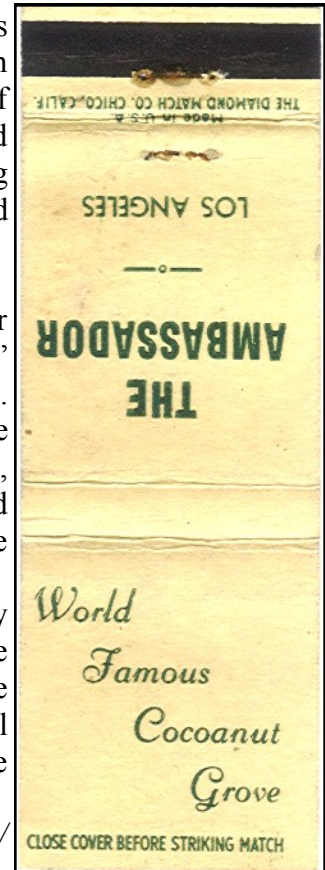
Los Angeles's *Cocoanut Grove*

It's interesting how some things, people, etc. become 'famous', while others remain unnoticed, unheard of, and unheralded. I think a lot of it has to do with random circumstances that really don't have anything to do with the quality of the item in question at all. And once a place, for example, becomes 'world famous', it simply becomes the 'in' thing to perpetuate that idea by being there, announcing that you've been there, lauding that you've been there, and so forth.

Take Los Angeles's nightclub, the Cocoanut Grove, part of the Ambassador Hotel grounds (not to be confused with several other "Cocoanut Grove's" around the country, including the one in Boston which burned down in 1942.). The Los Angeles club opened on April 21, 1921, and was a favorite Hollywood dance spot of Joan Crawford, Loretta Young, Carole Lombard, and other Hollywood stars. Over the years, many Hollywood notables showed up there, aided, no doubt, by the fact that a number of movies were shot on the grounds of the Ambassador Hotel.

The Ambassador and its grounds closed in 1989. Everything was eventually auctioned off, and the Los Angeles Unified School District ended up with the property. The nightclub had already been renovated a number of times over the years, destroying much of its original architectural integrity, but it's now scheduled to emerge as the auditorium for a new school. Who woulda thunk ?!

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



Cocoanut Grove, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles - 1920 postcard

