

Libros Schmibros

2000 E. 1st St., Los Angeles

90033 (323) 302-9408

(http://librosschmibros.wordpress.com)

Libros Schmibros, whose title acknowledges Boyle Heights' Jewish and Latina/o heritages, was opened by David Kipen in the wake of budgetary cuts to local libraries that resulted in reduced hours and services. It is a used bookstore that lends books for free to local community residents. Limited hours—check before visiting.



The former home of Upton Sinclair, 2008.

**FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD
RESTAURANTS**
La Serenata de Garibaldi

1842 E. 1st St., Los Angeles 90033

(323) 265-2887 (www.laserenataonline.com)

A Boyle Heights institution offering upscale Mexican cuisine and specializing in seafood. On the pricier side.

Antojitos Carmen

2510 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., Los Angeles 90033

(323) 264-1451

Mexico City–style street food from a beloved street vendor turned restaurateur. Try the *huaraches con huitlacoche* (fried masa topped with corn fungus), pan-fried quesadillas, and house-made habanero salsa.

2.22 Upton Sinclair's House

464 N. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia 91016

(at E. Scenic Dr.)

Private residence

Upton Sinclair was a journalist, writer, socialist, political activist, and the author of such critical books as *Oil!* and *The Jungle*.

Sinclair was born in Baltimore and moved to Pasadena around 1915. Although nationally known for his writing, locally he led antipoverty campaigns and participated in the struggles to protect the freedoms of speech and assembly. In 1923, in order to support a rally called by the striking Industrial Workers of the World, he read the U.S. Constitution to a crowd of 3,000 people at Liberty Hill in San Pedro. Four lines into the First Amendment, Sinclair was arrested by the LAPD and charged with criminal syndicalism, which made it a crime to belong to any organization that advocated—or was perceived by those in power to be advocating—violent changes to the existing political system (see entry 4.6 Port of Los Angeles and Liberty Hill). After his release, he went on to create the Southern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. His actions inspired the founding in 1976 of the Liberty Hill Foundation, which supports

I, GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

And How I Ended Poverty

A True Story of the Future

BY
UPTON SINCLAIR



This is not just a pamphlet.
This is the beginning of a Crusade.
A Two-Year Plan to make over a State.
To capture the Democratic primaries and
use an old party for a new job.
The EPIC plan:
(E)nd (P)overty (I)n (C)alifornia!

The Best Selling Book in the History of California
150,000 in Four Months

PRICE 20 CENTS

END POVERTY LEAGUE 1501 SOUTH GRAND AVE.
INCORPORATED LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
(ADDRESS ALL LETTERS AS ABOVE)

Pamphlet promoting Sinclair's plan, End Poverty In California.

progressive community activism in Los Angeles County.

Sinclair ran for public office numerous times, often on the Socialist Party ticket, and always lost. However, in 1934, during the Great Depression, he ran for governor of California on the Democratic ticket and mounted his famous End Poverty In California (EPIC) campaign. The heart of EPIC was the redistribution of wealth. A key part of the platform was to create state-owned factories and field cooperatives to put people back to work. The cooperatives would focus on production for use rather than for profit. EPIC also advocated repeal of the state sales tax, the creation of a system of graduated

income and inheritance taxes, an increased tax on public utilities, and pensions for the elderly and disabled. Sinclair was enormously popular among the working class during his run for governor but was attacked by Republicans and mainstream Democrats who portrayed him as a communist. Even Democratic president Franklin Delano Roosevelt withheld his support. Sinclair won 45 percent of the vote, and Republican Frank Merriam won the election by a slim margin. Although Sinclair lost, 26 EPIC candidates were elected to the California State Assembly, and the EPIC platform inspired 75 agricultural cooperatives. Though many political analysts insist that Americans are inherently opposed to socialist ideas, the EPIC campaign suggests that such policies can and do engender significant support when capitalism is thought to have failed. Many EPIC ideas were eventually incorporated into New Deal legislation, exemplified by the creation of Social Security in 1935.

Sinclair lived in several Southern California communities, including Belmont Shores and Pasadena, and here in Monrovia from 1942 to 1966. His house is a national historic monument.

NEARBY SITES OF INTEREST

Monrovia Historical Museum

742 E. Lemon Ave., Monrovia 91016
(626) 357-9537 (www.monroviahistoricalmuseum.com)

Built on the former site of a racially segregated swimming pool. Limited hours; call before visiting.