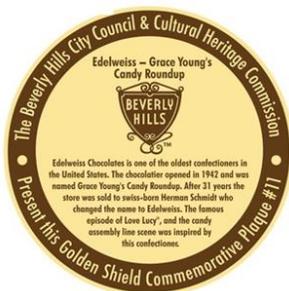




Golden Shield Nominee Research Narrative and Plaque: Edelweiss/Grace Young May 2021

The Grace Young's Candy Roundup confectionery shop opened its doors at this locale in 1942. Grace Young was an expert candy maker and master hand-dipper of fine chocolates who started her business in a small storefront located along Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles in the late 1930s. She soon moved her shop to Beverly Hills during the Golden Age of Hollywood where it instantly became a favorite with the Hollywood elite. Frank Sinatra, Nancy Reagan, Lauren Bacall, Doris Day, and Katherine Hepburn were all loyal fans of the chocolates made in the little shop. Lucille Ball also loved Grace Young's candies. A resident of Beverly Hills, she would typically enter through the back door of the store where she'd pass the chocolate enrober (conveyor belt assembly to cover chocolate) in the kitchen to get to the candy counter unnoticed by the general public and any paparazzi. It was from this machine that Ball got the idea for her famous 1952 I Love Lucy episode, "Job Switching," in which the enrober malfunctions while Lucy and Ethel work the line at a chocolate factory. She spent a week working there to prepare for her show.

The 1940s-era chocolate machine still operates today in the back room of the shop. Young ran the candy shop for 31 years before retiring and selling the business to Herman Schmidt, a chocolatier from Switzerland. Schmidt renamed the shop Edelweiss after the Swiss national flower and added European-style chocolates to the repertoire. He is also the one who introduced the chocolate covered pretzel to the Los Angeles area. The next owners of Edelweiss were Shirley and Sam Rosen who developed eight varieties of chocolate covered marshmallows and increased the original line of 45 chocolates to 80. The Rosens owned Edelweiss for 15 years until actress Shirley Jones received the shop for a Valentine's gift from her husband actor Marty Ingels because she loved the chocolates so much. In 2000, Madlen Zahir and her family purchased the candy store and continue the business of making the classic chocolates using the original equipment.



Proposed Plaque Copy:

"Edelweiss Chocolates is one of the oldest confectioners in the United States. The chocolatier opened in 1942 and was named Grace Young's Candy Roundup. After 31 years the store was sold to swiss-born Herman Schmidt who changed the name to Edelweiss. The famous episode of "I Love Lucy", and the candy assembly line scene was inspired by this confectioner.

Recommended Placement Location: Centered within public sidewalk in front of current confectionary shop.

Photos:





