Searching for Buster

By John Bengtson

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Heralding a Seven Chances Examination

In the opening scenes of Seven Chances, Buster flees from Snitz Edwards by catching a taxi along a city street shown here. The street has twin trolley tracks, and in the background we see a series of distinct arched windows. Although no other clues appear, I always wondered if the solution to this puzzle might someday present itself.

One day while exploring a Los Angeles walking tour website—www.usc.edu/dept/geography/losangeles/lawalk/—I came upon this vintage photo of the old Herald Examiner building at the southwest corner of Broadway and 11th Streets. Something caught my eye, and a little investigating proved it to be the correct spot.

This website reports that William Randolf Hearst began publishing the Los Angeles Examiner in 1903, and commissioned Julia Morgan and Los Angeles architects Henke and Dodd, to design a Mission Revival-style office and production plant, which was completed in 1912. Julia Morgan is best known for designing Hearst Castle in San Simeon.

After acquiring and merging the Herald and the Express newspapers in the 1930s, the Hearst Corporation merged these combined papers into the Examiner in 1962 to create the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, which ultimately folded in 1989.

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