

Noel Neill comes home to Metropolis

By Larry Thomas Ward

Editor's Note: Many readers know that Noel Neill as the "First Lady of Metropolis," but many may not know Larry Ward, who is Neill's manager and friend. Ward, who is now a resident of Metropolis, has accompanied Neill at every Superman Celebration she has attended.

In my 2003 biography of *Adventures Of Superman* actress Noel Neill, I wrote that while Noel had lived in California most of her adulthood, Metropolis, Ill. was her true second home.

As a frequent guest at the annual Superman Celebration, Noel was always moved by the generous warmth showed by both local residents and visitors alike, and she always vowed to return to the city of Metropolis for a longer stay, and in a non-guest capacity.

She never quite made that journey.... until now.

It can now be officially confirmed that Noel has finally returned to the Metropolis-area permanently, having recently relocated from her home in Tucson, Ariz.

As readers may recall, Noel's last official public appearance in Metropolis was at the 2010 dedication of the Noel Neill/Lois Lane statue at the corner of Eighth and Market streets.

Less than a month later, she suffered

a devastating fall at her home, fracturing her left hip, which left her in tremendous pain.

Her road to recovery was a long one, going from hospitals to rehab centers, but

are essentially over, as such activity is now impossible.

As with any older adult, she also suffers from other physical ailments, recently most notably, some serious dental concerns which will be ongoing for some time.

Noel's last public appearance was at a comic book show in Tucson in May 2011, and her last outing was at a gathering at a private function held in her honor with friends on June 30 of last year, also in Tucson.

At this time, Noel's life is one of

comfort and leisure. She continues to enjoy watching television — including old episodes of *The Adventures of Superman* — reading fan mail and offering witty conversation with her new neighbors.

She also recently enjoyed reading the latest Superman book by Larry Tye and tries to keep up with all things having to do with Superman.

At the age of 91, Noel is finally retired, with no plans to make any future public appearances.

Fans wishing to write Noel can do so at the following address: Noel Neill, P.O. Box 181, Metropolis, IL 62960.



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— Photo by Mike Goldman

she did eventually recover well enough that she can now walk, but does so slowly and hesitantly, and with a cane.

Her days of touring for weeks on end

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