

# Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
(818) 882-5614  
[www.historicalsocieties.net](http://www.historicalsocieties.net)



JUNE 2009

Co-Presidents: André & Linda van der Valk

Editor: Ann Vincent

## Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

I want to start off by first thanking Bea Berman for our most successful fundraiser ever. Bea did a great job in planning and organizing and making sure we all did what we were supposed to do. Bea even made sure the weather cooperated. We had the largest turnout ever (estimated to be over 700) in part thanks to Huell Howser who promoted the event the week before at the end of showing The Chatsworth Historical Sites on his program. We are going to send a lifetime honorary membership to Huell for all the attention he has given us.

I would also like to thank Jelena Csanyi for her part in organizing our first ever sold-out tea. Some people were upset that the tea was sold out but there is only so much space that we have and so much fresh food that we can have donated. In all it was a great day for our fundraiser and a beautiful day in Chatsworth.

The one big question asked that day was when will Chatsworth Park South open? The funds have been found for more testing but one estimate for the lead clean up that I heard was approximately \$5,000,000. With the budget crisis that is going on I do not see the clean up happening very soon. The recreation center received a new hardwood floor and we were told that it would reopen as soon as the floor was put in. Well, that floor was put in about three months ago and the center is not open. I am sure it is also a victim of the budget crisis. Our Councilman Greig Smith and his Chief of Staff Mitchell Englander have been doing what they can to get the recreation center and the park opened and we are grateful that they were able to get the Acre opened. We will just all have to wait and see but it may not be a bad idea to write a letter to the City Council and the Mayor with your concerns.

Hope everyone has a great summer. We will not be sending out a Smoke Signal until September and there will be no programs until October. Membership Round Up is September 13th at 4:00 pm at the Acre and we will be sending out a reminder postcard. The Membership Round Up is a great time to socialize and André makes a great Tri-Tip so mark your calendars and join us.

Linda and André

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board of Directors 2009-2010

Co-Presidents .....	Linda & André van der Valk
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman
Membership.....	Keith Watts
Treasurer.....	Ray Vincent
Recording Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell
Smoke Signal.....	Ann Vincent
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers
Hospitality.....	Jelena Csanyi
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers
Director-at-Large.....	Beverly King
Director-at-Large.....	Evelyn Hutcheson
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler

## Upcoming Events at the HOMESTEAD ACRE

### Summer Break

No Scheduled Programs in June, July and August

### Membership Roundup – Sept. 13

Join us at 4:00 pm for a barbeque at the Homestead Acre where we can relax and enjoy some good friends and company. Invite new members to join us. Our membership chairman Keith Watts will be on hand to collect annual dues at this yearly event.

### PIONEER DAY – October 4

Mark your calendar – we look forward to your help to provide this event for our community.

### Docent Workshops

Under the direction of Virginia Watson, docents are trained to provide tours and assist with projects related to the museum and gardens. Contact Virginia Watson at 818 341-3053 for additional information.

### Museum & Grounds Open House

The Homestead Acre continues to be open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 pm.

## Program Review

By Bea Berman, Chairman

It's been a while since the Garden Festival so I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. I am still in awe as to the success of the event and I owe it all to the people who participated.

I think some of our success can be attributed to Huell Howser for showing the segment about the Acre just before our event. People from Ventura and Riverside had seen it on TV and came to the event and didn't even know we had such a great museum.

Special thanks go to Councilman Greig Smith for providing us with the shuttle bus which transported about three hundred people. With the rest of the park being closed, we could not have accommodated everyone otherwise. Thank you to Andy Gump for donating the portable units and LADWP brought out quite a bit of information and giveaways. The plant sale was a huge success. I want to thank the Chatsworth Nursery, Mel-o-dee Nursery, Linda Paduano from Market West and Dr. Gary Standke for all bringing us plants to sell. Thank you to Janine Bergez who ran the plant sale, this was our best year ever. Hannah Almstead brought us all the Veteran Quilts for display. Irene Nalbandian and Ingrid Lindquist get credit for doing such a great job at the gate along with Tom Harrison and Jim Summers for all their help. Evelyn Hutchinson gets recognition for helping in the museum with Virginia Watson, our curator.

Our entertainment continues to be a big hit. A big thank you goes to Elaine Henry/Tavares for bringing her Polynesian Dancers for the entertainment. She is no longer in Chatsworth but came from Ventura to entertain.

We had lots of help this year from local schools. Chatsworth High students signed up to help with set-up and parking and clean-up and everything went so smoothly. Ray Vincent organized it and there was not one complaint about the parking, which is a first. Mrs. Pena from Lawrence Middle School brought twelve leadership students to help with the tea and other things.

Regarding the Tea, Jelena Cysani did a phenomenal job chairing the tea as well as set up, cleaning up, etc. Diane Kartiala and my daughter Adrienne were the helpers in the kitchen and everything ran so smoothly. My daughter Randi sold the tea tickets and I must apologize that we sold out so fast. I didn't even get to have a plate. We usually figure about 125 and rarely sell out, but this time, we ran out by 1:00 pm. I guess we are getting more popular. The sandwiches were made by our members. Elaine Campbell made the chicken salad as well as manning the White Elephant booth with her daughter Janis. Ann Vincent made the egg salad as well as preparing the native plant flower centerpieces. Beverly King made the cucumber/cream cheese sandwiches as well as giving tours of the cottage.

Loretta and Rod Sandavol handled all the great baked goods and ran the bake sale. I made the date nut bread, lemon squares and peanut butter cups.

Of course Linda and André do all the shopping, getting everything ready and set-up our food booth. Dan Huffman and his kids helped with set up and clean up. My son-in-law, Gary, handled the hot dogs with Linda's family. Of course my granddaughter was all over the place helping. Of course Linda and André are my sounding board and helping with whatever is needed.

I suppose I could go on and on, but first let me say thanks to everyone especially my friends. We are a small group, but we sure get a lot done and do a great job.

It's going to be quiet for a month or two and then we start up with Pioneer Day so mark you calendar for October 4<sup>th</sup>. See you then.

*Bea Berman*



This year at our Garden Festival, not all the flowers were home grown. These young ladies from Lawrence Middle School's Leadership Class were on hand to help young visitors create their own. The supplies were donated by the Neighborhood Council and supervised by Diana Dixon Davis.

## Museum Curator's Notes:

By Virginia Watson

Recently the Chatsworth Historical Society received a sad message informing us of the death of "Chuck" Tichenor, former vice president of the California Conference of Historical Societies, who often came to our meetings with his wife Maxine. They lived in nearby Canoga Park and were very active in community life. Chuck had been a Valley postman before retiring. They both volunteered for the Gene Autry Museum and were popular tour guides.

In 2004 they moved to Jenks, Oklahoma to live near family members. They soon got acquainted and before long they were working with local historical societies and busy giving tours again. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in March of this year.

Maxine wrote that she was pleased to continue to hear from our Society.

*Virginia*

# CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann Vincent

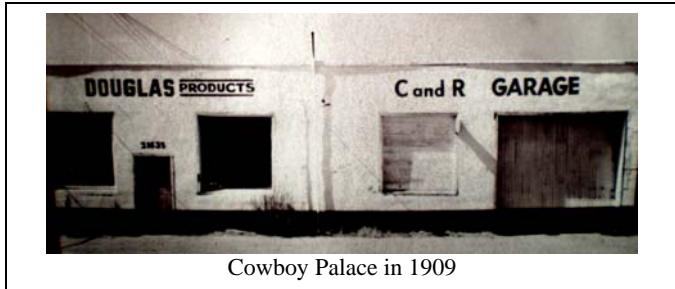
June 2009

This issue of Chatsworth Past & Present features The Cowboy Palace Saloon located at 21635 Devonshire Street.



Since the building has been remodeled several times to house each of the various businesses, the building itself is not historical, however the current business, The Cowboy Palace Saloon, has a long history and has put Chatsworth on the map as the last real "honky-tonk".

In 1909, the building housed two businesses; Douglas Products and C & R Garage. The streets were not paved at this point in time. Early Chatsworth resident



Ed Ahlstrom remembered that in 1920 the business there was known as the Alamo Garage. By 1950, photos of the main streets in town show that the building has been remodeled and if you zoom into the photo, each window

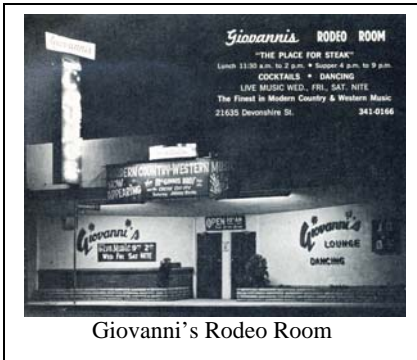


has a FOR RENT sign, advertising New Modern Stores. At this point another building was added to the east,

however the section with the new overhang was the original location.

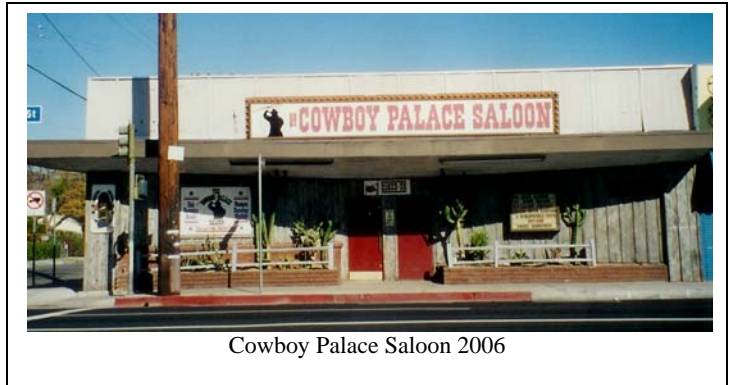
By 1962, Morigi's Restaurant occupied the building and placed an advertisement in the Chamber of Commerce Book in 1964. Morigi's was a popular Pizza place that provided family dining and a banquet room for community events. They closed this Chatsworth location before 1970, retaining another restaurant in the valley at Northridge.

In 1971 the building housed Giovanni's Rodeo Room. The advertisement shown here is for the restaurant, billed as "The



Place for Steak". It served lunch and dinner and featured country music and dancing. This was the beginning of the Chatsworth Country Music Legacy.

The restaurant changed hands and names a few times over the years. Giovanni's Rodeo Room transformed from a restaurant to the saloon we have today. At some point it became Wild Bill's, Ryan's, then Ryan's Roundup, to JR's, then JR's Cowboy Palace, then to what we know today as The Cowboy Palace Saloon.



Over the years many famous patrons have signed photos and they still hang on the walls around the bar, Charlton Heston, Arnold Schwartzner, Willy Nelson, Paul Newman, Chuck Connors, Toby Keith and William Shatner just to name a few.

Billy and Marjorie Holmes, the current owners since 2006, take an active part in the management of the Saloon with Marjorie judging the Monday night Talent Contest.

If you have not been inside the Cowboy Palace, I urge you to step in and enjoy some unique history. As collected over the years, boots hang over the bar, and blue jeans decorate the walls near the pool table. Walls everywhere are covered with photos of celebrities who have either performed or enjoyed the festivities. The Cowboy Palace is well known for the Toby Keith Music Video "I Love This Bar" filmed on site. The website [www.cowboypalace.com](http://www.cowboypalace.com) lists many of the movies and TV shows filmed at this location over the years because of its authentic western style and down home feeling.

Drop by Monday through Saturday at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 4:00 pm for some Free beginning dance lessons where you can learn the Electric Slide, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Two Step, Ten Step Swing and other new country dances sweeping the country.

Don't be surprised to meet people from all over who come for the live music every night of the week. The Cowboy Palace Saloon has earned a place in Country Western Music history along with our local history here in Chatsworth.

By the way, there is also a hitching post out back you can tie your horse to, so bring your friends and your horse.

Y'all have fun now!

## WORDS OF WISDOM & HUMOR

Elaine Campbell

### Old Betty Crocker food tips:

Add a dash of soy sauce to your tuna salad

1/3 cup brown sugar for every quart of tomatoes for spaghetti sauce

For tasty gravy - add a can of mushroom soup to the meat drippings

Mix powdered lemon aid mix in your fruit salad dressing

### Life Lessons

- Experience is the hardest kind of teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson afterward.
- To become perfect, just follow the advice you give others.
- A pat on the back helps develop character if applied young enough, often enough, and low enough.
- Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there
- To overlook the little things in life is to miss the biggest part of life itself
- The person who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it.
- Keep your words soft and sweet - you never know when you are going to have to eat them.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

### June 27 - Barn Dance at Ride On Therapeutic

The 4th Annual Chatsworth Barn Dance starting at 6 pm will be held at 21126 Chatsworth Street at the current stable facilities. It will feature live music, great food, line dancing and family fun.

The Doo-Wah Riders, one of LA's most popular country bands, will perform. Line dancing comes courtesy of the Borderline Club of Thousand Oaks. Tickets are \$30 each or \$50 per couple and can be purchased in advance from Ride On. For more information please call Pat UpdeGraff at (818) 700-2971 or email [pat@rideon.org](mailto:pat@rideon.org).



[Photo / Saul Daniels]

**HONORED** -- Jelena Csanyi was honored as Chatsworth Citizen of the Year at the recent Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council banquet for her community service as a member of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, the Historical Society, Friends of the Library and a myriad of civic and charitable organizations. Gary Washburn made part of the presentation. Courtesy of CNC Chatsworth Roundup

In addition, Linda van der Valk received out-going recognition for having served as president for 5 years. André van der Valk received the Presidents Award for his humanitarian efforts to assist the passengers of the Chatsworth Metrolink crash in 2008.

### July 18 - Chatsworth Library Used Book Sale

Open to the public Saturday 10:00 am -2:00 pm. Hardbacks \$1, paperbacks \$.50 and Children's books 3/\$100. All proceeds go to purchase books for our Chatsworth Library.

### July 19 - Canoga-Owensmouth Historical Society

They are having a fundraiser on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at The Madrid Theater. It will be a program of song and dance numbers from Broadway's favorite shows. The tickets are \$24.00 per person. Call 1-818-346-5252 for reservations.

# Newsletter Editor

Ann Vincent

How to interpret the code on your mailing label and know when your dues are due.

**EXAMPLE:**

1-0508 (individual membership due May 8 of this year)

2-1005 (family membership due Oct 5 of this year)

- IF you have chosen a life membership there is no code, since you do not need to renew your membership.
- IF you are paying annually, we have included the MONTH and DAY, but not the year that your membership was last recorded. With annual dues, your fees are not due until that date this year.
- IF you have recently paid your dues, or paid for multiple years and this information is not correct, or you have questions about this explanation, please email the newsletter editor Ann Vincent. [annvincent@aol.com](mailto:annvincent@aol.com)
- For anyone whose date is listed before 06XX, that has not recently paid your dues, then...your dues are due.
- A membership form is included below for your convenience.

# Stories Wanted about Chatsworth History

You may not have thought about the stories you could share, but now is a good time to start sharing them.

We tend to think of history as facts and details, but while we wait for someone to document the past, the stories and memories of our adventures slip away. The best way to get started recording your own history is to simply write a short paragraph about a subject that may interest you, your kids or future grandkids. With computers available to us now, this is easier than it was before. Each individual story can be saved and later gathered as a collection.

How do you start? ... with just one short paragraph at a time. What do you remember about these items....just write it down. Things keep changing over time...what was special about...Your first house you lived in? First Television set? First Computer? First Car you got to drive or own? Schools you attended? You get the idea...

If you are really in to this concept, how about writing about Chatsworth and what you remember about ....the Chatsworth Parade, Horseback riding, Chatsworth Baseball games, and other memories of the community and events over the years. Then, please share them with us.

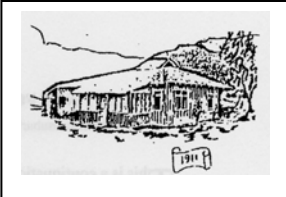
*History is Time Travel....tell us about your adventures..*

Ann Vincent, Editor: [annvincent@aol.com](mailto:annvincent@aol.com)



## CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Membership Form



Your membership helps support our Homestead Acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, and receive invitation reminders regarding our monthly programs and annual events -- the Garden Festival, Membership Roundup, and Pioneer Day. Please mail this form with your annual membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

**Chatsworth Historical Society**, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
818-882-5614    [www.historicalsocieties.net](http://www.historicalsocieties.net)

- |                         |   |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Yearly:</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member         | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal        |  |
| <b>Life Membership:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$100.00 |
|                         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 125.00          |   |  |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest / Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVERTISEMENT From 1971 Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce Booklet



**Community Answering Service**

Let the Chatsworth Chamber answer your questions and let **Community** answer your telephone. **Community Answering Service** has been taking the “no” out of “no answer” since it was first established by **George and Virginia Raych** — a long-time member of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce — in 1964. Twenty three cheerful ladies are ready to pick up your phone — residential or business — 24 hours a day from **Community’s** Canoga Park headquarters at **23101 Sherman Pl. (347-4242)**.

1971 doesn’t seem long ago, but Switchboard Operators are definitely a job of the past as we knew it, replaced by tape recorder answering machines and then digital machines. Of course the phone company now has more phone features than you can imagine. Remember the option of getting to choose your own phone to plug in instead of having to use the old PacBell phones that were wired directly to your lines. Those of course were all rotary dial phones....when the word “DIAL” meant to turn the dial on the phone.

### **Chatsworth Historical Society**

10385 Shadow Oak Drive  
Chatsworth, Ca 91311