

# Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

June 2015, Issue #3

Editor: Ann Vincent

## Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

Last month members of the Chatsworth Historical Society were honored at the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council's annual banquet. Ann and Ray Vincent were named Chatsworth's Outstanding Citizens of the Year. Ann and Ray were honored for their many years of volunteering in our community. Not only did The Chatsworth Historical Society nominate Ann and Ray but so did The Friends of the Chatsworth Library and The Chatsworth Women's Club. At the banquet Ann and Ray were recognized by our local politicians and received certificates from them.

At the same event our very own Bea Berman received the Life Time Achievement Award. Bea has been active in Chatsworth since moving into the area in 1969. Bea has been a member of the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council since the mid seventies and also has been an active member of the Historical Society for many years. Jelena Csanyi was given the President's Award the same evening for her volunteerism in the community.

I would also like to thank Ann Vincent our Special Events coordinator for working so hard to make sure that the Garden Festival was a big success. It takes a lot of time and effort to put on one of these events and Ann did a great job again.

I would also like to thank Linda Dunham who helped Co-Chair the tea with me. Linda was of great assistance in making our tea once again a success. We hope everyone has a nice summer.  
Linda and André.



Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council Banquet

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board of Directors 2015-2016

Co-Presidents .....	Linda & André van der Valk
Programs .....	Linda Dunham
Membership .....	Keith Watts
Treasurer .....	Jim Van Gundy
Recording Secretary .....	Donna Nachtrab
Smoke Signal Editor .....	Ann Vincent
Museum Curator .....	Virginia Watson
Cottage Curator .....	Betty Summers
Research Director .....	Ray Vincent
Hospitality .....	Jelena Csanyi
Garden Director .....	Annette Campbell
Director-at-Large .....	Beverly King
Director-at-Large .....	Connie Ager
Honorary Member .....	Bea Berman
Honorary Member .....	Elaine Campbell

## Upcoming Events

Put this on your calendar...share the date with Friends and Family....Come Join Us!

**General Meetings are not held during the summer months of June, July and August.**

## Open House Schedule

**June 7 – Sunday 1-4 pm**

**July 5<sup>th</sup> Canceled...  
due to holiday weekend**

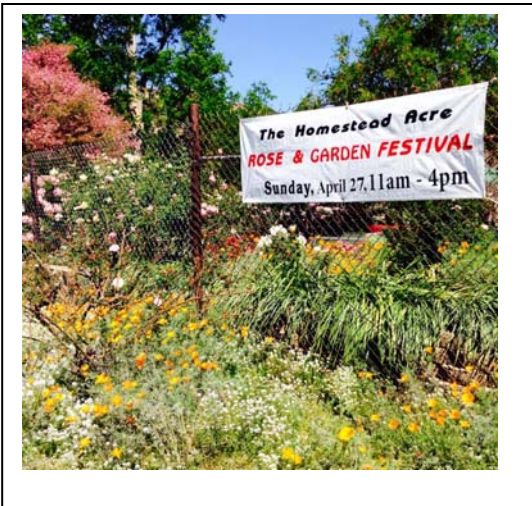
**August 2 – Sunday 1-4 pm**

Docents continue to meet on Wednesday mornings from 9-noon to work on museum projects throughout the summer months.

Congratulations to our new CHS officers for the 2015-2016 term who were installed at our May Meeting. They are listed in the box above.

## GARDEN FESTIVAL 2015 THANK YOU

We would like to extend a big thank you to all who made this year's Garden Festival so successful. It takes so many to make it all come together smoothly and every job is important and appreciated. Behind the scenes we had some great help.



This year we were fortunate to have the help of young men from Rancho San Antonio Boys Town working with us to set up and tear down. Beverly Manasse, Barbara Pampalone and Carol Hiestad, Donna and Tom Nachtrab along with Ann and Ray Vincent all worked together to complete the setup.



*Flower Photos by Linda Dunham*



On Sunday morning, the Kiwanis Key Club from various high schools in the valley helped us this year with parking supervised by Rico Betita who worked with Ray Vincent assisting the vendors with unloading and transporting their wares. Boy Scout Troop 306 was on hand to help with our recycling and trash, but stepped up and helped wherever needed.

John Luker and Wendi Gladstone took on the challenge of securing the tents threatened by the wind. Check-in for the vendors was efficiently handled by Donna Nachtrab and Wendi Gladstone.

Once again, a special thanks for the shuttle bus provided by the Councilman's Office, which allowed for offsite parking at the Train Depot.

Each of our Historical Society venues (Bake Sale, Plant Sale, Information, Museum, Cottage and Food Booth) were staffed by volunteers throughout the day. The Cottage was also staffed by Barbara Pampalone and members of the Chatsworth Rotary along with Docent Gloria Benedetti, telling the Hill Palmer story and sharing the cottage story with our guests. Beverly King was also able to join us in the cottage and her help was appreciated and enjoyed by our visitors. In the museum assisting our guests were Bea Berman, Elaine Campbell, Karine Panichi and Diane Kartiala. Our members volunteering at the front gate were Irene Nalbandian and Janis Heiden.

The Food Booth involved the usual suspects: Andre van der Valk with granddaughters Brooke and Hunter, the assistance of Rod Sandoval chopping fresh onions and of course Gary Bercow at the grill.

Our Bake Sale was a big success with delicious donations and sales by Loretta Sandoval, Bea Berman, Pam Perram and Beverly Manasse. Thank you to all of the bakers that help continue this traditional bake sale.



Our Plant Sale was in full bloom with Annette Campbell selling the plants propagated at the acre along with color bowls created for the event. Nadia Harding donated her own plants and helped sell additional native plants donated for the event, while Randy and Becky Mineo (Chatsworth Landscape) brought a truckload of drought tolerant plants to sell and donated all the proceeds to the Historical Society.

The Iris Society was on hand this year with plenty of plants to purchase, while the Cherry Blossom Society (a group that Minnie Hill Palmer was a founding member of) was also on hand to share their activities. A new participant this year was the Paradise Nursery where owner, Shawn Jahanbin, was on hand to discuss fruit trees with samples of mulberries to taste. We were fortunate to have representatives of the Oakridge Estate and the San Fernando Valley Historical Society on hand to share history of the valley along with the Veterans Quilt project displaying their quilts and providing their quilting craft for kids to enjoy. We also enjoyed the participation of the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association (SSMPA) and the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park volunteers (SSPSHP) providing more history to our guests about our state park. The DAR Daughters of the American Revolution were on hand to represent the history of our Country.

Our information booth welcomed our visitors with a display of Chatsworth History books for sale, Tea from Chatsworth House in England and a variety of friendly faces helping out throughout the day including Donna and Tom Nachtrab, Keith Watts, along with Ann & Ray Vincent.

Our Duchess Tea was chaired this year by Linda Dunham and Linda van der Valk with the assistance of Girl Scout Cadette Troop # 6322. The troop leader is Linda van der Valk's daughter Linda Petretti. The girls that helped were Hunter Petretti, Samantha Hartung, Sophia Pearson, Anne Wilken, and Tiffany Lewallyn. The Troop Moms that helped were Linda Petretti, Sue Wilkin, Patty Hartung, Sheila Pearson and Liz Lewallyn. Linda Dunham also gets credit for coordinating all of the Red Hat groups that joined us this year for the tea.

The Girl Scouts did a great job of serving the tea and the moms put out the plates in record speed. We want to thank everyone that helped to make the tea go as smoothly as it did. We want to thank the bakers and sandwich makers, for without them there would not be a tea. The Marzipan Brownies were made by Katherine Weisman who will gladly make more for you through her catering business at <http://www.anouveau.net>. Linda Dunham gets credit for the tuna sandwiches, Elaine Campbell for making the cucumber sandwiches, Ann Vincent for her egg salad sandwiches, Jelena Csanyi for making the scones and Vickie Briskman for making the lemon cake. Linda van der Valk donated all the fresh fruit and the time to prepare it. Thanks also to Randi Bercow who was our cashier and as every year she did a great job. Our vendors this year were excellent and displayed a variety of quality goods for sale, making the entire event a success. The winds on hand made it a challenging day for everyone at each booth, but our vendors were troopers and made the best of it while our guests coming in at the gate had a wonderful time exploring the event and enjoying our Garden Festival. My sincere apologies to anyone I forgot to mention... Ann Vincent



## HISTORIC PHOTO RESEARCH ADVENTURE on the Stagecoach Trail



1890 Stage Wagon on Stagecoach Trail

Last March, Jerry England posted a photo on Facebook identifying a wagon on the Stagecoach Trail. He recalls seeing it on a Simi Valley Facebook page last year. In the book *Santa Susana* by Bill Appleton, the driver is identified as Joe Horner, who ran the Simi Stage from the Simi Hotel to San Fernando in 1890. To our knowledge, it is the only historic photo of the Stagecoach Trail in use.

The rocks sure looked familiar, so we challenged our local Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) volunteers to hike the trail and find the exact location of this photo based on the background features.



April 19, 2015 hikers on Stagecoach Trail

Teena Takata was planning a SSPSHP Stagecoach Trail Hike on April 19<sup>th</sup>, and scouted the location before the hike. On April 19<sup>th</sup> she posted the picture to the left on the Friends of Santa Susana Mountains Facebook page.

Teena said “We had a request to add hikers to substitute for the horse and buggy shown in an old photo. What amazes me the most is the maintained roadway (on the original photo) compared to the sandstone boulders we travel through today. Thanks hikers!”

If you are interested in taking the same picture, the site is 98 yards as the hawk flies (think one football field) below the 1939 Stagecoach Trail Marker.

Note: There have been three Santa Susana Pass Roads over the years. The first road, the “Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road”, was in use from 1859-1895. It became known as the Stagecoach Trail, and was also called “Devil’s Slide”.

The second road was built north of the first road, “The New Santa Susana Pass Road through William’s Cañon”. It was a graded dirt road and in use from 1895 to 1917. It was commonly called the Chatsworth Grade Road, and is called El Camino Nuevo on the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park maps.

The third road was built just north of the second road in 1917, was paved with asphalt, and is known today as the Santa Susana Pass Road.

# EQUESTRIAN NIGHT at the ACRE

At our May meeting, held on May 19 we decided that since our museum displays now feature our Chatsworth Equestrian Heritage Past - Present it would be fun to invite ETI Corral 54 to join us and share some of their early group activities. We were able to obtain a homemade comedy western movie from the 1970's prepared by early Corral 54 members filmed here in Chatsworth over 45 years ago. Alvy Moore (Hank Kimball from Green Acres) narrated and directed the 29 minute movie.

Chatsworth residents that appeared in the film were:



## “She was only a Rancher’s Daughter, but all the horsemanure (*horsemen knew her*)”

Written Filmed and Edited by Ron Porter 1970 Chatsworth

STARRING: “Mean” Irwin Green, “Black” Jack Walchli, “Big Bad” Howard Langford

Location: Partially filmed at the Roundup Saloon

### CAST

Policeman – Dick Taylor and Vince Porter

Greek Indian - Peter Kafialanos

Jackie MacGuire, Dorothy Murphy, Cynthia Fichtner, Beverly Riley

Vicki Porter grooming the skinny horse

Jeannie Plumb

Sharon Bedford in dark glasses, fly-eater Dave Marino

Frantic mother Charlene Bispo

Mike Smith, rubber ducky song

Jack Walchli, Howard Langford and Irwin Green, the three heavies

Wonder Woman Sonia Schmidt

Cal Plumb in red and Joe Marinelo

Yvonne Kafialanos, who also helped with script coaching

Fernando Munoz from Canoga Park

Marilyn Porter at home in a role made just for her

Recalcitrant hero Sheriff Dave Tuttle

Three darlings Sandy Schmidt, Heather Porter and Robbie Green

Pete McGuire as Pinky and his Indian sidekick Libby Huffman who helped with casting and special effects

Mitch Lazinsky the unarmed would-be hero

Ron Porter, Janet Langford, Darrel Thiesan, who also supplied our lights

Nian Thiesan being served beer by Wild Bill Gibson, who graciously gave us the use of his Roundup Saloon

Special Guest Star Robert Bedford

Brian Howkum who supplied the Carter Dummy and Dick Pierson with his back to the camera

Diana Fichtner, Celeste Marino, and Paula Greene

Art and Zelda Martinson, past presidents of the National ETI

Musician Jerry McGee and Director Alvy Moore



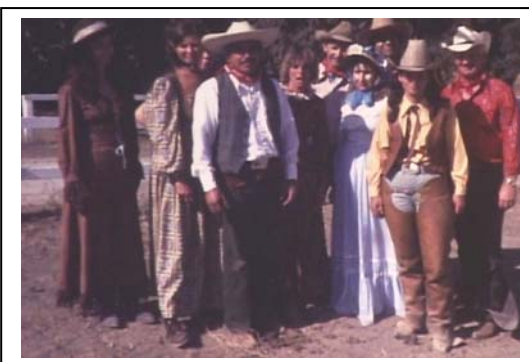
Jeannie Plumb



Alvy Moore  
(Hank Kimble of Green Acres)



Wild Bill Gibson  
(Owner of Roundup Saloon)



An ETI Corral 54 Film Directed by Alvy Moore (Hank Kimble of Green Acres), 29 minutes

**Chatsworth Historical Society**  
**Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop**

The following items are available for sale at our Gift Shop To arrange to purchase items other than the first Sunday of the month, email [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) to make arrangements for shipping if necessary.

CHATSWORTH HISTORY by Virginia Watson	\$10.00
CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The First 100 Years by Ioline Cleveland	\$10.00
WINDOW INTO THE PAST by William Schepler	\$10.00
QUIET ON THE SET by Robert Sherman	\$25.00
OUR PIONEER MOTHER As told to Lenora Johnson MacDonald	\$10.00

**Can we Email our newsletter to you?**

In an effort to reduce costs, save paper, and provide you with a color copy, we now email newsletters to those of you that have given us an email address. However, we also continue to send you a snail-mail copy until you advise us not to. Please email us at [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) to stop future newsletter mailings and save us some money. And also please email us to provide your email address. Thanks!

Please use the form below to renew your Membership. And if your neighbor is not a member yet, pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to join.

**Wondering if your Dues are Due?**

For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due. With a life membership there is no code on your address label. If there is a code on your address label, then this is what it means:

- The first digit represents membership type, 1 – individual and 2 – family/organization.
- The next two digits represent the month that you last paid your dues.
- The last two digits represent the year that you last paid your dues.
- If the month and year on your address label is over one year old, then your dues are due!



**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 – Rose Pruning, 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  
[chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) 818-882-5614 [www.historicalsocieties.net](http://www.historicalsocieties.net)

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

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

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

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

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