

# Smoke Signal

**CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

February 2018, Issue #1

Editor: Ann Vincent

## Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

We are busy at the Homestead Acre getting ready for the Garden Festival and Spring in general. We had a very successful Rose Pruning Day with members of the San Fernando Valley Rose Society, the Chatsworth Kiwanis, Chatsworth Historical Society and boys from Rancho San Antonio. A big thank you goes to all for helping us prune 200 roses. Annette, Terri and Nadia are busy making sure the garden will look great for the Garden Festival. I don't mention him often but Trini Sanchez, our gardener is an important part of our gardening team. Trini goes above and beyond to take care of our gardens and we appreciate all of the years that he has been doing this for us.

Our board has decided after numerous requests from our members to have something at the Acre to establish a Memorial Brick Plaza. We will offer standard size bricks that will be placed in front and to the side of the time capsule. The bricks are laser engraved up to 3 lines with 18 characters per line. Our hope is that not only would it be a nice memorial for loved ones but a nice thing for families that would like to have their names memorialized at the Acre. The cost of a brick will be \$100.00. See page 7 for information on ordering.

We would like to thank Southern California Gas Company for their generous donation to the Historical Society. They wanted to help support us in our efforts to educate the children in learning the history of our area.

On March 10th take a moment to remember that Chatsworth was established on March 10, 1888. The Historical Society has been very fortunate to have Virginia Watson who spent over 50 years documenting the history of Chatsworth and now we have Ray and Ann Vincent who spend many hours documenting even more information about our history. I like to say our little community knows more about our history than other communities. This may not be exact but I do feel we know a lot thanks to the tireless volunteers who always want to find out just a little more about our community.

Our Garden Festival is April 29th. I hope that everyone will come out and enjoy the day and the wonderful tea that Martina Turner is preparing. There is nothing like having a tea in our beautiful garden and for the price of \$12.00 it really is a great deal.

Happy Spring, Linda and Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board of Directors 2017-2018

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

## Upcoming Events

**February 20, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM  
General Meeting**

### **1917 JACK & THE BEANSTALK**

The 1917 silent movie Jack and Beanstalk was filmed in today's Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, at the Miranda Homestead in Chatsworth. We will share historic photographs of dramatic movie sets and their locations in today's Park, and view the 16 minute 4<sup>th</sup> reel of this previously lost movie. Come join us for this film history adventure.

**March 4, 2018 Sunday 1-4:00 PM  
OPEN HOUSE**

Tours of the Museum, Hill Palmer Cottage and the Homestead Gardens

**March 20, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM  
General Meeting  
The Minnie Hill Palmer Story**

NOTE: OPEN HOUSE for Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> is cancelled due to EASTER SUNDAY

**April 29, 2018 Sunday 11-3:00 PM  
CHS Fundraiser  
A GARDEN FESTIVAL  
and Duchess Tea**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

## **DOCENT DOINGS at the ACRE:**

Our docents keep busy with projects throughout the year. We meet every Wednesday morning 9-noon.

## **OUT IN THE GARDEN:**

January is a big month for the garden when we prune each of our many rose gardens to get the roses ready to come back in full bloom. They are spectacular in April when we have our Garden Festival. So now is the time that we are fine tuning our sprinklers, fertilizing and weeding our gardens.

If you need some outdoor fresh air therapy, come join our gardening team on Wednesday mornings 9-noon.

Thank you to the Chatsworth Kiwanis, Southern California Rose Society, and Rancho San Antonio volunteers who joined us on Sunday morning to prune roses. We used to boast about having over 300 roses 20 years ago but our gardens have evolved to include additional types of plants. Our latest rose bush count puts us at 194 + 1 new donation delivered to us on Sunday.



Rose Society members having fun at our Rose Pruning event.

**IN THE MUSEUM:** Linda van der Valk is continuously working with the items donated to the museum by our members and the community. Marcia Chopp has volunteered and is working hard to create an inventory of all of our movies on hand (DVD, VHS and more). This is a big project that will be a great asset to our archives. We are preparing a new display of photos and information to represent Chatsworth's 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **IN THE COTTAGE:**

We have been fortunate to receive a donation from the Jenkin's family who are the grandchildren of Minnie Hill Palmer. They have had Minnie's upright piano in their possession and recently decided to send it back home on loan to the homestead. We have placed it in the same location it was when Minnie lived in the house. The Jenkins' family also donated a painting that belonged to Minnie and it will hang above the piano.

The piano is circa 1920 and was a prized possession. Interviews with Minnie indicate that she did extra jobs to be able to provide her two children with piano lessons.



Minnie Hill Palmer's piano now located in the cottage.

An inventory project is still underway to confirm and learn more about the items on display and their history so we can provide more information on our tours.

**DOCENTS ARE NEEDED:** Help guide guests through the museum and cottage during our Open Houses and Special Events. If you would like to learn the history of our community and help share it with others, then contact us for more information at [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com).



## JANUARY GENERAL PROGRAM

Ann Vincent

Our January 16<sup>th</sup> program featured a touching showing of the 1953 television episode “This Is Your Life” honoring Roy Rogers. If you missed the presentation go to:

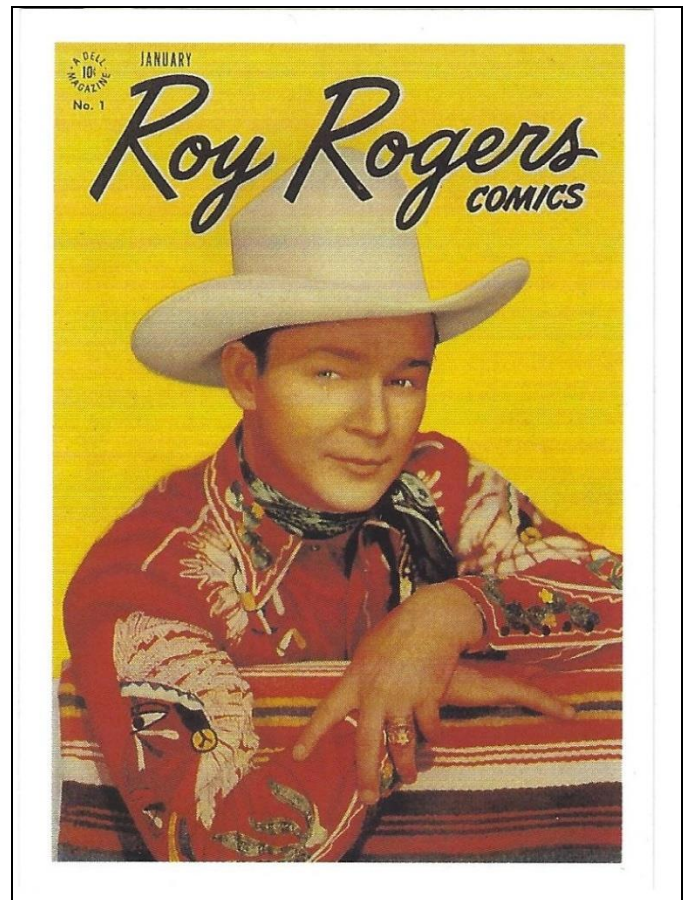
<https://www.slideshare.net/ChatsworthHistory/roy-rogers-1953-this-is-your-life>

A sidelight to the presentation included the following story: At our Open House in January, Franklin Berger talked quite awhile with me about his remembrances of Roy Rogers. He also mentioned that he had a friend who had a business with Roy Rogers, involving trading cards. His friend was Larry Cisewski, who called us and told us his story:

He knew Roy in 1992 and they had a business together regarding collector cards. During that time, the “This is Your Life” episodes were being re-released on TV. He asked Roy if he had seen the episode that he was in. Roy replied that “he had seen it, but it was too hard to watch, because it had included his parents, that had both passed”.

Larry met Roy in 1981 at a Knott’s Berry Farm four day celebration honoring Roy’s 50 years as a performer (Roy was 69 at the time). Larry had a knife throwing act, and he visited with Roy backstage.

Larry renewed the acquaintance in the early 1990’s, and met with Roy for a half day once a week in Victorville for 3 years. During that time Larry produced Roy Rogers memorabilia including collector cards, lunch boxes, and other items. Larry mailed us, as a donation, a 70 card set of Roy Rogers Comic Cover Collector Cards (Series 1).



Roy Rogers Collectors Set of Comic Cover Cards  
No. 1, January 1948  
(the price of the Comic in 1948 was 10¢)

## SCHOOL TOURS of the HOMESTEAD ACRE

We were happy to host a tour for Monarch Christian School for their 1<sup>st</sup> grade class on January 30. The goal of the students that day was to learn how things have changed from the days of our homestead family to today.

We enjoyed showing them a few things they had never seen: A wall crank telephone, typewriter, ink pen and ink bottle, chamber pots, wood burning stove, oil lamps and much more.

Thank you to Dottie Acker, Donna Nachtrab and Ann Vincent for donating their time to come provide these privately scheduled tours.



Photo of class learning about life over 100 years ago.

## Chatsworth Centennial Memories

It has not been that long ago since Chatsworth celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Yes, 30 years to be exact! Last month we received an email from Laura Gordon Krupp who remembers the Centennial event as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader living in Chatsworth.

The Historical Society's records show the following winners of the essay competition in 1988:

### Elementary School:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Laura Gordon 4<sup>th</sup> grade -Pinecrest
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie Emily Carpenter 5<sup>th</sup> grade Egremont
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie Becky Mann 5<sup>th</sup> grade Pinecrest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place tie Eric Berger 4<sup>th</sup> grade Egremont

### Junior High

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Katie Ricci 9<sup>th</sup> grade -Chaminade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Felicity Wheeler 8<sup>th</sup> grade St.John Eudes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place tie Chris Mitchell 9<sup>th</sup> grade Lawrence
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place tie Elizabeth Shaheen 7<sup>th</sup> grade St. John Eudes

### Senior High

- 1<sup>st</sup> place John Pope Jr 12<sup>th</sup> grade Highland Hall
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jeffrey Koga 10<sup>th</sup> grade Chatsworth High
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place tie Grace Park 11<sup>th</sup> grade Chatsworth High
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place tie Jennifer Perry 12<sup>th</sup> grade Chatsworth High

Below is Laura's Essay:

### **GROWING UP IN CHATSWORTH**

By Laura Gordon

February 7, 1988

*My name is Laura Gordon. I live in Chatsworth, California. I have lived here for about 5 and one half years. I live near Chatsworth Park School. That's where I went to school last year. I now go to Pinecrest in Chatsworth. I am 10 years old and I enjoy growing up in Chatsworth.*

*Around my house there are camera stores, banks, movie stores, hair salons, deli's, parks plus much more. One reason I love Chatsworth is because the people are great. I have lots of neighbors. One of them has a dog that just loves my dog.*

*The weather in Chatsworth is good most of the time which allows me to play outside quite a lot. There are very nice parks in Chatsworth. One which I like is Mason Park. Mason Park is my favorite. It is a safe park and fun to play at. It is probably the cleanest park and the people I see there are real nice.*

*I love the view from where I live. The mountains are beautiful and they make for a very nice picture which I have taken with my camera. There are horses near my house which I love. Horses are my favorite animals and you are allowed to have them in Chatsworth.*

*As you can see, Chatsworth has many reasons why people would want to live here.*



Photos: Sorry no photos of the students, but we have this photo with Centennial Chairman Bea Berman, LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich and Ca. State Assembly member Cathie Wright at the Time Capsule dedication at the Chatsworth Homestead Acre, to be opened in 2088.

Porter Hudshon and Lillian Schepler were in charge of gathering items to be placed inside the Time Capsule, which is located at the southwest corner in the Homestead Acre.



## CHATSWORTH MOVIE HISTORY - 1924 Sherlock Jr.

Reid Bogart, CHS member called and mentioned a 1924 Buster Keaton movie with an interesting story. Follow the link below to see the one minute clip. [https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video\\_id=HbNnYpxbGtK](https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=HbNnYpxbGtK)

At 15:15 of the movie, The Chatsworth Water Tank Water Spout scene begins, facing west. Notice the car approaching traveling east on Devonshire at the end of the scene.



this was not the only accident on set.

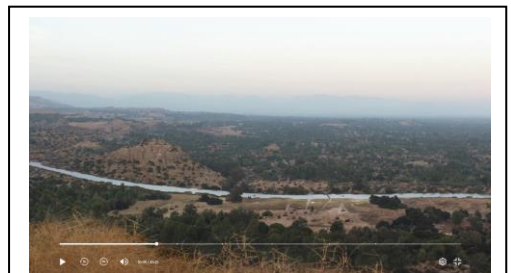
You can see the whole 45 minute movie at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC1aD7e4ZHs>

The water spout story is as follows:

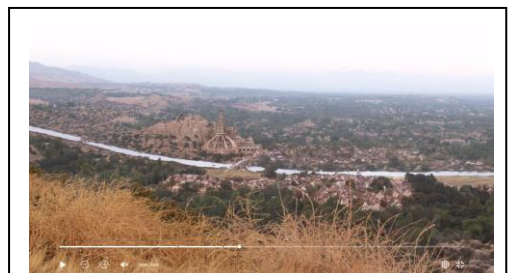
The production included one of Keaton's most famous on-set accidents. In a scene where Keaton grabs a water spout while walking on a moving boxcar train, the water unexpectedly flooded down on Keaton much harder than anticipated, throwing him to the ground. The back of Keaton's neck slammed against a steel rail on the ground and caused him to black out. The pain was so intense that Keaton had to stop shooting later that day and he had "blinding headaches" for weeks afterwards, but continued working due to his well-known high vertebra in an X-ray. The doctor informed Keaton that he had broken his neck during the accident nine years earlier and not realized it. Keaton famously always performed his own stunts, and

## FILMING CONTINUES IN CHATSWORTH – The Orville on FOX

As an early Star Trek fan, I was quick to set my TIVO to record "The Orville" shown on Channel 11 FOX. In the Dec 2017 Season 1 Episode 12 titled "Mad Idolatry" three scenes of Stoney Point are shown, representing the Bronze Age, the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, and the Modern age. You can watch the episode here: <https://www.fox.com/watch/ba3d45e428bab5118060845733b58eb0/>

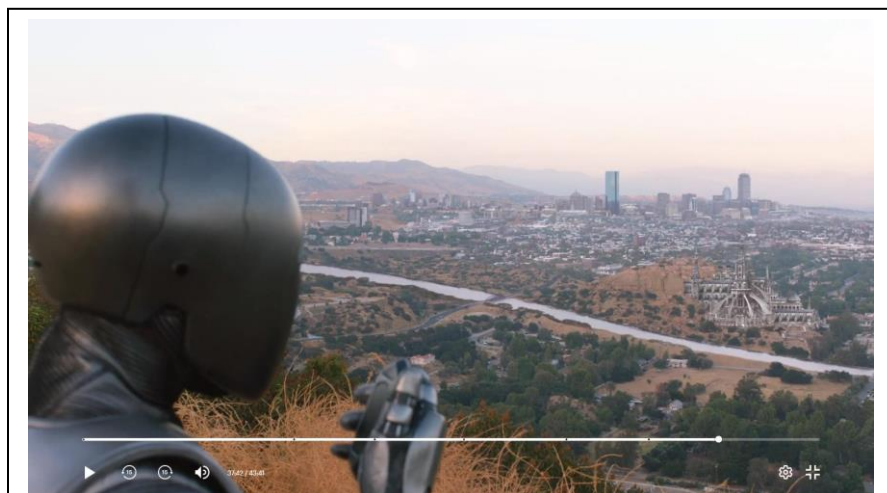


The Orville S1 E12 - Bronze Age



The Orville S1 E12 - 14<sup>th</sup> Century

You can certainly spot Stoney Point. Some of the background is fake, as they erased or added buildings for each time period. Notice that they

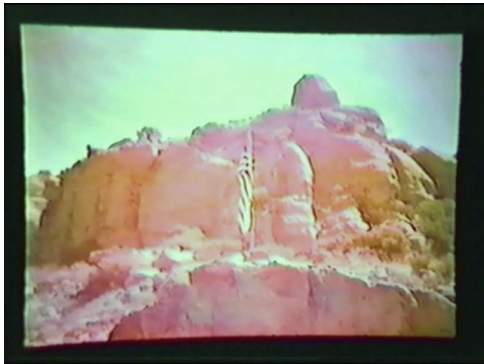


The Orville S1 E12 - Modern Age

turned Topanga Canyon into a river, and built a bridge across it at the Santa Susana Pass Road in the final screenshot. Filming was done at Rockridge, owned by the Church at Rocky Peak.

## CHATSWORTH PARADE PHOTOS

Chatsworth has been hosting parades for many years, and we wanted to share some parade photos from our archives. The earliest parade photos we have are circa 1941, showing the parade route in July traveling from Devonshire south on Topanga and turning west on Plummer (photos below).



Ed Iverson told a story in a video that in the 1940's the whole community would gather at Stoney point following the annual 4th of July Parade. There was a pig roast at the base and a flag mounted half way up on the rocks (photo at left).

In 1956 the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Celebration with a "Giant Fiesta" where the parade ended at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmen's Club (today's Chatsworth Park South).



The Chatsworth Historical Society's first float was in 1965 just after the Pioneer Church was moved to the Oakwood Cemetery. The group decided to show off their efforts and created a small version of the church on the move to enter in the parade (photo at left).

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades continued into the early 1970's, my sister and I both participated as members

of the Chatsworth Drill Team. At some point the July parades stopped, we do not know the exact date, if you have information about this let us know.

In 1981 the Chamber of Commerce reinstated the parades in December as the Holiday Parade. Bea Berman was the parade coordinator at that time arranging for Budweiser to sponsor the parade and include their team of horses. We recently received some memorabilia from Bob Wood, real estate salesman in Chatsworth Lake Manor. He provided us with a t-shirt from the "Chatsworth 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Budweiser



Clydesdale Holiday Parade Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1982". We recently received some correspondence from a young lady who remembers riding in the parade in 1982 on horseback and was hoping we had photos of her at that time. If you have any photos of "Chatsworth Parades Past" please let us know and share them with us.

Recently the Chatsworth Kiwanis has picked this up and have continued as the parade sponsor for many years. THANK YOU to the Chatsworth Kiwanis for carrying on this valued tradition.



Chatsworth Historical Society Entries:

Above 1990 Wells Fargo Wagon

Left 2009 Andre van der Valk and grandchildren in Jeep

## **Chatsworth Historical Society - Memorial Brick Project**

At the request of members of the Chatsworth Historical Society, we have decided to establish a Memorial Brick plaza adjacent to the Time Capsule at the Homestead Acre. It will be an ongoing project to honor family and friends. Bricks are laser engraved up to 3 lines of 18 characters, and are available for a donation of \$100.

THE HILL PALMER  
FAMILY

Click the link below for the Memorial Brick Order Form

<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com/CHS-BrickOrderForm.pdf>

For more information send an email to [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) or call 818-882-5814.

## Chatsworth Historical Society Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop

The following items are available for sale during Open Houses on the first Sunday of the month. To arrange to purchase items at other times, email [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) to make arrangements for payment and 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



**DIGITAL RECORDS online at**  
<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com>

**facebook CHS FACEBOOK PAGE**  
[www.facebook.com/HomesteadAcre](http://www.facebook.com/HomesteadAcre)

### SLIDESHARE.NET

<https://www.slideshare.net/ChatsworthHistory/presentations>

Slideshare has a listing of our CHS presentations that can easily be watched online. Enjoy!

### Can we Email our newsletter to you?

Please email us to provide your email address.  
Thanks! [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com)

### Wondering if your Dues are Due?

Your dues are due one year after the last time you paid your dues.

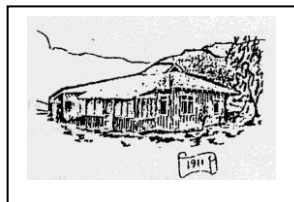
For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due.

For snail mail, if you have an asterisk at the end of your name on the mailing label, your dues are due.

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.



### 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.chatsworthhistory.com](http://www.chatsworthhistory.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**Reminder: If you got this mailed to you, an asterisk on your label means your dues are due!**