

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

September 2018, Issue #4

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

We recently went to Hawaii to the island of Maui. Between the wind from the hurricane and fires I thought we were in Chatsworth. We need to remember as we enter the fire season (although they say our fire season is all year round now) to be extra careful of our surroundings and report the minute we see smoke or someone with a campfire in our hills.

Chatsworth is an amazing community that looks out for each other and the environment. I love the fact that we have a group called Sky Valley Volunteers-Save Chatsworth headed by John Luker and Wendi Gladstone that are planting small oak trees to bring back what was once prevalent in our hills. It takes a lot of work and dedication for this group and we thank them. They started off by collecting acorns and then when they were ready they planted the small oaks. They also make sure that they go back and water so the little trees can survive.

We are busy at the Homestead Acre getting ready for our 28th Annual Pioneer Day. Ann Vincent, our Event Coordinator, is making sure that all of the pieces fall in place. This is not an easy task and she spends a lot of time to make sure it comes together. As you know Pioneer Day is one of our two events that helps sustain the Homestead Acre for the year.

Our memorial brick program is coming along nicely. We have placed our first brick order which is expected in the middle of September. Ray Vincent is getting the area in the front and side of the time capsule ready so when the bricks come in they can be placed. Ray has designed the brick plaza and it will be a nice addition to the Homestead Acre. Our thanks to Ray for all the work he has done on this project.

I hope to see everyone at Pioneer Day. If you would like to volunteer or bake for the bake sale please contact the Historical Society.

Linda and André

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

October 7, 2018 Sunday 11-3

Pioneer Day

Mark your calendar and plan to be there. This event for adults and children of all ages is scheduled annually to help teach the ways of the Pioneer. It includes blacksmithing, gold panning, leather crafts, butter churning, games and crafts for kids of all ages. Vendors with handmade crafts are included.

October 16, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM

General Meeting

Ranches of the San Fernando Valley

Join Shel Weisbach in a presentation on Valley Ranches from the arrival of Spanish Colonists to the present...Adobes, Cattle Ranches, Thoroughbred Ranches, Citrus Ranches, Chicken Ranches, Exotic Ranches, Celebrity Ranches, Ranch Home and Western Take-offs.



Photo: Shirley Temple and two calves at Adohr Farms, Reseda, CA ... Right, Tillie Temple, a Guernsey calf sent by children of Tillamook, Oregon for her 9th birthday, 1935 ... Left, "Tillie's playmate Dinah" ... San Fernando Valley History, California

**28th Annual
Chatsworth Historical Society**

Pioneer Day

Take the
Pioneer
Challenge

Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring your children
& grandchildren

Old-time fun for everyone!

- Panning for Gold
- Blacksmith
- Leather Crafts
- Chores and
Games of Yore
- Vendors
- Bake Sale
- Woodcarvers
- Spinning Wheel Demo
- Veteran Quilt Display
- Design a Quilt Craft
- Rock Chippers
- Bee Keeping
- Telegraph Station
- Butter Churning
and more!



Chatsworth Museum Exhibits

Featuring
Pioneer Families
and Celebrating 130 years of
Chatsworth History 1888 - 2018

Tour Minnie's 1911 Cottage

Location: Homestead Acre,
Chatsworth Park South
(West end of Devonshire St.)
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA

Information: (818) 882-5614
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com
www.chatsworthhistory.com

Admission Adults: \$5,
Donation: Children: \$1
(Free for kids under 5)

Park your car at the Chatsworth Train Depot (10038 Old Depot Plaza Road)
and use our free shuttle service, every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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:

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



IN THE MUSEUM: We have a display of photos and information to represent Chatsworth's 130th Anniversary. Be sure to check it out at Pioneer Day. We will continue to have open house scheduled for the first Sunday of each month from 1-4pm except on Holidays.

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, Tours and Special Events. If you would like to learn the history of our community and help share it with others, please contact us for more information at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

In June, the **2018 California Conference of Historical Societies** held their Annual Meeting June 21st-23rd at the Radisson Hotel in Chatsworth, CA. We held a special Open House on June 22 from 6-8pm on Friday to accommodate their schedule, so they could visit our Chatsworth Museum while they were visiting. Thank you to our Chatsworth members who came and helped host the evening. Gloria DeMuri attended all three days of the conference and filled us in on the workshops they offered.

In August, we were able to provide a special program for our neighbors at the Chatsworth Park South Recreation Center. The day camp students scheduled to come to the ACRE for a tour, but because of the heat, we decided to take a little history to them. Donna Nachtrab and Ann Vincent spent some time with the students discussing chores that Pioneer children would have done and concluded the talk with some old fashioned butter churning. It was a successful activity with both students and staff planning to go home and share the activity with their families.

Thank you to Al and Cheryl Pinnaro, who remain good friends and members of the Chatsworth Historical Society. Cheryl was involved with our ACRE when it first got started working for Rec and Parks, assigned to help with landscaping. Al got involved later through the City by designing the new state of the art sprinkler system for the ACRE in 2004. Prior to that time volunteers Jim and Betty Summers would drag around hoses to fill in gaps in coverage on the grass and flower beds. The system still works well, but Al was kind enough to survey the existing system to make recommendations on how to improve its efficiency. Our Landscaping volunteers appreciate Al doing the survey on his own time to help us out. City staff at Rec and Parks will help us implement his suggestions.

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 per line, and are available for a donation of \$100.

Click the link below for the Memorial Brick Order Form

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

The first set of bricks have been ordered and should be in place by Pioneer Day in October. Additional bricks that are ordered will be scheduled for placement before our April 28, 2019 Garden Festival.

For more information send an email to chatsworthhistory@gmail.com or call 818-882-5614.

UPCOMING: September 22 - Plans for community Service Day with Chaminade School at the Acre. Students and their parents will team up to assist us in refurbishing our memorial benches donated over the years.

RED COMET AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHER

The Chatsworth Historical Society has been fortunate to have many fascinating items donated to us to help share the history of life in the 1900's. We don't think much about it now with our more modern safety methods, but back in the day...if the only way to heat your house was with a stove or a small wood burning or oil furnace, and your lighting was with oil...how would you put out a fire when it started or got out of control. Running water was not yet available.

The Glass Grenade Fire Extinguisher was today's sprinkler system. Although they also came simply as breakable glass balls to be thrown at the fire, the

You also had the option of picking it up out of the holder and simply throwing it at the base of fire.

The glass grenades were filled with carbon tetrachloride (CTC). The liquid vaporized and extinguished the flames by inhibiting the chemical chain reaction of the combustion process. These types of extinguishers were withdrawn in the 1950's because of the chemical's toxicity – exposure to high concentrations damages the nervous system and internal organs. Additionally, when used on a fire, the heat can convert CTC to phosgene gas, a chemical weapon used in WWI.



Red Comet Automatic Fire Extinguisher

Red Comet system shown above was more sophisticated, created in 1919 in Littleton, Colorado.

This unit was intended to be mounted on the wall near a fire source. If a fire broke out causing enough heat, a soldered-spring loaded pin at the bottom of the bracket would puncture the glass bulb, breaking the glass and releasing the liquid.

The unit shown here had been in storage at the acre until recently. After some research, we determined that it was best to not display or continue to store it, and find a safer home for it. We decided that the best thing to do was take it to local Fire Station 96, to be donated to the LAFD Museum.

They were happy to accept it and enjoyed the history of the Red Comet Fire Grenade.



The words on the sticker (which is on the other side of the globe above) says
"Red Comet The Original Automatic Fire Extinguisher.
For manual use throw to splash over burning area."

HIP BATH TUB DONATION

The description provided was that of a civil war era cowboy “sit tub”. It was donated by Patti Alpert



and her husband on July 25. It had been in Patti’s family for some time and she wanted to find a good home for it. We were able to find this tub still being sold in the Sears Catalog circa 1897.

For a household without running water, this light weight tin tub could be carried into the kitchen or out to the back porch, and filled with just a couple

buckets of warm water. By 1910 these were no longer carried by Sears. By that time the indoor bathroom with water was now in vogue making Hip Baths and other portable tubs a thing of the past. However, Minnie Hill Palmer only got water brought to her property in the 1950s. So she might have still relied on a small tub like this until her bathroom with running water was installed.

CHAIR DONATION

On June 3 at our Open House, Fred Samuel brought us an upholstered chair that had been in his



family since the early 1900’s. One of the unique features on this chair is the small casters on only the front two legs. From what I can tell with my limited internet research is that this would be considered a Victorian Eastlake style parlor chair. It could possibly have been one of a

set of 4 or 6 chairs for a dining room. The wood is carved and is made just like one of the wood carved upholstered settees currently in the cottage of the same time period, that also has casters on the legs. Furniture of this time period would have casters to make it easy to move furniture out of the way to make use of the room. These small casters would work best on wood floors, not on our carpets of today.

SUMMIT LIFE ARTICLE July 2018

The editors of Summit Life, a local publication by Gary and Marci Wormser, featured the Chatsworth Historical Society in their July publication. We wish to thank them for their support.

If you would like to read the article, it is posted on chatsworthhistory.com, [Publications, Summit Life](#)

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY WORKING HARD TO PRESERVE AREAS RICH AND COLORFUL HISTORY



By Marci Wormser

Ann Vincent’s passion is Chatsworth history, working to ensure that Chatsworth’s colorful history as a pioneer town and later as a movie mecca will not be forgotten by future generations.

Ann, along with her husband, Ray, joined the Chatsworth Historical Society nearly 20 years ago. As a Chatsworth High School graduate, she currently serves as the Society’s historian and newsletter editor, while her husband, who also matriculated from Chatsworth High, is the



TEA AND SCONES

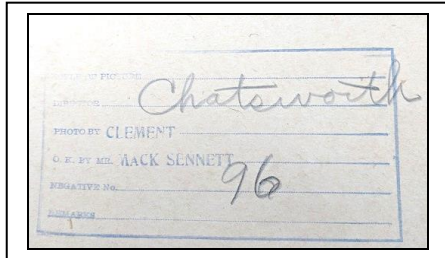
		<p>Hip Baths. No. 16506. Janned Hip Baths. Diameter, 22½ inches. Each..... \$3.25 Diameter, 27 inches. Each..... \$4.00</p>									
<p>No. 16508.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Size.</td> <td>Weight.</td> <td>Price.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17x13½x7½</td> <td>2 lbs.</td> <td>\$0.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18½x14½x8¾</td> <td>2 lbs.</td> <td>.45</td> </tr> </table>		Size.	Weight.	Price.	17x13½x7½	2 lbs.	\$0.40	18½x14½x8¾	2 lbs.	.45	 <p>Janned Foot Tubs.</p>
Size.	Weight.	Price.									
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18½x14½x8¾	2 lbs.	.45									

SEARS 1897 Catalog

MACK SENNETT background plates

Mack Sennett founded Keystone Studios in 1912

In 1981, a donation of 8" x 10" glass and nitrite negatives was made by Kristen Sparks (of Studio City) to Sheila Watts of the Chatsworth Historical Society. None of the negatives were specifically labeled or dated and had been in storage for quite some time to protect them.



They were each in separate paper sleeves, stamped with the words "Photo by Clement" and "OK by Mr. Mack Sennett".

"Chatsworth" and "96" was handwritten in pencil on some of the sleeves (at left).



Of the six glass negatives, one has disintegrated on the glass. The other five negatives are landscapes of a field with a tree, at various angles. One of the negatives is shown below.



We were curious as to why there would be photos of the same area with so many views until we ran into Jon Boorstin, an expert on the history of Studio City. We just happened to be seated next to him at a San Fernando Valley Historical Society Meeting.

It turns out Mack Sennett founded Keystone Studios in 1912 in Los Angeles, and was best known for slapstick comedies, especially the Keystone Cop series. Keystone Studios became known as Studio City.

Jon explained that the glass negatives are likely **'background plates'**. They

project them on a screen on the stage in the studio, and it looks like the actors are outside. The different camera angles are to cover the various close-ups and wide shots in the scene.

Nine nitrite negatives were also donated, but they have warped and melted to the paper sleeves. A quick search shows that they are highly flammable; we will send them to someone to evaluate if they can be recovered.

We don't know what movies they might have used Chatsworth as a background for in the early days or even where in Chatsworth these were taken, but it was fun to realize we had these glass slides that were a part of the Mack Sennett era.

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 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

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

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.

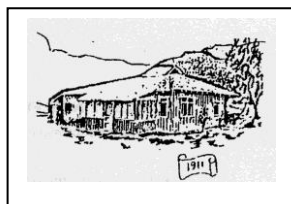


CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 818-882-5614 www.chatsworthhistory.com



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