

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

November 2018, Issue #5

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

Our thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted by the fires in the area. I am proud of the Chatsworth community that gets behind getting hay to Pierce College to make sure that the evacuated horses are fed. Dana Davis, from Davis Ranch, one of Chatsworth's older boarding stables, coordinated with Kahoots to collect funds and get hay over there. Chatsworth always comes together in times of emergency to help everyone out.

We had a great Pioneer Day and thanks to everyone who helped to make it one of our more successful events. We estimated around 1000 people attending. Special thanks go to Ann Vincent as the Event Chair for the Historical Society in coordinating the event, which is not an easy task. Thanks also to Councilmember Englander for providing the shuttle for the event. Without off-site parking, the event would be a nightmare and it would discourage many from attending. Everyone seemed to have a good time and the kids always love the chores of yore. It is a great learning experience for them.

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of George Lightbody better known as Sheriff George. Sheriff George was the founder of Charityville Jail. The Historical Society was fortunate to have the participation of Charityville Jail at some of our past Pioneer Days. The group would dress in western period costumes and have the jail set up. They have participated at the Day of the Horse every year and would donate the donations they received to the Historical Society. Sheriff George will be missed by Chatsworth.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you at the annual Christmas Party at our house.

Linda and André

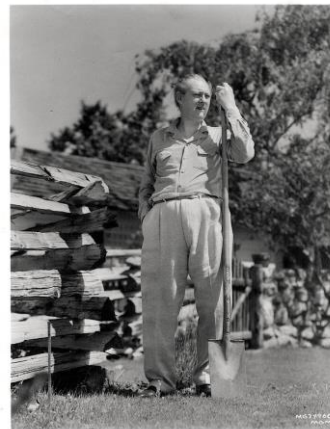
Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2017-2018

Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Treasurer.....	Jim Van Gundy
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Director-at-Large.....	Connie Ager
Honorary Member.....	Bea Berman
Honorary Member.....	Elaine Campbell

Upcoming Events

November 20, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM

**General Meeting,
Chatsworth
Celebrities – Lionel
Barrymore**



Learn about our Chatsworth neighbor from 1938 to 1954 and his celebrity fame. Lionel was a stage and silent/talkies film pioneer and character actor who chose to build

his unique retirement estate at the mouth of Brown's Canyon.

December 11, 2018 Tuesday 6:30 PM

Christmas Party - Members Only

Please join us as we celebrate the holidays at the home of André and Linda van der Valk.

10524 Eton Avenue, Chatsworth

the Christmas Party is limited to MEMBERS ONLY.

January 15, 2019 Tuesday 7:00 PM

General Meeting – Movie Night

January 26, 2019 Saturday 9am to noon

Rose Pruning & Garden Maintenance

Help is needed to prune over 200 roses and gardens to prepare for our Garden Festival.

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. 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.

ACTIVITIES

Wow, it's hard to think back about all of our activities over the last two months. Preparing for Pioneer Day was the priority.



We recently gave a tour On Oct 16, to the Brandeis Women's Club. This specially arranged tour was for 15 women who came to tour the museum and cottage. Docents providing the tour included Dottie Acker, Donna Nachtrab and Ann Vincent.

Our October 16 General Meeting featuring Ranches and Homes in the San Fernando Valley was a full house with standing room only. Everyone enjoyed a great presentation by Shel Weisbach.

Chatsworth Historical Society - Memorial Brick Project

At the request of members of the Chatsworth

THE HILL PALMER
FAMILY

Historical Society, we have established 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>

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.

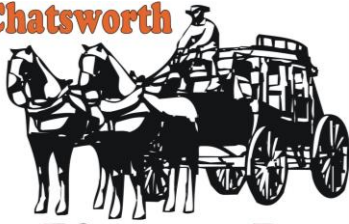
One goal was to get the Brick Memorial Plaza created so the people who donated could see their bricks.

Ray did the installation and it was done so that additional bricks can be included. We have a section (middle) identifying the original Founders of our Historical Society. On each side of the time capsule we have individuals who have made a difference to our community and/or honored by our members. Please plan to add your name as a part of our Chatsworth Historical Society Family.

PIONEER DAY 2018

October 2018 Pioneer Day was a wonderful success!

Chatsworth



Pioneer Day

The purpose of the Pioneer Day event is to educate our community about the history of Chatsworth. Our museum was staffed with docents guiding guests through the timeline of photos and artifacts on display. Our Hill-Palmer Cottage tours gave a glimpse of early pioneer life here on the Hill Family Homestead. Our docents providing tours for the day included Gloria DeMuri, Dottie Acker, Helen Yeo, Marcia Chopp, Carol Lucas and Linda Matassa. These wonderful volunteers share the stories told that keep our Chatsworth history alive.

Starting with set-up, our thanks go out to Bill Dushman, Tom and Donna Nachtrab, Annette Campbell, Bob Dager, Dale Chaloukian, Dale King, along with Ray and Ann Vincent who helped get

everything set up on Saturday morning. Early Saturday morning, the JNROTC cadets from El Camino Real High School and Reseda High School arrived to help setup tables, chairs and canopies. Reseda High School cadets worked all day Sunday managing our parking lot under the supervision of Bill Dushman and Tom Nachtrab. They also arrived early enough to help us get our canopies raised and help vendors transport their goods from their cars. Both groups also were there

at shut down to help clear the area and pack everything away. We also had the help at tear-down of the Lawrence Middle School Students and their Leadership teacher Mr. Van Dam, who worked all day Sunday.

Ms. Pena also from Lawrence Middle School arrived early Sunday to supervise the students who run our games and chores of yore. The students started their day helping vendors and then worked with us to prepare each of the chores and game displays they would manage. They did a great job; I am not sure how we could do this activity without them and their teachers. First, they had to learn the activity, and then determine how they would teach it to children and parents learning about the chores. A

special thanks goes to the students and parents who helped throughout the day and stayed to clean up.

This year was very successful...and we have so many people to thank that made this a fun family community event.

We are very fortunate to have Chatsworth Park South open again which has led to many more people becoming aware of our Homestead Acre. Councilmember Englander's staff were here in force to make sure that the two shuttle buses he generously provided arrived on time and kept the day running smoothly for all of the visitors using the Train Depot for parking. It was fun to see each bus arrive with a full load of visitors. Thank you again Councilmember Englander and staff!



These young Chatsworth Pioneers were learning about bee keeping from The Valley Hive, who brought some live bees for display.



Bea Berman teaching the students how to use the wringer for laundry.





This year we actually used a counter to determine how many people came through the gate... So after 11:00 am, we had over 1000 guests with a full staff of volunteers who arrived early to set up and run the event, not to mention all the vendors. Our own members not previously mentioned also included Bea Berman & Connie Ager at the information booth; Barbara Pampalone supervising the butter churning; Donna Boswell & Wendy Gladstone and Donna Nachtrab at the front gate, the Standke family at the blacksmith/baking station. Dr. Standke had the help of apprentice Dylan Sprout to help.

Gold panning is always one of the most popular events, sponsored by Keene Engineering of Chatsworth, who donates the gold dust -- each child takes home a small vial of real gold.

Our Snack Bar is courtesy of the van der Valk family, who purchase and then donate all the proceeds to the Homestead Acre. They have plenty of friends and family to run the station. Thank you to all of them.



Chatsworth is such a close-knit community, almost every volunteer group that comes to display or provide activities are also members of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Volunteer Valarie Barsky member of the California Native Plant society, shared three types of native plant seeds for our guests to identify and take home.

Carole Morton and Hannah Alsmtead, both CHS members also represent The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and The Daughters of



Golden West along with the San Fernando Valley Historical Society, who shared information too... but Hanna was also seen working at the SFVHS booth where guests were making corn husk dolls. I love the fact that so many of our volunteers represent multiple groups. I'm sure that Hanna has also been part of the Quilter 4 Others group that run our children's quilting booth along with CHS member Jan Lauritzen. That group is sponsored by the San Fernando Quilting Association. Over 100 children's activity quilts were created with each child receiving a raffle ticket for the giveaway quilt donated. What a fun surprise it was for five-year-old Daphne van der Valk to win the quilt. I've been told from a good source that she treasures it. The SSMPPA was represented by Warren Stone and Sky Valley Volunteers, with John Luker sharing the word about Acorn planting.



Boy Scout Troop 99 and Cub Scout Troop 226 joined us for the day, teaching knot tying and much more.



Also, members of our very own Pioneer Church were on hand, Rock Chippers, The Standing Bear Trading Post teaching leatherwork, and Wood Carver Cliff Cox. In addition, we were proud to have the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains on hand with their Stagecoach that they use for 3rd grade hikes in the State Park. This was fun for all. Everyone that rode the stagecoach earned a Chatsworth Pioneer sticker (adults included). Thank you to Bob Dager and all the FPSSM volunteers that shared that history with us during the day.

All of our vendors did a great job showing their crafts. Thank you to Golden Brushes for providing a courtesy painting gift card for all to participate in. Other activities included the CNC distributing Poppy Seeds to the community. Nadia was on hand to show off the Butterfly Garden while Annette and Karyn were selling plants. And not to forget our Bake Sale volunteer Thuy Pham and all the volunteers who helped bake including Ellen Zuckerman and Annie Pinckney. Special thanks to Marcia Chopp who organized a baking party the night before to add to our selection.

Fun Photos courtesy of Diana Sprout:



Mark your calendar!

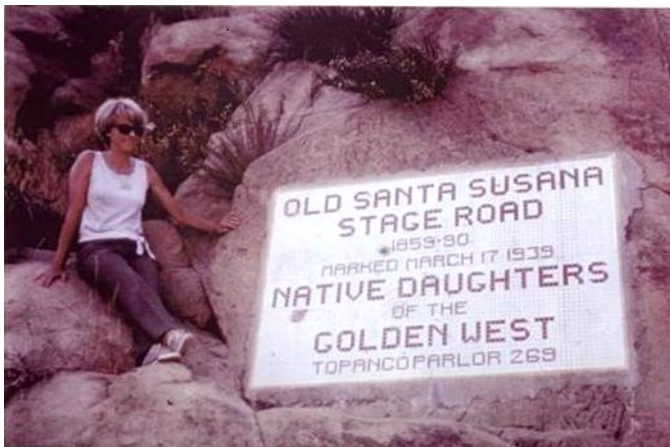
Re-Dedication of the Chatsworth Stagecoach Trail Scheduled for Sunday, March 17, 2019

On March 17, 1939, 80 years ago, our Chatsworth Stagecoach Trail was dedicated by the California Native Daughters of the Golden West.



The event this March will be sponsored by the SSMPA, the FPSSM, the Chatsworth Historical Society, and the California Native Daughters of the Golden West.

During the day, at the Chatsworth Park South Recreation Center, we will be showing the Chatsworth Stagecoach Trail Presentation, which includes actual film footage of a portion of the 1939 dedication.



At some point during the day, a ceremony will be held at the Plaque, which will include a photo of all those in attendance.

Newspaper Article published in The Van Nuys News, Monday, March 20, 1939

FOUR HUNDRED SEE MARKING OF PASS ROAD

Native Daughter Rites Impressive at Summit of Chatsworth Hill

Three generations of the first American family to pioneer in the Chatsworth district viewed the marking of their historic old stagecoach road through the Santa Susana Pass Friday by the Topanga Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West.

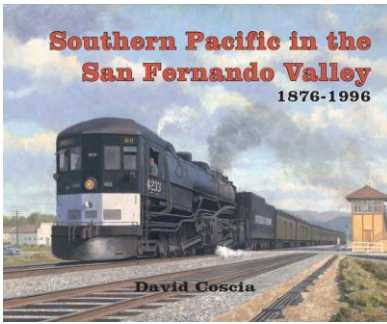
Charles Johnson, 74, gray-haired son of the N. C. Johnson family who came to the San Fernando Valley in 1871, climbed the steep rugged trail to witness the event. Holding the small hand of little Glenna Jeanne Pogue, 3, great-grand daughter of the first settlers, Johnson stood proudly by as the American flag and the banner of the Native Daughters were unfurled over the rock.

Other descendants of early families and a crowd of 400 spectators assembled for the rites. The people had to walk a quarter of a mile with huge rocks as their stepping stones to reach the summit of the pass. Some were garbed in early American attire. Others brought relics found years ago along the stagecoach road – old wheels, rusty horse shoes, and great iron kettles used for preparing meals for covered wagon travelers during long journeys.

The air was full of winged insects and the faintest perfume from blue buckthorn which clung in patches to the sides of the mountains. As many as could crowded out onto the ledge at the crest of the pass. Others stood or perched on rocks below.

Trumpet fanfare was played by 60 girls from Canoga Park in uniform. Mary Millane King wove the saga of the pass into a glowing tribute to Chatsworth pioneers and their posterity. Mrs. Edna B. Briggs, grand president of the Native Daughters accepted the site as one of Los Angeles historic landmarks. The plaque itself was tile, cemented to the side of a great rock eight feet above the road.

NEW BOOK - Southern Pacific and the San Fernando Valley



Ray and I met with David Coscia so he could deliver a courtesy copy of his new book on the "Southern Pacific in the San Fernando Valley". It is extensively

researched, and provides new information on the 1901-1905 quarry and the three 1899-1904 Chatsworth tunnels. He also donated a set of blueprints of the 1893 and 1910 Chatsworth Depots to the museum.

For your information (from David):

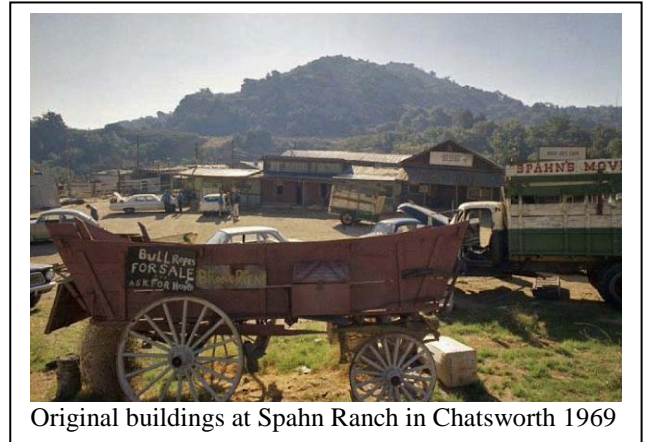
Southern Pacific Company had a set of drawings for almost everything on the railroad. This allowed it to standardize parts and designs for everything from bolts to track design to buildings. These standards were called Common Standard. For depots, the railroad had twenty-six standard designs between the years 1890 to 1920. The standard designs allowed an agent to work any depot and know where everything was and should be. The 1893 depot at Chatsworth Park was built to Common Standard design No. 18 that included housing on the second story for the agent. The 1910 depot at Chatsworth was built to Common Standard #22 that also including housing for the agent on the second floor. The major difference between the two designs is the placement of windows and the bay window on the side facing the track.

The blueprints were drawn by Mr. Jean-Guy Dube. He is a professional draftsman and an apprenticing architect. He has researched and written about Southern Pacific depots since 1983. It takes several months for him to complete the drawings using photographs to accurately reproduce a depot. He draws using architectural software and uses traditional methods to create a blue with white line print. Visit www.etsy.com/shop/DepotBlueprints to view and purchase drawings.

Also please visit David Cosica's website has information on how to purchase his books regarding the Southern Pacific and the Pacific Electric Red Cars <http://coscia-espee.info/>

Corriganville Movie Ranch – Spahn Ranch movie sets created

Just recently, the movie "Once upon a time in Hollywood" was filmed at Corriganville Movie Ranch in Simi Valley. Due to be released July 29, 2019, the movie re-created (in great detail) the buildings from the original Spahn Ranch, which burnt down in the 70's. All of the sets are now removed. The movie will involve Manson's connections with Hollywood while living on the Spahn Ranch with his "family".



Dennis Liff found this amazing photo of the original Spahn Ranch 1969. Spahn Ranch was owned by George Spahn during the time the Manson family took over the ranch. It was originally built in 1947 by Lee McReynolds and went by Lee's Trading Post, until sold to George Spahn in 1953. Lee's Trading Post traded just about everything: horses, jewelry, saddles and supplies. The McReynolds family later moved to Encino, but their son Tate grew up here in Chatsworth. We are fortunate to have an autobiography written by Tate's mother



about their life adventures.

For more photos and information on the Corriganville/Spahn Ranch sets go to:

<http://iversonmovieranch.blogspot.com/2018/09/that-quentin-tarantino-set-being-built.html>

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!