

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 882-5614
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com
www.chatsworthhistory.com



Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

Sept 2020, Issue #3

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

At the time of writing this article we are going into six months of the "Stay at Home" orders. I have found that there are only so many closets you can clean out and the endless decisions of what to do with the stuff. I am sentimental so it is not easy for me to part with anything.

The Acre is doing fine and we are slowly starting to go back in and take care of things in the museum. Annette, Nadia and Karen have been going to the acre every week to take care of the gardens. Marcia was also until she had hand surgery so she will be out for a few weeks.

Ann and Ray are still working on their research for the area and what they uncover is fascinating. Ann showed me an article from a 1926 newspaper ad that was advertising Longview Poultry Ranch which was 32 acres that was located where Rockpointe Condos are now. I find all the information that they uncover really interesting and we appreciate the time and effort that they put into all of their research. We are always looking for new information and especially photos that you would like to share with us. We can scan the photos and get them back to you if you would like. Chatsworth is a very fortunate community to have so many interested in our history to help us preserve our history.

We are going to cancel the Historical Society Christmas Party this year. I am not happy about this but I think it is the best thing to do for all of us to stay safe and healthy.

We are looking forward to getting back to a normal existence. Hopefully it will not be too far in the future.

Linda and Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2020-2021

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

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Open Houses

From 1:00 pm – 4:00 PM Sunday

Cancelled – Sept 6th

Cancelled – Oct 4th

Cancelled – Nov 1st

Cancelled – Dec 6th

Cancelled - Pioneer Day Oct 4th

General Meetings

2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM

TBD

The program "The History of Twin Lakes and Deerlake Highlands" is postponed until we can have a meeting again. We continue to create new programs for future meetings.

Chatsworth Videos on YOUTUBE

Over the years we have posted 62 videos, many of them relating to our presentations.

Check them out....

[youtube.com/chatsworthhistory1/videos](https://www.youtube.com/chatsworthhistory1/videos)

DOCENT DOINGS at the ACRE:

Our docents keep busy with projects throughout the year.

OUT IN THE GARDEN:

If you need some outdoor fresh air therapy, come join our gardening team.



IN THE MUSEUM: We have new displays that are available to share when we open again.

We normally schedule open houses 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.

Memorial Brick Plaza



Click the link below for the Memorial Brick Order Form, \$100 per brick.

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

Our next brick order will be March 1st 2021

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

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Over the last few months while we have been home, the ACRE has had the ability to monitor calls made to the Museum with questions. In addition we have received emails from individuals with ties to Chatsworth that would like to continue to learn more about their own history.

Some of the questions have taken us down paths of research that we could easily do from home offices. So, we have a variety of fun stories that we will share in upcoming newsletters and presentations.

Harry Horner, a previous resident of Twins Lakes, contacted us recently and donated a copy of the Twin Lakes Park map he originally received from Larry Lawrence, the son-in-law of George Haight and the early manager of the property for many years. Harry lived in Twin Lakes from 1965 to 2000.

Jeanette Butler Gowin recently contacted us to share information about her Grandfather. Jeanette shared that there are six generations of the James Peterson Butler family name

James Peterson Butler I (1851-1915) farmer moved his family from Nebraska to Pasadena, California



James Peterson Butler II (1892-1984) Chatsworth landowner (shown above) - Father of Valeta Koller and James P Butler III

James Peterson Butler III (1918-1993) Father of Jeanette Butler Gowen

James Peterson Butler IV (1939 -) Brother of Jeanette

James Peterson Butler V (1964-)
James Peterson Butler VI (1995-)

A proud name to pass down!

Historical Picture Donation from Jeanette Butler Gowin - James Peterson Butler Family

by Ann & Ray Vincent

Here is an amazing early photo of a stone house at 21419 Devonshire in 1938. Today, this acreage is the Ralphs Market Chatsworth Plaza, and the stone house would be in the parking lot.

At that time, this was a 10 acre lot owned by James Peterson Butler II (known as Jim), and it was a *citrus nursery*. In the 1940 census, *J.P. Butler III* lived there, and his daughter Jeanette Butler Gowin was three years old. Jeanette shared this photo with us.



1937-38 photo of James Butler II in front of James Butler III home at 21419 Devonshire, today's Ralphs parking lot.

A “then and now” comparison of the 10 acre parcel is below, using a 1945 ucsb aerial photo and Google Earth. The stone house is circled in yellow, the larger structure above it in the middle of the field is a barn/nursery.



Jim Butler managed over 250 acres of citrus groves in Chatsworth and the west valley that included 100 acres of his own. He had also created his own weather station on his property to help monitor the temperatures to set out smudge pots as needed. Other farmers in the area paid attention and followed his leadership. He was the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau and chaired the Citrus Growers Dept. In addition he was on the Board of the Canoga Citrus Association. In the 1960's he developed the Devonshire acreage that became the Chatsworth Plaza.

Saugus to the Sea and other shortcuts that never were....by Ray Vincent

As we research our early Chatsworth residents, prominent names such as Gray and Johnson show up, giving us a look at our past. This article looks back at three proposed road projects to connect the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys to the beach, **Saugus to the Sea**, **Reseda to the Sea**, and **Knudsen Parkway**. They were described as "scenic highways", but for various reasons never came to pass.

The newsletter Editor (Ann) has limited me to one page on this subject in this Smoke Signal publication, so I have published a five page article, to be found at chatsworthhistory.com, Digital Archives, Publications, Articles, Saugus to Sea... So for the complete story visit the link at [Saugus to the Sea....](#)
A summary of Saugus to the Sea is below....

Saugus to the Sea

In January 1926, Chambers of Commerce of Santa Monica-Ocean Park and 18 Chambers from the San Fernando Valley met with County officials to improve Topanga Canyon Blvd from the ocean to Ventura Blvd. They also endorsed the extension of Topanga Canyon through Owensmouth, Chatsworth, and Saugus.

The Topanga to Chatsworth route was completed in 1931, but what happened to the extension through the Santa Susana Mountains?

In March 1926, 30 engineers and prominent valley residents travelled up Brown's canyon to the top of the Santa Susana Range. They left Chatsworth School in automobiles and enjoyed a dinner of barbecued steaks at the summit, and discussed various routes. A later route stated that "the preliminary view of the situation is that one of the two routes through the Johnson ranch will be selected."

Three months later, "Saugus to the Sea" proponents met at a banquet at the Chatsworth Women's clubhouse, with President N.A. Gray and Secretary Ernest L. Johnson of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce presiding. A following article described the distance through the mountains to Saugus as 17 ½ miles. Several routes would be suggested based on the shortest route, the one of easiest construction, and the one with the slightest grade.

The Great Depression started in October 1929. In February 1931 the cost of the project was reported at \$555,000, and that State aid was suggested to help fund the project. A second article stated that "deeds for the entire 13 miles of right-of-way necessary for the road have been prepared by the County Surveyor and are now in the hands of the Associated Chambers, who plan to interview the property owners."

No mention of the project is reported again until 1955, when the Board of Supervisors authorized the road to be included in the county's 10-year detention camp construction plan. But it was soon followed by a 1956 article stating that procurement of right-of-way will be difficult and take a minimum of two years to procure, with road completion estimated in 10 years.

INSPECT PROPOSED NEW SCENIC DRIVE

A party of about thirty engineers and prominent valley residents Saturday took a trip up Brown's canyon to the highest point on the Santa Susana range to determine the practicability of building a scenic highway to this point. The building of such a highway in the mountains for the northwest of the valley was declared practical, and although no survey of the country has been made it is stated that the grade would not be more than six per cent.

The highway would leave the Santa Susana Pass road somewhere west of Brown's canyon and wind its way to the summit, where it is planned to build the drive along the top of the range. The highest point attained by the highway would be the ranger station on top of the ridge, an elevation of 3,755 feet. An approach to the drive up the northside has been planned through Towsley canyon. The grade and route which would have to be taken by this road has not been determined, however. When finished this would be a short route from Saugus and Newhall to points in the upper San Fernando valley.

The party left Chatsworth school in automobiles provided by the promoters of the project at 8:30 a. m. and proceeded to the summit where a dinner of barbecued steaks was served. At the summit a meeting was held at which plans were gone over and contour maps of the region studied.

Which Julius Fried (pronounced Freed) founded Orange Julius?

By Ray Vincent

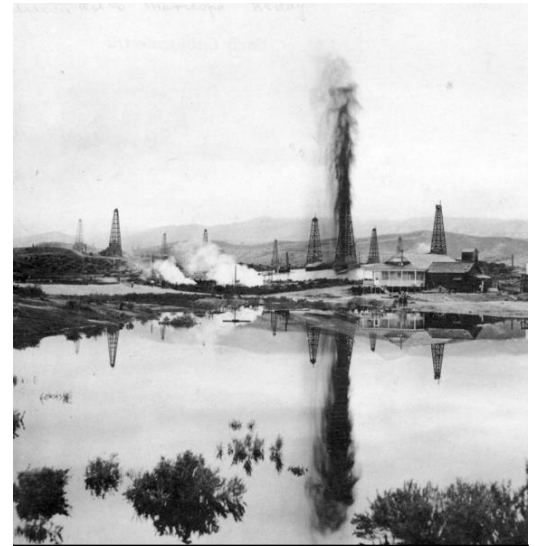
We had always thought that Orange Julius was named after Chatsworth Celebrity Julius Fried of the Chatsworth Orange Ranch at the north end of Canoga. After a good bit of research, we recently discovered that another Julius Fried (from Butte Montana) created Orange Julius. We hope you enjoy our story below....

Lakeview Gusher Julius Fried (1872-1958), born in California



Julius Fried 1910

One of our interesting Chatsworth Celebrities is Julius Fried of Lakeview Gusher fame. He was born in Healdsburg, Sonoma, the son of a '49er pioneer. He went to the Coalinga Ca. oilfields in 1901, left after 4 years and pursued other oil opportunities. In 1910 at the age of 37, Julius hit the largest oil strike in US History, 30 miles southwest of Bakersfield. The gusher raged out of control for 9 months, as massive dikes of sand were created to control the flow. Julius became instantly wealthy, married 22 year old Dorothy "Dot" Cramer seven months later, and took up residence in Santa Monica and then Los Angeles.



Lakeview 01
A lake of oil in front of the well



Fried Citrus Ranch 11110 Canoga, circa 1920's

In the 1920's, they purchased a 50 acre Citrus Ranch in Chatsworth at the north end of Canoga. The ranch caretaker in the 30's & 40's was Harry Misumi, and then the Vargas family became caretakers in the 40's to 1962, when the ranch was sold and subdivided. The Vargas Family has shared photos of that era with us, with Julius and Dot visiting the ranch, and we will share much more in a future presentation.



Julius, his Borzoi and a baby goat on the ranch

A relative of Lakeview Gusher Julius Fried recently contacted us asking for information on Julius Fried, as Julius was her great uncle. As we shared information about Julius, I asked if she had ever heard family stories of his connection with Orange Julius -- she said she had not. We found it odd that even though Julius Fried was a fairly famous person with many articles and accounts written about him, it was never mentioned that he was also the creator/namesake of Orange Julius.

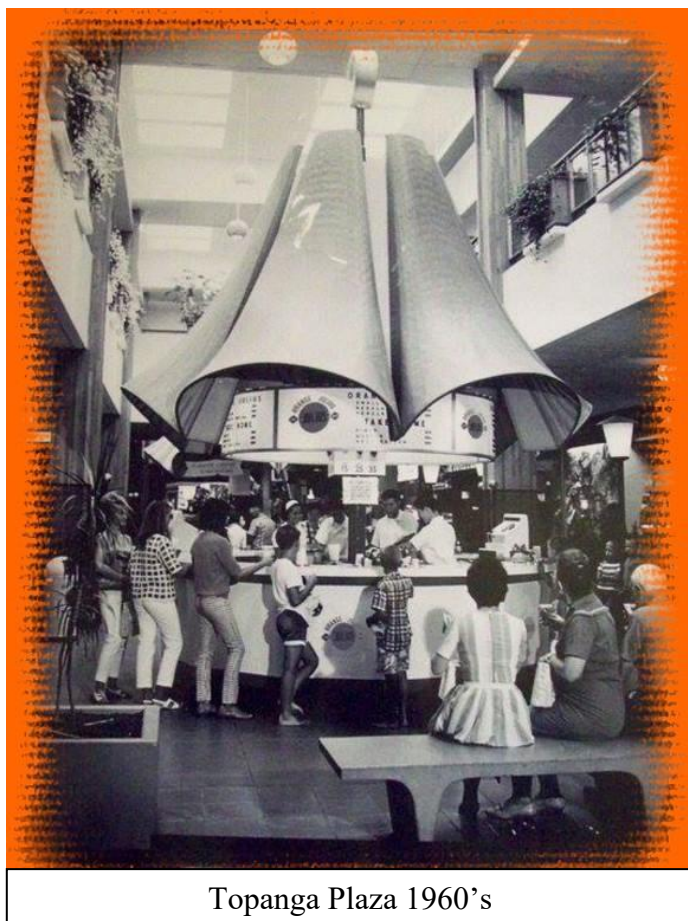
A little digging found that there were two Julius Frieds living in Los Angeles at the time. But first, a little backstory on Orange Julius.

Orange Julius

Orange Julius, a very popular citrus drink in the 60's & 70's (when I was a teenager), was founded in 1926 as the "General Citrus Stores Company". In 1929 the name of the company was changed to "Orange Julius, Ltd". Those documents, obtained from the Los Angeles Natural History Museum Seaver Center, identify Julius Fried as 2/3 owner, and Williard (Bill) Hamlin as 1/3 owner. There have been many articles written about Orange Julius, mostly from the perspective of Hamlin.



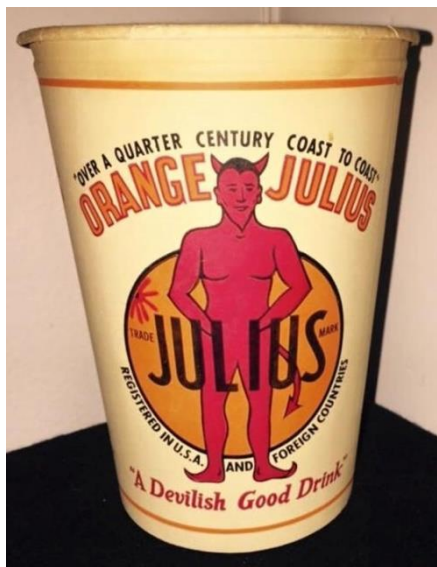
Circa 1940's Vernon & Central, source LAPL



Topanga Plaza 1960's

In Hamlin's 1987 obituary, the story is told that Hamlin became involved in the Orange Julius business in 1926 after Julius Fried asked him to help find a site to sell freshly

squeezed orange juice. The first store was located in downtown Los Angeles on Broadway and 8th St.



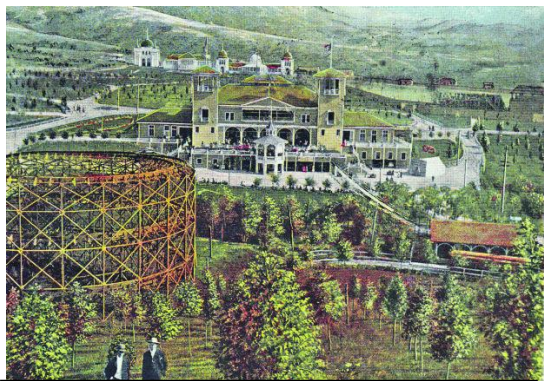
Hamlin suggested an additive to the juice, including crushed ice, syrup and a still secret powder of pure food products. Within three years the company had stands nationwide, and Hamlin later bought out Julius Fried. Hamlin retired in 1967, and had seen his innovation grow from a downtown Los Angeles lunch counter into an international network of 700 red-and-white stands in eight countries and territories around the world. That year he sold his business to International Industries/Dairy Queen.

Many of us remember having an Orange Julius. The 1967 telephone book has two listed in Canoga Park, at 6819 Topanga Canyon (across from Canoga Park High), and one at 6600 Topanga Canyon, in Topanga Plaza. Dairy Queen still sells Orange Julius. In writing this article, Ann & I recently drove out to a Dairy Queen in Simi Valley to relive the experience.

Butte Montana Julius Fried (1880-1935), born in Ohio

In the 1920 census, a search on Ancestry found a successful Julius Fried as a Wholesale Cigar Merchant in Butte Montana, married to Wilmeta (Minnie).

There were quite a few articles and advertisements available in local Butte newspapers. As early as 1903, at the age of 23, he advertised the Julius Fried Cigar Store at 23 East Broadway, adjacent to the Butte Hotel.



Columbia Gardens, Butte MT, 1905

At a 1914 Labor Day event at Columbia Gardens, in which local businessmen donated prizes: *for the 75-yard race for men over 50 years old, First place 50 cigars donated by Julius Fried, second, quart bottle of whiskey donated by Caplice Commercial Company.*

Historic note 1: Copper ore mined from the Butte mining district in 1910 made Butte the largest producer of copper in North America. The amount of ore produced in the city earned it the nickname "The Richest Hill on Earth."

In 1919, Julius opened a new distribution center, and sold his cigar store. By 1922, three of his creditors wanted Julius Fried declared bankrupt. A 1924 article states that the Butte Bank wrote off a \$22,000 debt years ago. It may have been these financial troubles

that prompted Julius and Wilmeta to relocate to Los Angeles.

By the 1930 census, they had moved to Los Angeles, and were living at 1536 Cambria near MacArthur Park, 1.4 miles from that first Orange Julius stand at 820 South Broadway. The census listed Julius' occupation as "Merchant Soft Drinks".

Historic note 2: The nationwide constitutional ban on alcohol was from 1920 to 1933. So in the 1930 census, a soft drink merchant would sell nonalcoholic beverages, unlike a hard drink, which is a distilled alcoholic beverage.

A 1931 newspaper column titled "Street Scene" included this bit "...Julius Fried, the orange drink inventor. Started at 8th Street and Broadway with practically nothing six years ago. Offered \$2,000,000 for his business the other day...."

1. PLACE OF DEATH - DIST. No. 1901		STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS	
COUNTY OF <u>Los Angeles</u>		STANDARD CERTIFICATE	
CITY, TOWN OR RURAL DISTRICT OF <u>Los Angeles</u>			
2. FULL NAME <u>Julius Fried</u>			
RESIDENCE: No. <u>1536 Cambria</u>		USUAL PLACE OF ABODE	
3. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>Cauc</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED? (WRITE THE WORD) <u>Married</u>	
5A. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED, NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE <u>Wilmeta Fried</u>			
6. DATE OF BIRTH <u>February 17 1880</u>			
7. AGE <u>55</u> YR. <u>2</u> MO. <u>10</u> DAYS. IF LESS THAN ONE DAY HRS. MIN.			
8. TRADE, PROFESSION OR KIND OF WORK DONE AS SPINNER, SAWYER, BOOKKEEPER, ETC. <u>Owner</u>			
9. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH WORK WAS DONE, AS SILKMILL, SAWMILL, BAKERY, ETC. <u>Soft Drink Stand</u>			
10. DATE DECEASED LAST WORKED AT THIS OCCUPATION (MO. AND YR.) <u>1935</u>			
11. TOTAL YEARS SPENT IN THIS OCCUPATION <u>10</u>			
12. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) <u>Cleveland</u>			
STATE OR COUNTRY <u>Ohio</u>			

We ordered a copy of his 1935 death certificate, he died young at the age of 55. It verified his 1930 census address and his wife as Wilmeta, who was the informant for the death certificate. It also listed his **trade as the Owner of a Soft Drink Stand, date last worked 1935, total years spent in this occupation 10 years**, which correlates to the founding of Orange Julius. Cause of death was sclerosis of the coronary arteries of the heart.

We called Forest Lawn Glendale, and they confirmed that funeral services were held at Wee Kirk O' the Heather Mortuary on April 30, 1935. They told us that Julius was cremated, and his ashes were given to Wilmeta.

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 ARCHIVES online at
<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com>

facebook CHS FACEBOOK PAGE
www.facebook.com/HomesteadAcre

CHS YOUTUBE Channel
youtube.com/chatsworthhistory1/videos

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

Slideshare has a listing of our CHS presentations that can easily be watched online. We now have a total of 31 PowerPoint presentations posted. 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?

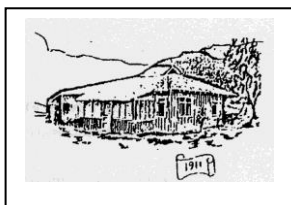
Your dues are due one year after the last time you paid your dues.

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

Yearly: New Member Renewal
 Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Organization \$20.00
Life Membership: \$ 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!