

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

July 2022, Issue #2

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

Summer is here and the work at the acre never stops. Ann Vincent and Donna Nachtrab are getting ready for Pioneer Day. We are truly looking forward to Pioneer Day this year. Not only is it just the return of an important fund raiser for us but it is a great day to share with the community what it was like in the past in Chatsworth. Pioneer Day will be on Sunday, October 2nd this year and we are hoping for a successful event.

In the museum we are reorganizing some of our display cases. The new theme for the museum will be the Chatsworth tunnels with some rare photos of the building of the tunnel and the crew that worked on it. Minnie and her family were involved with the building of the tunnel. The Hill family gave Southern Pacific the rights to build the tunnel on the north crest of their property.

Minnie was quoted as saying, "My mother did the washing for the men who worked on the tunnel, and I had to sew home-made labels in the men's clothing so we could tell the clothes apart. We had a book, and each man had a number. As long as he was there, he had that same number. I kept them in a book. Sometimes my father would take the clothes back to the men or they would come and get them. My father had a wagon which he drove up there to the tunnel taking fresh fruit to sell to the men working on the tunnel." This quote was taken from an interview of Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson.

We also had work done on our septic tank last month. There were roots in the piping so it would back up. The bathroom was out of order because of this. We are good now, but it was a sizeable investment for us. There is always maintenance to do at the acre.

I hope you have a great rest of the summer and hope to see everyone at Pioneer Day.

Linda and Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2021-2022

Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Treasurer.....	Jim Van Gundy
Secretary.....	Donna Nachtrab
Hospitality.....	Jelena Csanyi
Smoke Signal Editor.....	Ann Vincent
Research Director.....	Ray Vincent
Director-at-Large.....	Connie Ager

Upcoming Events

Open House Events

August 7, 2022 1-4 pm

September 4, 2022 1-4 pm

Taking July, August and September off from community presentations to enjoy the summer...

General Meeting

Welcome Back Membership Roundup

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

September 20, Tuesday 7:00pm



Join us outside under the walnut tree on Tuesday evening for a fun Ice Cream Social with a variety of toppings. Get a chance to say hello to other members and hear about our plans for the upcoming year.

Watch for: General Meeting

October 18, Tuesday 6:30pm

Rockpointe Community History

Program will be available in person and Zoom

PIONEER DAY

Sunday, October 2, 2022

11am -3pm

Flyers available online

[chatsworthhistory.com/Events](https://www.chatsworthhistory.com/Events)

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. Roses need pruning to keep them at their best.



IN THE MUSEUM: Our docents continue to reorganize and catalog our early photograph collections. We have new displays set up that are available to share; come check them out. We will feature our train history and tunnels this year for Pioneer Day.

OPEN HOUSE is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month from 1-4pm. Our volunteers enjoy greeting guests and have fun sharing the history of the Homestead Acre with visitors.

IN THE COTTAGE: An inventory project is in process to confirm and learn more about the history of the items on display so we can provide more information on our tours.

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED: Help organize, research or 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 August 1, 2022

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

Included in this newsletter:

NOTE: Watch for links in our articles that allow easy access to more information. Right click with your mouse to open the link in a new window, so you can easily get back to the original newsletter.

- **Graves Rumpus Room Door**
- **Grapevine Publications**
- **Stoney Point History Program**
- **Pony Rides on Devonshire -Lohman**

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

OPEN HOUSE

We have enjoyed the opportunity to have our OPEN HOUSE events on the 1st Sunday of each month, and have been fortunate to have good weather for each. We gather outside under the shade of the tree just inside the gates and enjoy the company of all the members who join us for a casual afternoon. Usually something fun comes up to discuss and learn about.

In June, we had the opportunity to see the Graves Family 'rumpus room' door (picture below) from 22101 Tulsa Street at the Harry Graves Ranch. It was donated by Graves Family descendants.

Harry's daughters each married military men stationed in Chatsworth during WW2 and lived on sections of the original Harry Graves Ranch. Virginia Ditto, the daughter of Harry Graves, had 5 children, and was active with the Historical Society. Several family items have been donated over the years.

Below is the story of the door....



Graves Rumpus Room Door

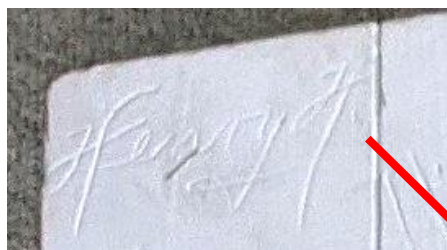
In June, we had the opportunity to see the Graves Family door, donated by Graves Family descendants.

The story of the door at 22101 Tulsa Street at the Harry Graves Ranch follows: Harry Graves and Bonnie had two daughters, Bonnie Jean (1921-2007) and Virginia (1924-1995). Harry passed away in 1930, and their mother remarried Henry Heynemann in 1936. Henry was the engineer and architect responsible for the new 1935 Chatsworth Park Elementary building, after the previous building was condemned due to the 1933 Long Beach earthquake.

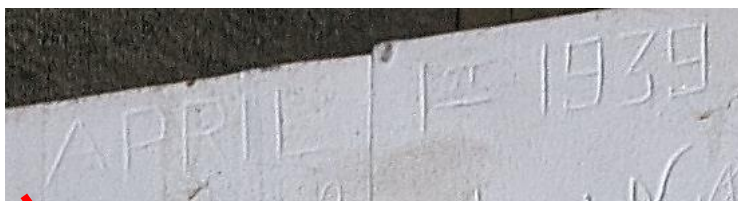
Henry did a property reconstruct/reconfiguration of Harry Graves Ranch, which had a very large garage in the 1920s, four stalls wide. When the daughters reached high school age, half of the garage was made into the 'rumpus room', where the girls entertained their Canoga Park High School classmates. The 'door' was the entry from the garage into the new room.

A significant date is April 1st, 1939, when the room was completed, and a party was held to celebrate, at which time guests signed the door. Over the years, other guests signed the door. Henry Heynemann was a craftsman, and used an engraving tool to etch the names into the door.

Some signatures below of "notable" names: Henry Heynemann, Virginia Graves, Bonnie Jean Graves, Catherine Mulholland, Cecil Graves, Bill Lakey, Eleanor Schepler, Bill "duck" Philbrook, Henry Ditto. Over 85 signatures have been counted on the door.



Henry Heynemann signed as Henry H.



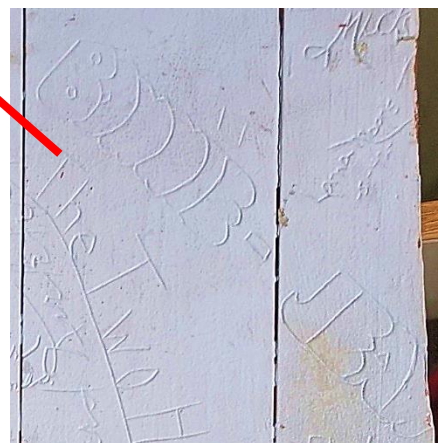
The top of the door says APRIL 1st 1939. Was it an April Fools party?



Virginia Graves, age 15, Canoga High Class of Winter 1941



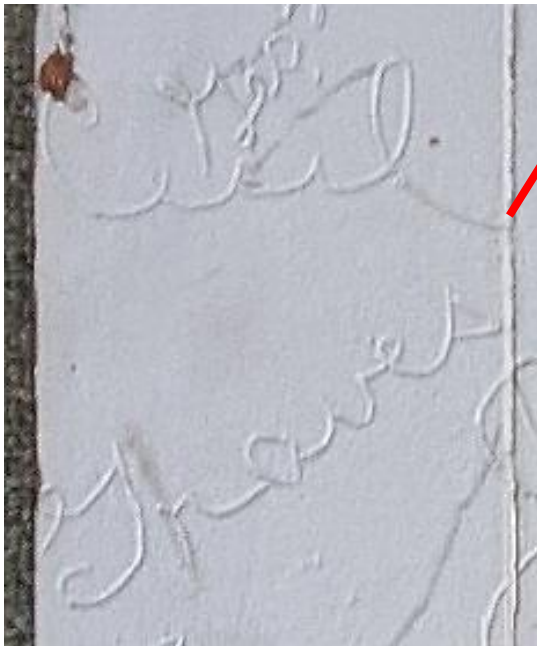
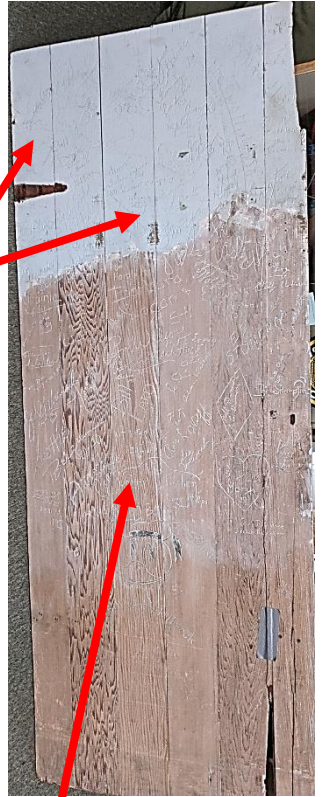
Full Door



Bonnie-Jean Graves, age 18



Catherine Mulholland – age 16 Class of 1940
Grand-daughter of William Mulholland



Cecil Graves, 38 years old,
son of Fred and Emma Graves;
Fred and Harry Graves were brothers;
Cecil had polio – [See Grapevine article](#)
reference on page 6



Bill Lakey, age 20, married Bonnie Jean Graves
in 1942 they lived at
10869 Farralone Ave, Chatsworth, CA



Eleanor Schepler 45 years old in 1939
Mother of Bill and Frank Schepler Jr. who moved
the Pioneer Church in 1964



Best Illustration on the door...by Bill "Duck" Philbrook



Added at a later date...
Henry Ditto born in 1944, son of
Virginia Graves and Hubert Ditto

The Ditto Family lived at 11001 Farralone; Henry carved his name and address in the door at some later point in time. He carved "Henry Ditto, 11001 Farralone. Chatsworth, Calif." in the bottom section of the door.

GRAPEVINE PUBLICATIONS

by Ann Vincent

While recently searching through our museum storage, we located a large cardboard box strapped together, deep under a shelf. The box had the name "Newspapers Mrs. Johnson" on it and it contained... approximately 280 additional original Grapevines, most all addressed to the Johnson address, 10901 Santa Susana. What a find! It actually started with Volume 1, Issue 1 and spans most of 1954-1960.

A special thank you goes out to various members over the years that donated copies they had on hand. We had already scanned approximately 80 to date and posted them on our website under publications for everyone to enjoy. It gave us the ability to study them and realize the value they have to our history. This find takes us closer to a complete set. We have already started to catalogue and scan them so they can be optically searched for content.

Each Grapevine issue is about 16 pages each. The fun part of the Grapevines, is that they are focused on Chatsworth, Twin Lakes and Lake Manor with feature articles. Viola Haskell and Betty Straker printed their first issue on December 1st, 1954 under the business name of West Valley Letters with a 10347 Jordan St address. Other editors stepped in over the years, but the concept was a newsy fun paper published twice a month. They included a feature article about local history and the early families, along with current events. They announced new birth arrivals, visiting family members, vacation plans and general fun neighborhood gossip. All of the local businesses advertised and a full center spread let you know what the grocery deals were at the local Shopping Cart Market on Devonshire.

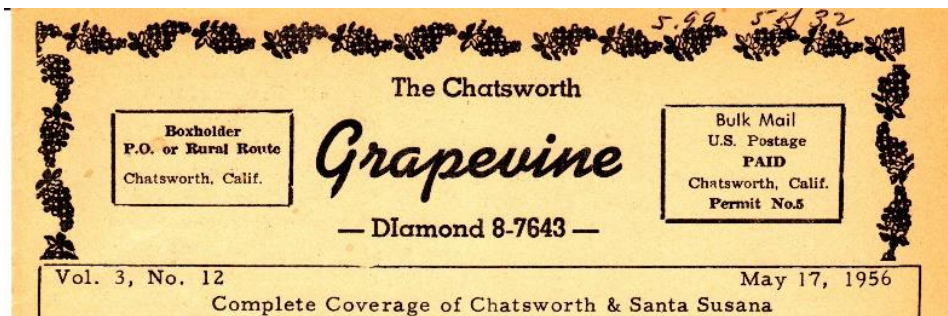
Here are a few fun articles to look up: (Be sure to right click to open in a new window so you can get back to the newsletter easily)

- [1954-12-01](#) Lionel Barrymore obit pg1, Schepler new home pg3, Lohman ad pg5
- [1955-03-15](#) Feature article on Al Brain's 5 and Dime Store and their family pg15
- [1955-05-01](#) Rotary starts pg1, Corriganville article pg4, Paradise Shop surprise BDay party titled Clayton Ferrero pg. 10
- [1955-05-15](#) Davey Crockett sandals at Chats Dept Store pg. 6
- [1955-07-01](#) Cecil Graves obit pg3, Laurelwood Acres pg15 (These are two great articles about people who made a difference in our community)

The feature articles sometimes were interviews with our Pioneer family members, Minnie Hill Palmer, Emma Graves, or articles about our current Chatsworth Mayors Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. They always included some current event regarding the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary or the American Legion. Sewing Circles and the Women's Club activities were shared.

It will take a long time to get all of these new publications completed to post on our website, but it is a priority. You might enjoy starting to read them...it really is fun...sort of hard to stop! Located at:

<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com/Grapevines.html> (Right Click)



Stoney Point History Program

On May 17th, we hosted both an in person and zoom meeting on Stoney Point History. The PowerPoint presentation has been posted on both the chatsworthhistory.com website and Slideshare.net for everyone to have access to. You will find Stoney Point Chatsworth Formation geology in our Chatsworth Timeline and also Stoney Point Native American Momonga artwork in our Apeta Momonga Mission Trail program.

For the entire program go to: [Stoney Point History](#) (right click on links to open to a new window)

Some of the highlights include:

Earliest map with Stoney Point is the “1871 Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando.”

The seven names of Stoney Point

Over the years Stoney Point has been referred to as a variety of names, some in error, but documented on postcards or stories.

1000 BC - **Momonga**

1797 - **Ranchería de las Piedras** (“Village of the Stones”, Mission San Fernando registers)

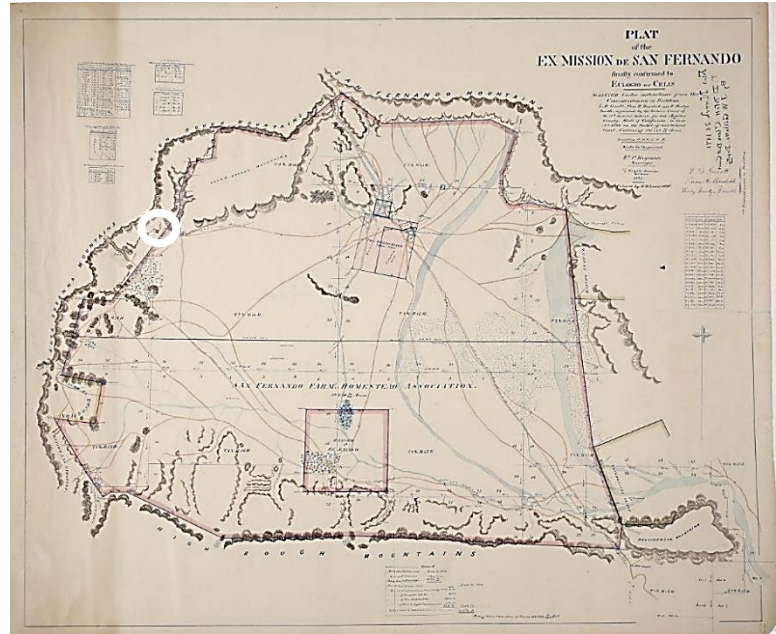
1873 - **Castle Rock?** (per a 1948 Tiburcio Vasquez story, plus a 1935 postcard)

1906 – **Sugar Loaf Hill** (Charlton Quarry)

1912 – **Rocky Point** (Postcard)

1927-65 – **Stony Point** (1927 Stony Point Rancho, 1948 4th of July BBQ at Stony Point)

1951 to today – **Stoney Point** (1951 Alward’s Stony Point Service, 1965 Stoney Point Ranch, 1982 Stoney Point Park)



In 1886 –George Charlton homesteaded the 137-acre parcel that included Stoney Point beginning in 1886 or earlier. He was granted the homestead in May 1899. He lived off of Rinaldi (the old Mission Road) where DNA Prep Academy is today. George and his wife, Mary, had three sons, Oliver, Frederick, Robert and one daughter Anna. In 1904, Charlton’s 27-year-old son Robert wrote an article for Sunset Magazine, “The Story of a Great Tunnel”. Tunnel 28 was built on their property.

In the 1910 Census they are retired in Pomona; however in a 1917 fire... all the heavy brush between the Iverson place and Stoney Point, and the Charlton apiary “just on the other side of the tunnel” was burned. The owners lost their house and almost a hundred hives of bees.” In 1924 George Charlton passes in Pomona. In the 1920’s there were new neighbors close by the property. Driscoll, Turner, Haworth, Wilson, & Johnson. In 1948 –Walter Lohman, realtor, purchased the upper portion of the homestead north of the tracks, see feature article below. In 1973 – it was owned by Leon Fenwick, called “The Ranch Club” summer day camp, 21523 San Fernando Mission. In 1981 – it became Chatsworth Hills Academy and now in 2020 – DNA Prep Academy owns the 16 acre campus, at 21523 Rinaldi Street.



Rock Climbing is a big part of Stoney Point.

A unique trails map is in the presentation.

Below is a 4-minute Stoney Point movie from Cole Gibson worth watching:

[2012 Stoney Point Documentary - A Rock Climbing Movie](#) (right click)

Movies filmed at or around Stoney Point are always fun to see...they jump right out at you!



[1993 Season 5 Episode 12](#) Seinfeld "The Stall"

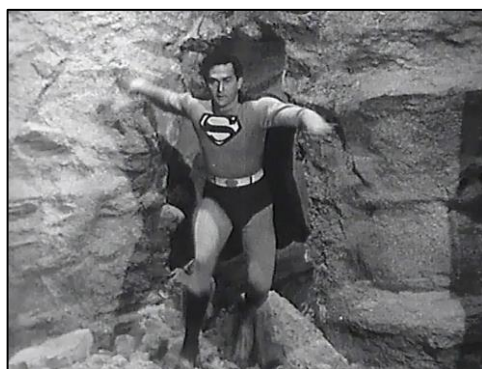
Elaine's boyfriend, whose face she just loves, takes George & Kramer rock climbing. After his accident, Elaine isn't sure his face will be the same (right click to open in new window)



This 1940 Grapes of Wrath Promo shot was taken at Iverson Ranch Garden of the Gods and shows Stoney Point on the left.

[1948 Superman Serial Ch 3](#)

The Reducer Ray - Superman going to Stoney Point to destroy the Reducer Ray
Lots of Superman episodes were filmed in Chatsworth!



[1950 Superman Serial Ch 1](#)

Superman Flies Again
Capturing Lex Luthor at his Stoney Point Hideout

Additional movies are listed in the full Stoney Point presentation

Stoney Point Community events 1948-50 – American Legion 4th of July Parade, Carnival and BBQ at Stoney Point. The American Legion hosted this event for three years.



In 1996, Edwin Iverson gave a Slide Show Presentation to the Chatsworth Historical Society.

A part of that presentation were slides of the 1949 or 1950 Parade and Barbecue at Stoney Point.

The six-minute video clip of [1996 Edwin Iverson Presentation](#)

In 1974 Stoney Point becomes Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument # 132.

In 1982 it is purchased and becomes a 22-acre City Park.

In 1999 an additional 52 acres are added to include the area north of Stoney Point up to the 118 freeway.

1950 Pony Rides on Devonshire – Walter P. Lohman by Ray Vincent

During our Stoney Point program in May, we discussed the previous residents of the Old Charlton Place, just northeast of Stoney Point (where today's [DNA Prep Academy](#) is located)

We reached out to Loxi Lohman, who grew up on the 55-acre ranch at 21521 Mission Rd, known to the Lohman family (Walter, wife Madge, Young Walter, and Loxi) as Rancho Las Pilitas. It was the upper portion of the Charlton Homestead, above the railroad tracks. She shared the following stories and photos with us. The family purchased the property in 1948, and renovated the house before moving from their home in Panorama City in 1949. Walter was a real estate broker and insurance salesman, focusing on land sales. In 1949 he built the two-store building below at 21715/21717 Devonshire Street, just west of Owensmouth (today's Country Squire Liquor store)



The 1950 West End Trading Post -- Madge, Young Walter, Loxi, and Walter Lohman

The September 1950 article in the Van Nuys News at right advertises free pony rides for the kids while parents are shopping in the West End Trading Post.

Walter also owned the vacant lot just west of the Trading Post, and that is where the Pony Rides were held.

In 1955, Walter built a second adjoining building west of the Trading Post (where the pony rides were), which is where today's Grooming and Upholstery shop are, right next to Country Squire Liquor. The Country Squire Liquor and Delicatessen opened in 1954.



YOUNG LADIES READY FOR PONY RIDE at West End Trading Post are Loxi Lohman, daughter of Walter P. Lohman, owner of store and Valley realtor, shown on left, Mary Morgan Hull, daughter of Thomas E. Hull, head of Hull Hotels, and Mrs. Hull. Lohman operates pictured corral with these gentle little mounts for enjoyment of small fry who may ride while parents are shopping in the popular "Old Time" store.

Mr. Lohman is adding three stores to his present building on Devonshire. A barber shop will be at the west end, Alma's Beauty Shop in the center, and possibly a western store; with the old-time facade extending the entire length of the building.

Page 6 of the 1955-03-05 Grapevine discusses the second building west of the Trading Post, where the pony rides were held. And it mentions that the "old-time" facade extended the entire length of the building. I grew up in Chatsworth, and remember going to Johnny the Barber at the west end. And the 5 and dime was across the street.

The 1955 photo below shows the businesses north of Devonshire at Owensmouth, with the Chatsworth Inn and Cleaners where today's Cowboy Palace Saloon is. And in the distance are the Lohman Stores, which include the extension of the old-time facade.



At left is a close up of the businesses on the northwest corner of Owensmouth, with a Chevron gas station on the corner.

The "Country Squire" sign is seen on the extended facade. The buildings today have the same western facade, as seen below.



After Walter Lohman passed in 1959, the real estate office on the right became George C. Vincent Real Estate (he was my father).

In later years, Country Squire expanded and took over the real estate office on the right, and one of the three shops on the 1955 addition.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the Lohman family was busy building their estate. The existing home on the property had a large 20 x 30' living room with wood paneling inside, a high wood ceiling, a corner fireplace, and split brick flooring, with windows that wrapped all the way around it, all reasons to keep the room. The rest of the house was rebuilt.



It was a U-shaped house, with the backyard facing west with a Sycamore tree in the center. There was an eating table around the sycamore with barrel stools and a yellow rim on the lazy susan part of table.

The brick barbecue area had a sink, shelf area, barbecue, another shelf area above a warming oven, smoker oven, then a fireplace and next to that was an area to stack wood.

The hillside was covered with Geraniums.

Madge designed the pool, kicking around a garden hose until the shape was just right. Just west of the pool bordered by flagstone was a guest house/pool house, with a pool equipment room, a boy's changing room, and a one-bedroom guest room and women's changing room with attached bathroom.



At left, a 1953 Easter photo of the living room with Young Wally, cousin James, and Loxi's legs.



At right, a 1953 photo with Little Lucy and Lucille Ball, Young Wally and Loxi Lohman. From Loxi's aunt Cora Sue Collins photo collection. Cora Sue was a famous child actress.

ROY ROGERS TO MOVE HIS HOME TO CHATSWORTH

ENCINO — Western film actor Roy Rogers plans to sell his home at 5330 Ames-toy Ave., Encino, and move to a Chatsworth ranch, Walter P. Lohman, Chatsworth realtor, announced today.

Rogers purchased a 130-acre ranch in the 22600 block of Lassen St., Chatsworth, and is scheduled to take possession of it on April 8, Lohman said. The realtor said the sales price was "over \$100,000."

The actor plans to make the ranch his home and also will use it for a picture-making location. The ranch was purchased from Max P. Schonfeld, manager of the 51st Agricultural District fair, Devonshire.

At left, a 1955-03-01 article from the LA Citizen News announcing that Roy Rogers bought his 130-acre ranch on Lassen/Andora from Max Schonfeld. Walter Lohman was the realtor. Max Schonfeld had owned the ranch since 1944, was the general manager of the annual San Fernando Valley fair at Devonshire Downs, and was the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce President in 1952.

Loxi was the same age as Linda Rogers, and the Rogers family visited often.

At right, a 1955-09-01 Chatsworth Grapevine article discusses a birthday party at Pilitas Ranch with the Hutchinson's of Rim Rock Ranch.

Walter Lohman passed in 1959. And in 1959 the family built a second home on the "upper" barn level of the property, with a bunkhouse and a pool, and turned the barn into an apartment for Loxi. That address was 21523 Mission Rd.

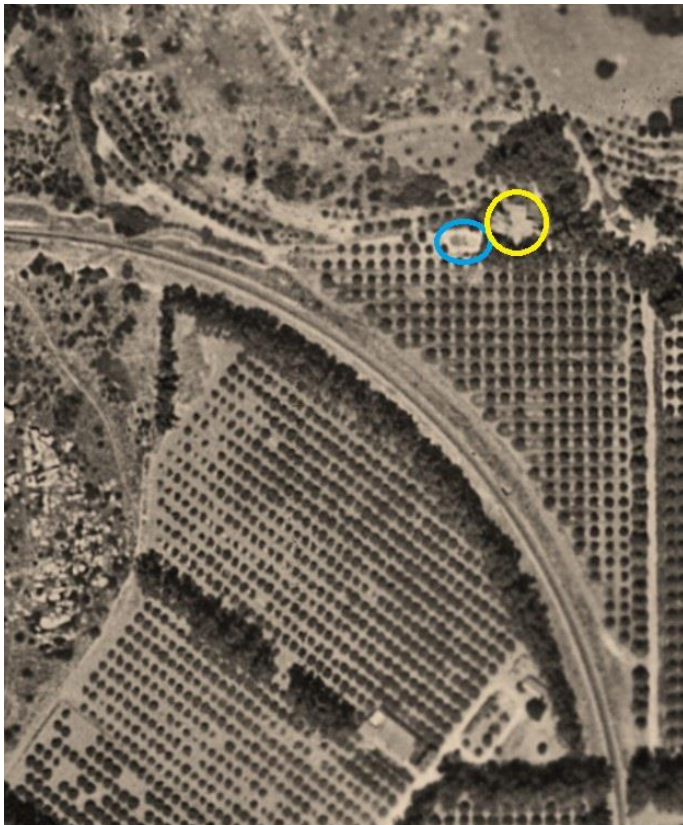
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. WALTER LOHMAN'S birthdays are just 24 hours apart - hers on the 13th of August and his on the 14th which was cause for a double celebration at their Pilitas Ranch on Sunday. Lohman says he's managing to keep up with Jack Benny - he's now 39.

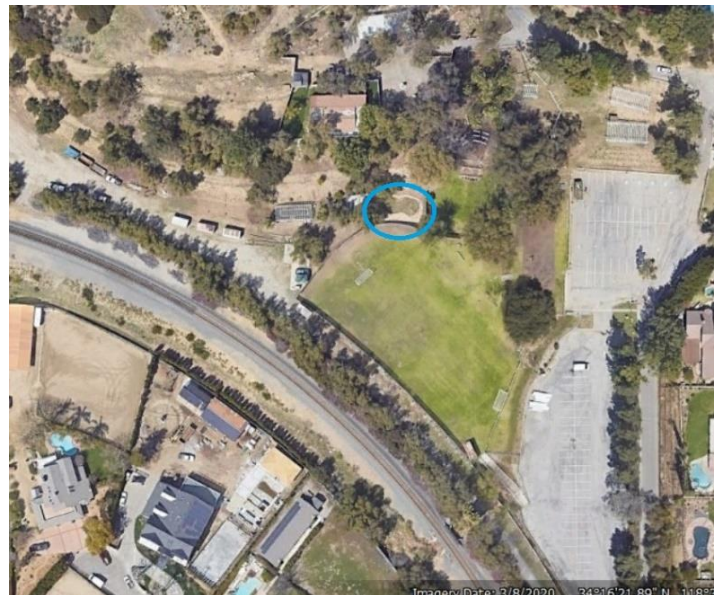
Swimming and barbecued filet steaks and all the trimmings were the order of the day, enjoyed by Mssrs. and Mmes. Hutchinson of Rim Rock Ranch, Lou Vollmers of 10949 Andora, the Arthur Herpol-sheiners from Northridge Estates and Bob Dennis.

The Lohmans are enjoying a leisurely vacation - spent four days down at Del Mar, returning in the evening of August 21st, with the thrill of having won on a couple of long shots. Last week they spent a couple of days at Catalina.

In 1960 the family sold the lower 8 acres with main house, pool, bathhouse and orange grove (21521 Mission Rd.) to the Bill Castonguay family, who owned a restaurant in San Fernando.



Today, the 21521 main house is gone, as is the orange grove. What remains is the flagstone outline of the pool, as seen circled in blue at left from a 1956 aerial (house circled in yellow), and below circled in blue from 2022 Google Earth.



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 39 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.

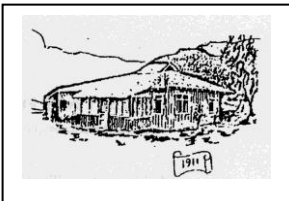
For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due.

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| | <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!