

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

November 2022, Issue #4

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

All I can say about Pioneer Day this year is wow. It was great to see so many families come out and enjoy the day. It was a very successful day for us, and we want to thank everyone who came out and joined us.

I know Ann later in this newsletter will thank everyone, but I would like to give special thanks to Ann and Ray who put so much time in the planning of the event. Donna Nachtrab spent a lot of time with Ann in organizing the Chores of Yore for the kids. Jelena helped me in getting the new museum display done. The train tunnels are one of my favorite displays that we do.

I would like to thank Rick and Jerry who used to own Chatsworth Florist for coming from Arizona to help at the snack bar. Bea Berman was represented with her son-in-law Gary Bercow cooking the hot dogs. I want to also thank my daughter Linda and my granddaughter Hunter for also helping in the snack bar. We sold out of hot dogs so that was good thing.

I would like to especially thank Councilmember John Lee for arranging and paying for the shuttle because parking is an issue for us. We estimate that we had over 800 people in attendance, not the record but close.

Bea was looking over us to make sure the weather was perfect. This was the first Pioneer Day that Bea was not with us and she was surely missed.

If you have not joined us yet for our monthly program, you are missing something. Ann and Ray have put in so much work in researching for the presentations as they do for the newsletters. The monthly programs are on zoom and in person so try to join us. You will learn something new at every program. If you can't make it, you can find the presentations on our website.

We hope that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. -- Linda and Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2022-2023

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

Upcoming Events

General Meeting
November 15, Tuesday 6:30 PM
HIGHWAY PATROL TV
Movie Night

Join us as we discuss Highway Patrol Episodes filmed in Chatsworth.



We will show the 1956 episode "Motorcycle A" featuring 25 yr. old Clint Eastwood at various Chatsworth Locations.

Program will be available at the Homestead ACRE and on Zoom; Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84843234310...>

Or go to: www.Zoom.us or Dial: (669) 900 9128
Meeting ID: 848 4323 4310 Passcode: 100200

General Meeting
January 17, Tuesday 6:30 PM TBD

Open House Events

Sunday, December 4, 2022 1-4 pm
NO OPEN House January 1st
Sunday, February 5, 2023 1-4 pm

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.

[Brick Order Form.pdf](#)

Our next brick order will be March 1, 2023

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.

- **Pioneer Day Recap**
- **Anderson Buggy/Carriage Story**
- **Frank Ackerman Family Photo**
- **Lounsbury Visit**
- **Rockpointe Townhomes Presentation**

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

The Grapevines are posted!

After many hours of scanning and compiling, we have posted all [239 issues of the Grapevines](#) that we have. They range from Dec 1954 to Jun 1960. A fascinating timeframe as Chatsworth changed from a rural community to a suburb....

Karyne Ventris

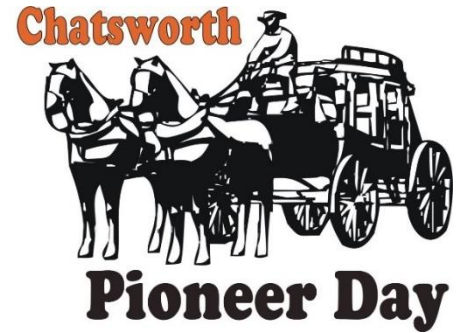
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Karyne Ventris on October 14th. Karyne has been a volunteer in our Garden for many years, coming many times a week to tend to special plants. She had a quick wit and greeted everyone with a smile. A memorial service will be held at Calamigos Ranch Nov 11th from 12-3pm.



Annette Campbell and Karyne Ventris
Pioneer Day 2016

October 2022 Pioneer Day was a wonderful success!

This year was very successful...and we have so many people to thank that made this a fun family community event. 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 Dottie Acker, Jan Gruenwald, Gloria DeMuri, Anne Hughes, Linda van der Valk.



At our information table ready to answer historical and general questions was Jelena Csanyi, collecting membership dues and selling copies of our printed publications/books. All of these wonderful volunteers share the stories that keep our Chatsworth history alive.



We appreciate all of our friendly docents ready to help you learn about our community!

Starting with set-up, our thanks go out to Bill Dushman, John Kuhn, Terry Tanner, Donna Nachtrab and Linda van der Valk and Jelena Csanyi 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 arrived to help setup tables, chairs and canopies. On Sunday, El Camino Cadets worked all day managing our parking lot under the supervision of Bill Dushman, John Kuhn; Tom Nachtrab

managed the shuttle bus pickup at the depot. They also arrived early enough to help us get our canopies raised.

The cadets were there at shut down to help clear the area and pack everything away. Lawrence Middle School Students worked all day Sunday with the educational Chores of Yore Stations.

We have a great support group from Lawrence Middle School. It is very special to have the opportunity to watch our older students teach our younger kids. What a great experience for all of them.

Ms. Pena from Lawrence Middle School arrived early Sunday to supervise the students who run our games and chores of yore. 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. Donna Nachtrab and her daughter supervised the rock painting and Kathy Lee, art teacher at Lawrence, assisted guests making corn husk dolls.

Always a big draw is the Standke family at the blacksmith/baking station. Dr. Standke was unable to be here as our blacksmith, but Nita Standke baked and taught everyone how to churn butter!

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.



Fresh Cornbread was prepared by Nita Standke



Lawrence Middle School students teach the steps to old fashion washday chores!

Chatsworth Pioneer



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 food booth including Gary Bercow, Rick and Jerry, daughter Linda and grand-daughter Hunter.

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.

The Quilting-4-Others group that runs our children's quilting booth is sponsored by the San Fernando Quilting Association. Children's activity quilts were created with each child receiving a raffle ticket for two donated quilts. The SSMPA was represented by Warren Stone and Sky Valley Volunteers was on hand with John Luker spreading the word about Acorn planting.

We had a new member participate, Duke Mulholland, who shared his fossils that had been collected here in Chatsworth.

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

The Valley Hive brought a display bee hive teaching how the homesteaders would have honey. Also, members of our Pioneer Church were on hand, The Standing Bear Trading Post taught leatherwork, and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains were there with their Stagecoach used for 3rd grade interpretive hikes in the State Park. This was fun for all. Thank you to Terry Tanner with his pulley display, Bob Dager and all the FPSSM volunteers that shared that history during the day.

Other activities included the CNC distributing Poppy Seeds to the community along with the Native Plant Society on hand to give advice on plants to use while distributing donated seeds. Our Bake Sale volunteers Rhumpa Mishra (Chatsworth Dental) and Bonnie Cross (Chatsworth Womens Club) did an amazing job selling the wonderful selection of baked goods donated.



Winners: Colleen Molnar and twin sister Claire Molnar Age 14
The two girls are twins. We drew Colleen's ticket and she selected the quilt that she wanted. Then we drew several more tickets until we found another winner who was there (a requirement to qualify) and it turned out to be Claire. Claire told us that as her sister had already won the first quilt to draw another person and they would share. A very selfless act!

Then we drew the ticket for the second quilt winner Audrey Choi, Age 13.



Explaining the life of bees and how they process honey is a passion of The Valley Hive owner Danny Finkelstein, this is a true homestead need to know activity.

Special thanks go to Donna Boswell & Wendi Gladstone at the front gate. This year we handed out our Chatsworth Pioneer Stickers to all children and adults as they came through the gate declaring them a "CHATSWORTH PIONEER" and then handed them a Pioneer Day Challenge card they could use to locate the activities for the day.

Fun Photos courtesy of Diana Sprout are posted on our Facebook page. I'm sure I have forgotten so many wonderful people, please forgive me.

Anderson Family Buggy Carriage Story

The following article was written by Ron Anderson...

In 1966, Ralph “Art” Anderson was told about a historic, horse-drawn buggy that was in a field for years in pieces in Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara.



Being in the automotive business with Art’s Towing and Goleta Auto Body and Salvage, and a collector of vintage autos, Art was interested in a mode of transportation even older than his oldest car. He went to the field and collected all the pieces. He brought them to a local restorer known as “Buffalo Bill” who was a traditional cowboy at the time. The project of restoration began and to everyone’s surprise all the pieces were there as some were buried under weeds and dirt. In spite of it laying in ruin in the field for so many years, the pieces were in fairly good condition. It was painstakingly reconstructed,

and Art placed it as a historical conversation piece in the front yard of the family home in Goleta.

Art passed away in 1970, and when his widow Norma remarried and moved the family to Chatsworth, the buggy was transported by moving van to again hold court in the front yard of the family home. Over the years, repairs were made to the wheels and supports were added to hold its weight off the ground.



For 50 years, it was a fixture on Kinzie Street (photo above), surviving earthquakes, animals and rambunctious children. It was always a family tradition to take a photo in front of the buggy. Following the passing of Norma Anderson Burns in 2016 and then her husband Gail Burns in 2021, the children, Ron Anderson and Julie Anderson Moore, donated the buggy on behalf of the Burns Family Trust to the Chatsworth Historical Society. The family is thrilled and grateful that it will continue to be on display and appreciated for years to come (photo of the buggy at Pioneer Day at right).

Ackerman Visit

At Pioneer Day, we were visited by John Ackerman and his wife Stephanie. John



donated to us an excellent circa 1905 studio photo of his great-great grandfather Frank Ackerman with his wife Ruth Hill Ackerman and their 4 sons.

Frank and his wife Ruth Homesteaded the 42 acres south of the Hill Homestead in 1899, they had cattle on the ranch. Ruth was the oldest daughter of Homesteaders James and Rhoda Hill of today’s Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South.

At left – circa 1905 Ruth Hill Ackerman (1867-1947) and Frank Ackerman (1860-1918), Roy Hunter behind (age 17), Herman Ackerman left (11), 1st row left Graaf Ackerman (3), Franz Jr Ackerman right (6).

Frank had the livery stable on Los Angeles St and 6th, and died at age 58 in the flu epidemic of 1918 in the Boyle Heights area.

John shared with us that Graaf was the welterweight champion of the pacific fleet.

Lounsbery Visit On October 4th, the Lounsbery family (Ken, Andrea and John) visited the Acre, and shared some memories. The family lived in Winnetka Estates from 1950 to 1980. What brought them to the Acre is that Minnie Hill Palmer “Mrs. Palmer” would babysit them at the Acre in the mid 1950’s. This was before and after the bathroom was installed, which means the outhouse “was all there was” before water was piped to the house by 1956. They couldn’t quite agree on where the outhouse was located, thinking perhaps at the southwest corner of the property.



The [Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club](#) began leasing the Hill Homestead in 1951, and in 1955/56 Heinrich Berkenkamp of Oroweat Bakeries (who also lived in Winnetka Estates) purchased the 229 acre Hill Homestead. The deed granted a life tenancy agreement for Minnie to live rent and tax free at her 1913 cottage and surrounding 1.3-acre grounds. Celebrities at the club included Clark Gable, Roy Rogers, Robert Taylor, Robert Stack, Robert Sterling, John Wayne, Charlton Heston, Walter Brennan. In 1958 there were over 200 paying members at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club.

The Lounsberys aren’t quite sure how their parents ended up meeting Minnie, but suspect it was due to the connection with their neighbor Heinrich Berkenkamp (known as “Berky”).

The cottage looked pretty much the same to them, and the piano was in the right spot. Andrea remembers signed photographs of movie stars above the piano, which makes sense with the celebrities at Aqua Sierra. There was a summer kitchen south of the cottage, just a small building with a stove to keep from heating up the house during the summer. That was where Minnie did all of her canning. They remembered picking fresh asparagus in the field east of the acre. John remembers fishing in the fishing lake but didn’t realize he had to pay for anything he caught.

Andrea explained that there was a row of hollyhocks parallel to and east of the cottage about ten feet. Ann mailed Andrea some hollyhock seeds from the Acre, and below is Andrea’s reply:

I'm very grateful to have her hollyhock seeds. Thank you so very much. If you research her grandparent's covered wagon journey, there should be an interesting story connected to the seeds. When people left their homeland, they would take cuttings and seeds with them so that they could be buried on "familiar ground"....even though they are far from home. Mrs. Palmer felt that the hollyhocks anchored her to her pioneer past. Very sweet.

Before my mother's passing, we took her on a little Mother's Day Santa Rosa trip to a farm of ancient roses gathered from cemeteries and all over the world. It's only open to visitors once a year and the guide helped us understand how the roses told history.

I can see why the hollyhocks meant so much to Mrs. Palmer.

Andrea went home and searched for a hand tatted doily wedding gift that Minnie Palmer made for her in October, 1966. *My daughter has one that she will not give up, but if you want to display this in her home, I will send it to you (photo at right).*

Note: Their father [John Lounsbery](#) (1911-1976) was an American animator and director who worked for Walt Disney Productions. He is best known as one of Disney's Nine Old Men, and was named a Disney Legend in 1989.



Rockpointe Townhomes History Presentation

Our October presentation, [Rockpointe Townhomes History](#), discussed the history of the 90-acre, 739-unit townhome community just east of the Acre, at Devonshire and Valley Circle. Go to the link above to view the entire presentation, or click on the links below to find out a little more on each of the historic aspects of those 90 acres.

[Native American Pre-contact to colonization](#)

[Spanish to American Rule](#)

Homesteader Era – [Homesteaders 1](#) [Homesteaders 2](#) [Homesteaders 3](#)

Rockpointe South of Devonshire – Ackerman, [Shadwick](#), [Longview Poultry](#),

Rim Rock Ranch (Hutchinson, [Haberfeld](#))

Rockpointe North of Devonshire – Dejeremias, Butler, Schepler, [Roy Rogers Sports Center](#)

The most enjoyable part about these presentations is getting the opportunity to contact the descendant of the person you are researching, and having them share their stories and photographs with us.

We had good luck with stories on the Shadwicks (Gray Family), The Long family, the Haberfelds, and the Roy Rogers Sports Center. Just a few weeks before the presentation, we were able to locate Hutchinson descendants, specifically his grandson Robert Hutchinson, who shared the photos below with us.

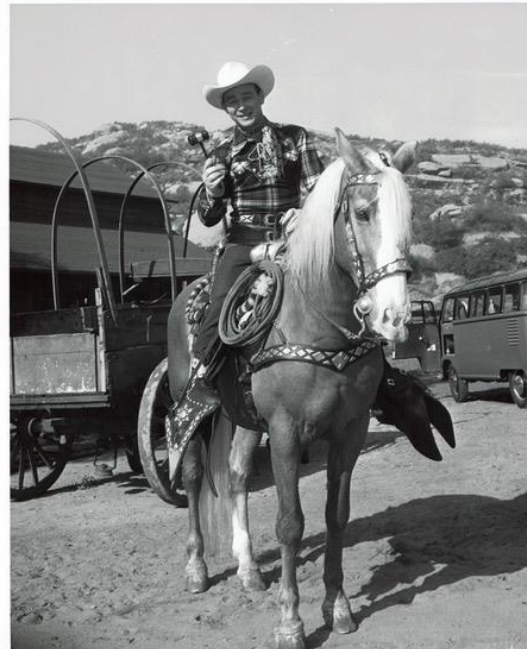
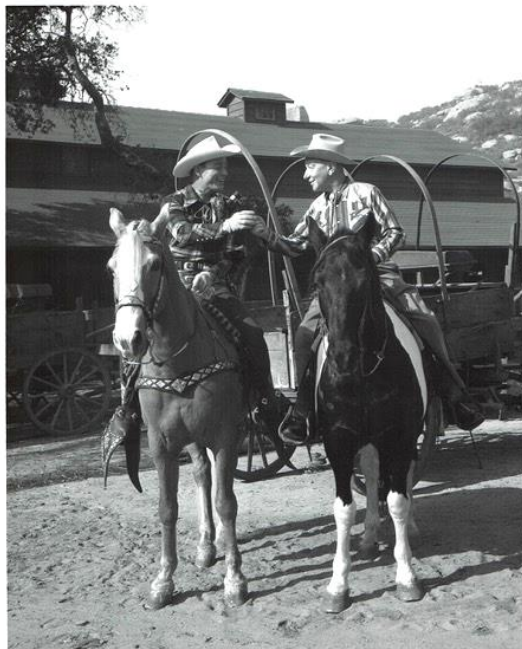


Robert's grandfather was B.N. (Brubaker) Hutchinson (1898-1964), who owned the 43-acre Rim Rock Ranch, which became the Rockpointe Development south of Devonshire. B.N Hutchinson became the honorary mayor of Chatsworth in 1954, succeeding actor Lionel Barrymore. He was the mayor for two years and left for Seattle. And was followed by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, who were co-mayors from 1956 to 1965.

The recent "rediscovery" of the Chatsworth Grapevines provided us with some great stories of that transition, when community meetings and banquets were held in the Chatsworth Center (today's Jehovah's Witness Hall site on Topanga just north of Devonshire).

Photo above: Dale Rogers and Melinda Hutchinson holding the Key to the City, Roy and B.N. Hutchinson holding the gavel.

Photos at right: B.N. Hutchinson and Roy Rogers gavel photos on horseback.



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 41 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.

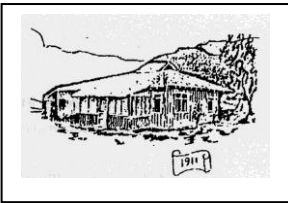
For snail mail, if you have an asterisk at the end of your name on the mailing label, your dues are due.

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:** _____

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Special Interest / Expertise: _____

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