

CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann Vincent

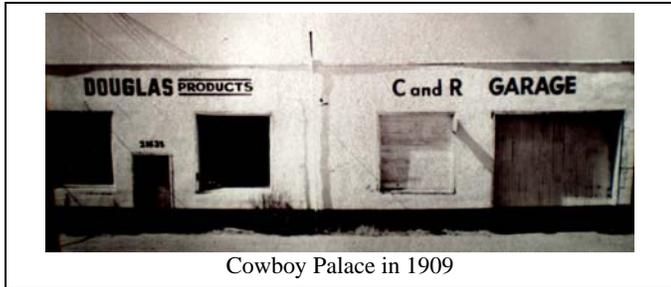
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This issue of Chatsworth Past & Present features The Cowboy Palace Saloon located at 21635 Devonshire Street.

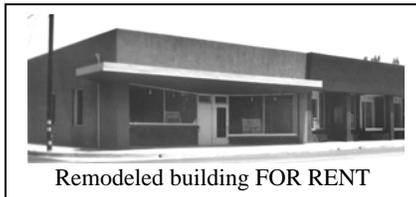


Since the building has been remodeled several times to house each of the various businesses, the building itself is not historical, however the current business, The Cowboy Palace Saloon, has a long history and has put Chatsworth on the map as the last real "honky-tonk".

In 1909, the building housed two businesses; Douglas Products and C & R Garage. The streets were not paved at this point in time. Early Chatsworth resident



Ed Ahlstrom remembered that in 1920 the business there was known as the Alamo Garage. By 1950, photos of the main streets in town show that the building has been remodeled and if you zoom into the photo, each window



has a FOR RENT sign, advertising New Modern Stores. At this point another building was added to the east,

however the section with the new overhang was the original location.

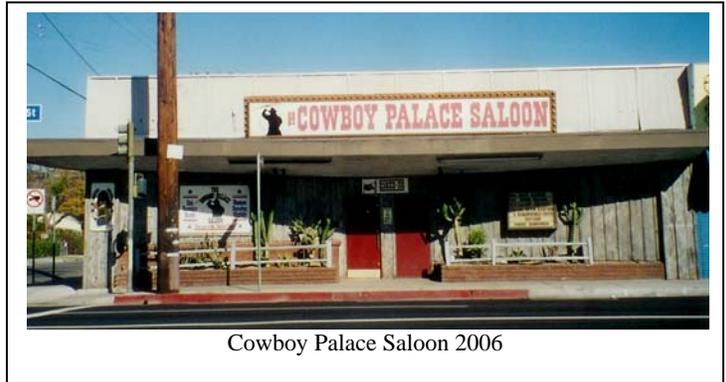
By 1962, Morigi's Restaurant occupied the building and placed an advertisement in the Chamber of Commerce Book in 1964. Morigi's was a popular Pizza place that provided family dining and a banquet room for community events. They closed this Chatsworth location before 1970, retaining another restaurant in the valley at Northridge.

In 1971 the building housed Giovanni's Rodeo Room. The advertisement shown here is for the restaurant, billed as "The Place for Steak".



It served lunch and dinner and featured country music and dancing. This was the beginning of the Chatsworth Country Music Legacy.

The restaurant changed hands and names a few times over the years. Giovanni's Rodeo Room transformed from a restaurant to the saloon we have today. At some point it became Wild Bill's, Ryan's, then Ryan's Roundup, to JR's, then JR's Cowboy Palace, then to what we know today as The Cowboy Palace Saloon.



Over the years many famous patrons have signed photos and they still hang on the walls around the bar, Charlton Heston, Arnold Schwartzner, Willy Nelson, Paul Newman, Chuck Conners, Toby Keith and William Shatner just to name a few.

Billy and Marjorie Holmes, the current owners since 2006, take an active part in the management of the Saloon with Marjorie judging the Monday night Talent Contest.

If you have not been inside the Cowboy Palace, I urge you to step in and enjoy some unique history. As collected over the years, boots hang over the bar, and blue jeans decorate the walls near the pool table. Walls everywhere are covered with photos of celebrities who have either performed or enjoyed the festivities. The Cowboy Palace is well known for the Toby Keith Music Video "I Love This Bar" filmed on site. The website www.cowboypalace.com lists many of the movies and TV shows filmed at this location over the years because of its authentic western style and down home feeling.

Drop by Monday through Saturday at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 4:00 pm for some Free beginning dance lessons where you can learn the Electric Slide, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Two Step, Ten Step Swing and other new country dances sweeping the country.

Don't be surprised to meet people from all over who come for the live music every night of the week. The Cowboy Palace Saloon has earned a place in Country Western Music history along with our local history here in Chatsworth.

By the way, there is also a hitching post out back you can tie your horse to, so bring your friends and your horse.

Y'all have fun now!
Chatsworth Historical Society - June 2009