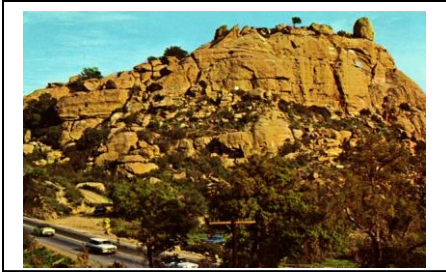


STONEY POINT

By Virginia Watson, as published on www.chatsworth.patch.com
CHATSWORTH THEN AND NOW

Stoney Point has been a sentinel guarding the way from the San Fernando Valley to the Simi Valley for centuries. It has been a landmark for as long as anyone living can remember, and I believe it



was also a landmark for prehistoric people, because it is so easy to see and to identify and because the view from the top is so expansive.

From the very first time I saw the huge rocky formation in the 1930s, I imagined an Indian climbing to the top of the hill to look out over the Valley. It would be an ideal location to spot an enemy or a friend and large animals could be seen from far away.

Many Indian relics have been found near Stoney Point and there is evidence of an Indian village just east of the landmark. Situated on Topanga Canyon Boulevard near the Ronald Reagan Freeway, the Stoney Point Park is a well-known site for practicing mountain climbing and college classes have been completed using the rocky terrain.

Some movies were filmed at Stoney Point, while most were filmed at Iverson Ranch with Stoney Point in the background. Chapter 1 of the 1950 Superman Serial has Superman discovering and capturing Lex Luthor at his hideout in Stoney Point.

The Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce once used a drawing of Stoney Point as their logo on their stationery. But at the time they used the drawing the "e" was not added to the name. William "Bill" Schepler, one of the former owners of the land, asked that the spelling be changed to Stoney and it was accomplished. Schepler also requested that the continuation school adjacent to Chatsworth High School also change the spelling to include the "e". Schepler, his wife Lila, and Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Schurter, owned the park property for many years. During the time they owned it there were many proposals made for the land including one possibility of a McDonald's hamburger stand on the upper part of the hill.

In 1974, at the request of the Chatsworth Junior Women's Club, supported by the Chatsworth Historical Society and other local groups, the unusual rock formation was named Los Angeles Cultural Historical Monument No. 132 by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board.

Starting about 1975 the Chatsworth Historical Society actively began agitating for the land to become a city park. Charles W. Janess was chairman of the group that wrote letters, made telephone calls and attended meetings. In January 1977, a big community meeting was held at the Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Building.

It was standing room only with lots of input as to what kind of park should be planned. And on June 5, 1982, the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks held a dedication ceremony for the new Stoney Point Park.

In 1996, due primarily to the work of the former Councilman Hal Bernson, 54 adjoining acres were added to the original 22 acres that were planned, making the park 76 acres.

In 2007, Councilman Greig Smith, with the financial aid of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, was able to purchase Stoney Point Ranch and expand the park by five acres.



Edwin Iverson shared photographs of the 1949 Annual Chatsworth 4th of July Parade and Barbecue. A flag was displayed where the community barbeque was held.

Stoney Point Park continues to be a popular park with all ages. Before it became a park, many people expressed the thought that it might become like other city parks, with tables and benches, planned activities and not the free, open space for climbing. But Stoney Point Park has remained an open space. The freedom to climb, to hike, or to seek a quiet place for an old-fashioned picnic are all there and preserved for the every day use of the community.