



# Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth CA 91311  
(818)-882-5614

President & Editor: Sheila Watts  
APRIL, 1996

## DOWN MEMORY LANE...

Chatsworth residents appear to enjoy celebrating special events. It was twenty years ago, Patriot's Day on April 19, 1976, when the town started its year long celebration of the nation's bicentennial. Spear-headed by the Society and the Chamber of Commerce, a community breakfast was held at the Chaminade Cafeteria on Devonshire Street. Representatives of schools, PTA's, churches and all civic organizations planned the breakfast and guests from those groups provided table center pieces with a history theme. Honored guests were Mayor Tom Bradley and Police Chief Ed Davis and more than 200 people attended.

On the 4th of July, 1976, Chatsworth's most ambitious parade was held. The judges' stand was in front of Len Chenard's Paradise Shop and the temperature was in the 90's. In 1980, the Paradise Shop gave way to the present shopping center and office complex, Devonshire Street between Independence and Variel Avenues. Later in the year the Freedom Train raced through Chatsworth, delighting the townsfolk and train buffs alike. Views of the train were dramatic, especially as it roared around the curves and street crossings up and behind Chatsworth Park on to its destinations of Santa Barbara and San Francisco all the while blowing bright, white steam.

In 1988 the town celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding on March 10, 1888, with

the registration of the first housing tract in what was to become Chatsworth Park. A huge party was held in the Recreation Building in Chatsworth Park South amidst birthday cakes donated by Ralph's Market, the chorale from Chatsworth High singing, "And Make the San Fernando Valley My Home," with again an honored guest, Mayor Tom Bradley. Catherine Mulholland served as emcee and introduced all the special guests and speakers - and the unveiling of the beautiful Centennial Quilt.

At about the same time the Chatsworth Methodist Church celebrated its centennial and the occasion brought back former members and ministers from years ago.

In 1990 the Chamber of Commerce held an anniversary luncheon at the Porter Valley Country Club to celebrate 75 years of service to the community.

The historic Pioneer Church, built in 1903 by pioneers, became a city monument and relocated in 1963. In 1993 the current tenants, St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church, together with the Society, honored the building on its 90th birthday, co-hosting a joyful tribute that included an Episcopal Bishop and famed cowboy star, Roy Rogers.

In February of this year (1996) the Chatsworth Women's Club held a special Jubilee Luncheon at the Odyssey restaurant to commemorate its 75th anniversary of service to the community.

You are all invited to attend another such milestone on Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m., at the new Chatsworth MetroLink Station on Devonshire Street. Mayor Richard Riordon will be a special guest as will Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, who will arrive on a special historic train.

The personalized paving stones will be dedicated together with the memorabilia room, the community room and the childcare center. The Chatsworth High School band will perform and there will be other entertainment and refreshments available.

The Society will be represented by the executive board headed by 1st Vice President Bea Berman, in the absence of the writer. Virginia Watson, town historian will be a special guest. Those who live close by should plan to attend this vital new addition to Chatsworth

..... Sheila Watts

---

### **GARDEN FESTIVAL, SUN., APRIL 28.**

Plans are being completed for the garden festival and there are a few more appeals for help -we would really appreciate donations of either home baked or packaged small cookies; the plant booth could use more plants; white elephants are needed and more volunteers to staff the tea room would help a lot. Set up is set for 9 a.m., and a teen boy or two could help with the parking to ensure it all goes smoothly. You will find a flyer advertising the Festival enclosed in this newsletter. If you have access to a local bulletin board, we would appreciate it if you would place the ad there. Thanks. Call Bea Berman if you can help in any way at 341-5449. We're all looking forward to the garden festival - it promises to be one of our more enjoyable events.

### **NEWS FROM CANDY CRAIG:**

The following roses have been planted recently:

Ingrid Bergman; Calico; New Zealand; French Perfume; Pearl Drift; Rising Star and Napa Valley.

Donors of roses are:

Donna Afflerbach for Nick Montano  
Sheila Watts

Ruth Grant (2) for Neal Grant

Mrs. Solomon (2) for Mr. & Mrs. Hadley  
Dean & Candy donated:

Sunflare; Lady Hallingdon, Katrina, Morey's Pink Cluster; Summer Scent; and Jean Lajoie. and she added that the Acre should be beautiful and blooming for the festival.

---

Thanks to Carol Heistand who donated \$40 to pay for the March earthquake SBA loan - this in honor of the marriage of her daughter Alison to Pierre Amand on March 30. Best wishes to the happy couple.

---

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.**

Sun., May 5, 1 - 4 p.m. Open House at the Acre. The docent team is:

Virginia Watson, Zena Thorpe, Paula Delzer and Evelyn Knouse. Donna Afflerbach, Docent Director, reports that Lucille Clements, one of our docents for many years, has moved to Villa Sorrento, 23450 Madison, Torrance CA 91326. We really miss Lucille and thank her for all her hard work.

Sun., May 28 - 11 am to 4 pm - Garden Festival at the Acre.

Tues., May 21 - Quarterly Meeting & Installation of Officers at the Museum, 7:30 p.m. Details in the May issue.

(Continued on the back page)

Chatsworth Historical Society Presents a  
**GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
Celebrating Nature's Bounty!

- 300 Blooming Roses
- Spring Dances
- The Tea Room  
Enjoy!
- Arts & Crafts
- White Elephant Sale
- Cold Drinks & Goodies
- Garden Tours
- Museum Exhibits
- Garden Talks & Demos  
Learn!
- Plant Sale
- Prizes & Surprizes
- & Much More!



**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1996**

**11 a.m. TO 4 p.m.**

\$2 Donation - under 12 FREE

**THE HOMESTEAD ACRE**  
AT THE FIRST STOP SIGN IN  
**CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH**

(WEST END OF DEVONSHIRE St.)  
Information - (818)-882-5614

---

### **TRACTOR-MOWER REPAIRED.**

The tractor style mower is an absolute necessity in the upkeep of the Acre so we are grateful to John, Keith & Dean who lifted the tractor onto John's truck. After delivering it to John's Yorks & Lancs auto repair shop on Canoga Avenue; John and Keith not only repaired it but sharpened the blades - now Trini, the gardener can keep the grass looking neat & trim. This saved us much money!

---

### **SINCERE SYMPATHY**

Sincere sympathy to the family of Roberta Weinstein who died suddenly on March 31. While not a member of the Society, Roberta shared her talents with us on many occasions.

Known for her skill at knitting handsome silk table cloths that she donated to be raffled off for good causes, Roberta also knitted the miniature table cloth that holds the birthday cake on the centennial quilt. She volunteered at Mason Park, headed the Youth Employment and RAP programs and was also a member of the Women's Club.

---

We were happy to receive a letter from Nanci Oliva Bond advising us that she and Bob have moved from North Carolina and are now at the following address:

950 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185