



Smoke Signal



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

President: Virginia Watson

Editor: Sheila Watts

APRIL, 1997

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This month marks the 34th year we have been a historical society. April 19, 1963 a small group from the community met at the home of Katherine and Kelly Johnson to form a group to preserve the history of the area. Others present were Charles Janess, Virginia Watson and Keith Watts. The first project was to save the endangered Chatsworth Community Church. We didn't plan a big activity this year, but next year we will.

Recently a professional researcher, Merri Whitelock, visited the museum seeking a photograph to place in the new Sacramento Museum. She chose three possibilities and perhaps one of the J. R. Williams collection will be a mural depicting the history of agriculture in the state.

We will still have the copyright to the photograph and will be given a credit line as we do when our pictures are published in newspapers.

Also I reported to you about the Harvester Barn project where the big red barn on Devonshire Street near Chatsworth Park Elementary School was being considered for historic status. It was named a City Monument on March 5, 1997, by the Cultural Heritage Board.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following members were elected to serve on the executive board for 1997-1998:

President	John Thorpe
Co- 1st V.P's	Barbara & Joseph Pampalone
2nd V.P.	~~~
3rd V.P.	Keith Watts
4th V.p.	~~~
Recording Secretary	Zena Thorpe
Treasurer	Lillian Schepler
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Watts
Director at Large #1	Andre van der Valk
Director at Large #2	Linda Van der Valk
Director at Large #3	Bea Berman

Appointive officials will be announced at the installation meeting, Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

Ruth Grant will officiate.

COMING EVENTS:

Rose Garden Festival, Sunday, April 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Open House, May 4; 1 to 4 p.m.

Installation meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 7.m.

DOCENT DOINGS

Sunday, May 4th Open House, Team One: Betty Summers, Virginia Watson, Kathy Reynolds, Paula Delzer and Pauline Aue.

Wednesday May 7th, 3:30 p.m. Docent meeting to rediscover facts about the gardens from Candy Craig.

In addition to assisting with the Garden Festival, docents are involved in several projects:

Sylvia Oates and Betty Summers are working toward replacing the cottage curtains that fell apart when last washed. Virginia Watson, Evelyn Kanouse and Vicki Wyant are organizing photos of Society events at the Acre. This summer Bea Berman and Sheila Watts will assist Lillian Schepler in classifying the costume collection. Also, a campaign for new docents targeting the general public will be initiated by Virginia Watson and Donna Afflerbach.

Donna Afflerbach, Director of Docents.

AROUND THE ACRE

The past several months have been busy for those who labor at the Acre. Candy and Dean have been spending hours on all of the plants and trees there besides nurturing the roses that we'll sell at the Festival. Garden enemies have converged on the gardens with a passion with predators such as gophers and rabbits leading the pack. Thanks very much to Jim Summers who has caught a lot of the former, and the latter being caught by the gardener, Trini, who takes them home and cages them! Several months ago Ramon Avila installed a new mailbox on a very sturdy wrought-iron stand in

the park across from the acre. It has been vandalized and he has repaired it twice since then...Ramon also keeps busy around the acre and picks lemons which he sells to a local restaurant - thanks Ramon

Meanwhile, Jim and Betty Summers repaired the tractor storage shed that was either vandalized or wind damaged or both; Dean repainted the metal rose identifying signs by the individual roses and reprinted their names. Thanks to all for this hard work.

The Acre will be spotlighted on Sunday, April 20th on the television program," L.A. Weekend," on local Channel 4. A crew will arrive around 7:30 a.m., and what they film will be shown during the hour-long show from 8 to 9 a.m. If you live locally, tune in and watch the Festival committee scurry around and setting up. Dean Craig is p.r. person for the Festival and has secured excellent coverage!

WANTED:

By Bea and Linda for the Duchess' Tea Room -

Dainty cookies in the style used in high teas (sugar or peanut butter or similar) **but please, no chocolate** in case it's a hot day. Please call Bea at 341-5549.

By Sheila for the White Elephant booth -

For the past several years I have been raising between \$230 or \$250 with the cast-off treasures booth - which is serendipitous since there is no expense involved. I need generous sponsors with items to support the booth. Clean, new or near-new items from jewelry to collectibles that are sitting in closets and

on shelves " because you're never going to use that ceramic bowl that Auntie Maud gave you!" Call me at 341-4489 - I'll pick-up if needed.

1997 CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS.

As of April 1, 1997. thirty donations have been received totaling \$900. The donors are :

Ed & Lorna Ahltrom
Claudia S. Allen
Paul & Beverly Arneson
Lillian L. Baker
Everett Cleveland
Dean & Candy Craig
Dr. & Mrs. R. W. Dager
Mildred Goff
Ruth Grant
Curtis & Pat Graves
Bill & Peg Haggerty
Dorothy Hammond
Ray & Dorothy Johnson
Evelyn Kanouse
Bob & Jane Knapp
Valeta Koller
Jane Matthews
William & Joyce Ower
Doris Potvin
Doreen Rusen
Bradley & Bronwen Savage
Bill & Lila Schepler
Lillian Schepler
Jim & Betty Summers
John & Zena Thorpe
Andre & Linda Van der Valk
Virginia Watson
Robert M. Wilkinson
Mr. & Mrs. A. Herbert Wilson

Thanks to all for this support.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Grant and Family on the birth of Harrison McGregor Grant who was born in Seattle last month. His parents are Jerry and Sarah Grant and his big brother is Freddy.

The writer recently received a phone call from past president Jane Matthews who had just returned from Africa; she's planning to attend the Rose Garden Festival and will be bringing along merchandise for the White Elephant booth. We're looking forward to seeing you then.

A recent visitor to the Acre was Heather Watts, daughter of the editor. She had never seen the Acre and was lavish with praise for the environment that has been created there. A true rose gardener herself at her home in Connecticut, she was escorted around the grounds by Candy Craig and enjoyed seeing the Homestead Acre and gardens.

THE MARTY BELL Autograph Event at Chatsworth Florist recently was a great success. The owners had pledged 10% of the price of \$225.00 per lithograph to the Society based on the pictures sold by the end of that day. The lithograph is the artist's rendition of the Pioneer Church. An unofficial estimate is that 60 were sold and the Society will receive \$1350.00 as a result! This idea was most generous on the part of Rick & Jerry at Chatsworth Florist. In addition the artist donated a lithograph to our organization.

Thanks to Linda Van der Valk for coordinating the event.

JAN HINKSTON, the founder of both the Santa Susanna Mountain Park Association and its sister Foundation was feted on her birthday on March 25th at a surprise luncheon at the local Smorgasbord Restaurant. It was a bittersweet event because Jan has now moved to Oregon to live close to her daughter, a law student. Jan will help with care of her grandson.

The event was coordinated by Pauline Aue, Nancy Resanski and Doreen Rusen. More than 50 guests were present and all spoke briefly of their long relationship

with Jan. Virginia Watson was there as were Loretta Ditlow former Chatsworth High teacher, Helen Treend of Save the Oaks, Paul Dentzel and Donna Afflerbach.

We wish Jan a very happy future ~ whenever I look at the Santa Susannas I'll have warm thoughts for the lady who led the fight to preserve them.

Jan's address in Oregon:
11655 S.W. Teal Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97007
(503)-579-8246
