



Dept.

rec'd 9-23-99



Smoke Signal

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

President: John Thorpe

Editor pro tem: Keith Watts

The sesquicentennial planning committee met in September and I am pleased to report the event is promising to be exciting and informative. The good news is the L. A. Times is going to sponsor the Goodwill "Fashions Through the Ages" show. Most of the lectures have been confirmed and the New Buffalo Soldiers have promised to bivouac in the park over that weekend, giving Civil War demonstrations.

CSUN, through the help of Robert Marshall who heads up the archive department, promises two days of interactive historical display via computers. We still need volunteers, so please attend our October 13 meeting at 7 p.m. at the Homestead Acre museum.

John Thorpe

PIONEER DAY - SAVE THE DATE!

Don't forget Sunday, October 3rd ---our annual Pioneer Day at the Homestead

Acre in Chatsworth Park South. Come one, come all! And be prepared for an afternoon of great entertainment. Our new added attractions include live demonstrations of gold panning and blacksmithing!

We will be having a bake sale - and if any member would like to bake, please call Lillian Schepler - 341-2697. Also we will have a White Elephant booth sale and we need more merchandise. So if you have items to donate, please call Lillian (above.)

We still have some openings for our Chili Cookoff. So if anyone or organization is interested in competing for prizes, please call me at 342-5449.

There will be many events for the children as well as for adults, so for more information, please see the flyer included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bea Berman, Chairman

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David Arlen

ENTERTAINER DAVID ARLEN

At Pioneer Day we are again fortunate to have David Arlen to provide musical entertainment by playing his guitar and singing songs. David has an extensive background in music, and was a protégé of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

With more than 30 years in music, he has performed in TV and personal appearance venues, too numerous to list here. In recent years David has entertained in the more intimate atmosphere of local restaurants and clubs. He is currently entertaining at The Seafarer in Manhattan Beach.

IN THE GARDEN

It's time to think FALL! With the arrival of cooler weather the very best planting season of the year will begin and last through January. So start planning what you'd like to add to your garden.

Perennials, shrubs, trees, roses, natives - a huge variety of things - planted in the next few months will make important root growth during the winter and be ready to give their all next spring.

TIP: Don't waste money on soil amendments in planting holes. Nearly all plants, except

nutrient gluttons - such as bedding plants, turfgrasses and annual vegetables - do better in ordinary soil. Adding amendments tends to confine the root ball to the size of the planting hole, whereas holes containing un-amended soil allow plants to grow deeper and more extensive root systems.

Although horticultural academics have known this truth for thirty years, the vast majority of gardeners don't; and the manufacturers of soil amendments aren't going to tell anyone.

An organic top mulch *is* beneficial, but you can wait until after the rainy season to add it.

Historic Garden Bench

The Homestead Acre has been given, courtesy of member Ruth Grant's cousin Nadine Gilbert of Burbank, an historic North Hollywood Park bench, which was washed into the Gilbert's backyard during the massive flood of 1938.

At that time the Kenneth Gilbert family lived near Oxnard and Laurel Canyon. Mr. Gilbert taught woodworking classes at North Hollywood Jr. High and walked home to find his house flooded with three feet of water. The family was taken out by rowboat, but it was three days before Ruth Grant's family was able to locate their relatives and find them safe. When the family returned to their home they found the bench and decided to

keep it as a souvenir

Nadine Gilbert is now relocating to a condominium and offered the bench to the Society. Although the large bench is over 60 years old, it is still as "solid as a tank" and needs only cosmetic touch-up. We thank Andre and Linda van der Valk who picked up and delivered the bench.

In the book "Ecology of Fear" (1998) author Mike Davis reports that "87 lives were lost in the deluge of 1938, which turned 300,000 acres of the SanFernando Valley and Orange County into inland seas." Subsequently, "...the Army Corps of Engineers was authorized to reshape the county's natural hydrology into a monolithic system of concrete storm drains and sewers, and the Los Angeles River - the defining landscape of the 19th century city - was re-channeled and paved with concrete."

Garden visitors

The Valley Water Color Society spent a Wednesday morning and afternoon painting at the gardens at the Acre. Eight artists with their easels and brushes participated and were given a tour of the museum and cottage before leaving. We hope to show their paintings in the Spring of 2000.

.....Candy Craig

MARTY BELL PAINTING DONATED

"Stoney Point", a framed lithograph on canvas of the painting by renowned Chatsworth artist, Marty Bell, was donated to the Historical Society by Rick Amiot and Jerry Angel of Chatsworth Florist. The limited edition (#30 of 500) is signed, numbered and personalized by Marty Bell, and its value is placed at \$225. The landscape painting depicts the distinctive and well-known rock formation on Topanga Canyon Blvd. In Chatsworth.

It is planned to raffle off the painting during Pioneer Day on October 3rd as a fund raiser. The Society is extremely grateful to Rick and Jerry for their generous donation.

BARBERSHOP SINGING

Longtime Society member Jim Summers has the distinction of being the eldest member of the highly-acclaimed Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus. The Valleyaires will perform in "Sunday-in-the-Park II", a charity event, along with featured guests: El Camino High School Camerata Choir and Nuns for Fun group.

The event will take place on Sunday, November 7, 1999 at the Hall of Liberty in Forest Lawn Memorial Park/ Hollywood Hills. Tickets are \$10.00 each, \$5.00 of which will be returned to the Historical

Society if purchased through the Society. For information, call 818-882-5614.

SPECIAL FRIENDS HONORED

The SPECIAL FRIENDS potluck dinner was held on a beautiful Sunday evening in the garden of the Homestead Acre on September 12th. Twelve friends of the Society were honored, and three were unable to attend.

Bouquets of roses decorated the tables and delicious slices of roast beef, barbequed by Andre and Linda van der Valk, were enjoyed along with numerous salads, side dishes and desserts brought by other Society members.

Bea Berman welcomed the guests and Candy Craig presented the gold-embossed SPECIAL FRIENDS certificates. Attendees included both new and old members of the Society, from John Huffman, age 2, son of Kim and Dan Huffman, to our own Eileen Janess, age 91.

1998-1999 SPECIAL FRIENDS

Ramon Avila	Irene Nalbandian
Lillian Baker	Jackie O'Reilly
Chatsworth Florist	Lois Orr
Patricia Halpin	Kim Rupert
Dan Huffman	Jim Summers
Valeta Koller	Chris Van Schaack

Annual

Pioneer Day

Sunday, October 3
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Old-time fun for everyone :

- * Chili cook-off
- * Music and games
- * Panning for gold
- * Bake sale
- * Prize-winning quilts
- * Storytelling
- * Petting zoo
- * Blacksmith demonstration
- * "Chores of yore"
and lots more!



Location:

Homestead Acre,
Chatsworth Park South
(West end of Devonshire St.)

Donations:

Adults: \$2

Children: \$1

(Free for kids under 5)

Information:

(818) 882-5614

Presented by
Chatsworth Historical Society