



Smoke Signal

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



President: John Thorpe

April 2000

Editor: Zena Thorpe

As my term as president draws to a close I have been reflecting on what the board has achieved this last year.

Firstly, we organized a party to celebrate California's sesquicentennial. I'm sure everyone will agree, it was a humdinger of a party. Because of this party we, after 20 years or more, obtained 501(c)3 status from the IRS. We have our own excellent website. Our museum has been revitalised and has attained a prominent position among San Fernando Valley historical societies. The inside of the museum is to be painted, the display cabinets have been cleaned up and repaired. To top all this off our bank balance is very healthy.

John Thorpe

Chatsworth Historical Society Board 1999-2000

President.....	John Thorpe 882-3572
Programs.....	Candy Craig 341-4461
Rec. Secretary.....	Barbara Pampalone 882-2395
Treasurer.....	Lillian Schepler 341-2697
Membership.....	Keith Watts 341-4489
Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman 341-5449
Smoke Signal.....	Zena Thorpe 882-3572
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson 341-3053
Hospitality.....	Bea Berman 341-5449
Gardens Director.....	Dean Craig 341-4461
Director-at-large.....	Linda van der Valk 882-3661
Director-at-large.....	Andre van der Valk 882-3661
Director-at-large.....	Ruth Grant 882-3990
Photog. materials.....	Bill Schepler 341-3447
Permanent member.....	Lila Schepler 341-3447
Permanent member.....	Eileen Janess 341-2828

VALLEY HISTORY DISPLAY

A special display of San Fernando Valley history, assembled and curated by Robert Marshall, Director of Urban Archives at CSUN, and Lara Bickell, Ph.D. candidate at Claremont University, has been retained for the months of April, May and June. Numerous historical societies throughout the Valley loaned some of their most prized artifacts for a commemorative display at our California Sesquicentennial event in March. It was received with much interest. Don't miss this opportunity to see this unique presentation.

The museum will be open from 1pm to 4pm on Sundays, May 7th and June 4th.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson

Our big Sesquicentennial and Chatsworth's 112th birthday celebration has come and gone but we are still receiving the benefits of those three days of joyful sharing of the culture, of not only our own community, but of the whole of our own Golden State. We are still basking in the afterglow of those three sunfilled days, a culmination of nearly two years of preparation and planning. We are enjoying the fallout from the publicity it gave us as people tell us how much they enjoyed our event. Our historical exhibit, curated by Robert Marshall and Lara Bickell, is an outstanding sampling of San Fernando Valley history. The exhibit's patchwork theme went well with the viewing of the fabulous Sesquicentennial Quilt. The people of the historical groups that exhibited here have been gracious, generous and supportive and we are planning more historical gatherings and shared experiences. More next month about the plans being finalized and approved by the executive board. We have had several groups using The Acre, as we fondly refer to our project. On Sunday, March 19, we hosted a Soka University group of ladies. They held their meeting in the museum and really seemed to enjoy the whole Acre. They favored us with a large donation plus we had out our leftover souvenirs and they bought a few. An Encino Retirement Hotel came on the following Wednesday afternoon. They were a small group, but they enjoyed the sunshine and a tour of the house.

We have also sold a few souvenirs from people dropping by when we happen to be there, but we have sold many more thanks to the efforts of Phyllis and Frank Barber of the Whistle Stop at the Metrolink Station. Phyllis volunteered to sell our leftover souvenirs at their stand and she has steadily been selling more and more. All this in addition to the \$200 she and her husband gave to us at the Sesquicentennial event.

We are grateful to so many people for helping to make our Sesquicentennial such a big success and we are especially indebted to the devoted leadership of our two co-chairmen, Zena and John Thorpe and their committee.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

A special thank you to those who gave a generous donation to the Chatsworth Historical Society last year.

Anna Combs donated the beautiful flag and stand for our museum.

Valeta Koller paid for our new website.

Munch Box - trophies for Pioneer Day.

Frank Barber donated tables and chairs.

Mahlon Hammond moved and made a donation in Dottie Hammond's name.

Lillian Baker gave hats, purses and gloves for our collection.

We have a number of new Life Members.

Linda & Andre van der Valk

Eugene Urcan

Dr. Gary Standke

Johnny Ahlstrom

Phyllis Owens

Paul Snyder

Jim Summers

GARDEN NOTES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2000-01

The following officers were elected at our annual general meeting on March 21st.

Co-presidents..Andre & Linda vander Valk	
1st VP - Programs.....John Thorpe	
Rec. Secretary.....Bea Berman	
Treasurer.....Lillian Schepler	
Membership.....Keith Watts	
Smoke Signal Editor.....Zena Thorpe	
Museum Curator.....Virginia Watson	
Cottage Curator.....Betty Summers	
Hospitality.....	
Gardens Directors.....Dean & Candy Craig	
Director-at-large.....Betty Summers	
Director-at-large.....Ruth Grant	
Director-at-large.....Barbara Pampalone	
Photographic Materials.....Bill Schepler	
Permanent Member.....Lila Schepler	
Permanent Member.....Eileen Janess	

As you see, the position of hospitality chairman is vacant. If you would like to be more involved with the society this position is a good way to 'get your feet wet'. You would just be responsible for seeing that refreshments are organised for the general meetings which are held every other month. You would not have to provide the refreshments, just remind people who had offered to bring them, get the coffee brewing before the meeting, see that the paper goods are replenished as necessary etc. Now that's not too difficult is it? Won't you join us?

Call 882-3572 to volunteer

By Candy Craig

It's spring! Although the Acre was closed Sunday, April 2nd because of the Iranian celebration of Sizdeh Bedar which fills Chatsworth Park to overflowing each year, the garden will be open for anyone who wishes to visit on Sunday, April 9th from 1 - 4pm.

The new Sheila Watts Memorial Garden is in full spring bloom and the California native plant strip is blooming with California blue lilac, monkey flowers, godetia, California poppies etc. Minnie Palmer's white spirea and brilliant red flowering quince look fabulous this year in spite of a rather dry winter.

From May through June the Homestead Acre gardens will be at their best with hundreds of roses and other beautiful plants. We invite everybody to stop by and enjoy them.

If you would like to visit one day beside the first Sunday of the month please call Candy, 341-4461 to make an appointment.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We have a few of the California Sesquicentennial souvenirs left. Don't miss out on your memento of this important event in California history.

We have a beautiful commemorative booklet with tons of information about California and local history. We have commemorative pins featuring the official sesquicentennial logo, sweatshirts, T-shirts and mugs with the official logo and posters & post-cards picturing the magnificent Sesquicentennial Quilt.