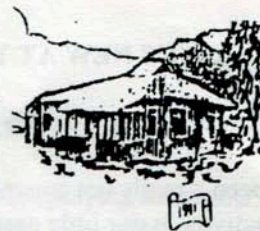


Smoke Signal

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



Co-Presidents: Linda & Andre van der Valk

August 2000

Editor: Zena Thorpe

As you probably noticed, the timing of the newsletter has changed to allow us to inform you of important matters discussed at the latest board meeting. As the case is now, we will also look towards your assistance, advice and guidance towards priority items identified in the meetings.

Two items identified as high priority are:-

1. We are in desperate need of an air-conditioning unit for the museum. Particularly this summer, the present unit cannot keep up with the sweltering heat. HELP!!
2. We have made it a personal goal to pursue with Recreation and Parks the installation of sprinklers for The Acre. At the present time, The Acre is watered by hand. What a job in our hot weather! Candy Craig is constantly running back and forth from her home to keep The Acre looking so nice. Thank you, Candy. Chatsworth Florist is hosting the unveiling of the original oil painting of the "The Munch Box" by Marty Bell on Sept. 16th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. As you may know, Marty Bell is Chatsworth's own world-renowned artist. "The Munch Box" is the fourth painting in the series, "The Hidden Treasures of Chatsworth". The series includes "The Chatsworth Florist", "The Pioneer Church" and "Stoney Point". We are all looking forward to being involved in the unveiling. Buck from The Munch Box will be there and it would be nice if we all supported him on such a special day for him in Chatsworth.

Linda & Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society Board 1999-2000

Co-Pres.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs.....	John Thorpe	882-3572
Rec. Secretary.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
Treasurer.....	Lillian Schepler	341-2697
Membership.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Smoke Signal.....	Zena Thorpe	882-3572
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson	341-3053
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
Hospitality.....		
Gardens Directors.....	Dean & Candy Craig	341-4461
Director-at-large.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-large.....	Barbara Pampalone	882-2395
Director-at-large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3990
Photog. materials.....	Bill Schepler	341-3447
Permanent member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447

MEMBERSHIP ROUND-UP

On September 17th we will hold our annual membership round-up at the Homestead Acre. The society will provide B-B-Q tri-tip and members are asked to bring :-

Surnames A - L...dessert

Surnames M - Z... salads

Beverages and tableware will be provided.

The festivities, with entertainment, will begin at 4:00pm

Bring a friend, this is a membership recruitment.

Reservations are suggested so that we know how many to plan for. Call the museum, 882-5614.

SEE Y'ALL THERE !

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson

It has been a really hot summer but we have a lot of activity in our little corner of Chatsworth Park.

The Sesquicentennial Exhibit moved out in June and left our walls bare and the displays in our showcases not completed yet. The Wednesday docents helped to fill the cases temporarily and we plan on getting the museum back to normal soon. We were open in July and August and will be open Sept. 3rd as usual. The San Fernando Valley exhibit is in Burbank and, hopefully, some of our members will attend. Presently, Connie Ager and Elaine Campbell are working on getting the books in the library arranged alphabetically by author in each category. Marilyn Frump is doing telephoning to remind people of our meetings and copying papers for us. Gerry Ager, Connie's husband, vacuumed last week **with our wonderful new vacuum.**

Evelyn cleaned the cases. It was too hot for Pauline last week but she does odd jobs for us, puts papers in order, sells items and straightens the store. Keli Jacobson, our newest docent, is learning the history and is helping deadhead roses. Our co-president, Linda, stops by often and sometimes brings her beautiful new granddaughter. Betty and Jim Summers have been gone for about six weeks and we missed them a lot but they are back now and said they had a good time.

Ramon Avila isn't a docent but he has been a big help this summer. One evening when Keli and I had been deadheading we decided to water and the pipe for the hose by the back of the house broke sending water gushing out like

a river. We don't have our old shut-off valve anymore and couldn't turn off the water so we called Ramon who came to the rescue. He dug a trench for the water and put a board to change the course so it wouldn't hit the foundation. We called the City and the next day they came out and fixed it. **We have a shut-off valve in the park near the light pole north of the Acre fence.** We have a key and will make sure everyone knows where it is and how to turn it off. Al Pinaro made us the new key and it will be placed on the back porch in plain sight.

On Friday, August 18, we had a funeral reception for Peggy Brandenburg who had known Minnie Palmer in the Topanga Parlor of the Native Daughters. One of the ladies that made the arrangements had attended our dedication, May 4th, 1980 and remembered the Native Daughters giving us a flag. (I remembered that too.) They used the cottage and payed us \$200. The people who attended really appreciated the house and grounds. Elaine Campbell and I worked about three hours.

Another nice thing the City did for us was provide 13 sections of 1 1/2 inch galvanized pipe six feet long to be used in our petting zoo fence. Ramon is designing the fence posts so that we don't have to dig holes every time. The new pipe will fit into the capped pipe already in the ground and then the fence can be attached. It will be a lot easier and faster to get ready for Pioneer Day.

The Wednesday docents will be taking a trip out to the Stagecoach Museum on Wednesday, August 30th. We will meet at the Acre at 11 am for lunch and car-pool to the museum.

Wednesday, Sept. 6th, Congressman Buck McKeon's Valley Representatives will be

having a luncheon meeting and tour at the Acre. Gretchen Martin, McKeon's field representative, (and the lady who arranged for the buses for our Sesquicentennial celebration), is in charge. They will have their lunch in the Sheila Watts garden and we will give tours. It is a wonderful chance for them to get to know our beautiful area. We are not charging them for the use of the grounds, it is a community service.

Virginia Watson, Curator

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The society is presently applying for grants from different sources to make needed repairs to the house.

Membership dues are due. If you are due for renewal you will find an envelope attached to this newsletter.

We are getting a new answering machine for the museum so if you have had trouble getting through to us in the past help is on the way.

The sesquicentennial event and the accompanying Valley History Display provided an opportunity and incentive for us to spruce up the museum. Many of our old pictures were taken down for cleaning and renovation and we would like to rehang them in nice old-looking frames. If you have an old picture whose contents don't interest you but which has a good solid frame please consider donating it to the society. It would be much appreciated. Call Virginia at 341-3053

We have a new cleaning service for the house which costs \$30 per month. If members would like to contribute to support of the historic monument by helping with the cleaning fee for one month it also would be much appreciated.

PIONEER DAY - OCTOBER 15TH

It's that time of year again, so mark your calendar - Sunday, October 15th, for our annual Pioneer Day, 11:00am - 4:00pm.

Donation - adults \$2.00, children \$1.00

This is our annual fund-raiser to keep the Homestead Acre going and we appreciate any help we can get. There will be activities for all ages, a mini chili cook-off, entertainment, white elephant sale, bake sale, old-timers reunion and the list goes on.

If you have any white elephant items to donate please call Bea Berman at 341-5449 and I will pick them up. Also, if you would like to bake something for our bake sale we would greatly appreciate it.

For anyone interested in entering our chili cook-off, the entry fee is \$10 and you get to keep the money from selling your chili, plus a chance to win a 1st place trophy and prize money of \$50 - 1st prize, \$35 - 2nd prize and \$25 - 3rd prize. It's fun competing with the local cooks. Let me know so I can send you an application.

Bea Berman - chairman

EDITOR'S NOTE

The editor is proud to announce a First Place win in the World Quilt competition recently held in Michigan and N. Carolina. The quilt, "Out of the Strong Came Forth Sweetness", also received the Viewers' Choice award.