



# Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth CA 91311  
(818)-862-5614



Co-Presidents: Linda & Andre van der Valk

October 2000

Editor: Zena Thorpe

We were happy to have such a large turnout for our annual membership roundup. everyone enjoyed the bar-b-que and the conversation. We were happy to welcome some new members and see some of our long-time members again. With the weather agreeable it was obvious why we love and live in Chatsworth.

October is upon us and that means Pioneer Day. This is a very important fundraiser for us. Pioneer Day brings in almost half of our annual budget. Our chairperson, Bea Berman, again has a great day planned for us and any help that you can do in spreading the word or help work that day would be greatly appreciated. Pioneer Day has become a local event that the community looks forward to, especially the "Chili Cook-off" which promises again this year to have some great chili. So, mark you calendar for October 15th, 2000, 11.00 A.M. - 4 P.M. and we will look forward to seeing you.

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.....	Michon Rickman	
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

## PIONEER DAY

**Our Annual Pioneer Day is coming up  
Sunday, October 15th 11a.m. - 4p.m.**

Chairman of the event, Bea Berman, has arranged for all sorts of entertainment, displays, food, music, etc., etc., not to mention the mouth-watering, stomach-churning!! excitement of the **Annual Chili Cook-Off.**

Come celebrate with us the "Days of Yore".

Admission is: Adults \$2, Children \$1

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson

It is October already and almost time for our 10th Annual Pioneer Day. Bea Berman is our chairperson and is doing a really fine job of getting us organized for the big event. You will find a flyer elsewhere in this month's Smoke Signal so I will only say that **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US**. If you can spare an hour or two on Saturday we need help setting up. We need people to help with tables and chairs and to help with the booths. **WE NEED HELP ON SUNDAY MORNING GETTING READY**. If you have time on Sunday afternoon we need help working on the **CLEANUP** afterward. If you can help please call Bea or Marshall Berman at 341-5449 and tell them when you can work. We are going to have our Old Timers' Reunion again but it will be different this year. We will have a quiz to be picked up at the information booth. Visitors can fill out the quiz and a prize will be given for the person who has lived in Chatsworth the longest, a prize for the person who came to Pioneer Day from the farthest away from Chatsworth and a prize for the person who gets the best score on the quiz. The docents had an enjoyable trip to the Stagecoach Inn where their docents gave us a wonderful tour of their fabulous museum. Chatsworth docents especially enjoyed seeing and hearing about how they catalog their extensive costume collection. Another trip is planned for December. We will be going to the Banning Home when it

is decorated for Christmas. We hope to get a bus full and other people will be able to go with us. We may have a small fee to cover the cost of the bus and other expenses. We always plan to stop nearby for lunch. Please call me, Virginia Watson, 818-341-3053 if you would like to go. The date is tentatively set for Dec. 16th. Watch the Smoke Signal for further details. We have a new member on our executive board. Michon Rickman, from the staff at Chatsworth Park South has agreed to serve as our vice-president in charge of hospitality. Welcome aboard, Michon. Lillian Baker has moved to Texas to be near her family but before she left she donated two dresses to our costume collection. One is a "Nancy Reagan Red" dress very similar to the ones Nancy Reagan often wore and another dress that Lillian wore to her son's graduation from the Air Force Academy. Thank you Lillian. We would also appreciate donations of fancy hats, special dresses you may have saved, gloves or evening bags from local people. Call us at 818-882-5614 and we will come and pick them up. A former resident of Chatsworth, Adell Campbell, sent us a package of information about events in Chatsworth for our collection. She now lives in Texas but says "hello" to all her Chatsworth friends. Bob Turner, whose mother was post mistress in Chatsworth, has written a new book and will be bringing copies down for our Pioneer Day. He will have a special table and hopes to bring his daughter from Visalia with him.  
**See you at Pioneer Day!!**

## OCTOBER BOARD MEETING REPORT

We now have a hospitality chairman -  
**Michon Rickman.**

A number of members have responded to  
the request for funds for cleaning the house.

We need a new timer for the garden  
sprinklers.

A committee has been appointed to review  
the by-laws.

May 6th, 2001, was set for the next garden  
festival.

We have received a generous donation from  
**Heather Watts** to support this society in  
which her mother, Sheila, was so interested  
and involved.

### EDITOR'S NOTES

Please remember to send in your dues, or  
this may be your last "Puff of Smoke"!

Chatsworth Parade will be held Dec. 10th.

Our next program meeting will be  
November 21st when we will be visited by  
none other than **Abraham Lincoln!** Save  
the date.

If you are able to bake goodies for the  
Pioneer Day bake sale then Bea would  
welcome your call. 341-5449

Candy has been unable to spend as much  
time in the gardens as she would like  
because of the care that Dean requires but  
she invites you to come and see the  
California native plant garden and the  
Sheila Watts garden, both of which are  
doing beautifully.

Call Candy for a tour. 341-4461

On October 10th founding members **Bill &  
Lila Schepler** will celebrate their **60th**  
wedding anniversary with a trip to the  
Mission Inn in Riverside where they will  
re-live their honeymoon!

**Ruth Grant** is recovering nicely from  
spinal surgery.

### UNSUNG HEROES

Our unsung hero for this month is Gardens  
Co-Director, **Dean Craig**. After working in  
the gardens for many hours over many,  
many years Dean is no longer able to do  
that work. He nevertheless does what he  
can for the society, spending countless  
hours on the phone with various City  
agencies such as Rec. & Parks, (and we  
know how much of your life can slip by  
while in that pursuit, don't we?!), arranging  
for special services, securing equipment for  
our events etc. Dean dogged the City to  
remove the dilapidated trailer, he  
persevered until the entrance gates and the  
museum doors were replaced and is  
responsible for many other improvements in  
the grounds. Thank you Dean!