



Smoke Signal

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Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

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Editor: Zena Thorpe

June is here and we are looking forward to some quiet time at The Acre. We have recovered from the Garden Festival and Bea is already making plans for Pioneer Day. We would like to thank everyone who made the Garden Festival a big success and we hope everyone who came enjoyed themselves.

On May 18th the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council held their annual dinner to honor the volunteers of Chatsworth. Elaine Campbell, Marilyn Frump, Keli Jacobson and Dr. Gary Standke were honored for their volunteer work for the Historical Society. Our own Virginia Watson was presented with The President's Award for her life time volunteer work in Chatsworth.

In September we are planning a Membership Round-up so if you know anyone who would be interested in joining it would be a great time to bring them.

Linda & Andre

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CATHERINE MULHOLLAND TO SPEAK ABOUT HER GRANDFATHER, WILLIAM MULHOLLAND

Catherine's next speaking engagement will be to the Tree People at Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive at 7pm on August 15th, 2001.

Included in the program will be a Living History interpretation of William Mulholland.

This will be in an outdoor setting and should prove to be a pleasant evening of history and entertainment.

At present we don't know if there is a cost to attend.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson, curator

This is a particularly busy time for The Homestead Acre. The gardens are lovely this time of year and the flowers attract a lot of attention. Our Garden and Craft Festival always brings many new visitors who are made aware of our Acre and what it has to offer. Also, June is the end of the school year and we have many requests for tours.

It is especially an active time for our hard-working docents who lead tours plus work in the museum, the cottage and the gardens. Recently, Sharon Bowen brought a group of 20 children and several parents to The Acre. And Stacey Gleason will be bringing 21 Kindergarten children and a few parents on June 20th and Doris van Akin, a long time member of the historical society and elementary school teacher, will be bringing 40 children from Capistrano Elementary School. We had one large, unexpected tour last Monday morning, (June 3rd). I came up to The Acre for another appointment and found about 50 schoolchildren milling about waiting for a tour. It was a mix-up and they didn't have an appointment but I opened the gate and let them go through quickly and they said they would return later for another tour. From the Reseda Elementary School they sent us two big manila envelopes full of beautiful thank you notes and pictures!

Our board member, Michon Rickman, is in charge of the preschool program at Chatsworth Park South Recreation Center. She is going to have the graduation program in the Centennial area of The Homestead Acre on June 23rd.

Recently Charla Bench from CSUN came to The Acre and we sorted out our pictures to be

digitized for the Heritage Network Project. Betty Summers and I worked with Charla deciding which ones to send. We sent our agricultural photos; the ones that Mrs. Nell Williams gave to me way back before we had a society or a collection.

One interesting picture we sent was one I hadn't thought about sending. They asked for pictures of famous people in local settings and I had the picture of Heather Watts when she danced at the White House for President Jimmy Carter. I hadn't thought about it being history.

I attended the seminar, "Preserving Photographs in Your Collections". It was sponsored by The Automobile Club of Southern California, The Huntington Library, the LA Preservation NETWORK, The Society of California Archivists and the USC Archival Research Center's "LA as Subject" project. It was a fabulous seminar with interesting people attending from other museums in the area and knowledgeable speakers showing you how to care for your photographic collections. I learned a lot and brought back some wonderful samples from the archival catalog people who were present. Robert Marshall, head of the Urban Archives at CSUN, spoke near the end of the afternoon. He hopes other seminars will follow. It was suggested that one be given regarding costumes and there were favorable comments made.

Members Bunny and Bud Levine loaned us a beautiful dress and coat worn by Bunny's mother in the 1920s to display at The Acre. She also loaned us a jacket of her mother's. We hope to have it on display before long. Recently one of our members, Robert Lisenby, brought us a beautiful Tiffany lampshade made by his father which we plan to use in the museum. Later he brought us a

tan leather traveling case filled with his mother's hats from the 1940s and 50s. It is a complete collection of hats including a small mink one. The hats belonged to Mrs. Alice Lisenby and the suitcase was bought as part of a set by her husband, Commander Harry Lisenby of the US. Navy (Ret.) in Hong Kong. She was living in Pearl Harbor at the time it was bombed but suffered no damage and her husband's ship had just left the harbor a day or two before Dec. 7th.

GERRY AGER

Gerald Ager, known to us in the Chatsworth Historical Society as Gerry, passed away Sunday morning, May 25th while still at UCLA Medical Center. He had been in the hospital since April 17th and had hoped to be able to obtain a heart transplant but he didn't make it. Funeral services were held at Oakwood Memorial Park on Thursday, May 31st, followed by a reception in the Centennial are of the garden at The Homestead Acre.

Gerry and his surviving wife, Connie, were a docent team at The Acre. They took their docent training together and worked on our Pioneer Day and Garden Festivals together as well as giving school tours. They have been members for about three years and participated in our Sesquicentennial event. They were honored by the Society at the Coordinating Council banquet last year. We will miss Gerry: he kept us smiling with his humor. Connie will continue to be a docent and work with the Wednesday group whenever she can.

A fund has been set up in Gerry's name by our treasurer, Lillian Schepler, and any donations have already been made.

GARDEN FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Garden Festival a great success. We served over 100 teas thanks to Keli Jacobson who stepped in at the last minute to organize the girls from Chaminade School who served the teas.

A special thanks to Marty Bell and Catherine Mulholland who took the time from their busy schedules to visit with us and sign their paintings and books respectively. It was a great treat to talk to these fascinating ladies. Our garden looked beautiful and the weather was great.

Thank you again to everyone who pitched in and made the day a great success.

Bea Berman

EDITOR'S NOTES

Other Historical Society News

Conference of California Historical Societies will present "Historical Development of the Ports of San Pedro Bay" on June 21st through 24th at the Sheraton L.A. Harbor Hotel, San Pedro, California. The event is hosted by the San Pedro Bay and Wilmington Historical Societies.

Speakers, tours, a banquet and workshops are included. "World War II and The Harbor", "Quilting - an interactive demonstration", "The Story of the Red Car" and "Fishing Industry and Labor Management" are the titles of the workshops.

For info contact Irene Alameida at:
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