



Smoke Signal

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Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

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Editor: Zena Thorpe

September is upon us and that means we are back to working hard at The Acre. Our Membership Round-Up is on Sept. 9th and Pioneer Day, Oct. 7th. Our hard work is starting to pay off as we have voted out funds to redo the museum photograph collection. We can't get the photos to stick to the wall anymore, they are starting to buckle. By the time this newsletter gets out we are hoping to have purchased a new computer with funds generously donated in memory of Gerry Ager. Virginia will be able to properly keep records of our artifacts and everything else she does at The Acre.

We also have a new garden shed purchased with funds donated in memory of Dean Craig. The shed, chosen by Candy, is a definite improvement over the old one. Candy continues to oversee the garden.

We had some vandalism at The Acre. Someone tried to break into the time capsule. The top was removed and damaged but the time capsule was not touched. We are working on getting that repaired.

We also have termites in the cottage and are trying to get the city to take care of it. If anyone has the talent of being able to hound people on the phone please let us know. It takes many calls to get matters taken care of.

Hope to see everyone at the Membership Round-Up and Pioneer Day

Linda & Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board 2000-2001

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 Director.....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

Our annual **Membership Round-Up** will be held **Sunday, September 9th at The Homestead Acre starting at 4 P.M.**

Beef tri-tip will be provided by the Historical Society and members are asked to bring:-
Surnames beginning with A - L veggies or salad
Surnames beginning with M - Z dessert
(to serve 10 people).

Beverages and all tableware will be provided by the society.

Come and join us but **most importantly**, bring a friend or neighbor to find out about our exciting programs.

RSVP (leave message) to 882-5614

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson, curator

Summer is almost over and we are already working hard on our September 9th Membership Roundup and our October 7th, Pioneer Day. But we have had lots of summertime activity at The Acre starting with **Michon Rickman's** graduation ceremonies for the Pre-School class at Chatsworth Park South. Michon said the parents really enjoyed having the event at our beautiful Acre. In July, in cooperation with Wendy Gay and Pearson and Company, we invited members of the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce to hold their July Mixer at The Acre. They met in the Centennial Area and we had the museum and cottage open for tours. **Lila Schepler, Evelyn Kanouse and Keli Jacobson** worked in the cottage while **Marilyn Frump** helped with the food and the kitchen. Her husband Dave attended and they brought little Amy, the two-year old granddaughter who attends our docent Wednesdays with Marilyn. **Bill Schepler, Ramon Avila and Lillian Schepler** worked at the gate welcoming people and I worked in the museum.

Charla Bench and Robert Marshall of CSUN have been here several times working on photographing items for the Digital History of the San Fernando Valley that we have been participating in with other local historical societies. **John Thorpe** and I are the representatives to the Heritage Network and will be sure our members are invited to the planned opening of the Digital Library this fall.

David Valastro, the Facility Director at Chatsworth Park South, brought down the big sign he found that says "Chatsworth Park ." He brought along a beautiful plaque to place on the sign. Board members are trying to find a place big enough to display it. The executive board has voted money to redo our pictures and to rearrange the material displayed for this fall.

Long-time member **Reid Bogert** has found a postcard of Minnie's that she mailed to her brother, Lovell Hill, when she was visiting her husband's family in Hawthorne. He is going to donate the card to our historical society collection.

Lillian Schepler is cleaning and straightening up her storage area and has been finding lots of old clippings and memorabilia for our collection.

Summertime is fun time for the Docents. **Elaine Campbell** started the summer by visiting her older sister in Minnesota and has continued traveling all summer long taking short trips. She loves the elder hostels. **Evelyn Kanouse** has been on several day trips with the Senior Center in Northridge and spent time dog and cat sitting for her daughters. **Marilyn Frump** is busy with her grandchildren and going to "the river". They have a house near the Colorado River. **Candy Craig** is still having health problems but she manages to work in the garden and gives an occasional garden tour for us. **Connie Ager** is working extra hours these days and hasn't been able to attend our Wednesdays-at-the-Acre but she plans to be here for Pioneer Day. **Keli Jacobson** comes often in the early evening to deadhead the roses and to water but she, too, has to work on Wednesdays now. Our co-presidents **Linda and Andre van der Valk** have also been watering the plants at The Acre. **Betty and Jim Summers** are back in town following a motor home trip up the coast to visit Joyce and family in Washington. Betty said, "It was cool," referring to both the weather and the trip. Other daughter Jane Gereing and grandson Daniel from Colorado will be visiting this next week while Daniel, a senior in high school "checks out" the colleges in the area. **Felicia Robinson**, who always works with our plant sale for our garden festival, is getting along fine now after her long illness and hopes to help **Betty Summers** with a plant sale at our Pioneer Day this year. Daughter **Sandy Robinson** and her friend **Karen Jaye** are vacationing in Spain and will be back before school starts. **Bill Schepler** turned 85 recently and **Lila Schepler** and their daughter **Leuse Mitchell** invited friends in to

celebrate. It was a lovely summer evening and the picnic supper was held out in the beautiful backyard where Bill had planted all the trees.

Vandalism - our gardener, **Trini Sanchez**, discovered that our Time Capsule in the Centennial area of The Acre had been broken into on Thursday morning, July 19th when he came to work. When I came by he showed it to me and to Candy and I called the police and alerted **Dave Valastro** at the recreation office. There were forms to be filled out and a Police report to be made. The Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks will repair it. Luckily the vandals did not get into the steel interior container with the actual material that was placed into the Time Capsule. It is only the outer stone exterior and the top that will have to be repaired and then the capsule hopefully won't be disturbed until 2088-the end of the 100 years.

PIONEER DAY

It's that time of year again and the Chatsworth Historical Society will be having their annual **Pioneer Day, Sunday, October 7th** at the **Homestead Acre**. The hours are 11:00am - 4:00 pm. There will be many activities for the children including a petting zoo, chores of yore, gold panning, story time, games, origami etc. as well as entertainment, mini chili cook-off, displays and much more for the adults.

If anyone is interested in joining the chili cook-off all it takes is a \$10 entry fee with a chance to win \$50 - 1st prize and trophy, \$35 - 2nd prize and \$25 - 3rd prize. Space is limited so get your entry in fast.

If you want an enjoyable afternoon join us on October 7th

Any questions please call me at
(818)341-5449

Bea Berman - chairman.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

A beautiful new wooden garden shed has been placed in the garden in memory of **Dean Craig** who passed away in May. Dean was Gardens Director at The Acre along with his wife, Candy, for many, many years so the garden shed is a very apt memorial.

The board decided to get up-to-date with a new computer for the museum office. A computer is now an essential part of any office and it will be used, not only for routine office chores, but for the documenting and storage of all museum data.

The board is moving ahead with plans for the reprinting and re-framing of all the historic pictures in the museum. Watch this space for a notice about the completion of the refurbishment of our museum.

Don't forget the Membership Round-up, Sunday, September 9th at 4pm.

CHATSWORTH COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council will have their first fall meeting, Monday, Sept. 24th at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire St.. The meeting starts at 11:30 and the program is scheduled for 12:30 pm.

Our speaker is Bill Dworin, retired from the LAPD. A nationally recognized expert in the field of child sexual exploitation and abuse, Bill is currently a preventive education advocate for the Valley Trauma Center.