

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net

Smoke Signal

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor pro-tem: Keith Watts

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Chatsworth Historical Society
Board 1999-2000

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FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS:

We would like to start our message by saying Happy Holidays to everyone! December is our favorite time of the year. We are inviting all the members of the Chatsworth Historical Society to our home for a Christmas Party on December 18th at 7:00p.m. Our address is 10524 Eton Avenue in Chatsworth.

Please leave a message on the answering machine at the Homestead Acre if you plan on attending - the number is: (818) 882-5614.

We also are very excited and pleased about the new heater and air-conditioner unit that was

installed in the Museum by the Recreation and Parks Department. When we were working in the Museum last week it actually got a little warm in there. It's nice to know that Virginia and the docents won't have to freeze anymore.

We hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party!

Andre and Linda

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE?

By Virginia Watson

I am sitting here in the office at The Acre, cozy and warm, with the new heater/air conditioner humming along, typing in my column for the Smoke Signal. Now that is a milestone! We have been working toward getting better organized and here we are with our computer up and running, I have access to information here at The Acre and, when I am done I will email it to Keith from here, and he will be able to blend it in with the rest of the information for the December Smoke Signal.

We are slowly getting things done thanks to a lot of help from the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks, our co-presidents Linda and Andre van der Valk, and our cooperative members and board members and also docents who work so hard. We are in the process of ordering new blinds for the windows in the museum. They will be room darkening shades like the ones that wore out but they will cover the windows a little better. (The old ones let light in at the sides,

which is bad for some of our artifacts). John Thorpe arranged for the blind company. John, immediate past president is also program chairman and arranged for the wonderful speaker we had at our last meeting. It was Mark Raab. Professor of Anthropology at CSUN, who told us about the Native Americans who lived in the San Fernando Valley before it was explored by the Spanish. We hope to have him back again to hear more.

We have a special display in the museum showing World War II Memorabilia and emphasizing Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7th. The people who came in November saw an especially interesting display of American made toy soldiers from World War I and II that the late Dean Craig played with as a child. The case was arranged by Candy Craig. She loaned us the display and did all the work of arranging them in marching order so that they were outstanding and our guests really enjoyed it. In addition we used again the display given to us by Anna Combs, about the 101st Airborne Division, known as the Screaming Eagles, who parachuted down into The Netherlands and liberated the people from the Nazis. Also we have our Rosie the Riveter Display of Betty Summers' wartime memories. The bracelet she made as an aircraft worker is an interesting souvenir of the war as well as ration books and Christmas Cards from her brother overseas to the family at home here in California. Elaine Campbell brought her framed medals and memorabilia from her late husband Owen Campbell. Her husband received a Silver Star which was part of the memorabilia. Elaine is a docent and arranged the display. Linda van der Valk and her mother Henriette arranged

the display for my mother's papers from World War II. My mother was a WAC and went to boot camp in Des Moines, Iowa, then went on to be a physio-therapist working especially with amputees and paralyzed wounded service men and women in the hospitals in Walla Walla, Washington and Denver, Colorado.

After the docents spent the morning decorating the cottage for Christmas, putting up the Christmas Tree, and putting in the new displays in the cases in the museum; they enjoyed a potluck luncheon in the cottage dining room as an early holiday treat to themselves.

We are getting ready to tent the cottage for termites. Betty Summers showed Trini Sanchez, our gardener, how to cut the plants back from the cottage so the work can get done without ruining them. We are waiting for the Department of Recreation and Parks to let us know when it will be done. We aren't planning any tours until it is completed.

We are entering afloat in the Chatsworth Christmas Parade. The theme is a natural for us this year - we are doing Chatsworth Past. Bea Berman is chairman and members will work on the float on Saturday, Dec. 8th. Parade will be over by the time you get this information but perhaps you will have seen us in the lineup - we are in the parade every year.

We had an interesting visitor at our December Open House - Minnie's great grandson, Darrell Jenkins brought his family to visit "the ranch." Family members always referred to The Acre as "The Ranch" and holidays were a time when everyone was invited. Accompanying Darrell were Carol, Chris and Deborah Jenkins.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
HANNUKAH TO ALL OUR HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.**