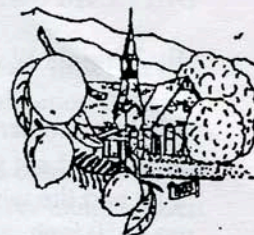


Chatsworth Historical Society  
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# Smoke Signal



[www.historicalsocieties.net](http://www.historicalsocieties.net)

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

February 2002

Editor: Zena Thorpe

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !

We are already beginning to work on the Garden Festival which will be held on April 28th., 2002. If anyone would like to volunteer for working that day or baking for the bake sale please let us know. These fundraisers allow us to do some of the things that need to be done to preserve the museum and the cottage..

We recently attended a meeting for the Neighborhood Council and it was nice to see the new interest in Chatsworth and in our history. Come to the February meeting and hear more about the council and how to join if you are interested.

Linda & Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board 2001-2002

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 MEETING**  
**February 19th, 2001**

**Chatsworth Neighborhood Council**  
**Formation Committee**

The concept of neighborhood councils is a new one for the US. The councils are springing up throughout Los Angeles and Chatsworth Historical Society member, Jon Lauritzen, is the coordinator for the formation of the local Chatsworth Council. He will speak about the goals, and requirements of the council and how it will impact the community and groups such as the Historical Society.

The meeting will be held in the museum at 7pm.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson, curator

We lost another big tree at The Acre this weekend. I am writing this on Sunday, Feb. 10th and the wind is blowing hard with gusts up to 50 mph, according to the news media. All I know is that it is blowing hard and has been since Friday night. At home I lost part of my wooden fences and many of the shingles off my roof, plus all the paper and leaves that blow down the hill in a big wind. At The Acre it was the big tree in Sheila's Garden that Candy Craig designed and made in Sheila Watt's memory that was blown over. It was the tree where the chicken hawks had a nest a year or so ago. The tree was uprooted and split down the trunk. It fell across the garden, down on one of the backless benches, landing on the fence where it extends out to the street.

Park personnel put up wooden barricades and will undoubtedly pick it up for us, but it is so sad! The tree left a huge hole in the garden and ruined the flowers underneath and around it.

We have been trying very hard to preserve the original trees at The Acre but we have lost several. First (years ago) we lost the kumquat and loquat trees that were near the big black walnut tree, then Minnie's beloved apple tree went down in a big wind following a week of rain. It has been replaced by a new apple tree in memory of my mother, Violet Bell Wilson. Then we lost a peach tree and the grapefruit tree that I replaced following my term as president 96-97. Then we lost the lime tree that was out in front of the museum near the gate and last year we lost the two trees that were in the area where we have the

Petting Zoo for Pioneer Day. The stumps of those trees are still there.

There are a lot of fallen branches, twigs and leaves and the benches have all been tipped over as is usual following our Chatsworth north wind. Our trees at The Acre are so old, many of them were planted by Minnie's parents and some by Minnie and her husband. The roots are old and go way down deep. They have served us well and we hope to preserve as many as we can in the future. The house has been successfully fumigated. Everything is back in the kitchen, most of the dishes have been washed and the silverware. Betty Summers took the silverware home and put it in her dishwasher and the docents washed the dishes while Betty cleaned the shelves and put down new paper last week. There are a few shelves left to go next week. While Linda, Elaine, Virginia and Betty worked in the kitchen, Marilyn and Amy watered the roses.

Next week Lila and Bill Schepler are bringing the slides up to The Acre and the docents are going to view the pictures and copy down what Bill says about them. Until the 600-700 slides have been viewed and labeled the docents will work the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month completing this task.

Members, Evelyn, Elaine, Keli, Marilyn, Lillian, Betty, Bee, Linda and I, have been working hard getting the museum (especially the office) cleaned up and rearranged. We had many items that needed to be returned to their rightful places, many that we no longer have a need for, and many boxes that needed a place in storage. We are making progress and will have more to report next month. Duke Mulholland, one of our younger members has donated another postcard encased in plastic. He has given us several

postcards, one of a train getting ready to enter the tunnel. Thanks Duke!

Reid Bogert, one of our members who lives in the Las Feliz area, sent us several really nice photographs taken at our Pioneer Day. He is the one who brought us the postcard written to Minnie Palmer from her brother Lovell. Thanks again, Reid.

We are changing our displays in the museum. We are taking out all of the World War II Memorabilia and putting in English tea cozies and china in a nod to our British background. Chatsworth was named for the Duke of Devonshire's estate in Derbyshire, England and it seems fitting that we celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee by featuring items of English origin. Lillian Schepler, our long-time respected treasurer, who was born in Wales and often visits the British Isles, has a fabulous collection of teapots and tea cozies as well as some lovely china from Elizabeth's coronation and some commemorating Princess Diana and Prince Charles' wedding. She loaned it to us once before and has agreed to lend it to us again. We hope to leave it up until the Rose and Garden Festival on April 28th. We are also borrowing a few other pieces from our members for the display.

The Chatsworth Historical Society is working with Craig Stone, the artist who is commissioned to create the artwork for the new Chatsworth Branch Library for the city. We are loaning him pictures to illustrate his planned sculptures.

Next month is our Birthday Month and we will be celebrating 114 years of Chatsworth History. On March 10, 1888 the first subdivision map of a town called Chatsworth Park was filed in the Los Angeles County Records Office. That is the day we consider our birthday.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

New black-out blinds have been installed in the museum to protect the collection from light.

We are looking into getting a commemorative plaque placed for the olive trees along Lassen St. The trees are from cuttings of the original trees from the San Fernando Mission.

A listing is being prepared of historic Chatsworth houses: houses over 80 years old and remaining in more-or-less original condition.

The new storage shed, a gift from Friends of Chatsworth Library, has been installed.

## GARDEN FESTIVAL

Plans are under way for our ever-popular **Garden Festival, April 28th.**

There will be many and varied displays of garden-related arts and crafts and, of course, **the Duchess of Devonshire's Tearoom.**

## MARCH PROGRAM

Robert Marshall, Head of Urban Archives at CSUN, will be our speaker March 19th.

Mr Marshall was responsible for the great display of Valley history at our California Sesquicentennial event in March 2000 and for the establishment of the new digital history archives program of S.F. Valley.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Did you know that there are a number of famous people buried at Oakwood Memorial Park?

In next month's issue of The Smoke Signal I will publish a listing and you can go and see the grave sites.