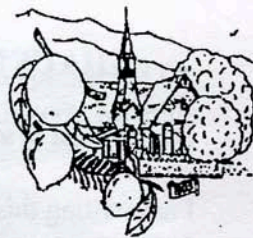


Chatsworth Historical Society  
10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth CA 91311  
(818) 882-5614



# Smoke Signal

www.historicalsocieties.net

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

March 2002

Editor: Zena Thorpe

Spring is around the corner at The Acre. We are already getting ready for the Garden Festival. The tree that was blown down last month in our heavy winds has been removed from Sheila's Garden and we will have to plant some new plants, fix sprinklers and pull out tree roots to get it back to the way it was. Dan Huffman has generously agreed to donate trees to replace our older citrus trees and some of the others that we have lost either to age or wind. We thank Dan for his generous donation. He will not only donate them but help plant them.

We attended our Open House on March 3rd and found it to be an interesting event. Not only do you get the opportunity to listen to Virginia telling the history of Chatsworth, you get the opportunity to meet people remembering their youth in Chatsworth and the things they used to do. For a different experience at The Acre besides events and meetings come out to an Open House and meet old and new friends. Open House is the first Sunday of the month from 1pm to 4pm. Hope to see you there.

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

## PROGRAM MEETING March 19th, 2002

The papers of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Local 13 are deposited in the Urban Archives Center at CSUN. Robert Marshall, head of that department and guardian of the papers, will speak on the history of the Los Angeles Harbor, the most active port in the West, and the various issues that have shaped waterfront history such as:  
Bloody Thursday, July 5th, 1934  
1934 San Francisco General Strike  
War Years - African American Longshoremen

This promises to be a fascinating program.

**Museum 7pm**

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson, curator

I am writing this column on Sat, March 9, 2002, one year almost to the day that our longtime executive board member, Dean Craig, passed away following a long illness. And it has been nearly a year since family and friends celebrated (post-humously) Dean and Candy's 50th wedding anniversary at a long-planned social event. Presently we are experiencing the compounded grief of losing Candy, our courageous rosarian and garden director, who is the other half of the team that has been largely responsible for our outstanding rose gardens and our beautiful flowers and shrubs. They planned and physically laid the bricks around the hybrid tea roses, around the driveways and marking the other old fashioned rose gardens at the back of the house. Candy designed our Sheila's Garden near the front gate and the Native Plant Garden in the northwest corner of The Acre. Her family built the wall in Sheila's Garden (Members will remember that Sheila's Garden is a memorial to Sheila Watts who, with her husband Keith, was a founding member. (Sheila was our first official secretary and served as president five different times). Candy's floral arrangements, created from the flowers at The Acre, have always been a part of our special events. On our regular Sunday Open House days, Candy often surprised us with artistic designs made from our own home-grown flowers and placed in

exquisite or antique containers she brought from her own home for the day. Until recently Candy gave fully researched, articulate house and garden tours on Sundays and for our school children. She entertained our guests with grace and charm along with the basic facts about Minnie, her gardens and her family. Candy and Dean spent hours at The Acre working and often met with Hill Family members who stopped by to see what was happening at "the ranch" as family members referred to The Acre. The handsome couple came to the historical society on a tour way back in 1981 when the CHS had recently started our conservancy. The Craigs lived nearby and were invited to join and help us get the place in shape. In the beginning the CHS executive board tried to keep up a vegetable garden something like the one that Minnie had tended so long and successfully. It had been Minnie's passion. She had a garden across the west part of The Acre, from the "crick" to the fence at the north end of the property. We tried various ways of keeping up the garden - Boy Scouts, Pierce College gardening classes, and finally having nearby residents care for individual plots. Candy and Dean were among those couples who kept up a garden for a long while. The executive board eventually dropped the gardens and Candy and Dean gradually branched out and began planning the additional rose gardens and the lovely other additions to our grounds. They spent countless hours, in sunshine and fog, tending the grounds.

And who can forget the rose pruning demonstrations Candy and Dean planned and carried out for us? Dean's executive ability and Candy's horticultural talents combined to make highly successful events that were also financially rewarding.

Candy wrote our garden manuals and many times rewrote them as our garden changed. She worked tirelessly on the outstanding booklet for the Sesquicentennial Event celebrating 150 years of Statehood for California and 112 years of Chatsworth History.

An actress as a young woman, Candy came to California to attend the Pasadena Playhouse and was quite successful, appearing on late night television from New York City. That is how she met Dean who grew up in the movie and television industry. Candy's thespian training formed a good background that added to the interesting community lectures she gave about gardening and gardeners.

We have been blessed with the presence of both Candy and Dean in our historical society. Candy is a star player on our CHS team and has been for more than 20 years. Our thanks to Candy as she bravely fights this last great battle of life.

## **NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING**

### **By-Laws Revision**

The by-laws revision committee has been meeting and has come up with a number of proposed changes to the by-laws. Copies of

the proposed changes will be presented for approval at the April 16th General Meeting.

### **Nominating Committee**

The nominating Committee met recently and is hereby publishing the proposed slate of officers for the 2002-3 year.

Nominations may be made from the floor the night of the election, however nominators must receive prior permission from the nominee and nominees must be members of the Society in good standing. Election will take place at the March 19th program meeting

Co-Presidents:Linda and Andre van der Valk

First Vice President and Program Director: John Thorpe

Second Vice President and Fund Raising Director: Bea Berman

Third Vice President and Membership Director: Keith Watts

Fourth Vice President in charge of Hospitality: Michon Rickman

Secretary, Recording/Corresponding: Elaine Campbell

Treasurer: Lillian Schepler

Editor of the Smoke Signal: Zena Thorpe

The next four offices are Directors-at-Large

Garden Directors: Betty and Jim Summers and Betty also serves as Cottage Curator.

Ruth Grant and Barbara Pampalone will serve as Directors-at-large with no

particular

duties to perform except to attend board meetings and advise.

There are three honorary board members whose positions are permanent. They are Lila Schepler, who served as first president and was president six different times; Virginia Watson, Curator, in charge of the Collection; and Bill Schepler, Director of Photographic Materials. All these board members were founding members of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Two of our Permanent Honorary Board Members are now deceased. They are Charles "Chuck" Janess and Eileen Janess, both founding members.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Watson,  
Parliamentarian.

Nominating Committee members are Lila Schepler, Lillian Schepler, and Virginia Watson.

### **CHATSWORTH 114 YEARS OLD**

March 10th marks the 114th anniversary of the filing of the plat designating the subdivision of Chatsworth Park in 1888. Come celebrate the birthday with us at the general meeting in the museum on March 19th

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

In last month's issue of the Smoke Signal I promised you a listing of the famous people who are buried in Oakwood

Memorial Park located at the far west end of Lassen Street. If you visit the Oakwood office they will give you a map to help you locate the sites. The office is closed on Sundays

**Fred Astaire** - Famous dance star in movies of the 30s, 40s & 50s

**Ginger Rogers** - She became Fred Astaire's dancing partner after his former partner, sister Adele, left to marry Lord Charles Cavendish, a member of the Cavendish family which owns Chatsworth House in England

**Glori Grahame** - Movie star of the 40s & 50s best remembered for her role as Ado Annie in Oklahoma.

**Bob Crane** - Star of the TV series, Hogan's Heroes in the 60s.

**Stephen Boyd** - Movie actor famous for his starring role in Ben Hur

### **NEWSFLASH**

Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council on April 3rd, 7:30pm at Lawrence Middle School. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to attend this important meeting.

# **GARDEN FESTIVAL**

**Plan to attend our Annual Garden Festival on Sunday, April 28th featuring our delicious Duchess Tea, Paintings and Signings by Marty Bell, Growing Plants and Roses for Sale, Arts & Crafts Booths, Bake Sale, White Elephant Sale, Entertainment by the Chatsworth Dance Center, Talks by Rose Experts, Museum Displays and, of course, our blooming Rose Garden. All this will take place from 11:00am to 4:00pm at the Homestead Acre.**

**If you have any white elephants for our sale please call me at 341-5449. Also, if you would like to bake for our bake sale we would appreciate it.**

**Hope to see you on the 28th of April.**

Bea Berman - Chairman