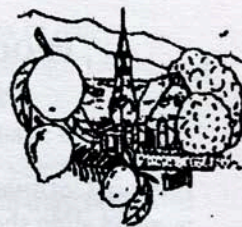


Chatsworth Historical Society  
10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth CA 91311  
(818) 882-5614



# Smoke Signal

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

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

April 2002

Editor: Zena Thorpe

We once again find ourselves at the time of the year when we are busy getting the "Acre" ready to show off to our neighbors, friends and fellow members for the upcoming "Garden Festival".

This year, one of our board members will be in our hearts and on our mind. Candy Craig passed away the day before Easter. Candy and her husband Dean were the garden. This year we would like to dedicate the Garden Festival to the Craig Family. Many thanks for your many years of devotion to the society and the Acre.

Linda & Andre

## CANDY CRAIG

September 26th 1929 - March 30th 2002

### 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.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
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

April 16th, 2002

7pm

Barbara Coffman, a local resident, will give a talk and slide show highlighting the old Stagecoach Trail and interesting features of the Santa Susana Mountains. Many of these slides are of views that have not been shown before to our Historical Society members.

This meeting coincides with the birthday of the Chatsworth Historical Society. The first meeting of the society was held on April 17th, 1963. Come and help us celebrate 39 years of preservation of Chatsworth history.



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE

By Virginia Watson, curator

All of us who work here at The Homestead Acre are saddened by the death of Candy Craig. She was such an integral part of our group for a long time--it was more than 20 years ago that she and her late husband, Dean Craig, began volunteering at The Acre and helped to make our Acre such a beautiful place. Their presence is still felt with all the

beauty they created for the public to enjoy and will continue to be felt for a long, long time. We have set up a memorial fund for Candy the same as we did for Dean. Members and friends wishing to contribute may send donations to:

Candy Craig Memorial Fund  
c/o Lillian Schepler, Treasurer  
Chatsworth Historical Society  
10385 Shadow Oak Dr.,  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

However sad we may feel at losing Candy, she would be the first to say, "The show must go on," and encourage us to continue our work of keeping up The Acre.

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Things have been happening rapidly in our little fenced-in area. You will remember that the last big winds in February/March toppled two trees in the Sheila Watts Garden. The Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks helped us by taking down the trees and hauling them away but the roots were a big problem. Along came our friend, Dan Huffman, a member and a benefactor for a long time. He has a big truck and equipment which was capable of getting out the stubborn roots. He came by Saturday and "Voila" our garden will look good for our Open House, our Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd and our annual Garden Festival on Sunday, April 28th. Earth Day is an event we are scheduling for Monday, April 22nd from 9 a.m. until noon with the children at the Santa Susana School taking part. They asked to do something to help us and we accepted, asking them to plant their flowers, (the younger grades), and to hoe the "crickbed" for weeds, cleaning it up in case we have a big rainstorm, (the older grades). There will be 150 schoolchildren participating, many parents and teachers from

the school as well as volunteers from the Chatsworth Historical Society.

There will be a short program to start the day's activities with Linda and Andre van der Valk, co-presidents, taking part and Betty and Jim Summers speaking for a few minutes about how the pioneers practiced conservation in their daily life. Gretha Davis is in charge of the project for the school and there will be introductions and maybe the new Santa Susana State Historical Park will be represented. It should be a wonderful day for everyone.

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Every other Wednesday Bill & Lila Schepler have been coming to The Acre and bringing along parts of the CHS Slide Collection for the docents to help identify and record in carousel order. So far the group has completed 4 carousels of slides with the docents writing down the information as it is discussed and later will transcribe the notes into permanent records. Bill Schepler reports that we now have over 700 slides in the collection. Lila is especially anxious to get all the slides identified for future researchers and historians. She has been leading the group with Linda van der Valk, Betty Summers, Elaine Campbell and I participating. Other people who participate part time are Marilyn Frump, Evelyn Kanouse, Lillian Schepler, Barbara Pampalone and Keli Jacobson.

Don't forget our Garden Festival is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 28th.

### **PROJECT: NAME THAT HOME**

The Chatsworth Historical Society will seek to identify any remaining homes from the 1920s and earlier in our community.

We have identified 13 homes to date, including the Miranda Adobe, late 1800s, and the Hill-Palmer House, 1911.

We need your help ! If you have a neighboring home that is 75 years old, (or older), or if you think a home may be of that vintage, please phone and let us know and we will research its background. Call the Homestead Acre, (818)882-5614 or Lila Schepler, (818)341-3447, and leave a message. Or drop us a line at the Museum, 10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth, CA 91311.

We plan to have a reception for owners and present them with a certificate of commendation for preserving the home. We also plan to have a plaque at the Museum identifying these homes.

Unfortunately, a few homes have been altered beyond recognition, ( a second storey and tower added to the Calvert home and including adding the garage and upstairs apartment and changing the architecture to a Mediterranean look in the Enos home). We will not include these in our list Please look around you at our heritage. So many have been destroyed.

### **NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING**

Jim and Betty Summers will take over as Garden Directors from Dean And Candy Craig.

A plaque will be placed denoting the rose gardens, "Dean and Candy Craig Memorial Rose Gardens".

The proposed slate of officers for 2002 - 2003 will be presented for voting at the April general meeting. The installation of officers will take place at the May 21st meeting.



This article appeared in the April 29th, 1983 edition of the Daily news. It was written by Virginia Watson, Community Correspondent.

## COUPLE FINDS LIFE IS A ROSE GARDEN

"A rose is a rose, is a rose, is a rose," - Gertrude Stein said it, but Candy and Dean Craig, co-chairmen of the grounds committee of the Homestead Acre, are proving it as they cultivate, prune, plant, fertilize and discover the beautiful old-fashioned hybrid tea roses now in full bloom at the Hill-Palmer Cottage, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive in Chatsworth Park South at the end of Devonshire St.

There is over one and one third acre to care for, and the Craigs do all this labor for love! It is a volunteer job for the couple, a hobby. She is a former television performer and interior decorator, and he has been a television executive at NBC for over 35 years. They prefer the quiet life of gardening to the fast-paced social life of the television industry.

"It's a labor of love to be able to work in the garden and to restore the neglected plants such as a rose bush that is living history," Candy said recently in an interview.

The couple lives in a nearby condominium and spends about 30 hours a week keeping up the grounds, which include a large size showplace kitchen garden, an herb garden and four rose gardens, only one of which contains modern roses. Some of the old-fashioned rose varieties date back to 1742. A red hybrid tea rose, the Will Rogers, which is no longer available commercially, has been nursed back to health by Candy. The garden also has a few of the new Olympia rose of 1983. Many of the older varieties came from the Huntington Gardens where Candy also is a volunteer. In addition, she is a member of the

Heritage Rose Society and lectures to groups about the garden, donating the money to the Chatsworth Historical Society, conservators of the Homestead Acre, to buy fertilizer and additional plants. The gardens at "The Acre," as it is affectionately called by the Craigs and other historical society members, now have the largest public collection of older hybrid tea roses in the San Fernando Valley, thanks to Candy's efforts.

The Craigs were neighbors of the late Minnie Hill Palmer, the former owner of "The Acre," and had a nodding acquaintance with her, often talking through the fence. But they had never been on her property until after the historical society took over the maintenance, and they enjoyed discovering all the plants and trees planted over the years. The land was homesteaded in 1886 by Palmer's parents, and she was born there that same year. She lived all but a few years of her life on the property, preserving her pioneer ways until she had a slight stroke and moved to a convalescent hospital in Sylmar to be near her family. She died in 1981, and the property became a part of Chatsworth Park South.

The historical society now has a permit from the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to maintain the property and the Hill-Palmer cottage, which was named to the National Register of Historical Places as the only remaining homestead cottage with surrounding kitchen gardens left in the San Fernando Valley. When the historical society asked for volunteers to keep up the grounds, the Craigs accepted the job and have been working for several years to its current beautiful condition.

They love it, they say, because it is quiet and rural, and they strive to keep it looking that way - like a country garden. For instance there is no grass, the Craigs just mow the weeds. One modern touch is a sprinkler system installed earlier this year with a grant that Dean and Candy obtained through RCA. "The Acre," is open the first Sunday of every month, and Dean and Candy will be on hand from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday to show the four rose gardens and share the quiet charm of the property with the public.