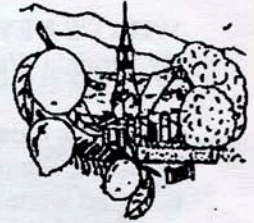


Chatsworth Historical Society  
10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth CA 91311  
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# Smoke Signal

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

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

May 2002

Editor: Zena Thorpe

April was a very busy and successful month for The Acre. The Garden Festival was a big success and we owe a big thank you to Bea Berman for chairing the event and working so hard to make it a big success. Bea must also have a little pull with someone because the weather was perfect.

We would also like to thank Rick and Jerry from Chatsworth Florist for spending a Saturday at The Acre away from their business to prune our trees for us. They worked so hard to make the garden look beautiful. While they were busy pruning Dan Huffman was there with his crew picking up all the debris from the trees. He ended up with two truck loads he had to haul away. Dan also was spending time away from his business to help us and we appreciate it very much.

As Andre and I start our third year, (only supposed to be one year), of co-presidency we would like to say how much we have enjoyed the last two years. We have learned a lot about local history. I have suddenly found myself learning Gardening 101 and having a few run-ins with the hoses. I have been on lizard hunts with my granddaughter, Hunter, really hoping that I wouldn't see one. I also would like to thank our friends who know that The Acre is important to us and help us out by baking, pruning, making signs, loaning us tents and my Mother who washed dishes all day for the tea.

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	716-7600
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

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING May 21st, 2002

Please plan to attend the annual general meeting of the Chatsworth Historical Society to be held in the Chatsworth Museum on Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm.

At this meeting the board of directors for 2002 - 2003 will be installed by Gretchen Martin, aide to Congressman Buck McKeon.

Certificates of Appreciation for Service to the Society will be presented to some of our valued members and friends. There will be refreshments and entertainment.

This is the last meeting for the Society year until we reconvene in September for the Membership Roundup.

## **WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE**

By Virginia Watson

It is spring time at The Acre-the roses are all in bloom, Minnie's favorite bush, the big beautiful white Snowball Bush, (*Viburnum opulus* 'Roseum') is in full bloom again, and the entire one and one-third Acre is looking good. That is why we planned our Garden Festival for this time of the year. For, although the grounds look good most of the time, thanks to all our volunteers and our faithful Trini Sanchez, it looks its best in the spring of the year.

Our Garden Festival was a super success. Over 400 people paid \$3 to attend and there were many people working in the booths and lots of volunteers attending that were not counted in that figure.

We have two big money-raising events each year - the Garden Festival in the spring and Pioneer Day in the fall. The money we make goes to pay our expenses at The Acre. We pay utilities, lights, water and telephone from the funds. We have a part-time gardener, gardening expenses such as fertilizer, hoses and plants, mailing & copying expenses for our Smoke Signal, acid free file folders and sleeves for our photographs, to name a few. Also our web site and internet expenses. Our biggest expense is the annual \$1300 for insurance. Because we cleared about \$3500 for the Garden Festival we will be able to pay that this June and all our other bills with a little to spare.

Since the property belongs to the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks they help us a lot. They will soon be having the cottage painted - it needs much preparation

before it will be ready to paint. We are probably going to go with the brown color again because that is the color we believe it was when it was first built around 1911. Hopefully it will be spruced up in time for our Pioneer Day on Oct. 6th, 2002.

## **Earth Day at The Acre**

Another exciting day at The Homestead Acre was our first Earth Day At The Acre. It was held on April 22nd with the student body at the Santa Susana School participating. The children, along with their teachers, administrators and parents arrived not long after 9 a.m. armed with tools, gloves, snacks (provided by Ralphs' Market) and a large number of plants, bushes and shrubs they had acquired to plant in the space we had indicated needed plants.

Pre-Kindergarten through the third grade planted and cultivated the plants under the old lemon tree and around one of the huge boulders plus a few in the Native Garden up in the back of The Acre. Fourth grade and up worked at clearing out the creek bed of weeds and cleaning up around the area.

We had a little program for them first telling about how the pioneers practiced conservation.

Gretha Davis was our contact for the event with Dr. Marilyn Luckey and the principal, Linda D'Alessandro participating. Historical Society members participating are Lila Schepler, Lillian Schepler, Bea Berman, Michon Rickman, Keli Jacobson, Evelyn Kanouse, Connie Ager, Barbara Pampalone, Linda van der Valk and Virginia Watson. Betty and Jim Summers were chair persons

for the Society.

### **PHOEBE CHENARD RITES HELD AT OAKWOOD**

Funeral services were held April 24, 2002 at Oakwood Memorial Park for pioneer resident, Phoebe Chenard who had been the owner of The Paradise Gift Shop, located on Devonshire near Varial where the new library will be.

Mrs. Chenard was only two months shy of being 100 years old when she died. A native of Massachusetts, she came to California as a young woman and worked for Docia Conley. In the early 1920's it was a tea room and gift shop where they made jams and jellies and preserved figs. Docia Conley treated Mrs. Chenard like a daughter and after Conley died Mrs. Chenard inherited the business. Later her son, the late Leonard Chenard, ran the business.

A successful business owner, Mrs. Chenard was a member of the local Business and Professional Women's Club and the shop was the location of the Vietnam era Canteen Club where packages were assembled, stored, packed and wrapped and sent to local servicemen and servicewomen. . Sponsored by the BPW it was a community-wide project.

### **GARDEN FESTIVAL**

What can I say? A chairman is only as good as the people they work with. Thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers, our Garden Festival was a tremendous success. Without all of you, I could never have done the job. Thanks again and I look forward to working with all of you on Pioneer Day.

Bea Berman - chairman

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

The Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council banquet and awards ceremony will be held May 17th at Encino Glen. Our Co-Presidents Andre and Linda van der Valk have been nominated by the Society for Citizen of the Year awards. Also Certificates of Service to the Community will be presented to CHS members Suzanne Nalbandian, Crystal Daily and Alex Daily.

Building will commence soon on the new Chatsworth Branch Library. A ground-breaking ceremony will be held on the site on June 20th at 2pm. All welcome.

The temporary library facility is now open at the Metrolink Train Station, south end, from 1:30pm to 5:30 pm Monday - Friday.

Welcome to new member **Fredella Genova**

### **Carmi Johnson**

The society notes with sadness the passing of Carmi Johnson who died in her sleep on March 23rd. 2002. She was 77.

Carmi was born in Alhambra, CA and left 2 children, two grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

She will be remembered by Historical Society members for her incredible collection of human hair jewelry which she had amassed over 34 years and was always happy to show at Society events. She had written a book and lectured on the subject. It was her passion.

A memorial service is scheduled for June 8th at the Top O' Topanga mobile home park. info. 818-346-6384