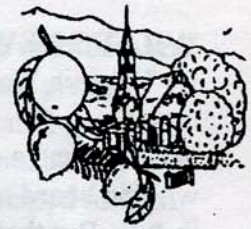


Chatsworth Historical Society  
10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth CA 91311  
(818) 882-5614



# Smoke Signal

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

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

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Editor: Zena Thorpe

It has been a quiet summer at The Acre. We did have a new toilet and faucets installed in the bathroom and kitchen, but no sprinklers. Keeping The Acre watered is a big task and we are lucky to have Jim & Betty Summers doing it for us. They spend a lot of time in the gardens watering, weeding and pruning. Whenever some of us are there we try to set sprinklers and help them out.

We are getting ready for our Membership Round-Up on September 8th. If you know of anyone who would like to join us please bring them to the Membership Round-Up.

Pioneer Day is coming on October 6th. Bea is already starting to get ready for it. If you make a great chili you might want to sign up for our Chili Cook-Off contest.

Linda & Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board 2001-2002

Co-Pres.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
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Rec. Secretary.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
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Director-at-large.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
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Director-at-large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3990
Photog. materials.....	Bill Schepler	341-3447
Permanent member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447

**MEMBERSHIP ROUND-UP**  
**September 8th, 2002, 4pm - 6pm**

We would like to welcome you back to the first meeting of our society year with a tri-tip dinner at The Homestead Acre. Members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share for 8.

Tableware and beverages will be provided. There will also be exciting entertainment.

We are hoping to round up new members so if you have friends or neighbors who might like to join us, round 'em up and haul 'em in.

Dedication of The Dean & Candy Craig Memorial Rose Gardens will take place at this meeting.

So that we know how many to plan for please call 882-5614 to make a reservation.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE ACRE?

By Virginia Watson

We have had a quiet, but hot, summer with no board meeting or general meeting in July. But that doesn't mean that we haven't had lots of activity at The Acre. Docents met every Wednesday, we had Open House every month, and the gardens got watered, watered, watered, as well as weeded and the roses deadheaded. Betty and Jim Summers and our president, Linda van der Valk, made sure everything got watered and are now working on weeding and clearing out some of the overgrowth. Trini Sanchez, our gardener, mowed our lawns with our new tractor/mower that cuts the grass efficiently and low, weeded and cleaned up as always.

Deadheading is an ongoing project but we have had a lot of help this summer. Eric Weatherbee, a recent volunteer, has been coming on Wednesdays and sometimes Fridays to deadhead and he also pruned, planted and fertilized. Marilyn Frump has been deadheading on Wednesdays and Keli Jacobson spent several evenings cutting off the dead roses. Thanks to all of you.

Elaine Campbell and Betty Summers inventoried the paper & plastic goods in the kitchen last Wednesday and Betty cleaned the cottage before our July and August

Open Houses. The Department of Recreation and Parks plumbers replaced our old toilet with a nice new one and

installed a new kitchen faucet for us recently. Currently they are working with the cabinet making department and in the process of redoing the bathroom sink and vanity. Many thanks to the city workers! That is in addition to the painting of the house still to be done. The study is completed and there is lead in the paint that is on the outside and will have to be scraped off and treated before new paint can be applied.

Our society started in 1963 and we have been collecting snapshots of events--social and money-making events--that have kept us going. Elaine Campbell has taken all of these pictures and organized them into subjects such as moving the church, its rededication in 1976, Pioneer Day and the Garden Festival, our installations, September Membership Roundup and pictures of the Hill/Palmer House. They are placed in notebooks in chronological order with identification and are on a shelf in the office for people to look at. We will have them available for our Membership Roundup on Sunday, September 8, 2002. Thank you, Elaine. Lillian Schepler, took most of the pictures we have, although other people contributed over the years. Lillian deserves a big vote of thanks for all her work. It wasn't a planned job, she just bought film and took pictures at our events and then donated them to our archives. Thanks also to all the other people who have donated snapshots to our collection. Speaking of donations, one of our newer

was outside the Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando land grant and therefore available for homesteading.

The school was named the Santa Susana School, presumably after the mountains and the pass which gave the community its identity. Children of local pioneer families attended this school and later when residents voted to become a part of the City of Los Angeles, the school was re-named the Chatsworth Park Elementary School. The name remains to this day--the only remnant of the town's full name, Chatsworth Park.

Our Chatsworth Historical Society has several connections to this school. Addie Haas Mulholland, Catherine Mulholland's mother, was a teacher and then principal of the school in 1921. She was Addie Haas at the time and stayed at the Chatsworth Inn. Miss Haas also met her future husband, Perry Mulholland, while she was employed at the local school. Perry Mulholland was William Mulholland's oldest son and ran the Mulholland Ranch that was located where K-Mart is today.

Ruth Ellen Cullen, Ruth Grant's mother, was also a teacher at the school when she was a young lady. Ruth says her mother lived upstairs in the rooms on the second story of the school. She came in Monday's and went back to Van Nuys to be home for the weekend. Other teachers often stayed with families in the area.

Another tie the society has had with the school are our members. Marlys Stuckenbruch, a long time teacher at the

school, was one of our early members and a part of our first docent team giving tours in 1980. Ioline Cleveland, another teacher at the school, was president of our Society for four years and helped us earn much-needed funds for many years with her well-known yard sales. Many other teachers at the school have been members and some retain their membership even though they are retired and have moved away.

In another coincidence of names the Gower family is said to have taken their thresher to the San Fernando Valley in 1875 and threshed the first crop of wheat raised on the big Lankershim Company ranch for I. N. Van Nuys (another familiar name?)

Watching, listening for, remembering, and matching familiar names and places is part of the attraction of research. And some of the enjoyment of belonging to a historical society is learning about those coincidences that made history. I hope to write a little sketch each month highlighting the little-known history of our area.