



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

January 2003

Editor: Zena Thorpe

We hope you had a happy holiday season and have a very Happy New Year. We especially enjoyed the holiday season with our two granddaughters. Next year we will be having another grandchild so we are looking forward to the new year.

We enjoyed seeing everyone at the Christmas party. We were lucky it didn't start raining too hard until everyone had left. It was nice to see everyone talking and enjoying the evening. Our new members, Loretta and Rod Sandoval joined us. Loretta has been one of our new bakers for Pioneer Day and the Garden Festival bake sales.

We are hoping the new year brings a lot of good things for The Acre. Hopefully sprinklers number one. Then the cottage painted, the foundation and the time capsule fixed. Here's hoping!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Linda & Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society Board 2002-2003

Co-Pres.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs.....	John Thorpe	882-3572
Rec. Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell	341-4954
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.....	Keli Jacobsen	
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 January 21st, 2003 7pm

The first meeting of 2003 will feature Craig Howell who was a guest last year on Huell Howser's "California Gold" program. He will tell us about his findings at Zanja Madre.

Zanja Madre was an important early conduit for water in Los Angeles before William Mulholland engineered the system which brought water from the Owens Valley.

Craig loves to poke around and excavate these old systems so this promises to be a fascinating slice of area history.

Refreshments will be served.

VALLEY VIGNETTES

By Virginia Watson

Many people do not realize that Chatsworth is an older community--in fact the town itself is 114 years old. The Chatsworth Historical Society has set the date for the birthday as March 10, 1888 because on that day the first subdivision map of a town called "Chatsworth Park" was filed with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office. The town was laid out in 10-acre plots suitable for family farming as was the style of living at that time.

In 1890, Nelson A Gray and his wife Minerva bought land fronting on Lassen and Devonshire Streets. They built a two-story white frame farmhouse and later a barn and other out buildings on the property that was larger than the 10-acres planned in the new town. They named the farm Rancho Los Robles. Carved into the front porch steps was the date 1898 giving the date the house was built. And on the two big cement posts at the entrance to the driveway was the name of the ranch.

Gray was a very civic minded person. He served as president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce and gave the land for the local church, school and the first fire station. He farmed the land and made many improvements on the property while raising his large family of 13 children, counting two sets of twins. He planted two rows of Olive Trees along the property line soon after the family

settled in the newly completed house. It was customary to plant trees from cuttings of other trees in the area and it is believed that Gray took cuttings from the Olive Trees at the San Fernando Mission. Those 49 trees are still lined up on both sides of Lassen Street west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. In the late 1960's William "Bill" Schepler, was the leader of the project to name the trees as Cultural Historical Monuments. At Bill Schepler's request, The Chatsworth Historical Society wrote and asked for monument status for the trees.

The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board registered the trees as Cultural Monument Number 19. The 49 Olive Trees are protected and stand as a living monument to Chatsworth's past.

TRIP TO ROY ROGERS MUSEUM

We are planning a trip to the Roy Rogers Museum in Victorville. The museum is scheduled to move to Branson, Missouri in February 2003 and we would like to make one last trip there to reconnect with a bit of Chatsworth history. (Roy Rogers and Dale Evans lived in Chatsworth with their children from the early 1950s to the mid 1960s). The trip will be January 11th and we will leave via bus from the museum at 9 A.M. The cost of \$10 will include the bus fare and entrance to the museum. There will be a lunch stop at a restaurant in Victorville for which you are on your own.

Call 882-5614 to make a reservation

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

We are making efforts to get the sprinklers installed at The Acre in the new year.

The year 2003 will be the centennial of the Chatsworth Pioneer Church, built in 1903. A celebration is being planned.

The Chatsworth Historical Society will be 40 years old in 2003. The April meeting will celebrate this anniversary with a commemoration of the moving of the Pioneer Church which was the reason for the formation of the society.

The February meeting will include a presentation of certificates noting the original houses of Chatsworth, those over 75 years old that have not had major alterations.

We are trying to get a commemorative plaque installed along Lassen for the olive trees thought to be cuttings from the ones at the San Fernando Mission.

DOROTHY JOHNSON POGUE

Dorothy Johnson Pogue, 94, died the weekend of December 7th. The family held graveside services for her on Saturday December 14th at Oakwood Memorial Park.

Mrs. Pogue was the granddaughter of Ann & Neils Johnson and the sister of R.L. "Kelly" Johnson, one of the founders of our CHS. She was a staunch supporter of the historical society and was a life member. She made sure that all her children became life members. She attended our Centennial event at the Park and also was honored at the 60th anniversary celebration of the placing of the plaque for the Stagecoach Road. She brought all her family and spoke at the event, sponsored by SSMPA with our society participating.

FUND-RAISER

We would like to thank everyone who made our fund-raiser at Rick & Jerry's home a great success. We raised \$1720 and after expenses we should clear \$1600. We especially owe Rick & Jerry of Chatsworth Florist a big thank you for opening their home and allowing us to have the fund-raiser. I would like everyone to know that it was their idea to hold this fund-raiser for us and we really appreciate it. They also open their home to The Wives of the Valley Sheriffs and Chaminade School. Also in the past month they have raised over \$10,000 for the Morris Animal Foundation. We are lucky to have them as members of the society. Thank you Rick and Jerry. Also a thank you to Mindy Berman who designed the flyers and tickets for us for this event.

Co-Pres. Linda