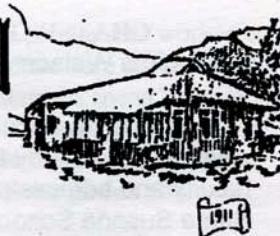


Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth CA 91311

(818)-882-5614

www.historicalsocieties.net

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

May 2003

Editor: Zena Thorpe

We have made it through the Garden Festival. Attendance was down but everyone who came had a good time. I Would like to thank Bea for continuing to chair the event. Even though she has been spending twelve hours a day with Marshall at the hospital she still found the time to make sure everything was running smoothly and made sandwiches until midnight for the tea. That is true dedication. Lois Orr also deserves a special thanks. At the Garden Festival and Pioneer Day Lois sells her pins and necklaces and gives us the proceeds. Some people make an extra effort for our events. Irene Nalbandian mans the gate all day to make sure everyone pays. Our new bake sale chairman, Loretta Sandoval, donates and bakes more than half the items for the bake sale. With the help of Lorraine she sold everything that was made. Elaine Campbell and her daughter Janice have made sure our white Elephant Sale is a great success. Elaine spends a couple of weeks before the events pricing and organizing the items. She also made 100 sandwiches for the tea. Jackie O'Reilly donated over 200 sandwiches to the tea. Keli Jacobson made sure the tea ran smoothly, Connie Ager made sure the tea tasted good and Diane Kartiala and Suzanne Nalbandian made sure everyone got served. Virginia Watson spent her whole day at the information table telling the history of Chatsworth and selling our books.

.....continued on page 3

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..... Keith Watts 341-4489
 Museum Curator.....Virginia Watson 341-3053
 Cottage Curator.....Betty Summers 341-2714
 Hospitality.....Keli Jacobson
 Ways & Means.....Bea Berman 341-5449
 Gardens Director..Jim & Betty Summers341-2714
 Director-at-large.....Betty Summers 341-2714
 Director-at-large.....Barbara Pampalone882-2395
 Director-at-large.....Ruth Grant 882-3990
 Photog. materials.....Bill Schepler 341-3447
 Permanent member.....Lila Schepler 341-3447

PROGRAM MEETING
May 20th, 2003 7pm

The May meeting will feature our very own Lillian Schepler who will show and speak about her extensive collection of English bone china.

She has many rare and interesting pieces and she has even promised to make us a cup of real English tea in a real English teapot.

We will also enjoy Betty Summers' scones with Devonshire clotted cream

Refreshments will be served.

CHATSWORTH VIGNETTE

By Virginia Watson

Earth Day was celebrated at The Homestead Acre by the student body, the faculty and administrators of the nearby Santa Susana School, and docents from the historical society led by Betty and Jim Summers. Laurie Dager, president of the Chatsworth Women's Club and members also participated.

Earth Day is held worldwide on April 22, a day set aside to care for the environment. It was founded by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970 and has made the environment a major national issue.

Groups of people plan events such as tree planting, clean up campaigns, anything that furthers a healthy environment.

The Santa Susana School teachers contacted our society and asked what they could do at The Acre and we arranged for them to plant flowers and plants and to clean out our "crickbed". Too many weeds will cause trouble when we have a big rainstorm so we have to keep it cleaned out.

Gretha Davis, a teacher at the school and familiar to us through the SSMPA, contacted us and the students from the school collected plants, vines and seeds from many different donated sources and brought them to The Acre to plant. Students planted the material collected under the supervision of the teachers, docents and parents. Several members of the Chatsworth Women's Club also helped supervise the children. Betty and Jim Summers showed them where to plant the items. Faculty members had asked for suggestions as to the kind of plants needed and the children helped replace Minnie's Thompson and Concord grapes along the back fence. Betty and Jim Summers are also donating grapevines from their own home garden.

Alyssum, verbena and many other plants were placed around the trees and rocks. Our

patient gardener Trini Sanchez helped prepare the ground for planting as well as Betty and Jim.

Connie Ager, one of our faithful docents, brought two healthy apple trees to be planted in the memory of her late husband Gerry Ager who was also a docent. Jim Summers hurriedly dug two big holes for the young trees and the children all enjoyed watching. The trees are beautiful and already have apples on them. They are a welcome addition to The Acre.

Betty Summers was in charge of the event and managed to answer questions, help with the planting and keep the work running smoothly. She needs a lot more help and one of the recent workers has been Connie Ager who comes up when she can fit it in her schedule. Keli Jacobson, Elaine Campbell, Marilyn Frump, Evelyn Kanouse, and Linda van der Valk all help with deadheading and other work in the garden also. If you have an hour or so to help please call our answering machine (818 882-5614) and leave your name and number and we'll call you back and arrange a time.



Connie Ager planting an apple tree in memory of Gerry Ager

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May 20th - General meeting celebrating featuring Lillian Schepler's china collection.

May 22th - Cantara St. Elementary School. 60 students will tour The Acre and hike on the Blue Calico Trail.

GARDEN FESTIVAL REVIEW

My heartfelt thanks to all who pitched in and worked to help make our Garden Festival a success. I wasn't able to do as much because of my husband's illness but, thanks to all of you, we pulled off a great event. If anyone has any ideas on how we can improve the event or new ideas I'd love to hear from you. We need a lot more help.

Bea Berman, Chairman

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

The Chatsworth Historical Society has nominated Suzanne Nalbandian for Youth of the Year. Also, Jerry Amiot, Rick Angel and Dan Huffman have been recognized by the Society for Certificates of Appreciation.

The dinner will be held on Friday, May 16th at the Encino Glen. For more information call Linda van der valk at 818-882-3661

President's message continued.....

Lila Schepler spent the day in the cottage giving tours. Every time I listen to Lila I learn something new. Andre, Rod Sandoval and Gary Bercow spent the day chopping onions, selling hot dogs and drinks. My kids always come through and help where they can as do Bea's. John Thorpe arranged for extra electricity so the show could go on. Rick and Jerry of Chatsworth Florist arranged for Marty Bell to be there and gave us a donation on top of it. Zena Thorpe, Barbara Pampalone, Ramon Avila and Keith Watts helped with set-up and clean-up. Lillian Schepler, our treasurer, helped sell tickets for the tea and gets all the change needed for the cash box. Then she gets to count all our money and take it to the bank.

I am saving for the last the people who worked so hard to make sure the gardens were ready for the Festival. Jim and Betty Summers spend hours in the garden to make sure they look their best. We are so thankful for Jim and Betty because they have stepped in to care for the garden after Candy's passing.

I guess I wanted to point out all the contributions of these people just to remind people these events don't just happen without a lot of time and hard work put into them

CHATSWORTH NEWS

The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council has been certified. They will have elections soon. Anyone interested in running for the Council Board can contact Diana Dixon Davis at 818-341-4242. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at Lawrence Middle School at 7:30 P.M. The Council will hopefully be an important organization to Chatsworth and will help with making advisory decisions for Chatsworth.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Enjoy Aviation Expo 2003 at Van Nuys Airport
Van Nuys Airport's free Aviation Expo celebrates the Centennial of Flight June 21st and 22nd, 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrated military and civilian displays, flyovers by the F-117A Stealth Fighter and F-15E Strike Eagle, high energy aerobatics demos, skydivers, educational exhibits, live entertainment and more. Plus a rare opportunity to view an exact replica of the Wright Brothers' original aircraft. Pedestrian entrance on Balboa Blvd. Between Saticoy St. and Roscoe Blvd. Free parking and shuttle service from remote lots. For information call: VNY-EXPO or visit www.lawa.org Select the "Van Nuys" tab and then click on Aviation Expo.

VOTING DAY MAY 20TH