

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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(818)-882-5614 www.Historicalsocieties.net



Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor: Keith Watts

NOVEMBER, 2003

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS:

At our last board meeting, we reflected on the firestorms experienced two weeks ago. Many of you may not know that Chatsworth Park South closed that Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., as the fire crossed over the mountain ridges from the northwest.

Linda and I meet with Jim and Betty Summers at the museum and loaded our van with one of a kind pictures, quilts, a sewing kit and early shaving articles from the museum display which belonged to Betty's family. Finally Linda insisted we take the hoe that Minnie used all those years in her garden. We certainly are lucky that the winds did not carry the fire toward Chatsworth.

Our thanks to the firefighters involved with our community and all of southern California.

Linda and Andre

VETERANS DAY

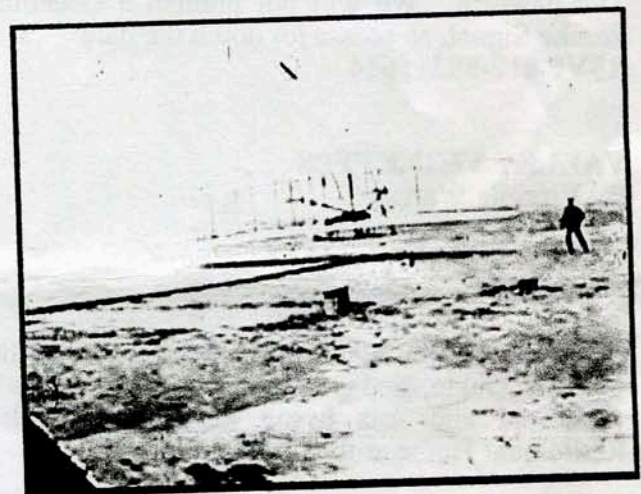
NOV. 11, 2003



"Lest we forget"

NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

John Thorpe has arranged for another interesting program for the general meeting on Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 pm:
Commemorating 100 years of flight - since the historic flight of the Wright brothers on December 17th, 1903, at Kittyhawk, North Carolina.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Wilbur Wright at the controls of the first powered flight - 120 feet, 12 seconds.

Chatsworth Historical Society Board 2002-2003

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Garden 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 - cont'd)

After the initial successful powered flights, aviation advanced rapidly. The Wrights followed their 1903 Flyer 1 with 1904 Flyer 2, 1905 Flyer 3, and many additional models, each with advances in flight technology. They sold their 1909 Military Flyer to the United States Army Signal Corps to become the first military aircraft.

The 1916 Wright Model L, the last aircraft manufactured by the Wright Company, was a single place biplane (of contemporary appearance).

Bill Schepler will share his long-time interest in aviation with CHS members and friends. He will display vintage aviation artifacts, including a wooden propeller from a 1905 Wright Brothers airplane and relics from the ill-fated Hindenburg dirigible.

So invite your friends and neighbors for this program. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the Homestead Acre. Refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday December 16, 7:00 p.m.

Our annual Christmas Party is open to all Chatsworth Historical Society members. It will be held at the van der Valk's home, 10524 Eton Ave, Chatsworth. We will not publish a December Smoke Signal, so please jot down the date RSVP 818-882-5614

VALLEY VIGNETTES

By Virginia Wattson

Obituary for Victoria Horne Oakie ✓

Victoria Horne Oakie, widow of the comedian Jack Oakie, died October 10, 2003. She was 91 years old and was living in a Beverly Hills Retirement Home at the time of her death.

A former actress, Mrs. Oakie appeared in more than 40 films released between 1944 and 1953 and retired in 1952 to spend more time with her

husband. Jack Oakie died in 1978 and she devoted her life to ensuring that the comedian's work would be remembered. She established film tributes to her husband and donated acting scholarships in his name to the University of California and the University of Wyoming. She also established the Jack Oakie Comedy Lectures at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Mrs. Oakie also wrote four published books about her husband and their life together, including "Jack Oakie's Oakridge," the sprawling estate where they lived for so long near the corner of Reseda Boulevard on Devonshire Street. The estate is well known as the honeymoon home of Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor and was known as "Marwyck" when Mrs. Marx and Stanwyck owned it together. Earlier this year Mrs. Oakie donated the estate to USC.

November 9th will be the 100th anniversary of Jack Oakie's birth and USC's School of Cinema-Television is expected to announce the establishment of The Victoria and Jack Oakie Endowed Chair in Comedy, reported to be the first comedy chair that's ever been endowed.

Mrs. Oakie came to our meeting once at the request of then Program Chairman, Bea Berman, and showed her film of Jack Oakie. She was a wonderful guest and the program was outstanding, especially for those of us who were Jack Oakie fans. She also gave us several of her books and we still have a few left to sell at the Homestead Acre (CHS Museum store).

The Bunny Story

By Virginia Watson

For our Pioneer Day this year we asked local resident Linda Minary to provide us with our Petting Zoo personnel. She was kind enough to bring several animals among them a lovely little gray bunny whom all the children fed, petted and loved. (Especially my great granddaughter and her two-year old brother Ryan who with their mother came up from Oceanside to spend part of the afternoon with us.)