



# Smoke Signal



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

Editor : Keith Watts

February, 2004

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS:

I can not believe that it is already February. With the rain we have had our hills and mountains are beautiful. A couple of weeks ago Andre and I went to see our new Regional Park named for Supv. Michael Antonovich. I can not describe how wonderful it was to be up in the hills and know that at least a portion of our mountains will not be developed.

The park is in its beginning stages but there are signs showing the way. We continued up the road and went to the top of Oat Mountain. The view was breath taking and Andre is still talking about it. On our way we stopped and looked at three longhorn steers with no fencing between us. Thank goodness the truck wasn't red!

You can reach the park by following DeSoto Ave which turns into Browns Canyon (north of the 118)

and just keep going. We were told to not pay attention to the private road signs that were put up before the park was allocated. The road is a little bumpy, and only two lanes, but well worth it. To think this is just a short drive in our own backyard.

The Acre has been busy with SPRINKLERS being installed by the Parks Dept. Jim and Betty have been there everyday bringing coffee, donuts and opening the bathroom for the workers. They also have been making sure that everything is going well. The Park Dept. has also installed a small fire hydrant with a fire hose near the house. In case of fire that hose will be readily available. We would like to thank Dave Valastro and Chuck Richman for their hard work and perseverance in getting our sprinklers installed

We hope to see everyone at our February meeting.  
Linda and Andre

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Garden Director.....	Jim & 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

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING

The program meeting for February will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Homestead Acre (Museum). The evening will feature "Antiques and Collectables - Show and Tell." You are encouraged to dust off those antique or collectable items from the cupboard and bring them to the meeting to show them to the audience for interest and try to get an idea of the age or value.

Since this month is February (and Presidents Day falls on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>) refreshments will include cherry pie to pay especial respect to George Washington, our first President.



## **GARDEN FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED** Bea Berman

**B**e sure to mark your calendars - and plan to attend our annual Garden Festival on Sunday, April 25th at the Homestead Acre and featuring our delicious Duchess Tea.

Events and exhibits will include:

- Growing Plants for Sale,
- Arts and Crafts Booths,
- Bake Sale,
- White Elephant Sale,
- Entertainment,
- Beautiful Blooming Gardens.

All of this will take place from 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Homestead Acre.

If you have any white elephants merchandise for our sale, please call Bea Berman at 341-5449 or you can drop it off at the Acre. Also, if you would like to bake for our bake sale, we would appreciate it.

Any questions or information, please call Bea Berman, Chairman -(818) 341-5449.

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## **DOCENT DOINGS** Virginia Watson

**W**ednesday-at- The-Acre is a regular occasion for the docents that provide tours for our Sunday Open House and for our school tours.

Docents also help with office work, get the Smoke Signal stamped and ready to mail, and make calls to remind members of our board meetings, as well as making books of our snapshots and working in the cottage and gardens.

As an example of those who have a special interest, Ann Vincent, who is a new docent, is working in our library and is computerizing our library information.

Also, Beverly King, who resides in Winnetka, has been coming regularly on Wednesdays to deadhead the many rose bushes in the gardens and is now helping to prune the roses along with Betty & Jim Summers and our gardener, Trini Sanchez. We have over 300 rose bushes and it is quite a lot of work. If you have roses at home and have had experience pruning them, we could use more volunteers. Just show up on Wednesday at nine a.m. and see Betty Summers. Please bring your own pruning shears. Also other hours are available for gardening. Please call Betty Summers at 818.341.2714 and talk to her about when you are available.

If you would like to become a docent who gives tours of the museum, house and gardens please do the same - just come by at 9 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and meet at the Museum with Virginia who will answer any questions you might have.

Docents also often go on trips. Recently the group attended the Reenactment of the Signing of the Cahuenga Treaty at Campo de Cahuenga. And on February 3rd Ann Vincent gave the group an impromptu tour of the former Reitz property and of the old Johnson property, where she and her husband will build their new home.

Additional trips are being planned, so if you are interested call Virginia at (818) 341-3053. We will train you for the volunteer docent program, and new classes will be started soon.

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*Remember the*



*Garden Festival*



*Sunday April 25, 2004*

