



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Our Garden Festival was a great success. Again Bea pulled off another great event. I don't know what we would do without her wonderful fundraising abilities. Thank you Bea for all of your hard work and we know you spend months preparing for the event. We just wonder if next year you could arrange for cooler weather!

Last month I made an error saying that Susan Rios was going to donate half the proceeds of the original painting of "Miss Minnie"s Cottage". It was Chatsworth Florist that was going to do that. The original painting did sell and Chatsworth Florist donated \$2,250.00 to the Historical Society. We are so lucky to have Rick and Jerry care about us so much. If you haven't seen the painting they have prints available at the shop. Thanks again to Rick and Jerry who have shared their time, home, expertise and now money with us.

Susan Rios donated an artist proof of the painting for the museum. Steve Bell, Marty Bell's husband, also is donating a complete set of the Chatsworth series for the museum. Our thanks to

both for their generous donations.

Hope to see you at the next meeting. Come see how beautiful the grounds look

Linda and Andre

MAY PROGRAM MEETING

The general program meeting for this month will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Museum, and will include the installation of the recently-elected CHS Board of Directors for the coming year.

Featured speaker will be Bruce Petty, who will give a presentation on "Railroading in the San Fernando Valley." Petty, who resides in Dunsmuir, CA, will cover research that he has done on the railroad tunnels in Chatsworth, and will show slides on the subject.

Petty is currently writing a book on railroading in the Valley, so this should be an interesting and informative meeting. Please come and help us welcome Bruce to our Valley and Historical Society.

John Thorpe, Programs

L.A. PEARLS AWARD

Our own Bea Berman was nominated for the L.A. Pearls Award by the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council in appreciation of her valued contributions to the community. Bea was recognized on May 11th with an honorable mention at the L.A. Pearls Award Luncheon at the Pico House in the Plaza de Olvera. The award recognizes outstanding seniors who have made a significant contribution to L.A. residents quality of life. Congratulations Bea!

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On Thursday, May 6th we held an appreciation luncheon for Al and his crew that installed our sprinklers. Over 35 people were present and we went through 10 delicious Tri-tips, great salads and homemade desserts - a record feast for the Acre. Some of the Recreation and Parks management were there and we learned some tips for future projects and what it would take to get the grants in order to get the work done. Many thanks again to Al, Chuck, Dave, and their crews for easing the summer heat. Talk about timing!

DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE DIES

The 11th Duke of Devonshire, died recently in England at 84. His vast estate, Chatsworth, includes one of Britain's great houses open to the public. Because of the appellation connection with our community's namesake, CHS has corresponded with the late Duke and his staff on various occasions.

The following obituary information was assembled by John Thorpe:

Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish was born in January 1920, the younger son of the 10th Duke of Devonshire. His mother, born Lady Mary Gascoyne-Cecil, was the daughter of the 4th Marquess of Salisbury.

In 1941 Cavendish had married Deborah Freeman-Mitford, youngest daughter of the 2nd Lord Redesdale, with no expectations. His elder brother, William, Lord Hartington, was the heir and his father was still relatively young.

Things changed dramatically for Andrew Cavendish after his brother was killed in WWII in 1944, leaving no heir, to be followed in 1950 by the death of their father, aged only 55. A Cambridge graduate and second-born son, he became the 11th duke in 1950. He also served in the army, and in the early 1960s was a minister in the government of his uncle, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

William Lord Hartington, Andrew's brother was married to the sister of John F. Kennedy, Kathleen.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire had a son and two daughters. Their son Peregrine, the Marquess of Hartington, born in 1944, succeeds to the Devonshire titles.

The late Duke of Devonshire achieved a lifetime's ambition by securing the future of his family seat, Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, making it self-financing while sacrificing none of its nobility.

Humorous, tolerant, self-deprecating and mildly eccentric, the Duke was a man of constant good nature. He was neither spoilt nor the least arrogant. His motto, he claimed, was "never

make a fuss". He put a high value on good manners and in 1991 he founded the Polite Society after a taxi driver whom he had thanked for taking him home said: "You've no idea the difference a kind word makes."

Thanks to the dedication of the Duke and of his Duchess (the former Deborah Mitford), Chatsworth has become one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions, with half a million visitors a year. The first house at Chatsworth was started in 1552 by Sir William Cavendish and his wife "Bess of Hardwick", as she became to be known, but was rebuilt by the first Duke (1617-1707), mainly on designs by Talman and Thomas Archer. It was completed under the 6th Duke (1790-1858) by Jeffrey Wyatt.

Lavishly decorated, the house contains a huge collection of furniture and an eclectic and extensive art collection. It also contains the greatest collection of old master drawings anywhere in the world outside the Queen's collection at Windsor. It sits in 1,000 acres of deer park, 105 acres of gardens and 36,000 acres of estate.

Excerpts of obituary taken from Daily Telegraph & L.A Times

VALLEY STREET NAME ORIGINS

Taken from AmericasSuburb.com (Continued)

VAN NUYS BOULEVARD

Renamed from North Sherman Way as the main boulevard in the town of Van Nuys, which got its name from longtime Valley wheat farmer Isaac Newton Van Nuys.

VENTURA BOULEVARD

The oldest continuously traveled route in the Valley. Originally part of the famed El Camino Real, the dirt path between California's Spanish missions, it has been known as Camino de Las Virgenes, U.S. Highway 101 and Ventura Road.

VICTORY BOULEVARD

Named in honor of the Valley's World War 1 veterans in 1924. Segment west of Balboa Blvd. did not open until 1955.

DRIVES, WAYS, ROADS AND PLACES

DE CELIS PLACE

DeCelis family owned most of the northern half of the Valley from 1840s to 1874.

DON PIO DRIVE

Name is reference to Don Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California who issued the Los Encinos and El Escorpion Rancho Grants, fought rebels on the Valley floor and leased the entire Valley to his brother Andres. In 1869, Don Pio sold his half-interest in the Valley to Isaac Lankershim, breaking up the once-giant Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando.

EDWARD EVERETT HORTON LANE

Short street in Encino marks site of former Belly Acres estate of actor Horton, who served as the "honor governor" of the Valley.

HOLL YWOOD WAY

This boulevard connected Burbank with the shortcut to Hollywood through Dark Canyon, now Barham Boulevard.

MULHOLLAND DRIVE

Dedicated in honor of William Mulholland, the water engineer who designed the Los Angeles Aqueduct, on Dec. 27, 1924. It was called Mulholland Highway until 1939, when the name was changed to Mulholland Drive.

SAN FERNANDO ROAD

Graded as a road for use by ore wagons between Los Angeles and San Fernando

SHERMAN WAY

Named for Moses H. Sherman, one of the five major land developers in the southern half of the Valley. Originally included segments of the streets known today as Chandler and Van Nuys boulevards.

WHITNALL HIGHWAY

Named for Gordon Whitnall, the former Los Angeles city director of planning. Unusual divided street was laid out in 1927 to be part of a parkway network envisioned to dissect the Valley.