



Smoke Signal



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

Editor : Keith Watts

June, 2004

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

This year we are looking forward to summer at the Acre. The sprinklers are working and Jim and Betty can go on vacation without worrying about watering.

Lila Schepler has generously donated 300 postcards of the valley to us and we are hoping to have some of them on display soon. Lila is also donating her book collection on California history to us. We are trying to work this into the library or we will be moving some walls to make room. This is a wonderful collection for us and we thank Lila for her donations.

The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, at their last meeting, voted to purchase 20 eight-foot tables for us and three canopies. In return they will be able to use them when they need them. This is nice for us because the new tables will be light weight and make it easier for us to set up and clean up after our events.

Hope everyone has a nice summer. We will not be having a Smoke Signal next month. We have set the date for our Membership Round-Up which will be September 12th with a western attire theme.

Linda and Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2004-2005

Co-Presidents.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
Membership.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Treasurer.....	Lillian Schepler	341-2697
Rec. Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell	341-4954
Smoke Signal.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson	341-3053
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
Hospitality.....	Keli Jacobson	
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Barbara Pampalone	882-2395
Director-at-Large.....	Dianne Kartiala	886-5210 (Bus.)
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447

PLEASE NOTE - NO JUNE MEETING

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will not be a program meeting this month (Tues. June 15th.) Arrangements with the Reagan Library will be resumed when appropriate.

Editor's Note: We are truly saddened by the passing of our stricken ex-President Ronald W. Reagan, and our sincere sympathy is felt for his family, friends, and our Nation.

MORE THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Better late than never! My thanks never made it to the Smoke Signal last month so I still want formally to thank everyone for the wonderful job done in making the Garden Festival such a success. To all Board members, volunteers, vendors and participants, my heartfelt thanks to all: Special thanks to Chatsworth Florist for their donation and getting Susan Rios to participate. Chatsworth Nursery for plants and roses for our plant sale. Mel-O-Dee Nursery for donated roses. Linda Bradley for wonderful quilts. Donut King for delicious donuts. Jackie O'Reilly for great tea sandwiches. Kathy from from Lake Manor's new tea shoppe. Chatsworth Dance Center for great entertainment. Elaine for manning the White Elephant booth. Betty and Jim for plants. Loretta Sandoval for baking and manning the Bake Sale. Keli Jacobson for managing the Tea. All these people were instrumental in putting on a fantastic event. Of course I can't forget Andre and Linda - my sounding boards when things weren't going right.

Oops, I did leave out Lois Orr for her great jewelry, and Virginia for publicity and the information booth. And, of course, Lillian for accounting for the money, and Irene Nalbandian and Ingrid Lindquist for managing the gate. If I omitted someone, please forgive me. And again, I want to thank everyone who helped. I could not have done it without you.

Bea Berman, Chairman

JUNE'S THE MONTH ... Elaine Campbell

Do you know the origin of our holidays? Have you ever wondered where they were started

and by whom? In June we celebrate Flag Day on the 14th and Fathers Day on the 20th.

The first national flag was raised on a hill near Boston on January 4, 1776 by troops serving under General George Washington. It was called the union flag and had red and blue stripes. Instead of stars it had the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George. After the Declaration of Independence was signed, a new flag was ordered. A committee, that included George Washington, came up with an idea that was given to Betsy Ross to make up a sample. The only change she made from the sketch was to change the number of points on the star from 6 to 5. Each time a new state was added to the union another stripe and star was added. By 1792 it had 15 stars and 15 stripes. In 1818 it was decided that the number of stripes would be 13 and a star added for each state.

The first Flag day observance took place on June 14, 1861. William Kerr from Pennsylvania is responsible for promoting the celebration, but it wasn't until 1916 that Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing June 14th as Flag Day. Calvin Collidge issued a similar proclamation in 1927- but it still didn't become an official holiday until Harry Truman made it one in 1949. Only Pennsylvania observes this day as a legal holiday.

Fathers Day In 1910, while listening to a Mothers Day sermon, Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane, WA decided that Fathers deserved a similar day of recognition. She and her 5 sisters and brothers were raised by her father when their mother died. She circulated a petition suggesting the 3rd Sunday in June and urged people to wear a rose in honor of their father.

The holiday did not catch on and it died out by the 1920's. In 1935 she resumed her campaign to make Fathers Day a legal holiday and pushed it with the slogan "Give Dad something to wear"! In 1972 President Nixon signed a proclamation to make it a holiday. By the time Sorona Dodd died in 1978 at age 96, Fathers Day was estimated to be worth over one billion dollars in retail sales. (Editor's note: That's a lot of neckties!.)

NEWS FROM NEIGHBORING HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Calabasas Historical Society is having a 25th anniversary celebration on Sunday June 6, a BBQ dinner with all the trimmings, entertainment, dance instruction, farm animals and lots of raffles. \$25.00 adults and \$5.00 under 12. The BBQ will be held at Leonis Adobe Museum in Old Town Calabasas.

Los Encinos Historic Park at 16756 Moorpark in Encino is open Wednesday through Sunday 10-5. They have "Living History" demonstrations the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Little Landers (Tujunga) has a new exhibit of "Finery of the Fifties." They are open from 1 to 4 every Tuesday and Sunday. Little Landers has 24 docents! I know we are small by comparison, but we need more docents! Any volunteers?

CHS NOMINEES WIN

CCCC AWARDSVirginia Watson

Earlier this year the Chatsworth Historical Society Executive Board voted to nominate

Betty and Jim Summers for the Outstanding Citizen Award. The name of the winner of the award is not announced until the awards banquet.

We are happy to announce that Betty and Jim Summers received a *new* award initiated by the executive board of the Coordinating Council and given for the first time this year. It is in addition to the Outstanding Citizen and the President's Award and the purpose is to honor people who have given a lifetime of service to the community. Historical Society members were overjoyed and the Summers' relatives and friends who were present were delighted

Both Betty and Jim have been involved in community life since the 1930's and 40's. Jim grew up on the land we call the Grey Ranch on Lassen, helping his father care for the crops and orchards while Betty came to the area as a teenager in the 1940's. She became involved in youth activities and later PTA and church and community work. Both of them were Scouts and then later, as their children grew and entered the Scouting programs, they became leaders. The Summers are still active square dancers and Jim sings with a quartet and with the chorus as a Barbershopper. They are very neighborly and have been outstanding volunteers for the Chatsworth Historical Society, especially as Directors of the Garden most recently, and with the installation of our new sprinkler system.

Also honored at the banquet was Beverly King, one of our hard working docents. Beverly has spent over 200 hours working in the gardens

deadheading roses, weeding, pruning, and now she is learning to be a docent for our school tours. She received a Certificate of Recognition.

Dave Valastro, Facility Director at Chatsworth Park South and often our benefactor, was also honored for his many and varied acts of kindness above and beyond his duty as a director at the park. He has prepared, posted and distributed signs and flyers to publicize our special events. and arranged for us to get canopies for our festivals as well as helping to bring sprinklers to The Homestead Acre.

Loretta Sandoval was also honored with a Certificate for her accomplishment as a baking professional. She has made and donated many goodies for our bake sales, teas and meetings and has served as chairman of the bake sale for two years. In addition she has supported other programs in the Society, giving selflessly of her time and talent.

ADDITIONAL VALLEY STREET NAMES

From AmericanSuburb.com
Streets and Avenues

AMESTOY AVENUE - The Amestoy family was the last to own and work the historic Encino Rancho.

ANDASOL AVENUE- Derivation of Spanish term for sun walk, its first segment was in Granada Hills between Mayerling and Kalisher streets in 1926.

BASSETT STREET - Named for original property owner Theophilia E. Bassett.

BRADLEY AVENUE - Samuel H. Bradley was a civil service commissioner from 1917-1919.

CHASE STREET- Named for A.S. Chase

CHATSWORTH STREET - Western portion used to be known as Ben Porter Avenue. Portion near Zelzah Ave. was Santa Susana Pass Road.

COLDWATER CANYON BLVD.- Portion in Valley was Diaz Avenue until 1937.

CORBIN AVENUE - Named after W.H. Corbin, a Valley grain dealer. Had been Pine Avenue until 1917.

DEVONSHIRE STREET - Renamed for the Devonshire area of Britain, after beginning life in 1917 as Santa Susana Pass Road. Also was State Highway 118 before the completion of Simi Valley Freeway.

FULLERFARM STREET - The Fuller Poultry Colony was east of Zelzah Avenue and south of Devonshire Street in the 1920s.

HARDING STREET - Henry Harding was the surveyor for the original subdivision of San Fernando.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

VISITAndre van der Valk

During the Memorial Day weekend I was privileged to attend the dedication of the World War II Monument in Washington D.C.. Our long time Historical Society friend, Bert Dorosy, a Battle of the Bulge survivor with the 3rd Army (Patton) asked me to accompany him to the commemoration since most of his fellow veterans were unable to attend due to illness or death. I am a Vietnam Veteran and like most of my generation, we have always respected the service of the World War II veterans. The latest statistics from the V.A. now reflect that we are losing over 1300 W.W.II veterans per day. Less than one-fourth of the veterans that served are

still alive. The dedication was attended by every living president except Ronald Reagan. On this memorable weekend, I noted that there were a large number of grandfathers that were there with their entire families. I was also surprised by the large number of women W.W. II veterans. During the dedication on this hot, humid day it appeared that everyone sang our National Anthem. During the entire weekend, people young and old came up to Bert, thanked him for his service and asked him to sign on paper or book his name and unit for their memories. It was especially touching when active military men and women came up to thank him. Never once were politics mentioned. It was one of the few times that Washington D.C. was without protests.

I was proud of the people I was with, I was proud of the Memorial and I was proud of our Country. **Too bad that none of the major television networks carried the dedication***. Perhaps the feeling could have been conveyed to the rest of the world.

*Emphasis added.

MEMBERSHIP - DUES ARE DUE

All Annual Members are reminded that their yearly fees are now due and payable, as of June 1. For \$15 (individual) or \$20 (family) you get all of the privileges of membership, plus a mailed copy of the Smoke Signal each month. So be sure to get your membership updated for the new fiscal year!

Editor's Note - On this instant 6th of June, 2004, may we reflect on the historical sacrifices of our military troops - of today, as well as of 60 years agoand earlier.

"People are able to sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because....men are willing to do violence on their behalf."

...George Orwell
