



Smoke Signal



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

Editor : Keith Watts

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The rains brought some beautiful sights to The Acre. Jim and Betty saw the waterfall that comes with the heavy rains and our little creek was really flowing, hard enough that the bridge came loose. The L.A. parks department is going to fix it for us.

We are going to look into some options for funding to have the cottage painted. The paint now has lead in it and we need to have the lead encapsulated before we can paint. That is a very costly project and the parks department does not have the money right now. I would like everyone to know that we are not neglecting the cottage - we are trying to get it painted.

Bea is starting to get ready for The Garden Festival. The date is May 1st. If you would like to bake,

make sandwiches for the tea or just help us out, please let Bea know.

Happy Valentine's day,
Linda and Andre

PROGRAM MEETING - Tuesday, Feb. 15th

Program Chair Bea Berman has arranged the program for the February general meeting on the 15th. We are fortunate to have one of our CHS members, Agnes Garr, bring her collection of paper dolls and tell us all about them. So be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 15th for the general meeting at the Homestead Acre, at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited!

MUSEUM NEWS.....Virginia Watson, Curator

As noted below, activities at the CHS Museum have concentrated on updating our records and other holdings.

Seeking Old Smoke Signals

Docent Elaine Campbell has been organizing the recent past (1996-2005) Smoke Signals and putting them in acid-free sleeves within three ring notebooks for more convenient research.

Our CHS Collection is not complete and we are

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Director-at-Large.....	Dianne Kartiala	886-5210 (Bus.)
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447

asking members to bring any Smoke Signals you have around the house to our next meeting so we may complete the Collection.

Smoke Signals may also be brought to the museum for our every Wednesday-At-The-Acre work day from 9am to 12 noon. Please bring any and all Smoke Signals that you happen to have because we have earlier files also to re-check.

Library Automation Nears Completion

Docent Ann Vincent, who has been working with us for more than a year now, has among other duties managed to get nearly all of the books in our Frank H. Schepler, Junior Memorial Library logged into our computer. That includes our recent acquisition of more than 200 books recently donated by former president Lila Schepler.

Ann is also rearranging the books and labeling the shelves and has printed out a list of our holdings.

We have a unique research library and have only books about California history, geography and biography. We also have books about Los Angeles, local books (about Chatsworth) and books by local authors such as Catherine Mulholland and Dale Evans Rogers. We include The San Fernando Valley and some archeology books and pamphlets including a collection of Al Knight's books and papers. Please look around when you next come to the Museum.

GARDEN FESTIVAL COMING

Plans are underway for the CHS annual Garden Festival, set for Sunday, May 1st at the Homestead Acre. Make a note to spend an enjoyable afternoon with us. Among the attractions will be a delicious High Tea lunch, entertainment,

displays, vendors, etc. More later, as plans become firm.

Bea Berman, Chairman

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN in the Valley (From Americansuburbs.com)...Linda

This is a continuation of former places and things in the Valley that were widely known or esteemed by residents of the San Fernando Valley and environs:

CARNATION RESEARCH LABORATORY
Brick complex on Van Nuys Blvd. in Panorama City opened in 1953 as a test lab for devising products such as powdered milk and nondairy creamer.

CHERRY HOUSE

Ice cream parlor was on Ventura Blvd. and Woodman Ave. in Sherman Oaks.

CINNAMON CINDER

The alcohol-free dance club for teenagers opened in 1962 at 11345 Ventura Blvd. in Studio City. Owned by KRLA disc jockey Bob Eubanks, the club spawned a TV show, a national chain of teen clubs and a pop record by the house band called "Cinnamon Cinders." In 1964, Eubanks produced The Beatles first Los Angeles appearance at The Hollywood Bowl and brought them to the club for a press conference that turned into a mini-riot.

EL CIRCO TALAMANTE

This traveling circus with elephants and organ grinders would stop in the Pacoima area in the

1940s. "Kids went wild, parents smiled, dogs took to the streets and older boys looked for work under the big top," Mary Helen Ponce wrote in Hoyt Street.

CLUB AIRPORT GARDENS

This nightspot was opposite Grand Central Airport in the Valley flats of Glendale. "4 Great Nights of Celebrating" the flyers announced for the party marking the end of Prohibition, Dec. 5-8 in 1933- a month after repeal of liquor ban. Owner Tommy Jacobs proclaimed himself the Head Mortician for the "final joyous funeral ceremonies."

CRUISE NIGHT

Cruising on Van Nuys Blvd. was a ritual of local youth culture in at least five decades until a police crackdown ended the tradition in the 1980s. On Wednesday Club Night and on the weekends, "The Boulevard" was jammed with cruisers and sidewalk gawkers, stretching from Sherman Way south almost to Ventura Blvd. at its peak. The point was to look and be looked at, to hook up for dates and to flaunt your style. Cruising was an "expression of democracy ...in a three mile tunnel of high octane exhaust fumes," Charles T. Powers wrote in the LA Times.

CRYSTAL PLUNGE

Public swimming pool in Van Nuys was on Kester Ave. between Sherman Way and Hart Street.

DEVONSHIRE DOWNS

This 40 acre fairgrounds at Devonshire St. and Zelzah Ave. was the center of equestrian Northridge after it opened in the mid 1940s as a horse racing track. The state purchased it in 1948 to be the home

of the annual San Fernando Valley Fair, which moved from Recreation Park in San Fernando. The Downs hosted annual fireworks shows and the Scoutcraft Fair, but entertained its largest crowd the weekend of June 20-22 1969. Newport '69, which drew at least 200,000 people, was the nation's biggest outdoor rock festival until Woodstock, headlined by Jimi Hendrix, Eric Burden, Marvin Gaye and others. In 1959 the expanding San Fernando Valley State College (now CSUN) claimed the land for expansion, but in 2001 virtually the entire site was razed for a private industrial park under lease to the school.

DONTE'S

Popular jazz and supper club was on Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood.

HISTORIC INFO RECEIVED FROM ED AHLSTROM.....Virginia

Late last year Ed Ahlstrom brought us family pictures and information from his pioneer Johnson family and items from Boy Scout Troop 26.

Ahlstrom was Scout Leader for the Troop which was really the first troop in the San Fernando Valley. He brought us many items which we will display later this year when they have all been catalogued. Recently he sent us copies of pictures that we had requested when he brought the originals down here to show us.

Ahlstrom currently lives up north in Citrus Heights and is so active - with all the work he does around his property and the vegetables and fruit he grows and cans - we are really fortunate that he continues to add to our collection of the history of Chatsworth.
