

Smoke Signal



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

Editor : Keith Watts

MARCH, 2005

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Wouldn't you know - we finally get sprinklers at the Acre and it hasn't stopped raining in more than a month. With the Garden Festival right around the corner, the gardens should be beautiful if and when we ever get sunshine.

The creek at night reminds Andre when he was camping with the Boy Scouts. Maybe this year for the Garden Festival we can have a trout fishing contest if the rain persists and we can stock the creek if there are any survivors from the Roy Rogers Trout Farm that was in Chatsworth Park South. Finally, based on the sounds of croaking that we hear, we can have a frog jumping contest. Hopefully the rains are behind us so we can look forward to a beautiful day for the Garden Festival.

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.....	Committee	
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

I think now we all know how it feels to live in the Northwest and how much we miss the sunshine.

Linda and Andre

PROGRAM MEETING - Tuesday, March 15th

Chatsworth's 117th birthday - will be celebrated at our March meeting! The CHS has always celebrated the meeting date closest to the March 10th date that the first subdivision map of the town (called Chatsworth Park) was filed with the Los Angeles County Recorder's office. We will have birthday cake and hopefully two local celebrities to cut the cake.

Come and help us celebrate!

Program Speaker In addition to the birthday celebration, Program Chair Bea Berman has arranged an interesting program; we are fortunate to have a speaker from the Gene Autry Western Museum! So be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 15th for the general meeting at the Homestead Acre, at 7:00 p.m.

Festival Help Sought Bea also noted that, since we are getting closer to the date of the Garden Festival on May 1st, we would appreciate any help with baking, white elephant donations, etc. Please call her for information at (818) 341-5449.

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:

DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATERS

The Valley had these drive-in movie theaters at their peak in the 1960s: Pickwick, Victory, SanVal, Laurel, Sepulveda, Van Nuys, Reseda and Canoga. No drive-ins remain today.

FARRELL'S ICE CREAM

Farrell's parlors were known for their extra large portions, Disneyland-esque theme and mega dishes like The Zoo and The Pig Trough.

FAT JONES MOVIE STABLE

Clarence Y. (Fat) Jones provided horses and western gear to the movies from 1912 to his death in 1963. His rental stables at 11340 Sherman Way east of Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood was where many movie horses were trained and kept. It bustled with activity during the era of the westerns.

FEDCO

The big one among membership discount stores in the Valley for many decades until the 1990s.

FIELD PHOTO FARM

Drinking establishment, social club and horse ranch for friends of director John Ford, it was at 18201 Calvert Street in Reseda from the end of World War II into the 1960s.

CSUN FINE ARTS BUILDING

Modernist architect Richard Neutra designed the Fine Arts building that fronted Nordhoff Street at Cal State University Northridge. Built in 1960, it was damaged beyond repair in the 1994 earthquake and torn down.

FLOWERS TROPICAL BIRD FARM

Compound displaying and selling colorful birds -and supplying them to Hollywood for the movies -was at 17555 Ventura Blvd. in Encino.

LAUREL AND HARDY'S FUN FACTORY

Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy both lived in the Valley and the movie comedy duo would try out material in their theater at 14155 Magnolia Street in Van Nuys. The Fun Factory was tom down in 1962 to make room for expansion of Magnolia Estates, a development by band leader Horace Heidt that features replicas of famous waterfalls, including Niagara Falls.

GARDEN OF THE MOON PAVILION

This popular dance hall was at 7200 Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga. It was torn down in 1941.

GENERAL MOTORS

The GM assembly plant on Van Nuys Blvd. at the Southern Pacific railroad tracks opened in 1948 and provided steady work for two generations of Van Nuys auto workers. The site is now a shopping center called The Plant

MUSEUM NEWS...Virginia Watson, Curator

On February 25th CHS hosted a tour group of graduate students from Berkeley. There were about 17 of them, environmental landscapers interested in history, conservation and watershed, led by Ms. Macauley. Canoga Owensmouth Historical Society recommended us to the group. Linda van der Valk and I were the docents and the group seemed to enjoy the late afternoon tour. They bought several books and especially liked our pictures.

Two more tours are planned this month. Friday, March 11, at 9 a.m. the entire third grade at

Chatsworth Park Elementary School is expected. They are walking over and hopefully there will be no more rain..

On March 30th at 1:30 p.m. CHS is hosting a Red Hat Society group tour planned by Shirley Lerner. They will have lunch nearby and then tour the Acre.

Another wonderful happening is a possible gift from well-known artist, Bruce Everett, who does such lovely paintings of our Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills. Everett is a professor of art at CSUN and has done many beautiful landscapes. Currently Everett is having an exhibit at the Craig Krull Gallery , Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Building B3, Santa Monica, Calif. The exhibit will continue through April 2, 2005.

NEWS ITEMS FROM NEIGHBORING HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND CHS....Elaine

The Burbank Historical Society will present Steve Hall in concert at the Steinway grand piano on Sunday March 6th . The concert will be held in the Gordon R. Howard Museum Auditorium - 1100 W. Clark St. Burbank. The doors open at 2 p.m. and the two hour fund raiser concert begins at 3 p.m. Tickets available for a \$10.00 donation.

Canoga-Owensmouth Historical Society noted that, on St. Patricks Day, the Business Improvement Association will have their 3rd annual parade beginning with music at Follow Your Heart Restaurant from 12 to 1 p.m. The parade will start at the Madrid Theatre at 1: 30 p.m. and follow the piper and the Canoga Park High School band to Follow Your Heart where there will be a stage set up for entertainment, music, dancing, storytelling and presentations. Come join the celebration with all our Irish friends!

The following recipes are from a book in our CHS library, *Six Hundred Receipts*, {worth their weight in gold} by John Marquart of Lebanon, Pa. - published in 1867:

Cup Cakes:

Take 3 cups sugar, 1 cup butter, 2 teaspoonfuls soda, 3 eggs, 5 cups flour, - all beaten together with as **much spice as you please**.

Ginger-Cakes:

Take 1 quart molasses, 1!2 pint thick milk, 3/4 pound fresh lard or butter, 1 cent's worth **pearlash**, 1 cent's worth **saleratus**, 1 cent's worth aniseed, 1 teacupful ginger. Thicken with flour. Mix and bake.

How to make Extract of Vanilla:

This is made by taking 1 quart pure French brandy, and cutting up fine 1 ounce vanilla beans and 2 ounces **Tonqua**, bruised. Add these to the brandy and let it digest for two weeks, frequently shaking; then filter carefully, and it is ready for use. This is excellent for flavouring pies, cakes, and puddings.

(Does anyone know anything about pearlash and saleratus? Also Tonqua! There is no mention of oven temperature or amount of time to bake! ! I think I'd end up sipping the French brandy!)

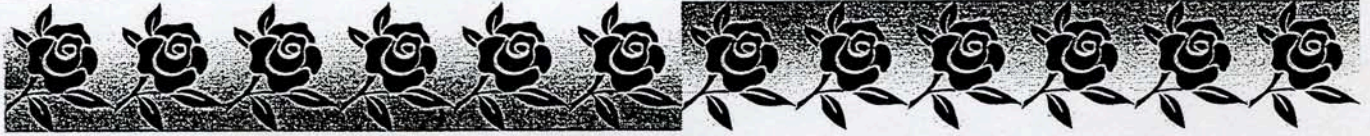
(Ed. Note: emphasis added)

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

CHS members Ann and Ray Vincent's son, Raymond, won the Pac-Ten platform diving championship in Seattle, Washington on February 26th. Congratulations Raymond!

"Beware the ides of March."

...*Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 2* (Shakespeare)



Chatsworth Historical Society Presents

A GARDEN FESTIVAL

Featuring Roses and Crafts!

- ◆ The Duchess Tea Room ◆ Polynesian Dance Revue
Afternoon Tea \$6 (Chatsworth Dance
(11:30 - 2) Center)
- ◆ Blooming Rose Gardens ◆ Museum Exhibits
- ◆ Floral Demonstrations ◆ Tours of Minnie's Cottage
- ◆ Arts and Crafts ◆ Garden Clubs
- ◆ White Elephant Sale ◆ Bake Sale
- ◆ Susan Rios Paintings ◆ Live Plant Sale
With a Special Signing By Susan

Sunday, May 1, 2005
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$3 Donation - Children Under 12 Free

The Homestead Acre

At the First Stop Sign in

Chatsworth Park South

(West End of Devonshire Street)

Information: 818-882-5614

