



# Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
 (818) 882-5614 [www.historicalsocieties.net](http://www.historicalsocieties.net)



MAY 2005

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor: Keith Watts

## Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & Andre van der Valk

Our thanks this month goes to Bea Berman for chairing our successful Garden Festival. There was lots of hard work and effort put in by everyone involved with the Festival. At the end of the day we are all exhausted but earning approximately \$3000.00 makes it all worth while. Bea again did a great job and put months into preparing for this event. She is already talking about Pioneer Day. Thank you from all of us Bea.

Of course the gardens would not look as beautiful as they do if it were not for the hard work of Jim and Betty Summers. I don't think that there is a day that goes by that they are not doing something in the garden. We are very fortunate to have two people with such dedication to the garden.

We would also like to thank Susan Rios and Larry Fraga for being there and signing their art works.

We have a new display in the museum. Some of the money that we are earning is being spent in the museum for new frames and display props. The new display has a lot of pictures of the Chatsworth Pioneer Families. We also have a wonderful Indian artifact display on loan to us for a short time. If you didn't see the displays at the Garden Festival come to the next general meeting or the open house.

Linda and Andre

## GARDEN FESTIVAL

By Bea Berman

Another event is over and although we were short handed, we pulled it off and it was a great success. My thanks to all the docents and volunteers who helped take some of the burden off of me. Outside of it being a little windy, the day was gorgeous.



A special thanks to Andy Gump for donating the Porta-Potties; Chatsworth Nursery for the beautiful plants; Chatsworth Florist for all of the great publicity they provided; Jeff Rohr from the Chatsworth Florist for floral demonstrations; Elaine Campbell and her daughter, Janice, managing the White Elephant Booth with help from Evelyn Hutcheson; Betty and Jim Summers along with Janine Bergez for our plant sale; Ruth Grant and Hannah Almstead for displaying the quilts in the Museum; Barbara Pampalone for helping with parking and clean-up; Ray and Ann Vincent for helping wherever needed; Lillian Schepler for giving tours of the cottage, Virginia Watson for her help with publicity and manning the information booth with Karine Panachi; Beverly King for helping as docent in the Museum, Irene Nalbandian and Ingrid Lindquist for handling the entrance booth; Loretta Sandavol for her wonderful baked goods for our bake sale booth; Dianne Kartila for serving as our Announcer/Mistress of Ceremony and the Councilman's office for printing our Schedule of Activities for the day; Andre, Buck and my son-in-law Gary for cooking and serving all the hot dogs and my daughter Mindy for designing our publicity flyers.

The Tea was a big success and you may have noticed many of our guests from the Red Hat Society

### 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
Recording 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

who traveled to enjoy our festivities and the entertainment by the Chatsworth Dance Center.



Extra thanks to the hard working preparation crew who worked with me behind the scenes making sandwiches and also that day in the kitchen. The crew included my daughters Randi and Adrienne along with my granddaughter Jessica who served tea. Elaine Campbell made the chicken salad, Betty Summers did the scones and Lillian Schepler made her famous lemon cake. Elaine also gets credit for making all of the table cloths for us to use each year in the future for this event. With the tables nicely displayed with the flower arrangements from the Chatsworth Florist and the handmade table cloths, the plates served by our hostesses looked great and tasted even better.



It was wonderful to have so many information displays and participation by community groups, garden clubs and vendors. Of course, I save my final thanks to Linda and Andre for all their work and support. I'm sure I may have left someone out here, so please forgive me.

Now ... that the Garden Festival is over, we start planning for our annual Pioneer Day which is Sunday, October 2, 2005.

Mark your calendars; we hope to see you then.

*Bea Berman, Ways & Means Chairman*

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## Program Meeting— Tues, May 17<sup>th</sup>

By Bea Berman, Program Chair

Our general meeting coming up on May 17<sup>th</sup> will feature Les Rosenberg from the **Burbank Historical Society**. In addition we will have our **Installation of Officers/Board Members** for 2005 -2006

The new board members are as listed below:

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Programs, Ways & Means.....Bea Berman  
Membership.....Keith Watts  
Treasurer.....Lillian Schepler  
Recording Secretary.....Elaine Campbell  
Smoke Signal.....Keith Watts  
Museum Curator.....Virginia Watson  
Cottage Curator.....Betty Summers  
Hospitality.....Dianne Kartiala  
Garden Director.....Jim & Betty Summers  
Director-at-Large.....Ruth Grant  
Permanent Member.....Lila Schepler

Let's give our speaker a nice welcome and show our support to our board.. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.

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## Museum News

By Virginia Watson, Curator

Wednesday-at-the-Acre has proven to be a valuable innovation for the Society with many hours of volunteer time used up in every day practices. A docent is a teacher who helps tell the story of the museum either as a tour guide or contributes to the history of the monument by helping the curator with her duties. Docents also distribute flyers and information to visitors, and help make displays or assist in caring for artifacts and furniture or collections. They help with the Smoke Signal (folding, taping, attaching address labels and stamps) and other clerical and housekeeping duties for the museum and the cottage. They also help with festivals and money-making projects, input data into our computer, work in the library and help with the costume collection. We also have garden docents who especially help with the deadheading, weeding and planting. They work closely with the Garden Directors Jim and Betty Summers.

At the present time there are 15 docents. Workers meet every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon. But not all of them come every week. Some come only occasionally and help out as needed.

All of the docents are trained in the history of the Hill family, other Pioneer families and Chatsworth or North Valley history and can give guided tours usually after they have been coming four or five weeks.

*See page 3*

**Recent happenings:** by Virginia

Docent **Evelyn Hutcheson** has had eye surgery and is recuperating at home but hopes to be back on Wednesdays soon. **Elaine Campbell**, who loves traveling, visited her older sister in Minnesota for a week and before that she enjoyed an elder hostel trip to Northern California with one of her daughters. **Connie Ager**, a long-time docent for both the garden and a tour guide, is working long hours but manages to spend time clearing out our "crick bed" when she can. **Evelyn Kanouse**, has given up driving but still attends our sessions. Often Elaine Campbell gives Evelyn K. a ride to our Wednesday gatherings. Our newest docent is **Karine Panichi**, who worked on her first Garden Festival recently. **Ann Vincent** has been traveling and managing diving meets all over the country including some Olympic events in between entering library data into our computer. Currently she is substituting as editor of our Smoke Signal for **Keith Watts**, our editor who has been convalescing from abdominal surgery. **Keli Jacobson Markovic**

was married last year and has not had time to do much volunteering, **Beverly King** has been here several years now and is very versatile, giving tours and also doubling in the garden and in the cottage. A former school teacher, Beverly is especially good with school children. **Kathy Reynolds** can always be counted on to help at Pioneer Day--she is the one who makes the butter. Her husband also helps organize the children for our fall program. **Marilyn Frump** attends Wednesday quite often and she does the telephoning for the executive board meetings. Her husband, Dave, also helps us with photography occasionally.

Also on the docent list are Bea Berman, Lila Schepler and Lillian Schepler, Betty and Jim Summers, Virginia Watson and of course our co-president Linda van der Valk who wears many hats.

Summing up our docent program I think one could conclude that docents are invaluable. They help keep our Homestead Acre functioning and looking good.

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## With Deepest Sympathy

The Chatsworth Historical Society offers our sympathy to Leuse Mitchell on the death of her husband, Ed Mitchell who is also Lila Schepler's son-in-law. They have two grown children Matthew and Christine. Eddie was a long-time Life Member of our Society and was very active in the early years of the Society. He was taken to West Hills Hospital on Thursday after suffering a stroke and died Friday of a cerebral hemorrhage. His brother, Larry Mitchell came up from Temecula to be with him. Ed's mother is in a hospital and unable to travel up here, his father is deceased. They were long-time Chatsworth residents.

The services will be held at the Chatsworth Methodist Church on Saturday the time to be announced later.



Confirm your last renewal date at the bottom of your mailing label.

### CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We invite you to join or renew your membership to support our homestead acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Return this cutoff with your membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

**Chatsworth Historical Society**

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

**New Member**       **Renewal**

**Yearly:**

Individual \$15.00

Dual/Family \$20.00

Organization \$100.00

**Life Membership:**

\$ 125.00

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE / ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Interest / Expertise:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Gone But Not Forgotten

in the Valley

(From [www.americassuburb.com](http://www.americassuburb.com))

*Continued from previous month*

## JEFFRIES BARN

This barn at 2500 Victory Blvd. in Burbank was the site of Thursday night boxing matches from 1931 into the late 1940s. It was on the farm of Jim Jeffries, the former heavyweight boxing champ. After his death the barn was dismantled and moved to the Knott's Berry farm amusement park in Orange County.

## KGIL RADIO

This station at AM 1260 began airing Valley-oriented programming in 1947 from a studio in Mission Hills.

## KIDDIELANDS

Lots of readers ask about these small permanent carnival rides located all over the Valley: Ventura Blvd. near Laurel Canyon, Sepulveda Blvd. between Parthenia and Rayen Streets, Sepulveda near San Fernando Mission Blvd., Topanga Canyon Blvd. near Ventura Freeway.

## KING'S ARMS/QUEEN'S ARM

These sister dinner houses owned by the Skoby family were mainstays of the Valley dining scene in the 1950s and 60s. The King's Arms was on Riverside Drive in Toluca Lake, the Queen's Arms in Encino on Ventura Blvd.

## LAKE LEILANI

A small private swimming pond in the old quarry near Vineland Ave. and Victory Blvd. in the 1940s.

## LANCASTER'S LAKE

The lake for boating and fishing was dredged in Sunland at the turn of the 20th century, near where Sunland Park is now. It was often used as a movie location.

## LANG OAK

For perhaps a thousand years, the giant coast live oak tree towered. Louise Ave. in Encino was paved around the huge tree, dedicated as a state cultural monument in 1963. After an El Nino storm on February 7, 1998 felled the behemoth, admirers came to gawk at the limbs while city crews sought equipment stout enough to penetrate the trunk. Fans who had nursed the tree through infections, car crashes and numerous storms carried souvenir branches as they left the scene wiping away tears. The LA Times headline the next day captured the sentiment: "If a tree falls in the Valley, we all hear it".

## LA REINA THEATRE

The art deco Sherman Oaks movie house, opened in 1938, was designed by famed cinema architect S. Charles Lee. A technical innovation --adding acoustic panels and plaster to the real wall to minimize sound distortion--made The La Reina noteworthy. It was renovated in 1988 into shops. Lee designed many of Los Angeles' most memorable theatres, and in the Valley did the Reseda (1948), the Burbank (1948), the Encino (1939), the Rivoli (1939), the Valley (1938) and the Tujunga (1937).

*Chatsworth Historical Society*

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