



# Smoke Signal



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

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor : Keith Watts

AUGUST, 2005

## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We hope everyone has been having a wonderful summer. Our summer has been great so far. We have a new Historical Society member, our new granddaughter, Brooke Christina Petretti. She was born on June 20th. I am sure she will be like our other grandchildren who love to come to The Acre. They help grandma and papa with watering and planting and they enjoy seeing the bunnies and the lizards. Bea is already busy planning for Pioneer Day. So if you would like to help give her a call. We can always use bake goods and extra bodies on Pioneer Day. We are planning our Membership Round-Up for Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be the only Smoke Signal before that date so mark your

calendars now.

We have been having a lot of comments about the movie marquee with The Tuesday Morning sign in the Von's shopping center. Does anyone remember when the movie theater was built?

Have a great rest of the summer and we hope to see everyone at Membership Round-Up.

Linda and Andre

## MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP & BBQ

Be sure to reserve Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> to attend our CHS **Membership Roundup and Barbecue**. As usual, there will be a no-charge "pot luck" dinner. CHS will provide the main dish (barbequed Tri-tip)! Attendees are asked to bring either salads, desserts or vegetable dishes, while Co-Pres. Andre does a great job at the barbeque. Musical entertainment will be provided by guitarists Art Bergen and Glenn Calkins, who played for our entertainment last year.

So come and have an enjoyable evening. Renew your membership and encourage prospective members to come and learn more about the CHS.

It starts at 4:00 p.m.

RSVP: (818) 882- 5614, last initials A-L bring dessert for 8 people, M-Z bring salad or veggies.

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.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Director-at-Large.....	Dianne Kartiala	886-5210 (Bus.)
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447



## PIONEER DAY ANNOUNCED...Bea Berman, Chair

Our annual **Pioneer Day** will be held on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CHS Homestead Acre, 11.00 - 4:00 p.m. So mark your calendars for this entertaining and informative event and you will be in for a great treat featuring our famous Chili Cook-off competition. Music will be provided by **Dave Storm and the ThunderCreek Band**. There will be many events for children and "grown-ups", including:

Panning for gold, A Petting Zoo,  
Spinning and Weaving, Origami,  
Quilt Designing, Face Painting,  
Games, Chores of Yore,  
Bake Sale, Plant Sale,  
Tours of the Cottage,  
Refreshments and much more!!!

If you know anyone who might like to enter the Chili Cook-Off contest, please have them call Bea Berman for information and instruction forms. Judges will decide who makes the winning chili for 1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$50.00 plus a trophy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$35.00; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$25.00.

The public is invited. So bring your fiends and neighbors and come on out for a day of fun!

---

## 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:

### LASKY RANCH

Jesse Lasky's movies ranch was where Cecil B. DeMille

shot many of his early films. A busy spot in old Valleywood, it was along the river near where the Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills Memorial Park is located.

### LOCKHEED

Lockheed moved to Burbank in 1928 from Hollywood and became the Valley's biggest private employer, with its own airport at the Five Corners area of Burbank. In the 1930s Lockheed moved to United Airport (today's Burbank Airport) and in 1940 renamed it Lockheed Air Terminal. The defense giant's secret Skunk Works and many hangars turned out the P-38, the Electra, the Constellation, the U-2 spy plane and the first stealth aircraft. Lockheed left Burbank entirely in the 1990s.

### MACCLAY COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

The Valley's first institution of higher learning opened in San Fernando in 1885, a Methodist school named for its founder, Charles Maclay. The school which provided pastors to Methodist churches in the Valley, left its first home to move into the University of Southern California in 1900. In 1957, the school went independent as the Claremont Theological School.

### MARWYCK RANCH

The thoroughbred breeding ranch of Zeppo Marx and Barbara Stanwyck was along Reseda Blvd. and Devonshire Street. A Paul Williams designed house that was Stanwyk's, and later belonged to actor Jack Oakie, remains on Devonshire and is currently under the control of the University of Southern California.

### MCKINLEY HOME FOR THE BOYS

The grounds of the facility for boys from broken homes was at 13840 Riverside Drive on land where Sherman Oaks Fashion Square is now located.



#### MONKEY ISLAND

This amusement park at 3300 Cahuenga Blvd. on the Valley side of the Cahuenga Pass, held a large herd of monkeys for viewing and feeding with nuts and vegetables purchased on the site. The monkeys kept to an island about 150 feet long, with a 40 foot hill, surrounded by moats. There were waterfalls, palm trees and swings for the monkeys to amuse themselves. Netting tried to keep the monkeys in but they were often escaping. Monkey Island opened December 9, 1938, and operated each day from 10 AM to midnight. When it closed is unknown.

#### PHIL AHN'S MOONGATE

Panorama City's best known Chinese restaurant in the 1960's and 70s was run by the family of Korean American actor Philip Ahn, who often played a Japanese in films about World War II. The Moongate served Cantonese cuisine with tropical drinks.

#### NEWHALL AUTO TUNNEL

This landmark in Newhall Pass was opened in 1910 to link the Valley with the Santa Clarita Valley communities of Newhall, Saugus and beyond.

#### NIKE MISSILE SITES

From the mid 1950s into the '60s, Nike and Hercules missiles protected the Valley and its many defense plants from attack. Four sites could be easily observed. In the Santa Susana Mountains, a missile battery designated as LA88 could be seen in upper Browns Canyon from 1956 -1965, and its command center was visible on Oat Mountain. A second battery -with live missiles right amid the suburbs -known as LA96 operated at 15990 Victory Blvd. in Van Nuys from 1957 -1971. Its observation post was in the Santa Monica Mountains above Tarzana, along Mulholland Drive on San Vicente Mountain. Decommissioned buildings or remnants remain at each site.

#### NORTHRIDGE FARMS

The big Northridge breeding ranch for thoroughbred horses sprawled west and north from the intersection of Reseda Blvd. and Lassen Street, with its entry at 10127 Reseda Blvd.

---

#### NEWS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES....Elaine

The city of Agoura Hills presents "Adobe Days and California Ways". This is a grand opening fiesta of Reyes Adobe historical site on Saturday, October 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be rancho cooking, brickmaking, laundry, blacksmith, wood carving, quilting, crafts, roping, children's games and more. The Reyes Adobe Historical site is located at 5464 Reyes Adobe Road. No admission. Parking is limited

Little Landers Historical Society: On Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Jean Hoelscher will present a photographic slide show of native flora in the Big Tujunga Wash through the changing seasons. Her photo's have been published in magazines and books. Refreshments will be served .

Little Landers and the surrounding communities are working to preserve the Weatherwold Castle at 10629 Commerce near Hillrose. This castle was completed in 1928. It is a historical site well worth preserving.

---