



# 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

SEPTEMBER, 2005

## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

I can't believe we are already busy getting ready for Pioneer Day. Where did the summer go?

We are in the process of getting estimates to repaint the Homestead Cottage. One estimate we have received is one-fourth the city's estimate. Painting of the cottage involves lead abatement from all the older coats of paint. This is where the cost is. We also need to replace some of the wood. The cottage took a beating in our last rain storms. We have not been ignoring the condition of the cottage but have been trying to figure out a reasonable cost solution to the problem.

Virginia has arranged for Huell Houser to rerun the two Chatsworth programs, to be shown on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. One is

about The Munch Box and the other is about our Cultural Landmarks. By showing this series again before **Pioneer Day**, we are anticipating a much larger attendance. We will need more help from members this year and more bake goods. We have found that it is the same dozen people helping year after year and it is getting harder for these same people to do the jobs. This is one of our largest fundraisers and it helps carry us through the year. If you can spare an hour or two please help us. We also set up all the tables and chairs and whatever is needed for **Pioneer Day** on Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. If you can't help us that day, at least come out to enjoy the day!

Linda and Andre

## PIONEER DAY ALMOST HERE...Bea Berman, Chair

Yes, it's almost here! 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 day of entertainment and fun, and featuring our famous Chili Cook-off competition.

We still have room for more chili cooks. So all of you chili chefs - reserve a place in the contest! For a nominal setup fee of \$15 you will have a chance to win the First Place Trophy plus \$50, the \$35 Second Place Prize, or the \$25 Third Place Prize. If

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

you are interested or know anyone who might like to enter the Chili Cook-Off contest, please contact Bea Berman, (818) 341-5449, for an application.

---

### FELLOW SOCIETY WINS AWARD

.....Virginia Watson

Our neighboring historical society - The Canoga Owensmouth group, recently won a great honor! Since it happened during the summer months maybe you didn't get a chance to read about the All American City Award for 2005. It is a national award with only 10 of the contesting 30 finalists presented with awards.

Members of the historical society felt that there were so many people working together to make their community a better place to live that someone should apply for the award and so they spearheaded the drive.

The community had the Main Street Project, The Chamber's Business Improvement District, The Community Redevelopment Agency, the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and Council District 3, all working together. They were keeping the streets clean, caring for the trees and plants, working with the business people and adding security to make the area safe.

They also included the community project of the Youth Art Center, a mural that 300 children worked on. The third project was the Dia de la Muerte celebration, on the first Sunday in November held at the Madrid Theater, that has been so successful the last few years.

In June representatives traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to present the story and accept the award. Since then they have made a presentation to the Los Angeles City Council on the City Channel and been feted at a reception at the Madrid theater in July.

Congratulations to the Canoga Owensmouth Historical Society --a job well done! Our collective hats are off to all our inspired neighbors.

---

### 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:

#### NORTHRIDGE STAMPEDE

This annual equestrian parade was held in the summer on Reseda Blvd. in the heart of Northridge, Movie cowboy Montie Montana, the longtime honorary mayor of Northridge, was a frequent rider at the head of the parade.

#### NUDIE'S

The clothing shop of Nudie Cohn at 5015 Lankershim Blvd. was a show business and country music landmark. Nudie's dressed the movie cowboys like Roy Rogers and Gene Autry and rock stars such as Elvis Presley and Ritchie Valens. Cohn died in 1984.

#### OTTO'S PINK PIG

Extra-thick steaks, seafood and a special dessert --The Pink Pig Famous Delicado--helped make this dark eatery at 4954 Van Nuys Blvd. a landmark for first dates and families. The long menu assured customers of "Italian spaghetti" and a money-back guarantee on mixed drinks.

#### PALOMINO CLUB

The West Coast center of country music was at 6907 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood until 1995. Ten years earlier, the funeral procession for the late owner Tommy Thomas extended for a mile and a half as it cruised past the club. Country legends Buck Owens, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson and many others played at the Palomino.

#### PARK MODERNE

Park Moderne was envisioned as an artist colony in the hills above Calabasas. It opened in 1927 with cabins

and cottages and ambitious plans for a full-fledged community. The Depression dashed those plans. Remnants remain on Bluebird Drive and Blackbird Way.

#### PICOVER STATION

One of the last remaining passenger stations from the Pacific Electric Red Car Line was at 16710 Sherman Way until it burned down in 1990.

#### PINE NEEDLE SKI SLOPE

For one season in 1939-- summer--skiing was the rage at Universal City. Joseph "Sepp" Benedikter, an Austrian ski champion, moved to Hollywood to coach stars like Henry Fonda and Gary Cooper on a slope coated with pine needles. People came in bathing suits and shorts to ski on the hill where Universal City's hotels are today. After one summer, Benedikter moved on to Sun Valley, Idaho, though he later settled in Tarzana and ran a contracting business.

#### PLATT RANCH

Name through much of the 20th century for 1,100 acres in the vicinity of Bell Canyon that was formerly Ranch El Escorpion, and later was known as Cloverland Ranch, today a part of West Hills. George E. Platt was president of Los Angeles Creamery Co.

#### POP'S WILLOW LAKE

Popular with generations of Valley families, the boating and swimming resort with a dance hall was along Big Tujunga Wash, upstream from today's Hansen Dam. The lake was opened in 1931 by James A. (Pop) Gautier. It washed away in the 1938 flood that devastated the Valley but was rebuilt in time for a young Marilyn Monroe (then Norma Jean Baker of Van Nuys High School) to spend wartime dates there with her first husband, Jim Doughty.

#### PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

During World War II, a compound for holding German, Italian, and Japanese POWs was along the L.A. River in Griffith Park where the Travel Town museum is located today. Before the war Camp Griffith Park was, at times, a Civilian Conservation Corps facility, a boy's camp and a drunk farm for L.A. City inmates.

#### MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Annual members are reminded that their dues for the current year are now due to avoid any loss of membership privileges. For your convenience, the form below is provided. Checks payable to Chatsworth Historical Society:

Individuals \$15, Dual (family) \$20.

-----  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help with:

- |                                    |                                       |  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent    | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephoning  | <input type="checkbox"/> Upkeep of Gardens & Buildings                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Hobby or Interest to share in programs or displays. |

**Annual**

# Pioneer Day

**Sunday, October 2  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

## ***Old-time fun for everyone!***

\* Chili cook-off



\* Bake sale

\* Games

\* Music by Dave Storm &  
Thunder Creek Band

\* Panning for gold

\* Spinning and weaving

\* Quilt display



\* Petting zoo

\* Indian artifacts

\* Origami

\* "Chores of yore"  
*and lots more!*



## **Location!**

Homestead Acre,  
Chatsworth Park South  
(West end of Devonshire St.)

### **Information:**

(818) 882-5614

### **Donations:**

Adults: \$3

Children: \$1

(Free for kids under 5)

### **Presented by**

## **Chatsworth Historical Society**