



# 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

NOVEMBER, 2005

## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

I can't believe that it is already time to write about Christmas Parties, Christmas fundraisers and other holiday activities. We will not be having a Smoke Signal in December so I will take the opportunity now to wish everyone a Happy Holiday.

I would like to thank Mindy Berman for designing our fundraising tickets and printing them. We really appreciate it and our tickets look the best! Chatsworth Florist opens their home to five fundraising tours in November and December. Two are for our Historical Society, two for Simi Valley Historical Society and one for The Habitat for Humanity. These are wonderful opportunities for these groups to make money with not a lot of work, which after Pioneer Day we appreciate. If you have a chance, stop by Chatsworth Florist and tell them how much we appreciate what they do for us and the other groups.

We hope to see everyone at our next meeting when we will have veterans discussing their war

time experiences.

Linda and Andre

## NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM MARKS VETERAN'S DAY.....Virginia Watson

This month's Veteran's Day marks the 87th anniversary of the end of World War I and the 61st anniversary of the end of World War II. When I was a little girl in the twenties and thirties, Armistice Day was celebrated with the ringing of the local church bells, programs and speeches. (Face-to-face auditorium programs and radio only--no television then.) Everything stopped for a few minutes at 11 a.m. to remember that the Armistice was signed at 11 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, a very impressive way of remembering the end of the hostilities.

My generation took an active part in the great exuberant celebration at the much-photographed observance of the end of World War II in Times Square in 1945. Since that time we have had Vietnam and the Korean War and are now in the midst of fighting the War on Terrorism, so this year there should be more emphasis on the men and women who fight for us and how wars affect the people of a country.

For our Chatsworth Historical Society's November program meeting we are going to repeat a program that we had once before. Back in the nineties we asked members to tell us what they did during The War (we didn't call it WW II) and we had a display of war

### Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2004-2005

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Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
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Director-at-Large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Director-at-Large.....	Dianne Kartiala	886-5210 (Bus.)
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447

memorabilia. It was a big success and we were surprised to learn of the many and varied war experiences our members and guests had lived through. This year we plan to display our Air Raid siren from WW II that lasted through The Cold War here in Chatsworth. We also will show the Gray Lady Red Cross outfit from WW II that was given to us by the late Betty Grill and the heavy parka that the late Dean Craig wore while stationed in Iceland.

This time we are including experiences and memories from any of the wars since and including WW I. We have ten members ready to share their personal stories in ten minutes or so. Ruth Grant will bring her father's diary from WWI; Bea Berman has memorabilia from her brother and John Thorpe will tell what he remembers of WW II in England. Also Valeta Kohler, who was a Wave in WW II, and Ramon Avila, who served overseas during the same era and wears a necklace to prove it.

More are our own, "Rosie the Riveter"-- Betty Summers, who has souvenirs from her work in an aircraft factory and her husband Jim, who served in the Navy. Also Lillian Schepler, who worked at Douglas Aircraft where she met her husband and became a war bride before moving to Chatsworth, and Rod Sandoval who served during the Korean conflict; all these plus our co-president Andre van der Valk who will share memories of Vietnam to complete the program.

Refreshments will be cookies shaped like turkeys in honor of Thanksgiving and pumpkin and apple pie along with our usual decaf coffee and hot tea. Bea Berman, our program chairwoman, makes the cookies in various shapes. She follows the theme of the meeting, using her fabulous collection of cookie cutters.

Hope we have a big crowd to enjoy the program and that it will stimulate memories and will spark conversation among the attendees.

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## **PROGRAMS....**Bea Berman, Chairman

**W**ell, it will be a couple of months before I start organizing our next fund-raiser which is the Garden Festival, to be held on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Keep the date open. As Program Chairman, I want to thank Ann & Ray Vincent for such a great program on the train tunnels in Chatsworth. I hope they will come back again with more information. Everyone seemed to enjoy the wonderful railroad display in the Museum.

Our November program, Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> should be unique, seeing that 11 November is Veteran's Day and we plan to have some of our members tell of their wartime experiences. Join us and bring your friends.

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## **FUNDRAISER- HOME TOUR**

**W**e will again hold our fundraiser at the home of Rick and Jerry from Chatsworth Florist this year. The dates are November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM. The tickets this year will be \$15.00. This is always a fun evening, not only do you get to see their house beautifully decorated for the holidays, but it is a pleasant get-together.

Please mark your calendars with the dates because we will not have a Smoke Signal in December. Tickets can be purchased at Chatsworth Florist or call Linda at 818 882-3661. Everyone is invited, so bring some friends and come and spend the evening with us. If you have trouble with transportation or cannot drive at night Andre is trying to get a shuttle together. Call us for transportation. Remember that it is for adults only!

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## **CHS CHRISTMAS PARTY.....**Linda

**O**ur annual Christmas party will be on December 20<sup>th</sup> at the van der Valk's house. It will start at 7:00 PM at 10524 Eton Ave. All of our members are welcome and it is okay to

bring guests if you would like. Just let me know how many are coming so I can be prepared. RSVP 818 882-3661.

Please note the date now because there will not be a Smoke Signal in December.

### MEMBER DUES ALERT

For Annual (dues-paying) members:

If "XX" follows your name  
on the newsletter mailing label,  
please pay current year dues (\$15 or \$20).  
If not paid, this is your last Smoke Signal.  
Questions?, call (818) 882-5614.

### NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

.....Elaine

The Burbank Historical Society at 1015 Olive Ave. presents former Lockheed test pilot Robert J. "Bob" Gilliland, speaking on "test flying the world's fastest airplanes" on Saturday Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. Parking is available in the lot at 1100 W. Clark Ave.

November is pumpkin time -here is an easy pumpkin dessert:

1 large can pumpkin;	3 eggs
1 12 oz. can evaporated milk	yellow cake mix
3/4 cup sugar 1	1/2 stick butter
4 tsps. pumpkin pie spice	1 cup chopped pecans

Mix pumpkin, milk, sugar, spice and eggs. Pour into 9x13 " pan. Sprinkle top with yellow cake mix, Slice butter and lay on top of cake mix to cover entire pan. Sprinkle 1 cup nuts on top. Bake 250 degrees for 1 hour.  
Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN in the Valley

(From Americansuburbs.com)....Linda

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

### SAN FERNANDO RACEWAY/AIRPORT

Stalwarts of the Southern California hotrod scene of the 1950s and 60s --and fans such as Dennis Wilson of the Beach Boys --competed at this drag strip at Glenoaks Blvd. and Arroyo Avenue. The strip was on the northwest side of San Fernando Airport, opened in 1950 on Dronfield Avenue.

### S. F. VALLEY VETERAN'S HOSPITAL

The hospital at the top of Sayre Street in Sylmar was dedicated in 1926 and stood until the earthquake on Feb. 9, 1971, when it collapsed. The site is now a tree-shaded park with a view of Pacoima Canyon and a plaque memorializing the quake's 65 dead.

### SCHLITZ BREWERY

Schlitz opened its state of the art 35 acre brewery at 7321 Woodman Avenue in Van Nuys in 1954.

### SPAHN RANCH

George Spahn's rental stables and movie sets at 12000 Santa Susana Pass Road became infamous as the squatting ground for Charles Manson and his "family" of mostly young women, among them Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, later convicted of trying to shoot President Gerald Ford. Spahn was a wrangler and outfitter for the movies. The ranch burned down in 1970.

### SYLMAR OLIVES

Early in the 20th century, Sylmar was covered in a blanket of olive trees and Sylmar -brand olives were sold everywhere. Olives from the area were also sold under the San Fernando Valley brand. Remnant orchards and packing sheds remain in the area of Sylmar.

### TAIL O' THE COCK

Another landmark dinner house of the 1950s and 1960s that lasted until the 1980s on Ventura Blvd. west of Coldwater Canyon Ave. in Sherman Oaks.

### TAMPALAND

Informal name given to meadows and gullies at the northern end of Tampa Avenue in Porter Ranch, a popular spot for teenage carousing in the 1960s and

'705. The area is now largely built on . .

#### TARZANA HILL

Just east of Reseda Blvd. at Tarzana Drive, the knoll served as a local landmark. On top of the hill Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, owner of the L.A. Times, built a hacienda he called Mil Flores. On the hill he planted a grove of trees from several continents. In 1919 the 550 acres were sold to Edgar Rice Burroughs, who named the spread Tarzana Ranch. Burroughs built the Valley's first swimming pool and helped found El Caballero Country Club.

Cedar Hills Nursery was located on the hill for many years. In the 1994 Northridge earthquake, a sensor mounted on the hill recorded the greatest ground shaking ever detected. Bulldozers finally cut down a large swath of the knoll in 2001 for a new housing tract.

#### TEXACO AIRPLANE

A Texaco filling station under an airplane bearing the lettering Royal Albatross was at 12000 Ventura Blvd. in Studio City in the 1940s.

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