



# 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

JANUARY, 2006

## *New Year Greetings: 2006!*

### CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone. We hope everyone had a very a Happy Holiday season. We had a great time at the Historical Society Christmas Party .It was nice to see everyone. Thank you to our photographer Lillian Schepler who always takes such great photos of the house. She not only is our Treasurer but she is our in house photographer.

We are setting one big goal for the New Year and it is to get the cottage painted. Last years rain were very hard on the redwood walls of the cottage. As I have mentioned before because of the lead in the old paint we are not permitted to just paint the cottage. There is a process of lead abatement that needs to be done ( EXPENSIVE).

Councilman Smith mentioned that there is some new grant money that may cover the painting of the cottage. We are starting to work with the Councilman's office for the grant.

We will be having our pruning day in the gardens on February 4th. If you are able to help please come and help us out. We always manage to have fun when we are doing things as a group. Details are later in this issue.

Linda and Andre

### PROGRAM PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR AND A MYSTERY PROGRAM

.... Bea Berman, Program Chair

I can't believe that it's the New Year - 2006 - and plans are underway for another **Garden Festival** in the Spring. The time sure does fly! So mark your calendar for **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006** and more details will be forthcoming as the time grows closer.

The Holidays came and guess where I was - in bed with the flu, and being Program Chairman was the furthest thing from my mind. So now I am scrambling for a program for our January meeting on **Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at the Homestead Acre**. I have several options - so join us for a Mystery Program since I haven't yet decided which it will be!

### FUNDRAISER ....Linda

Thanks to Rick and Jerry of Chatsworth Florist we have had another successful fundraiser. We earned a net of \$2, 765.00 by selling tickets for the tour of their home. The

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

two evenings were a great success. Everyone who came had a great time. The house was beautifully decorated and, to the surprise of everyone who came last year, everything was different.

Thank you to everyone who helped out. Loretta and Rod Sandoval made cookies, fudge and other goodies and helped out both nights serving the wine and sodas. Elaine Campbell, Betty Summers, Virginia Watson, Bea Berman, Jelena Cysani and Henriette Cavillier helped bake, serve and clean up. Mindy Berman designed and provided our tickets this year for us. We always have the best looking tickets. Ann and Ray Vincent also paid to have more tickets printed for us.

Dennis McCarthy of the Daily News did a nice article on Rick and Jerry - about their home tours and how they help three organizations raise funds. Their generosity is appreciated by all of us. Stop by the Chatsworth Florist, say hi and tell them thanks.

#### **ROSE PRUNING NEEDED....Virginia**

**O**ur more than 300 rose bushes need their yearly pruning and we have planned a special day for the event. Save **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** to come and help us prune. Bring your own clippers and gloves. We hope to have a rose pruning demonstration at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9a.m. to get us started.

Other groups are planning to help. The San Fernando Valley Rose Society, the Heritage Rose Society and the Cherry Blossom Garden Club all have said they will send volunteers to help us prune. Betty and Jim Summers, in charge of our gardens at The Acre, will assign volunteers to special areas.

#### **CHS PLANS BUS TRIP TO AHMANSON RANCH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2**

.....Virginia

**W**ould you like to see the new Ahmanson Ranch Park? A trip is planned for **Wednesday, January, 25<sup>th</sup>** to enjoy the new Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve,

the new name for the 2,983-acre former Ahmanson Ranch.

Call **Virginia at 818.341.3053** and get your name and telephone number on the list to go on this trip.

Reservations are a must. There is no charge for the trip, however we plan to stop for lunch at the Sagebrush Cantina in Calabasas after the 1 p.m. bus pickup at the park entrance. We should be back at The Acre by 3 p.m. The bus will hold 47 people so you may invite your friends. First come, first served..

We will meet at The Homestead Acre at 9:30 in order for the bus to leave at 10.am. Cars may be left at The Acre.

We are indebted to our Councilman Greig Smith and his office for the use of the bus. One of our members, Cheryl Pinnaro, has arranged for the tour with Joan at the park as our tour guide. Come and have fun with us!

#### **CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL FAMILY**

....Virginia

**H**istory is a constantly changing story as new information is learned and added to our accumulated knowledge of what happened in the past. I have been researching Chatsworth History since 1960 and am still learning new facts about our area.

At this time I would like to tell you a little about the Pioneer Francisco Miranda Family whose adobe home is still standing in our area. It is located near the big parking lot beside the Chapel at Oakwood Memorial Park, 22601 Lassen Street, Chatsworth.

I do not have an exact date when Francisco Miranda and his wife Antonia Maria Salas {Solas}-Miranda first came to the area but I have recently been talking with a great granddaughter and she has some information she is sending me which may give us an idea. I do know from research that the family lived in the area and was part of the committee of

residents petitioning for a county school in 1880. Maria Antonio Solas-Miranda was descended from one of the first families of Los Angeles, the Jose Maria Larios family. The Miranda family had 13 children. They were Julia, Ramon, Frank, Dolores, Lupe, Ross, Margaret, Inez, Rose, Antonio, Theodore, Jennie and William H. Miranda.

Franciso Miranda, died on May 25, 1906 at the home of one his daughters and was buried in the recently-restored Pioneer Memorial Cemetery {established in 1874 as Morningside Cemetery} and his remains were later transferred to Oakwood Memorial Park, according to Gerri Mares, his great granddaughter. Mrs. Mares will be sending information to me to copy for the Chatsworth Historical Society's collection.

I plan to make a special display to show the pictures and records that we will be acquiring. I hope to have the display ready for our Garden Festival on Sunday, April 30th for everyone to enjoy.

Historical Note: Some of the research on the family was done by the late Bobbette Fleischler, representing the San Fernando Valley Historical Society, as part of the work of the Santa Susana Pass Historical District Committee, a group of representatives from the Chatsworth Historical Society, the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and the San Fernando Valley Historical Society. Other members included Pauline Aue (deceased), Nancy Razanski, Donna Afflerbach, Jan Hinkston, and I (Virginia Watson) was chair of the group. Late a few more persons were added to the group that was active in the 1990's

## **CHERRY BLOSSOM GARDEN CLUB TO TOUR ACRE AND PLANT TREE**

....Virginia

**M**embers of The Cherry Blossom Garden Club will be the guests of the Chatsworth Historical Society on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at

The Homestead Acre.

Minnie Hill Palmer was a member of the Cherry Blossom Garden Club and so the Club is donating a Loquat Tree. Betty and Jim Summers have arranged to have the hole dug so the tree can be planted ceremoniously that day.

The garden club will hold their meeting in the museum beginning at 10 a.m. and Virginia Watson will show slides and tell the history of the area. for the program. Luncheon will follow and then the tree planting.

Last November the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Topanga Parlour, donated a Cumquat tree to the CHS. A ceremony was held with Eleanor Dobbins, president of the Parlour and other members attending. Minnie Hill Palmer was also a member of the Native Daughters Topanga Parlour. And there was both a Loquat and a Cumquat Tree at The Acre when the CHS first became Conservator of the property. Both trees died and these two new trees are replacing the original trees. CHS members who attended the tree planting are Betty and Jim Summers, Elaine Campbell, Tom Harrison and Virginia Watson.

---

## **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN in the Valley**

(From Americansuburbs.com)....Linda

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

### **TICK TOCK**

The Toluca Lake version of the longtime Hollywood landmark was at 10123 Riverside Drive. Repeat customers loved the hot rolls.

### **TWIN LAKES PARK**

Twin Lakes Park was a boating and fishing resort in the hills of the Santa Susana Mountains north of Chatsworth.

In the 1920s and 30s, there were a pair of lakes with Mayan-themed lodges and home lots for sale. See

brochure at CSUN Digital Archive.

#### VALLEY GARDEN ARENA

The arena at 7111 Vineland Avenue was the home in the 1950s and 60s to boxing and other sports, including the Los Angeles Braves of Roller Derby.

#### VALLEY MARKET TOWN

Shopping center at 6127 Sepulveda Blvd. near Oxnard Street was a popular spot for postwar families after it opened in 1947. The center offered free baby sitting and dog kennels and featured the Sepulveda Drive-in Theater. By 1954 the complex had been renamed Mr. Carter's Market Place, after businessman Victor M. Carter.

#### VALLEY MUSIC THEATER

The theater at 20600 Ventura Blvd. was supposed to be the first local performing art hall with serious ambitions. Designed as a theater-in-the-round, it was built by pouring a concrete dome over a dirt mound, then excavating away the soil. Bob Hope and other local celebrities backed the venture, which opened July 6, 1964, with a gala premiere of *The Sound of Music*. Such fare never caught on. Rock music was tried and on February 22, 1967, the Byrds, Buffalo Springfield and the Doors put on a memorable show. But it wasn't enough. Boxing came next, but to no avail. In 1980 the theater became a Jehovah's Witness assembly hall.

#### VALLEY TIMES

Newspaper covered the Valley out of North Hollywood from 1946 to about 1964, some of that time as a daily. Its photograph archive is held in the collection of the Los Angeles Public library.

#### VALLEY VISUAL CHURCH

In the 1950s, churches could not open fast enough to meet demand. The Visual Church met in an Encino movie theater at 16342 Ventura Blvd. Almost the entire service, including the sermon, was presented on film. The Reverend Dorland P. Dryer would address the congregation between films from a pulpit at the side of the screen.

#### VAN NUYS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE

At the outbreak of World War II, Metropolitan Field on Woodley Avenue was rechristened as Van Nuys Army Airfield. Among the units stationed there was the 115th Observation Squadron, a National Guard unit that moved from the airfield at Griffith Park. After the war, the base became Van Nuys Airport and the Air National Guard Function moved to quarters on Balboa Blvd. The 146th Tactical Airlift Wing in 1990 completed a move to Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Ventura County. The Van Nuys base is now being torn down.

#### VEGA AIRCRAFT

Vega's plant opened on 30 acres adjacent to Lockheed in Burbank in 1941 and merged into the giant company two years later.

---