



# 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

MARCH, 2006

## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The Historical Society provided **Save Chatsworth Inc.** a letter of support in their effort to receive a Matching Fund Beautification Grant to clean up Horner Park. Horner park is an equestrian and hiker-friendly park north of the 118 off Canoga Ave. with a spectacular view of the Valley. We are happy to say that they received the grant.

Andre and I met the group at the park a couple of weeks ago to see what the plans were. They were going to clean up debris and non native plants. The park has been used as a dumping ground for asphalt, cement chunks, trash and, at one time, old cars. The cars have already been removed. Due to the size of some of the concrete chunks, Andre suggested involving the city for their assistance under a new program whereby the project only pays for overtime of city personnel in removing the large debris items. If you have a chance, try to visit this new park in our community and support Save Chatsworth's efforts to keep Chatsworth rural.

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board of Directors 2005-2006

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  
Permanent Member.....Lila Schepler 341-3447

Building will soon commence north of Twin Lakes and there will be approximately 344 homes built. Despite community efforts to stop the development, Canoga Avenue will be made wider and more traffic will be coming down Topanga, Canoga and other community streets. The effort to clean up this park will at least be a bright side in our ever-changing beautiful mountains.

Bea is busy getting ready for our Garden Festival. Remember to mark the date April 30th.

Linda and Andre

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

It's that time of year again and plans are underway for our annual **GARDEN FESTIVAL, SUNDAY, APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**, 11 a.m to 4 p.m., at the Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South.

### THERE WILL BE TWO NEW FEATURES THIS YEAR.....

A quilt display from the Veterans Quilt Project,  
and

An "Old Timers" family reunion in the Museum, hosted by Virginia Watson, and featuring members from the early Johnson, Hill, and Miranda families.

See you there!

As usual, we will have many entertaining things. We always have our Vendor Booths; Plant Sale; Bake Sale; White Elephant Sale; and



of course, our Great Polynesian Dancers from **Chatsworth Dance Centre**. And the Duchess' High Tea is something that should not be missed. Artist **Susan Rios** will have her paintings on display and for sale, with special signings by Susan.

We can always use more help with freshly-baked goods and your White Elephant items that are like new. For further information, please call me (Bea Berman) at 818 341-5449.

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm sorry that some of you missed our February Program. It was great, and hopefully we can again have the R&D Players sometime in the future.

Our March Program should be very interesting. The speaker will be author **William Coate**, and his book title is *Twist in Time*, a collection of illustrated vignettes about various American history topics that have been composed to inform and entertain. So be sure to mark your calendars for **Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, 7:00 p.m. at the Homestead Acre. We are also commemorating the **118<sup>th</sup> birthday of Chatsworth!** So join us for birthday cake.

---

#### **BUS TRIP ALERT!!!!**.....Virginia

There will be another bus trip on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. We are going to visit the **California Oil Museum** in Santa Paula. We will board the bus at 9 a.m. at the Homestead Acre. We should be at the museum at about 10 a.m. when they open. We will be finished with the tour about noon. Then we will take the bus a short distance to the **Airport Museum** in Santa Paula where we will have a tour and then have lunch at the Logsdon Restaurant at the airport. The cost will be \$5 per person to cover the tour fee & driver tip (not including the cost of your lunch). We will collect the \$5 when you board the trip and pay with a check from the CHS at the museum for convenience. For lunch you will pay for what you order. The bus holds 47 people. We

can ask other people to join us on the trip, as we did before.

Andre and Linda have a business in Santa Paula and Andre arranged for us to have the tour. Santa Paula is a quaint little city in the midst of growing and it sounds like a wonderful trip. We will leave Santa Paula about 2 p.m. and be home by about 3:30 pm.

For reservations call 818-341-3053.

---

#### **DOCENT DOINGS**.....Virginia

For the first time our current docents worked our March Open House without supervision. **Elaine Campbell** was the lead docent and led tours of the museum, **Beverly King** gave tours of the house, **Evelyn Hutcheson** greeted people, got them to sign the guest book and was cashier for the day. **Helena Csanyi** and **Tom Harrison** were observers filling in where needed and learning the routine. There were about 25 visitors who signed the guest books and docents reported that they were people who were very interested in our displays and asked a lot of questions.

On our Wednesday-at-the-Acre for Docents and other workers, there was a lot going on. Several old timers worked at identifying streets and landmarks on the 1950's map in the museum. Docents had reported that the visitors seemed to enjoy finding where their homes would have been if they had been there in the 1950's when the aerial view map was made.

The map came from Bill Schepler; it had belonged to his father Frank Schepler, Sr. who was a realtor in the area starting in the 1930's. Helena marked (with paper than can be removed) a few identified streets and buildings (such as the Minnie Hill Palmer House, Railroad Station, Chatsworth Park School etc.) that the old timers knew were there and put information on the map to assist people in finding specific places. Working on the map were; **Betty Summers, Lillian Schepler, Ann Vincent,**



## **Helena and Virginia.**

**Tom Harrison** greased the doors to both of the storage units. The hinges had rusted and were very hard to open. **Jim Summers** worked outside. Docents participated in discussion about the information we distribute to the public and how we go about it. Present were **Beverly King, Evelyn Hutcheson, Karine Panichi, Marilyn Frump** (Marilyn calls board members to remind them of coming meetings), and **Bea Berman**, vice president and chairperson for the coming Garden Festival on April 30<sup>th</sup>, who provided docents with flyers to distribute.

---

## **DATES IN VALLEY HISTORY ( March)**

(From Americassuburb.com).....Linda

**T**hese are some of the dates when notable events in the Valley's past occurred. They come from author Kevin Roderick's research files and the book San Fernando Valley, America's Suburb. Another book by Kevin Roderick is about Wilshire Blvd. The pictures are great of old Wilshire Blvd.

March 9, 1842- Gold nugget uncovered in Placerita Canyon and brought to Mission San Fernando.

March 25, 1869 -French sheep breeder Eugene Garnier buys Rancho Los Encinos.

March 10, 1888 -Chatsworth Park subdivision filed with the county.

March 31, 1903 -Southern Pacific's Coast Line opens across the Valley.

March 7, 1913- Little Lands Colony formed in the foothill area that becomes Tujunga.

March 15, 1915- Universal City, an unusual studio with residents on the Valley side of wild

Cahuenga Pass, opens with a weekend-long celebration.

March 29, 1915 -Residents in most of the Valley vote to join the city of Los Angeles.

March 12, 1928 -St. Francis Dam failure north of the Valley kills more than 450 people.

March 2, 1938 -Heavy rain begins the deadly flooding that led to civil resolve to tame the Los Angeles River with dams and concrete channels

March 3, 1991 -Motorist Rodney King beaten by Los Angeles police officers in Lake View Terrace. A videotape of the incident sets off a chain of events that lead to the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

---

## **FUND-RAISER ANNOUNCED**

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains announced plans for a fund-raiser to be held at the Casa de Carlos Restaurant, 20545 Devonshire St. (corner Mason) on **Saturday, April 29th**. A "Meet and Greet" mixer will be held from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner.

Adults: \$18.95, children: \$8.50 (under 10 yrs.)

The restaurant will donate a percentage of the total to the Foundation.

RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup>. For information, call :  
( 818) 341- 3512.

---