



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor : Keith Watts

APRIL, 2006

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

April is a busy month. Bea Berman is already under way with all the planning for the Garden Festival. I think Bea could plan this event in her sleep; she has it down to a science, and we are lucky to have Bea's organizational skills to get us through this month. Jim and Betty Summers have been working overtime in getting the gardens ready for the Garden Festival and it shows.

We had a great time on our field trip to Santa Paula. The Oil Museum was like a trip back to the early 1900's. The docents and museum director Mike Nelson made us feel welcome while we exchanged stories with our Santa Paula neighbors. Everyone was surprised to learn that Jim Summers was a survivor of The St. Francis Dam disaster. We had lunch at The Santa Paula Airport and continued on to the Airport Museum. From the hangar that housed the Airport Museum we headed over to a hangar that held a collection of radios that was amazing. There were radios from

every era. The Airport Museum and the Radio Museum are open the first Sunday of the month.

This month we have been given two very generous donations. The first is a \$1000.00 grant from Councilman Greig Smith's office for black out shades in the cottage. We thank Councilman Smith for his continued support over the years. The second is also a \$1000.00 donation, from Wells Fargo Bank, for our many needs at the Acre. These two donations are deeply appreciated.

We hope to see everyone at The Garden Festival on Sunday, April 30.

Andre and Linda

COMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

.....Bea Berman, Chairman

It's almost here! Make your plans for Sunday, April 30th, and join us for our annual GARDEN FESTIVAL at the Homestead Acre from 11:00- 4:00 p.m.. You're in for a treat. Our Duchess' Tea is great, and we have arts & crafts; Garden Clubs; White Elephant Sale; Bake and Plant Sale and entertainment by the Chatsworth Dance Center The famous artist Susan Rios will be signing and selling her paintings. Hope to see you all there! We still need help as well as baked goods and new-condition white elephant goods.

Now for our program news . The last program

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2005-2006

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Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
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Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-344

was a great success and our next one should also be very entertaining. We are having Mary Lou Pozzo (from Little Landers) talk about her new book called *Founding Sisters*, Life Stories of Tujunga's Early Women Pioneers from 1886-1926. Remember: Tuesday, April 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

Let's have a good turnout.

PIONEER RECEPTION PLANNED.....Virginia

This year the CHS is planning a special reception to take place at the Garden Festival. Descendants and relatives of the people who settled our area, and a few old-timers, have been invited to come to the Museum from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m Sunday, April 30 to visit and participate in a short program followed by refreshments. It is an opportunity for the guests to interact with each other, to bring items to show each other and to tell about their own family memories. It is also a chance to view the current displays of the building of the three local railroad tunnels and the showcases with pictures and memorabilia of the early families of our area. The Pioneer Family display will be changed after the Garden Festival when the CHS installs new cases and new carpeting in the Museum. The new cases are a welcome grant from the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council.

THE FOUNDING OF CHS.....Virginia Watson

Did you know that the Chatsworth Historical Society was formed on April 17, 1963 at the home of Kathryn and Kelly Johnson?

Representatives of the various clubs in town were invited to the meeting by Evie Bowers, who was president of the then new Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, and Kathryn Johnson and Virginia Watson, from the Chatsworth Women's Club. Keith Watts represented the Chatsworth

Homeowner's Association and Sheila Watts was to have represented the Chatsworth Junior Women's Club, but was unable to attend.

The congregation of the Chatsworth Community Church had sold the building and moved up Topanga Blvd. highway near Stoney Point, leaving the little 1903 church building behind. The primary purpose of the meeting was to decide on ways to preserve and move the church building, as it was scheduled to be destroyed by the new property owner. But the Chatsworth Historical Society was formed that night and went on to preserve it and other historical sites and memorabilia.

This month we are remembering the 43rd anniversary of that event.

DATES IN VALLEY HISTORY (April)

From Americassuburb.com.....Linda

APRIL 16, 1873- Emma Johnson becomes the first child of American settlers born in the Valley.

APRIL 24, 1874- San Fernando station opens on Southern Pacific Railroad.

APRIL 11, 1926- San Fernando Valley Veterans Hospital opens in Sylmar.

APRIL 29, 1944 - Bing Crosby's rendition of "San Fernando Valley" hits #1 in Billboard magazine.

APRIL 21, 1952- Burbank cited as gangster hotbed by the California Crime Commission.

APRIL 15, 1954- Hollywood Freeway to the Valley dedicated.

APRIL 5, 1991 - City of Calabasas incorporates.

Our field trip to the historic Santa Paula area is described elsewhere in this issue. A feature of the trip was a conducted tour of the California Oil Museum. This architecturally- significant and historic building, in the Queen Anne style, .has been completely restored to its original detail and function. It was built in 1890 by the Union Oil Company, and served several years as their main headquarters. It now houses a museum of the petroleum industry, relating to the early oil fields in the Santa Paula area. It also has occasional exhibits of science, history and art

The following photo was taken of the Oil Museum by Helena Csanyi, as Historical Society members exited the building as their tour groups completed the tours. See if you can spot yourself in this long distance photo.

