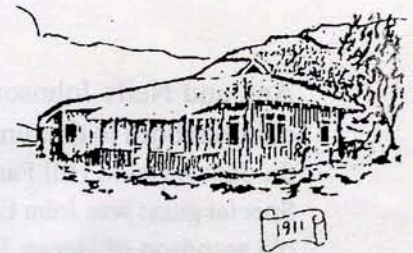


Smoke Signal



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

MAY, 2006

PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR MAY 16

Usually in May we have our installation of Board of Directors, but last year, we opted to change to two-year terms, so this will be our second year in office, requiring no installation. So join us for a great program of oral history. At our Garden Festival, Virginia Watson invited members, from the early families in Chatsworth, to a reception in the Museum. Ann Vincent was nice enough to video some of the stories about the early days and will show them at the May program meeting on Tuesday, May 16th, 7:00 p.m. This will be our final meeting until the Fall, so we hope to see you all there.

Bea Berman, Program Chairman

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2005-2007

Co-Presidents.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
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Hospitality.....
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-1775

GARDEN FESTIVAL REDUX

.....Bea Berman, Chairman

Another event is over and I am already spinning my wheels about Pioneer Day which is

Sunday, October 8th.

The Garden Festival was a huge success. (I prayed for good weather and we got it.) I have so many people to thank for helping make it so great. I certainly could not have done it alone. I appreciate all the effort everyone put in.

The Duchess Tea was fantastic and I have to thank Jelena for handling it. It was her first time and she did a beautiful job. I also have to thank my daughters Randi and Adrienne for helping make the sandwiches and taking care of the tickets, and my granddaughter Jessica for being such a good waitress. Linda and Andre for all their work and support; Virginia for the reception which was a great hit; Betty and Jim for all the work in the gardens; Lillian for taking care of the money and information booth; Elaine for the famous White Elephant table; Loretta & Rod Sandoval for their famous baked goods and of course, everyone else who pitched in. If I forgot someone, please forgive me. Oh yes, Ann & Ray Vincent for all their work. I'm sure I'll have more as I go along. Again, thanks for everything and making me look good as chairman.

RECEPTION A SUCCESSVirginia Watson

The Pioneer Reception, held in conjunction with our Annual Garden Festival, was successful and well attended by the various relatives of our Pioneer Chatsworth families.

They came from near and far and represented

Ann and Neils Johnson and relatives from the ten children born to that union, the N. A Gray family and the James David Hill Family,

Special guest was John Edward "Ed" Ahlstrom, 96-year old grandson of Hanna Johnson Ahlstrom, and his two sons, John and Russell, and their families. Ed came down from Citrus Heights in Northern California and remembered many interesting events about his childhood and growing up in Chatsworth. The next day Ann Vincent and I were able to interview him with family members helping. The video tape from that interview will be our CHS program for May.

Mary Huff, author and descendant of Mary Eleanor Johnson started out the program and showed a candlestick that had been given to Ann Willden Johnson by her mother when she first married Niels. Mary also showed a flat skimmer used to skim the cream off the milk (to make butter) which had also belonged to her great grandmother.

She told about Mrs. Willden sharing the feathers from her own mattress so that Ann and Niels could have a feather bed.

Katherine and Kelly Johnson's son Ray and his wife Dorothy came and Ray reminisced. His parents were two of the founder's of our Society.

Bill Pogue, one of the younger Johnson cousins, spoke of growing up with the extended family and how much he appreciated the family. Lila Schepler, a founding member and guiding light of the CHS, spoke remembering her early years of working for Grandpa Johnson as an employee in his bee business. Daughter Louise Schepler Mitchell accompanied Lila and helped with the reception

Margaret Willheight and her sister represented the N.A. Gray family and gave us an insight into their family of thirteen children.

Mel Woodward and his wife Georgia, Minnie Hill Palmer's grand nephew, came early and had to leave early, but promised to come back soon.

New to our membership were the representatives of the Francisco Miranda family, who homesteaded the land that is now Oakwood Memorial Park. Research allowed us to become acquainted with Gerri and Ernest Mares of San Diego and Vicki Norton and her family from Mission Hills.

Gerri told about her recent research and loaned the Historical Society pictures and copies of documents and an apron for the display. Vicki Norton gave the CHS

pictures and documents showing the blending of the Miranda family with the historic Lyon family of Newhall and San Fernando.

Many thanks to the committee who worked on the reception: Ann, Jelena, Evelyn, Karine, Lillian, Elaine, Tom, Leuse Mitchell and Lila. Also Bea Berman who loaned her recipe for the punch and made it. Linda and Andre van der Valk for the refreshments, decorations and help with the program. Special thanks to Betty and Jim Summers for helping to put the invitation list together and for their knowledge and memories of former residents.

DATES IN VALLEY HISTORY (May)

From Americassuburb.com.....Linda

MAY 31, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signs order granting ownership of Mission San Fernando to the Catholic Church.

MAY 2, 1875 Rancho Tujunga sold to lawyer Andrew Glassell for \$4,525.

MAY 25, 1923 City of Los Angeles buys Casa de Cahuenga site on Lankershim Blvd for historic park.

MAY 12, 1929 Pickwick Airways begins service to San Francisco from Grand Central Airport.

MAY 27, 1931 Flood control dam in Big Tujunga Canyon dedicated.

MAY 9, 1945 Plans for development of a new planned community, Panorama City, are announced the day after World War II ends in Europe.

MAY 1, 1960 Secret Lockheed U2 surveillance plane shot down over Soviet Union. Pilot Francis Gary Powers is captured and showcased before being released in a trade for an Eastern bloc spy.

IN MEMORIUM

Linda Menary recently passed away. She was a good and reliable friend to the Society. She was very helpful and was always able to provide horses and other items for our various events. Our heartfelt condolences to her family.



Long view showing the vendor booths in the background and casual attendees under the walnut tree.



Information and exhibit booths in the background with casual diners in the foreground.



Lineup at the entrance to the Duchess' Tea Room. 130 servings of sandwiches, cakes and tea were served to satisfied customers.



Food and beverage counter in the background served hot dogs and cold drinks.



Polynesian dances were performed by young dancers of the Chatsworth Dance Center in lavishly -appointed costumes.



Longtime Chatsworth residents cool off in the shade after sharing reminiscences of early days at the "Old Timers" reception.