



Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net



SEPTEMBER 2006

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor: Keith Watts

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

Everything is coming together at the Homestead Acre. The Rec. and Park Dept. has started the work on the foundation and pretty soon we will be ready to paint the cottage. We have been advised that we may have to pay for the painting of the cottage ourselves due to the city budget restraints. They also will be fixing the time capsule that was damaged by vandalism a few years back. The cottage will get new screens and then hopefully we will be done.

The last couple of years the Acre has seen some major improvements which our budget would never have been able to pay for. The sprinklers and the lead abatement would have been well over \$100,000 for those two projects. We are very thankful to the Rec. and Park Dept. and Councilman Greig Smith for helping us preserve our historical landmark. The new display cases cost approx. \$5,800.00, which the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council paid for. We are fortunate that people recognize how important the Acre is to the community.

I hope everyone comes to see us and our new improvements at Membership Round-Up on Sept. 10th. (the paint will not be done by then). We are also going to have some special guests who we will thank for helping us with our renovations.

Linda and André

MEMBERSHIP ROUND-UP Sunday, September 10th 4:00 pm at the Homestead Acre

RSVP (818) 882-5614 ASAP

Please bring your favorite accompanying side dish, salad or dessert to share.

By Bea Berman, Ways & Means Chairman

It's amazing how fast time flies. Not too long ago we were discussing plans for our membership round-up, Sunday Sept 10th. Guess what! In a few weeks it will be here.

Join us on Sunday, September 10th, 4:00 pm at the Homestead Acre for the start of a new year. André will be grilling his wonderful tri-tip, and Linda will be making her great mashed potatoes. All we ask of you is to bring a salad or dessert to feed eight people. We will furnish drinks and all the paper goods and utensils. We will also have entertainment by Art and Glen with their wonderful guitar playing. Hope you can all make it.

PIONEER DAY Sunday, October 8th 11 am – 4 pm at the Homestead Acre

By Bea Berman, Ways & Means Chairman

It's almost time for our annual Pioneer Day, Sunday, October 8th. We hope everyone can make it and tell your friends.

We are still looking for chili cooks for our mini chili cook-off. If you are interested, please contact me. You have a CHANCE OF WINNING A TROPHY AND \$50.00 FIRST PRIZE. Also, we need items for our bake sale. If you have any like-new or new items to donate for our White Elephant booth, we would appreciate them.

If you need any other information, please contact me at (818) 341-5449. As you can see, this is a busy time for the Historical Society. Don't forget to join us at our upcoming events.

Bea Berman, Ways & Means Chairman

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
Recording 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

Wednesday-at-the-Acre has proven to be a valuable innovation for the Society with many hours of volunteer time used up in every day practices. A docent is a teacher who helps tell the story of the museum either as a tour guide or contributes to the history of the monument by helping the curator with her duties. Docents also distribute flyers and information to visitors, and help make displays or assist in caring for artifacts and furniture or collections. They help with the Smoke Signal (folding, taping, attaching address labels and stamps) and other clerical and housekeeping duties for the museum and the cottage. They also help with festivals and money-making projects, input data into our computer, work in the library and help with the costume collection. We also have garden docents who especially help with the deadheading, weeding and planting. They work closely with the Garden Directors Jim and Betty Summers.

At the present time there are 15 docents. Workers meet every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon. But not all of them come every week. Some come only occasionally and help out as needed.

All of the docents are trained in the history of the Hill family, other Pioneer families and Chatsworth or North Valley history and can give guided tours usually after they have been coming four or five weeks.

PIONEER DAY

DID YOU KNOW?

Spread the word.....Avoid the crowds.

PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE TRAIN DEPOT FOR THE EVENT.

Shuttle service available.
Parking is available on site, however additional parking will be provided at the Chatsworth Train Station with shuttles every 20 minutes to the Acre for Pioneer Day.

Future Historical Society Dates:

**Please mark these dates
on your calendar
and plan to join us:**

October Program – Tuesday Oct, 17th

November Program – Tues, Nov. 21st

December Christmas Party – December

January Program – Tues. Jan. 16th

February Program – Tues. Feb. 20th

AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Video footage of the Pioneer Reception held at the Garden Festival on May 30, 2006 has been converted to DVD format and is available for \$5.00 per DVD. (member's price) \$10:00 for non members This informative DVD features descendants from our early Pioneer Families with presentations and discussions of their history here in Chatsworth.

Submitted by Elaine Campbell

Do you remember going barefoot
playing croquet on the lawn,
the sound of crickets at night
and a roosters crow at dawn?

Do you remember 10 cent movies
And ice skating in the park?
Playing ball and hide and seek
even after it got dark?

Do you remember home made ice cream,
fresh butter from the churn
and the multiplication tables
the teachers made us learn?

Do you remember playing hop scotch
and rope swings in a tree?
If you remember all of this
I guess you're as old as me!!

*I won an award for the above at the woman's club art festival.
It is especially appropriate for those of us who were born and
raised in the Midwest.*

DONATIONS:

New Additions to the Historical Library include several Roy Rodgers – King of the Cowboys episodes (VHS format) donated by the Chatsworth Public Library

Old Wives Tales and Hints

Elaine Campbell

Keeping house is like stringing beads with no knot in the end of the thread

handwriting can be obliterated by rubbing gently with a cloth soaked in household bleach

Screws too tight? To loosen easily, try heating edge of the screwdriver

A piece of chalk in your jewelry box will prevent tarnish

The quickest way to find something you have lost around the house is to replace it

Put whole cloves in the pockets of wool garments to discourage moths

Grinding a handful of rice in your coffee grinder will leave it as clean as a whistle

While it may be true that a watched pot never boils, the one you don't keep an eye on can make an awful mess of your stove

Don't throw away those birthday or anniversary cards! Any

Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

October 29, at 2 p.m.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will present a living history event about the History of the Mexican War in California 1846-1848. on Sunday, October 29, at 2 p.m. The event will be held at the Saugus Train Station in Heritage Junction (on San Fernando Road in Newhall.)

It is to be a demonstration complete with military uniforms and the firing of antique cannons from the period 1760-1850. Program is planned by Vice President and Program Chairman Alan Pollack, MD.

There is no charge for the event and included will be information about naval Lt. Edward F. Beale, Andres Pico, and General Stephan Watts Kearney.

For more information email: alan@scvhistory.com. or call (661) 254-1275



Confirm your last renewal date at the bottom of your mailing label.

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We invite you to join or renew your membership to support our homestead acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Return this cutoff with your membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

Chatsworth Historical Society

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

New Member **Renewal**

Yearly:

Individual \$15.00

Dual/Family \$20.00

Organization \$100.00

Life Membership:

\$ 125.00

NAME _____ Phone: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ Email: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

DATES IN VALLEY HISTORY

in the Valley

(From www.americassuburb.com)

Continued from previous month

SEPT. 5, 1876

Golden spike driven at Lang Station on the far side of the Newhall Pass opens the Southern Pacific railroad north from San Fernando. Train travel between the Valley and Northern California becomes possible.

SEPT. 5, 1975

Lynette (Squeaky) Fromme, a follower of Charles Manson who had lived at Spahn Ranch in Chatsworth, tries to shoot President Gerald Ford.

SEPT. 8, 1797

Founding Mass held at Mission San Fernando, Rey de Espana.

SEPT. 12, 1949

First Valley College classes are held in temporary quarters at Van Nuys High.

SEPT. 15, 1874

State Senator Charles Maclay files a plot map for San Fernando, the first town founded in the Valley.

SEPT. 16, 1959

Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, visits the Valley at the height of the Cold War tension.

SEPT. 18, 1962

First flight of the Pregnant Guppy airplane, at Van Nuys Airport.

SEPT. 20, 1889

Miguel Leonis, notorious Calabasas rancher and troublemaker, dies in a fall from his wagon in Cahuenga Pass.

SEPT. 24, 1909

A syndicated of investors led by Los Angeles Times owner Harrison Gray Otis pays 2.5 million for 47,500 acres that used to belong to the Lankershim family ranching empire.

SEPT. 24, 1956

First classes held at San Fernando Valley State College, later CSUN.

SEPT. 27, 1930

Sepulveda Boulevard tunnel under Mulholland Highway completed.

SEPT. 27, 1942

Motion Picture Home dedicated at Calabasas.

(From www.americassuburb.com)

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