



Smoke

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

Editor : Keith Watts

NOVEMBER, 2007



Veteran's Day ... LEST WE FORGET...

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is amazing that it is already November. The holidays will be upon us before we know it. We all managed to survive Pioneer Day and, again thanks to Bea Berman, it was a successful day. The weather was a bit of a challenge but we managed to make approximately \$3,500, which is less than half of what it takes to run the Acre for a year. But with other

generous donations and the Garden Festival, we manage to have the funds we need. We would like to thank Vicki Briskman and Dan Huffman for their generous donations on Pioneer Day. We would also like to thank Buck from The Much Box for sponsoring the Chili Cook-Off. Also to thank Norm Johnson for his generosity to the museum.

On a personal note we would like to thank our family for the help they gave in the snack bar at Pioneer Day. Our son James and our son-in-law Rick manned the snack bar along with Gary Bercow. Our daughter Linda and daughter-in-law Amanda helped with the cash box. Our granddaughters Hunter and Bryce also helped with the cash and are learning to make change like pros. Our grandson Charlie, our granddaughter Brooke and the Huftman boys, John and Kenney, were busy eating the Tootsie Roll profits. Even my sister Janine is involved with the plant sale and she lives in Saugus. Our son Tim came at the end and helped with clean up, but with the Huftman boys working so hard there was not much left to do.

Bea's family always is a great help. From her granddaughter Jessica, who says she is in training to take over from Grannie, her daughters Randi, Addie, Mindy and her son-in-law Gary are always ready to pitch in and do what ever is needed. I would like to extend a big Thank You to Jelena Csanyi who worked with me non-stop in getting the museum ready. She hung the pictures on the wall, worked on the display cases and always has a bag of tricks to get things done.

Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2005-2007

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 Directors.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Director-at-Large.....	Beverly King	
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341 3447

Our Dynamite Shed is in the Planning and Land Use Committee waiting to be added to the Minnie Hill Palmer, Los Angeles Cultural Landmark status. I believe the vote will be taken on November 12th and than will go to the full L.A. City Council for approval. We have lost the Weeping Willow Tree at the Acre after the winds. Jim and Betty discovered it when they went on their daily check of the Acre. In good health or bad, Jim and Betty go everyday to make sure that everything is okay. They make sure that everything is being watered properly, check on the plants and the trees. Betty cannot go by without bending over and pulling a few weeds and Jim always finds something to fix.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving I would like to thank all of our docents, board members, families and friends who help keep The Chatsworth Historical Society going. Happy Thanksgiving

Linda and Andre

**There will not be a Smoke Signal in December.

**Christmas Party Tuesday, December 11th.

PROGRAM REMINDER - November 20, 7:00 p.m.

"Standing on the Corner Watching the Years Go By"

Members Ann and Ray Vincent will present a pictorial history of Chatsworth with the above nostalgic title. Featuring the Janess photo collection, they will show pictures of local businesses and street corners from 1947 to 1963. The Vincents say this will be an interactive presentation where participants can share information they recall about the buildings and locations presented. Please join us as we step back through time. If you have historical photos of buildings and early Chatsworth landscapes, please bring them to the meeting. If you wish we will scan and add them to our collection and then return them to you.

Don't forget the program in the museum on Nov. 20!

VIRGINIA WATSON CHATSWORTH MUSEUM

.....Linda

On October 7th, Pioneer Day, our Chatsworth Museum was renamed The Virginia Watson

Chatsworth Museum. Councilman Greig Smith, Mitch Englander, Greig's Chief of Staff and Millie Jones, representing Supervisor Antonovich, were on hand for the unveiling of the new sign.

I was at the Acre one day talking to Dan Huffman who had just walked around and noticed our plaques in memorial for some of our members. Dan commented that we should do something for Virginia now and he came up with the idea of renaming the museum. The board of the Historical Society was asked what they thought and everyone thought it was a great idea. Dan contacted the Councilman's office and proceeded to find someone to make the sign. As we all know, when Dan has an idea everyone gets involved including his wife Kim, and it gets done.

The sign was done in time to present it on Pioneer Day and it was a moving moment with Virginia's two daughters, her brother, her granddaughters, two of her great grandchildren and her nephew in attendance. I don't know how we did it but we did manage to surprise Virginia. Virginia was one of the founding members of the Historical Society and has devoted over forty years to researching and preserving the history of Chatsworth. I don't think there is anyone that knows Chatsworth history more than Virginia does. No wonder she is called Ms. Chatsworth.

Congratulations Virginia!

PIONEER DAY RECAP

.....Bea Berman, Chairman

It's been a month since our Pioneer Day and even tho the weather did not cooperate, we still had a success thanks to all our dedicated supporters. I think this is the first time the wind was so bad, and early on we had no electricity, but DWP was there to fix it, as well as having an information booth at the event. My thank you list goes on and on and the day could not have been complete without all the volunteers who really worked to make me look good as chairman.

Our blacksmith could not light his fire but still kept the kids occupied. Gold panning was a big hit

and the Rock Chippers and Wood Carvers are always a delight.

In the absence of Leon Brown, Diana Dixon Davis pitched in and taught Origami. Thanks to Hannah Almstead for bringing all the quilts, but again, the wind did not let the kids design the squares.

Loretta and Rod Sandovol manned and made most of the baked goods. Elaine Campbell and her daughter Janis are pros at the White elephant booth. Irene Nalbandian and Ingrid Lindquist are my dependables at the gate. Ann and Ray Vincent kept the kids occupied with their railroad ties.

Lillian Schepler took care of the information booth and Virginia Watson handled the museum.

Lila Schepler and Beverly King gave tours of the cottage and a great big thanks to Kathy Reynolds and husband who did such a great job handling the kids. Betty and Jim Summers and Janine Bergez did a great job with the plants.

There are several people I especially want to thank because without them, I couldn't function. Jelena Cysani was my right hand and did whatever I asked. Of course, Linda and Andre are my sounding board and do all the shopping and schlepping. Their kids, as well as my son-in-law Gary, took care of the hot dogs, soft drinks, etc.. Tom Harrison was our handyman and was always around.

A thanks to my daughter Mindy for doing the flyers. Our Chili cook-off was great, but again, I would have liked to have more cooks. Everyone promises, but when the time comes, some don't show. My thanks to Buck from the Munch Box for sponsoring the trophy and giving a donation towards the prize money, as well as being a judge.

A special thanks to Councilman Greig Smith for taking time out of his busy schedule to be one of our chili judges. I had nothing to do with the outcome - but I am boasting - my daughter Randi won First Prize, and a new entry this year, Egremont School, came in Second and Tim Imel came in Third.

If I forgot anyone, please forgive me.

Again, thank you all for everything.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us for our annual Christmas Party for the Historical Society. It will be held on Tuesday, December 11th at Linda and Andre's house and start at 7:00PM. The address is 10524 Eton Ave. Everyone has a great time and it gives us all a chance to get together without having to do any work. We will not be having a Smoke Signal in December so please mark down the date now.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

We are grateful for the new memberships and renewals recently, and this is a reminder to those Annual Members who have not yet paid their dues for the current 2007-2008 year. We know that you would like to continue participating in the benefits of membership and receive the monthly Smoke Signal newsletter. So please get current with your dues by sending a check to the address in the heading of this newsletter. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please call 818-882-5614 and leave a message..
