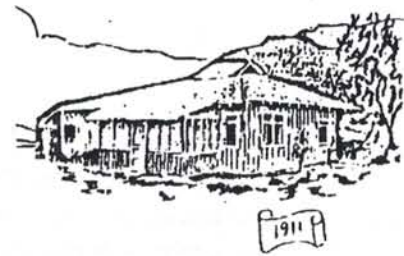


Smoke Signal



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

Editor : Keith Watts

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It appears that the Thanksgiving feast held on Thursday, Nov. 23, 1776 was not very different from the meals held by today's families, according to "Founding Fathers:"

Colonial families in America celebrated Thanksgiving with a dinner that might include everything from maple-roasted turkey with riesling gravy to sweet potato spoon bread, succotash, cranberry relish, and apple pandowdy (a free-form apple pie.....)

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The holidays are upon us and we hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday. It has been an interesting year for Chatsworth and we are looking forward to a calmer year. The park closure has not had as big an impact on us as we thought. Hopefully there will be funds next year to mitigate the lead problem and open up the park to our community.

We are always fearful of fires at the Acre and we have had our share this year. Everyone asks if we have evacuation plans. We do: Andre talks his way past the police and we go in and take all the pictures and keepsakes that we can grab. We are going to see if we can get the sprinkler system back on the roof of the cottage and install one on the roof of the museum. We have been

lucky that the fire department in the past has always staged in the park's parking lot. This makes them closeby to protect the Acre.

We hope everyone is able to come to our Holiday Party on December 16th; invitation and details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Happy Holidays,
Linda and Andre

FOR THOSE OF US BORN BEFORE 1935

(Author unknown)

WE ARE SURVIVORS!!! Consider the changes we have witnessed:

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and "The Pill."

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms,

laser beams and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes – and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware; and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. "McDonald's" and instant coffee were unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the: Theatre.

. We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 cent stores where you bought things for five and ten cents. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one; a pity, too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, Coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principle's office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today!

BUT WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason to celebrate?

LOCATION RANCHES

(Excerpt from "The San Fernando Valley, America's Suburb" by Kevin Roderick)Linda

With land plentiful, filming ventured off the studio lots to large location ranches across the Valley. Warner Brother's ranch in Woodland Hills and Calabasas grew to cover 2,800 rugged acres of oak trees and rocky grassland. Harry Warner used a corner of the ranch to raise thoroughbred horses.

No location was busier than the Iverson Ranch, set amid the rocks of Santa Susana Pass. More than 2,000 motion pictures and perhaps hundreds of early television episodes were shot on Karl Iverson's spread, after its craggy canyons and picturesque boulder fields were discovered by location scouts.

The Iverson was notorious among the actors for heat and dust - and rattlesnakes. Lillian Gish said that in the spring actors were given a vial full of poison antidote in case they were bitten. "I'd say about 90% of all cowboy movies were made on this ranch," Sunset Carson, who performed in 60 westerns, told the L.A. Times at a reunion of stunt men in 1985, after construction of the Simi Valley Freeway through the ranch had virtually shut down filming.

Roy Rogers, who made his first and last film at the ranch, and the family of former child actress Shirley Temple each offered to buy the Iverson, but the sales never hapened. Much of the acreage has now been subdivided. Townhouses cover the old main entrance off Santa Susana Pass Road. The Garden of the Gods, a remarkable grove of rock outcroppings where hundreds of film scenes were shot, was preserved by the efforts of the Santa Susana Mountain Conservancy.

CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann Vincent

November 2008

The launching of a new series for our newsletter begins with a report on a visit from a past resident, Lee "Tate" McReynolds on Saturday, October 25. Tate, who is now 73 years old, grew up here in Chatsworth. His family owned the property south of the Santa Susana Pass Road where his parents, Lee and Ruth McReynolds, ran a trading post known as Lee's Last Frontier. Tate donated a copy of his mother's autobiography to our library.

The property is just south of The Church at Rocky Peak and north of the Santa Susana Creek. For a while it was known as the Spahn Ranch.

In the past...several sources claim that it was originally owned by silent film actor William S. Hart. In 1928, Dr. Sharon M. Atkins purchased the property.

Bob Turner, a past Chatsworth resident and author wrote "I recall writing a story about Dr. Sharon M. Atkins riding his famous movie horse, Silver King, to the dedication of the CCC camp in the early 1930s. Doc had added the property to his extensive holdings along Santa Susana Pass and had made this site available to the government as his civic duty. I became intimately acquainted with this property not long after Atkins, a prominent Hollywood Physician, bought the place about 1928."

In 1947, Lee and Ruth McReynolds purchased 55 acres of property from Dr. Atkins. Tate's father, Lee, built some movie sets (a western town) next to his Trading Post on this property to catch some overflow from the very successful Iverson Movie Ranch.

In 1953 the 55 acres was sold to George Spahn and became known as the Spahn Ranch. George Spahn added more sets and rental horses and it became a popular location for horseback riding among locals. The ranch became inhabited by members of the Manson family in the spring of 1968 until August 1969 when Manson was arrested. In November 1970 a wildfire destroyed all of the western buildings and Trading Post originally built by the McReynolds family.

Today, this property is now part of the 670 acre Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Tate, shown here with Virginia Watson enjoyed his tour of our museum and walked his old ranch property. He shared his experiences from 1947 to 1957 growing up in the more rural part of Chatsworth.



As a teenager, Tate remembers his first job with a blacksmith he called Mac about 1953, whose last name was MacIntyre. Tate believes Mac owned the building at 10234 Topanga Canyon Blvd. where Mac taught him how to work on cars and trucks. Mac then

rented out the building to both Curtis Automotive and Chatsworth Paint & Body where Tate continued to work until 1957.



Photo courtesy of Tate McReynolds

Curtis Automotive Service Truck in 1955

L-R back: Mike Ragusin, Donny Curtis, Smitty ? & Art Gray; front left (unknown), right Lee Tate McReynolds



Curtis Automotive & Chatsworth Paint & Body 1956

10234 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

At some time before 1988, the business had changed hands to become L&A Auto Coachworks owned by Michael Ross.



Topanga Auto Body and Paint 2008

10234 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

In 1998, it was purchased by Hamid Movahedi as Topanga Auto Body & Paint operating at the same location today.

Today, you can see the same building has a newer look and a second rollup door instead of the window on the right.

Tate mentioned that during 1955-56, the wall on the south side of the building was used as a screen to show movies outdoors on Saturday nights.

If anyone remembers anything about MacIntyre...please let me know along with any other stories about businesses you remember in Chatsworth.

Contact me at AnnVincent@aol.com

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day has passed and CHS had a program on November 18 that was a tribute to veterans of our nation's wars. From an historical viewpoint, the following information about the origins and significance of Veterans Day was obtained from wikipedia.com and other sources:

Veterans Day is an annual American holiday honoring military veterans. Both a federal holiday and a state holiday in all states, it is usually observed on November 11. However, if it occurs on a Sunday then the following Monday is designated for holiday leave, and if it occurs Saturday then either Saturday or Friday may be so designated..

It is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world, falling on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11 th hour of the 11 th day of the 11 th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.)

The holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day in calendars and advertisements. While these spellings are grammatically acceptable, the United States government has declared that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling. (Editor: Veterans Day)

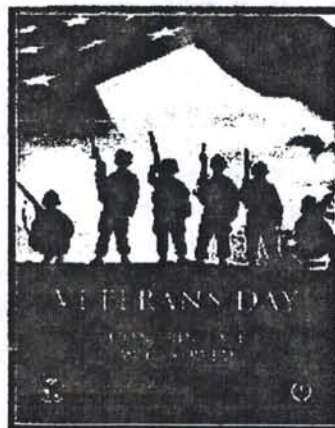
History

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 12,1919. The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting the President issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5

U. S. Code. Section 87a) approved May 13,1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday; "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day'."

In 1953, an Emporia, Kansas, shoe store owner named Al King had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who served in World War I. King had been actively involved with the American War Dads during World War II. He began a campaign to turn Armistice Day into " All" Veterans Day. The Emporia Chamber of Commerce took up the cause after determining that 90% of Emporia merchants as well as the Board of Education supported closing their doors on November 11, 1953, to honor veterans.

With the help of then-U.S. Rep. Ed Rees, also from Emporia, a bill for the holiday was pushed through Congress. President Dwight Eisenhower signed it into law on May 26,1954. Congress amended this act on November 8, 1954, replacing " Armistice" with "Veterans", and it has been known as Veterans Day since..



Veterans Day 2008

Chatsworth Historical Society Holiday Party

December 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual Holiday Party
at the home of Andre and Linda van der Valk.

All of our members are invited and
if you would like to bring a guest
that would be fine.

We have a great time every year
because the agenda is talking and eating.
Our home is at 10524 Eton Avenue , Chatsworth.
RSVP at 818 882-5614 and leave a message.
If you don't RSVP that is okay, come anyway.
I just want to get an idea of how many are coming.

Linda

CHS member Elaine Campbell presented a recipe
appropriate for the Thanksgiving Holiday,
accompanied by a dash of poetic nostalgia:

Easy Pumpkin Dessert

3 eggs	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup milk	1/2 tsp ginger
1 cup sugar	1/4 tsp. cloves
1 pkg. yellow cake mix	1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 sticks butter	3/4 cup chopped nuts
2 1/2 lb. can pumpkin	

Lightly beat eggs, add sugar, milk, spices and pumpkin.
Pour into well greased 9 x 13 pan. Sprinkle cake mix over
top and sprinkle with nuts. Drizzle the melted butter evenly
over the top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.
Serve with whipped cream.

SEARCHING

I'm searching for an old Red barn
With a windmill by its side
That stands beside a field of corn
With an old tractor I can ride

I'm searching for a country road
To leisurely wander down
Past fields, trees and peaceful lakes
And finally into town

The windmills are mostly gone
The Red barns hard to find
So now I have to take this trip
In the Windmills of my mind.

.....Elaine Campbell