

Smoke Signal

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



Co-Presidents: André & Linda van der Valk

Sept 2010, Issue #4

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

I hope everyone had a great summer and now we are getting ready for Pioneer Day. This year as always Bea is already busy getting things ready. We will have a real treat in the museum this time with photographs of the Iverson family and photos of the Iverson Movie Ranch. We would like to thank Carla Iverson, Betty Summers and Jerry England for helping us get some great photographs for the display.

There has been some vandalism at the Acre as well as at the Rec. Center. We are so fortunate to have the alarm that Councilman Greig Smith arranged for us, because it deterred a break in just a couple of weeks ago.

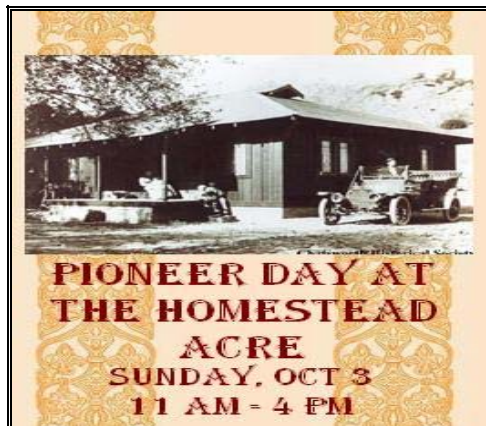
As long as Chatsworth Park South remains closed we are suffering the effects of not many people in the area. If you are around and see something suspicious please report it.

As we say every time there is an event, we could use some help. Set up and tear down seems to take the most out of us. We will be setting up Saturday, October 2nd at 9:00 AM and tearing down Sunday, October 3rd right after Pioneer Day is over. If you can help please show up and give us a hand.

Bea is also looking for more Chili Cook-Off participants, so if you think you have the best chili ever, now is the time to show your stuff.

Hope to see everyone at Pioneer Day and remember the shuttle that leaves every fifteen minutes from the Train Depot.

Linda and André



Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2010-2011

Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman
Membership.....	Keith Watts
Treasurer.....	Ray Vincent
Recording Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell
Smoke Signal.....	Ann Vincent
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers
Hospitality.....	Jelena Csanyi
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers
Director-at-Large.....	Beverly King
Director-at-Large.....	Evelyn Hutcheson
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler

Upcoming Events at the HOMESTEAD ACRE

October 3, 2010 – Sun. 11-4 PM – Pioneer Day

Mark your calendar now for the next major community event held by the Chatsworth Historical Society. This event features a Chili Cook-off, Chores of Yore for kids, Chatsworth Pioneer History, and a new Museum Display, "Tribute to Iverson Movie Ranch".

October 19, 2010 – Tues. 7 PM - General Meeting

Join us for our general meeting.

November 16, 2010 – Tues. 7 PM

Veterans Day Program –by Zena Thorpe features a Slide Presentation of the World War II - Overlord Embroidery Display from the D-Day Museum located in the United Kingdom. This display is a moving tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the Allies in defeating Nazi Germany with scenes depicted in the Embroidery's 34 panels.

Weekly - Docent Workshops

Workshops meet every Wednesday, 9:00am to noon under the direction of Virginia Watson. Docents are trained to provide tours and assist with projects related to the museum and gardens. Contact Virginia Watson at 818-341-3053 for additional information.

Monthly - Museum Open House -

The Homestead Acre is open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 pm.

Ways and Means

By Bea Berman

Summer is over and plans are underway for our annual Pioneer Day, Sunday October 3rd, at the Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. As usual, we will have our gold panning, blacksmithing, wood carvers, rock chippers, spinning and weaving, railroad, Veterans Quilt display, chores of yore and of course, our mini chili cook-off. We will also have our fabulous bake sale, white elephant booth and plant sale. There will be lots to do for everyone, tours of the museum and cottage with a variety of vendors selling their goods.

Tell your friends and come out and enjoy. Due to the park closure, we will have a shuttle bus from the train depot starting at 11:00 AM coming every 15 minutes.

If anyone is interested in baking or donating new or like-new items for our white elephant booth, or competing in our chili cook-off, we would appreciate your participation.

We could also use help for set-up on Saturday morning at 9:00 – noon, on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM and Sunday following the event for cleanup and to help put away the tables, tents and chairs.

This is one of our two fundraisers for the year to help us defray the cost of upkeep for the acre.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you on October 3rd. I can be reached at 818-341-5449 if you have any questions.

Bea Berman, Chairman

Docent Doings

By Virginia Watson

The Chatsworth Historical Society is very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who make it possible to be open the first Sunday of every month, for our Open House.

The people have varied over the years starting out with people who were new to Chatsworth mixed in with people who had lived their entire life in the area and even those who were members of the early pioneer families. It has been mostly women who have volunteered as tour guides, while we have more male volunteers who work in the garden and help with our events such as Pioneer Day and the Garden Festival.

Volunteers have attended many classes, studied hard and learned local history--the history of our area so that they can relate it to our guests. And they have made their own costumes to wear which increases the pleasure of our guests.

We have had a docent program since we first opened The Homestead Acre in 1980 and are grateful for the many hours that docents have donated to our programs.

Currently we have dedicated volunteers that not only give up one Sunday a month to work from 1-4 p.m. but spend almost every Wednesday all year working from 9 a.m. to noon, sometimes even until 1 p.m. They do clerical work, filing, typing, sorting pictures, newspaper clippings, and donations to the Society, reading and studying about our pioneers, keeping track of our docent hours, answering the telephone, making displays, copying pictures and information into our computer and helping to make plans for our events.

Currently we have ten working docents they are: Connie Ager, Bea Berman, Elaine Campbell, Jelena Csanyi, Evelyn Hutcheson, Beverly King, Lila Schepler, Betty and Jim Summers, and Ann Vincent. We also have our president Linda van der Valk who spends countless hours planning events, answering the telephone, attending meetings and answering questions about our organization. Ray Vincent, our treasurer, joins Jim Summers here on Wednesdays, helping us with fences, repairs and garden problems when extra help is needed.

We are indeed fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers to help us keep our Historic Monument open to the public!

When Pioneer Day comes along we have another added list of wonderful caring volunteers who help us keep our doors open. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

WANTED

Volunteers to keep-up the Garden at the Historic Acre

Activities include:

- Dead-heading roses...we have lots!
- Weed patrol...they keep sneaking in.
- Watering plants as needed.

We are fortunate to be able to pay a gardener to handle lawn mowing and tree/bush trimming as time permits. However, we could use your help to maintain the rest of the garden chores.

For more information
please contact Betty Summers

818-882-5614 Museum Office

CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann Vincent

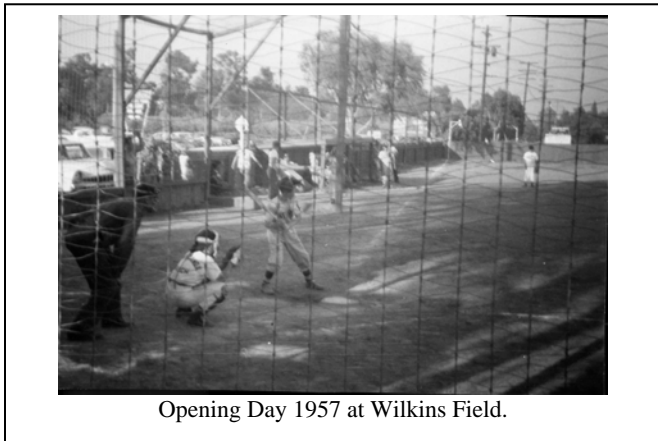
September 2010

This issue of Chatsworth Past & Present features the Chatsworth Junior Baseball League (CJBL).



Our first documented youth baseball team is early 1900 when Curtis "Tige" Graves is shown wearing his Chatsworth uniform sponsored by G&H, The Graves and Hill General Store. Some 50 years later, in 1956, the Chatsworth Junior Baseball League was founded. Hank and Ken Ditto, descendants of the Graves family and their father Hugh, were founding members/players of the CJBL.

As the story goes...at Johnny's Barbershop one day, Leonard Chenard, Warren Melrose, Bob Penmen, Rod McKenzie, Roy Endress Jr, John Koningfield and Otto Groth discussed plans to start a youth baseball league. Registration would be free and volunteers would



Opening Day 1957 at Wilkins Field.

create a labor force of managers and coaches. Tryouts were held at the Rancho San Antonio baseball field to get the league started. Four teams were created the first year from the 43 boys who participated. The first games were played on Wilkins Field on Devonshire (where the Post Office is today) on land made available by Juliet Wilkins. At the time, the Wilkins family also owned the Wilkins building on the south-east corner of Owensmouth and Devonshire which was used as a community center.

The 1958 season opened at Wilkins Field on May 17th with 150 boys in the league. Roy Rogers, honorary Mayor, was on hand to throw out the first ball for the 52 games scheduled for that season. He was assisted by Honorary Sheriff "Black Jack" O'Shea.

In 1959 CJBL purchased and built the field off of Canoga, between Devonshire and Lassen on Mayall. There were two older division Babe Ruth teams (13-15 year olds), who played against two teams from Rancho San Antonio to fill the schedule for that season. The 1959 program shows Hank playing on the Indians, a Babe Ruth team, while Ken and his younger brother Frank played for the Stars.



1959 Stars - Managed by Bob Penman

In 1960, the league continued to grow, fielding fourteen teams. In 1962 the league expanded to include Minors, Majors and Babe Ruth teams. In 1969 Babe Ruth teams were divided into Junior and Senior teams. In 1976, the Majors were divided into AA and AAA creating five divisions, Minors, AA, AAA, Juniors and Seniors. By 1980 they had over 400 players, and Minors were divided into T-Ball and A teams.



Len Chenard and members of the Padre Senior team.

In 2006, Chatsworth Junior Baseball League celebrated their 50 year Anniversary. Jodi Chenard Hotchkiss, the daughter of former professional baseball player and CJBL founder Leonard Chenard, grew up as a kid at the field while her Dad was coaching. She is now active in the program serving as Co-President of the Womens' Auxillary. Her

two boys play on the same fields and participate in the program that their grandfather helped create.

Another long time participant in the CJBL is Elmer Guenther who, for 55 years, has been the team equipment manager, coach, and/or team manager, filling any job needed since 1965. He has been honored with his name placed on the Minor field scoreboard. CJBL has created a recognition monument at the field that lists the names of many more who have been "Dedicated to the Youth of Chatsworth".



In 2010, CJBL's latest milestone was Steve Mathias being selected Chatsworth Citizen of the Year for his 17 years of service to youth sports and CJBL.

What's up for 2011? When was the last time you attended the CJBL's Annual Pancake Breakfast? It will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2011 from 8:00am to 1:00pm to kick off the new season.. See you there!

The Chatsworth Junior Baseball League is located (between Devonshire and Lassen) at 21350 Mayall St. in Chatsworth. Website: www.cjbl.org
Chatsworth Historical Society – September 2010

20th Annual
Pioneer Day

Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Old-time fun
for everyone!**

- CHILI COOK-OFF
 - Bake sale
- Woodcarvers
- Entertainment
 - Panning for gold
- Spinning and weaving
- Veteran quilt display
- Kids designing quilt squares
- Rock Chippers
- Blacksmith
 - Indian artifacts
- "Chores and Games of yore"
and lots more!



**Tribute to
Iverson Movie
Ranch!**

Location:

Homestead Acre, Chatsworth Park South
(West end of Devonshire St.)
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA

Information: (818) 882-5614

www.historicalsocieties.net

Donation:

Adults: \$5, Children: \$1
(Free for kids under 5)

**Presented by the
Chatsworth Historical Society**

Park your car at the Chatsworth Train Depot (10038 Old Depot Plaza Road)
and use our free shuttle service, every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. To 4 p.m.

“Help your community plan a better future by retaining the best of it’s past”

This was the slogan for the Chatsworth Historical Society in 1964 when organizing to save the Community Church. It still stands today.

The Chatsworth Historical Society would like to have you join us in preserving Chatsworth’s past. If you have any old Chatsworth publications, like the Grapevine, or have old photos of the area, the Chatsworth baseball field, any of the schools, or churches here in the area, we would love to have copies of your photos, but we would also like to hear your stories about growing up in Chatsworth.

We are trying to document some of the established businesses that have been part of the community, so if you have photos showing those businesses...or history on them...please share. Time creeps up on us and anything more than 30 years ago is suddenly history. This is the information we still remember, but our children won’t, unless we make the effort to preserve it.

Wondering if your Dues are Due?

There is a code on the last line of your address label (if you are a life member, there is no code).

- The first digit represents membership type, 1 – individual, and 2 – family/organization.
- The next two digits represent the month that you last paid your dues.
- The last two digits represent the year that you last paid your dues.
- If the month and year on your address label is over one year old, then your dues are due!

Please use the form below to renew your Membership. And if your neighbor is not a member yet, pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to join...

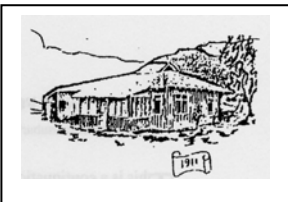
IVERSON MOVIE RANCH PROGRAM

On Monday, October 18th at 7:15pm, the SSMPA meeting will host Jerry England, author and historian, who will discuss film making at Iverson Ranch. The meeting is at the Rockpointe clubhouse at 22300 Devonshire Street. England will present a video of movie stills shot on location throughout Chatsworth, including Westerns, and films such as Tarzan and "The Fighting Seebies" featuring John Wayne.



Do you remember see page 6





CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form

Your membership helps support our Homestead Acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, and receive invitation reminders regarding our monthly programs and annual events – Rose Pruning, the Garden Festival, Membership Roundup, and Pioneer Day. Please mail this form with your annual membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
818-882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net

	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Yearly:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$20.00
Life Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 125.00	

NAME _____ **Phone:** _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ **Email:** _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____



Do you remember the rhymes of the Burma-Shave signs from long ago? As kids we would look forward to reading the little rhymes, posted on consecutive posts along America's highways. I know Mom and Dad enjoyed them. One would announce, "I think I see some Burma-Shave signs!" Then for a few moments, a truce in the war of which kid was taking

up more than his allotted space on the back seat of the family Plymouth. The signs were addicting; like someone once said, "No one could read just one." You had to read the entire verse, and you knew that the final sign would read, "Burma-Shave".

Nearly everyone who drove on America's highways from the 1930's to the 1960's knows of the signs. Most of the signs were humorous, some included reminders to drive safely, while others simply promoted the product....*Burma-Shave*

<p>IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHOSE SIGNS THESE ARE YOU CAN'T HAVE DRIVEN VERY FAR <i>Burma-Shave</i></p>	<p>DINAH DOESN'T TREAT HIM RIGHT BUT IF HE'D SHAVE DINAH-MITE! <i>Burma-Shave</i></p>	<p>SHAVING BRUSHES YOU'LL SOON SEE THEM ON THE SHELF IN SOME MUSEUM <i>Burma-Shave</i></p>
<p>IF OUR ROAD SIGNS CATCH YOUR EYE SMILE BUT DON'T FORGET TO BUY <i>Burma-Shave</i></p>	<p>WHEN THE STORK DELIVERS A BOY OUR WHOLE DARN FACTORY JUMPS FOR JOY <i>Burma-Shave</i></p>	<p>DON'T LOOSE YOUR HEAD TO GAIN A MINUTE YOU NEED YOUR HEAD YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT <i>Burma-Shave</i></p>

For more Burma Shave jingles go to: <http://burma-shave.org/jingles/>
Have fun!

Chatsworth Historical Society

10385 Shadow Oak Drive
Chatsworth, Ca 91311

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check the code below your mailing label ...is it time to pay your dues? (See page 5 for details)