

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

February 2012, Issue #1

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

Chatsworth lost one of it's finest citizens last month with the passing of Marshall Berman. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bea and her family. I always have said that Bea and Marshall were one of the great love stories that was happening in real life and not in the movies. We were guests for dinner one time at Bea and Marshall's and they held hands most of that dinner and Marshall always had a way of looking at Bea that you knew this was his greatest love.

Being the trooper that Bea is she is already under way getting ready for the Garden Festival. Anyone who would like to help with parking, the tea, set up, clean-up or just about anything are encouraged to contact Bea or call the Acre and we will get back to you. A reminder, the Garden Festival is one of our two annual fundraisers. Money raised during these fundraisers is what keeps the Acre going. The cottage is getting older and there is more and more maintenance that needs to be done. We are fortunate that we have people that are generous with their time, knowledge and donations.

This month we have had a few past residents of Chatsworth who have contacted us and shared photos and stories concerning growing up in Chatsworth. Ann Vincent does a great job of documenting these stories and photos for our collection, which is growing. If you have any photos or memories of Chatsworth please share them with us. We can scan the photos and get them back to you or you can just send them to us digitally.

Hope to see everyone at the Garden Festival.

Linda and André

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2011-2012

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.....	Connie Ager
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler

Upcoming Events

February 21, 2012 – Tues. 7 PM

Our February general meeting will include our annual tribute to Roy Rogers. This year we will show The Roy Rogers Show, Episode 4, "The Treasure of Howling Dog Canyon", filmed in 1952 on his ranch in Chatsworth. It is only 25 minutes long, so that will give us time following the show to discuss the role that Roy and Dale played in the Chatsworth Community. It wouldn't be a movie night without popcorn, come enjoy the show.

March 20, 2012 – Tues. 7 PM

Chatsworth Quilt & Birthday Celebration

To celebrate Chatsworth's 124th Birthday, we will have on hand Ruth Grant and Zena Thorpe to discuss the award winning Chatsworth Quilt created by a team of volunteers for the Chatsworth 100 Year Birthday Celebration held on March 7, 1988 at the Recreation Center in Chatsworth Park South. The quilt is a prized possession of the Historical Society and on display in the museum. A short video clip of the 100 Year event will then be shown. Come join us at our Birthday party.

Monthly - Museum Open House

The Homestead Acre is open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 pm. The next open house will be March 4th followed by April 1st.

April 29, 2012 – Sunday 11-4 pm

GARDEN FESTIVAL & TEA

Put this on your calendar now and plan to be there.

DOCENT ACTIVITIES

By Ann Vincent

We have lots of projects at the Acre and appreciate the help of those that have been participating in our Wednesday morning workgroups. A team of talented women with green thumbs, Beverly, Annette, Connie,



Beverly, Betty and Annette enjoying some of our warm January sunshine this month working in the garden.

Jelena and Betty have been working on the gardens getting them ready for the new rose blooms to appear.

Indoors at the cottage, Betty and Connie have also been working through the items on display preparing them for Open House tours and our Garden Festival.

Our museum collections continue to grow as Linda, Elaine and I go through pages of donated scrapbooks of Chatsworth newspaper articles. Sorting, scanning and filing these treasures...we are careful not to get black ink thumbs in the process. In addition we continue to acquire new items which is fun and motivates us to do more research...continuing to organize our materials for easy reference.

Virginia is working with us from home, reviewing all of the new items we are receiving, and giving her input on how they fit into our Chatsworth History.

GIFTS to the MUSEUM

Recently we were contacted by Rurik Kallis and his wife Marjorie with information and stories about his adventures here in Chatsworth. He has shared a variety of stories on Burro Flats, a local Hot Rod enthusiast, Roy Rogers and much more. I hope to share these in future newsletters. He also sent some photos he took of the Chatsworth Inn before it was torn down in 1958.

Elaine Campbell donated four scrapbooks of photos taken by her during the last 20 years here in Chatsworth for our collection. These photos included snapshots of new buildings constructed locally and an entire book on photos of Chatsworth and surrounding areas following the 1994 Earthquake. They have all been digitally scanned for our museum records.

The Haworth Family History in Chatsworth was donated to the museum by Joan Seligman and her sister Marylou Connet. The history contains photos of their grandparents home on Andora, a craftsman cottage ordered by mail from Sears and Roebuck, built by the family in 1914. Recently some 1920 Chamber of Commerce photographs were located and scanned for our records that include an excellent photograph of this home.

If you have photos or documents you can share with us, please do, we appreciate your help in preserving our community's history. Family histories and photos help us learn more about life in Chatsworth.

Email a scanned photo to us at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com, or send an email to that address and we will contact you and arrange to scan your photos.

MARSHALL H. BERMAN

Biography/Obituary



Marshall Howard Berman, a member of the San Fernando Valley community for more than 40 years, passed away on January 24, 2012 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Berman moved his family to Southern California in 1969. He and his wife, Bea, became active in the Chatsworth community, where he owned his Certified Public Accountant business for 17 years.

Mr. Berman served the Chatsworth area as treasurer of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Chatsworth Library and the Rockpointe Homeowners Association. He also performed pro bono work for several non-profit organizations. In addition, he was an accounting professor at California State University, Northridge for 10 years and at Pierce College for 22 years.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Bea, his four children – Dr. Jeffrey Berman (Nancy), Adrienne Betita (Rico), Randi Bercow (Gary) and Mindy Berman – and grandchildren Samantha Berman, Kellie Berman and Jessica Bercow.

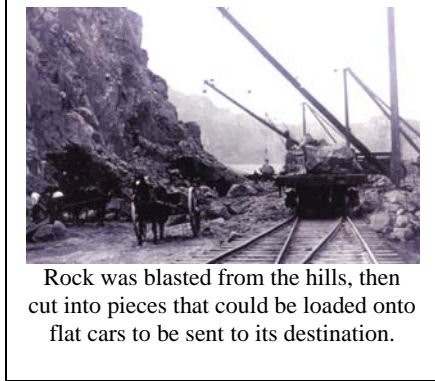
CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann Vincent

February 2012

Chatsworth Railroad History begins in 1893 when the Southern Pacific completes what is known as the Burbank branch all the way to Chatsworth with a depot near the intersection of Topanga and Marilla.

In 1898 an additional mile of track was added up through what is now the Oakwood Cemetery into the Chatsworth quarry, now a part of the Santa Susana Pass State



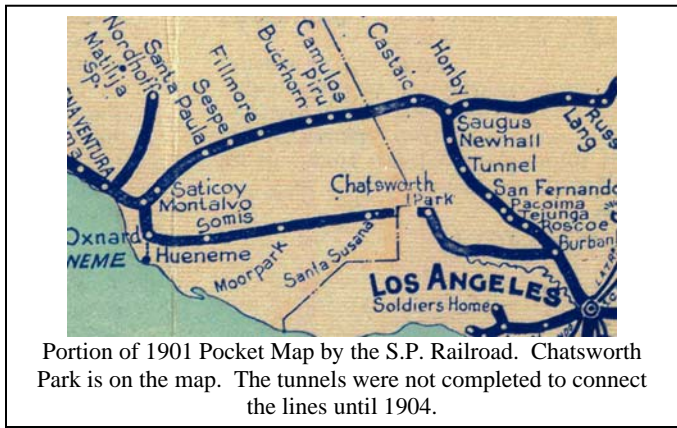
Rock was blasted from the hills, then cut into pieces that could be loaded onto flat cars to be sent to its destination.

Historic Park.

The quarry sent sandstone boulders to a stone mill in LA to further shape and form the stone. They also delivered sandstone to San Pedro Harbor where they were used for the breakwater, until it was determined

that the sandstone would dissolve over time.

In 1898, railroad construction began on a short-cut to Burbank from Ventura in what was called the Montalvo Cutoff. The most difficult work was encountered in the pass, where three separate tunnels were blasted for the most part out of solid rock.



Portion of 1901 Pocket Map by the S.P. Railroad. Chatsworth Park is on the map. The tunnels were not completed to connect the lines until 1904.

During that time, Chatsworth became a boom town, with many of the workers living in a “tent” city near the heading of the main tunnel. Although the listed resident population in Chatsworth is 23 in 1900, the tunnel construction brought in so many workers that by 1904 the Santa Susana School (now Chatsworth Park Elementary) at Devonshire and Topanga had 120 students.

The three tunnels were #26 from the Simi side of the pass to Chatsworth at 7,369 feet (1.4 miles), Tunnel #27 at 994 feet and Tunnel #28, under what is now Topanga, at 599 feet. It was hard and dangerous work, but paid well, and the engineering skill employed using the instruments of the day was amazing.

Tunnel #26, at 1.4 miles, used crews digging from each side of the mountain. When the two crews met in the middle, they were off by only 4 inches, considered to be “dead on”! Each end of tunnel #26 included a power house with a stationary steam engine belted up to a dynamo to provide electric lights deep inside the tunnel. There was a blower and

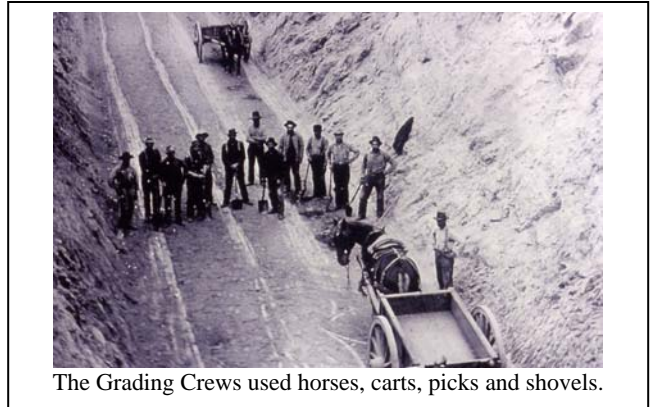
pipe to supply fresh air deep inside the heading.

Compressed air pipes were used for running the air drills to make the holes for blasting. The



The tunneling crew

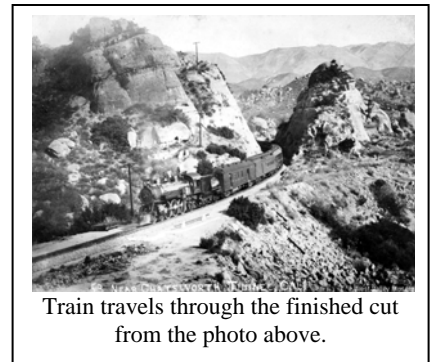
tunneling crews shored up the sides and removed the rubble after blasting took place. These were the iron men of the day.



The Grading Crews used horses, carts, picks and shovels.

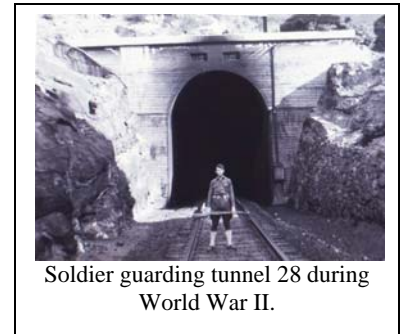
Horse and cart was the method of the day, and the grading crew moved thousands of loads of soft material for the cut and fill. By 1904, the tunnels were completed.

This 1914 photo of a Southern Pacific Train coming through the cut between tunnels 27 and 28 shows the amount of grading and cutting required beyond the work done to create the tunnels.



Train travels through the finished cut from the photo above.

In 1942, soldiers were stationed at the train tunnels following the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. During the war, passenger traffic ended temporarily and many troop trains ran through Chatsworth. Until soldiers arrived to guard the tunnels, Chatsworth citizens stood sentry.



Soldier guarding tunnel 28 during World War II.

Today these tunnels continue to handle traffic for Amtrak, Metrolink and freight trains. A ride on the train from Chatsworth to Simi is like taking the Disneyland train though the Primeval Valley. This is a section of Chatsworth untouched by time, preserved in its natural setting as you travel through our State Historic Park...enjoy.

It's your community and your history...
Chatsworth Historical Society – February 2012

Make plans to attend our annual **GARDEN FESTIVAL SUNDAY** **APRIL 29th** at the Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South.

The event runs from 11:00-4:00 pm.

Highlights of the day will include our wonderful Duchess High Tea featuring homemade food. The plates prepared by our wonderful Historical Society volunteers are served by volunteer youths from our community.

The Tea is from 11:30-2:00 pm.

Large groups are encouraged to make reservations or you can arrive for first come, first served service.

Garden Clubs will be giving information and community groups will also

be on hand. We will have the wonderful Veteran's Quilt Display and many other vendors. A homemade bake sale, white elephant booth, live plant sale and arts and crafts will add to the variety of events. Tours of the Minnie Hill-Palmer Cottage and the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum, will be from 11:00-4:00 pm. Due to the park being closed, a shuttle bus will be available at the train station with plenty of parking running every fifteen minutes from 11:00-4:00 pm.

If anyone is interested in baking or giving us new or like new items for our white elephant sale, we would appreciate your help. Any questions, I can be reached at (818) 341-5449 or leave a message at the Acre phone (818) 882-5614.

Hope to see you on the 29th of April.

Bea Berman, Chairman



Over 300 Rose Bushes in Bloom

Chatsworth Historical Society Presents

A GARDEN FESTIVAL

Featuring Roses and Crafts

The Duchess Tea Room
Afternoon Tea

- \$10 per person
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Blooming Rose Gardens

Quilt Display from the
Veteran's Quilt Project

Arts & Crafts

White Elephant Sale

Garden Clubs

Polynesian Dance Revue
(2 p.m.)

Museum Exhibits

Featuring Chatsworth Pioneer Families

Tours of Minnie's Cottage
(11 - 4 p.m.)



Bake Sale

Live Plant Sale

Hot Dogs and Sodas

Note: Parking is limited at Chatsworth Park South

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.

Sunday, April 29, 2012

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$5 Admission Donation – Children \$1
Kids under 5 Free

THE HOMESTEAD ACRE

At the First Stop Sign in **Chatsworth Park South**

(West End of Devonshire Street)

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Information: 818-882-5614

All Proceeds go to the Chatsworth Historical Society for the preservation of the Minnie Hill Palmer Homestead Acre and the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum

It's Your Community...It's Your History

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 or what brought you to Chatsworth and why you stayed here.

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 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...

To contact the Chatsworth Historical Society

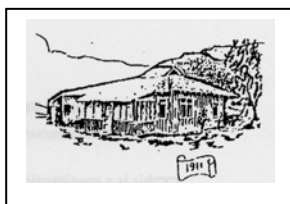
Email: chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

or call us at 818-882-5614



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

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

NAME _____ Phone: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ Email: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

Chatsworth Historical Society
Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop

The following items are available for sale at our Gift Shop for you history buffs that would like to share some Chatsworth History with others.

The Museum will be open for tours March 4th from 1-4 pm and items can be purchased at that time.
To arrange to purchase items other than the first Sunday of the month, call the museum at 818-882-5614
Or email chatsworthhistory@gmail.com to make arrangements for shipping if necessary.

Booklets and Books

CHATSWORTH HISTORY by Virginia Watson \$10.00

CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The First 100 Years
by Ioline Cleveland \$10.00

WINDOW INTO THE PAST by William Schepler \$10.00

QUIET ON THE SET by Robert Sherman \$15.00

OUR PIONEER MOTHER As told to Lenora Johnson MacDonald \$10.00

See you at the Garden Festival Sunday, April 29th

Chatsworth Historical Society

10385 Shadow Oak Drive
Chatsworth, Ca 91311

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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