

# 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

December 2012, Issue #5

Editor: Ann Vincent

## Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

As the year 2012 winds down, we are looking forward to a great 2013 at the Acre. The recreation center at Chatsworth Park South is to reopen the first part of the year. It will be nice to have some activity at the park again because it is a shame that a beautiful park like that sits idle. We still don't know when the rest will open; it will depend on funding to clean up the rest of the park. Even when it opens back it will not be the park that we all knew. It will be a park that possibly will be void of trees and grass in the contaminated areas. At this writing there are no plans to remove the contaminated soil only to cap it. Trees and grass could penetrate the cap of dirt and the concern is that the ground squirrels and other wildlife would allow the further migration of the contamination.

We need docents at the acre. We open the first Sunday of the month and do occasional tours. It is getting harder and harder to staff these days. If you could help with a Sunday Open House or a tour please contact us. The Open House is the first Sunday of the month from 1:00- 4:00 P.M. We will train you and there will be docents that can guide you through the day. We have community members and visitors that come to open house always interested in our history. We have the museum and the cottage open during Open House and the tours. Tours are set up by special appointments.

We hope to see all of our members and their guests at the Christmas Party.

Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season,  
Linda and André



Chatsworth Historical Society  
Board of Directors 2012-2013

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

### December 9th, 2012 Sunday 1:00 pm Parade

The Chatsworth Holiday Parade is December 9th and the theme is "Under the Sea". The parade starts at 1:00 pm. This year the Chatsworth Holiday Parade will also feature a car show! Hundreds of cars will be on display, including trophies for categories including Best Classic, Best Hot Rod, Best Muscle Car, Best Paint, Best Domestic, Best of Show, and People's Choice. The event will feature lots of food vendors and entertainment. The Car Show will be located on Canoga, at Devonshire. Note: The Historical Society does not have an entry this year, but many of us gather and watch from the Munch Box. Please join us.

### December 12th, 7:00 PM - Wednesday

#### Chatsworth Historical Society Christmas Party

Please join us as we celebrate the holidays at the home of: André and Linda van der Valk

10524 Eton Avenue, Chatsworth

Historical Society members are welcome and may bring a guest. RSVP'S are not necessary but it would be helpful to let us know how many people to plan for the light refreshments. RSVP 818-882-5614

### 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 Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

# Pioneer Day

By Bea Berman

It's over two months since Pioneer Day, but they say "Better late than never". We had a great day and because of everyone involved, we made over \$5000.00.

My thanks go to everyone who participated and helped. A special thanks to Councilman Mitch Englander for providing us with the shuttle bus. With the park being closed, it was imperative for parking. Also a thanks to Buck from the Munch Box who provided us with the ice for that day and also sponsoring the first place trophy and first prize for the chili cook off. What was nice, we had some new faces and the winners were

Matt Jones – 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Lorelei Buda – 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Teri Goth – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

The Chatsworth High School students were great providing help in both setup and take down for the event, along with parking assistance throughout the day. They also helped our members at various locations such as the White Elephant sale, Crafts and Chores of Yore. Bob Dager, Eric Pampalone, Mike Micklich and Ray Vincent helped guide the student volunteers through set up on Saturday morning.

Ms. Pena and Mr. Van Dam from Lawrence Middle School brought the Leadership students from Lawrence to help us as needed.

Of course our regulars were amazing. Connie Ager managed the White Elephant sale, while Kathy and Tim Reynolds, Harriet van Tiger, and Diana Dixon Davis handled the Chores of Yore and Games of Yore which included crafts. A new addition this year was leatherwork provided by Monte Mickelson for the kids to experience. Our chores and games



of yore would not be complete without the participation of our Wood Carvers, Spinners and Weavers, and the Gold Panning Crew sponsored by Pat Keene Engineering. Dr. Gary Standke our blacksmith and his wife Nita who bakes biscuits the old fashioned way are always a key attraction. Hanna Almstead provided our quilt display and children's quilt square design station; and we enjoyed having her guest Corey Cudley providing



demonstrations on rug making.

In addition to the history demonstrations provided there are also sales booths the Historical Society runs to add to the income for our fundraiser. For our Plant sale, Jeanine Bergez and Annette Campbell assisted buyers

purchasing plants that had been cultivated throughout the year from our Historic Acre by our garden docents or donated by members including Dr. Standke and Randy Mineo for the sale. A lot of unseen work goes into the process of planning for this sale all year long under the supervision of our gardens by Jim and Betty Summers.

Loretta and Rob Sandoval provided most of the items this year for the bake sale even though they were not able to attend. Bea Berman and her grand-daughter Jessica, and others added additional items to sell by volunteer Janice Heid, Elaine Campbell's daughter.

Linda and Andre van der Valk (who donated supplies) and their family and grandchildren assisted the customers at the food booth with Jim Summers chopping onions to keep them in supply as needed while Gary Bercow cooked hot dogs. Irene Nalbandian ran the front gate with assistance from Keith Watts and Ray Vincent while Jelena Csanyi, Ann Vincent and Barbara Pampalone manned the information booth meeting and greeting our guests who want to learn more about our history. Of course that couldn't happen without docents Betty Summers, Lila Schepler and Elaine Campbell sharing the pioneer history of the area with guests in the museum and docents Beverly King and Gloria Benedetti to help provide tours of the cottage.

I hope I did not forget anyone. Of course, last but not least, thanks to my family: Gary who cooks the hot dogs; Rico who handled the parking and helped take down; Adie who worked the white elephant booth and Randi who participated in the Chili Cook-off, then worked with others.

Bea Berman, Chairman

## CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann & Ray Vincent

November 2012

Twin Lakes is an unincorporated community of homes northeast of the 118 and Topanga Canyon Blvd. The community was created in the 1920's as a rural resort, and promoted as a retreat for the weekend, season or holiday. Similar developments, which were in vogue during the roaring 20's, were Gerard at Ventura Blvd and Topanga (middle-eastern theme), and Rustic Canyon in Santa Monica (Will Rogers and Polo fields). Twin Lakes had an Aztec-Mayan theme.

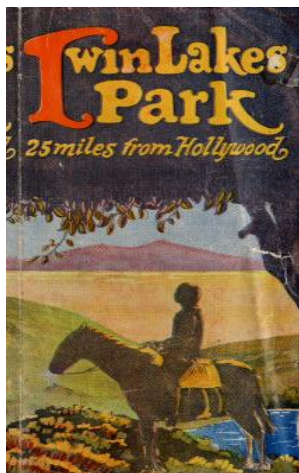


Photo taken in 1935 showing the main entrance at Mayan Road and Santa Susana Pass Road. Although the arch was removed at some point in time, the entrance road existed until Topanga Canyon was extended to the 118 Freeway in 1975. The remains of Mayan Road can still be seen on the east side of Topanga. Today you reach Mayan Road by turning right on Poema just past the Freeway entrance from Topanga.

In 1927, 750 lots were subdivided on over 300 acres of property from the George W. Haight ranch, and over the next few years 400 to 500 parcels were sold as lots for homes or campsites. A colorful sales brochure described the facilities with all the amenities. The area boasted an Observation Building, Boating, Swimming, Tennis, Archery, Quoits, Hunting and membership in the Twin Lakes Park Country Club.

The two lakes that gave the area its name were created from dams at Browns Canyon and Devil Canyon. Sales of rural resort homes skidded to a stop during the depression of the 30's, and Twin Lakes evolved over the years to the current community of homeowners.

The Devil Canyon lake (known



1927 Sales Brochure  
The brochure can be seen at [www.twinlakespoa.com](http://www.twinlakespoa.com) at their history link

as Raymond Lake) has been dry since 1948. The lake at Browns Canyon dam was silted over in the 40's, but can still be seen today if you drive to the end of DeSoto just north of the freeway, and look up the canyon. Raymond Lake was the centerpiece of the community with the adjacent boat landing, swimming house and Mayan Observation Building. Local Chatsworth residents are known to have been baptized at Raymond Lake.



Twin Lake residents boating on Raymond Lake. The Dam shown on the left is still in place and serves as an access bridge to homes north of Devil Canyon. The dam gate was opened in April of 1948 after much discussion of required maintenance and with some hesitation, not knowing if it would refill with the next rain season.

Their newsletter account of the situation says "the canyon foamed water for 40 minutes....then a million gallons of H2O disappeared" The gate is still open today.

In the 1950's, the community had their challenges as well water ended up spurting out mostly mud and air from the faucets. In the 1960's the Las Virgenes Water District expanded their facilities to serve the Twin Lake residents and continues to provide water for the community today.

In 1975, there was a proposal for a 440 acre dumpsite at the end of Canoga in Browns Canyon just north of Twin Lakes. There would have been 1,000 dump trucks a day for 45 years. The community rallied and created a committee called "Dump-the-Dump", and after 3,000+ petition signatures, the proposal was rejected by the City Council in an 11-0 vote in 1977.

In 1970 fire destroyed about half of the 60 homes at that time but later they were rebuilt. Over time, rebuilding homes on the small lots has resulted with every conceivable type of home, from simple, A-frame homes to multi-story, luxurious residences. A few of the original Mayan architecture designed homes are still in existence if you know where to look amongst the 100+ homes today.

In 1989, the community was identified as the first LA County Community Standards District, establishing operating rules unique for Twin Lakes.

Stories and legends abound in the community. The Captain and Tennille resided in Twin Lakes on Chee Trail in the early 1970's. Rumor has it that Rudolph Valentino also had a home here located in this entirely different world, one of nature and beauty, privacy and solitude.

*Chatsworth Historical Society 2012*

## Chatsworth Early Residents....Julius Fried

By Ann Vincent



Julius Fried (pronounced “Freed”) owned a citrus ranch at the north end of Canoga in the 20’s, and lived an interesting life:

- In 1909, Julius Fried purchased a patch of land in Kern County and formed the Lakeview Oil Company. On March 15, 1910, Lakeview #1 came in with a roar from a depth of 2,225 feet and blew the top off of the derrick, and continued gushing oil for six months. To control the flow of oil, an army of 600 men dammed up the mouths of the canyon with earth walls 20 feet high and 50 feet thick. Known as the Lakeview Gusher, it remains the worst oil disaster in American history. Julius became instantly wealthy.
- In 1939, The Southwest Museum excavation found evidence of Prehistoric Man and Native Americans on the Fried Citrus Ranch.
- During the 1940’s to 1962 the Vargas family became caretakers and eventually executors for the estate when it was sold. The Vargas family had a produce stand for many years at the northwest corner of Tulsa and Topanga.
- Editor’s Note Added in Sept 2020: We had always thought that the Orange Julius Drink was named after Chatsworth Celebrity Julius Fried of the Chatsworth Orange Ranch at the north end of Canoga. After a good bit of research, we discovered that another Julius Fried (from Butte Montana) created Orange Julius. See Sept 2020 Smoke Signal for the full article.



Julius Fried’s Citrus Ranch at the north end of Canoga

## 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. 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.

### Can we Email our newsletter to you?

In an effort to reduce costs, save paper, and provide you with a color copy, we will now email newsletters to those of you that have given us an email address. However, we will also continue to send you a snail-mail copy until you advise us not to. So please email us at [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) to stop future newsletter mailings and save us some money. And also please email us to provide your email address. Thanks!

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...

## 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!

For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you in the email if your dues are due.....

### **Life Members Pass Away**

We wish the best to their families at this difficult time.

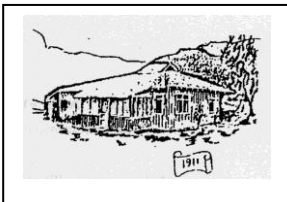
PEGGY IVERSON BELTRAMO, age 94, the daughter of Iva and Karl Iverson. Her grandparents were one of the first settlers in Chatsworth. Peggy passed away August 7, 2012.

BURRELL DUANE PLUCKNETT, age 87, of Santa Paula on September 17, 2012, due to a tragedy involving a pony carriage accident. Burrell had assisted the Historical Society in a rope making presentation at our 2011 Pioneer Day, he enjoyed sharing his skills with us.



## 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](http://www.historicalsocieties.net)

- Yearly:                       New Member                       Renewal  
Life Membership:         Individual \$15.00             Family \$20.00         Organization \$20.00  
    \$ 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 is open for tours the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 pm and items can be purchased at that time. To purchase items other than the first Sunday of the month, call the museum at 818-882-5614 Or email [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

**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 \$25.00

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

**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)*